

We are pleased to announce that Suzanne LaCasse, Technical Director at the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute, will present the 2015 Daniel L. and Irma Evans Lecture on Thursday, May 14, 2015.

### **Hazard, Risk and Reliability in Geotechnical Practice**

Dr. Lacasse was born in the mining town of Noranda, Québec, Canada. She completed her Bachelor of Arts at University of Ottawa (1967), and Bachelor in Civil Engineering at Ecole Polytechnique of Montréal (1971). Graduate studies followed in cotutelle at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Ecole Polytechnique. She obtained her Ph.D. in 1976. She was Lecturer at Ecole Polytechnique (1973-1975) and faculty member of the Civil Engineering Department at MIT (1975-1983), where she also was Head of the Geotechnical Laboratory. Dr. Lacasse went to the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute (NGI) in 1978 as a post-doctoral fellow. She began employment at NGI in 1980, sharing her time between MIT and NGI until 1983. At NGI, she worked on research and consulting assignments, both in Norway and abroad, with secondments in several countries. She became NGI's Managing Director in 1991, a position she held until December 2011. She is now Technical Director at NGI. She was President of the Canadian Geotechnical Society in 2003-2004.



During the early part of her professional career, Dr. Lacasse concentrated her work in the area of geotechnical laboratory techniques, *in-situ* investigation methods and soil behaviour modelling studies. Subsequently, she worked on foundation engineering and design, slope stability evaluation and improvement and the development of calculation procedures, for both structures on land and offshore. In her work, Dr. Lacasse concentrated on combining mathematical and numerical analyses with practical geotechnical engineering design considerations. She was a key member of the NGI-team developing practical design analysis procedures for offshore platforms subjected to storm loading. The procedures are today widely recognised and accepted. She published several often referred to articles and reports within the fields of laboratory testing, *in situ* testing and offshore foundation design. Since the mid-80s, she developed and applied statistics, probabilistic analysis and reliability and risk concepts to assist in the foundation design and decision process and is well known for her contributions on hazard and risk assessment and risk management.

As Managing Director of the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute, she maintained a keen interest for the technical aspects of NGI's work, and conducted research and consulting work. She gave keynote lectures in over 30 countries, and is author or co-author of 300 papers.

Dr. Lacasse received many awards, including doctorates *Honoris Causa* from the University of Dundee and the University of Science and Technology in Trondheim, the Robert Legget Award of the Canadian Geotechnical Society, the K.Y. Lo Medal of the Engineering Institute of Canada for excellence in engineering, the ALERT 2009 Gold Medal in Geomechanics and the Effective Teaching Award in Civil Engineering at MIT. Dr Lacasse was elected to the US National Academy of Engineers in 2001 with the citation: "For enlightened

direction of the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute and for the advancements in foundation engineering for offshore structures". She is also member of the Canadian Academy of Engineers, the French Académie des Sciences Technologies, the Norwegian Academy of Engineering and Sciences, the Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters and the Royal Norwegian Society of Sciences and Letters. Dr. Lacasse is a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the Engineering Institute of Canada and the American Society of Civil Engineers, and an honorary member of the Norwegian Geotechnical Society.

She gave the 37<sup>th</sup> Terzaghi Lecture of the American Society of Civil Engineers in 2001, the 8<sup>th</sup> Terzaghi Oration of the ISSMGE in 2013 and she will be giving the 55<sup>th</sup> Rankine Lecture of the British Geotechnical Association in London in 2015.