

Dr Paul Marinos “Runs” Across Canada

In just over a two-week period in early May, Dr Paul Marinos, the Canadian Geotechnical Society’s Spring 2005 Cross Canada Lecturer, flew from his home in Athens, Greece, presented twelve lectures in twelve cities across Canada, and returned home. After his final technical lecture in Victoria, BC, Dr Marinos was heard saying “The tour was a little like running a marathon race (which, too, had its origins in Greece), but it was a most satisfying experience.”

Dr Marinos, Professor at the School of Civil Engineering (Geotechnical Department), National Technical University of Athens, and a Past President of the International Association of Engineering Geology, visited Halifax, Quebec City, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Saskatoon, Edmonton, Calgary, Prince George, Vancouver and Victoria, and gave one of the following talks in each city: Rock Mass Classification; Challenges in Engineering Geology; Construction of the Athens Metro, and Tunnels along the Egnatia Highway.

The Cross Canada Lecturer Tour has become a Canadian tradition. There have been 74 lecture tours since the tradition was established in 1965 by the National Research Council’s Associate Committee on Geotechnical Research. Subsequently, the Canadian Geotechnical Society has assumed the responsibility for selecting the lecturers and organizing the tours. The Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique, through corporate sponsorship, is now responsible for funding the required travel costs of the lecturers. Dr Marinos’ Spring 2005 tour was sponsored by generous donations from AMEC, BiTech Publishers, DYWIDAG Systems and Reinforced Earth. The local CGS Sections covered Dr Marinos’s costs in their own cities.

The Fall 2005 Cross Canada Lecturer was Dr Wayne Savigny, of BGC Engineering in Vancouver. The corporate sponsors for his tour were AMEC, CO Brawner, EBA and Reinforced Earth. (Dr Savigny’s tour will be reported in the next issue of Geotechnical News.)

The Spring 2006 Cross Canada Lecturer will be Dr Donald Bruce of Geosystems LP, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, USA, and the Fall 2006 Cross Canada Lecturer will be Dr Kerry Rowe, Department of Civil Engineering, Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario.

The tours have always been very popular with the CGS members and Canadian geotechnical community. For some of the local CGS sections, the tours are considered to be the most important activity of the year. Let’s keep the tradition alive. Help support the Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique and the Cross Canada Lecturer Tour.

Photo caption: Doug VanDine (left), Vice President of the Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique, presenting Dr Paul Marinos with a CGS plaque in recognition of his Spring 2005 Cross Canada Lecture Tour.