

OUR EXPANDING GEO INDUSTRY

TRIUMPHS AND PERILS

by

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Who will train our students to carry out the indispensable function of general civil engineering? Will they be teachers who understand design and construction, who can give their students a sense of proportion, a sense of the fitness of things? Or will they be persons with no first-hand knowledge of practice? I am indebted to my colleague Walt Hanson for noticing the following advertisement in an ASCE publication under the heading, "Faculty Positions Available":

"A tenure track position in the Department of Civil Engineering is available for a geotechnical engineer with expertise in one or more of the following areas: computational mechanics, constitutive modeling, soil dynamics, and earthquake engineering. Interests in innovative areas such as computeraided engineering and expert systems are desirable. The appointee will be expected to develop active research programs and to teach at both the undergraduate and graduate levels."

Teach what at the undergraduate level? Foundation investigation, analysis and design, and construction pitfalls and practices? I can only hope that both the advertising university and the respondents take for granted that the "geotechnical engineer" who responds will know something about the history and practice of foundation design and construction, will at least once hand the students a specimen of soil and ask if it is silt or clay and approximately what are its liquid limit and plasticity index. Where is the applicant who satisfies the