

## **JAMES LAIER, Ph.D., P.E.**

### **EDUCATION**

Ph.D. (Civil Engineering), University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, 1973  
M.S. (Civil Engineering), West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV, 1965  
B.S. (Civil Engineering), The Citadel, Charleston, SC, 1964

### **PERSONAL STATEMENT**

Currently, Dr. Laier is the Assistant Dean of Engineering and Associate Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of South Alabama. He was previously an adjunct professor with the Department of Civil Engineering, having taught Foundations Engineering since 1986. Dr. Laier is a licensed professional engineer in 11 states including: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. His extensive background includes four years of military service with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers serving in Germany, VietNam and the Continental United States.

As Chief Operating Officer and Principal Engineer, as well as founder of Southern Earth Sciences, Inc., Dr. Laier brings to the academic world over 34 years of practical experience. A leader in the engineering arena, Dr. Laier has numerous publications including his most recent *From Research to Practice in Geotechnical Engineering*, published by the American Society of Civil Engineers Geotechnical Institute which he co-edited. His vast experience includes hands-on application of environmental and geotechnical engineering and construction materials testing. His firm is one of the few in the southeast utilizing advanced cone penetrometer testing technology offering an advantage over conventional sampling methods by providing a virtually continuous profile of subsurface stratigraphy.

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

2008-present- University of South Alabama Assistant Dean, College of Engineering  
1975-2009- Southern Earth Sciences, Inc., Chief Executive Officer & Principal Engineer  
1986-2008 - University of South Alabama, Adjunct Professor  
1974-1975- Vester J. Thompson, Jr., Inc., Executive VP & Geotechnical Engineer  
1972-1973 - Law Engineering Testing Co., Soils & Foundation Engineer  
1972-1973- McClelland Engineers, Inc., Soils & Foundation Engineer  
1969-1972 - University of Florida, Research Assistant  
1965-1969- U.S. Army Corps of Engineer, Geotechnical Engineer  
1964-1965- West Virginia University, Research Assistant

### **NOTABLE AWARDS**

2010 Mobile Area Engineer of the Year, Mobile Council of Engineers  
2008 Academy Member, West Virginia University Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, West Virginia Academy of Civil Engineers  
2006 ACIL Preston Millar Award 2006 Alabama AGC Engineer of the Year

## **ELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

1. "From Research to Practice in Geotechnical Engineering ", Editor with David K. Crapps and Mohamad H. Hussein, published by the American Society of Civil Engineers Geotechnical Institute as Geotechnical Special Publication No. 180, at the Geo Institute's Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, March 2008
2. "Anatomy of Foundation Performance Involving Three Grain Silos Systematically Loaded to Impending Failure", with Gary D.E. Cowles and Mark E. White, published by the American Society of Civil Engineers Geotechnical Institute in Geotechnical Special Publication No. 180, at the Geo Institute's Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, March 2008
3. "Retaining Wall Drainage" published in "Landscape Contractor National Magazine", December, 2007
4. "Predicting the Ultimate Compressive Capacity of a Long 12-H-74 Steel Pile" published in the Proceedings of the U.S. Federal Highway Administration, December 1994
5. "Instrumentation Performance in Soft Clay Soils (A Case History)" with William H. Brenner, published in the Proceedings of a Symposium: Sedimentation Consolidation Models, ASCE Conference, San Francisco, California, 1984
6. "Effects of Pressure meter Probe Length/Diameter Ratio and Borehole Disturbance on Pressuremeter Test Results in Dry Sand", March 1973 (Ph.D. Dissertation)

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

University of South Alabama Research Park Board of Directors  
University of South Alabama Campaign Leadership  
American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)  
Society of American Military Engineers (SAME)  
Mobile Area Inter Engineering Societies Council  
Alabama Consulting Engineers Council  
National Society of Professional Engineers  
Tau Beta Pi- Citadel (Charter Member)  
Mobile Area Water and Sewer System Commissioner  
Alabama Department of Environmental Management Board  
St. Luke's Episcopal School Board of Trustees

## **U.S. LETTERS PATENTS**

1. METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR BUILDING UP BEACHES AND PROTECTING SHORELINES- **Laier**, James E., U.S. Patent No. 4,710,057, issued on December 1, 1987
2. ARTIFICIAL REEF SYSTEM - **Laier**, James E.; Ruffer, Joe W.; and Brenner, William H.; U.S. Patent No. 4,947,791, issued August 14, 1990-