This annual Cornell University Geotechnical Engineering Colloquium was created through a generous bequest by the late Dr. Robert L. Schiffman, Cornell Civil Engineering Class of 1944 and Professor Emeritus at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Professor Schiffman was a great believer in the need for all interested CE students to have the opportunity to meet and to hear lectures delivered by distinguished geotechnical engineers. Through his bequest, many generations of Cornellians will have this opportunity. Schiffman Lectures delivered to date are listed below:

1. “Conduction Phenomena: From Theory to Geotechnical Practice”
   13 Apr 1995  Prof. James K. Mitchell, Virginia Tech
2. “Case History of Scott Dam: Geotechnical Practice for Public Safety”
   8 Apr 1996  Prof. Richard E. Goodman, Univ. of California at Berkeley
3. “Alternative Design Strategies for Piled Raft Foundations”
   21 Oct 1996  Prof. Harry G. Poulos, Univ. of Sydney & Coffey Partners
4. “Leaning Tower of Pisa – Current Situation”
   1 Oct 1998  Prof. Michele B. Jamilowski, Technical Univ. of Torino
   11 Nov 1999  Dr. William F. Marcuson III, U.S. Army Engineer Waterways
6. “Uncertainty in Geotechnical Engineering: How Reliable is My Geotechnical Engineer?”
   31 Jan 2002  Dr. John T. Christian, Consulting Engineer
7. “The World Trade Center - From Genesis to Armageddon”
   28 Oct 2003  Prof. Robert D. Holtz, Univ. of Washington
9. “Anatomy of a Court Trial on Tank Settlements”
   7 April 2005  Prof. Charles C. Ladd, III, Massachusetts Inst. of Tech.
10. “Long Term Performance of Contaminant Barrier Systems”
    6 April 2006  Prof. R. Kerry Rowe, Queen’s Univ.
11. “Stability Assessment of Ten Large Landfill Failures”
    17 April 2007  Prof. Robert M. Koerner, Drexel Univ.
    10 November 2009  Mr. Clyde Baker, Jr., STS Consultants
13. “Re-Examination of Liquefaction Field Case Histories”
    1 April 2010  Prof. Emeritus Izzat M. Idriss, Univ. Cal Davis.
14. “Current Approaches to Performance Monitoring and Future Trends”
    7 April, 2011  Dr. W. Allen Marr, Geocomp Corporation
15. “An Investigation into Why the Earthquake Liquefaction Charts Work So Well”
    17th Robert L. Schiffman ’44 Geotechnical Colloquium
    Thursday, 13 April 2017
    Robert L. Schiffman
    27 October 1923 – 10 August 1997
    Cornell University
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    International Pioneer and Authority on the Theory of Consolidation of Soft Soils and on
    Computer Applications in Geotechnical Engineering
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    Computer Applications in Geotechnical Engineering
16. “Performance-based Design in Geotechnical Engineering”
   13 Sept 2012  Prof. Malcolm Bolton, University of Cambridge
Design, construction, maintenance and upgrading of geotechnical infrastructure will require thinking to minimize use of materials, energy and labor. This can only be achieved by understanding the performance of the geotechnical structures, both during its construction and throughout its service life. Can recent advances in sensor systems offer possibilities to radically alter methods of design and condition assessment of our geotechnical structures? In this lecture, several emerging sensor technologies such as distributed fiber optics sensing, wireless sensor networks, low power miniature sensors, energy harvesting, and computer vision are introduced and results from their deployments at tunneling, excavation and piling project sites in London are presented. These new sensor systems are producing datasets that are different from conventional monitoring systems and hence new engineering interpretation methods are required. It is argued that this leads to new opportunities for geotechnical engineers to improve the design, construction and maintenance of geotechnical infrastructure.

Kenichi Soga

Kenichi Soga is Chancellor’s Professor at the University of California, Berkeley. He obtained his BEng and MEng from Kyoto University in Japan and PhD from the University of California at Berkeley. He was Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Cambridge before joining UC Berkeley in 2016. He has published more than 350 journal and conference papers and is co-author of "Fundamentals of Soil Behavior, 3rd edition" with Professor James K Mitchell. His current research activities are Infrastructure sensing, Performance based design and maintenance of underground structures, Energy geotechnics, and Geotechnics from micro to macro. He is a Fellow of the UK Royal Academy of Engineering and a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers. He is recipient of many awards including George Stephenson Medal and Telford Gold Medal from the Institution of Civil Engineers and Walter L. Huber Civil Engineering Research Prize from the American Society of Civil Engineers.

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