Examples of Consulting Engineering Careers

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ABSTRACT: Geotechnical consulting engineering is a broad career path that can manifest different experiences depending on type of projects and the culture of the firm. Daniel and Whitney will discuss their career progression through several different consulting firms and will also present two project case histories that highlight the variability in the life of a geotechnical consultant. Daniel will discuss a relatively small ($60k consulting fee, 6-month duration) project that involved forensic investigation of settlement and subsequent ground improvement remedy design for large-diameter oil storage tanks in Guernsey, Wyoming. In contrast, Whitney will present aspects of a mega ($600k consulting fee, 6-year duration) transportation project that involved design of a 170-ft long by 40-ft wide footing constructed in challenging ground conditions for the SR 520 floating bridge in Seattle, Washington. The goal of our talk will be to present interesting technical aspects of both projects and to give the audience a flavor of the variation in work that a geotechnical engineering consulting career can provide. We will provide opportunity for Q&A regarding the projects and consulting in general.

BIOGRAPHIES: Whitney obtained a BS, civil engineering from the University of Washington and worked for a year as a geotechnical engineer prior to attending the University of Texas – Austin, where she obtained a MS in Geotechnical Engineering. Whitney has been practicing geotechnical engineering for 14 years and currently works as a Senior Associate at Landau Associates. Her geotechnical expertise includes LRFD design, subsurface investigation, shallow and deep foundation design, seismic hazard analysis, ground improvement, and deep excavations. Whitney works with clients on transportation, public utility, airport, commercial development, and federal projects. Whitney loves to travel and has visited 23 states, 19 countries and has lived abroad twice (New Zealand and Spain). She currently resides in Boise, Idaho with her husband and two boys, where they enjoy the many outdoor activities Idaho has to offer.

Daniel is a Senior Associate engineer at Landau Associates and is a licensed civil and geotechnical engineer in several western states. He works predominantly on industry, public works, and transportation projects involving ground improvement, earthquake engineering, deep foundations, and deep excavations throughout the western US. Daniel obtained a BS, civil engineering from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo in 2011 and worked in the civil engineering/land development industry prior to obtaining his MS in civil (geotechnical) engineering from OSU in 2014.

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