UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

2022 Steve and Sylvia Burges Endowed Lecture

Big, small, fast, slow: Geohazards I have known

Featuring Dr. Steve Kramer
Professor Emeritus
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
University of Washington

Friday, May 20 |3:30-4:30pm | Alder Hall Auditorium

Reception with light food and drinks in the Alder Hall Commons following the lecture

The lecture will be in-person and the recording will be saved on this page.
To learn more, please visit Steve and Sylvia Burges Lectureship homepage.

Abstract: Our landscape is always changing - on different spatial and temporal scales - and many of those changes can have profound effects on individuals and communities. Earthquakes and landslides are some of the most widely known and publicized geohazards but other hazards related to geologic materials and processes can also lead to severe damage and loss. Unlike buildings and bridges, the sources of geohazards are generally not visible until their effects reach the ground surface; as a result, society is surprised over and over by their occurrence. Over the course of the past 44 years, the speaker has been involved with the investigation of a number of geotechnical failures - from landslides that traveled 100 feet to one that traveled 1,000 miles, and from residential homes that moved an inch to a 650-ft high-rise that settled and tilted sufficiently to rate a story on 60 Minutes. This presentation will examine a variety of geohazards with examples from the speaker's career in geotechnical engineering research and practice and show how geotechnical engineers are dealing with them.

Bio: Steve Kramer is Professor Emeritus of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Washington in Seattle. His primary research interests include soil liquefaction, site response analysis, seismic slope stability, and hazard analysis. He has worked on the coupling of probabilistic seismic hazard and response analyses within performance-based earthquake engineering frameworks, particularly with respect to soil liquefaction. Kramer is author of the textbook, Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering (Prentice-Hall). Kramer has been the recipient of the Presidential Young Investigator Award from the NSF, the Arthur Casagrande Professional Development Award from ASCE, a Walter Huber Research Prize from ASCE, and the ASCE Norman Medal (in 2009 and 2017). He received the 2016 M.J. Nigel Priestley Prize from the European Centre for Training and Research in Earthquake Engineering, the 2018 H. Bolton Seed Medal from ASCE, and the 2018 Nabor Carrillo Lecturer Award from the Mexican Society of Geotechnical Engineering. In 2020, he was named as a Distinguished Member of ASCE, a member of the U.C. Berkeley Academy of Distinguished Alumni, and elected to the National Academy of Engineering. Most recently, he was named an Honorary Member of the International Association of Earthquake Engineering. Kramer was a Senior Research Scientist in the International Centre for Geohazards at the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute (NGI) in 2003 and is also a member of the faculty of the European School for Advanced Studies in the Reduction of Seismic Risk (the ROSE School) at the University of Pavia in Italy. Although recently retired from the University of Washington, he remains active in research and consulting and is nearing completion of the second edition of his textbook.

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Questions? please contact Karen Heath at karenh3@uw.edu or Jon Emard at jmemard@uw.edu
This lecture series is open to the public. No RSVP required