GeoVirginia 2025

Tribute to Professor James K. Mitchell, Sc.D., P.E., Hon. ASCE, NAE, NAS

RUSSELL A. GREEN

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, U.S.



James K. Mitchell: April 19, 1930 - December 17, 2023

- Professor Emeritus, UC Berkeley
- University Distinguished Professor Emeritus, VT

- Areas of Research
  - Fundamental aspects of soil behavior
  - Environmental geotechnics
  - Soil improvement
  - Site characterization
  - Geotechnical earthquake engineering



James K. Mitchell: April 19, 1930 - December 17, 2023

- Education
  - B.C.E. – RPI 1951
  - S.M. – MIT 1953
  - Sc.D. – MIT 1956



James K. Mitchell: April 19, 1930 - December 17, 2023

- Professional Associations
  - MIT (& Harvard University): 1951-1956 (student)
    - MIT Faculty: Donald Taylor, T. William Lambe, Harl P. Aldrich, Robert V. Whitman
    - Harvard Faculty: Author Casagrande, Leo Casagrande, Karl Terzaghi
  - US Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station: 1955 (civilian)
    - Colleagues: M. Juul Hvorslev, Willard Turnbull
  - US Army Corps of Engineer: 1956-1958 (officer)



James K. Mitchell: April 19, 1930 - December 17, 2023

- Professional Associations (cont.)
  - UC Berkeley: 1958-1993
    - Colleagues: H. Bolton Seed, Tor Brekke, John Lysmer, Clarence Chan, J. Michael Duncan, Richard Goodman, Nick Sitar, Ray Seed
    - Department Chair: 1979-1984
    - Edward G. Cahill and John R. Cahill Professor of Civil Engineering, 1989
    - 69 PhD students



James K. Mitchell: April 19, 1930 - December 17, 2023

- Professional Associations (cont.)
  - Virginia Tech: 1994-1999 (1999-2021 active)
    - Charles E. Via Jr. Professor of Civil Engineering, 1994
    - University Distinguished Professor, 1996
    - Colleagues: J. Michael Duncan, Thangavelu Kuppusamy, Tom Brandon, George Filz, Jimmy Martin
    - 8 PhD students:
      - #70 Chris Baxter;
      - #71 Trish Gallagher;
      - #72 Harry Cooke;
      - #73 John (Giovanni) Bonita;
      - #74 Russell Green;
      - #75 Ning Lu;
      - #76 Nestor Suarez;
      - #77 Crain Shillaber



James K. Mitchell: April 19, 1930 - December 17, 2023

- Awards and Recognitions
  - Thomas A. Middlebrooks Award, ASCE, 1962, 1970, 1973, 2001
  - Walter L. Huber Research Prize, ASCE, 1965
  - Norman Medal, ASCE, 1972; 1995
  - Medal for Exceptional Scientific Achievement, NASA, 1973
  - National Academy of Engineering - 1976
  - Karl Terzaghi Lecture, ASCE, 1984
  - Karl Terzaghi Award, ASCE, 1985
  - Rankine Lecturer, British Geotechnical Society, 1991
  - Honorary Member, ASCE, 1993
  - National Academy of Sciences - 1998
  - International Honorary Member, Japanese Geotechnical Society, 1999
  - U.S. Army Chief of Engineers Outstanding Service Award, 1999



James K. Mitchell: April 19, 1930 - December 17, 2023

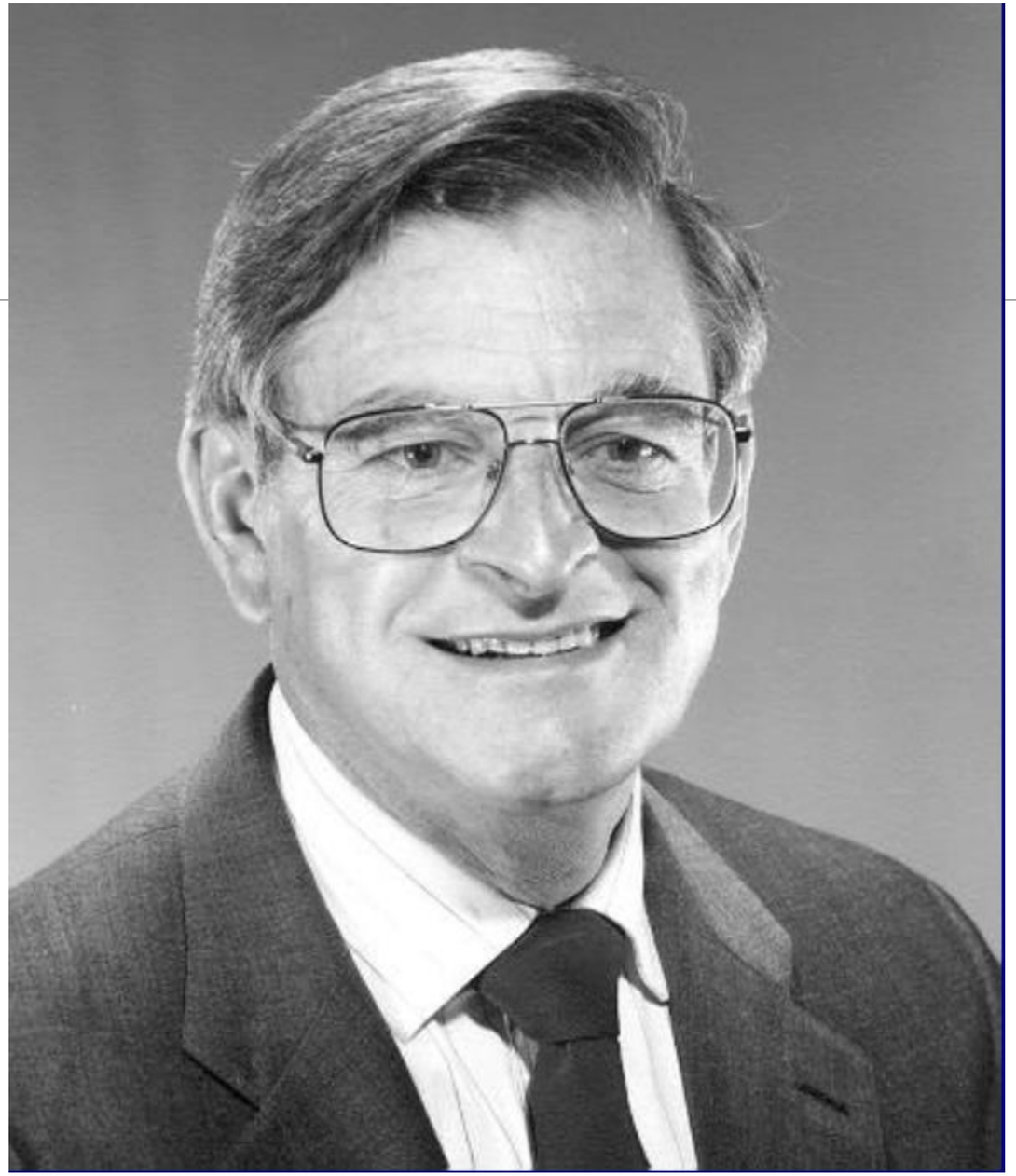
- Awards and Recognitions (cont.)
  - Kevin Nash Gold Medal of the ISSMGE, 2001
  - H. Bolton Seed Medal, ASCE, 2004
  - ASCE Outstanding Projects and Leaders Award (OPAL) in Education, 2006



James K. Mitchell: April 19, 1930 - December 17, 2023

- Outside Academics
  - Wife of 52 years: Virginia “Bunny” Mitchell (2004)
    - Five children: Rick, Laura, James, Don, and David
    - Nine grandchildren
    - Nine great grandchildren
  - Wife of 16 years: Holly Taylor
    - Two daughters
    - One grandson
  - Accomplished saxophone player

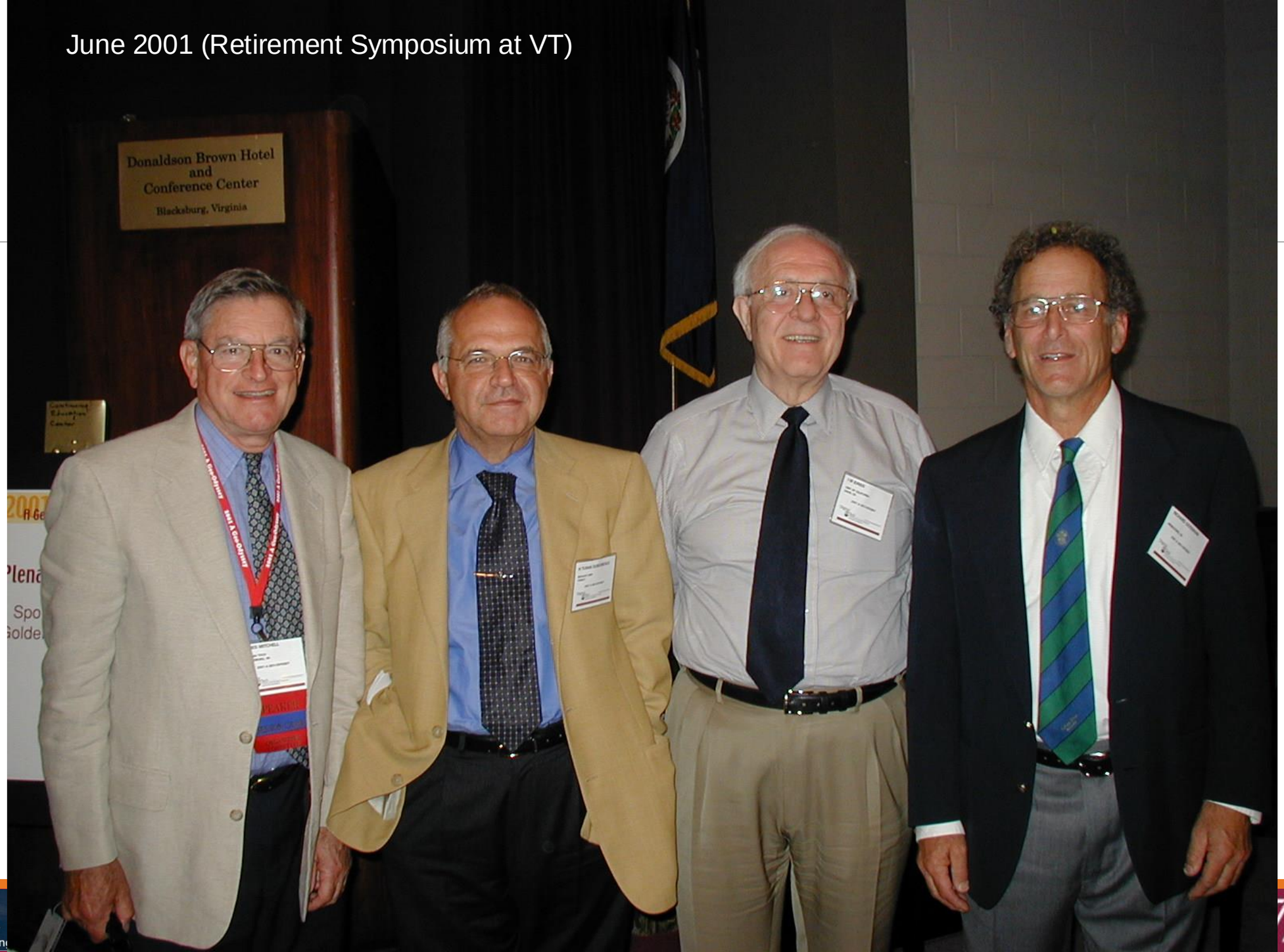






Kuwait 1980

June 2001 (Retirement Symposium at VT)




December 2001
77 PhD students in total
69 UC Berkeley (#37 – Brandon)
8 Virginia Tech (#74 - Green)


December 2001



Japan 2005

Sherif Abdelaziz
Joe Vantassel
Rei Hosseini
Ryan Beemer



December 2019

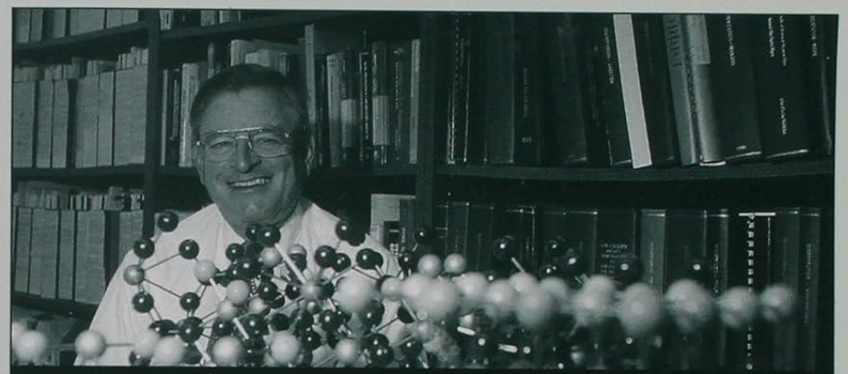


April 2023

Ricardo Dobry's Honorary Symposium, RPI, May 2023



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James K. Mitchell

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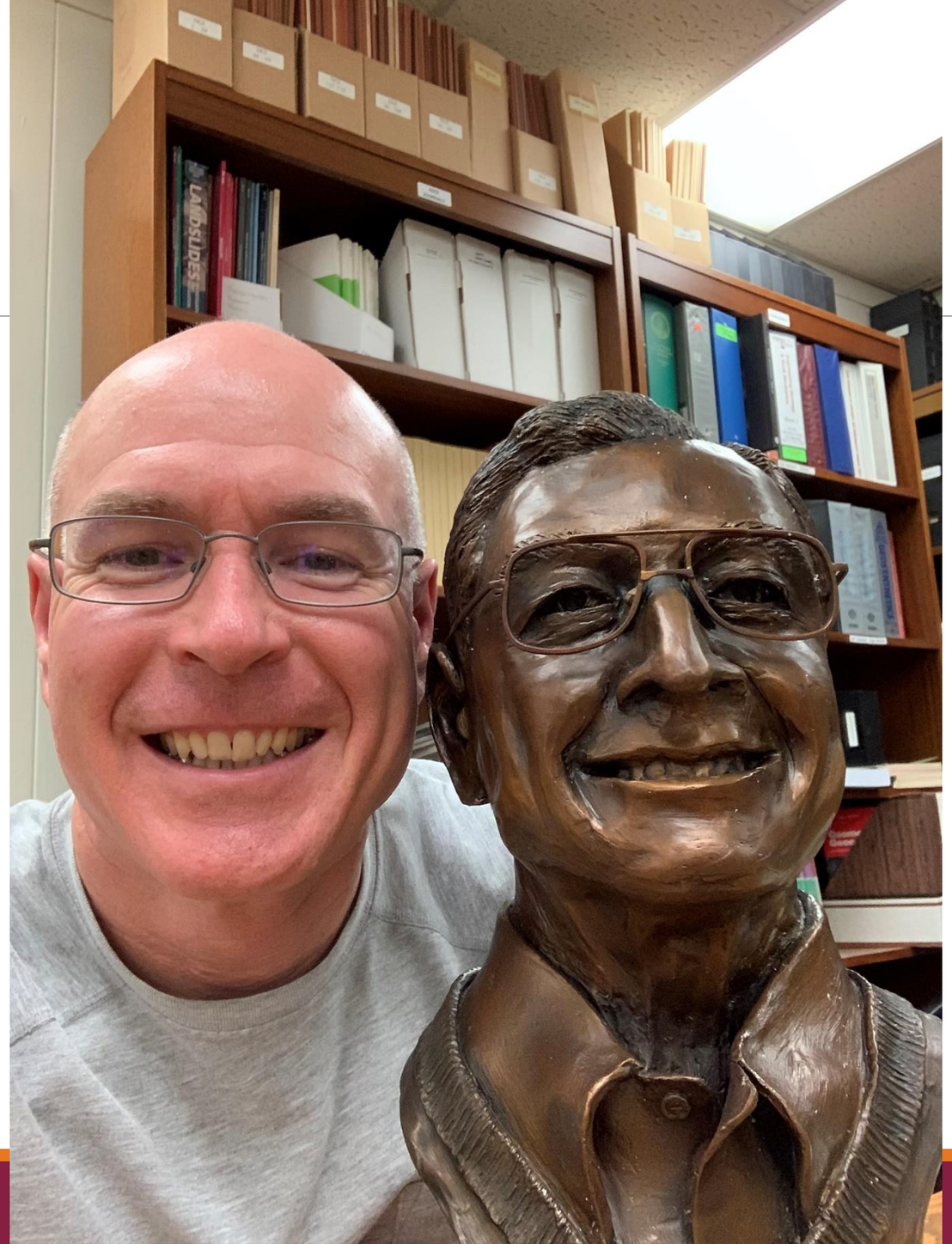
Fundamentals of Soil Behavior

James K. Mitchell

Kenichi Soga

Catherine O'Sullivan

WILEY


LANDSLIDES

Jim Mitchell's "Baseball" Card






James K. Mitchell Memorial Symposium
UC Berkeley, January 24, 2025
Jim’s PhD students who were in attendance

Jim’s desk on December 17, 2023

