**November 2020 DVGI Virtual Meeting**

**SPEAKER:** Jennifer Peirce Brandt, P.E., Vice President & Co-Founder, Peirce Engineering, Inc.

**TOPIC:** 2019-2020 DVGI Project of the Year—PennFirst Patient Pavilion

**DATE:** Tuesday, November 17, 2020, at 12:00 pm

**LOCATION:** Webinar Format / Link to be Provided to all Registered

**Meeting Abstract:**
Deep excavations in city settings can be challenging. Peirce Engineering, Inc. and JPC Group teamed up to provide temporary excavation support, underpinning, rock bolting, micropiles, and load testing solutions for the PennFirst Patient Pavilion for Penn Medicine in Philadelphia. The $1.5 billion dollar project located in University City will provide 504 new patient rooms and 47 operating rooms when the 16-story facility is open for patients in summer, 2021. The new Pavilion is located on the site of the former Penn Tower. Work began in 2015 with the Integrated Project Delivery approach where the design and construction team worked together side by side. The presentation will review and discuss the geotechnical challenges and solutions used to meet the city site conditions.

Jennifer Peirce Brandt is Vice President and Co-Founder of Peirce Engineering, Inc. She is a registered Professional Engineering in Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania with over 25 years of experience in civil, highway, and geotechnical engineering. Jennifer is a proud Drexel graduate. Her experience includes design of temporary and permanent excavation support systems, micropiles, tiebacks, pile load tests, and prefabricated, panel truss bridges.

*We anticipate One PDH will be awarded for attendance.*
The Geotechnical Engineering Response to Big Data: Reactive vs. Proactive...You Can Choose

Dr. Robert Bachus, P.E., D.GE. —Geosyntec

Let’s start with the premise that the current state of geotechnical data management leaves a lot to be desired and that geotechnical engineers have historically been poor data managers. Left to their own devices and without an external push, the status quo will be considered acceptable to many practitioners because it is painful to change current practice and because many practitioners do not see a need to change based on input and response from owners, clients, and contractors. In the world of automated geotechnical instrumentation, in-cab construction data collection and control; geographic information systems and data visualization, LiDAR, drone surveys, etc., these practitioners will quickly find that conventional techniques for data management cannot be sustained and will soon be recognized by their clients as being unacceptable. So, what to do? We can go the way of the dinosaur and slowly be considered irrelevant or we can get in front of the parade and be recognized as leaders and innovators. Ongoing work at several public and private organizations and universities clearly shows that certain practitioners are of the latter mindset, so this presentation and message might be considered “preaching to the choir.” However, it is often beneficial to have another preacher lead the tent revival. This presentation provided examples of how the geotechnical world should be looking to the future regarding data management and visualization and how we can get there in an efficient manner.

Dr. Bachus is a civil engineer with more than 40 years of experience, with an expertise in geotechnical and geoenvironmental engineering. He started his professional career as a member of the faculty at the Georgia Institute of Technology and taught there for 11 years before joining Geosyntec Consultants in 1990, where he is now a Senior Principal. The firm specializes in geotechnical, environmental, and water resource engineering, with >1,300 employees in its 85 offices in the U.S., Canada, and Europe. His research and project activities cover a wide range of topics, including dams and levees, landslide assessment, landfill design and performance, soil/rock properties, and forensic engineering. He has worked extensively on the properties and beneficial use of coal combustion residuals (CCRs) and geotechnical data management and visualization. He is currently an Adjunct Professor at Georgia Tech and Co-chair of the Transportation Research Board’s Standing Committee on Soil and Rock Properties.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

**DVGI PROJECT OF THE YEAR**

2nd Annual DVGI Geotechnical Project of the Year Competition
Submissions accepted now through April 1, 2021
Project of the Year to be selected in May 2021
Projects to be featured in DVGI Newsletters
Visit dvgi.org to apply now!

Peirce Engineering was presented with the 2019-2020 Project of the Year Award for PennFirst Patient Pavilion.
(from L to R: John J. Peirce, III, PE; Jennifer Peirce Brandt, PE; John J. Peirce Jr, PE, D.GE.)

(Image Source: Theresa Loux)

Submit Applications to Theresa Loux at tloux@aeroaggregates.com
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Upcoming Dates for 2020-2021 Virtual Lunch Meetings and events are as follows:

- **November 17, 2020, Virtual Meeting**: Jennifer Peirce Brandt, Peirce Engineering, PennFirst Patient Pavilion
- **January 19, 2021, Virtual Meeting**: DVGI/SEI Joint, Topic TBD
- **February 16, 2021, Virtual Meeting**: George Koerner, Wick Drains

*If you are interested in presenting at one of our monthly meetings or have ideas about potential speakers, please get in touch with a DVGI board member.*

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Geosynthetic Institute

**Upcoming GSI Webinars for 2020**

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(1.5 PDH each / upon completion of exam)

11:30 AM—1:00 PM (Eastern Time)

Topics, Dates and Registration at [www.geosynthetic-institute.org/webinar.htm](http://www.geosynthetic-institute.org/webinar.htm)

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**HAVE DVGI PUBLISH YOUR ARTICLE, ADVERTISEMENT, OR JOB POSTING**

- Do you have an interesting article on a project or individual in your organization that you would like to have published in the DVGI newsletter?
- Would you like to get the word out about a job opening, new venture, etc. to our membership via the newsletter?

Please submit your articles or news items for consideration in the next edition of the newsletter or get in touch about our reasonably priced advertising by contacting Jeremy Brown (jbrown@schnabel-eng.com).

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ASCE/G-I Members:
Read past and present issues of Geo-Strata magazine online at [www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org)
You are invited to participate in RamJack’s L&L seminar. The presentation includes discussion of principles and the underlying assumptions, and explanations of the theories behind geotechnical analyses of helical (Screw) piles/anchors. References to sources of uncertainties in geotechnical analyses will be made to avoid a false sense of accuracy. The application of engineering principles to practical problems will be illustrated using Case Histories. The presentation touches on the use of computer software.

For more information, please contact Taylor Rizzotte – taylor@ramjacktri.com or Cindy MacKay – cindy@ramjacktri.com to schedule your L&L seminar.

CMT is a locally Owned and Operated WBE Geotechnical, Environmental and Special Inspections Corporation. Our West Conshohocken, PA office is seeking a self-motivated and qualified Mid to Senior Level Geotechnical Engineer to join our professional staff full time. Our firm has a diverse client base offering a variety of interesting and challenging projects. We desire to add engineers that have good communication skills and experience taking a project from start to finish, such as writing proposals, performing field explorations, logging borings and test pits, completing lab test assignment requests, performing geotechnical calculations and preparing client ready reports.

Applicants MUST have a PE License in Delaware, Pennsylvania or New Jersey with minimum 5 to 10 years of progressive experience in the geotechnical engineering consulting industry.

Our firm provides employee growth and advancement opportunities. We offer an excellent compensation and benefits package, including: medical, dental, vision, life insurance, 401(k) plan, paid time off and paid holidays.

Please forward inquiries and a resume to v.moody@cmtservicesgroup.com for consideration.
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ASSOCIATED PENNSYLVANIA CONSTRUCTORS / PENNDOT / PA TURNPIKE

2020 FALL SEMINAR

November 17-20, 2020

2021 TRB ANNUAL MEETING

Transportation Research Board

100TH Annual Meeting
A Virtual Event
January 2021

IFCEE

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATIONS CONGRESS & EQUIPMENT EXPO

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