Professor Jean-Louis Briaud is President of ISSMGE, the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering and Buchanan Chair Professor at Texas A&M University. He recently travelled to Beirut, Lebanon (4-6 Sept 2011) to visit with geotechnical engineers and participate in the Grand Opening of the Lebanese Geotechnical Society (LGS) as a new member of ISSMGE. He presented a lecture at this occasion on the topic of “Behavior of Two Large Mats under High Loads”. The event was organized by Dr. Salah Sadek, President of LGS with the cooperation of the Order of Engineers of Lebanon. At the event he also met with Dr. Muhsin Rahhal, Dr. Marc Ballouz, and Mr. Paul Hage. On the lighter side, Dr. Marc Ballouz took time to show Dr. Briaud some of the best of the nightlife of Beirut.