**What you learned:**
- The Geo-Congress 2020 conference theme was focused on Vision, Insight, Outlook. The conference covered vast ranges of expert talk, panel discussions, and special sessions. The specially designed student orientation and personality development workshop for the student members allowed interacting with experts from industry and academicians. The talks, panel discussions, and presentations (both oral and poster) covered almost every aspect of geotechnical engineering like Foundations, Soil Improvement, Geotechnical Infrastructure, Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering, Landslides, Unsaturated Soil Mechanics, Biogeotechnique, Sustainability in Geotechnical Engineering, Geoenvironmental Engineering and so on. It was an excellent opportunity to witness consultant solutions for many challenging construction projects. As a Ph.D. candidate mainly working on the use of encased stone columns to improve soft soil and to capture time-dependent behavior of foundation resting over it, this conference provided me with a good insight into various other recent research activities. I was grateful for my career and research advice from senior professors and practicing engineers. Apart from the technical aspects, I admired the cultural and moral values of the American people.

**People you met:**
It was indeed an excellent opportunity to meet various renowned personalities in the event.

- **Anand J. Puppala, Ph.D., PE, D.GE, F.ASCE, F-ICE**, Professor of Zachry Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering Texas A&M
- **Beth Gross Ph.D., PE, D.GE, F.ASCE**, Geoenvironmental Engineer, Geosyntec Consultants, Tallahassee, FL
- **Timothy D. Stark, Ph.D., PE, F.ASCE, D.GE**, Professor of Civil Engineering, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL
- **Allen Marr, Ph.D., PE, NAE, D.GE, F.ASCE**, CEO & Founder of Geocomp Corporation
- **Andrew K. Cho, Ph.D., PE, PG**, Geotechnical Design engineer, Turner engineering Group

**Main features of the conference:**
The Geo-Congress 2020 conference was designed to bring the quality in the technical field, the networking opportunities, and the peer interaction that only in-person experiences provide. The meeting had new programming and themes to make this as a “signature event” for consulting engineers, contractors, researchers, owners, and students. It provides a platform to learn from top leaders in the industry and academia through special plenary sessions, short courses, panels, and technical sessions. The conference provided the platform to demonstrate what we have learned by sharing with our colleagues during conference presentations.

Your comments on the conference:
The conference was well-organized, and the keynote and theme lectures were delivered on time. The tea breaks and lunch sessions were perfectly timed to have a fruitful discussion over the subject and possible research collaborations. International students from various countries were able to discuss and share their research ideas. The topics of the lectures were very well chosen that the audience was engaged throughout the conference duration. The volunteers were very much helpful to the delegates during the program. I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to the organizers of this Geo-congress 2020 Conference for providing an informative and pleasant experience to us. Also, I am deeply indebted to the ISSMGE foundation for their financial support to attend this event.

Please attach short report (maximum 400 words) suitable for publication in the ISSMGE Bulletin:

Geo-congress 2020 is a well- renowned organized every year by Geo-Institute of ASCE. The conference was held during February 25-28, 2020 In Minneapolis, Minnesota; the USA. After the G-I Student orientation, the student professional development workshop was held on Tuesday, February 25th, from 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM in the Northstar Ballroom of the Minneapolis Hyatt Regency (conference venue). The leaders from academia and industry like Augusto Lucarelli, W. Lyle Simonton, Timothy D. Stark, and others were the panelist at the workshop. The conference formally started with the opening remark by the congress chair Derrick D. Dasenbrock followed by the H. Bolton Seed award lecture presented by the year 2020 recipient Bruce Kutter. He discussed open issues about soil liquefaction from a perspective, including a physical model test. The opening plenary session started on Wednesday, February 26th, from 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM by G-I President Patrick Fox and congress chair Derrick D. Dasenbrock. My poster presentation was from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM in the Northstar Ballroom. The Mercer series lecture on Geosynthetics for construction on soft foundations soil by the this year’s recipient R. Kerry Rowe provided the insight to the advancement in the application of geosynthetics. The particular panel discussion on “Ah-Ha” Moments in Geotechnical Engineering: My Biggest Geotechnical Surprise during practicing geotechnical engineer’s carrier provided deep insights into lessons learned on the projects. The Karl Terzaghi award lecture by Ed Cording on Observing and Controlling Ground Behaviour during Tunneling gave a deep understanding of the ground behavior. The Ralph B. peck award lecture by Anand J. Puppala was an
interesting talk where he discussed problematic soils their characterization, challenges, Various dignitaries across the globe delivered the lectures. In addition to this, six technical sessions with individual sessions under each were designed in such a way that it included practicing engineers as well. The conference lectures were presented both in the forenoon as well as the afternoon session. However, the various awards lectures were conducted in evening sessions. It was a great honor for me to present my research topic at this conference. Apart from the technical aspects, the delegates of the meeting were welcomed with a refreshing evening purple party on the second day of the conference. Delicious lunch was served throughout the conference duration. The conference justified its theme Vision, Insight, Outlook.

Photographs from Conference:

H. Bolton Seed Award Lecture by Bruce Kutter Ph.D, M.ASCE

During my poster presentation

With the student delegates from India
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>With Beth Gross</strong> (Past President of the Geo-Institute and Member of Geoenvironmental Engineering Committee and Embankments, Dams, and Slopes Committee)</th>
<th>Interaction with foreign delegate during my poster presentation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At the Conference venue before start of the poster presentation</td>
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