Jack Montgomery, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Auburn University
Candidate for Junior USUCGER Board Member

Candidate Statement

I am honored to be nominated as a candidate for the Junior USUCGER Board Member position. If fortunate enough to be elected, I will look forward to building on current initiatives to advance geotechnical and geoenvironmental engineering education and research. One of my first goals will be to work with the board and interested members to develop a new strategic plan for USUCGER that lays out a vision for the future of our organization, objectives to achieve this vision, and metrics to assess our progress. The plan and our progress in achieving our vision will be regularly updated and shared with the members to ensure our objectives stay aligned with the needs of our profession.

One key focus in the strategic plan should be the recruitment and retention of traditionally underrepresented students in geotechnical engineering. Meeting the dual challenges of resiliency and sustainability will require engineers from diverse backgrounds that can provide new insights, viewpoints, and interpretations of existing problems. I believe that USUCGER can help in this area by creating and sharing recruiting tools that focus not only on the technical aspects of geotechnical and geoenvironmental engineering, but also on how our profession plays a key role in helping society. Our community has done a great job of sharing educational tools and resources and I would like to expand that to include tools and best practices for outreach and mentoring of students. I will also look forward to hearing and helping to implement your ideas for improving our organization.

Biography

Dr. Jack Montgomery is an Assistant Professor at Auburn University, where he focuses his research, teaching, and outreach on geotechnical earthquake engineering, landslides, dam engineering, and advanced site characterization. He received his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and his master's and Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from the University of California, Davis. Some of his recent research projects have involved evaluating potential for strength loss in soils during earthquakes, characterization and monitoring of landslide and sinkholes, soil-structure interaction, and studying internal erosion in unsaturated soils. He was also a member of the GEER reconnaissance teams for the 2017 Puebla-Mexico City, 2018 Palu, and 2020 Petrinja earthquakes. Dr. Montgomery received an NSF CAREER Award in 2021 and the Chi Epsilon Southern District Excellence in Teaching Award in 2018. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, United States Society on Dams, and the American Geophysical Union.