Personal Bio

Vital Stats

Full Name: Matthew Pierce

Affiliation: Itasca Consulting Group

Position: Principal Engineer

Biography

I grew up in the Toronto, Canada area, attended Queen's University in Kingston, Canada and moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota on completion of my Master's degree in 1998 to work at Itasca. I subsequently attained my PhD through the University of Queensland while working at Itasca. As a Principal Engineer with Itasca, I specialize in strength characterization of rock masses and geomechanical mine design. Through my involvement in a wide range of consulting and research projects over the last 20 years, I have pioneered methods for the estimation of rock mass properties and the analysis of caving and collapse potential, fragmentation, subsidence, draw/recovery and infrastructure stability for mining projects and operations. In my free time I enjoy cooking, live music and pretty much anything that will get me out into the woods.

Education

The University of Queensland; Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Mining Engineering; 2003 – 2010

Queen's University; Master of Science (MSc), Mining Engineering; 1995 – 1997

Queen's University; Bachelor of Applied Science (BASc), Geological Engineering; 1991 – 1995

Awards and Major Publications

Pierce, M., P. Cundall, D. Potyondy and D. Mas Ivars. "A Synthetic Rock Mass Model for Jointed Rock," in Rock Mechanics: Meeting Society's Challenges and Demands (1st Canada-U.S. Rock Mechanics Symposium, Vancouver, May 2007), Vol. 1: Fundamentals, New Technologies & New Ideas, pp. 341-349. E. Eberhardt et al., Ed. London: Taylor & Francis Group, 2007.

Pierce, M., D. K. Weatherley and T. Kojovic. "A Hybrid Methodology for Secondary Fragmentation Prediction in Cave Mines," in Caving 2010 (Proceedings, Second International Symposium on Block and Sublevel Caving, Perth, Australia, April 2010), pp. 567-581, Y. Potvin, Ed. Perth: Australian Centre for Geomechanics (2010).

Manuel Rocha Medal; International Society for Rock Mechanics; 2013; Since 1982 a bronze medal and a cash prize have been awarded annually by the International Society of Rock Mechanics (ISRM) for an outstanding doctoral thesis in rock mechanics or rock engineering, to honour the memory of Past President Manuel Rocha while stimulating young researchers.

President's Award; Itasca International Inc.; 2011; Awarded on a yearly basis at the discretion of the President of III based on the encouragement and development of cooperative work amongst III offices. Value $10,000.