

Before I introduce our speaker for the Eb Rice Lecture, I would first like to tell you a little about Eb Rice first.

University of Alaska Professor Eb Rice literally wrote the book on Arctic engineering with his 1975 tome, "Building in the North." If you have not read this book, please find on your tables a website that will link you to the fourth edition

Rice's influential work on cold-weather construction was decades in the making. Soon after he began teaching at UA in 1955, Rice realized that Lower 48 engineers, architects and contractors were often unsuccessfully trying to apply skills they learned in warmer climates to Alaska projects.

The most infamous example of a misguided design was the initial plan for the trans-Alaska pipeline — burying it underground, "just like we do it in Texas." Sending the hot-oil line through hundreds of miles of permafrost would have been a disaster. Instead, the design that was later approved — considered a landmark of modern engineering — was molded by Rice's teachings.

Rice infused UA's engineering program with the basic rules of building in the Arctic, factoring in weather, logistics, permafrost, insulation, sanitation and safety. He later promoted regulations and educational materials that ensured people building in Alaska had the necessary training to plan, design and construct safe, efficient projects in the state

Dr. Yuri Shur is a Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at UAF

Having over 40 years of experience in permafrost and geotechnical investigations and engineering. Beginning his career in the USSR and fortunately of us, coming to the Alaska in 1992.

His research has been focused on permafrost that spanned

- Foundations
 - Pavements
 - Thermal insulation
 - Heat Transfer
- And included
- Seasonal frost impacts on structures

To name just some of the areas on how he impacted our lives in Alaska. Providing expertise to the fields for Oil & Gas, Placer mining, structures, power plants, roads & rail roads, airfields, tunnels and the environment.

His publications span books, journals, reports, proceedings, and manuals.

In that spirit of what Eb Rice began, our speaker has carried that same expertise to working in the Arctic. I would also note how important his work has been with the Chancellor and Dean of Engineering taking time to be here today.

It is with great and humbling appreciation to present the Eb Rice Lecture Award and introduce my personal friend Dr. Yuri Shur.