



**EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING
RESEARCH INSTITUTE
NEWSLETTER**

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**EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING
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News of the Institute

**EERI Welcomes Mark Yashinsky as New
Newsletter Editor**



Incoming editor Mark Yashinsky

Mark Yashinsky, senior bridge engineer at Caltrans' Office of Earthquake Engineering, has been chosen as EERI's new *Newsletter* editor. He will replace Thalia Anagnos, professor of engineering at San Jose State University, who is moving on to become EERI's new president-elect. EERI extends heartfelt thanks to Thalia for providing such consistent high quality to the *Newsletter* as editor. We can confidently expect the same professionalism in her duties as an officer of EERI.

Mark Yashinsky has been an active member of EERI, as the author of a monograph on the seismic safety of bridges and as a participant in the US/Japan Urban Earthquake

Hazard Reduction meetings, including the one in Osaka, Japan, that was interrupted by the 1995 Kobe earthquake. This latter experience gave him an opportunity to study bridge damage firsthand, and he contributed to the EERI report on that earthquake, something he has continued to do for every major event since Kobe. He has agreed to put aside his wanderlust, however, in order to edit the *Newsletter*.

Mark will combine the responsibility of editor with his other professional obligations: coordinating earthquake investigations, helping to develop new seismic criteria, and determining seismic hazards and risks for Caltrans.



Outgoing editor Thalia Anagnos

100th Anniversary Conference Plenary Sessions

The organizing committee for the 100th Anniversary Earthquake Conference, to be held April 18-22, 2006, in San Francisco, has exciting plans for the daily plenary sessions. The themes are "Commemoration Day" on Tuesday, "Learning from the Past" on Wednesday, "Assessing the Present" on Thursday, and "Preparing for the Future" on Friday.

Commemoration Day is April 18th, the actual 100th anniversary of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. The first plenary session will focus on the 1906 disaster, offering a centennial perspective on what happened and what we learned from it, including its cause; its effect on the city, on the built environment, and on reconstruction; and its impacts on construction practice, public policy, and preparedness.

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News of the Profession

Smart Buildings to Guide First Responders

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is working with the building industry as well as public safety and information technology communities to achieve fast and informed responses to building emergencies.

NIST researchers are studying how “intelligent” building systems can be used by firefighters, police, and other first responders to assess emergency conditions accurately in real time. NIST is working with industry to develop standards for manufacturers to create intelligent building systems that use various types of communication networks (including wireless) to assist first responders. The systems would send information such as building floor plans and data from motion, heat, biochemical, and other sensors and video cameras directly to fire and police dispatchers, who then can communicate detailed information about the scene to first responders.

NIST recently released video presentations that demonstrate how an “Intelligent Building Response” pro-

gram would work. The videos outline team efforts to create a system of interoperable data content and communications standards that would link first responders with “intelligent” building systems. Firefighters are shown using laptops to track the spread of a developing fire on a floor plan even before reaching the scene. Other real-time building sensor information includes status information concerning a specific building’s mechanical systems, elevators, lighting, security and fire systems, the locations of building occupants, and temperature and smoke conditions.

The Intelligent Building Response research is made possible by funding from the Department of Justice’s Office of Community-Oriented Policing Services through NIST’s Office of Law Enforcement Standards. Public safety and building technology representatives are welcome to join the standards development effort. Information on the program and downloadable video presentations are available at www.bfrl.nist.gov/ibr.

Announcement

Scholarships at ROSE

Applications are being accepted for a master’s in earthquake engineering and/or engineering seismology (MEEES), approved and financially supported by the European Commission (EC) under the framework of the Erasmus Mundus program, with a deadline of January 31, 2006.

The MEEES is organized by a consortium of European university/research institutions, led by the European School for Advanced Studies in Reduction of Seismic Risk (ROSE School, www.roseschool.it) and featuring the participation of the University of Patras (Greece), the University of Grenoble Joseph Fourier (France), Imperial College London (UK), the European Joint Research Centre (EC), and the Italian National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology (Italy).

The scholarships, ranging in value from 14,000 to 35,000 euro, are available to applicants from all nations.

For full details on the program and the online application procedure, visit www.meees.org.

Conference Plenary Sessions

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Wednesday’s “Learning from the Past” session will cover a century of progress in risk reduction and lessons learned from recent large earthquakes in the areas of ground rupture and strong ground motion, losses in the built environment, and emergency management

On Thursday, “Assessing the Present” will present a scenario of a repeat of the 1906 earthquake through use of the newest USGS ground motion studies, a HAZUS analysis indicating probable damage and loss estimates, and implications for emer-

gency response plans and post-event recovery.

Finally, Friday morning’s “Preparing for the Future” will look beyond 2006 at why life and property losses continue to climb in spite of the progress earthquake science has made. We hope that an improved understanding of the disconnect between scientific progress and human suffering will lead to a vision for greater progress.

For more information about the plenary session speakers, the entire conference, and to register online, visit <http://www.1906eqconf.org/>.

Call for Papers

Pakistan Conference

The Pakistan Meteorological Department has issued a call for papers for the International Conference on Seismology in Islamabad March 6-8, 2006, focused on the Muzaffarabad (Kashmir) earthquake of October 8, 2005. Abstracts are due January 15, 2006. Topics include seismotectonics, monitoring networks, seismic zoning, geotechnical hazards, engineering seismology, soil and foundations, and earthquake engineering. To register or submit an abstract, visit http://www.pakmet.com.pk/WebConference/abstract_guide.htm.

News of the Institute

New Madrid Regional Chapter Activities

The New Madrid Chapter of EERI recently completed election of new officers. **James A. Taylor** will serve as president. Jim is a project manager with ABS Consulting in St. Louis, Missouri. He has participated in the evaluation, design, and construction of earthquake retrofit projects throughout the Midwest and serves as a board member of the Missouri SAVE Coalition, a Missouri state-sponsored volunteer organization for ATC-20 training and post-earthquake damage assessment.

Gregory L. Hепен will serve as vice president/president-elect. Greg is a geophysicist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He has been involved with all earthquake-resistant designs or evaluations of the St. Louis District's structures. He has been involved with other seismic considerations for the Corps nationally and for other state and federal agencies in the central United States. Greg is a charter member of the Missouri Seismic Safety Commission and was the first chairperson of the commission.

The Chapter Secretary/Treasurer is **Frank Callanan**. Frank has more than twenty years' experience in civil, geotechnical, and environmental engineering. He is a senior project manager and leads the development team at Geotechnology, Inc. Frank is a member of ASCE and the American Public Works Association, and is a fellow of the Institution of Engineers of Ireland.

The New Madrid Chapter (NMC) is regularly involved in promoting public awareness of the Midwest earthquake issue, and dissemination of knowledge on risks to people and facilities. The NMC participates in Earthquake Awareness Week (EAW) activities, which occur every year during the week of February 7,

the date of the last great New Madrid Seismic Zone earthquake in 1812, by proclamation of former Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan. EAW activities include an earthquake risk-awareness seminar for businesses, and hands-on exhibits and displays at the St. Louis Science Center. For more information on EAW 2006, contact Jim Taylor at jtaylor@absconsulting.com, or Phyllis Steckel at psteckel@charter.net.

The NMC also hosts an annual seminar on earthquake-related design issues, a tradition started by former NMC President Nathan Gould. The NMC is a sponsoring organization of the Missouri SAVE Coalition. The NMC will be hosting EERI Distinguished Lecturer Kathleen Tierney for a joint luncheon with the St. Louis Section of ASCE at the Engineers Club of St. Louis on Tuesday, May 9, 2006.

News of the Membership

Aho Chairs Alaska Safety Commission

EERI Board Member John Aho has been appointed chair of the Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission, which held its first meeting in Anchorage on October 28, 2005, to begin preparing Alaska, the nation's most seismically active state, against future earthquakes. The commission is charged with advising decision-makers at all levels of government and the private sector about ways to reduce earthquake risks, and disseminating information on earthquake risk mitigation to the public. Governor Frank H. Murkowski appointed the nine members of the commission, joining with the other western states in establishing a state-level seismic advisory body. EERI member and Alaska State Seismologist Roger A. Hansen also serves as a member of the commission.

News of the Institute

New EERI Student Chapter at Tufts

EERI is pleased to announce a new student chapter at Tufts University in Massachusetts. Laurie G. Baise of the Tufts' Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering is the chapter's faculty advisor. The department has a growing and active group of students and faculty members involved in research on various aspects of earthquake engineering and seismology. Glenn Bell of Simpson, Gumpertz, and Heger is the chapter's industry contact.

Call for Papers

Conference in India

The Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology and Research Academy (SASTRA) University in Tamilnadu, India, has issued a call for papers for an International Conference on Earthquake Engineering, to be held February 25-26, 2006. The deadline is December 31. The conference will cover the full range of topic areas in the multidisciplinary earthquake fields. For more information, visit www.sastra.edu/icee/index.htm.

Bridges and Highways Conference

A call for papers has been issued for the 5th National Seismic Conference on Highways and Bridges to be held September 18-20, 2006, in San Francisco. The theme is "Innovations in Earthquake Engineering for Highway Structures." The deadline is December 31. Topic areas include geotechnical considerations, design and analysis of major bridges in areas of high or moderate seismicity, and use of innovative technologies and materials. For more information, visit mceer.buffalo.edu/meetings/5nsc/default.asp.

News of the Institute

Summary Minutes of the August 17, 2005, Board of Directors Meeting

President Craig Comartin called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Present were directors John Aho, Bruce Clark, Richard Eisner, Ron Mayes, Farzad Naeim, Sarah Nathe, and Thomas O'Rourke, Executive Director Susan Tubbesing, and Administrative Assistant Valarie Austin. Also present was Secretary/Treasurer nominee Marshall Lew. Director Polat Gulkan was not present. Steve Mourning from Kelmoore Strategies and Carl Manna from Dain Rauscher were present for a portion of the meeting.

President's Report: Comartin informed the Board that NSF has announced the reorganization and consolidation of the Civil and Mechanical Engineering Division into the Design and Manufacturing Innovation Division within the Engineering Directorate and that this could signal a shift away from civil and structural engineering. Comartin and O'Rourke will prepare a formal statement regarding the reorganization.

Beijing conference: A follow-up meeting to the April 2005 Earthquake Summit Conference is being planned for early 2006 in Beijing. The goal of the first meeting was to determine activities the international earth science and earthquake engineering professional societies could undertake jointly to influence public policy and advocate for seismic safety. The purpose of the 2006 meeting is to create a charter and three-year plan, which participants can take back to their respective organizations for endorsement. The Board endorsed EERI's participation and is hopeful that greater international participation in the 2006 100th Anniversary Conference and the World Housing Encyclopedia will

result.

Strategic Plan update: Comartin reviewed the progress made over the last five years since the adoption of EERI's five-year plan, "The Future of EERI." On the whole, a great deal of progress has been made in successfully establishing regional chapters, utilizing information technology in the Learning from Earthquakes Program, expanding the World Housing Encyclopedia, securing international collaborative agreements, and increasing efforts to attract foundation support. The Board also recognized that it is vitally important for a new Strategic Plan to be developed for the next five years and to include steps to secure the Institute's financial independence. The Strategic Plan should be reviewed each year to ensure that the Institute's priorities and members' needs are being addressed. Board members will contact subscribing members, faculty representatives, and regional chapter presidents to secure their input.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Mayes reviewed the Report of Revenue and Expenses as of July 31, 2005. The combined balance sheet showed an opening fund balance of \$127,033, which was augmented by \$244,299 in excess revenues over expenses. EERI's total liabilities of \$143,329 combined with the total fund balance of \$371,332 equaled \$514,660.

The Endowment Program's opening balance of \$716,011 was increased by \$11,604 in excess revenues over expenses, for a total fund balance of \$727,615. Total liabilities in the amount of \$360,760 combined with the total fund balance of \$727,615 equaled \$1,088,375.

The balance of the combined association, endowment, and technical programs equaled \$1,437,230.

The Investment Funds Report showed a balance of \$239,225. The Special Projects and Initiative Fund balance totaled \$728,015; the

Friedman Family Investment Fund totaled \$190,700; and the Shah Family Innovation Prize totaled \$169,660. The balance in the interest-bearing checking account was \$96,810. The combined funds in both the General Administrative checking and investment accounts totaled \$336,035.

2006 dues: After considerable debate, the Board voted to raise dues for 2006 by 5%, bringing regular member dues to \$210, young professional to \$105, institutional to \$420, regular student dues to \$40, and e-student dues to \$25. Subscribing Members' dues will be increased to \$2,500. The bronze, silver, and gold levels will remain unchanged at \$3,000, \$5,000, and \$10,000, respectively.

Planned giving presentation: Steve Mourning from Kelmoore Strategy made a presentation to the Board on the consultation services his organization provides to nonprofits in creating and implementing strategies for planned giving campaigns. The Board resolved to invite Dain Rauscher/Kelmoore back for another Q&A session with the full Development Committee.

In the afternoon, the Board discussed planned giving strategies. Although generally in favor of undertaking a planned giving campaign, the Board resolved to perform "due diligence" in selecting the necessary professional service to set this up. A small group will be assembled, which will include O'Rourke, Mayes, Clark, David Friedman, Lloyd Cluff, and Hareh Shah, to examine these issues in greater detail and report back to the Board.

LFE program and tsunami briefings: Tubbesing reported that NSF has cut the LFE budget for Year 4 by \$64,228, and by \$220,125 for Year 5, necessitating cutbacks in spending. She sent a letter to Dennis Wenger, NSF program officer, with a revised budget that described the impact the funding reduction

would have on the program. In response to the funding cut, future reconnaissance and "Beyond Reconnaissance Grant" reports will be distributed to the members electronically with hard copies sold on demand. The LFE Committee will meet in late August to discuss further actions.

Procedures for quality assurance in reconnaissance reports: The LFE Committee will prepare guidelines that clarify the roles of team members, the LFE committee, and reviewers in implementing quality-assurance procedures for future reconnaissance reports. As part of this effort, web site content will be reviewed, and outdated or inaccurate information will be removed by the staff with input from the LFE Committee.

Posting of oral histories on EERI web site: TechBooks in York, Pennsylvania, has submitted a bid to convert the oral histories to PDFs for EERI's web site. They use a combination of scanning and text recognition software so that the text is searchable. The staff will work with TechBooks to get the oral histories on the EERI web site immediately.

Publications Sales report: As of July 31, 2005, publications sales totaled \$17,785; almost double 2004. Promotions were made to academic members for the three most recent monographs and additional promotional flyers will be included in the *Newsletter* during the remainder of 2005.

Membership Report: The number of members has increased since April 2005; nine new members were added as a result of the technical seminars.

Learning from Earthquakes Report: Marjorie Greene is working on a proposal to NSF for the next funding cycle. Several reconnaissance publications are in the works: special issues on Bam and Niigata, the reconnaissance report on Colima; and the "Beyond Reconnaissance Report" on damage assessment and data collection in Italy. Bill Iwan is coordinating the *Spectra* special issue on the Indian Ocean tsunami, which is scheduled for release in the second quarter of 2006. Work is continuing on the Virtual Clearinghouse, with a draft being readied of an interactive map linked to reconnaissance photos. A draft of a tutorial on concrete frame construction is out for review.

Technical Seminars Update: Mayes will confirm with Jack Moehle specific dates and selected cities for the nonductile concrete seminar being developed collaboratively with PEER. Mayes and O'Rourke will discuss with the Great Lakes and New Madrid chapters their interest in holding regional technical seminars on nonductile concrete and hospitals. Plans are also in motion to conduct a seminar on soil/structure interaction, new attenuation relationships, and liquefaction in mid-2006.

Staff will look into putting the seminars on the EERI web site and will explore the possibility of taping presentations by monograph authors and providing a subscription service to webcast these seminars.

Board Members Assignments: Comartin finalized assignment of Board member contacts to student and regional chapters and subscribing members. Board members will contact their chapters and subscribing members, and if at all possible, visit each at least once a year to gain more insight into how EERI can better meet their needs.

International Activities: The Board considered what role outreach activities to the international community should play over the next five years. Possibilities include identifying hazard risks, communicating information about the latest research results, and suggesting "best practices." The Board also discussed the need to develop parameters to evaluate the success of EERI's outreach efforts.

World Housing Encyclopedia: Comartin felt this is a propitious time to create a strategic plan to establish the WHE as a financially independent project. Consideration will be given to developing a challenge grant to raise money for such special projects as the World Housing Encyclopedia and the Small Grants Program.

Job Announcement

OSU Opportunity

The College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences (COAS) at **Oregon State University** in Corvallis seeks candidates for a tenure track faculty position in marine geology and geophysics. For the full announcement and application information, visit <http://www.coas.oregonstate.edu/> and click on "Employment" in the left column. The application deadline is January 31, 2006.



Retiring EERI Board members Ron Mayes, Bruce Clark, and Sarah Nathe share a few laughs with President Craig Comartin and Past President Tom O'Rourke at the December Board meeting (photo: Marshall Lew).

Announcements

Workshops in Italy

Critical Facilities Workshop

The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) are organizing the Conduct of Seismic Hazard Analyses for Critical Facilities Workshop to be held in Miramare, Italy, May 15-19, 2006. The workshop will address the second revision of IAEA's *Evaluation of Seismic Hazards for Nuclear Power Plants* and the evaluation of earthquake intensities based on terrestrial manifestations. The uses of the INQUA (International Union for Quaternary Research) intensity scale will be discussed in the estimation of maximum magnitudes. The program will also cover the following topics: requirements for the seismic hazard analysis for critical facilities; quantification and treatment of uncertainties; estimation of maximum magnitudes and intensity distributions; new data on attenuation relationships, including site response; and results of the recent IAEA-coordinated research program on the safety significance of near-field earthquakes.

Applications are due by January 30, 2006. For an application form, visit agenda.ictp.it/smr.php?1747.

Workshop on 3-D Modeling of Seismic Waves

The ICTP and the Department of Earth Sciences of the University of Trieste are organizing the 8th Workshop on Three-Dimensional Modeling of Seismic Waves Generation, Propagation, and their Inversion. It will take place September 25-October 7, 2006, in Trieste, Italy. The workshop will provide training in advanced methodologies of research and development in fundamental studies of the earth's evolution and dynamics, and in numerous applied problems, such as estimation and mitigation of possible seismic haz-

ards. The workshop will focus on both the methodology and results of interpretation of seismic observations. Students will participate in computer demonstrations and exercises, and are encouraged to make presentations of their recent results. Topics of the exercises will be frequency-time analysis; modeling of seismic response of layered media; source mechanism interpretation using seismic wave data; second and third seismic tomography; earth's seismicity; wave propagation across the earth; and seismological databases.

Applications are due by May 28, 2006. For an application form, visit agenda.ictp.it/smr.php?1775.

For both of these workshops, scientists and students from all countries that are members of the UN, UNESCO, or IAEA may attend. The main purpose of the ICTP is to help researchers from developing countries. However, students and post-doctoral scientists from developed countries are also welcome. A degree in physics, mathematics, geophysics, computer science, or a similar discipline is required. Limited funds are available for some researchers age 45 or younger from developing countries. There is no registration fee. The number of participants is limited.

Publication

The Tsunami Threat to California

A 16-page report entitled *The Tsunami Threat to California: Findings and Recommendations on Tsunami Hazards and Risks* was recently issued by the Tsunami Safety Subcommittee of the California Seismic Safety Commission (CSSC). It can be downloaded from CSSC's home page, www.seismic.ca.gov/.

The report contains findings and recommendations based on testimony

from representatives of local governments and the scientific community taken during six meetings held by the Tsunami Safety Subcommittee. It found that while damaging tsunamis are rare, they are potentially catastrophic events that present a danger to the people and economy of California. More than 80 tsunamis have been observed or recorded along the coast of California in the past 150 years, nine causing minor damage in ports and harbors and two with major impacts. Four events caused deaths; the worst occurred in 1964 when 12 people died in California from the tsunami generated by the Great Alaska earthquake. Federal programs have provided resources to initiate tsunami hazard mapping and mitigation programs. However, more effort and a better understanding of the risk are required to bring the treatment of tsunamis to a level comparable to earthquakes.

The report recommends that the state of California take steps to (1) improve education about tsunami issues, (2) work with other coastal states to obtain an external expert review of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration tsunami warning system criteria, (3) continue to work with federal agencies to develop guidelines for structures to resist both strong ground motion and tsunami wave impact, (4) support tsunami mitigation programs, and (5) support development of improved technologies to assess tsunami risk, including probabilistic tsunami hazard maps appropriate for building code and land use regulations.

EERI members who served on the Tsunami Safety Subcommittee were CSSC Executive Director Richard McCarthy, Donald Parker (chair), Robert Anderson, Lori Dengler, Rich Eisner, Lucile Jones, Linden Nishinaga, Henry Reyes, and Daniel Shapiro. Among those who testified were EERI members Lloyd Cluff and Martin Eskijian.

CALENDAR

Items that have appeared previously are severely abbreviated. The issue containing the first appearance, or the most informative, is indicated at the entry's end. Items listed for the first time are shown in **bold**.

JANUARY

20-21. PEER Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA. Info: peer.berkeley.edu/2006AM/index.html (12/05)

26-27. EQ-Induced Ground Motions Sem., Los Angeles, CA. Info: www.asce.org/conted/seminars (12/05)

31-Feb. 2. IMAC-XXIV: Conf. on Struc. Dynamics, St. Louis, MO. Info: www.sem.org (6/05)

FEBRUARY

9-12. 27th Int'l. Disaster Management Conf., Orlando, FL. Info: www.emlrc.org/disaster2006.htm (11/05)

25-26. International Conference on Earthquake Engineering, Tamilnadu, India. See page 3. (1/06)

MARCH

6-8. Int'l Conf. on Seismology, Islamabad, Pakistan. See page 2. (1/06)

30-31. EQ-Induced Ground Motions Sem., Secaucus, NJ. Info: www.asce.org/conted/seminars (12/05)

APRIL

18-21. 100th Anniversary EQ Conf., San Francisco, CA. Info: www.1906eqconf.org. See page 1. (5/04, 5/05, 6/05, 7/05, 8/05, 9/05, 10/05, 12/05, 1/06)

MAY

15-19. Seismic Hazard Analyses for Critical Facilities Workshop, Miramare, Italy. See page 6. (1/06)

19-21. SECTAM XXIII, Mayagüez, Puerto Rico. Info: civil.uprm.edu/sectam (10/05)

21-24. 5th UCLA Conf. on Public Health and Disasters, Long Beach, CA. Info: www.cphd.ucla.edu/ (9/05)

31-June 2. 10th Int'l Conf. on Piling & Deep Fdn., Amsterdam, Netherlands. Info: www.pilinganddeepfoundations.com (12/05)

[com](http://www.pilinganddeepfoundations.com) (12/05)

JUNE

8-10. Int'l Sym. on Technology & Society, New York, NY. Info: www.ieee.org/ssit (12/05)

18-21. ECI Geohazards Conf., Lillehammer, Norway. Info: www.engconfintl.org/6ag.html (9/05)

19-21. Risk Analysis 2006, Malta. Info: www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2006/risk06/index.html (12/05)

19-22. NEES Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. Info: www.nees.org (11/05)

18-21. 16th World Conf. on Disaster Management, Toronto, Canada. Info: www.wcdm.org (11/05)

AUGUST

14-17. 5th Int'l Conf. on Behavior of Steel Structs. in Seismic Areas (STESSA), Tokyo, Japan. Info: www.serc.titech.ac.jp/stessa2006 (2/05)

SEPTEMBER

3-8. 1st European Conf. on EQ Eng. & Seismology, Geneva, Switzerland. Info: www.ecees.org. See this page. (1/05, 1/06)

18-20. 5th Nat'l Seismic Conf. on Bridges and Highways, San Francisco, CA. See page 3. (1/06)

25-Oct. 7. 8th Wkshp. on 3-D Modeling of Seismic Waves Generation, Propagation, and their Inversion, Miramare, Italy. See page 6. (1/06)

OCTOBER

4-6. Deep Fdn. Inst. Annual Conf., Washington, DC. Info: www.deepfoundations06.org (12/05)

11-13. 7th Int'l Cong. on Advances Civil Eng., Istanbul, Turkey. Info: www.ace2006.yildiz.edu.tr/ (12/05)

12-13. 4th Int'l Conf. on EQ Eng. (4ICEE), Taipei, Taiwan. Info: icee2006.ncree.org.tw/ (10/05)

2008

OCTOBER

12-17. 14th World Conf. on EQ Eng., Beijing, China. Info: www.14wcee.org (12/05)

Call for Papers

First ECEES

In 2006, the European Association of Earthquake Engineering (EAEE) and the European Seismological Commission (ESC) will join the 13th European Conference on Earthquake Engineering (ECEE) and the 30th ESC General Assembly to hold the First European Conference on Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (1st ECEES) in Geneva, Switzerland, September 3-8, 2006.

A number of events will foster interaction between earthquake engineers and seismologists, including common sessions, common keynote speakers, and sessions discussing issues with opposite viewpoints of experts. In addition, a training course in engineering seismology will be hosted by the Swiss Seismological Service at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich.

Abstracts should be submitted by January 31, 2006. Those who do not intend to write a full paper can submit a stand alone abstract by **April 30**. For more information, visit www.ecees.org. A comprehensive grant program, financed by the Swiss Government, will support the participation of students and young researchers from developing countries.

Publication

Proceedings of Risk Reduction Workshop

Proceedings are now available for the seminar "Involving the Community in Disaster Risk Reduction Programs" organized by the Centro de Investigacion de Riesgos at the University of Falcon, Punto Fijo, Venezuela. The seminar, which took place October 18-20, 2005, included a roundtable discussion: "Hurricane Katrina as Seen from a Venezuelan Perspective." To order copies, contact Juan Murria at murrias@cantv.net.

News of the Institute

New EERI Seminar on Seismic Performance of Existing Concrete Buildings

The Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research (PEER) Center has developed a new EERI technical seminar: "New Information on the Seismic Performance of Existing Concrete Buildings." One-day seminars will be held January 12, 2006 in San Francisco; February 10 in Bellevue, Washington; and February 13 in Los Angeles.

The seminar focuses on concrete buildings designed prior to modern codes. Lack of ductility and other deficiencies in some of these buildings can lead to severe damage and a potential for collapse during earthquakes. Not all buildings are dangerous, however; simple, conventional analysis procedures are often not capable of identifying the ones that are. The researchers at PEER have been engaged in an effort to advance performance-based earthquake engineering. These procedures are particularly effective in addressing the problems of concrete buildings.

Insight into the practical aspects of PEER research will be provided by John W. Wallace of the University of California, Los Angeles; Gregory G. Deierlein of Stanford University; Kenneth J. Elwood of the University of British Columbia; and Jack P. Moehle of PEER and the University of California, Berkeley. Practicing design professionals will gain valuable information from the seminar that can be put to work on projects immediately.

The registration fee is \$200 for members of EERI and sponsoring organizations and PEER business and industry members; \$175 for EERI Subscribing Members; \$100 for EERI Student, Young Professional, and Retired Members; and \$250 for nonmembers. For more information and to register online, visit www.eeri.org. This seminar is funded by FEMA and is cosponsored by the California chapters of EERI, the National Council of Structural Engineers Associations, the chapters of the Structural Engineers Association of California, and the structural engineers associations of Oregon and Washington.

Announcement

Congressional Fellowships

American Institute of Physics (AIP) and American Physical Society (APS) fellowships provide opportunities for qualified scientists to spend a year on Capitol Hill learning more about their government and serving the nation by providing scientific and technical input to the legislative process. The AIP Fellowship is open to members of one or more of AIP's ten member societies, while the APS Fellowship is open to APS members. Applicants for both fellowships should have a Ph.D. in physics or a closely related field. In exceptional cases, the Ph.D. requirement may be waived for candidates with compensating research experience. U.S. citizenship is required for both programs.

All application materials for the 2006-2007 AIP and APS Congressional Science Fellowships must be postmarked by the January 15, 2006, deadline. For more information, visit www.aps.org/public_affairs/fellow/index.cfm or www.aip.org/gov/cf.html.



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