



**EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING
RESEARCH INSTITUTE
NEWSLETTER**

Editor Mark Yashinsky
Associate Editors Sarah Nathe
Gerald Brady
Editorial Assistant Eloise Gilland

Earthquake Engineering
Research Institute
499 14th Street, Suite 320
Oakland, California 94612-1934
Phone: 510/451-0905
Fax: 510/451-5411
E-mail: eeri@eeri.org
Web site: <http://www.eeri.org>

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**EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING
RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

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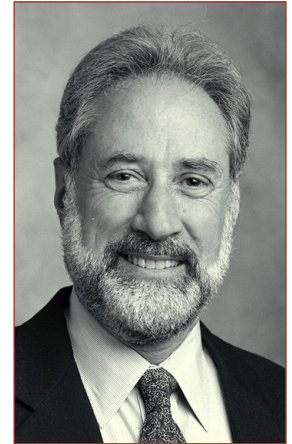
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News of the Institute

Elsesser Is 2007 EERI Distinguished Lecturer

Eric Elsesser, the founding principal of Forell/Elsesser Engineers, Inc., in San Francisco, one of the most respected consulting engineering firms in the country, has been chosen to give EERI's 2007 Distinguished Lecture. On February 8, 2007, he will present his lecture, entitled "What's Around the Corner in Seismic Design," for the first time at EERI's 59th Annual Meeting in Los Angeles.



Eric Elsesser

An EERI member since 1976, Elsesser is a native San Franciscan and has spent 50 years studying and designing creative structures. He graduated from Stanford University with a B.S. in civil engineering, followed by an M.S. in structural engineering in 1956. After beginning his career with John Blume in San Francisco, he opened his own structural design office in 1960. With notable expertise in the seismic behavior of buildings, Forell/Elsesser Engineers has completed over 2,500 structures. Elsesser was awarded an honorary membership in the Structural Engineers Association for his creative structural design. Since 1970, he has lectured at Berkeley, Stanford, and more than 100 earthquake sites. His first special interest was the structural configuration of buildings, followed by new structural systems that would dissipate seismic energy. Elsesser has been actively engaged in structural design, seismic response studies, earthquake code criteria, and research to determine the appropriate

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Atkinson Selected as 2007 Joyner Lecturer

Gail Atkinson, professor of geophysics at the University of Western Ontario, Canada, has been chosen as the fourth William B. Joyner Memorial Lecturer. She will deliver her lecture, entitled "Earthquake Ground Motions: The Myths and the Mysteries," at the February 2007 EERI Annual Meeting in Los Angeles and at the April 2007 Seismological Society of America (SSA) Annual Meeting in Kona, Hawaii.

An EERI member since 1981, Atkinson has devoted her career to working at the engineering-seismology interface. She has authored more than 100 research articles on the subjects of earthquake ground motion and seismic hazards; among these are well-known prediction equations for ground motion amplitudes, as a function of magnitude and distance, that have been used in national seismic hazard maps. Atkinson strives for simplicity in characterization of ground motion processes, and has a passion for data-driven research results. She has been responsible for seismic hazard analyses for dozens of major engineering projects, and participates in committees responsible for developing seismic design regulations for buildings and critical structures such as dams and nuclear power plants. She is president of the POLARIS Consortium, a nonprofit research organization that has installed and operates more than 100 satellite-linked geophysical observatories across Canada. She uses POLARIS data to improve ground motion forecast models and to develop real-time seismological applications.

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News of the Institute

Earthquake Exercise in Northern California

On November 15, Northern California EERI members participated in Golden Guardian, an exercise based on a repeat of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. While the exercise was primarily to test emergency response systems, organizations involved in the management of the California Post-Earthquake Information Clearinghouse took advantage of the exercise to test clearinghouse procedures. In particular, EERI tested the ability of investigators to upload geo-referenced photos and captions from the field directly onto the Web, immediately display the images in Google Map, and download into Google Earth. In addition, an Excel file was generated every few hours and made available to other organizations.

EERI members received a message on the morning of the exercise announcing the earthquake. They were asked to upload any damage photo from a Bay Area address and provide information with the photo, including the damage state. Eighty-seven photos were uploaded to the test site by the end of the day.

EERI will continue to develop the system. All types of files can be uploaded; there is no limit to the number of characters in the file description, and ultimately, a keyword search will be enabled. While the upload and display functions were Web-based for this exercise, in a major event where Internet connectivity cannot be reliably assumed, EERI will use a local area network, so that the same functions can be completed in the clearinghouse. Comments can be sent to Gabe Mulford or Marjorie Greene at EERI: gabe@eeri.org; mgreene@eeri.org.

EERI is using a Google Map interface to display geo-referenced photos from recent earthquakes.

This map is viewable at www.eeri.org/google.

EERI Earthquake Engineering Research Institute

Search by coordinates
Latitude:
Longitude: Search

Hi Guest! My Account | Map | Add/Edit/Delete Photos | Log out | More Information

Choose an Event: Golden Guardian Exercise [Select]

M 7.8 San Andreas @ 5:12am
M 6.0 Northern San Andreas @ 7:30am

You can also download the data from this event into Google Earth by clicking here.

Add Photos

* = Required field

Photo 1:

Event: Golden Guardian Exercise
Photo Title:
Latitude: (ex: 37.89505)
Longitude: (ex: -122.71396)
City:
Photographer Credit:
Photo Category: Buildings & Structures
Damage Severity: N/A
Photo Date: 2006-11-29
File Upload: Browse

Figure 1. Upload screen. Five photos (or other files) can be uploaded at a time. EERI is working on a feature that would allow multiple photos to be uploaded for one location and a way that investigators could create photo galleries that could be linked to the photo(s) uploaded from this page. Once in the database, it will soon be possible to display by damage state and photo category and to search by keyword.

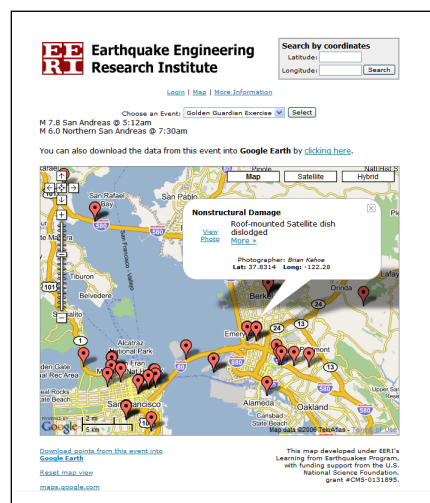


Figure 2. Google Map showing the location of some of the 87 photos uploaded as part of the exercise. One bullet has been partially expanded to show photo title, photographer (in this case the person who uploaded the image as part of the exercise), and location. By clicking on "more," you are taken to a new screen (see Figure 3).

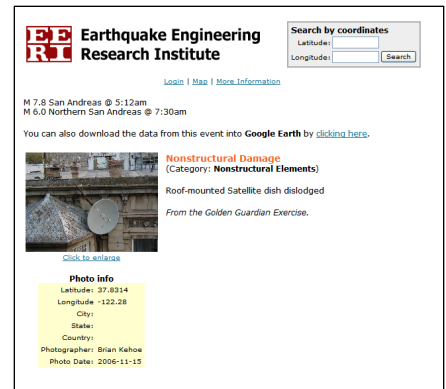


Figure 3. Additional information available for each photo. "Click to enlarge" brings up a full-size photo in a new window.

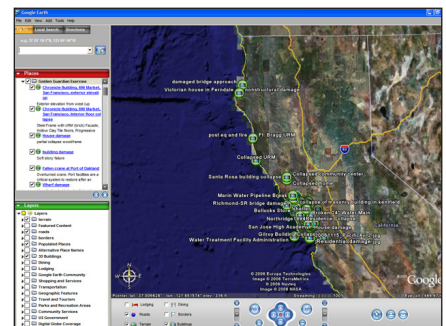


Figure 4. Geo-referenced photos displayed in Google Earth. Other types of files can also be linked to geo-referenced points. The database can be exported in Excel format for use by others in the clearinghouse.

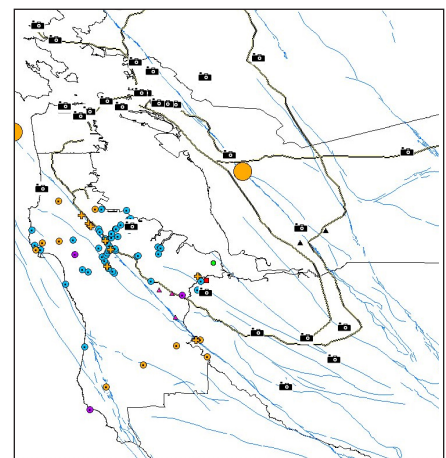


Figure 5. Map generated by the USGS during the exercise, overlaying the EERI data layer (geo-referenced photos) on a map, with locations and observations from USGS field investigators.

News of the Institute

Impact of Spectra

EERI's journal *Earthquake Spectra* is among the top journals in the earthquake engineering field, as measured by the level at which its articles are cited. Using the so-called "impact factor," which is the ratio of the number of times articles in the journal are cited within a given time period to the number of articles published during that time period, *Spectra* is highly rated. Based on the November 2006 *Science Citation Index*, the data for selected journals related to earthquake engineering and seismology are as follows:

<i>Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America</i>	1.772
<i>Earthquake Spectra</i>	1.117
<i>Structural Safety</i>	0.953
<i>Earthquake Engineering and Structural Dynamics</i>	0.788
<i>Journal of Structural Engineering (ASCE)</i>	0.707
<i>Canadian Geotechnical Journal</i>	0.697
<i>Journal of Earthquake Engineering</i>	0.679
<i>Journal of Geotech. & Geoenviron. Engineering (ASCE)</i>	0.673
<i>Soil Dynamics and Earthquake Engineering</i>	0.630
<i>ACI Structural Journal</i>	0.544
<i>Soils and Foundations</i>	0.493
<i>Structural Design of Tall Buildings</i>	0.216

One can certainly argue about the validity of the impact factor as the measure of quality for journals (for example, journals that publish large numbers of papers tend to have lower impact factors). However, EERI members can be justifiably proud that *Spectra* has been established as one of the premier journals in the field through the hard work of its contributing authors, editorial board, and all involved personnel.

Endowment Fund Donors

EERI would like to thank the donors to the Endowment Fund shown below and acknowledge their recent contributions. EERI's Endowment supports those innovative projects that ensure the Institute's continuing leadership in the earthquake engineering professions.

\$10,000	John R. Filson	Henry J. Lagorio
Blume Foundation	ImageCat Inc.	Andrew T. Merovich
\$7,250	James O. Jirsa	Other Amounts
Degenkolb Engineers	James K. Mitchell	Fariborz Barzegar
\$3,250	Guy J. P. Nordenson	Nesrin Basoz
Pacific Gas & Electric Co.	Joseph Penzien	Gilles J. Bureau
\$2,250	Refraction Technology, Inc.	Claudio Chesi
Exponent, Inc.	Anshel J. Schiff	Kevin J. Coppersmith
\$1,000	Kenneth H. Stokoe	John R. Hayes, Jr.
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David C. Breiholz	William T. Holmes	Takayuki Shimazu
CH2M Hill, Inc.	Aristotle Kakaliagos	Isaac S. Shina
Andrew J. Eggenberger	James M. Kelly	Patxi Uriz

Atkinson

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Atkinson has been a member of both SSA and EERI for over 20 years. She served on SSA's Board of Directors for over a decade, culminating with a term as president, 2001-2003, and continues to serve SSA as an associate editor of its *Bulletin*.

The Joyner Memorial Fund memorializes Bill Joyner for his efforts to bring earthquake seismology and earthquake engineering closer together. SSA, in cooperation with EERI, established the memorial lectures to be given at the annual meetings of both groups. The selection of a lecturer is made on the basis of outstanding earth science contributions to the theory and practice of earthquake engineering or outstanding earthquake engineering contributions to the direction and focus of earth science research, together with demonstrated skills of communication at the earthquake science/earthquake engineering interface.

SMIS-EERI Workshop on Safe Hospitals

The Sociedad Mexicana de Ingeniería Sísmica (SMIS) and EERI are cohosting the First SMIS-EERI Workshop on Safe Hospitals under Natural Hazards on February 22, 2007, in Ixtapan de la Sal, Estado de Mexico. It will be a multidisciplinary workshop with the objectives of identifying opportunities for cooperation and establishing a common research agenda for the reduction of the vulnerability of the health infrastructure in both countries. A link on EERI's home page www.eeri.org provides more information about the workshop program.

It will be held as part of the SMIS 9th Annual Symposium entitled "Strategic Construction and Natural Hazards—Design and Behavior under Extreme Events," February 22-24, 2007.

News of the Institute

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of September 21, 2006

President Craig Comartin called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. Also present were President-Elect Thalia Anagnos, directors John Aho, Jon Bray, Laurie Johnson, Marshall Lew, Farzad Naeim, Executive Director Susan Tubbesing, and Special Projects Manager Marjorie Greene.

President's report: Comartin and Tubbesing reviewed meetings with various officials in Washington, D.C:

NSF: The new LFE budget for the coming year has been reduced to \$200,000, which means that funding is no longer available for a full-time LFE program manager. The Board discussed the need to better institutionalize LFE within NSF. Tubbesing met with Doug Foutch and will continue to work with NSF during the coming year to try to restore funding for the preparation and dissemination of reconnaissance reports and related activities that have characterized this critical program over the past 30 years.

FEMA: EERI has approximately \$40K left in the current FEMA Cooperative Agreement because of a task cancelled by FEMA. ATC is currently developing a plan for existing buildings for the next five years. FEMA has asked EERI to hold a small workshop early on in the ATC schedule (to help identify issues) before ATC moves forward to actually develop the plan. Comartin will send Cathleen Carlisle a formal proposal for a small invitational workshop to lay out the broad range of issues that should be taken into account in the existing buildings plan.

NIST: Comartin and Tubbesing visited with Jack Hayes, the new NEHRP director. Hayes indicated that the directors of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Office of Management and Budget

attended NEHRP interagency coordinating committee meetings for the first time. NIST received 80 nominations for positions on the external NEHRP Advisory Board created by the most recent NEHRP reauthorization, and expects to select members during the fourth quarter.

USGS: Tubbesing and Comartin visited with David Applegate and Elizabeth Lemersal and discussed USGS' interest in stimulating the development of earthquake scenarios throughout the country, perhaps through a workshop. Tubbesing will draft a proposal to organize a national scenario development workshop for their consideration.

Concrete Coalition planning: Comartin reported that a senior advisory panel for this project met recently and identified the mission and objectives for this new coalition. The next step is to establish a steering group to develop strategic and operating plans.

European visit and possible new collaboration: Comartin reported that the recent European Conference on Earthquake Engineering was successful, with approximately 1,500 people in attendance. While there, Comartin and Gülkan discussed the possibility of an MOU between EERI and the European Association for Earthquake Engineering.

Secretary/Treasurer's report: Lew reviewed the Revenues and Expenses as of July 31, 2006. The combined balance sheet showed an ending account value of \$818,998. EERI's total liabilities of \$308,893 combined with the total fund balance of \$510,105 equaled \$818,998.

The Endowment Program's opening balance of \$750,028 was augmented by \$11,108 in excess revenues over expenses, for a total fund balance of \$761,137. Total liabilities in the amount of \$381,664 combined with the total fund balance of \$761,137 equaled \$1,142,800.

The balance of the combined association, endowment, and technical

programs equaled \$1,961,798.

There have been two reductions in staff (see the Executive Director report, next page), and while Lew was originally projecting a deficit for the end of the year, the staff reductions may mean that the Institute will break even. This does not take into account the possible surplus revenue from the 100th Anniversary Conference. The figures are still in flux, but based on their prior agreement, EERI and SSA will divide any surplus 69% to 31%, respectively, based on the number of registrants from each organization.

2007 Budget Scenarios: The budget for 2007 is extremely tight. Lew presented a number of different scenarios, including halting the printing and mailing of *Spectra* and providing only the electronic version to members and subscribers.

The Board discussed various options. It was recognized that changing the way that members receive the journal would represent a fundamental change in EERI. Other ways of increasing revenue might include finding a way to have more technical seminars online, increasing the number of subscribing members, increasing the number of individual members (building on the momentum of the conference or motivating members to recruit new members), dipping into the Endowment, or using conference revenue, or both, to offset the deficit in the coming year. The Institute could also begin to charge members for monographs and hard copies of *Earthquake Spectra*. The Board agreed to try to obtain more information on members' views on these issues during the coming year. Meanwhile, the Board voted unanimously to increase dues for 2007 by 10%, with no increase for students and no change in how *Spectra* is printed and distributed. During the next year, staff will develop an online survey to gain more information on these issues. Tubbesing will take the lead in organizing this.

Executive Director Report:

Staff changes and reallocation of responsibilities: Because of recent budget cuts, Administrative Assistant Valarie Austin was let go. Julianne Lane, membership coordinator and receptionist, will assume many of Austin's duties. James Godfrey, special projects manager, left in early September to accept another position. His duties will be assumed by Marjorie Greene, who served as project manager of the LFE Program, but will now return to the role of special projects manager.

2008 Annual Meeting location: There was a lively discussion about New Orleans as the site for the 2008 meeting. That location would allow the meeting to bridge multihazard issues, study recovery issues, and draw in nonmembers from the East Coast. Laurie Johnson, who is working as a recovery planning consultant in New Orleans, volunteered to chair the organizing committee. Tubbesing will check into hotel options and report back at the next Board meeting.

10NCEE location: The Board recommended that the 10NCEE be held in Anchorage, Alaska, in June 2014 to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Alaska earthquake.

Executive Committee decisions: The Executive Committee approved Sudhir Jain's request to reprint and distribute copies of the Chopra monograph in India and Bangladesh.

Technical seminars update: Bray will work with Jon Stewart and Geoff Martin to select dates and complete the planning process for a geotechnical seminar in March 2007.

Mitigation Center update: Anagnos reported on progress with the Mitigation Center. Sarah Nathe is chair of its advisory committee. They have worked on the reorganization of the web site and a keyword list. Gabe Mulford and Greene are populating the web site with useful information: <http://mitigation.eeri.org>.

Spectra Editor search: Naeim's term as editor expires in December 2007. A *Newsletter* article will announce the editor search. The Board would like the incoming editor in place by next May or June, to overlap with Naeim's last year.

Publications policies: The Board recommended creating a committee to prepare a strategic plan for EERI publications that would address a wide range of issues that come before the Board. Anagnos recommended finding someone with a strong interest in these issues to serve as the chair, with representation from the Board on the committee, but not necessarily as the chair. For the next meeting, Anagnos and the Executive Committee will have a proposal for how the Publications Policy Committee will function.

Honors Committee: Bob Olson participated by phone at this point. He presented the Honor's Committee's proposal for a new award. It could be awarded for a single accomplishment or to recognize substantial contributions to the field of seismic safety and earthquake risk reduction that affected the general population. The Board suggested that it be known as the EERI Special Recognition Award. Comartin will discuss this suggestion with Olson and the Honors Committee.

IT and Younger Members committees: Comartin reported that Mahmoud Hachem and Arzhang Alimoradi have agreed to serve as chairs of the IT and Younger Members committees, respectively. Alimoradi has been asked to present an agenda for what the Younger Members Committee will address and who should serve on the committee at the next Board meeting.

Online video sales: EERI has an exciting new online video sales program to allow members and others to view EERI technical seminars online. Viewers can choose to watch individual presentations or the entire recent Concrete seminar online

five times within seven days for a modest price. Viewers receive a full set of the related PowerPoint slides and can hear the original presentation on their own computer at their leisure. The Board decided that EERI should charge 50% more for nonmembers for this and all other EERI materials and programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

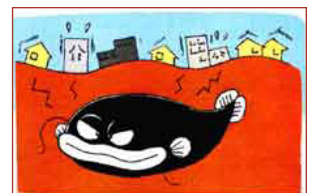
Call for Papers**European Geosciences Union Session**

Abstract submission is open for the next session (NH9.06) in the series "Natural Hazards' Impact on Urban Areas and Infrastructure," to be held at the European Geosciences Union 3rd General Assembly in Vienna, Austria, April 15-20, 2007. Session organizers include EERI Young Professional member Maria Bostenaru.

Abstracts can be submitted online at <http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2007>. The deadline is January 15, 2007. Aspects to be covered by the session include, but are not limited to, the significance of the urban setting for post-disaster damage assessment; developments and implementation of urban ranking models for risk-based comparisons; urban system modeling; multihazard and multicriteria urban planning; multihazard or multifaceted vulnerability studies; the development of conceptual models or case studies; and investigation of urban morphology to estimate building vulnerability and evaluate post-disaster accessibility, recovery, resiliency, and social, economic, and cultural consequences.

Namazu:

A giant Japanese catfish causing an earthquake.



News of the Institute

PEER to Partner with EERI in Grand Challenge

The Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center (PEER) has been awarded a five-year \$3.6 million NEES Grand Challenge grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to study the collapse potential of older nonductile concrete buildings during earthquakes. These buildings are considered high risk. The project will fully utilize the George E. Brown Jr. Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation (NEES) (http://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/nees/about.jsp). The project team is partnering with EERI to form the Concrete Coalition, an alliance of concerned engineers, planners, policy experts, and other stakeholders who will work with the project team to develop and implement effective mitigation strategies.

For this project, PEER will study the vulnerability and toughening of nonductile concrete infrastructure against earthquake effects. Specifically, PEER's research will develop procedures to identify the most dangerous buildings from among the large building population, thereby turning an intractable problem into one that can be addressed with available resources. Mitigation strategies developed here can also provide data for strategies to mitigate for other natural and man-made hazards such as hurricanes and explosions. "This project will tackle this issue in a comprehensive way, leading to solutions that can save thousands of lives," said Jack Moehle, PEER's director.

Call for Papers

NEES Annual Meeting

The NEES 5th Annual Meeting, with the theme "Research & Earthquake Engineering Practice—Strengthening the Connections," will be held in Snowbird, Utah, June 19-21, 2007. NEES seeks presentations of original research, laboratory innovations, and needs from practice. Abstracts may be submitted for any of the following conference tracks: identifying challenges and needs in practice, research implementation, knowledge and technology transfer, results from shared-use projects, collaborations and multisite integration on NEES research projects, new research projects, expanding the frontiers, and advances in experimental opportunities. To submit an abstract, which are due by January 15, 2007, visit <http://www.nees.org/5am/abstracts.php>.

ICEE-2007

The 2007 International Conference on Engineering Education (ICEE-2007) will be held in Coimbra, Portu-

gal, September 3-7, 2007, sponsored by the International Network on Engineering Education and Research (iNEER).

The deadline for abstracts, which can be submitted online at <http://icee2007.dei.uc.pt>, is February 16, 2007. A copy of "Innovations 2007" will be published in the third quarter and will be included in the conference registration package. For more information, visit <http://www.ineer.org/Events/ICEE2007Info/Welcome.htm>.

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 under the framework of the Erasmus Mundus program, with a deadline of January 31, 2007.

MEEES is organized by the European School for Advanced Studies in Reduction of Seismic Risk (ROSE

Elsesser

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response of buildings to seismic forces. A brief selection of his recent relevant projects include seismic consultation for the new Whitehall Ferry Terminal in New York City; the design of the St. Francis Yacht Club in San Francisco; the Exportadora de Sal, Cedros Island, a series of long-span industrial major offshore structures west of Baja California, Mexico; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; the San Francisco Jewish Community Center; the San Francisco Asian Art Museum; the new 1-million-sq.-ft. San Francisco State Office Building at the Civic Center Complex; the San Francisco Emergency Communications Center; the USGS Federal Building in Menlo Park; the IBM Corporation research offices and laboratories in San Jose; the UC Irvine Theater; the San Francisco State Supreme Court of Appeals; and the following seismic retrofits: the Salt Lake City City Hall; the San Francisco City Hall; the Oakland City Hall; and the Pacific Gas and Electric Company headquarters building.

In his lecture, Elsesser will discuss innovative case histories of his firm's many performance-based projects, illustrating how new engineering technologies have been adopted into architecture. Groups interested in having him present the lecture subsequently to the Annual Meeting should contact the EERI office.

School, www.roseschool.it) with 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 National Institute of Geophysics and Vulcanology (Italy). Scholarships, ranging from 14,000 to 35,000 euro, are available to applicants from all nations. For details, visit www.meees.org.

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

19-20. PEER Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA. Info: <http://peer.berkeley.edu/2007AM/index.html> (10/06)

FEBRUARY

TBA. EERI New Madrid Chapter Student Poster Competition, St. Louis, MO. Info: www.eeri.org (10/06)

7-10. EERI Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA. Info: www.eeri.org. **See page 1.** (3/06, 9/06, 10/06, 11/06, 12/06, 1/07)

19-21. 3rd Annual Geographic Information Systems Conf., Kuwait. Info: www.gulfgis.com (8/06)

22. 1st SMIS-EERI Workshop on Safe Hospitals under Natural Hazards, Ixtapan de la Sal, Estado de Mexico. **See page 3.**

MARCH

12. EERI Seminar on SSI for PBEE, Seattle, WA. Info: www.eeri.org (12/06)

14. EERI Seminar on SSI for PBEE, Los Angeles, CA. Info: www.eeri.org (12/06)

21. EERI Seminar on SSI for PBEE, San Francisco, CA. Info: www.eeri.org (12/06)

25-28. Ports 2007, San Diego, CA. Info: www.portsconference.org (6/06)

30-April 1. New Zealand Society for Earthquake Engineering Annual Conf., Palmerston North, NZ. Info: <http://www.nzsee.org.nz/EVENTS/tcon07.shtml> (11/06)

APRIL

15-20. 3rd General Assembly of European Geosciences Union.

Vienna, Austria. See page 5. (1/07)

26-27. International Symposium on Seismic Risk Reduction, Bucharest, Romania. Info: <http://cnrrs.utcb.ro/issrr2007/issrr2007.html> (12/06)

30-May 2. 2nd International Modal Analysis Conf., Copenhagen, Denmark. Info: www.iomac.dk (10/06)

30-May 4. Short Course on Grouting Fundamentals and Current Practice, Golden, CO. **See page 8.** (1/07)

MAY

13-20. Coastal Sediments 07, New Orleans, LA. Info: www.asce.org/conferences/cs07/abstract.cfm (5/06)

14-16. SEE5 on Earthquake Risk Reduction in Developing Countries, Tehran, Iran. Info: www.iiees.ac.ir/SEE5 (7/06)

28-31. 10th World Conf. on Seismic Isolation, Energy Dissipation, & Active Vibration Control of Structures, Istanbul, Turkey. Info: www.did-tasi.org/seminar/default.asp (12/06)

JUNE

1-3. 10th North American Masonry Conf., University of Missouri at Rolla. Info: <http://www.masonrysociety.org/NAMC/index.html> (3/06)

4-6. 24th International Bridge Conf., Pittsburgh, PA. Info: www.eswp.com/bridge/abstract.htm (11/06)

13-15. COMPDYN 2007 Conf., Rethymno, Crete, Greece. Info: <http://www.eng.ucy.ac.cy/compdyn2007> (8/06)

19-21. NEES Annual Meeting, Snowbird, UT. Info: www.nees.org/About_NEES/Announcements/announcement.php?news_id=41 **See page 6.** (9/06, 1/07)

25-28. 4th International Conf. on Earthquake Geotechnical Engineering (4ICEGE), Thessaloniki, Greece. Info: www.4icege.org (2/06)

26-29. 9th Canadian Conf. on Earthquake Engineering (9CCEE), Ottawa, Canada. Info: www.9ccee.ca (2/06)

JULY

8-11. 17th World Conf. on Disaster Management, Toronto, ON, Canada. Info: <http://www.wcdm.org/> (11/06)

AUGUST

20-22. 1st International Workshop on Performance, Protection, and Strengthening of Structures under Extreme Loading (Protect 2007), Whistler, BC, Canada. Info: www.civil.ubc.ca/protect2007/ (12/06)

SEPTEMBER

3-7. International Conf. on Engineering Education (ICEE-2007), Coimbra, Portugal. **See page 6.** (1/07)

OCTOBER

8-11. Modern Trends in Structural Engineering for Seismic Design, Ariel, Israel. Info: ribakov@yosh.ac.il (8/06)

11-13. Deep Foundations Institute 2007 Annual Conf., Colorado Springs, CO. Info: www.dfi.org/conferencedetail.asp?id=80. (12/06)

NOVEMBER

27-29. 2nd International Conf. on Urban Disaster Reduction (ICUDR), Taipei, Taiwan. Info: <http://www.ncdr.nat.gov.tw/2ICUDR> (10/06)

2008

MAY

18-22. Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering and Soil Dynamics Conf. IV, Sacramento, CA. Info: www.geesd.org (10/06)

AUGUST

11-16. 6th International Conf. on Case Histories in Geotechnical Engineering (6ICCHGE), Washington, D.C. Info: <http://campus.umn.edu/6icchge/index.html> (4/06, 9/06)

OCTOBER

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

News of the Institute

WHE News

Tutorial on RC Frame Construction

A committee of the World Housing Encyclopedia (WHE) project recently completed a major effort to develop a tutorial on RC frame construction, entitled "At Risk: The Seismic Performance of Reinforced Concrete Frame Buildings with Masonry Infill Walls." Primary authors are EERI members C. V. R. Murty, Svetlana Brzev, Heidi Faison, Craig Comartin, and Ayhan Irfanoglu.

The document is written for building professionals with two key objectives: (1) to improve understanding of the poor seismic performance of reinforced concrete frame buildings with masonry infill walls, and (2) to offer viable alternative construction technologies that can provide a higher level of seismic safety. With many illustrations, key points, and design tips, it is meant to explain the performance of these buildings in nontechnical language. The document is targeted at building professionals in countries around the world

where such construction is prevalent.

The tutorial can be downloaded from the WHE web site at http://www.world-housing.net/Tutorials/Complete_WHE_RC_Tutorial.pdf. The Indian Institute of Technology in Kanpur will be printing and distributing color copies, with support from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology–Virginia Tech Partnership for Reduction of Seismic Vulnerability, and funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development. Requests for printed copies should be sent to nicee@iitk.ac.in.

WHE Receives Grant

In keeping with the proactive direction taken by World Housing Encyclopedia volunteers in developing tutorials on adobe, confined masonry, and RC frames (above), a committee has begun work on a tutorial on stone masonry construction. This construction type can be extremely vulnerable in earthquakes, as the 2005 earthquake in Kashmir so tragically illustrated. The core group includes team leader Jitendra Bothara of New Zealand (formerly of Nepal), Qaisar Ali of Pakistan, and Marjana Lutman of Slovenia.

To help with drafting, illustration, and production expenses, the New Zealand Society of Earthquake Engineering has recently pledged a \$5,000 donation. In addition, the Northwest Frontier Province University of Engineering and Technology (NWFP UET) in Peshawar, Pakistan, has agreed to contribute \$2,500.

The team has prepared an outline and is currently assembling background materials. NWFP UET will also be testing stone masonry in their newly established earthquake center, and these tests will provide input to the tutorial.

Announcement

Grouting Short Course

A Short Course on Grouting Fundamentals and Current Practice will be held at the Colorado School of Mines, April 30-May 4, 2007, covering injection grouting as a method to improve soil settlement characteristics and strength properties and to decrease the permeability of soil and rock. For more information, visit www.mines.edu/outreach/cont_ed/grouting/grouting1.html.



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RESEARCH INSTITUTE**
499 14th Street, Suite 320
Oakland, CA 94612-1934
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