

News of the Institute

Thanks to 1997 Annual Meeting Organizing Committee

The local organizing committee for February's Annual Meeting held in Austin put together an outstanding meeting. The technical program was enhanced by a field trip to the University of Texas's Ferguson Structural Engineering Laboratory. Even the visiting dog enjoyed the exhibits and refreshments. A good time was had by all at the Friday night barbecue. Sporting cowboy hats and toting longnecks, the organizing committee and other locals set the tone for the informal get-together. Thanks to committee chair Sharon Wood and committee members Michael Engelhardt, Rich Klingner, Michael Kreger, and Kenneth Stokoe, all of the University of Texas, and J. Carl Stepp, of Earthquake Hazards Solutions.



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We Have Two New Student Chapters

EERI has two new student chapters, bringing the total number to ten. The new student chapter at the University of Missouri-Rolla will have Dr. Shamsher Prakash as faculty advisor and Genda Chen of Steinman Parsons Transportation Group as co-advisor.

At Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, the new student chapter boasts 14 members. Dr. Kyle Rollins is the faculty advisor. Russell Owens of Dames & Moore will be the EERI contact member.

Learning from Earthquakes

Deadly Quakes Strike Pakistan, Iran

In the early morning hours of February 27, 1997, a magnitude 7.3 earthquake in southwestern Pakistan killed at least 100 people, with dozens more injured. According to Klaus Jacob of Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, the quake was a shallow dipping thrust event on an east-west striking subsurface fault, probably at least 18 km deep.

The next day, a smaller earthquake in northwest Iran killed at least 500 people. Unofficial estimates put the death toll at closer to 3,000. While Iranian officials reported that the quake was a magnitude 5.5, the USGS National Earthquake Information Center measured it as 6.1.

The Pakistan quake occurred in the country's least populated area, a plain dotted with small villages. Iran's quake struck in mountainous terrain, triggering landslides that cut off potential rescuers from victims. The magnitude of the disaster prompted Iran to issue an appeal for international aid.