



EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING RESEARCH INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

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ISSN 0270-8337

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EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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News of the Institute

EERI/FEMA Graduate Fellowship Awarded

Paul Cordova, a Ph.D. candidate in civil and environmental engineering at Stanford University in California has been selected as the 2003-2004 NEHRP Graduate Fellow in Earthquake Hazards Reduction. EERI awards this fellowship annually in a cooperative program with the Federal Emergency Management Agency as part of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program. The award is given to foster the participation of capable individuals in furthering the goals and practice of earthquake hazard mitigation. The fellowship provides \$12,000 for a nine-month stipend and \$8,000 for tuition, fees, and research expenses.

Paul Cordova was chosen from a group of nine applicants. Applications were reviewed by Eric Williamson, University of Texas, Austin; Mary Beth Hueste, Texas A&M University; Bozidar Stojadinovic, University of California, Berkeley; and Joseph Wartman, Drexel University, Pennsylvania. The candidates were drawn from seven universities in



Paul Cordova

California, Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Virginia, and Washington. They represented the fields of geography and several disciplines within engineering, including structural, civil, geotechnical, and environmental.

The focal point of Cordova's research is an innovative composite frame system that incorporates composite steel beams with reinforced concrete columns. The goal is to develop an understanding of the seismic behavior and performance

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News of the Institute

2001 Professional Fellowship Report on Bridge Response Available Online

Greg Griffin, associate bridge engineer with CH2M Hill in Boise, Idaho, has completed his research project supported by the 2001 NEHRP Professional Fellowship in Earthquake Hazards Reduction, administered by EERI and funded by FEMA. His final report is entitled "Preliminary Study on a Simplified Response Spectrum Method for Incoherent Ground Motions of Bridges." His research was conducted with the guidance of Professor M. Saïd Saïdi of the University of Nevada, Reno.

The objectives of this study were (1) to provide insight into bridge response due to incoherency from site-response effects, and (2) to provide the groundwork for a practical response spectrum method that can account for nonsynchronous ground motions using a simplified method. A two degree-of-freedom (DOF) computer model was developed to simulate bridge response to incoherent ground motions. Ground motion at the supports was provided by a single DOF, nonlinear response history model. Three different earthquakes were selected and free-field ground motions were determined using the non-

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News of the Institute

EERI Endowment Committee Reviews Successful Projects

The Endowment Committee met on June 17 to review current projects and proposals for new projects. The committee oversees the EERI Endowment Fund, which underwrites new, creative, and unique multidisciplinary programs that support the Institute's mission of reducing the impacts of earthquakes.

June's committee meeting coincided with the two-day Legacy of Earthquake Engineering Workshop, held in San Francisco, that began last year as an Endowment Committee project. Because of the importance of the project, FEMA provided additional funding. Earth scientists, engineers, architects, and social scientists from the academic and private sectors met to discuss how contributions made by the field of earthquake engineering have helped to secure society from extreme events caused by man or nature. The discussions and summary essays written by participants will form the basis of a white paper on "The Contributions of Earthquake Engineering," which will be distributed to elected officials and others critical to the future of the field.

The Endowment Committee reviewed the Seattle Scenario, a current project funding a multidisciplinary group of Seattle-area professionals to study the effects on the region of a magnitude 6.7 earthquake on the Seattle fault, which runs under the city, across Lake Washington, and under the city of Bellevue. Group participants include representatives from private engineering firms, utilities, the USGS, the state of Washington, FEMA, and city agencies from Seattle and Bellevue. The group's work will result in two products: (1) a narrative description of what will happen to lifelines, build-

ings, and the economy of the region if a Seattle fault earthquake occurs, and (2) a set of guidelines based on the group's experience that will help other cities and regions produce their own earthquake scenarios. The Seattle group intends to use their scenario to educate public officials and stir public interest in the mitigation of the potential threat to the Puget Sound region. It is expected that these two products will be completed before the end of 2003.

Final proposals for intriguing new projects will be reviewed by the committee in August and presented to the EERI Board for approval in September.

The committee solicits ideas for projects from the Institute membership each year. EERI members generously contribute to the fund through annual donations and large gifts. To make a donation to the Endowment Fund or for information about project proposals, please contact James Godfrey, special projects manager, at the EERI office or e-mail jgodfrey@eeri.org.

Announcements

Bridge and Highways Conference

The Federal Highway Administration and Tennessee Department of Transportation are co-hosting the Fourth National Seismic Conference and Workshop on Bridges and Highways in Memphis, Tennessee, February 9–11, 2004.

The objective of the conference is to provide a forum for the exchange of information on current national and regional practices and research on seismic-resistant design and retrofit of new and existing bridges and highway systems in all seismic zones. The conference will focus on advances in engineering and technology that provide increased seis-

mic safety of highway bridges, other highway structures, and highway systems in the new millennium. In addition, an international forum will be conducted by invited speakers from countries that have implemented advanced earthquake design and mitigation technologies and approaches.

For more information visit www.conferences.uiuc.edu/seismic.

2003 Pan-Pacific Symposium in Japan

Japan's National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention (NEID) is hosting the 2003 Pan-Pacific Symposium for Earthquake Engineering Collaboration September 30–October 2 in Ibaraki, approximately 1.5 hours by bus from Tokyo. There will be technical and sightseeing tours on October 3 and 4, respectively.

The objective of the symposium is to encourage and promote collaboration between earthquake engineers in the pan-Pacific region. There is a need to establish a stronger network of collaboration, especially with southeast Asian countries. The symposium will examine means to make use jointly of the large seismic testing facilities that exist in the pan-Pacific region.

The following major topics will be covered: (1) ground motions in different localities; (2) earthquake-resistant local structures, including historical structures; (3) practical, low-cost base-isolation and vibration control techniques; (4) seismic instrumentation networks in low-populated areas; (5) ground motion and countermeasures in distributed soft-soil areas; and (6) establishing an Asian earthquake engineering network.

The registration fee for the symposium is US\$100. For more information, contact Professor Heki Shibata or Ms. Y. Iitsuka at iitsuka@bosai.go.jp.

Fellowship Report

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linear ground response model for various soil deposit depths. Although this study did not result in a response spectrum method to account for incoherent ground motions, parametric studies did provide insight into the site-response effect on bridge response. Maximum magnification factors of the incoherent base motion response compared to uniform base motion response were determined from the parametric study. Results indicate that incoherent ground motions can be expected to increase force levels or ductility demands. Dynamic effects appeared to contribute to rapid changes in the magnification factors. The results also indicated that, in certain period ranges, uniform base motion would predict maximum column ductility demands and incoherent ground motion response could be ignored.

Griffin concludes with recommendations for future research that would contribute to implementing his study in bridge design practice.

This report is available online through a link on EERI's home page at www.eeri.org.

Publications

Disaster-Resistant California 2003 Proceedings

The *Disaster-Resistant California 2003 Conference Proceedings* are now available in CD-ROM format. The conference, held April 21-23, 2003, in San Jose, California, attracted more than 400 national and international participants, including attendees from Turkey, Taiwan and Japan. Organized in a web-based format, the CD-ROM contains all the papers that were submitted as well as the presentations that were made during the conference. Papers were

submitted by a broad range of public and private-sector professionals. A number of the papers address the issue of technology development and applications in hazard mitigation.

The *Proceedings* table of contents can be viewed at www.sjsu.edu/cdm/drc03-proceedings. At a cost of \$75, the CD-ROM can be purchased by contacting the Collaborative for Disaster Mitigation at sjsu_cdm@email.sjsu.edu.

News of the Membership

Saiidi, Chopra, Panza and Naeim Making News

M. Saïid Saiidi was recently presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Civil and Environmental Engineering Alumni Association. This award was given for Saiidi's "academic leadership, innovative research on buildings and bridges, and outstanding contributions to the seismic design and retrofit of bridge structures." Saiidi was also awarded the 2003 Regent's Researcher Award by the University and Community College System of Nevada (UCCSN) Board of Regents for his "substantial accomplishments, particularly a significant amount of research and scholarly work that has been recognized and competitive both at the national and international level." He was selected from nominations made from universities and research institutes in Nevada.

Anil K. Chopra presented the Emilio Rosenblueth Lecture of the Mexican Society of Earthquake Engineering on "Estimating Seismic Demands for Performance-Based Seismic Engineering of Buildings" in March 2003. This lecture has been established to honor the memory of Professor Emilio Rosenblueth, who

had profound influence on earthquake engineering research and practice.

Giuliano F. Panza, head of the SAND Research Group at the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) and professor of seismology at the University of Trieste, was recently elected a foreign member of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Professor Panza is the only Italian of 45 newly appointed members.

Earthquake Spectra Editor **Farzad Naeim** recently passed the California Bar Exam and the Patent Bar Exam. He has been admitted to the California Bar and to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in patent cases.

Announcement

Nominations Sought for Prakash Award

The Shamsheer Prakash Foundation is soliciting nominations for the 2003 Shamsheer Prakash Annual Prize for Excellence in the Practice of Geotechnical Engineering, which is given to a young engineer, scientist, or researcher (less than 45 years old) from anywhere in the world. Candidates should be specialists in geotechnical engineering or geotechnical earthquake engineering, have made significant independent contributions to the field, and show promise of future excellence. The award includes a cash prize of \$1,100.

Nominations are due on or before October 31, 2003. All nominations will be reviewed by a judging committee of international experts from Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The award will be announced by December 31, 2003. For information on submitting nominations, visit www.rollanet.org/~prakash1/yoga10/geotechengg.htm or e-mail Sally Prakash at sallyp@umr.edu.

News of the Institute

Summary Minutes of the February 5, 2003, Board of Directors Meeting

Preliminaries: President Thomas O'Rourke called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. Present were Past President Chris Poland, Secretary/Treasurer Ron Mayes, Vice President Svetlana Brzev, and Directors Donald Ballantyne, Bruce Clark, and Sarah Nathe. Also present were Executive Director Susan Tubbesing and Administrative Assistant Valarie Austin. Director Mary Comerio arrived at 9:50 a.m. Roger Borcherdt joined the meeting in the afternoon. Director Sergio Alcocer was not present.

Election of Officers: Mayes was nominated and unanimously elected to continue serving as Secretary/Treasurer. Brzev was nominated and unanimously elected to continue serving as Vice President.

President's Report: O'Rourke updated Board committee assignments. Clark will serve as the Board contact for the Ethics Committee, Brzev for the Heritage and Existing Structures Committee, Comerio for the Social Science Research Committee, Nathe for both the Public Policy Advisory and Publications Policy Committees, and O'Rourke for both the Honors and Oral History Committees. Ballantyne will replace O'Rourke as liaison to TCLEE. All other assignments remain unchanged.

Overview of Financial Statements: Mayes reported that the Institute is on solid financial footing. Expenses for 2002 were less than anticipated and revenues exceeded expenses by \$14,000. The 2003 budget is projected to break even. Staff costs incurred prior to the Annual Meeting were allocated to the General Administration account,

resulting in a modest surplus in revenues over expenses in the Annual Meeting account. Printing expenses for hard copies of the 7NCEE proceedings were billed to the publications and administration programs and should be recouped through proceedings sales to libraries and other institutions.

Revenue and Expense Report: Mayes reviewed the Report of Revenue and Expenses as of December 31, 2002. The combined balance sheet showed an opening fund balance of \$127,643, which was augmented by \$14,315 in excess revenues over expenses.

EERI's total liabilities of \$550,890, combined with the total fund balance of \$141,958, equaled \$692,848. The Endowment Program's opening balance of \$706,099 was decreased by \$153,346 in expenses, for a total fund balance of \$552,753. Total liabilities in the amount of \$282,511, combined with the total fund balance of \$552,753, equaled \$835,264. The balance of the combined association, endowment, and technical programs equaled \$1,528,112.

The Investment Funds Report showed a balance of \$210,139 in the General Administrative Short Term Fund and \$29,364 in the Long Term Investment Fund. The Endowment Fund balance totaled \$552,753 and the Friedman Family Investment Fund totaled \$123,714. The balance of the interest-bearing checking account was \$194,978. The combined funds in the General Administrative checking and investment accounts totaled \$536,423.

The Grants Status Summary showed that as of December 31, 2002, of \$4,186,644 in active grants, \$1,026,533 has been expended, leaving a balance of \$3,160,111.

Endowment and Investment Reports: Mayes stated that members contributed over \$35,000 to the Endowment Fund in 2002. Although conservatively managed, the Fund

was affected by the poor performance of the stock market and did not perform well during 2002.

Designing for Earthquakes: Funding from FEMA and NSF has been received to revise and update a 1978 publication for architects on designing for earthquakes. Chris Arnold, with a team of writers, will update the publication. A steering committee of prominent architects met with the writing team in Oakland during late January and will draft chapters on various topics in the next few months. Comerio expressed a willingness to become involved and will be informed of future meetings and furnished with information about past meetings.

Office Space: The Board directed Tubbesing to lease additional office space adjacent to EERI's existing office that has recently become available to accommodate additional staff and to relieve generally overcrowded conditions and a shortage of storage space.

Endowment Committee Report on the Seattle Scenario: Ballantyne reported that progress has been made in developing the scenario. A schedule has been set and individuals assigned responsibility for completing various sections. The hazards information for physical damage to built environments should be completed in draft form by the end of May and a small workshop will be held in early June to review comments on the impacts and to elicit suggestions pertaining to response implications. The draft report should be revised to include response and recovery sections in August. A second small workshop will be held in September to integrate damage with response and recovery impacts and to consider mitigation options. It is expected that the report will be finalized by mid-November and the project finished by December 2003.

The Endowment Committee contributed \$25,000 to develop the sce-

nario and an additional \$25,000 for administrative costs and a project coordinator. EERI has earmarked a modest amount of FEMA funding for additional input, such as a HAZUS run and economic analysis.

Research and Outreach Plan: The Board considered steps needed to fund EERI's Research and Outreach Plan, "Securing Society Against Catastrophic Earthquake Losses." Poland related that he had talked to Bob Reitherman, who offered to help move the process forward after the Board has decided upon its focus. Reitherman believes that working with the contact professors from each of the CUREE universities (who, in turn, would work through their universities' lobbyists) would be the most effective way to gain the attention of relevant members of Congress.

O'Rourke will seek endorsement from the IAEE for the Research Plan. Brzev and Alcocer have sought the endorsements of the earthquake engineering societies in Mexico and Canada. Brzev sent the Research Plan to Don Anderson, president of the Canadian Association for Earthquake Engineering, and will follow up with him.

Membership/Subscribing Member Report: Although there has been an overall decline in the institutional and subscribing membership since 1999, the number of institutional members has increased somewhat since August 2001. O'Rourke suggested scheduling a meeting of the subscribing members in conjunction with either the September or November Board meeting.

Online *Spectra* Access, Controls, and Pricing Policies: Borchardt reported on the recommendations of the Publications Policy Committee's Online *Spectra* Task Force. He recognized the significant achievement of *Earthquake Spectra*'s inclusion in the Science Citation Index and the ISI database.

Borchardt discussed the recommendations of the task force regarding procedures for *Special Issues on Earthquakes* (SIE), formerly known as post-earthquake reconnaissance reports. There were several recommendations for changes in the formatting of the hard-copy issues and of the online versions, including the omission of the term "reconnaissance report" in the title, which would put these special issues on the same standing as regular issues of *Spectra*. Individual chapter authors would be identified. However, the Board felt it was important not to lose input from people in the field willing to share information even though they did not write the report. It was recognized that improved organization early in the process would be necessary so that reports could be completed in a timely manner. The Board agreed that reconnaissance reports should be put on the web, with a disclaimer, as soon as data become available. Information could be updated in the *Newsletter* and after additional verification of the accuracy of the data, published as an SIE. Other recommendations of the task force include the following:

- The SIE editor should have co-editors to share the workload and help speed the publication process.
- Papers should be peer-reviewed in accord with *Spectra* standards.
- The format of the SIE issues should provide proper recognition of authors.
- The schedule of all tasks leading to timely publication within a nine-month time frame should be clear to all team members.
- Co-editor duties should be assigned with consideration of how to best facilitate editorial decisions in view of the geographic separation of foreign co-editors.
- Participation of other organizations should be anticipated in advance of, or very early in, EERI team reconnaissance efforts.

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendations of the task force regarding the preparation of the SIE issues.

The Board approved a motion that CD versions of each SIE issue, along with high-resolution versions of its images, plus additional photographs, will continue to be made available as a special product sold by EERI. Consideration will be given to producing these through AIP.

O'Rourke moved that *Spectra* and SIE issues be made available in downloadable format as part of the normal online subscription for *Spectra*, which is a benefit of membership or subscription — that is, at no extra cost. For nonmembers, the online price for downloaded articles in *Spectra* or SIE chapters will be \$25; the Board will review this price each year. The current pricing practice for hard copy or CD versions of SIE issues sold through the EERI offices will remain unchanged. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

O'Rourke moved that online *Spectra* be offered free with a printed version subscription for 2003. Separate prices for "print only," "print plus online," and "online only" will be established by the Executive Committee and implemented along with membership renewals for 2004. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

A liaison from the LFE Committee will be placed on the *Spectra* Editorial Board to improve coordination. The Board indicated that the *Spectra* Editorial Board should manage the procedures for preparing SIE manuscripts and should arrange for the review process.

The Board advised that the Publications Policy Committee should maintain a yearly task force to address electronic publication issues. Nathe will convey this to the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.



- PLEASE POST -

EERI ANNUAL STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

The Earthquake Engineering Research Institute is pleased to announce its Annual Student Paper Competition. The purpose of the competition is to promote active involvement of students in earthquake engineering and the earthquake hazards research community.

The general rules of the contest are as follows:

Graduate Category

1. The paper must be an original contribution in a discipline directly related to earthquake engineering or earthquake hazard reduction.
2. The paper is not to exceed 12 pages in length, inclusive of all tables and figures.
3. The paper must represent the original work of the student and be authored by the student alone. A faculty member or other advisor may not co-author the paper.

Undergraduate Category

1. The paper must be directly related to earthquake engineering or earthquake hazard reduction.
2. The paper is not to exceed 12 pages in length, inclusive of all tables and figures.
3. The paper must be authored by the student alone. In addition, a faculty member or other advisor is required to oversee the preparation of the manuscript. The advisor can provide feedback before submission of the paper but may not co-author the paper. The advisor's name should be included in an "Acknowledgments" section of the paper.

Guidelines for preparing the manuscript can be obtained from the EERI web site (www.eeri.org/news/new.html) or from:

EERI, 499 14th Street, Suite 320, Oakland, CA 94612, phone 510/451-0905, fax 510/451-5411. All papers must be **received** by November 3, 2003 at the EERI office.

Up to four student authors will be invited to the Annual Meeting of EERI in Los Angeles, California, February 4 -7, 2004, and will receive travel support for this purpose. Their papers will also be considered for publication in *Earthquake Spectra*. The top paper will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

**** DEADLINE November 3, 2003 ****

CALENDAR

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

2003

AUGUST

3-6. Extreme Loading Conf. Toronto, Canada. Info: www.extremeloading2003.com (6/02)

10-13. 6th U.S. Conf. and Workshop on Lifeline Earthquake Engineering (TCLEE), Long Beach, CA. Info: www.asce.org/conferences/tclee2003/ (9/02)

25-27. XI Ibero-American Earthquake Engineering Seminar, Mendoza, Argentina. Info: sibis.uncu.edu.ar (2/03)

SEPTEMBER

7-10. 20th Annual Conf. of the Association of State Dam Safety Officials, Minneapolis, MN. Info: www.damsafety.org (2/03)

15-20. Association of Engineering Geologists (AEG) 2003, Vail, CO. Info: www.aegweb.org (5/03)

18-20. 2003 SEAOC Convention, Lake Tahoe, CA. E-mail: thale@oshpd.state.ca.us (12/02)

22-24. 4th Int'l Conf. on Earthquake-Resistant Engineering Structures, Ancona, Italy. Info: www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2003/eres03/ (8/02)

30-October 2. Pan-Pacific Symposium for Earthquake Engineering Collaboration, Ibaraki, Japan. See page 2. (8/03)

OCTOBER

6-10. 8th World Seminar on Seismic Isolation, Energy Dissipation, and Active Vibration Control of Structures, Yerevan, Armenia. Info: www.aua.am (10/02)

22-24. 28th Annual Conf. on Deep Foundations, Miami Beach, FL. Info: www.dfi.org/conferences.asp (1/03)

23-24. ATC Seminar on Seismic Design, Performance, and Retrofit of Nonstructural Components in Critical Facilities, Los Angeles area. Info: www.ATCCouncil.org (7/03)

29-31. World Conf. on Disaster Management, Infrastructure, and Control Systems, Hyderabad, India. Info: www.schanisj.com (7/03)

30-31. 2nd Int'l Symposium on New Technologies for Urban Safety in Megacities of Asia, Tokyo, Japan. Info: icus.iis.u-tokyo.ac.jp/isus03/ (6/03)

NOVEMBER

10-14. 30th Int'l Conf. on Remote Sensing of the Environment, Honolulu, HI. Info: isrse.pdc.org (6/03)

13-15. 1st Int'l Conf. on Structural Health Monitoring, Tokyo, Japan. Info: www.civil.ibaraki.ac.jp/shmii/ (5/03)

14-16. 2nd Conf. on Disaster Management: Case Histories of Disasters, Pilani, India. E-mail: spgupta@bits-pilani.ac.in (7/03)

19-22. 14th Mexican National Conf. on Earthquake Engineering, León-Guanajuato, México. Info: www.smis.org.mx (4/03)

DECEMBER

3-5. International Seismic Instrument and Emergency Rescue Equipment Exhibition, Beijing, China. Info: www.exh.dizhen.ac.cn (3/03, 6/03)

8-9. ACI Seismic Bridge Design and Retrofit Conf. La Jolla, CA. Info: www.aci-int.org (7/03)

16-18. 9th East Asia Pacific Conf. on Structural Engineering and Construction, Bali, Indonesia. Info: www.si.itb.ac.id/easec9 (10/02)

2004

FEBRUARY

4-7. EERI Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA.

9-11. 4th National Conf. on Bridges and Highways, Memphis, TN. See page 2. (8/03)

19-21. World Conf. on Natural Disaster Mitigation, New Delhi, India.

Abstract deadline changed to 8-15-03. Info: www.wfeo-cee.org (7/03)

APRIL

13-17. 5th Int'l Conf. on Case Histories in Geotechnical Engineering, New York, NY. Info: www.umn.edu/~eqconf/5thCHConf (1/03, 3/03)

MAY

22-26. Structures 2004, Nashville, TN. Info: www.asce.org/conferences/structures2004/ (8/02)

JULY

18-23. Composite Construction in Steel and Concrete V, Kruger National Park, South Africa. Info: www.engconfintl.org/4ab.html (12/02)

AUGUST

1-6. 13th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Info: www.13wcee.com (7/02, 3/03)

8-11. MOVIC 04 Motion and Vibration Control Conference, Washington University, St. Louis, MO. (11/02)

2006

APRIL

17-21. 8th U.S. Nat'l Conf. on Earthquake Engineering and EERI Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA. (8/03)

Graduate Fellowship

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criteria of these systems and apply this to seismic design. Under the direction of Greg Deierlein, professor of structural engineering at Stanford, Cordova played a role in developing a full-scale, pseudodynamic frame tested in October 2002 at Taipei's National Center for Research in Earthquake Engineering Laboratory.

According to Deierlein, "Cordova is researching topics...that relate directly to NEHRP's mission... Through interactions with other faculty and graduate students at Stanford, he has introduced valuable aspects of probabilistic seismic hazard analysis and reliability methods to the research."

News of the Profession

James Lee Witt Named New ICC CEO

On May 28, James Lee Witt, former Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), was named the new chief executive officer of the International Code Council (ICC). Dedicated to building safety, ICC is a 50,000-member association that develops the codes used to construct schools and residential and commercial buildings. The majority of U.S. cities, counties, and states that adopt codes choose those developed by ICC.

Witt's new position is the culmination of years of experience with the building code industry. He has more than 25 years of leadership and experience in the field of disaster management. EERI members are familiar with Witt for his eight years of service as director of FEMA during the Clinton administration. Witt is widely recognized for his management expertise and was the visionary and architect of national government programs related to emergency preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery.

During his time at FEMA, EERI established a relationship with the agency through cooperative agreements that continue to this day. Witt elevated mitigation and the role that

building codes play in building safer and smarter communities. Witt has stated, "As ICC progresses into a world-class building safety organization, one that is dedicated to serving its members through education and certification efforts and the continued development of the *International Codes*, our ultimate goal remains unquestioned: to provide safe buildings in our communities for the people that use them."



James Lee Witt

At the age of 21, Witt founded a commercial and residential construction company. He later served six terms as a judge in Yell County, Arkansas, before being appointed by then-Governor Bill Clinton to lead the Arkansas Office of Emergency Services.

Witt was named director of FEMA in 1993 and coordinated disaster relief on behalf of President Clinton, including the response and recovery activities of 28 federal agencies and departments, the American Red

Cross, and other voluntary agencies. In 1997, Witt started Project Impact, a nationwide initiative to help build disaster-resistant communities through education, mitigation, and public and private partnerships. He led FEMA through 348 presidential declared disasters, the most costly flood and earthquake disasters in the nation's history, and a dozen damaging hurricanes. He reorganized FEMA into a proactive customer-focused agency that was recognized by President Clinton and Vice President Gore as a model for successful government.

"During my tenure at FEMA, I witnessed the consequences of building codes in action in every type of disaster," Witt said. "I learned there was a pretty simple formula for differentiating which communities enact and enforce strong building codes from those that don't. Structures built to strong codes still stand. People who live and work in them are still alive. That speaks volumes for the ultimate goal of our organization."

In addition to his new duties with ICC, Witt will continue in his role as president of James Lee Witt Associates, LLC, a firm that provides local governments, the international community, corporations, hospitals, universities, and other nonprofit organizations with innovative disaster mitigation solutions, including planning and preparedness.



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