

## EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING RESEARCH INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

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## News of the Profession

### First Step in NEHRP Reauthorization

On July 22, HR 2608, reauthorizing the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP), was reported out of the House Science Committee. The bill includes several major new provisions stimulated by EERI public advocacy over the last three years and called for in testimony before the Science Committee earlier this year by EERI President Tom O'Rourke. Included are (1) an 82% increase in funding spread over three years, (2) establishment of an Interagency Coordinating Committee with representatives from the four principal agencies, plus the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), to manage NEHRP planning and coordination, (3) establishment of an external advisory committee of non-federal stakeholders to provide suggestions for

improvements in NEHRP; (4) reauthorization of funds for completion of the Advanced National Seismic System (ANSS), and (5) significant funding increases for NIST to support its new leadership position and expand its emphasis on implementation of hazard reduction applications.

Responding to past frustrations in coordinating the NEHRP budget, the committee inserted language requiring that the new Interagency Coordinating Committee transmit to Congress a description of activities, including budgets for the current fiscal year and proposed budgets for the following fiscal year, for programs of the participating agencies that are identified in the NEHRP Strategic Plan. The presence of OSTP and OMB on the Coordinating Committee should ensure that the four separate

*continued on page 4*

## News of the Institute

### 2004 Annual Meeting: Omni Hotel, Los Angeles

Marking the 10th anniversary of the Northridge earthquake, the Annual Meeting Organizing Committee, led by Chairman Andrew Adelman and Co-Chairs Nick Delli Quadri and Marshall Lew, is putting together an excellent program that focuses on achievements in engineering, earth science, technology, and public policy since the 1994 event.

The Northridge earthquake triggered extensive research, the demand for new public policies, and comprehensive, federally funded investigations into steel and wood frame construction. Sessions will look at these efforts and the mitigation initiatives that were triggered, as well as new directions in research and advances in community resiliency that were generated by the earthquake and



*The new  
Los Angeles  
Cathedral of the  
Angels*

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## News of the Institute

### EERI Student Chapter Activities

#### University of Puerto Rico

The University of Puerto Rico student chapter has kept up the high level of activity reported on page 4 of the May 2003 *Newsletter*. The chapter sponsored six lectures in its second semester, including one by a speaker who traveled from Baja California — Carlos Huerta of the Seismology Department of the Centro de Investigación Científica y Educación Superior de Ensenada. His topic was “Spectral Characteristics of Earthquakes Recorded on the Gulf of Mexico Seafloor and Modeling of Soft Marine Sediments.”

The chapter continued its community orientation program with visiting high school students and teachers from two local schools. Another especially valuable experience was the help the chapter provided to the Seismological Society of America in organizing its annual meeting, which was held April 29-May 2 at the Caribe Hilton Hotel in San Juan.

The chapter’s web site is [www.civil.uprm.edu/chapters/eeri](http://www.civil.uprm.edu/chapters/eeri).

#### University of Notre Dame

The University of Notre Dame student chapter continued its *Shakes & Quakes* outreach program (see page 9 of the January 2002 *Newsletter*) with members visiting two schools during the past year. A total of 70 students in fifth, seventh, and eighth grades built earthquake-resistant buildings from Lego blocks, which were then tested on a small earthquake simulator. The “testing” day raised overall community awareness through television and newspaper coverage.

The student chapter participated in two other outreach activities: Ms. Wizard Day, in which elementary school girls took part in math and

science activities, and a high school math and engineering challenge that helped students learn how engineers apply mathematical principles to practical problem solving.

John Hooper of Magnusson Klemencic Associates (Seattle) gave two presentations at Notre Dame as part of EERI’s Friedman Family Visiting Professional Program. His topics were “Engineering Design for Disasters” and “Seahawk Stadium Design.” He also toured the engineering facilities and interacted informally with faculty and students.

The chapter’s web site is [www.nd.edu/~eeriund/](http://www.nd.edu/~eeriund/).

#### University of Michigan

The University of Michigan student chapter organized a series of four seminars on recent advances in the field. One seminar speaker journeyed from the National Taiwan University — K. C. Tsai, professor of civil engineering. His topic was “Experimental Responses of Large-Scale Buckling Restrained Braced Frames.”

James Malley of Degenkolb Engineers (San Francisco) visited the University of Michigan student chapter as part of EERI’s Friedman Family Visiting Professional Program. His topic was “The Latest Updates to U.S. Seismic Design Provisions.” He compared the old and new provisions and explained how they affect building behavior and their economic impact on the construction industry. He toured the city of Ann Arbor, campus

facilities, and met informally with faculty and students.

The Michigan students found that social events strengthened the chapter and attracted new members. The chapter’s web site is [www.engine.umich.edu/soc/eeri/](http://www.engine.umich.edu/soc/eeri/). Detailed information about ongoing earthquake-related research projects can be found at [www.engine.umich.edu/dept/cee/sme/research.html](http://www.engine.umich.edu/dept/cee/sme/research.html).

#### University of California San Diego

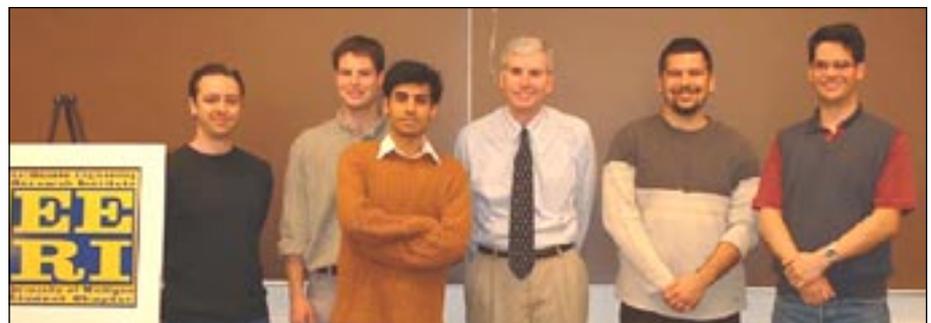
In February, the University of California at San Diego student chapter arranged a tour of the new reinforced concrete School of Medicine, designed by KPFF Engineers. The tour was guided by two engineers and a project manager from KPFF.

In April, the chapter worked with the Structural Engineers Association of San Diego (SEAOSD) to coordinate the annual SEAOSD student night.

The chapter took part in many outreach activities during the past year. It hosted several tours of the Powell Laboratories at UCSD, including groups of middle and elementary school students. A new type of outreach was coaching third graders in the design of bridges built from toothpicks and glue. The third time chapter members visited an elementary school, they tested the children’s bridges. The winning bridge supported 20 science textbooks.

For the second time, the chapter organized a workshop for high school

*continued on page 3*



*University of Michigan chapter officers with visiting professional James Malley (center).*

*continued from page 2*

teachers to become familiar with the material used in outreach programs. The workshop was recorded and video CDs were later distributed to all of the participants.

In May, the chapter organized a week-long outreach for an accelerated high school science class in which students competed to design and build the tallest water tower (from given materials) that could withstand records of earthquake shaking. On the last day, the high schoolers toured the UCSD labs and campus.

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## News of the Membership

### Bruneau Appointed Director of MCEER

On August 25, Michel Bruneau succeeded George Lee as the director of the Multidisciplinary Center for Earthquake Engineering Research (MCEER). Bruneau, who has served as MCEER deputy director since 1998, was selected for the post after a nationwide search. As director, Bruneau assumes stewardship of MCEER's major research, education, and industry-outreach initiatives. These include projects that involve research and development of tools and technologies that strengthen the nation's built environment and improve emergency response and recovery activities. Bruneau becomes the fourth director in the center's 17-year history.

George Lee, who served as MCEER director since 1992, will continue to serve in leadership roles within MCEER and the University at Buffalo School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. He will administer the center's \$10.8 million Federal Highway Administration project to improve highway system seismic performance, and he will work with Engineering Dean Mark Karwan to develop a schoolwide focus on multiple-hazard mitigation.

## News of the Institute

### Board Nominees Announced

The 2004 EERI Nominating Committee has submitted a slate of candidates for President-Elect and the two Director positions that will become open when Sergio Alcocer and Svetlana Brzev complete their terms next January. The nominees are:

#### For President-Elect:

**Craig D. Comartin**, president of Comartin-Reis (structural engineers), Stockton, California

#### For Director A:

**Farzad Naeim**, vice president of John A. Martin & Associates (structural engineers), Los Angeles, California

**John W. Wallace**, associate professor, Department of Civil Engineering, University of California at Los Angeles

#### For Director B:

**John L. Aho**, principal project manager and vice president, CH2M Hill, Anchorage, Alaska

**Andrei Reinhorn**, professor, Department of Civil Engineering, State University of New York at Buffalo

Additional nominations may be made by the membership in accordance with Article VII of the EERI Bylaws (Sections 4 and 5), upon submission of a petition with signatures of 25 members. Petitions must be received prior to November 1. Biographies of the candidates and short vision statements will be published in a future issue of the *Newsletter* and posted on EERI's web site [www.eeri.org](http://www.eeri.org). EERI wishes to thank the Nominating Committee: Sheldon Cherry (Chair), Dan Alesch, Thalia Anagnos, Michel Bruneau, and Terry Dooley.

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## Annual Meeting

*continued from page 1*

that today affect earthquake hazard reduction far beyond southern California. The three-day meeting will conclude with a debate on "How Northridge Became the Attorney's Earthquake," and a presentation of the first annual Joyner Memorial Lecture, jointly sponsored by EERI and the Seismological Society of America.

Saturday field trips to the new Los Angeles Cathedral of the Angels, the Disney Concert Hall, City Hall, and an adaptive reuse building are all within walking distance of the downtown Omni Hotel.

The hard-working organizing committee responsible for the dynamic program includes many members of the Southern California Chapter of EERI, including Mark Benthien, David Breiholz, Terry Dooley, Ron Eguchi, Melvyn Green, Henry Huang, Martin Johnson, Mark Legg, Leval Lund, Armen Martirosyan, Alan Merson, Farzad Naeim, Robert Nigbor, and Paul Somerville.

Mark the dates of February 4-7, 2004, now and watch for more details on other Annual Meeting activities in future *Newsletters* and in the program brochure, to be mailed in the fourth quarter.

## NEHRP

*continued from page 1*

agency budgets will finally be coordinated.

In its most controversial move, members of the House Science Committee expressed frustration with past leadership provided by FEMA by giving responsibility for NEHRP coordination to NIST. Representative Brian Baird (D-WA) noted, "Considering FEMA's enormous homeland security responsibilities, it seems sensible to transfer coordination of NEHRP to NIST, which works directly with the engineers and scientists who design our nation's infrastructure. Streamlining the federal bureaucracy by transferring the administration of NEHRP will further protect our constituents from future earthquakes."

Among its specific new provisions, the bill provides \$2 million annually to NIST and \$3 million to FEMA to support development of performance-based seismic engineering tools for buildings, other structures, and lifelines, and their application into codes, standards, and practice. New in this bill is the requirement that USGS maintain suitable seismic hazard maps in support of building codes and develop additional maps, as needed, for performance-based design.

For the first time, the bill explicitly calls for interdisciplinary research that involves engineering and natural, social, economic, and decision sciences to improve understanding of earthquakes and their effects on buildings, other structures, and lifelines.

The bill provides specific authorization for the operations and maintenance of the NEES program at \$8 million for fiscal year 2004, \$20 million for fiscal year 2005, and \$20 million for fiscal year 2006. In addition, the bill specifically directs the National Science Foundation to support research using large-scale experimental and computational facilities.

Stimulated by the recently published EERI report *Securing Society from the Catastrophic Effects of Earthquakes: A Research and Outreach Plan in Earthquake Engineering*, the bill includes the first significant increase in NEHRP funding in 25 years. The bill also reauthorizes appropriations for the ANSS program at not less than \$30 million for fiscal years 2004 and 2005. In fiscal year 2006, ANSS authorization goes to \$36 million a year for the next three years.

These major changes reflect intensive efforts by the NEHRP Coalition, co-chaired by Chris Poland representing EERI and Brian Pallasch of

the American Society of Civil Engineers, along with representatives from the American Geological Institute, the American Geophysical Union, the National Fire Protection Association, the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, the Portland Cement Association, and the Seismological Society of America.

Later in the third quarter, the bill will come up for a vote by the full House, go through a similar process in the Senate, and be considered by the Appropriations Committees in both houses before funds are ultimately approved.

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## News of the Membership

### SEAONC Excellence Awards

The Structural Engineers Association of Northern California (SEAONC) recently announced their 2003 Excellence in Structural Engineering Awards for San Francisco Bay Area projects. The following three projects receiving awards involved EERI members' firms.

A team of firms headed by EERI subscribing member Forell/Elsesser Engineers, Inc., including OLMM Consulting Engineers and Tennebaum-Manheim Engineers, was responsible for strengthening the **San Francisco Asian Art Museum**. Their challenge was to protect one of the world's most magnificent Asian art collections from earthquake damage in its new home, the renovated building that formerly housed the city's main library. Built in 1917, the elegant Beaux-Arts building is a key feature of the city's Civic Center. Two methods of seismic strengthening were used: (1) a system of base-isolation bearings inserted between the building's columns and a reinforced foundation system to decouple the building from earthquake ground motion, and (2) a series of reinforced concrete shear walls constructed from the basement to the roof to provide bracing for the building.

Ove Arup & Partners California, Ltd., provided an innovative concept called an unbonded braced-frame system, sometimes compared to a giant, stiff automobile shock absorber, for the new **Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara Replacement Medical Center**. Comprised of several office and hospital buildings, this facility is sandwiched between the San Andreas and the Hayward fault systems and required a high-performance earthquake-resisting structural design to withstand potentially strong seismic forces.

OLMM Consulting Engineers strengthened the older wing of the **San Jose Police Administration Building**. The three-story cast-in-place reinforced concrete structure required seismic upgrading, yet as an essential services building, it had to remain operational at all times. To minimize disruptions and keep construction work minimally invasive, OLMM added new outside shear walls and tied them back into the building with structural-steel collector members. The new shear walls were incorporated into an aesthetically pleasing trellis system.

## Announcements

### UCSD Structural Engineering Position

**University of California, San Diego:** The Department of Structural Engineering seeks senior professional or associate professor level candidates. Of primary interest are those with a background and research interests in: (1) seismic performance assessment and design of civil structures including buildings, bridges, and lifelines; (2) large-scale static and dynamic testing of structures; and (3) innovative structural systems, including use of new materials, special devices, and design concepts. For more information, visit [www.structures.ucsd.edu/jobs.shtml](http://www.structures.ucsd.edu/jobs.shtml).

### ASCE Short Course: Earthquake-Induced Ground Motions

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) is offering a two-day course September 25-26, 2003, in Sacramento, California, on *Earthquake-Induced Ground Motions*. It presents a step-by-step evaluation of seismic ground motions for design and assessment of structures. The evaluation of site-specific ground motions requires an interaction between geology, seismology, geotechnical engineering, and structural engineering. Emphasis will be on both theory and practical applications.

Praveen K. Malhotra, senior research scientist with FM Global Research, will present the course, and participants will earn 1.6 continuing education units. For complete details or to register, visit [www.asce.org/conted/seminars/structural.cfm#Earthquake](http://www.asce.org/conted/seminars/structural.cfm#Earthquake) or contact ASCE Continuing Education, P. O. Box 79536, Baltimore, MD 21279-0536; phone 800/548-2723 (703/295-6300 international); fax 703/295-6144; e-mail [conted@asce.org](mailto:conted@asce.org).

## Employment Announcement

### Natural Hazards Center — Boulder, Colorado

The Natural Hazards Research and Applications Information Center, Boulder, Colorado, seeks a full-time professional research assistant to provide research oversight for the center's activities. The center's emphasis is on the social and behavioral science and policy aspects of hazards and disasters. The position oversees development of the center programs, coordinates an annual workshop, maintains contacts with funding agencies and sources, manages the budget, supervises many staff activities, and represents the center at advisory committee meetings and national conferences. A masters degree is required, as well as knowledge about hazard-related policies, programs, research, and knowledge-transfer activities. For a complete job description and application information, e-mail Diane Smith at [Diane.Smith@colorado.edu](mailto:Diane.Smith@colorado.edu).

## Publications

### Two New ATC Publications Available

The Applied Technology Council (ATC) has announced the availability of *Recommended U.S.-Italy Collaborative Procedures for Earthquake Emergency Response Planning for Hospitals in Italy* (ATC-51-1). Funded by the Servizio Sismico Nazionale (National Seismic Survey) of Italy, this report documents the results of a study to develop procedures for earthquake emergency response planning for Italian hospitals. The project was conducted as part of a larger cooperative program conducted by NSS and ATC to develop recommendations to improve hospital seismic safety in Italy. The program's collaborative recommendations are based on the perspectives, experience, and knowledge of specialists (from both countries) in earthquake engineering, hospital seismic safety, and hospital regulation. Price: \$55 per copy plus shipping and sales tax (see below).

The ATC-57 report, *The Missing Piece: Improving Seismic Design and Construction Practices* is now available. Funded by the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the result of an industry collaborative effort, this report defines a much-expanded problem-focused knowledge development, synthesis, and transfer program to improve seismic design and construction practices. The report was developed to provide a framework for eliminating the technology transfer gap that has emerged within the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) that limits the adaptation of basic research knowledge into practice. This gap was identified during the NEHRP strategic planning process undertaken by the Federal Emergency Management Agency from 1998 to 2001. The report also contains six issue papers commissioned to develop initial recommendations and needed background information, including a discussion on how technology transfer works in this industry and a history of the decline in engineering and construction productivity in the United States. Price: \$40 per copy plus shipping and sales tax (see below).

Copies of the ATC-51-1 and ATC-57 reports can be obtained from the Applied Technology Council, 201 Redwood Shores Parkway, Suite 240, Redwood City, CA 94065 (phone 650/595-1542, web site [www.ATCCouncil.org](http://www.ATCCouncil.org)). Please contact ATC for the cost of shipping, and for shipments within California, add applicable local sales tax.

## Announcements

### WSSPC Annual Conference

The Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC) Annual Conference will be held September 20-24, 2003, in Portland, Oregon. Its theme is *Toward Earthquake Loss Reduction: Developing Effective Communication, Realistic Strategies, and Successful Mitigation Actions for Your Community*.

In response to the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, many communities in the western states are preparing mitigation plans. The WSSPC conference will identify communities in which citizens have worked successfully to communicate their concerns to policy makers who have taken actions to identify and mitigate their seismic risks. The conference will focus on the process to achieve earthquake loss reduction by bringing members of several successful communities together to discuss how they carried out this process.

The WSSPC conference web site at [www.wsspc.org/events/ac2003/index.htm](http://www.wsspc.org/events/ac2003/index.htm) contains the latest conference information.

### ISET Journal Call for Papers

The Indian Society of Earthquake Technology (ISET) invites papers for its quarterly publication, *ISET Journal of Earthquake Technology*. This journal is primarily read by about 1300 ISET members.

Submissions to the *ISET Journal* are reviewed by three international experts, and editorial decisions are made within two to three months.

For additional information about the *ISET Journal*, visit [home.iitk.ac.in/~vinaykg/iset.html](http://home.iitk.ac.in/~vinaykg/iset.html).

## Announcements

### Emergency Managers Conference

The International Association of Emergency Managers 51st Annual Conference and EMEX Exhibit occurs November 14-20, 2003, at the Rosen Centre in Orlando, Florida. Session topics include the following:

- Public health and emergency management
- Profiles of successful corporate emergency management programs
- Pediatric considerations in disaster preparedness
- Improving performance of response teams
- Military resources for disaster preparedness
- The latest in emergency management research

This event showcases the dialogue needed in our communities on disaster preparedness issues, stressing the importance of collaboration between the public and private sectors. For more information, visit [www.iaem.com](http://www.iaem.com).

### IBHS Congress on Loss Reduction

The Institute for Business and Home Safety holds an Annual Congress on Natural Hazard Loss Reduction that brings together professionals in the insurance industry, emergency management, government agencies, and academic institutions for the purpose of discussing the latest developments in natural hazard mitigation. The 2003 Annual IBHS Congress will be held November 12-13, 2003, in Orlando, Florida. This year's theme is "Taking the Lead in Property Loss Reduction." Examples of scheduled sessions include:

- Property casualty rating criteria and the importance of loss mitigation
- The small business owner and disaster preparedness
- An analysis of loss reduction benefits to building code improvements
- Bridging the gap: a new database to link construction practices with insured loss

For registration information, visit [www.ibhs.org](http://www.ibhs.org).

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## Call for Abstracts

### AGU Session on Earthquake Alerting Systems

Abstracts are solicited for Special Session S14 of the American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, to be held December 8-12, 2003, in San Francisco, entitled *Earthquake Alerting Systems: From Rapid Hazard Determination to Societal Response*. Short-term seismic hazard mitigation is potentially provided by earthquake early-warning systems, which offer seconds to tens of seconds of warning of pending ground motion. Various approaches to hazard determination have been developed for different earthquake-prone regions including Mexico, Japan, Taiwan, and the United States. Effective warning systems also require integrated alerting, response, and educational programs to ensure the warning is received and understood. This session will bring together researchers interested in all aspects of earthquake early warning. Abstracts are encouraged on topics including, but not limited to, earthquake nucleation processes, event detection, ground motion prediction, hazard communication, earthquake engineering, and control engineering. The deadline for submission is September 4, 2003, 1400 UT at [www.agu.org/meetings/fm03/](http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm03/). For more information, contact Richard Allen ([rallen@geology.wisc.edu](mailto:rallen@geology.wisc.edu)) or Yih-Min Wu ([ym.wu@socamil.cwb.gov.tw](mailto:ym.wu@socamil.cwb.gov.tw)).

## 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

#### SEPTEMBER

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

15-20. Association of Engineering Geologists 2003 Annual Meeting, Vail, CO. Info: [www.aegweb.org](http://www.aegweb.org) (5/03)

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

**20-24. Western States Seismic Policy Council Annual Conf.**, Portland, OR. See page 6. (9/03)

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

**25-26. ASCE Earthquake-Induced Ground Motions short course**, Sacramento, CA. See page 5. (9/03)

30-October 2. Pan-Pacific Symposium for Earthquake Engineering Collaboration, Ibaraki, Japan. Info: [iitsuka@bosai.go.jp](mailto:iitsuka@bosai.go.jp) (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](http://www.aua.am) (10/02)

3-5. Int'l Seismic Instrument and Emergency Rescue Equipment Exhibition, Beijing, China. Info: [www.exh.dizhen.ac.cn](http://www.exh.dizhen.ac.cn) (date recently changed) (3/03, 6/03)

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

23-24. ATC Seminar on Seismic Design, Performance, and Retrofit of Nonstructural Components in Critical Facilities, Newport Beach, CA. Info: [www.ATCCouncil.org](http://www.ATCCouncil.org) (7/03)

29-31. World Conf. on Disaster Management, Infrastructure, and Control Systems, Hyderabad, India. Info: [www.schanisj.com](http://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/](http://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](http://isrse.pdc.org) (6/03)

**12-13. Inst. for Business & Home Safety Annual Congress on Natural Hazard Loss Reduction**, Orlando, FL. See page 6. (9/03)

13-15. 1st Int'l Conf. on Structural Health Monitoring, Tokyo, Japan. Info: [www.civil.ibaraki.ac.jp/shmii/](http://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](mailto:spgupta@bits-pilani.ac.in) (7/03)

**14-20. Int'l Association of Emergency Managers Annual Conf.**, Orlando, FL. See page 6. (9/03)

19-22. 14th Mexican Nat'l Conf. on Earthquake Engineering, León-Guanajuato, México. Info: [www.smis.org.mx](http://www.smis.org.mx) (4/03)

#### DECEMBER

**8-12. AGU Fall Meeting**, San Francisco, CA. See page 6. (9/03)

8-9. ACI Seismic Bridge Design and Retrofit Conf. La Jolla, CA. Info: [www.aci-int.org](http://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/easesc9](http://www.si.itb.ac.id/easesc9) (10/02)

### 2004

#### FEBRUARY

**4-7. EERI Annual Meeting**, Los Angeles, CA. See page 1. (9/03)

9-11. 4th Nat'l Conf. on Bridges and Highways, Memphis, TN. Info: [www.conferences.uiuc.edu/seismic](http://www.conferences.uiuc.edu/seismic) (8/03)

19-21. World Conf. on Natural Disaster Mitigation, New Delhi, India. Info: [www.wfeo-cee.org](http://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](http://www.umn.edu/~eqconf/5thCHConf) (1/03, 3/03)

#### MAY

22-26. Structures 2004, Nashville, TN. Info: [www.asce.org/conferences/structures2004/](http://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](http://www.engconfintl.org/4ab.html) (12/02)

#### AUGUST

1-6. 13th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Info: [www.13wcee.com](http://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)

## News of the Membership

### EPS Moves to Vallejo

EERI subscribing member Earthquake Protection Systems, Inc. (EPS), designer and manufacturer of friction pendulum seismic isolation bearings, has relocated to a new facility on Mare Island in Vallejo, California. The new facility allows the firm to expand its manufacturing capacity. Its new address is 451 Azuar Drive, Building 759, Mare Island, Vallejo, CA 94592, phone 707/644-5993, fax: 707/644-5995.

## News of the Institute

### New EERI Committee on Ethics

The EERI Ethics Committee was formed in 2002 to advance EERI's commitment to increase awareness and discussion of ethical issues in the field of earthquake risk reduction. The goal of the committee is to serve as a resource to assist members of EERI and others to improve recognition, understanding, and application of ethical principles in their work.

The committee is not charged with the development or enforcement of codes of ethics. However, if requested, the committee could be used as a resource for reviewing ethics-based policies for Institute activities. At this time, committee members are Peter Somers (chair), Bruce Clark (Board contact), Scott Civjan, Patricia Grossi, and Craig Taylor.

The precursor to the formation of the committee was the publication in 1998 of the EERI Endowment Fund white paper entitled *Ethical Issues and Earthquake Risk Reduction*. As a follow-up to the white paper, a web-based case study program was developed as an Endowment Fund

project. This program, called *Ethical Dilemmas in Earthquake Risk Reduction*, began in 1999 with the goal of presenting case studies on the EERI web site for visitor input and comments in a semi-interactive forum. In 2002, the web-based program became the basis for the formation of the Ethics Committee. At this time, the web project is the only activity of the Ethics Committee, but potential future projects are being considered.

Since its inception, the web project has developed 11 case studies, which are summarized on the web site ([www.eeri.org](http://www.eeri.org)). The project involves presenting case studies of hypothetical ethical dilemmas, and asking visitors to respond to questions and to rate possible actions. Some specifics of the program are as follows:

- The goal is to develop three to four cases a year.
- Suggested cases come from several sources, including web-site visitors, the Ethics Committee, and a review board (who are not necessarily members of the Ethics Committee).
- Cases are developed by the project manager and then sent to the review board to evaluate the appro-

priateness and relevancy of the situation and to ensure that the hypothetical case does not appear to closely represent an actual situation.

- Visitors to the web site fill out a response form, which is sent through EERI's server to the project manager. The responses are anonymous, but general information such as respondent's profession can be included.
- At the end of the posting period, typically three to six months, the project manager compiles the results and prepares a response summary that will go through the review board and be posted on the web site along with the next case study.
- Previous case studies are stored on the web site for reference.

The Ethics Committee is open to EERI members who are interested in the study of ethical issues relating specifically to the practice of earthquake engineering. Committee members are expected to contribute to the case study project either by suggesting topics or commenting on topics suggested by others. The committee meets during EERI Annual Meetings but otherwise conducts business via e-mail. For more information, contact Peter Somers at [pws@skilling.com](mailto:pws@skilling.com).



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