News of the Institute

Special EERI Activities at the 100th Anniversary Earthquake Conference

Mark your calendar for the following EERI events that will take place during the 100th Anniversary Earthquake Conference in San Francisco.

Monday, April 17, 5:00-6:15 p.m.: EERI Student Member/Industry Reception, Westin St. Francis Elizabethan D Room

Monday, April 17, 6:30-8:00 p.m., 8NCEE Opening Night Reception and Poster Session, Westin St. Francis California/Elizabethan Rooms

Wednesday, April 19, 12:30–2:00 p.m., EERI Annual Business Meeting (see below for more information), Moscone Esplanade Ballroom

Wednesday, April 19, 7:30–9:30 p.m., EERI Festive Banquet and Musicale, Westin St. Francis Grand Ballroom

Thursday, April 20, 12:00–2:00 p.m., EERI Annual Honors Luncheon and Distinguished Lecture (see below for more information), San Francisco Marriott Yerba Buena Ballroom

Thursday, April 20, 6:00–7:30 p.m., Major Donor and Subscribing Members Reception, Westin St. Francis, St. Francis Suite

8NCEE Technical Concurrent Sessions are scheduled for the following times at the Moscone Convention Center:

- Tuesday, April 18, 2:00–5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 19, 10:30–12:00 noon and 2:00–5:30 p.m.
- Thursday, April 20, 10:30–12:00 noon and 2:00–5:30 p.m.
- Friday, April 21, 8:30–10:00 a.m.

To find papers being presented in all technical concurrent sessions, visit the online itinerary planner at http://submissions.miracd.com/8ncee/itinerary. The planner is searchable by title keyword, author name, author institution, review category, session day, session time, and session name. If you search by session day only, you will get a display of everything scheduled for that day in chronological order. Posters will be on display for the entire day they are assigned; the time shown in the itinerary planner indicates when authors should be available at the poster for discussion.

If you have not already done so and plan to attend the conference, please register as soon as possible at http://www.1906eqconf.org.

A printed program will be provided to all attendees when they first arrive at the meeting. An Annual Meeting packet listing EERI committee meetings and locations in the hotel, along with final agendas for the Annual Business

continued on page 2

Designed by Swiss architect Mario Botta, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art has been a landmark of the South of Market District since 1995. It will be the site of the all-conference Anniversary Reception Celebration, Tuesday, April 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (photo: Mary Sullivan)
Special EERI Activities at 100th Anniversary Conference

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Meeting and Honors Luncheon, will be provided at the EERI Opening Night Reception at the Westin St. Francis Hotel.

The preliminary agenda for the EERI Annual Business Meeting during lunch on Wednesday includes reports by EERI's president and treasurer, the introduction of the 2006 Board of Directors, presentation of certificates and plaques, the Northern California Chapter Awards for Innovation and Exemplary Practice in Earthquake Risk Reduction, retiring board member and committee chair recognition, and the Earthquake Spectra Outstanding Paper Award.

The preliminary agenda for the EERI Annual Honors Luncheon on Thursday includes the following presentations: the Shamsher Prakash Award for Young Engineers to Juan Pestana, the Shah Family Innovation Prize to Rebekah Green, Honorary Membership to Loring A. Wyllie, Jr., and William Petak, the Housner Medal to Paul Jennings, and the 2006 EERI Distinguished Lecture by Kathleen Tierney.

EERI committee meetings with continental breakfasts are scheduled at the following times in the Westin St. Francis: Tuesday, April 8, 7:00–8:5 a.m.; Wednesday, April 9, 7:00–8:00 a.m.; and Thursday, April 20, 7:00–8:00 a.m.

The Heritage and Existing Structures Committee (HESCO) welcomes all to attend its meeting on Wednesday, April 9, 7:00-8:00 a.m. The main topics will be (1) the results of the experimental work conducted for the J. Paul Getty Museum on seismic protection of art objects, (2) development of web-based resources, (3) participation in the 2007 EERI conference, and (4) new publication-based initiatives. If you would like more information on HESCO’s activities or would like to join its mailing list, e-mail HESCO’s chair, Debra Lafefer at debra.laefer@ucd.ie.

Obituary

California State Senator Alfred Alquist, 1908-2006

Retired California State Senator Alfred Alquist, a pragmatic politician who represented Santa Clara County as a Democrat in the state legislature for 34 years, died March 27 of pneumonia. He was 97.

Alquist had a long and distinguished career supporting earthquake safety in the legislature. His name remains prominent in the earthquake field through the annual awards named after him, bestowed by the California Earthquake Safety Foundation.

Alquist spearheaded the state of California’s great involvement in the earthquake problem. In 1968, he picked up the ideas in the classic book Earthquake Hazard in the San Francisco Bay Area: A Continuing Problem in Public Policy by Karl Steinbrugge (EERI Past President 1968-69). Alquist formed the Joint Committee on Seismic Safety on a shoestring budget in 1969. The San Fernando earthquake of 1971 gave his effort additional momentum.

He was also responsible for legislation that created both the state Energy Commission and the state’s Department of Information Technology. During most of his 30-year tenure in the upper house, Alquist chaired the powerful Budget Committee.

Senator Alquist was born in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1908, and had a 40-year career with Southern Pacific as a railroad dispatcher and yardmaster, an experience that inspired his career-long affinity with blue-collar workers and their struggles. It also contributed to the hearing loss that plagued him in the twilight of his legislative career.

Sen. Alquist died on the 3th anniversary of his marriage to his... continued on page 6
PERI Scholarship Recipients

The following individuals received scholarships from the Public Entity Risk Institute (PERI) to help them attend the 100th Anniversary Earthquake Conference (see page 2 of the February Newsletter for more information). The amounts of the awards are $1,000 for attendees requiring air transportation, $600 for San Francisco Bay Area residents.

Curt Andrews, City of Othello (WA) Building Dept.
James Baker, Santa Clara County Planning Office, San Jose, CA
Mohsen Beikae, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Coleen Bell, Oakland (CA) Fire Dept./Office of Emergency Services
Brent Blackman, Insight Engineers Business Resumption Team, Los Angeles, CA
Eric Browning, Los Angeles County (CA) Office of Public Works
Peggy Brutsche, American Red Cross, Greater Long Beach (CA) Chapter
Dory Ehrlich, Berkeley (CA) Fire Dept/Office of Emergency Services
Roy Fewell, City of La Habra (CA) Building Dept.
Shubhada Gadkar, Gov. of Maharashtra, Public Works, Mumbai, India
Rob Gayle, Project Management Capital Projects, UC Berkeley
Grace Harper, City of Los Angeles (CA) Building Dept.
Joyce Harris, LA County (CA) Office of Emergency Management
Rosa Hernandez, Imperial County Office of Emergency Services, CA
Jim Hodges, Livermore (CA) Building Division
Mohammed Islam, California Dept. of Transportation, Sacramento, CA
Mark Johnsson, California Coastal Commission, San Francisco, CA
Roméo Lavarias, City of Miramar (FL), Fire Rescue Dept.
Doug Litchfield, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Carol Lopes, City of Berkeley (CA) Fire Dept.
Zeenat Mackwani, Focus Humanitarian Assistance, Falls Church, VA
Tracy Monk, Families for School Seismic Safety, Vancouver, Canada
Sarah Nathe, UC Berkeley, Disaster-Resistant University
Linden Nishinaga, Long Beach (CA) Dept. of Public Works
Paul Olsen, San Diego (CA) County Office of Emergency Services
Bishnu Hari Pandey, UN Centre for Regional Development, Disaster Management Planning Office, Kobe, Japan
Mohammed Abu Sadeque, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, Disaster Management Bureau, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Christine Shaff, Facilities Services, UC Berkeley
Vernon Takasuka, Dept. of Building Inspection, San Francisco, CA
Mark Treuge, City of Salinas (CA), Fire/Building Planning
Mark Wilde, City of Santa Barbara, CA
Jay Wilson, Oregon Emergency Management, Earthquake & Tsunami Program, Salem, Oregon
Harold Wolgamott, City of Gonzales (CA) Fire Services

Hugo Rojas, Memphis University
Abouzar Sadrekarimi, Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Sonia Sorabella*, Tufts University
Matthew Speicher, Georgia Tech
Taronne Tabucchi, Cornell University
Cenk Tort, Univ. of Minnesota
Aidcer Vidot-Vega, North Carolina State University
W. J. Wang, Univ. of Missouri-Rolla
Majid Yarandi, Univ. of Ottawa

*Indicates partial funding provided by COSMOS
News of the Profession

NEES Blind Prediction Contest

The School of Engineering at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD), the Portland Cement Association (PCA) of Skokie, Illinois, and the NEES Consortium Inc. (NEESInc) have announced a blind prediction contest, open to teams from the practicing structural engineering community, the academic and research community (including graduate students), and the undergraduate engineering student community (with graduate student or faculty advisors).

The prediction contest will compare analytical response “predictions” with those measured during experimental testing on a full-scale vertical slice of a seven-story reinforced concrete wall building that was subjected to earthquake ground motions on the new NEES large high-performance outdoor shake table. It is located at UCSD’s Engelkirk Structural Engineering Center. All predictions are due by May 5, 2006. There will be three categories of winners and PCA will award a $2,500 prize to each winning team. Details regarding the contest rules, the structure, and the ground motions can be found at http://nees.ucsd.edu/7Story.html.

NEESInc will also reimburse a representative of the winning team from each of the three award categories allowable travel expenses to attend the NEES Annual Meeting in Washington D.C., June 21-23, 2006 (http://www.nees.org/4am/).

In addition, all entries will be compiled and compared at a technical session at the NEES Annual Meeting, and NEESInc will reimburse registration fees for a representative from up to eight teams in each of the three categories who submit a complete prediction by the May 15 deadline. Results will be presented anonymously, except for those of the “winning” entries from each contestant category. The technical session at the NEES Annual Meeting will focus on relevant lessons learned regarding modeling uncertainty, practical needs for improved simulation capabilities or training, and the merits of large-scale testing.

News of the Profession

New Disaster Risk Management Tool

The Pacific Disaster Center (PDC) in Hawaii, in partnership with the Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative (EMI), has developed and launched the Internet-accessible Megacity Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Base. This risk communication tool is accessible on the web at www.pdc.org/emi.

Its purpose is to document, organize, and share disaster risk management practices and systems that are in place within many of the world’s most complex and disaster-prone urban areas.

The PDC, EMI, and partners from the Disaster Risk Management Research Center in Kobe, Japan, are working with contributors who actively participate in EMI programs (www.earthquakesandmegacities.org). The goal of the partners is to collect and share disaster risk-management city profiles and sound practices for each of the participating cities.

The Knowledge Base is part of EMI’s Cross-Cutting Capacity Development (“3cd”) Program for Megacities, launched in Manila, the Philippines; Mumbai, India; and Kathmandu, Nepal. Under the partnership, 3cd program experts worked closely with the PDC to take the Knowledge Base from a concept to reality.

The tool increases the understanding of disaster risk and facilitates the sharing of knowledge among the international user community by providing wider access and enhanced data-mining capabilities.

To contribute a disaster management sound practice or to learn more about the Knowledge Base and the 3cd Program, visit the website or contact Jeannette Fernández, project manager, Pacific Disaster Center, at jfernandez@pdc.org.
Subscribing Member News

About ImageCat, Inc.

New EERI Bronze Subscribing Member ImageCat, Inc., is an international risk management innovation company whose mission is to support global risk and disaster management needs using advanced technologies. As a leading provider of these technologies, ImageCat is highly regarded for cutting-edge products, consultancy services, and R&D activities targeting decision support needs at all phases of the disaster management cycle.

ImageCat is headquartered in Long Beach, California, with a European office in London, England. Since its establishment in 2000, ImageCat has helped government agencies, industry clients, and research organizations prepare for and respond to disasters including Hurricane Katrina; the Indian Ocean tsunami; the Northridge, Bam and Niigata earthquakes; and 9/11. ImageCat is a FEMA-appointed HAZUS-MH vendor.

ImageCat has two major divisions focusing on (1) remote sensing and GIS, and (2) loss estimation, engineering, and transportation modeling. For more information about flagship products and services, including the recently launched 3DCity™ visualization and structural information program, visit http://www.imagecatinc.com/.

ImageCat President and CEO Ronald T. Eguchi has been an active member of EERI since 1976. He is a core member of the Institute’s Seismic Risk Committee, a member of the EERI Bilateral Commission for Australia, a past member of the editorial board of Earthquake Spectra, a member of the Learning from Earthquakes Data Collection and Management Committee, and a member of the Information Technology Committee, where he also chairs the Remote Sensing Subcommittee. In addition, he was among those who received an EERI Special Recognition Award for his contribution to the development of the report Securing Society against Catastrophic Earthquake Losses: A Research and Outreach Plan in Earthquake Engineering.

Subscribing Member Posting

Senior Research Scientist

EERI Subscribing Member FM Global is a global commercial and industrial property loss prevention firm. Its Norwood, Massachusetts, office seeks a senior research scientist to be responsible for analyzing data, planning and conducting research regarding natural hazards and catastrophes, the resulting response of structures, and subsequent property losses. Requirements: a Ph.D. with 5+ years or a master of science degree with 0+ years of experience in natural hazards and resulting property loss; familiarity with databases and data integration issues; a significant research record; knowledge of mathematical and numerical modeling; probability and statistics; and project management skills.


For information on becoming a Subscribing Member, visit www.eeri.org.

News of the Membership

Miranda Receives ASCE Moisseiff Award

EERI member Eduardo Miranda is this year’s recipient of the American Society of Civil Engineering’s Moisseiff Award. This prize is given to an important paper in the field of structural design published by the Society in the 12-month period ending in June.

Professor Miranda received his Ph.D. at the University of California at Berkeley and now teaches at Stanford University. He shares the award with his doctoral student, Shahram Taghavi.

The award was given for two papers that appeared in the February 2005 issue of the ASCE Journal of Structural Engineering, “Approximate Floor Acceleration Demands in Multi-Story Buildings, Parts I & 2.”

Professor Miranda’s work is of particular interest to engineers who are trying to advance the state of the practice. Besides these two papers already mentioned, he has written about the behavior of nonlinear systems excited by near-fault ground motion, and has helped on ATC-55 as well as many other projects.
Call for Abstracts

Congress of Seismology

The Second Latin American Congress of Seismology will take place in Bogotá, Colombia, August 8–12, 2006, with the theme “Volcanic and Seismic Hazards for Big Cities.” Geoscientists will focus on recent advances in seismology and geophysics regarding seismic and volcanic hazards in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is May 7, 2006. For information about suggested topics, visit http://www.geoslac.org/congreso/english/index.html. For submission information, e-mail Carlos Alberto Vargas Jimenez at cavargasj@unal.edu.co.

Conference on Case Histories in Geotechnical Engineering

The University of Missouri-Rolla will hold the 6th International Conference on Case Histories in Geotechnical Engineering from August 6-9, 2008, in Washington, D.C. Ten themes will be explored during the conference, including “Case Histories and Failures of Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering.” There will also be a symposium in honor of Professor James K. Mitchell.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is November 1, 2006. For more information, visit http://campus.umr.edu/6icchge/index.html. The technical contact is Dr. Shamsher Prakash, conference director, at prakash@umr.edu.

Announcements

ICEE in Pakistan

The Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan, is sponsoring an International Conference on Earthquake Engineering September 8-9, 2006. The main topics will be engineering seismology, geotechnical aspects in construction of engineering structures, low-cost earthquake-resistant houses, challenges in design and construction of multistory buildings, rehabilitation and retrofitting of structures, codes of practice and construction standards, lightweight and high-strength materials, the effect of earthquakes on hydraulic structures, and temporary shelters for homeless people after disasters. For registration information, visit http://www.uet.edu.pk/icee/.

Tall Buildings Meeting

The Los Angeles Tall Buildings Structural Design Council (LATBSDC) will have its 2006 annual meeting on Friday, May 5, 2006, in Los Angeles at the University of Southern California’s Davidson Executive Conference Center. The theme of this year’s meeting is “Alternative Design Procedures for Tall Buildings.”

Current and proposed building codes are not written specifically for tall buildings and therefore impose many prescriptive requirements that make their design unnecessarily difficult and economically challenging. The meeting will focus attention on those code requirements and on the performance of tall buildings in a seismically active environment. Performance-based earthquake engineering will be highlighted, and the LATBSDC will present its alternative design criteria for consideration.

Scheduled speakers include EERI members Paul Somerville, Jack Moehle, Helmut Krawinkler, Gary Searer, Graham Powell, Kenneth Elwood, and Farzad Naeim.

For registration information, visit www.tallbuildings.org or e-mail gbrandow@bjase.com.

8CONVESIS


Conference topics include education and prevention, institutional reinforcement, seismology, geotechnical and soil-structure interaction, seismic microzoning, modern prediction techniques, evaluation and rehabilitation of structures, vulnerability and seismic risk, and disaster management.

The Conference Secretariat has organized two technical tours on Monday, May 15, and three pre-conference courses. The official language of the conference is Spanish. No translation into other languages will be provided. For instructions and further information, visit www.uc.edu.ve/ or e-mail viiiconvesis@yahoo.es.

Alfred Alquist

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second wife, Elaine, who now occupies the Senate seat he held. He is also survived by a son, two step-sons, and five grandchildren.

A memorial and celebration of his life will be held Sunday, April 2, 2006, at 3:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of Faith in San Jose.

A Senate memorial and reception are scheduled for Monday, April 24, 2006, in the Senate Chambers at the State Capitol in Sacramento.
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.

APRIL
5-7. Midwest Regional Tech. Sem. on Safety Evaluation of Existing Dams, Indianapolis, IN. Info: www.damsafety.org (2/06)
17-22. 100th Anniversary EQ Conf., San Francisco, CA. Info: www.1906eqconf.org. See pages 1. (5/05, 6/05, 7/05, 8/05, 9/05, 10/05, 12/05, 1/06, 2/06, 3/06, 4/06)

MAY
19-21. SECTAM XXIII, Mayagüez, Puerto Rico. Info: civil.uprm.edu/sectam (10/05)
21-24. 5th UCLA Conf. on Public Health and Disasters, Long Beach, CA. Info: www.cphd.ucla.edu/ (9/05, 3/06)
31-June 2. 10th Int’l Conf. on Piling & Deep Fdns., Amsterdam, Netherlands. Info: www.pilinganddeepfoundations.com (12/05, 3/06)

JUNE
8-10. Int’l Sym. on Technology & Society, New York, NY. Info: www.ieee.org/ssit (12/05)
15-17. International Workshop on Base-Isolated High-Rise Buildings, Yerevan, Armenia. Info: kavaneso@aua.am (3/06)
18-21. 16th World Conf. on Disaster Management, Toronto, Canada. Info: www.wcdm.org (11/05)

JULY
11-13. 4th World Conference on Structural Control and Monitoring, University of California, San Diego. Info: www.usc.edu/4wscm (3/06)

AUGUST
8-12. 2nd Latin American Congress of Seismology, Bogotá, Colombia. See page 6. (4/06)
14-17. 5th Int’l Conf. on Behavior of Steel Structs. in Seismic Areas (STESSA), Tokyo, Japan. Info: www.serc.titech.ac.jp/stessa2006 (2/05)
27-Sep. 1. Int’l Disaster Reduction Conference, Davos, Switzerland. Info: www.davos2006.ch (2/06)

SEPTEMBER
3-8. 1st European Conf. on EQ Eng. & Seismology, Geneva, Switzerland. Info: www.ecees.org (1/05, 1/06)
8-9. Int. Conf. on Earthquake Engineering, Lahore, Pakistan. See page 6. (4/06)

OCTOBER
18-20. 5th Nat’l Seismic Conf. on Bridges and Highways, San Francisco, CA. Info: mceeer.buffalo.edu/meetings/5nsc/default.asp (1/06)
25-Oct. 7. 8th Wkshp. on 3-D Modeling of Seismic Wave Generation, Propagation, and Inversion, Miramare, Italy. Info: agenda.ictp.it/smcr.php?1775 (1/06)

2007
FEBRUARY
7-10 EERI Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA. (3/06).

JUNE

2008
AUGUST
Liel Wins Student Paper Competition

Abbie Liel

Abbie Liel, a graduate student researcher at Stanford University, captured the top prize in EERI's student paper competition with her paper, “Using Collapse Risk to Inform Seismic Safety Decisions: California’s Existing Reinforced Concrete Structures.” Liel has received a grant to attend the 100th Anniversary Earthquake Conference. Her paper explores the potential policy applications of earthquake engineering research in the context of the many nonductile concrete structures in California that may need retrofitting.

Simulation and calculation of a structure’s risk of collapse under seismic loading provide explicit measures of collapse risk, which can be used to compare the risks posed by different types of structures.

Liel observes that, historically, seismic safety legislation has been largely driven by damage in past earthquakes, which have triggered legislative action to mitigate a certain set of structural seismic hazards.

Metrics that enable assessment and comparison of collapse risk provide a mechanism for standardization and ranking in the seismic safety policy process. As an example, the paper assesses the collapse risk of an archetypical older concrete moment-frame structure using the framework of performance-based earthquake engineering.

EERI member Professor Gregory Deierlein is Liel’s advisor.

Subscribing Member News

EERI is pleased by the number of firms that have recently upgraded their levels of Subscribing Membership. Three companies have become Silver Subscribing Members: Exponent, Pacific Gas & Electric, and Risk Management Solutions. ABS Consulting has become Bronze, as have nine new members: BART, Bechtel, CRC Press, ImageCat, International Civil Engineering Consultants, the NEES Consortium, Parsons Brinckerhoff, Raito, and Weidlinger Associates.

Dues for Subscribing Membership levels are $10,000 (Gold), $5,000 (Silver), $3,000 (Bronze), and $2,400 (regular). All Subscribing Members are listed on the inside back cover of Spectra. Many have been steadfast for years, including Gold Subscribing Members Degenkolb Engineers, John A. Martin and Associates, and Kinemetrics, as well as Bronze ongoing members Forell/Elsesser Engineers, Geomatrix Consultants, KPFF Consulting Engineers, Refraction Technology, and Simpson Gumpertz and Heger.