



EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING RESEARCH INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

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News of the Institute

EERI Goes to the Mardi Gras!

In 2008, the final night of the Mardi Gras in New Orleans will fall on Fat Tuesday, February 5, one day before the opening reception of the EERI Annual Meeting at the Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel in the French Quarter. We urge you to plan ahead! If you're going to the Annual Meeting, make your reservations now and go a few days early to join in the Mardi Gras merriment! Most of the area hotels book rooms beginning in August. Take advantage of this opportunity to combine business with pleasure and experience how New Orleans celebrates Mardi Gras, like no other place in the world! For more information about Mardi Gras, including its history and traditions, visit www.mardigras-neworleans.com/ or www.neworleanscvb.com/.

The EERI room block at the Astor Crowne Plaza (1-800-684-1127) begins on Wednesday, February 6. The EERI special event group room rate is \$139 plus tax. *You may be required to pay a higher rate on nights during Mardi Gras.* When making reservations, provide code "EER." Online reservations can be made from a link on EERI's home page, www.eeri.org.



2006 Mardi Gras float (photo: New Orleans Metropolitan Convention and Visitor's Bureau).

Honors Committee Seeks Award Nominations

EERI's Honors Committee is charged with recommending members for several awards. The committee greatly depends on nominations submitted to it by the members of the Institute. The committee now needs members' help in identifying worthy members whose contributions should be recognized.

Please nominate candidates for the George W. Housner Medal, the newly created Special Recognition Award, and Honorary Membership. In addition, please nominate authors who deserve the 2006 Outstanding Paper award for *Earthquake Spectra*. All nominations should be accompanied by a brief justification, and they must be received by **October 1, 2007**, so the Honors Committee can complete its deliberations and forward its recommendations to the Board of Directors.

continued on page 2

News of the Institute

Shah Prize Nominations

Do you know a young academic or professional who deserves recognition for current accomplishments and future potential? EERI is seeking nominations of eligible candidates, age 35 years or less on January 1, 2008, for the Shah Family Innovation Prize, which rewards creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurial spirit in the field of earthquake risk mitigation and management. The annual prize was created in 1998 with a substantial gift to the EERI Endowment Fund by the Hareesh Shah family of Stanford, California.

EERI membership is not required for either the nominator or candidate. A nomination package must be received in the EERI office by November 30, 2007. It should consist of a one-page nomination statement summarizing the accomplishments

and background of the individual, and names and contact information for two references other than the nominator.

Individuals will be recognized for a combination of past accomplishments and future potential, such as exceptional leadership or creative problem solving within an earthquake-related profession; innovative research that has the potential to influence practice significantly; or public entrepreneurship in having advocated, designed, or delivered a risk mitigation program. The award will be based on the degree to which the individual fits the desired overall profile of creativity, innovation, and a demonstrated entrepreneurial spirit, rather than a single accomplishment or product.

The recipient of the Shah Prize will be invited to the February 2008 awards luncheon during the EERI Annual Meeting in New Orleans.

For information about past recipients and selection committee members,

visit http://www.eeri.org/home/honors_shah_innovation.html.

Honors Committee

continued from page 1

All of the awards will be presented at EERI's Annual Meeting in New Orleans in February 2008. Send your nominations to the Honors Committee at the EERI office or electronically to Eloise Gilland (eloise@eeri.org). Past Distinguished Lecturers, Honorary Members, and Housner Medal recipients are listed on page ii of the EERI Roster.

The first recipients of the Special Recognition Award were S. C. (Chi) Liu of the National Science Foundation and William (Bill) Anderson of the Division on Earth and Life Studies in the National Academies of the National Research Council. Complete descriptions of each award can be found at <http://www.eeri.org/home/honors.html>.

NEES News

EERI-NEES Webinar

On October 9, 2007, EERI and NEES will be co-hosting a free webinar on reducing earthquake risk by improving the design and construction of underground lifelines. For more information on the webinar, visit www.nees.org.

A team of NSF-funded researchers from Cornell University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), and the Sciencenter in Ithaca, New York, with PI Tom O'Rourke and co-PIs Mike O'Rourke, Harry Stewart, Mike Symans and Kathy Krafft, are assessing ground rupture effects on buried pipelines and conduits used for water, natural gas, liquid fuel, electricity, and telecommunications.

Underground lifelines play a crucial role in emergency services after an earthquake. During the 1906 San

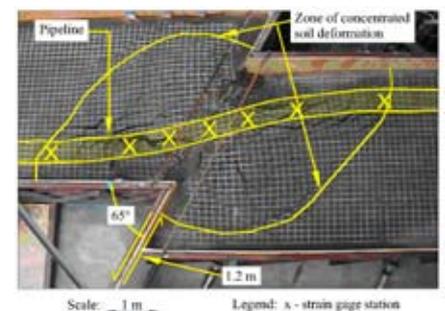
Francisco earthquake, water supply pipelines were ruptured by liquefaction-induced ground movements. The resulting water loss contributed significantly to the largest single fire disaster in U.S. history. Modern pipelines composed of steel and high-density polyethylene (HDPE) now have the ductility for increased resistance to surface faulting, liquefaction, and landslips.

At the Cornell site, strike-slip movement of 1.2 m is generated in a test basin filled with 100 tons of soil, to simulate ground rupture effects on conventional steel and HDPE pipelines. The Cornell experiments, which allow for detailed assessment of pipe stress and deformation, are complemented by centrifuge tests at RPI, which expand and generalize the findings. Test results show that HDPE is effective in resisting quake-induced ground rupture because it can stretch and deform without breaking.

To find out more about this project, visit <http://nees.cornell.edu/NEESR.htm>.



Testing of HDPE pipe for fault offset.



Closer view of 1.2 m fault offset.

News of the Profession

Oregon Needs Assessment

Results from the recently released report on earthquake risk levels for schools and emergency facilities suggest that Oregon's civic infrastructure is facing a serious seismic risk. Of the buildings evaluated, 38% are in the very high risk category, while 21% are high risk, 30% at moderate risk; and 10% are at low risk. In addition, 48 buildings are at moderate-to-high risk of tsunami inundation from a Cascadia megquake.

With a project budget of \$598,000, the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) evaluated 3,349 public elementary, middle, and high schools; community colleges; and emergency buildings, including police, fire, and acute care hospitals; using cost-effective methods. The results include a building database with building age, structural type, building irregularities, geologic hazard, and financial needs data. The median ages of buildings for kindergarten to high school, fire and police, and community college are 63, 74, and 75 years, respectively. The report provides a comprehensive overview of the need for strengthening buildings that are especially important to the welfare of communities.

The next steps involve shared responsibility between government and community members in which community members and building owners conduct structural evaluations of at-risk buildings, determine community priorities, and obtain non-state funds for seismic mitigation before seeking state grant funds. In addition, a new state grant program will be created to provide mitigation assistance to the highest-risk facilities with the highest financial need. This may include improving the preliminary building rankings using the

enhanced rapid visual screening methodology.

Partners on this project include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Portland State University Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, the Oregon State University Civil, Environmental and Construction Engineering Department, and the University of Oregon Architecture Department. The complete report is available at www.oregon-geology.com/sub/projects/rvs/default.htm.

Employment Opportunity

Hazards Center

The Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado is seeking a research assistant or postdoctoral scholar. This soft-money appointment is for one year with the possibility of extension for 2-3 years. The winning candidate will take a lead role in a project on preparedness among community-based and faith-based organizations providing services to at-risk populations in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Required: a Ph.D. in a social science discipline or a closely related field; knowledge of research methods, procedures, and techniques; experience coordinating field work teams; and two or more years of experience in field work related to hazards and disasters. Applications will be considered until the position is filled. Vitae, samples of written work, and three references should be e-mailed to Kathleen Tierney at tierneyk@colorado.edu. For more information, visit <http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/>.

Subscribing Member News

PBD DVD

EERI Subscribing Member Computers and Structures, Inc., has announced the availability of a DVD

set containing a six-hour, four-part lecture series by EERI member Graham H. Powell on nonlinear modeling and analysis for performance-based design (PBD). This lecture series provides an overview of PBD and its application. Topics include performance assessment using both static pushover analysis and nonlinear dynamic analysis; hysteresis loops and cyclic degradation; nonlinear models of frames and shear walls made of steel and concrete; fiber cross-sections, shear links, panel zones and braces; bending and shear behavior of walls, including coupled walls; ASCE 41 (FEMA 356) *Guidelines and Criteria*, and practical demonstrations using the PERFORM 3D® software. The DVD can be ordered for \$300 from http://www.csiberkeley.com/dvd_powell.html.

Kinematics New Products

EERI Subscribing Member Kinematics, Inc., of Pasadena, California, has introduced the third generation of OASIS system solution products designed to meet post-earthquake building occupancy resumption assessment needs. OASIS is a hardware and software system solution that provides real-time, online monitoring for continuous evaluation of structural integrity in response to an earthquake. It provides for the collection and processing of acceleration, velocity, displacement, and interstory drift data implemented for building monitoring. Soon after a major earthquake, real-time monitoring can provide key information to the responsible engineer in the decision-making process. It aids in the decision of whether or not to resume occupancy of that building or if a detailed inspection is required. It is ideal for critical structures and vital lifeline applications, and is expandable through networking. For more information about OASIS for pEQ-BORA, visit www.kinematics.com.

News of the Membership

Awards for Adeli

EERI member Hojjat Adeli, the Abba G. Lichtenstein Professor of Civil Engineering at Ohio State University (OSU), is the recipient of the 2007 Peter L. and Clara M. Scott Award for Excellence in Engineering Education "for sustained, exceptional, and multi-faceted contributions to numerous fields, including computer-aided engineering, knowledge engineering, computational intelligence, large-scale design optimization, and smart structures with worldwide impact." The award includes a \$5,000 cash prize.

Adeli was also presented with the OSU 2007 Charles E. MacQuigg Outstanding Teaching Award, named for a late dean of the College of Engineering and selected by its students. It is presented annually to faculty members who have outstanding teaching ability and have demonstrated a high level of interest in and willingness to help students.

Adeli received his B.S. engineering degree from the University of Tehran, Iran, and his Ph.D. from Stanford University. The recipient of numerous honors, he is the author of 420 publications, including 11 books, and is editor-in-chief and founder of the journals *Computer-Aided Civil and Infrastructure Engineering* and *Integrated Computer-Aided Engineering*, and is also editor-in-chief of *The International Journal of Neural Systems*.



Hojjat Adeli

Kanamori Awarded Kyoto Prize



Hiroo Kanamori

EERI member Hiroo Kanamori, professor emeritus of geophysics at the California Institute of Technology, is this year's recipient of the Kyoto Prize in basic sciences.

In the 1960s, the long-period seismometer made it possible to measure seismic waves over a wider range of periods, while computers made it easier to calculate waves based on complicated seismic source models. These advances allowed Kanamori to create a method to compare surface waves with those calculated using a seismic source model. His work has had a significant impact on plate tectonics, the theory of tsunami generation, and other

applications. In 1977, Kanamori introduced the "moment magnitude" scale to measure the magnitude of an earthquake. He also proposed a tsunami warning system that uses real-time analysis of long-period seismic waves and advocated the wide use of real-time seismology.

Kanamori earned a Ph.D. in geophysics from the University of Tokyo in 1964. He has been affiliated with Caltech since 1972. The Kyoto Prize presentation ceremony and related events will be held in Kyoto in November. The prize consists of a diploma, a 20K gold medal, and 50 million yen (approximately US\$400,000).

For more information, visit <http://www.inamori-f.or.jp/>.

OPAL Award Goes to Wyllie

EERI past president and honorary member Loring A. Wyllie, Jr., recently received the American Society of Civil Engineers 2007 Outstanding Projects and Leaders (OPAL) award for Lifetime Achievement in Design. Wyllie is senior principal and chairman emeritus of Degenkolb Engineers in San Francisco. With more than 35 years in the field, he was recognized for his dedication to seismic evaluation, analysis, and design of strengthening measures for improved seismic performance, with a focus on historic structures.



Loring A. Wyllie, Jr.

Wyllie previously served as president of the San Francisco Section of ASCE, president of the Structural Engineers Association of California (SEAOC), and director of the American Concrete Institute (ACI). In addition, he was elected to the California Council for Science and Technology, formed by the state legislature and sponsored by California universities to create more jobs in science and technology within the state. He is a former chairman of the California State Historic Building Safety Board.

Wyllie received both his bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. He has been the recipient of many awards and was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 1990. He is an honorary member of SEAONC, ACI, and ASCE.

Publications

Displacement-Based Seismic Design

Displacement-Based Seismic Design of Structures, by M.J.N. Priestley and EERI members G. M. Calvi and M. J. Kowalsky, is directed towards practicing structural engineers who are interested in applying performance-based concepts to seismic design.

The book considers a wide range of structural types and discusses conceptual problems with current force-based design, seismic input for displacement-based design (DBD), fundamentals of direct DBD, and analytical tools appropriate for DBD. The final chapters adapt the principles of DBD to assessment of existing structures, and present the design information in the form of a draft building code.

For more information and to place an order (\$126, €95) for this hard-cover book published by IUSS Press, visit www.iusspress.it.

Fluid Structure Interaction

WIT Press has issued a new publication entitled *Fluid Structure Interaction and Moving Boundary Problems IV*, which contains proceedings of the Fourth International Conference on Fluid Structure Interaction and Moving Boundary Problems held May 14-16, 2007, in the UK.

Papers are organized into areas such as hydrodynamic forces; offshore structure and ship dynamics; offshore engineering; and response of structures including fluid dynamics, computational methods, experimental studies and validation, and flow-induced vibrations.

The 368-page book can be purchased from www.witpressusa.com/acatalog/9781845640743.html for \$245 (UK£125.00, €187.50).

New Orleans Levee Report

An external review panel of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) has issued an 84-page report, *The New Orleans Hurricane Protection System: What Went Wrong and Why*. Written for both technical and general audiences, the report reviews the comprehensive work of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in order to improve understanding of the tragedy and prevent similar disasters from recurring. The report offers hope for all hurricane and flood-prone areas of the country.

The panel estimated that New Orleans residents' pre-Katrina risk was 1,000-fold higher than what is considered minimally acceptable for a major U.S. dam. Determining the factors that led to this high risk, such as the piecemeal development and disjointed oversight of the levee system, was a major goal of the ASCE panel and is an essential step to help the city make informed decisions about the future.

To purchase the \$29 report (\$21.75 for ASCE members), visit <https://www.asce.org/bookstore/book.cfm?book=7244>.

Tsunami Hazards

A book of proceedings entitled *Tsunami and Its Hazards in the Indian and Pacific Oceans* contains 20 contributions of leading scientists presented at the 2005 22nd International Tsunami Symposium in Greece, sponsored by the Tsunami Commission of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics. The 392-page volume presents findings based on hydrophone records, seismometer readings, and tide gauges. It includes reports of post-tsunami surveys and numerical simulations for tsunamis such as the 2004 Indian Ocean event, as well as geological studies of tsunamis in Japan and Central and

North America. Also described are probabilistic tsunami hazard analysis and tsunami warning systems, among others, as well as methods to predict tsunamis and mitigate their hazards.

Geared for tsunami research institutions, researchers in geophysics and related sciences, and graduate students, the book is available for \$69.95 from www.birkhauser.ch/978-3-7643-8363-3.

Emergency Management

The Public Entity Risk Institute (PERI), a nonprofit risk management training and educational organization, has published a book on the evolution of emergency management in the United States. *Emergency Management: The American Experience 1900-2005* examines major disasters that have occurred over the past century and explains how lessons learned have driven change in emergency management functions and systems over time.

Each chapter examines a time frame that was pivotal in the evolution of emergency management in the United States. The book focuses on policy and administrative changes, and addresses why the federal government got involved in emergency management, and how and why that role has changed. The goal of the book is to provide a historical perspective on the ongoing dialogue about how to improve the effectiveness of emergency management systems and to shed light on which systems are or are not working.

The book was edited by disaster researcher and consultant Claire B. Rubin. For a detailed table of contents, visit www.riskinstitute.org/PERI/PTR/. The book is available in the PERI online bookstore for \$35, including shipping and handling. A \$5 discount applies to students who purchase it as a textbook for a college course.

Call for Papers

14WCEE

The theme of the 14th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering (14WCEE), to be held in Beijing, China, October 12-17, 2008, is "Innovation, Practice, and Safety." The conference welcomes the submission of abstracts, no later than October 1, 2007. For a list of topic areas and online abstract submission instructions, visit <http://www.14wcee.org>.

The post-conference field trips will offer six options, each designed to allow the participants to better understand the development of earthquake disaster prevention in China and to enjoy the scenery and the coexistence of ancient and modern cultures.

Bridges & Highways

The Sixth National Seismic Conference on Bridges & Highways, with the theme "Seismic Technologies for Extreme Loads," will be held July 27-30, 2008, in Charleston, South Carolina. The key organizers are the Federal Highway Administration, the Transportation Research Board, the South Carolina Department of Transportation, and MCEER (University at Buffalo). Abstracts (200 words maximum) should be sent to 6NSC@scdot.org by October 1. For more information and for an abstract submission form, visit www.scdot.org/events/6NSC.

ICEER 2007

The International Network for Engineering Education and Research has issued a call for papers for the International Conference on Engineering Education and Research, scheduled for December 2-7, 2007, in Melbourne, Australia. The theme is "Innovations in Information and Communication Technologies." The submission deadline is July 9 for abstracts and August 13 for final papers. For information about con-

ference topics and online submission instructions, visit <http://enk.webstrikesolutions.com/vuconference/>.

ATC-JSCA Workshop

The Applied Technology Council (ATC) and the Japan Structural Consultants Association (JSCA) will host the 12th U.S.-Japan Workshop on Improvement of Structural Design and Construction Practices, September 10-12, 2007, in Kauai, Hawaii. The program includes technical presentations by structural engineering design practitioners and researchers from Japan and the United States, as well as working group discussions and several social functions. The primary focus will be on seismic design-related issues and sustainability of structures, including functionality in catastrophic events.

The program topics are performance-based seismic design of high-rise buildings; sustainability of structures and systems; functionality of structures in catastrophic events; and improved hazard mitigation activities. One-page abstracts should be e-mailed to atc@atcouncil.org by June 29.

ATC and JSCA are organizing this workshop without external funding. To download the workshop brochure, visit <http://www.atcouncil.org/pdfs/ATC15-11announcement.pdf>. To register, visit ATC's On-Line Store at www.atcouncil.org.

Announcements

DFI Conference

The Deep Foundations Institute (DFI) 2007 Annual Conference will take place October 11-13, 2007, in Colorado Springs. It will feature four plenary sessions over 3 days, on the topics of analysis, modeling, and design; quality deep foundations through testing; slope retention and ground improvements; and specialty

foundations and applications.

For more information about the program and to register, visit <http://www.dfi.org/conferencedetail.asp?id=80>.

WSSPC Conference

The 2007 Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC) Annual Conference will be held from September 30-October 3, 2007, in Reno, Nevada. The theme is "Risk Communication, Building Codes, and Consequences: The Future of Earthquake Safety in the United States." Topics will include earthquake provisions in the International Building Code; creating a new generation of effective earthquake safety, preparedness, and mitigation messages; performance-based engineering issues; and earthquake disaster scenarios for major cities in the U.S.

The joint WSSPC-ICC education session is eligible for continuing education credits. There will be a field trip to the seismological laboratories at the University of Nevada, Reno.

For more information and to register, visit www.wsspc.org/Conference.

ICTI 2008 in China

The International Society for Maintenance and Rehabilitation of Transport Infrastructures (iSMARTi) has joined with the China Association of Transportation Sciences to hold the First International Conference on Transport Infrastructure (ICTI 2008) April 24-26, 2008, in Beijing.

iSMARTi is dedicated to the maintenance and rehabilitation of the infrastructure assets of the transport system, including corridors, airports, roads, pavement, tunnels, bridges, railroads, ports, dockland, utilities, and multimodal facilities.

For more information and to register, visit <http://www.jtzx.net.cn/icti/>.

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**.

JULY

2-13. International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics General Assembly, Perugia, Italy. Info: www.iugg2007perugia.it (3/07)

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

30-Aug. 3. NEESIT Summer Institute, San Diego, CA. Info: http://it.nees.org/support/workshops/workshop_summer2007.php (5/07)

AUGUST

20-22. 1st Int'l Workshop on Performance, Protection, and Strengthening of Structures under Extreme Loading (Protect 2007), Whistler, BC, Canada. Info: www.civil.ubc.ca/protect2007/ (12/06, 6/07)

SEPTEMBER

3-7. International Conference on Engineering Education (ICEE-2007), Coimbra, Portugal. Info: www.ineer.org/Events/ICEE2007Info/Welcome.htm (1/07)

10-12. 12th US-Japan Workshop on Structural Design and Construction Practices, Kauai, Hawaii. See page 6. (7/07)

17-21. Roberts-Gerwick California Bridge Conference, Sacramento, CA. Info: www.asce-sacto.org/events.cfm?Item=341 (4/07)

18. Multi-Hazard Engineering Symposium, New York City. Info: <http://mceer.buffalo.edu/meetings/AEI/default.asp> (6/07)

26-29. SEAOC 2007 Convention, Lake Tahoe, CA. Info: www.seaocc.org/2007convention (2/07)

30-Oct. 3. Western States Seismic Policy Council Annual Conf.

Reno, Nevada. See page 6. (7/07)

OCTOBER

1-6. 12th IACMAG Conference, Goa, India. Info: www.12iacmag.com (4/07)

1-13. Ninth Workshop on Nonlinear Dynamics and Earthquake Prediction, Trieste, Italy. Info: <http://agenda/ictp.it/smr.php?1864> (2/07)

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

11-13. Deep Foundations Institute 2007 Annual Conf., Colorado Springs, CO. Info: www.dfi.org/conferencedetail.asp?id=80. See page 6. (12/06, 7/07)

16-20. 6th Turkish National Conference on EQ Engineering, Istanbul. Info: <http://www.6udmk.org.tr/6UDMK.ENG.DOC> (3/07)

NOVEMBER

6-8. 4th Annual Canadian Risk and Hazards Network (CRHNET) Symposium, Vancouver, BC. Info: www.jibc.ca/crhnet/papers/papers.htm (4/07)

23-25. AEES Conference, Wollongong University, New South Wales, Australia. Info: <http://www.aees.org.au/> (6/07)

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

DECEMBER

2-7. International Conference on Engineering Education and Research, Melbourne, Australia. See page 6. (7/07)

5-7. 8th Pacific Conference on Earthquake Engineering, Singapore. Info: www.ntu.edu.sg/cee/8PCEE/ (2/07)

6-9. International Conference on Forensic Engineering, Mumbai, India. Info: <http://www.icaci.com/Forensic%20Sem.htm> (5/07)

10-13. 7th International Symposium on Cable Dynamics, Vienna, Austria. Info: <http://www.aimontefiore.org/cable/> (5/07)

2008

FEBRUARY

6-9. EERI Annual Meeting, Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel, French Quarter, New Orleans, LA. See page 1. (2/07, 3/07, 7/07)

17-20. 14th Int'l Brick and Block Masonry Conference, Sydney, Australia. Info: <http://www.ibmac.org/> (3/07)

APRIL

22-26. 2008 National Earthquake Conference, Seattle, WA. Info: <http://www.earthquakeconference.org/> (3/07)

24-26. 1st International Conf. on Transport Infrastructure, Beijing, China. See page 6. (7/07)

MAY

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

26-28. XXXIII South American Structural Engineering Congress (SASEC), Santiago, Chile. Info: <http://ingenieria.ucentral.cl/ooc/jornadas2008/> (6/07)

JUNE

4-6. International Association of Bridge & Struc. Engineering (IABSE) Conference, Helsinki, Finland. Info: <http://www.iabse.org/conferences/helsinki2008/index.php> (6/07)

JULY

27-30. 6th National Seismic Conf. on Bridges and Highways, Charleston, S.C. See page 6. (7/07)

AUGUST

11-16. 6th International Conf. on Case Histories in Geotechnical Engineering (6ICCHGE), Washington, D.C. Info: <http://www.6icchge2008.org/> (4/06, 9/06, 2/07, 6/07)

OCTOBER

12-17. 14th World Conference on EQ Engineering, Beijing, China. Info: www.14wcee.org. See page 6. (12/05, 6/07, 7/07)

News of the Profession

Progressive Collapse Resistance Competition

A Progressive Collapse Resistance Competition (PCRC) will be managed and carried out by EERI member Professor Mehrdad Sasani's research team at the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering of Northeastern University (NEU).

The purpose of this competition is to provide undergraduate and graduate students and professionals (engineers, architects and others) an opportunity to learn about progressive collapse resistance of reinforced concrete (RC) structures. It is intended to enhance contestants' understanding of collapse-resistant mechanisms, modeling techniques for progressive collapse analyses, system level response of RC structures, and the importance of reinforcement detailing on dynamic load redistribution following initial failure.

Participants will predict the progressive collapse resistance of a small scale 2-D physical model of an RC structure following predefined initial damage. The model will be tested at Northeastern University. Detailed characteristics of the physical model and the initial damage will be provided through the PCRC web site <http://www.pcrc2007.neu.edu/> on September 11, 2007. Participating

teams are required to develop analytical models, answer specific questions, and predict the response of the physical model.

The competition will be carried out at two levels: (1) undergraduate students and (2) graduate students and professionals. Registration will be open from August 15 to October 12; the deadline for submission of reports is November 16. The test will be conducted and webcast live on November 28. Winners will be announced on February 29, 2008. The award ceremony will be held on April 25 at the Structures Congress in Vancouver, Canada. A panel of experts, who not know the identities of contestants, will select the winners.

Up to 3 prizes will be given in each level, ranging from \$1,000 to \$8,000. There is no fee to enter the contest.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) supports Sasani's research and educational activities through a career award for the multi-hazard progressive collapse analysis of structures. The Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute and FM Global are major sponsors, with additional support from the Northeast Cement Shippers Association, the Portland

Cement Association, the Reinforced Concrete Construction Committee, and Simpson Gumpertz & Heger, Inc. NSF is not funding the prizes.



Steps in testing process.

Announcement

Prakash Nominations

The deadline to nominate candidates for the 2007 Shamsher Prakash Annual Prize for Excellence in the Practice of Geotechnical Engineering has been extended to September 30 (see page 8 of the May *EERI Newsletter*.)

For information on submitting nominations, visit <http://www.yoga10.org>.



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