News of the Institute

Member Survey Results

In order to gain a better understanding of which services and products our members find most valuable, EERI carried out a web-based survey early this year. The survey was completed by 439 members, which represents just under 20% of the membership. For a copy of the questions that were asked, visit http://www.eeri.org/printablesurvey.htm. The survey was designed to provide information about how members view EERI’s many programs, publications, and services. It also was intended to provide an indication of members’ willingness to pay to continue to receive hard copies of materials they have access to electronically, such as the EERI Newsletter and Spectra. Members were also asked whether they would be willing to receive other EERI publications in electronic or CD-ROM format and forego the hard copy. The results indicate that more members today use the EERI web site than ever before, and that there is growing support for electronic publications compared to the last survey four years ago, although many are still opposed to receiving only electronic versions. The one that received substantial support for electronic publication is the EERI Newsletter. Seventy percent said they would read this publication online instead of receiving a paper copy.

Because of the high cost of Spectra printing and mailing, a number of questions were asked to determine the willingness of members to pay an extra annual fee to continue to receive hard copies, and another was directed to authors regarding page charges. Neither of these options was popular.

During the past two years, cuts to the LFE Program have forced EERI to discontinue printing reconnaissance reports; instead, they have been sent to all members as CD-ROMs and have been available in print for a modest fee. It was disappointing to see that more than half the respondents have never opened their CDs to read the reconnaissance reports. And while a fairly large number of respondents indicated they would consider paying to receive hard copies of reconnaissance reports in the future, almost no one has taken these reports.

Visiting Professionals at Student Chapters

EERI sponsors the Friedman Family Visiting Professional Program to match visiting professionals with host universities for one or two days on current topics related to earthquake engineering and risk reduction. These exchanges bring together the academic and professional sides of earthquake engineering, providing students with unique glimpses at what their futures may hold. The visits offer opportunities for both formal presentations and informal discussions with faculty and students.

Ron Eguchi at Georgia Tech

On October 3, 2006, Ron Eguchi of ImageCat, Inc., in Long Beach, California, visited the Civil Engineering Department of the Georgia Institute of Technology. The objective of the visit was to help enhance the students’ and faculty’s knowledge of current professional practices in the area of earthquake risk analysis and post-earthquake damage detection studies, and to provide Eguchi with an understanding of current educational practices at Georgia Tech. He made a presentation at a seminar on the topic of “Using Remote-Sensing Technologies to Improve Community Resilience.” The lecture focused on...
Visiting Professionals

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earthquake damage detection techniques and remote sensing technologies for earthquake reconnaissance, and also touched on the future direction of these technologies for multihazard damage analysis.

The chapter’s faculty advisor, Reginald DesRoches, gave Eguchi a structural laboratory tour and explained the large scale experimental research being done at Georgia Tech. Eguchi had an opportunity to meet individually with some of the structures group’s graduate students.

David Friedman at the University of British Columbia

The UBC-EERI Student Chapter hosted David Friedman March 14-15, 2007. Friedman is president and chairman of the board of Forell/Elsesser Engineers, Inc., in San Francisco, California. On the first evening of his visit, Friedman had dinner with several UBC-EERI student chapter members and faculty advisor Ken Elwood. The next morning, Friedman presented the first of his three lectures to a fourth-year undergraduate engineering class "The Practice of Structural and Earthquake Engineering Today." Friedman emphasized the importance of understanding the needs of the owner and architect in achieving a successful project. During a short tour of the UBC Structural/Earthquake Lab after lunch, Friedman learned about several current UBC experimental shake table tests.

His second presentation, on “Base Isolation: What, Why, Where & How?”, was given to graduate students of the Civil Engineering Department at the weekly Structural and Earthquake Engineering Seminar. Friedman compared conventional fixed-base systems with systems using seismic isolation technology. The third lecture, covering the development of building code seismic provisions, was presented to an audience of practicing engineers, graduate students, and university faculty at a hotel in downtown Vancouver. A brief abstract of each presentation can be found on the chapter web site, http://www.civil.ubc.ca/research/EERI/.

John Hooper at the University of Texas at Austin

John Hooper of Magnusson Klemencic Associates (MKA) in Seattle, Washington, was this year’s visiting professional at the University of Texas. On the evening of his arrival on March 20, he enjoyed genuine Texas barbecue with chapter officers and UT professor Sharon Wood.

The next day, Hooper spoke to faculty and students on “The Seismic Design of Tall Buildings and Other Structures with Unique Architecture.” He introduced the students to a challenging variety of tall buildings that typically require implementation of an “alternative means and methods” process. He outlined unique approaches that have been implemented, and discussed a generalized performance-based seismic design method that has been used on 15 high-rise designs in highly seismic regions.

A reception followed that included an energized discussion on some of the topics from the seminar. Hooper then toured the Fergusson Structural Engineering Laboratory and learned about some of the latest research work ongoing at UT.
Obituary

James E. Slosson 1923-2007

Long-time EERI member James E. Slosson, a former California state geologist who helped establish the California Seismic Safety Commission (CSSC), died in southern California of congestive heart failure on April 28 at the age of 84.

While serving as state geologist from 1973 to 1975, Slosson was part of a team that developed basic procedures for promoting seismic safety and also helped spearhead the creation of the CSSC in 1975. He remained a member of the commission for eight years. “His great concern was informing the public not only about earthquake safety but also about landslides, flooding and other natural hazards,” said Richard McCarthy, executive director of CSSC.

Slosson was a track star at Van Nuys High School and later at USC, where he enrolled in the early 1940s. He took time out to serve in the Army during World War II, returning to USC to earn a doctorate in geology in 1958. He was assistant coach of the USC track team from the mid-1950s until 1962. During that time he became a geology consultant. A fellow of the Geological Society of America, in his career he worked with the U.S. Geological Survey and California’s Department of Water Resources. He was on the geology faculty at Los Angeles Valley College for nine years and became chairman of its geology department. He retired in 1984.

Slosson’s wife Nancy died of the same cause one day before he did. He is survived by two children, Bonnie and Thomas, as well as a brother and two grandchildren.

This article was excerpted from the May 12 obituary in the Los Angeles Times by Mary Rourke.

Member Survey Results

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advantage of this opportunity to date.

Over the next several months, the EERI Board will be reviewing the responses to the survey as they attempt to contain costs and keep membership dues from increasing. The responses have already begun to influence the Board’s decisions. It has created a new ad hoc committee to carry out strategic planning for institute publications. This committee will take into account the survey results in making recommendations to the Board and attempt to identify programs that will contain costs and keep dues from increasing, while continuing to meet the needs of our broad and diverse membership.

Discussions have begun on holding technical seminars outside of California, with plans underway for a technical seminar in New York, in the second quarter next year, that features presentations by Board members. They will also look into the possibility of establishing an EERI regional chapter in the northeast. For a detailed discussion of all the survey results, visit [www.eeri.org/2007_Member_survey_summary.pdf](http://www.eeri.org/2007_Member_survey_summary.pdf).

Employment Opportunities

NIST Positions

In support of its role in the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Building and Fire Research Laboratory (BFRL) in Gaithersburg, Maryland, anticipates recruiting new staff with strong backgrounds in seismic structural design and analysis, structural dynamics, performance-based engineering, numerical modeling of structural behavior, nonlinear structural analysis, software development, and building performance and design. NIST is interested in recent graduates with Ph.D. degrees as well as candidates with some years of experience in research or practice. The deadline for submission of applications is June 15, 2007. Resumes should be submitted to Amber Stillrich, e-mail: amber.stillrich@nist.gov. For more information, visit [http://www.eeri.org/news/career_opportunities.html](http://www.eeri.org/news/career_opportunities.html) or contact NEHRP Director Jack Hayes (e-mail jack.hayes@nist.gov).

Emergency Planners

The management team of the San Francisco Bay Area Super Urban Area Security Initiative (SUASI) will soon have the support of 11 regional planners to assist them in communicating, coordinating, and facilitating the participation of the ten Bay Area counties and their stakeholders, as well as the California Office of Emergency Services Region II, in regional disaster preparedness planning projects. Resumes are being collected; the recruitment process will formally begin when the SUASI contract with the recruiting agency is finalized. Resumes can be uploaded to [http://www.circlepoint.com/cont.html.php#contact](http://www.circlepoint.com/cont.html.php#contact). Cover letters can be copied into the “Please contact me in regards to” section. Resumes and cover letters may also be faxed to 415/227-1110.
News of the Institute

Summary of the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of February 7, 2007

Call to Order: President Thalia Anagnos called the meeting to order. Present were Directors Jon Bray, Craig Comartin, Richard Eisner, S. K. Ghosh, Polat Gulkan, Marshall Lew, Andrew Whittaker, Executive Director Susan Tubbesing, and Special Projects Manager Marjorie Greene. Greg Hempen, President-elect of the New Madrid chapter, joined at 10 a.m.

Welcome New Members: Anagnos introduced the two new board members, S. K. Ghosh and Andrew Whittaker. She thanked Craig Comartin again for all that he did as president during the past two years, and pointed out that unlike some nonprofit organizations, the EERI Board has a strong influence over the direction of EERI.

Election of Secretary/Treasurer: The Board voted unanimously to re-elect Marshall Lew as secretary-treasurer, and to elect Jon Bray as Vice President.

President’s Report: Anagnos indicated her interest in brainstorming with the Board on where EERI is going, issues and opportunities facing EERI, and reviewing the strategic plan. She began by reviewing the four strategic initiatives in the plan: (1) enhancing and expanding educational materials and technical programs, (2) outreach and advocacy, (3) maintaining a strong program of international activities, and (4) expanding and broadening the financial resource base.

Enhancing and expanding educational materials and technical programs: All agreed it is important to reach a wider audience with EERI’s programs and materials. There was discussion about taking the technical seminars on the road to the East and Midwest, starting with the ’06 Concrete Seminar. Also, new web-based video versions of the seminar presentations could be packaged and advertised in one-hour blocks. Many engineering and design firms have a brown bag lunch series, and could download the video presentations. Whittaker offered to contact CUREE faculty members to inform them of the existence of the new videos for classroom use. Director Bray suggested all the videotaped seminars be made available free to each of the student chapters to use in their meetings.

It was suggested that EERI could offer to serve as the dissemination arm for emerging research for the three earthquake engineering centers, NEES, and ATC. EERI also could increase activities for students. The shake table competition is a good way to promote interaction between students and professionals.

Anagnos discussed the outreach and advocacy initiative. She stated that after EERI’s successful support for the reauthorization of NEHRP, little new progress had been made in this area. EERI needs to do more to promote the development of scenarios at the regional or local level.

Anagnos reviewed progress under the international initiative. She mentioned the joint publication with Mexico on the Tecoman earthquake, the joint conference on hospital seismic safety, the distribution of monographs in India, and support for Sudhir Jain’s new journal for developing countries. Gulkan mentioned that he would like to see the World Housing Encyclopedia (WHE) mentioned explicitly in the Strategic Plan. There was discussion about how to make this activity self-supporting and where to find “sustaining partners.” The Board also discussed the need for a prominent role for EERI at the upcoming World Conference in China in 2008.

Anagnos proposed a new policy, that the Board review the strategic plan during the first Board meeting of each president’s term. She asked all Board members to rank their top priorities on what they would like to see accomplished, and at the next meeting, they would identify the three highest priority issues to focus on during her term in each of the initiatives.

Board member responsibilities and expectations: Anagnos reviewed board member responsibilities to serve as contacts to the committees and Subscribing Members. The Board needs to do a better job of staying in contact with student chapters and determining how EERI can help them, especially since NSF center funding soon will not be available to underwrite Student Leadership Council activities.

Secretary/Treasurer’s Report: Lew reviewed the financial statements. At the end of 2006, EERI had $59,649 in excess revenue. Lew reviewed the December 31, 2006, audited combined balance sheet. The sheet showed that EERI’s total liabilities of $832,038 combined with the total fund balance of $209,725 equaled $841,763. The Endowment Fund opening balance of $750,028 was augmented by $109,509 in excess revenue over expenses, for a total balance of $859,538, which combined with its total liabilities of $442,841 equaled $1,302,379.

The revised 2007 budget projects a small deficit of $16K, mostly reflecting the reduction in outside funding. The budget relies on a 10% dues increase. Lew emphasized that EERI is a very good value for its dues rate, especially compared to other organizations.

Lew noted that EERI is in solid financial shape. The cutbacks from NSF have been accounted for in the budget. There may be tough decisions in the future regarding continued printing of Earthquake Spectra and other publications. Without the sig-
significant LFE funding. EERI may not be able to support the travel of as many people to future earthquakes. There may be more of a burden on volunteers. The main challenge will be to get volunteers to compile the reconnaissance reports, which have recently been coordinated by staff.

Executive Director's Report:
Executive Director Tubbesing updated the new board members on recent staff changes. The most recent change saw Nancy Sutherland, managing editor of Spectra, leaving to take another position. Nikki Zielinski has been hired as the Spectra editorial assistant.

Tubbesing reviewed a number of technical programs. The FEMA cooperative agreement underwrites conferences and meetings, student travel, technical seminars, fellowships, national conference planning, and outreach. The agreement provides $300K per year and has been in place for over ten years.

The LFE Program has been funded by NSF since 1973. For several years, the program received substantial funding and became more multifaceted. However, with fewer resources available at NSF the current program has been cut back from $600K per year to $200K. Tubbesing will work with NSF to try and restore some of the funding to ensure the survival of this critical post-earthquake investigation program. Tubbesing reported that EERI has begun to work with NEES. EERI staff provided NEESit with all the reconnaissance reports that have been published in the EERI newsletters, and NEESit staff put them into the NEES repository, where they are searchable using Google Earth and Google Map.

Tubbesing reviewed the work of the Special Projects and Initiatives Committee (SPI), which approves approximately $50K each year in small seed projects with Endowment funds. In 2006, funding enabled the following: (1) 38 students attended the 100th Anniversary Conference and (2) the World Housing Encyclopedia (WHE) web site was updated. The goal is to find foundation money to support the WHE project on a sustaining basis.

Tubbesing noted that the membership report indicates a continuing loss of regular members, reflecting an aging membership, but on the positive side, the number of Young Professional members has increased; they are the future of the organization.

New Madrid Scenario and Workshop: Anagnos introduced Greg Hempen, president-elect of the New Madrid chapter, who noted that February 7, 2012, will be the bicentennial of the third in the series of three New Madrid earthquakes, and that the chapter would like to offer St. Louis as the location of the annual meeting that year. Hempen described the New Madrid regional earthquake scenario project. The chapter plans to kick off scenario development with a workshop; it has received $4,000 from EERI’s SPI committee to support the workshop and to enable two people from previous scenario development efforts to attend it. Hempen identified ground motions, building inventories, hospitals, care and shelter needs, transportation, and lifelines as critical elements. It was suggested that there be a meeting with CUSEC, the MAE Center, and EERI to involve all the stakeholders. Perhaps those organizations could form a joint steering committee. Whittaker suggested that EERI needs to bring in structural engineers associations in the Midwest, federal agencies, regional industries, and researchers at all the area universities.

Technical Seminars and Projects: Comartin reviewed progress on the geotechnical seminar and recognized Ron Mayes for doing an excellent job as technical seminar chair. The Board expressed interest in continuing with more seminars in the geotechnical series.

He noted that EERI is also collaborating with ATC and FEMA to identify issues for an ATC project to develop a plan for updating new standards for rehabilitation of existing buildings.

Tubbesing reviewed the status of a new $50,000 grant from NSF to look at the future of multidisciplinary research. A steering committee has been formed. It will produce a draft white paper, hold a workshop, and develop final recommendations for NSF. The committee will also look at mentoring students and providing opportunities to bring them together with their peers, since the research centers will be losing NSF funding.

Publication Policy Issues: Anagnos invited Bob Reitherman to make a presentation to the membership during the Annual Business Meeting to explain the process used by the Oral History Committee in selecting candidates, individuals currently in the queue, and what is entailed in eventually issuing a new oral history.

The Board decided that they would like to reconstitute the Publications Policy Committee. Currently, most members serve on the committee by virtue of their roles as editors of EERI publications, such as the Newsletter and Earthquake Spectra. At the December 2006 Board meeting, the Board reversed the previous board policy that the committee chair must be a member of the Board. They agreed that it would be helpful to expand the membership and add someone from the Younger Members Committee who is familiar with newer technologies and someone from the IT Committee who knows about future methods of delivering publications.

An ad hoc subcommittee of the publications policy committee also needs to be established to do a strategic plan for EERI publications.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.
News of the Membership

Awards for Nikolaou and Wartman

EERI member Sissy Nikolaou was recently named a winner in the 2007 “40 Under 40” competition sponsored by Building Design & Construction magazine. She and 39 others were chosen by the editors as leaders who excel in their professional roles while giving back to their communities and professional societies and finding time off the clock to expand their horizons. Nikolaou is an associate with Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers in New York City, where she heads the firm’s Geo-Seismic Department. She expanded the firm’s services to include seismic investigations and site-specific analysis and developed a methodology for evaluating liquefaction susceptibility for the NYC School Construction Authority; her recommendations have been adopted by the NYC Building Department’s Seismic Committee. She is primary editor for Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering: Practical Aspects, currently under development, and was involved in post-9/11 recovery efforts, evaluating slurry wall stability. She holds a diploma degree from the National Technical University of Athens, Greece, and master’s and doctorate degrees from SUNY-Buffalo, all in civil engineering.

In May, the Philadelphia Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers honored EERI member Joseph Wartman with its 2007 Geotechnical Engineer of the Year Award. Wartman is an associate professor in the Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering at Drexel University. He joined the Drexel faculty in 200; he teaches and conducts research in the areas of earthquake engineering, sustainable geotechnics, and geosynthetics. Recently he has been at the forefront of the forensic efforts to investigate the damage to the New Orleans levee network caused by Hurricane Katrina. Wartman received his bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from Villanova University and his master’s and doctorate degrees from the University of California at Berkeley.

Moehle and Elwood Receive Seiss Award

EERI members Jack Moehle of the University of California, Berkeley, and his former student, Ken Elwood of the University of British Columbia, have received the Chester P. Seiss Award for Excellence in Structural Research from the American Concrete Institute (ACI). They were recognized for their work on modeling axial load collapse of damaged reinforced concrete columns (summarized in the ACI Structural Journal paper “Axial Capacity Model for Shear-Damaged Column,” July 2005).

The Seiss Award is given to the author or authors of a peer-reviewed paper published by the ACI that describes a notable achievement in experimental or analytical research that advances the theory or practice of structural engineering and, most importantly, recommends how the research can be applied to design.

Announcement

14WCEE Sessions

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.” Applications to organize special sessions are open until June 30, 2007. If you have questions, contact the organizing committee at secretariat@14wcee.org. Additional information will be updated at http://www.14wcee.org.

LA Tall Buildings Award to Alimoradi, Naeim, and Miranda

A recent paper authored by EERI members Arzhang Alimoradi and Farzad Naeim of John A. Martin & Associates (JAMA) and Eduardo Miranda of Stanford University was awarded the 2006 Outstanding Journal Paper by the Los Angeles Tall Buildings Structural Design Council. The paper is entitled “Evolutionary Modal Identification Utilizing Coupled Shear-Flexural Response — Implications for Multistory Buildings, Part I: Theory; Part II: Application.”

The 4th author was Shahram Taghavi of Risk Management Solutions. The paper was supported by JAMA, funded by the California Geological Survey, and published in the Journal of the Structural Design of Tall and Special Buildings.
Earthquake Hazards Reduction Fellowship Announced

Under a cooperative agreement established with FEMA, the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute is pleased to offer the 2008 Professional Fellowship to provide an opportunity for a practicing professional to gain greater skills and broader expertise in earthquake hazards reduction, either by enhancing knowledge in the applicant’s own field, or by broadening the applicant’s knowledge in a related but unfamiliar discipline.

Who Should Apply?

This unique fellowship is designed to bring together an experienced career professional with other professionals conducting significant research, thereby providing opportunities to both enrich the applicant’s knowledge and skills and to broaden the research base with challenges faced in practice. The Professional Fellowship is not intended to fund work towards a degree.

The Award

The fellowship provides a stipend of $30,000, commencing in January 2008, to cover tuition, fees, and relocation and living expenses. The fellowship will be awarded on the basis of a specific project, with the proposed work or course of study to be carried out over a period of up to one year. The recipient will have the flexibility to work less than full time with the host institution and academic sponsor, with the understanding that the effort will result in a report by the end of twelve months.

Criteria

Applicants must provide a detailed work plan for a research project that would be carried out in the twelve-month period. The fellow will be expected to produce a written report upon completion of the project. All applications must be accompanied by a professional resume and letter of nomination from the faculty host at the cooperating educational institution. Faculty members should also indicate the institution’s ability to provide research facilities, including library, work space, telephone, and computer access. Applicants must hold U.S. citizenship or permanent resident status.

To Apply

Candidates may obtain an application form from the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, 499 14th Street, Suite 320, Oakland, California 94612-1934, tel: 510/451-0905, fax: 510/451-5411, e-mail: eeri@eeri.org, or from EERI’s web site at http://www.eeri.org/home/Profell_application.pdf.

Deadline for receipt of all application materials at EERI is September 4, 2007.

Announcement of the award will be made October 15, 2007.
**NEES News**

**Drains Mitigate Liquefaction**

Current methods to reduce liquefaction hazards at U.S. seaports, such as compaction and vibratory techniques, can be difficult, impractical, and expensive to implement around wharves and other seaport facilities. NEESR’s NSF-funded Grand Challenge project, “Seismic Risk Management for Port Systems,” is researching the use of prefabricated vertical drains and colloidal silica grouting to mitigate liquefaction hazards. They are two relatively new technologies that can offer significant advantages in seaport environments. Experimental data on the seismic performance of soil profiles treated with these technologies are needed for understanding the mechanics of their behavior and for the development and validation of analysis methods. The first of the NEESR experiments, performed in March 2007, was done using a scaled model and a 9m-radius centrifuge at the NEES Equipment Site at the Center for Geotechnical Modeling at the University of California, Davis (http://nees.ucdavis.edu). Two slopes were built that opposed each other across an open channel. One slope was improved by installing perforated plastic vertical drains (see photo of dissected model after testing), while the other was not. The perforated drains accelerated the dissipation of excess pore water pressures during and after shaking, as illustrated in the photograph showing water erupting out of the drains during one shaking event. The drains were effective in significantly reducing the lateral spreading displacements compared to those for the untreated slope.

**OpenSees Days**

PEER and NEESIt will host OpenSees Days June 27-29, 2007, at the University of California’s Berkeley Field Station. The annual one-day OpenSees User Workshop on June 27 will show beginning and intermediate users how to use OpenSees, introducing them to the tcl scripting language and basic modeling and analysis techniques. The one-day OpenSees Modeling Workshop on June 28 will feature presentations by current OpenSees users and developers on various modeling techniques, covering reinforced concrete, steel, soils, and soil-structure interaction models. Users and developers at all levels are encouraged to attend. The one-day OpenSees Developer Workshop on June 29 is for beginning and intermediate developers and will provide a quick overview of object-oriented programming and C++. It will focus on how to introduce a new material and a new element into the OpenSees framework with hands-on exercises. Participants are encouraged to bring their own laptops with VC++ or gcc pre-installed. Students, researchers, and practitioners are welcome to attend any of the days.

Registration is free and lunch is provided, but space is limited to the first 100 applicants. To register (deadline June 24) and for more information, visit: http://it.nees.org/support/workshops/workshop_os2007.php or http://opensees.berkeley.edu/.

**News of the Profession**

**InTERRAgate Database Launched**

The global online database InTERRAgate provides a framework for uploading natural hazard and risk data at a national level, together with in-country contact details for disaster first-responders. It was launched in March 2007 with introductory information on natural hazard threats in ten of the world’s most vulnerable nations (Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Chile, El Salvador, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Mexico, and the Philippines). InTERRAgate is designed to be “owned” by data suppliers and users who upload information and influence content. Its ultimate success will depend upon registered data suppliers from around the world uploading textual and graphical information to supplement initial data.

The InTERRAgate team at the Benfield UCL Hazard Research Centre (BUHRC) in London encourages you to upload something (such as a link to a natural hazard web site), research about a past disaster, or details of an upcoming event. Help pages at http://www.interragate.info/help offer assistance with uploading information.

BUHRC is looking for volunteer content managers in each country. If you are interested, e-mail info@interragate.info for more information. BUHRC is also looking for more project sponsors and data sources.
Publications

NIST Progressive Collapse Guide

The final version of the document entitled Best Practices for Reducing the Potential for Progressive Collapse in Buildings is available from www.nist.gov/861/861pubs/collapse/. Comments received during and subsequent to four 2006 workshops have been incorporated into this document. One workshop in Chicago identified a need for code provisions and design standards that will provide resistance to progressive collapse at reasonable additional design and construction costs. This need was reinforced by Recommendation 1 in NIST’s investigation of and report on the collapse of the World Trade Center towers, which calls for development and adoption of code provisions and consensus standards to prevent progressive collapse in buildings. NIST is currently carrying out research in support of meeting this need.

This document is intended to provide owners and practicing engineers with current “best practices” to reduce the likelihood of progressive collapse of buildings in the event of abnormal loading. The report includes a discussion of an acceptable risk approach to progressive collapse. It presents practical means for reducing risk for new and existing buildings and provides an extensive review of the design methods used to enhance a building’s resistance to progressive collapse. It summarizes design considerations for different structural material and discusses the methodology for evaluating and mitigating progressive collapse potential in existing buildings.

Risk Management Resource Guide


Design of Foundations

The National Information Centre of Earthquake Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology in Kanpur, India, has published a new book entitled Design of Foundations in Seismic Areas: Principles and Applications, edited by Dr. S. Bhattacharya of Oxford University. This 480-page volume addresses principles of foundation design in seismic areas and includes the working of practical examples. The topics covered are seismic hazards and their assessment, liquefaction and its remediation, site response analysis, piled foundation, and pile failure. The publication consists of papers written by leading academicians and industry practitioners in India, Japan, and the United Kingdom. The book is intended for professionals and researchers and can also serve as a textbook for postgraduate students in this field.

The publication is priced at Rs. 375. Overseas orders (air mail) should add Rs. 600 for postage and handling (Rs. 975 is about US$24). Payment can be made by credit card at the web site www.nicee.org/online.php, with an indication of “Foundations Publication” as the purpose, or an order form can be downloaded. Full-time faculty members and students may obtain a 50% discount by ordering the publication before June 30, 2007.

New Versions of Putting Down Roots

The updated 2007 Spanish version of the Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country handbook has been distributed in the Los Angeles Times’ Spanish-language newspaper, Hoy, and in Fin de Semana (Hoy’s weekend paper). Echando Raíces en Tierra de Terremotos will also be available through the Consulate General of Mexico in Los Angeles and can be requested through the web site http://www.terremotos.org, the Spanish site for the Dare to Prepare campaign. All copies are free. The distribution of the handbooks was promoted by full-page ads (including a four-page supplement which has been adapted into a web-page at http://www.terremotos.org/mitos.html). In addition, ads were run on local radio and TV Spanish-language stations. All ads were sponsored by the California Earthquake Authority.

The updated 2007 English version of Roots is also now available, free, at http://www.earthquakecountry.info/roots. Both versions have minor revisions throughout and notably a new “Seven Steps” image that has been adapted for use in the San Francisco Bay Area as well. Printing for both versions continues to be supported by the California Earthquake Authority, FEMA, Quakehold, and others.

Both of these new versions are part of the Dare to Prepare campaign (http://www.daretoprepare.org) known by its slogan, “Shift Happens—Secure Your Space!” It is a year-long effort to raise earthquake awareness and encourage earthquake preparedness in California by providing practical information on how to reduce the risk of home, school, and business damage and injury during earthquakes. Public service announcements created by the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena will be aired on both English and Spanish TV.
Call for Papers

6ICCHGE Sessions
Special sessions on (1) application of case histories in education and (2) application of case histories to practice have been added to the program of the 6th International Conference on Case Histories in Geotechnical Engineering, which will take place in Arlington, Virginia, August 11-16, 2008. Abstracts not exceeding 500 words are due by July 15, 2007, for these two sessions only. They can be e-mailed to 6icchge@umr.edu. For more information, visit http://www.6icchge2008.org.

IABSE Conference
The International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering (IABSE) invites abstracts to be submitted to the IABSE Conference to take place in Helsinki, Finland, June 4-6, 2008. The theme is “Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for Bridges, Buildings, and Construction Practice.” The submission deadline is September 10, 2007. Conference topics include: ICT applications for information flow and storage, ICT-supported design, ICT-supported construction and asset management, and advanced analysis and simulation.

For the complete call for papers, visit http://www.iabse.org/conferences/helsinki2008/index.php.

South American Congress
A call for papers has been issued for the XXXIII South American Structural Engineering Congress (XXXIII SASEC), to be held May 26-30, 2008, at Central University in Santiago, Chile. The deadline for submission of abstracts in Spanish or Portuguese, not exceeding 300 words, is July 1, 2007. For more information, visit http://ingenieria.ucentral.cl/oocc/jornadas2008/.

AEES Conference
The Australian Earthquake Engineering Society is hosting its annual conference November 23-25, 2007, at Wollongong University in New South Wales. Authors are invited to submit papers on topics related to earthquake engineering, engineering seismology, and related extreme event topics including blast, tsunami, critical infrastructure protection, emergency management, and insurance. The format will be a blend of keynote speakers and oral and poster presentations. Each poster presenter will be given the opportunity for a short oral presentation to the attendees. Abstracts of not more than 200 words are due by June 15 and should be e-mailed to Sharon Anderson at srj@bigpond.net.au. For more information, visit http://www.aees.org.au/.

Announcements

Protect 2007
The First International Workshop on Performance, Protection, and Strengthening of Structures under Extreme Loading (Protect 2007), to be held August 20-22, 2007, in Whistler, Canada, has received 150 technical papers from 25 countries. To register for the workshop (which will feature parallel sessions), to see the paper titles and authors, or to purchase the proceedings, visit www.civil.ubc.ca/protect2007. The registration fee includes a copy of the proceedings. As August is peak tourist season in Whistler and the hotels are generally overbooked, early reservations are encouraged.

Multi-Hazard Engineering Symposium
A Symposium on Emerging Developments in Multi-Hazard Engineering, organized jointly by the Architectural Engineering Institute of ASCE (AEI) and MCEER, will be held on September 18, 2007, in New York City at the McGraw-Hill Conference Center.

This symposium will highlight recent engineering advances in the new field of multi-hazards engineering. The organizers believe that the utilization of these technologies for use in multi-hazards engineering will help to reduce overall costs while maintaining or increasing safety levels. The symposium will address different facets of multi-hazard considerations in infrastructure applications and aims to establish the quantitative methods and guidelines that are needed to promote their use. A variety of solutions and applications will be discussed, including (1) adapting technologies that have been developed for a specific hazard to solve multi-hazard problems and (2) developing new technologies to mitigate a variety of threats.

For details on the program and registration information, visit http://mceer.buffalo.edu/meetings/AEI/default.asp.

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.

JUNE
4-6. 24th International Bridge Conf., Pittsburgh, PA. Info: www.eswp.com/bridge (11/06)
19-21. NEES Annual Meeting, Snowbird, UT. Info: www.nees.org/About_NEES/Announcements/
annoucement.php?news_id=41  (9/06, 1/07)


25-28. 4th International Conference on Earthquake Geotechnical Engineering (4ICEGE), Thessaloniki, Greece. Info: www.4icege.org (2/06)

26-29. 9th Canadian Conference on Earthquake Engineering (9CCEE), Ottawa, Canada. Info: www.9ccee.ca (2/06)

27-29. OpenSees Workshops, University of California's Berkeley Field Station. See page 8. (6/07)

JULY

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


AUGUST

SEPTEMBER


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


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


NOVEMBER

23-25. AEES Conference, Wollongong University, New South Wales, Australia. See page 10. (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
5-7. 8th Pacific Conference on Earthquake Engineering, Singapore. Info: www.ntu.edu.sg/cee/8PCEE/ (2/07)


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. (2/07, 3/07)


APRIL

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. See page 10. (6/09)

JUNE

AUGUST

OCTOBER

Publications

Logging on to Spectra Online

To find instructions to access EQ Spectra Online (if you’ve never registered or have forgotten what to do), visit http://www.eeri.org/cds_publications/spectra_about.html.
News of the Profession

San Andreas Earthquake Scenario

The USGS has joined with Caltech, EERI, local agencies, and utilities to create a comprehensive scenario with consequences from a rupture on the southern San Andreas fault. The “Southern California Earthquake Scenario” project is headed by EERI member Lucy Jones of USGS, the chief scientist for the Southern California Multi-Hazard Initiative. The project will include both a publication of findings and a “Shakeout” exercise planned for November 2008, to be held in conjunction with California’s Golden Guardian Project (California Office of Homeland Security).

The Mw 7.8 scenario earthquake (with a recurrence interval of 1,000 years) will rupture from the south at Bombay Beach near the Salton Sea to the north at Lake Hughes near Palmdale. This rupture will include the southernmost (Coachella) section of the San Andreas fault, which last ruptured in 1685. This section is considered by seismologists as the most ready fault section to rupture in the United States. Predicted shaking, amount of fault offset, and liquefaction, as well as triggered effects such as landslides, dam failures, fire, and aftershocks, will be discussed in the publication, which is intended for use by decision makers, researchers, and utilities. Social, environmental, and economic aspects of such a catastrophe are being studied, along with effects of systemic failure of lifelines.

Part of the scenario will focus on disruption to lifelines as a result of a fault offset at Cajon Pass. In 1991, FEMA estimated 35 days of disruption to lifelines before temporary services could be re-established after a large earthquake. An attempt will be made to update this number, and to estimate days of disruption at other lifeline crossings. The figure above, produced in 1963 as part of a study by Caltrans for the San Bernardino Freeway through the Cajon Pass, identifies the old and new (less curved) routes and the San Andreas fault (main trace shown as a solid line; secondary traces as dashed lines).