Online Registration for 2009 Annual Meeting

The program brochure and online registration are now available at [www.eeri.org](http://www.eeri.org) for the joint EERI-WSSPC Annual Meeting on “Earthquake Risk Reduction — Are Voluntary Actions the Key?” It will be held February 11-14, 2009, at the Salt Lake City Hilton Hotel. The planning committee has designed a unique program based on hard-earned insights about earthquake hazard mitigation. Sessions will address barriers, incentives, and challenges involved in seismic rehabilitation; characterizing and communicating risk; and incorporating societal safety issues into public thinking and building standards. The program concludes after lunch on Saturday, giving you time to tour the renovated state capitol building, view the Wasatch fault, or hit the ski slopes over the long Presidents’ Day weekend.

Friday night’s banquet program will feature the recipients of the Western States Seismic Policy Council Awards in Excellence, which bring visibility to innovative programs, products, and policies in areas of earthquake mitigation.

CSI Hosts Student Leadership Council

The Student Leadership Council (SLC) consists of representatives of the EERI student chapters throughout the country. During the summer of 2008, the SLC, which was formerly associated with the Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center (PEER), officially became part of EERI. SLC members converged in Berkeley, California, over Labor Day weekend for their annual retreat. High on their agenda was the annual Undergraduate Seismic Design Competition, which the SLC has organized for the last five years. EERI Platinum Subscribing Member, Computers and Structures, Inc., a major sponsor of the competition, hosted a celebratory party for the students at CSI’s Berkeley offices. CSI founder Ashraf Habbibullah welcomed the students warmly and gave an inspiring talk about the structural engineering profession, encouraging them to pursue work about which they are passionate. Students also had the opportunity to chat with other CSI staff and EERI members Thalia Anagnos, Laurie Johnson, Alan Kropp, Joe Penzien, Chris Poland, Ed Wilson, and Ivan Wong.
CSI Hosts Student Leadership Council (continued from page 1)

During their retreat, the students discussed projects for the coming year and reviewed the past year, which included the 2008 design competition at the EERI Annual Meeting in New Orleans as well as three business and industry partners’ seminars that encouraged interaction between students and industry.

The new SLC co-presidents are Lisa Star and Anne Lemnitzer (both from UCLA), and their faculty advisors are Scott Brandenberg (UCLA) and Scott Olson (UIUC). The transition to EERI creates a natural base from which to draw new representatives, allowing the SLC to fill open positions in the coming year with EERI student chapter presidents both nationally and internationally. The SLC is currently working to include more schools from around the country. Presidents of active EERI student chapters are encouraged to contact the SLC at eeri.slc@gmail.com.

For more information about the SLC and upcoming events (including the 2009 Seismic Design Competition in Salt Lake City — see the enclosed poster), visit www.eeri.org/slc. The SLC extends thanks to CSI for sponsoring the retreat and hosting them in Berkeley.

SLC members, CSI staff members, academic partners, and EERI board members at CSI in Berkeley, California.
News of the Institute

RMS Supports Confined Masonry Network

EERI Silver Subscribing Member Risk Management Solutions (RMS), a risk modeling company based in Newark, California, has recently awarded EERI’s World Housing Encyclopedia project a $50,000 grant to support a new initiative called the Confined Masonry Network. This network is a small and growing group of experts worldwide who are committed to improving the design and construction quality of confined masonry where it is currently in use and to introduce it in areas where it can reduce seismic risk.

Confined masonry is a construction system where the masonry walls are built first, and the concrete columns and beams are poured in afterwards to enclose (confine) the walls. It has typically performed well in past earthquakes worldwide, when built according to code requirements. Its satisfactory earthquake performance is due to the joint action of masonry walls and their confining elements. A website has been created where information on this technology is being gathered and shared: www.confinedmasonry.org.

This network grew out of an International Strategy Workshop on Promotion of Confined Masonry that was organized in Kanpur, India, in January 2008, by the National Information Centre of Earthquake Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, the World Housing Encyclopedia project of EERI and IAEE, and the World Seismic Safety Initiative.

RMS funding will be used to support Phase I of the project, focusing on developing the technical materials and groundwork necessary to implement confined masonry more widely. Funding will support a small group of experts to peer-review the existing construction guidelines, to develop new global guidelines, to work towards an international design standard, and to develop a research agenda.

For more information, visit www.confinedmasonry.org or contact Marjorie Greene at mgreene@eeri.org.

Confined masonry under construction in Indonesia (photo: Build Change)

News of the Profession

2009 E-Defense Blind Analysis Contest

The E-Defense steel research team, led by EERI member Kazuhiko Kasai of the Tokyo Institute of Technology, has been testing various full-scale steel frames using the world’s largest three-dimensional shaking table located at Miki City, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan. The team has announced the 2009 blind analysis contest for a full-scale, five-story steel building, which will use Japanese steel dampers in the first test, and American viscous dampers in the second.

The contest is the follow-up of the 2007 blind analysis contest for a full-scale, four-story conventional steel frame that was shaken to collapse, by applying the intense near-fault ground motions recorded during the 1995 Kobe earthquake. The same records will be used in order to contrast the performance of the damped frame against the collapsed conventional frame.

Each participant should predict the expected responses before the test. After the test, the closest predictions will win. The contest is categorized by the combination of damper type and analysis type. With two types of dampers and two types of analysis methods (3D and 2D) being considered, four winners will be recognized. Results will be presented anonymously, except for those of the winners. The winners be honored in 2010 at the 7th International Conference on Urban Earthquake Engineering in Japan, with their travel expenses and accommodations covered by the contest sponsor.

Due dates for submitting results are mid-February and mid-April. During November, details of the contest rules and building data will be posted on the E-Defense web-site at http://www.bosai.go.jp/hyogo/ehyogo/index.html.

Full-scale 5-story steel building with 12 dampers (Unit=mm); nonstructural elements will be attached. Floor area is twice that of the 4-story steel frame tested to collapse in 2007.
News of the Institute

Summary of the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of May 6, 2008

President Thalia Anagnos called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. Also present were Directors Jon Bray, S. K. Ghosh, Laurie Johnson, Marshall Lew, Jack Moehle, Farzad Naeim, Andrew Whittaker (by speakerphone), Executive Director Susan Tubbesing, and Publications Manager Eloise Gilland. Director Masa-yoshi Nakashima was unable to attend.

President’s Report

Computers and Structures, Inc. (CSI): Anagnos reported that Ashraf Habibullah of CSI has directed CSI’s Platinum Subscription Member dues to support the Student Leadership Council (SLC) summer retreat. CSI has also established a $20,000 matching grant to support the 2009 Undergraduate Student Design Competition. Tubbesing will try to establish a consortium to fully fund the contest.

DC trip: Anagnos reported on her DC trip in April with Tubbesing. They visited NEHRP agencies and a number of congressional staff on the Hill, including the offices of congressional persons Woolsey, Lofgren, Speaker Pelosi, and Senators Feinstein and Boxer. They also met with Megan Housewright, a staffer on the House Science Committee, and Lara Levison and Scott Boule on Speaker Pelosi’s staff. Boule serves as a liaison to all appropriations committees. The meetings were very productive and should be held at least twice a year, in order to educate congressional staffs about NEHRP needs and inform the staffs of what each agency is doing with its current allocation.

Anagnos and Tubbesing met with Vilas Mujumdar and Dennis Wenger, who apprised them of an impending reorganization of NSF and discussed funding challenges. A visit to FEMA provided an opportunity to meet with all the earthquake program officers. During the next DC trip, Tubbesing will meet with professional associations such as AIA and APA to enlist their support on earthquake issues and encourage them to join the Hazards Caucus Working group and the NEHRP Coalition.

Secretary/Treasurer’s Report

Overview of Revenue and Expense reports: The combined balance sheet for March 31, 2008, showed an opening fund balance of $191,201. There was $324,134 in excess revenues over expenses. EERI’s total liabilities of $193,861 combined with the total fund balance of $515,335 equaled $709,196. The Endowment Program’s opening balance of $958,404 was reduced by $50,094 in expenses. Total liabilities in the amount of $359,909 combined with the total fund balance of $908,310 equaled $1,268,219. The balance of the association, endowment, and technical programs equaled $1,977,415.

Investment report and overview: The Investment Funds Report showed a balance of $533,702. The balance in the interest-bearing checking account was $54,517. The combined funds in both the General Administrative checking and investment accounts totaled $588,219. The Endowment Fund balance totaled $911,385; the Friedman Family Investment Fund totaled $203,413; and the Shah Family Innovation Prize totaled $153,421. Lew noted that investments are down for the year. He emphasized the need for patience.

New Spectra staff: The Board met EERI’s new Spectra editorial assistant, Liz Hogan Stalnaker. Liz previously worked for the publishers Lippincott and Houghton Mifflin on medical textbooks. The delay in the publication of the Spectra spe-
Technical Seminars update and plans for the future: A seminar has been proposed by I.M. Idriss and Ross Boulanger, based on their new EERI monograph Soil Liquefaction During Earthquakes. Also discussed was a possible seminar on the Next Generation of Attenuation Relations Project in conjunction with the Spectra special issue. A Technical Seminar Committee chair must be identified to carry these ideas forward, as Ron Mayes is hoping to step down before the end of this year.

Joint US/Canada 2010 National Conference: The Board reviewed the composition of the organizing committee. An attempt has been made to make it multidisciplinary, involve youth, and have gender representation. Mary Goodson of CH2M HILL volunteered her staff to help with publicity.

Concrete Coalition: Anagnos reported that SCEC has been trying to inform people about risk in Southern California. Concrete Coalition chair Craig Comartin wrote a letter expressing interest in meeting with Los Angeles City Councilman Greig Smith regarding legislation that Smith wants to develop in L.A. The Concrete Coalition has sent letters to 20 firms in Los Angeles asking for their support in developing information on attributes of nonductile concrete buildings in L.A. The tasks need to be better defined to clarify what level of involvement is required.

NEHRP Scenario Workshop: The Board reviewed the NEHRP scenario project steering committee roster and the draft agenda of the workshop scheduled for September 17-18 in San Francisco. There has been a great response from program managers and seismic safety commissions around the country. One workshop goal is to update the Guidelines for Developing an Earthquake Scenario.

Action Items from February Board meeting
2010 Annual Meeting venue: The consensus was that members like meeting in San Francisco and that Tubbesing should try to identify a hotel there. Only if that fails should she consider other locations in northern California.

IT Committee: Anagnos will follow up with Ron Eguchi on whether the Remote Sensing Subcommittee should be separate from the IT Committee.

ICC Publications: Ghosh reported that there is some receptivity at ICC for EERI to sell ICC publications to EERI members at a discount. He will follow up and report back.

Facebook EERI student network: The students at the Annual Meeting in New Orleans were receptive to this idea. Bray will follow up with Student Activities chair Ellen Rathje.

Response to NEHRP Strategic Plan: Anagnos and Tubbesing will draft a response on behalf of EERI and remind members of the importance of indicating their support for the program. The Board agreed that the plan does a good job of integrating the four agencies in addressing the goals of the NEHRP Program.

Input to congressional appropriations committees: Nancy Pelosi’s staff would like to know how each of the four NEHRP agencies is spending its NEHRP funds, the impact of proposed cuts, what their unmet needs are, what kind of increase in funding for this year they would like, and their priorities for how such funding would be used. Tubbesing will make sure this information gets to Pelosi’s staff and the appropriations committees this fall.

Possible new legislation: The new USGS probability estimates of a 99% chance of a damaging earthquake in California in the next 30 years made a strong impression on Capitol Hill. New legislation is being drafted in Feinstein’s office. Her staff wants to make sure the strategies called for are most effective. Possible options are tax credits or incentives for retrofit, reducing the depreciation of existing structures, mapping liquefaction zones, classroom safety education, unreinforced masonry construction, and levees.

Recruiting new individual members: In order to ensure the future vitality of EERI, it is important that the member base remain strong and continue to grow. The Board discussed possible untapped sources of new members, including engineers at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; the bridge engineering community; the consultant community; and particular organizations that might be interested in associate memberships, such as the AIA and APA. The Board was urged to contact colleagues in other fields and agencies to encourage them to promote EERI. Members of EERI will also be asked to encourage their colleagues to join so EERI can speak to Congress and others with strong backing from the community.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

News of the Profession
Award for CUREE

At its 2008 Annual Convention, the Structural Engineers Association of California (SEAOC) bestowed an Excellence in Engineering Award on the Consortium of Universities for Research in Earthquake Engineering (CUREE) in the category of Study, Research, and Guidelines. The award is for the project recently completed with major funding from the California Earthquake Authority, General Guidelines for the Assessment and Repair of Earthquake Damage in Residential Woodframe Buildings. The project was managed by EERI member John Osteraas of Exponent and was guided by a panel of independent experts representing a variety of disciplines. The report is available at [www.curee.org](http://www.curee.org) under Recent Publications, along with a basic version available as a downloadable pdf.
Opportunities

UC San Diego and Notre Dame Positions

The Department of Structural Engineering at the University of California, San Diego, is seeking candidates for the positions of assistant, associate, and full professor in the areas of 1) smart and adaptive structures, 2) structural/geotechnical and bridge engineering, 3) marine/ocean engineering, and 4) aircraft/aerospace composite structures. Innovation, systems-oriented engineering, and potential for multidisciplinary research and for development of a strong externally funded research program are important. Required: a doctorate or equivalent degree. Review of applications will begin 11/28/08 and will continue until the positions are filled. For more information and application instructions, visit http://structures.ucsd.edu/?page=structural_engineering/employment/faculty.

The Department of Civil Engineering and Geological Sciences at the University of Notre Dame invites applications for multiple tenure-track faculty positions to complement the existing faculty in structural engineering. Required: a Ph.D. and demonstrated potential for research and teaching. Qualified candidates at all levels will be considered. The department seeks applicants with a research focus on the development of, performance assessment of, and implementation to civil infrastructure of innovative civil engineering materials, components, systems, and technologies; soil-structure interaction; numerical simulation of high-performance structural components and systems; reliability and performance-based methodologies for structures under extreme loading conditions.

Applications will be accepted through January 2009. For application information, visit http://www.nd.edu/~cegeos/, then click on “News” and “Positions Available.”

AIR Worldwide Seeks Seismologists

EERI Subscribing Member AIR Worldwide’s office in Boston, Massachusetts, is seeking candidates to join its Research and Modeling Department’s growing Earthquake Team, consisting of seismologists, civil and structural engineers, and other professionals, to develop seismic risk analysis models used to estimate losses from natural catastrophes. For more information, visit www.air-worldwide.com.

News of the Membership

Gülkan Elected IAEE President-Elect

Former EERI Board Director Polat Gülkan, who is currently the editor of Earthquake Spectra, has been elected to serve as President of the International Association for Earthquake Engineering (IAEE), beginning in 2010 for a four-year term. The General Assembly of National Delegates elected Gülkan during the 14th World Conference in Beijing. Until taking office, he will serve as president-elect. IAEE was established in 1963 and has its central office in Tokyo. It aims to reduce global seismic risk by promoting international cooperation among scientists, engineers, and other professionals through interchange of knowledge, ideas, research, and experience. The quadrennial world conferences are held under the auspices of IAEE. The current number of member countries in IAEE is 56.

Filiatrault Elected MCEER Director

EERI member André Filiatrault, a professor of civil, structural and environmental engineering in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences at the University at Buffalo (UB), has been elected to a two-year term as director of MCEER, a national research center focused on multi-hazard engineering. Filiatrault was elected to the post by the newly instituted MCEER Management Council, comprising university faculty colleagues that lead MCEER research programs. Filiatrault had previously served as deputy director of MCEER. He succeeds Michel Bruneau, UB professor of civil, structural and environmental engineering, who stepped down from his MCEER post at the end of August.

Since 2007, Filiatrault has served as director of UB’s Structural Engineering and Earthquake Simulation Laboratory (SEESL) that is home to twin movable shake tables capable of real-time seismic testing of structures up to 120 feet in length. “Through the vision and leadership of its past directors, George Lee and Michel Bruneau, MCEER has redefined the field of multiple hazard engineering through the concept of disaster resilience,” said Filiatrault. He indicated that MCEER’s research plan will revolve around three complementary research thrusts: infrastructure systems and public policy; sustainable and resilient buildings, and innovative technologies.

Call for Papers

COMPdyn2009

Abstracts are due by November 30, 2008, for the 2nd International Conference on Computational Methods in Structural Dynamics and Earthquake Engineering, to be held June 22-24, 2009, on the Island of Rhodes, Greece. For more information, including the list of topics, visit www.compdyn2009.org.
2009 Annual Meeting  
(continued from page 1)  
The hotel’s group room rate for EERI and WSSPC is $153 plus tax. Hotel reservations can be made from a link on EERI’s home page, www.eeri.org. Reservations must be made by January 10, 2009.  

Attention undergraduates: We encourage EERI members to let undergraduates know that the 6th Annual Undergraduate Seismic Design Competition will be held during the Annual Meeting (see the enclosed poster).

News of the Profession  
Nominations Solicited for Alquist Award  
The California Earthquake Safety Foundation (CESF) is soliciting nominations for the 2009 Alfred E. Alquist Medal for Achievements in Earthquake Safety. 

This medal is awarded periodically to individuals, public agencies, corporations, and charitable and other organizations that have demonstrated outstanding achievements in basic and applied research, public policy advancement, education, volunteer service, and program management in earthquake safety in California.

Nomination messages should include the name and contact information of the nominee, a paragraph describing the nominee’s contribution, the name and contact information of nominator, and can be e-mailed to Richard Eisner, Chair of CESF’s Board of Directors, at richeisner@gmail.com.

The California Earthquake Safety Foundation was founded in 1985 for the purpose of promoting earthquake safety in California. For more information, visit http://www.calesf.org/.

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.

2008  
NOVEMBER  
7. New Madrid EQ Scenario Planning Meeting, St. Louis, MO. Info: http://newmadrid.eeri.org/ (9/08)  
DECEMBER  
2009  
FEBRUARY  
11-14, EERI Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City. Info: www.eeri.org. See page 1. (3/08, 6/08, 9/08, 10/08, 11/08)  
APRIL  
8-10. Annual Meeting of the Seismological Society of America, Monterey, CA. Info: http://www.seismosoc.org/meetings/meetings.html (7/08)  
JUNE  
21-24. 19th World Conference on Disaster Management (WCDM), Toronto, Canada. Info: www.wcdm.org/ (10/08)  
28-July 1. TCLEE Conf.: Lifeline EQ Eng. in a Multihazard Environment, Oakland, CA. Info: www.asce.org/tclee2009 (8/08, 10/08)  
SEPTEMBER  
13-17. 10th Int’l Conf. on Structural Safety & Reliability (ICOSSAR2009), Osaka, Japan. Info: www.sc.kutc.kansai-u.ac.jp/icossar2009 (2/08)  
2010  
MAY  
23-29. 5th Int’l Conf. on Recent Advances in Geotech. EQ Eng. & Soil Dynamics & Symposium in Honor of I.M. Idriss, San Diego, CA. Info: prakash@mst.edu (4/08)  
JUNE  
JULY  
25-29. 9th U.S. Nat’l & 10th Canadian Conf. on EQ Eng.: Reaching Beyond Borders, Westin Harbour Castle Hotel, Toronto, Canada. Info: 2010eqconf.org (2/08, 7/08)
Researchers at University of California San Diego are currently conducting shake table tests on a 2/3-scale, three-story, nonductile, reinforced concrete frame designed at UCSD, representative of structures built in California in the 1920s. The tests are part of the collaborative project between University of Colorado at Boulder, Stanford University, and UC San Diego, which is the lead institution. Now in its fourth and final year, the research project is funded by the George E. Brown Jr. Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation (NEES).

The goal of the research team, led by EERI member Benson Shing, a UCSD structural engineering professor, is to develop and implement analytical tools to assess the seismic vulnerability of existing structures and techniques to retrofit them. During the 1920s, infill panels were often considered nonstructural elements; even now their exact role and behavior during earthquakes are unclear. The ultimate goal is to provide methods to assess and improve the seismic performance of historic buildings located in areas such as downtown Los Angeles and San Francisco. The results of this research project will apply to areas of high seismicity around the world, where this type of structural system is common, such as China and the Mediterranean region.

The earthquake tests are being conducted at the NEES@UCSD outdoor shake table, which is part of the UCSD Jacobs School of Engineering’s Englekirk Structural Engineering Center, one of the 15 NEES testing facilities. After the structure is tested to failure, the researchers will use the data to validate the analytical models and analyze the failure patterns and behavior of the structure. They will then develop a scheme to retrofit a second specimen with the same design. It will be built and tested in early 2009. These tests will conclude a series ranging from small-scale quasi-static tests at Stanford to large-scale single-bay, single-story specimens at NEES@Colorado. The test data will be shared with the community for blind prediction analysis. For more information, visit http://infill.ucsd.edu.

News of the Institute

Electronic Voting in EERI Election

Instructions on how to cast your ballot electronically in this fall’s election to determine who will serve on EERI’s Board of Directors will be e-mailed to members and will also be provided in the December Newsletter. Please check with your network administrator to make sure e-mail from EERI (@eeri.org) can get through. If you prefer to vote by paper ballot, please e-mail Juliane Lane at juliane@eeri.org no later than November 14, 2008, or call 510/451-0905. To ensure that we have your correct e-mail address on file, please take a moment to check your information in the online roster located in the “EERI Members Access” area of the website at www.eeri.org (click under “Member Access” in the right column). If your e-mail address is not correct, go to the “Roster Information Update” section and enter it.

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