EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING RESEARCH INSTITUTE

NEWSLETTER

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News of the Institute

2007 Annual Meeting: Seismic Challenges in a Changing Urban Environment

The 2007 EERI Annual Meeting Organizing Committee, chaired by Robert Bachman, is putting together an excellent program focusing on the theme "Seismic Challenges in a Changing Urban Environment." The meeting will take place February 7-10 at the Universal City Hilton in Los Angeles, California. Experts in the various disciplines of the earthquake field will cover the vision of the new urbanism, the way in which the increased density of the urban core influences its potential vulnerability, and major disasters in large urban areas (including a panel on what strategies are needed to mitigate future urban disasters). One session will be devoted to very tall buildings (240'+) in high seismic areas, featuring a panel on the particular challenges posed by such buildings. There will be consideration of the special needs of schools, hospitals, essential and hazardous materials facilities, nuclear power plants, and lifeline systems. Finally, speakers in the last session on Saturday (a day especially geared for young professionals who may not be able to attend the entire meeting) will reflect on the multifaceted future of earthquake engineering, including new high-tech tools, NEES, next-generation performance-based design, and advanced structural technologies.

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The U.S. Bank Tower in downtown Los Angeles is the tallest building in the United States west of Chicago. Completed in 1989, this building was designed to withstand a magnitude 8.3 earthquake. The 2007 Annual Meeting will feature a session on "Very Tall Buildings (240'+) in High Seismic Areas" (photo from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia).

Sumatra Report Published by EERI and UNESCO

EERI has entered into a unique agreement with the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to publish jointly the massive (900+ pages) reconnaissance report on the Great Sumatra earthquakes and Indian Ocean tsunamis (Special issue III of *Earthquake Spectra*, volume 22). Teaming with UNESCO, the parent organization of IOC (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission) that manages the International Tsunami Survey Teams has provided EERI with hard copies to sell to our members and to distribute to individuals and governments in the Indian Ocean region affected by the December 2004 tsunami. In return, EERI has given UNESCO rights to sell copies to nonmembers. This represents one of the few times that EERI has collaborated with another organization in the printing and dissemination of such a report. We look forward to increased visibility and distribution of the report that will come from UNESCO's involvement, and to possible future collaborative ventures.

News of the Profession

PEER Leads Tall Buildings Initiative

Several West Coast cities are seeing an upsurge in the construction of high-rise buildings. This tall buildings boom has created a demand for new framing systems rising to heights outside the range of building code prescriptive provisions. The Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research (PEER) Center is responding to this need by leading an initiative to develop design criteria that will ensure safe and usable tall buildings following future earthquakes. Collectively known as the Tall Buildings Initiative, this project involves the Applied Technology Council, the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety, the Los Angeles Tall Buildings Structural Design Council, the San Francisco Department of Building Inspection, the Southern California Earthquake Center, the Structural Engineers Association of California, the U.S. Geological Survey, PEER, and several practicing professionals.

The initiative is funding a range of short-term to intermediate-term projects over the next 24 months. One early task will bring together appropriate professionals and stakeholders to achieve a consensus on seismic performance objectives for tall buildings, including consideration of safety and serviceability. Another task will develop guidelines on selection and modification of ground motions suitable for tall building designs, including generation of synthetic motions for large-magnitude earthquakes at short distances. Still another major task will develop engineering procedures for modeling, analysis, and design to meet the target performance objectives.

The initiative is guided by a project advisory committee comprising EERI members Norm Abrahamson, Yousef Bozorgnia, Ron Hamburger, Helmut Krawinkler, Marshall Lew, Ray Lui, Jack Moehle, Mark Moore, Farzad Naeim, and Paul Somerville. Broad community engagement will be achieved through a series of regular workshops and other outreach activities.

For more information, including how to participate in upcoming workshops, visit **http://peer.berkeley.edu**.

MCEER Changing Name, Expanding Focus

To reflect its mission of developing solutions to improve resilience against a variety of extreme events, the Multidisciplinary Center for Earthquake Engineering Research, founded in 1986 and headquartered at the University at Buffalo (UB), is shortening its name to its acronym, MCEER, and will use the banner "Earthquake Engineering to Extreme Events."

For the past five years, MCEER has been applying its expertise in reducing earthquake damage to a broad range of natural and human-made hazards. The center's name, logo, and banner will emphasize this broadened focus. "There is a whole body of knowledge that we have acquired...that now should be transferred to address other hazards," said Michel Bruneau, MCEER director and UB professor of civil, structural and environmental engineering.

The goal is to find solutions that can protect communities from a variety of hazards at one cost, rather than using different solutions for each hazard, as is now often the case. A key goal of MCEER is to unite and support national and international teams to conduct research, education, and outreach programs to develop the knowledge, tools, and technologies to enhance the resilience of critical infrastructure, systems, and communities. Initiatives include partnerships with business, industry, and government stakeholders in order to drive solutions into practice in the marketplace.

MCEER's interest in leveraging its expertise began with a multidisciplinary collaboration after the World Trade Center attacks of September 11, 2001. After conducting an NSF-funded reconnaissance mission to the site, MCEER researchers brought together earthquake engineers, blast-protection engineers, and social scientists. MCEER researchers also have been instrumental in reconnaissance work and research on Hurricane Katrina, the Indian Ocean tsunami, and Hurricane Charley. The damage to bridges from the storm surges in last year's hurricanes was strikingly similar to damage caused in past earthquakes. There are steps taken to anchor bridge decks in earthquake-prone regions. Similar remedies could have reduced the damage suffered by these hurricane-stricken bridges. "Why can't we develop and adapt the same kinds of technologies...to protect against storm surge?" asked Bruneau.

MCEER scientists and engineers currently are working on a number of projects to foster a multihazards perspective. They are focusing on protecting nuclear power plants and bridges from blasts and earthquakes, studying progressive collapse due to various disasters, understanding how nonstructural damage occurs, and developing models of organizational behavior and decision making during disasters.

MCEER has been funded principally by NSF, the State of New York, and the Federal Highway Administration, with additional support from FEMA, other state governments, academic institutions, foreign governments, and private industry.

2007 Annual Meeting

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Mark the dates of February 7-10, 2007, now and watch for more details on other Annual Meeting activities in future newsletters, in the program brochure to be mailed in the fourth quarter, and by visiting the EERI web site, **www.eeri.org**.

News of the Profession

PERI to Develop Volunteer Liability Toolkit

The Public Entity Risk Institute (PERI), a nonprofit risk management training and educational organization, has been awarded a $75,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to research and develop tools and best practices for minimizing liability risks when using volunteers—including when they are mobilized to support emergency responders. The grant was awarded as part of the Fiscal Year 2006 Citizen Corps Support Program operated by the DHS' Preparedness Directorate.

The Volunteer Liability Research Project will be conducted over a 12-month period, with a comprehensive package of tools and best practices completed by July 31, 2007. This extensive research initiative will include development of a tool kit of methodologies that would cover a range of information such as an introduction to liability law and likely liability exposures, in-depth review of liability law and liability scenarios, and examples and attributes of legislative approaches to address these exposures in various states and at the federal level.

To learn more about other PERI initiatives concerning liability issues involving volunteers, visit **www.riskinstitute.org**.

Call for Abstracts

New Madrid Chapter to Hold Student Poster Competition

EERI's New Madrid Chapter (NMC) is planning a poster competition for students. There will be two levels of student prizes: graduate (first place award of $350) and undergraduate (first place award of $250). There will also be second place awards. The students will present their posters in a professional forum in late January or early February 2007 in St. Louis, Missouri. Awardees will be acknowledged during Earthquake Awareness Week activities early in February, and will have earned an honor useful for their resumes and employment searches.

Students may apply for the competition by submitting an application with a tentative abstract. The topic can be any discipline of earthquake hazard study or earthquake-resistant design. Disciplines may include seismology, geology, engineering, response and recovery issues, and socio-economic concerns related to earthquakes.

Application forms and competition rules are available from EERI's home page, **www.eeri.org**. Individual student applicants or groups (maximum of three per group) are welcomed. A faculty member must attest that every applicant is a student at the time of the application. Completed applications with abstracts must be received by Wednesday, November 8, 2006; applicants will be notified of the decision on their entry by November 17, 2006. The date and location of the forum in the St. Louis area will accompany the notices.

Accepted student entrants will prepare a poster and give a 7- to 10-minute presentation. The poster will include a final abstract of the poster, a problem statement, references, and a researched conclusion. The posters may be retained by the NMC for other events during Earthquake Awareness Week, but will be available to the authors afterwards.

Publications

BSSA Issues Online

There are now 95 years of *BSSA* (the *Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America*) available and searchable online at **www.BSSAOnline.org**. The journal's first issue was published in 1911. This electronic version is free to SSA members and *BSSA* print subscribers. Nonmembers can access the abstracts free of charge and can download any article for $15.

The most recent issue (September) is a compendium of research based on the wealth of data generated before, during, and after the 28 September 2004 Mw 6.0 Parkfield, California, earthquake. This event occurred in one of the most densely instrumented regions in the world due to the Parkfield Earthquake Prediction Experiment, providing an unprecedented view of a single significant strike-slip earthquake on the San Andreas fault. The analysis of data has led to such surprising findings as the following: shaking varied greatly and unexpectedly within the epicentral area; some of the shaking exceeded an instrument's recording capacity; each Parkfield earthquake is unique; and fault displacement after the main shock was greater than expected—greater than the main shock displacement.

News of the Institute

Meet the Candidates

For Director A

Andrew S. Whittaker

Andrew Whittaker is a professor in the Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering at the University at Buffalo and a licensed structural engineer in the state of California. He completed his graduate degrees in structural engineering at the University of California, Berkeley, in the 1980s. He practiced as a structural engineer in Australia and Asia in the late 1970s and early 1980s and in the United States in the late 1980s.

He served as the associate director of EERC/PEER in the 1990s and joined the University at Buffalo in 2000. He was elected to the Board of Directors of the Consortium of Universities for Research in Earthquake Engineering in 2001, served as vice president in 2003/ 2004 and as president since 2005.

Whittaker's research and professional interests include earthquake and blast engineering, performance-based design, seismic protective systems, ultra high-rise buildings, offshore platforms, and power-related infrastructure. He is the author of more than 200 publications, including a reference text, book chapters, journal papers, conference papers, and technical reports. Whittaker led NSF-funded earthquake reconnaissance teams to Kobe, Japan, in 1995, and Izmit, Turkey, in 1999, and was a member of the three-person, NSF-funded structural engineering reconnaissance team at the site of the World Trade Center in September 2001. He currently serves on technical committees for ACI, ASCE, AISC, BSSC, DHS/ FEMA, EERI, and the USGS.

Whittaker is an active member of the design professional community in the United States and abroad. He provides consulting and peer-review services to private companies and local, state, and federal government agencies in the United States, Asia, Australia, Europe, the Far East, the Middle East, South America, and the United Kingdom. A focus of his professional work is the application of new technologies and performance-based design to ultra-tall buildings, bridges, and conventional and nuclear-related infrastructure. He is the leader for the Structural Performance Products Team that is developing the second generation of tools for performance-based earthquake engineering as part of the DHS/FEMA-funded ATC-58 project.

Vision

The mission of EERI is to reduce earthquake risk by advancing the science and practice of earthquake engineering, by improving understanding of the impact of earthquakes on the physical, social, economic, political, and cultural environment, and by advocating comprehensive and realistic measures for reducing the harmful effects of earthquakes. The EERI Board has proposed a five-year Strategic Plan to advance the mission. The plan is constructed around four strategic initiatives (see **www.eeri.org/home/5yearplan.html**), namely, to (1) enhance educational materials and technical programs, (2) improve outreach and advocacy, (3) develop projects and programs with international partners to address the global need for reliable and timely information, and (4) strengthen the financial base to enable the organization to support current national and international initiatives and to underwrite future programs. Objectives and viable strategies have been developed for each strategic initiative, building on past and current EERI activities.

Board members can contribute to each of the four proposed initiatives but substantial progress will be made only if a significant percentage of the EERI membership become actively involved in EERI activities—the key challenge facing the incoming Board. The Board must develop mechanisms for engaging the membership in EERI activities, recognizing that most members have little time for additional professional activities. The tangible strategies identified in the Strategic Plan must be ranked and integrated into a coordinated business plan by the Board to minimize the demands placed on the membership and to maximize the chances of success. Performance metrics must be established, where possible, to judge the success of activities and to help allocate resources in future years—one of the key responsibilities of a board of directors.

EERI President Craig Comartin described EERI as a stellar organization. I agree with him. For this success, we owe a debt of thanks to the EERI staff and current and former members of the Board. However, we cannot rest on our laurels. We must look for new opportunities to advance our mission and move younger members into positions of responsibility and leadership in the organization to ensure that our star continues to burn brightly.

Meet the Candidates

For Director A

Sharon L. Wood

Sharon L. Wood holds the Robert L. Parker, Sr., Centennial Professorship in Engineering and is a professor in the Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin, where she has been on the faculty since 1996. Wood earned degrees in civil engineering from the University of Virginia (B.S.) and the University of Illinois (M.S. and Ph.D.) and taught at the University of Illinois for ten years.

Wood has been a member of EERI since 1986. She was a member of the planning committees for the 5NCEE in Chicago and the 1997 Annual Meeting in Austin. She served on the Editorial Board for *Earthquake Spectra* and chaired the Traditional Education Forum and the Technical Seminars Committee. She has participated in post-event investigations of the 1985 Chile, 1994 Northridge, and 1999 Turkey earthquakes.

Wood currently serves on the Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee for USGS and chairs the National Steering Committee for the Advanced National Seismic System. Wood also is a member of the 2008 Provisions Update Committee for BSSC, the Advisory Committee on Structural Safety for the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Structural Concrete Building Code Committee for ACI. She is a past member of the Board of the NEES Consortium and ACI, and is the past chair of the Technical Activities and Publications Committees within ACI.

Wood's research interests are related to studying the behavior of reinforced concrete structures. She has received the Alfred Noble Award from ASCE and the Joe W. Kelly and Henry L. Kennedy Awards from ACI.

Vision

The recent conference commemorating the 1906 earthquake represents a significant accomplishment for EERI. Not only did the conference provide an opportunity to celebrate the many achievements in earthquake engineering, risk reduction, and emergency management during the past century, but it was also a chance to reflect on the extent of damage that an earthquake of similar magnitude would cause today in such a densely populated area. The devastation caused by the Indian Ocean tsunami and Hurricane Katrina raises questions regarding our ability to manage such large-scale natural disasters.

EERI faces many challenges in the next five to ten years. Most notably, the federal government is considering expanding the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program to consider multiple hazards. EERI must not only play a leadership role within the multihazard community, but must also ensure that its core programs, such as learning from earthquakes, are maintained. Increasing the number and scope of the earthquake scenarios is one means of engaging members of the hazards community from around the world and informing the general public and policy makers about the risks in a well-defined manner.

I would be honored to serve on the EERI Board and support the Strategic Plan for enhancing educational, advocacy, and international activities and broadening the financial resource base.

News of the Profession

Portland State University Seismic Rehabilitation Project

Ondine Residence Hall at Portland State University (PSU), Oregon, was seismically upgraded (as a demonstration project) to increase its earthquake safety and community awareness. Ondine Hall was a 1966 15-story concrete building that posed a serious life-safety threat to hundreds of students due to serious structural deficiencies.

In April 2004, the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries was funded by the DHS-Federal Emergency Management Agency Predisaster Mitigation Program to conduct a partial seismic upgrade to the lower, most vulnerable floors. The mitigation design improved the inadequate shear-wall thickness, inadequate bracing on the soft stories at the first and second levels, and the inadequate vertical rebar couplers.

As part of the demonstration project, a steel plate wall was permanently exposed in the cafeteria dining room, which was remodeled at the same time as the seismic rehabilitation construction. In addition, a commemorative plaque was mounted at the building's front entrance to remind the public of the pre-disaster mitigation measures that were taken.

Meet the Candidates

For Director B

Stacy Bartoletti

Stacy Bartoletti is a principal and group director with Degenkolb Engineers. He manages both their Seattle, Washington, and Portland, Oregon, offices. Bartoletti is a registered professional engineer in the states of Washington, California, Oregon, and Utah. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in civil engineering from Purdue University and the University of Texas at Austin, respectively.

Bartoletti has been a member of EERI since 1993. He served on the 1995 Annual Meeting organizing committee and has played a key role in development of the Seattle fault earthquake scenario supported by EERI.

He is an active member of the Structural Engineers Association of Washington (SEAW), a board member and past secretary of the Cascadia Region Earthquake Workgroup (CREW), and a board member on the Architecture for Health Panel (AHP) in Washington and Oregon.

Bartoletti's experience includes the design of new building structures and the seismic evaluation, analysis, and upgrade of existing building structures and nonstructural components. He has also been a strong advocate for a multidisciplinary approach to seismic mitigation and post earthquake investigation. He spent significant time investigating earthquake damage and losses following the 1994 Northridge, the 1999 Taiwan, and the 2001 Nisqually earthquakes.

Vision

In advance of preparing this vision statement, I took the time to review the EERI 2006-2010 Strategic Plan, which renewed for me the spirit and quality of this organization. I have crafted my vision statement around EERI's three objectives for reducing earthquake risk identified in the Mission Statement.

First is advancing the science and practice of earthquake engineering. As a practicing structural engineer, I see the ever changing landscape of our profession. Substantial changes to the way we practice are initiated through research and post-earthquake investigation. EERI plays a key role in the process by being the foremost authority on earthquake investigation and by bringing researchers and practitioners together. I would like to see EERI continue to function in this pivotal role and expand opportunities to bring the research and practicing communities together to identify and rank earthquake risk reduction needs.

I also see the future of earthquake engineering in jeopardy, as we see fewer of the brightest and most talented students entering our profession and fewer of our young professionals staying in the profession. EERI has done a great job of advocating the earthquake engineering profession through student chapters, but more work is needed.

Second is improving understanding of the impact of earthquakes on the physical, social, economic, political, and cultural environments. Much of this understanding needs to be communicated at the regional and local levels. I would like to see a strong push in EERI to establish more regional and local chapters. EERI plays a powerful role at a national level, but local chapters are needed to carry this message further. Unlike any other organization, EERI, through its multidisciplinary membership, is in a unique position to communicate earthquake impacts to our regional and local governments and communities.

I believe a very successful tool for this communication has been the development of earthquake scenarios. They bring together local leaders in all hazard mitigation professions and provide opportunities to communicate directly with the press and elected officials.

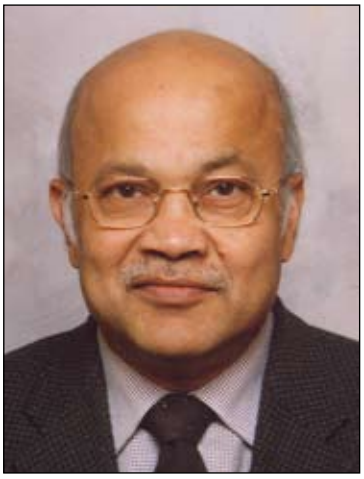
Third is advocating comprehensive and realistic measures for reducing the harmful effects of earthquakes. As an advocate, EERI needs to partner with other organizations. EERI is currently advocating risk reduction in our nonductile concrete buildings and has reached out to the professional engineering community to support and carry this message.

Our greatest potential for success in reducing earthquake risk is to act as the facilitator between technical organizations and researchers working to identify vulnerabilities and develop practical mitigation measures and the public and policy makers who hold the purse strings and political clout to enact such measures.

EERI has become a national and international leader in reducing earthquake risk. I believe the organization has continually adapted and improved over the years, and I am excited to be a part of the future evolution of the organization.

Meet the Candidates

For Director B



S. K. Ghosh

S. K. Ghosh heads the seismic and building code consulting firm, S. K. Ghosh Associates, Inc., in Palatine, Illinois, and Laguna Niguel, California. He was formerly director of Engineering Services, Codes, and Standards for the Portland Cement Association, Skokie, Illinois, and is adjunct professor of civil engineering at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Ghosh has influenced U.S. seismic design provisions for many years by serving on or chairing several committees and advisory panels. He played a major role in the development of shear-wall design provisions of the *Uniform Building Code* (*UBC*) and the precast concrete design provisions of the *UBC* and the *International Building Code*. He has been an active participant on an ongoing basis in the development and updates of the NEHRP Provisions.

Ghosh has been a member of EERI since 1983. He chaired the Finance Committee for the fifth U.S. National Conference on Earthquake Engineering held in Chicago in 1994. He is president of EERI's Great Lakes Chapter and chaired the 2006 Nominating Committee. He has investigated the performance of structures following many of the major earthquakes of the past two decades, beginning with the 1985 Mexico earthquake.

Ghosh has published extensively, including articles in *Spectra*. His books and other publications on earthquake-resistant design are widely used by design practitioners. Ghosh has long been a provider of continuing education to the structural engineering profession and the building code enforcement community. Ghosh is active on many national technical committees, is a fellow of ACI and PCI, and is currently on ACI's Board of Direction.

Vision

My vision is in step with EERI's goals and objectives and stems from a deep commitment to enhancing seismic safety. This commitment is continually strengthened by experiences that have moved me in the course of many post-earthquake investigations.

I still have only to close my eyes to see entire villages completely wiped out in the Bhuj, India, earthquake of 2001. Haunting images from my recent visit to Kashmir, devastated by the October 2005 earthquake, are still vivid in my memory. These visits have led me to a keen appreciation of the human dimensions of the earthquake problem.

I have endeavored to advance seismic safety primarily through work on U.S. building codes at the national and local levels, and occasionally on those of other countries. I would like EERI to increase its role in supporting the improvement of seismic codes and their enforcement in less-advanced earthquake-prone countries. I believe that this will make the plight of vulnerable populations in these countries more bearable in future earthquakes.

I have also worked to enhance seismic safety through continuing education activities and publications for design professionals and code enforcement personnel. These efforts also aim to ensure that engineering students learn building code provisions correctly and that engineering professors teach them accurately. I believe that EERI can play a major international role in this area by investigating more opportunities to provide continuing education to professionals outside the United States at an affordable price. I would like to see the EERI International Program pursue the formation of international chapters (including student chapters), where there is local receptivity. The members of these chapters should not have to belong to (and pay dues to) the parent organization. This will help EERI have an increased international role.

Of all the tremendous publications EERI has produced, I believe the monograph series has had the greatest impact. I am pleased to see old monographs finally updated. I would like to see the remaining ones updated and more new ones added. I would also like to see *Spectra*, which I respect highly, have more content that is directly usable by practicing professionals in earthquake-related fields.

The formation of EERI's International Activities Committee in 2002 was an important development. The international alliances EERI has formed in recent times are major steps in the right direction. I would like to see additional effort by EERI to forge partnerships with other organizations at home and abroad.

In summary, my vision is for EERI to become even more of a worldwide organization to which the earthquake community will habitually look for leadership, know-how, tools, programs, and education related to every aspect of seismic safety.

News of the Membership

Kallaby Receives Hall of Fame Award

Joe Kallaby, an EERI member since 1976, recently received the Inaugural Hall of Fame Award at ASCE's Offshore Technology Conference (OTC). The award was given for the landmark 1975 OTC paper "Inelastic Analysis of Fixed Offshore Platforms for Earthquake Loading," co-authored with David Millman.

The paper presented a procedure commonly referred to as "pushover," which has become the standard for collapse analysis in structural engineering for earthquake, storm, and other severe types of loading. The procedure spurred tens of millions of dollars in research and testing in the United States and Europe to understand and quantify the behavior of space frame structures up to collapse. It has permeated design codes, industry guidelines, and analysis software. It is used worldwide to determine ultimate strength and reserve capacity for platforms, and its use is mandated by several governments. It is now also used for buildings and other structures. The paper also proposed the dual criteria of providing adequate stiffness for elastic strength design and ductility for reserve strength. Joe was the architect in both concept and detail of the modern earthquake design criteria incorporated in April 1977 by the American Petroleum Institute's "Recommended Practice for Planning, Designing, and Constructing Fixed Offshore Platforms." Joe is the founder and president of Offshore Structures, Inc., in Houston, Texas. He has served as president of both the Structural Engineers Association of Texas and the Applied Technology Council. To obtain a copy of his pushover procedure, contact Joe at **osi-jk@swbell.net**.

(L to R) Dennis Masterson, President ASCE; David Millman; Patrick Natale, Executive Director ASCE; Joe Kallaby

Construction Management Award for Adeli

EERI member Hojjat Adeli, professor of civil and environmental engineering and geodetic science at Ohio State University, has been selected by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) to receive its prestigious Construction Management Award "for development of ingenious computational and mathematical models in the areas of construction scheduling, resource scheduling, and cost estimation." He will receive the award at ASCE's annual meeting on October 21, 2006. Last year he was elected an honorary member of ASCE. For more information about his exceptional career, see page 6 of the March *EERI Newsletter*.

Edwards to Receive Said Khoury Award

EERI member Curtis Edwards will receive the 2006 Said Khoury Award for Engineering Construction Excellence. The award will be presented during the ASCE World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) dinner on October 17, 2006, in Chicago.The award is given annually to an engineer who has made a noteworthy contribution to natural disaster relief. Curt has been chairperson of the ASCE TCLEE Earthquake Investigation Committee since 1996 and has coordinated many investigations, including last year's investigation following the Sumatra earthquake and Indian Ocean tsunami.

Prakash Award Goes to Stewart

Jonathan P. Stewart

EERI member Jonathan P. Stewart, an associate professor and vice chair in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at UCLA, is the recipient of the 2006 Shamsher Prakash Research Award, which is bestowed on engineers, scientists, or researchers, 40 years or younger, who are specialists in geotechnical engineering or geotechnical earthquake engineering.

Stewart received the award, which includes a cash prize of $1,100, in recognition of his research on ground failures related to strength loss from liquefaction of sands and cyclic softening of clays. His primary research interests emphasize seismic soil-structure interaction, probabilistic characterization of site effects on earthquake ground motion, seismic compression of unsaturated soils, ground failure in sands, and marginal plasticity soils.

His previous major awards include a 2005 Fulbright scholarship, the 2001 Casagrande Award from ASCE, and excellence in teaching awards. He was the EERI-FEMA graduate fellow in earthquake hazard reduction in 1995. As a registered P.E. in California, he maintains an active consulting practice to assist engineering firms and government agencies. He earned his Ph.D. from UC Berkeley in 1996.

Announcements

2006 California Response & Recovery Conference

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is hosting two workshops, one in southern California October 11-12 and one in northern California October 16-17, covering the essentials of emergency response and recovery. The conferences are designed specifically for transit managers, port authority and rail system managers, city and county emergency managers, first responders, and federal agencies with critical incident responsibilities.

The morning of each day of the workshops will focus on lessons learned from recent emergency events in California and elsewhere, while the afternoons will include tabletop exercises using California disaster scenarios, followed by workshop analysis of response plans and capabilities.

The outcome of these workshops will be the creation of a standardized Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for all transit systems in the state, providing a unified all-hazards approach to transportation across jurisdictions throughout California.

The Federal Highway Administration is funding this initiative. In addition to Caltrans, the initiative is being sponsored by the California Transit Association (CTA), the California Association for Coordinated Transportation (CalACT), the California Office of Emergency Services, the California Highway Patrol, the California Utilities Emergency Association, the Southern California Association of Governments, and the Sacramento Association of Governments.

For more information, visit the 2006 Caltrans Response & Recovery web site at **www.DisasterPrep.info/Caltrans**.

NEES Training Workshops

Centrifuge Workshop at UC Davis

The University of California at Davis and the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute are holding the 3rd Annual Centrifuge Research and Training Workshop November 6-9, 2006, at the UC Davis NEES Experimental Facility, funded by the National Science Foundation.

The first two days will include tours and lectures exploring the capabilities of the centrifuge facilities and research opportunities using the NEES equipment (biaxial shakers, robots, advanced instrumentation). The goals are to help participants prepare NEES research proposals, to introduce the new NEEScentral data repository, and to give PIs an ability to plan research using this equipment.

The last two days will include hands-on training in the use of NEES equipment. Topics will include the design and construction of centrifuge models, instrumentation, high-speed cameras, data acquisition systems, and robot systems.

Funds may be available to provide full or partial support for a limited number of qualified participants. The full agenda and an application form are available in a PDF from a link on EERI's home page, **www.eeri.org**. Past workshops have filled to capacity; please apply promptly if you are planning to attend. For more information, contact Cypress Winters, phone 530/752-7929; e-mail **cgm@ucdavis.edu**.

UC Davis centrifuge

Real-Time Hybrid Simulation Workshop in Colorado

The NEES Experimental Facility at the University of Colorado (CU) is hosting a Researcher Training Workshop November 2-3, 2006. The workshop is intended for researchers and engineers interested or working in the area of fast or real-time hybrid simulation.

The Fast Hybrid Testing (FHT) facility staff at CU will present their hybrid simulation approach based on real-time techniques that accurately replicate prototype vibration conditions. The CU researchers and staff will be sharing the most recent developments at the FHT facility, including the demonstration and use of the new real-time Desktop FHT Platform. Participation is welcomed from the simulation and testing communities in aerospace, civil, and mechanical engineering. NEESinc is providing a limited amount of travel support for qualified attendees. For the full agenda and an application form, visit **http://nees.colorado.edu/Workshop.php**. For more information, call Tom Bowen at 303/492-8538.

2ICUDR in 2007

Dates have been set for the previously announced 2nd International Conference on Urban Disaster Reduction (ICUDR): November 27-29, 2007, in Taipei, Taiwan. The theme is "Large-Scale Disaster Management." The abstract submission period will be December 1, 2006-March 31, 2007. For more information about the conference and a detailed list of suggested topics, see page 6 of the July *Newsletter* or visit **http://www.ncdr.nat.gov.tw/2ICUDR**. More information concerning paper submission and session organization will be announced on this web site.

Announcements

Workshop on Ground-Motion Mapping

The 3rd ATC-35/USGS Workshop on National Earthquake Ground-Motion Mapping will be held Thursday and Friday, December 7-8, 2006, at the Marriott Hotel in San Mateo, California (approximately 8 miles south of San Francisco International Airport). The workshop is being convened by the Applied Technology Council (ATC) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and a number of co-sponsoring organizations.

Like the first and second workshops held in 1995 and 2001, this workshop will provide input to the USGS from the structural engineering, geotechnical engineering, geosciences, and risk modeling professions on key issues that affect the preparation and use of the next round of probabilistic national earthquake ground-motion maps (and related products).

The workshop will also provide input regarding the selection and adoption of ground-motion maps in model seismic regulations and actual seismic codes governing the design of buildings, bridges, and other structures. In addition, the workshop will address potential new map-related products.

The workshop is open to the profession at large, though space and participation may be limited. Registration will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis for a fee of $190 ($170 for ATC subscribers), which includes the cost of luncheons and refreshments. A late fee of $25 will apply after December 1, 2006.

To participate, call ATC at 650/595-1542, fax 650/593-2320, or e-mail **atc@atcouncil.org**. Registration is encouraged using the ATC Online Store at **www.atcouncil.org**.

Call for Papers

GEESD IV in Sacramento

GEESD IV is the 4th Decennial Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering and Soil Dynamics Conference organized by the EESD Committee of ASCE's Geo-Institute, and follows the successful GEESD conferences in Seattle, Washington (1998), Park City, Utah (1988), and Pasadena, California (1978). GEESD IV will take place in Sacramento, California, May 18-22, 2008.

GEESD IV will bring together the broad community of geo-professionals working on earthquake engineering and soil dynamics problems for a comprehensive decennial examination of these technical disciplines. The coverage will be diverse, including case histories and practice-oriented papers, recent research findings, innovative technologies, NEES and geophysical equipment demonstrations, and the emerging arts across disciplines.

Authors are invited to submit abstracts of 200-400 words by February 1, 2007. Additional information on the conference and abstract submission can be found at **www.geesd.org**.

IOMAC Conference

A call for papers has been issued for the 2nd International Operational Modal Analysis Conference to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, April 30 to May 2, 2007. The conference theme is the identification of dynamic properties of large structures under natural loading. It is aimed at a broad audience from both civil and mechanical engineering: the scientist, the applicant, the vendor, and the student, and also to those who would like to be introduced to the field. The deadline for abstracts is October 15, 2006. For more information, visit **www.iomac.dk**.

Job Opportunity

Faculty Position at UCSD

The Department of Structural Engineering at the University of California, San Diego (**http://structures.ucsd.edu/**), is seeking candidates for one or more faculty positions at the assistant, associate, and full professor levels in the areas of (1) smart and adaptive structures, (2) structural, geotechnical, and bridge engineering, (3) marine and ocean engineering, and (4) applied and computational mechanics.

Exceptional candidates in all other areas will be given serious consideration. Innovation, systems-oriented engineering, and potential for multidisciplinary research are of importance. Major large-scale experimentation resources are available at the Structural Engineering UCSD Powell Laboratory and the new Englekirk Field Station.

Review of applications will begin November 30, 2006. Refer to position #4-787-AD in your response. For more information and application details, visit **http://academicaffairs.ucsd.edu/offices/adeo/recruitment/jsoe.html#Struct**.

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**.

OCTOBER

4-6. Deep Fdn. Inst. Annual Conf., Washington, D.C. Info: **www.deepfoundations06.org** (12/05)

6-7. Student Disaster Recovery Research Symp., College Station, TX. Info: **http://archone.tamu.edu/conted** (7/06)

10-12. California Response & Recovery Conference, Diamond Bar, CA. See page 9. (10/06)

11-13. 7th Int'l Cong. on Advances Civil Eng., Istanbul, Turkey. Info: **www.ace2006.yildiz.edu.tr/** (12/05)

12-13. 4th Int'l Conf. on EQ Eng. (4ICEE), Taipei, Taiwan. Info: **icee2006.ncree.org.tw/** (10/05)

16-17. California Response & Recovery Conference, Sacramento, CA. See page 9. (10/06)

19. Progressive Collapse Workshop (as part of 2006 ASCE Annual Conference), Chicago, IL. See page 12. (10/06)

NOVEMBER

2-3. NEES Research Training Workshop, University of Colorado. See page 9. (10/06)

5-8. INFORMS Urban Transportation Modeling Session, Pittsburgh, PA. Info: **www2.informs.org/Conf/Pittsburgh06/** (6/06)

6-9. 3rd Annual Centrifuge Research and Training Workshop, Davis, CA. See page 9. (10/06)

7-10. ASC Symposium on EQ and Tsunami Preparedness & Mitigation, Bangkok, Thailand. Info: **http://www.asc1996.org** (7/06)

9-11. 2nd World Conf. on Disaster Reduction, Mumbai, India. Info: **http://www.wcdr.gfdr.org** (8/06)

12-15. IAEM Annual Conference, Orlando, FL. Info: **http://www.iaem.com/events/annual/intro.htm#conference2006** (08/06)

16-17. 5th Int'l USMCA Symp., Phuket, Thailand. Info: **http://www.sce.ait.ac.th/rnus/usmca2006/** (8/06)

17. COSMOS Annual Meeting & Technical Session, Berkeley, CA. Info: **http://www.cosmos-eq.org/** (8/06, 9/06)

DECEMBER

7-8. 3rd ATC-35/USGS Workshop on National Earthquake Ground-Motion Mapping. Marriott Hotel in San Mateo, CA. Info: **www.ATCouncil.org. See page 10.** (9/06, 10/06)

11-15. Seismogenesis & Tsunami Hazards of 'Aseismic' Island Arcs, AGU Fall Meeting, San Francisco, CA. Info: **http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm06/** (9/06)

18-20. 13SEE-06, Roorkee, India. Info: **http://www.iitr.ernet.in/common/symposia/pages/about.htm** (8/06)

2007

JANUARY

19-20. PEER Annual Mtg, San Francisco, CA. Info: http://peer.berkeley.edu/2007AM/index.html (10/06)

FEBRUARY

TBA. EERI New Madrid Chapter Student Poster Competition, St. Louis, MO. See page 10. (10/06)

7-10. EERI Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA. Info: **www.eeri.org**. **See page 1.** (3/06, 9/06, 10/06)

19-21. 3rd Annual Geo. Info. System Conf., Kuwait. Info: **www.gulfgis.com** (8/06)

MARCH

25-28. Ports 2007, San Diego, CA. Info: **www.portsconference.org** (6/06)

APRIL

30-May 2. 2nd International Modal Analysis Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark. See page 10. (10/06)

MAY

13-20. Coastal Sediments 07, New Orleans, LA. Info: **www.asce.org/conferences/cs07/abstract.cfm** (5/06)

14-16. SEE5 on EQ Risk Reduction in Devel. Countries, Tehran, Iran. Info: **www.iiees.ac.ir/SEE5** (7/06)

JUNE

1-3. 10th North American Masonry Conference, University of Missouri at Rolla. Info: **http://www.masonrysociety.org/NAMC/index.html** (3/06)

13-15. Compdyn 2007 Conf., Rethymno, Crete, Greece. Info: **http://www.eng.ucy.ac.cy/compdyn2007** (8/06)

19-21. NEES Annual Meeting, Snowbird, UT. Info: **http://www.nees.org/About_NEES/Announcements/announcement.php?news_id=41** (9/06)

25-28. 4th Int'l Conf. on EQ Geotech. Eng. (4ICEGE), Thessaloniki, Greece. Info: **www.secreteriat@4icege.org** (2/06)

26-29. 9th Canadian Conf. on EQ Eng. (9CCEE), Ottawa, Canada. Info: **www.9ccee.ca** (2/06)

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

27-29. 2nd International Conference on Urban Disaster Reduction (ICUDR), Taipei, Taiwan. See page 9. (10/06)

2008

MAY

18-22. GEESD IV, Sacramento, CA. See page 10. (10/06)

AUGUST

11-16. 6th Int'l Conf. on Case Histories in Geotech. Eng. (6ICCHGE), Washington, D.C. Info: **http://campus.umr.edu/6icchge/index.html** (4/06, 9/06)

OCTOBER

12-17. 14th World Conf. on EQ Eng., Beijing, China. Info: **www.14wcee.org** (12/05)

News of the Profession

Senate Confirms Mark Myers as USGS Director

Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne praised the U.S. Senate's confirmation of Mark D. Myers as director of the U.S. Geological Survey. President Bush nominated Myers, an internationally recognized geologist and former state geologist and head of Alaska's Geological Survey, in May.

Kempthorne noted that Myers brings two decades of experience in geological science and strong leadership skills to his position. As director of the State of Alaska Division of Oil and Gas, Myers oversaw a professional staff of nearly 100 employees, including geoscientists, engineers, land managers, accountants, commercial analysts, and auditors. As state geologist and director of the State of Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Survey, Myers managed a research organization that generated analyses and interpretations of data on geologic resources and natural conditions as well as maps and inventories of mineral and energy resources on state land. That information is used by the government, private industry, scientists, educators, and the public.

Myers, an expert on North Slope sedimentary and petroleum geology, served as survey chief for field programs in the MacKenzie Delta, the Cook Inlet, and the North Slope. He also served as sedimentologist for 13 other North Slope field programs.

Myers is a past president and board member of the Alaska Geological Society, a certified professional geologist with the American Institute of Professional Geologists, a certified petroleum geologist with the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, and a licensed geologist with the State of Alaska. He received his doctorate in geology from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks in 1994 and his bachelor and master of science degrees in geology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The current acting USGS director P. Patrick Leahy will continue to serve until Myers is sworn into office.

Announcement

Progressive Collapse Workshop

Responding to one of the 30 recommendations made as a result of investigation into the World Trade Center disaster, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) recently issued guidelines entitled "Best Practices for Reducing the Potential for Progressive Collapse in Buildings," available from **http://bfrl.nist.gov**. To aid the understanding and use of the guidelines and to provide an opportunity for technical exchange with the lead authors of the report, NIST and the Structural Engineering Institute (SEI) of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) have organized a workshop on October 19 in Chicago as part of the 2006 ASCE Annual Conference. All pre-registered attendees will receive a hard copy of the NIST document in advance of the workshop. To register online, visit **www.seinstitute.org**. For more information on the workshop, contact Mary Ellen Saville, phone 703/295-6195; e-mail **mesaville@asce.org**. For more information on the guidelines, contact H. S. Lew, phone 301/975-6060; e-mail **hsl@nist.gov**.

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