

May 4th Program**DEGENKOLB FORUM****Seismic Performance of
Concentrically Braced Frames***By Prof. Stephen Mahin*

For this year's Degenkolb Forum we have invited Prof. Stephen Mahin from the University of California, Berkeley. Prof. Mahin is a Byron and Elvira Nishkian Professor of Structural Engineering. He has been involved in numerous testing and evaluation of SCBF and BRBF systems.

The past decade has seen a tremendous increase in the use of concentrically braced steel frames. In this presentation, results of a series of recent research investigations are highlighted, including an overview of braced frame behavior in past earthquakes, findings of detailed analytical studies, observations from full-scale experimental investigations of braces and braced frames, and development of performance-based design methods. The seismic behavior of conventional braced frame systems is highly sensitive to the complex hysteretic response and possible fracture of the braces. As such, a series of tests of full-scale braces is underway to better define their low-cycle fatigue characteristics. A new type of computer model has been developed to account for the inelastic buckling behavior and low-cycle fatigue induced fracture of steel members subjected to axial load and bi-directional bending. Results obtained with these and other models of complete 3- and 6-story SCBF's are presented to examine seismic demands expected for buildings designed according to current design practices. Experiments are underway to validate these analyses, including tests of isolated gusseted beam-to-column connections and of complete two-story SCBF specimens. Results of similar analytical and experimental investigations on buckling restrained braced frames are also presented.

Analytical simulations of SCBF and BRBF systems are being used in conjunction with the performance-based design methodologies incorporated in FEMA 350 and elsewhere to assess the confidence that various types of braced frames can achieve desired performance goals. Results are discussed leading to several options for improving behavior that require further investigation. These include critical examination of behavior and design of brace-to-frame connection regions, enhancing the low-cycle fatigue resistance of conventional braces, devising proportioning strategies or structural configurations (e.g., dual systems or zipper frames) that resist formation of weak stories, developing configurations (such as frames with uplifting columns or optimized dual systems) or a new generation of buckling restrained bracing elements that tend to re-center a frame following a severe earthquake.



*Two-Story SCBF Test
Specimen in Davis
Hall Structure's Lab,
UC Berkeley*

A Message from the President

**Challenges Facing the New Generation
of Structural Engineers**

Recently I conducted an informal survey of a group of structural engineers representing all levels of career development in an attempt to answer the following twofold question: is it more challenging to launch a career in structural engineering today than it was twenty-five years ago, and are the young engineers of today as well equipped to handle the challenges they will need to confront? My own impression, which is influenced partly by the lingering recession and partly by the uncertainties of globalization, is that it's more challenging today than twenty-five years ago. So my primary interest was in understanding their readiness to confront the challenge.

Before sharing what I learned I'll need to admit that the validity of my survey method might be questioned by those who are more statistically inclined than I. That's because the group I surveyed works in only one company, which is the one I have easy access to – Degenkolb Engineers. However, since we all hire from the same pool of

*Continued on page 2***Meeting Notice****Tuesday, May 4th, 2004**

Assembly	5:45
Dinner	6:30
Program	7:30

City Club, San Francisco

155 Sansome Street, 10th Floor

Fax registration form on the back of
this newsletter to the SEAONC office by
12 noon Friday, April 30th, 2004

FAX: 415-764-4915

Continued from page 1

applicants, I would not consider this to be an issue. Following are a few basic challenges identified, including possible solutions when any were identified.

- More complex codes and standards: Though there is no question that they are more complicated today, opinion is split over whether that represents a greater or lesser challenge (and in better structures). In the past, when a young engineer entered a firm, in addition to understanding structural mechanics, he or she would need to understand their firm's view on a variety of technical issues, and then would, over time, learn how to articulate that viewpoint. For example, how did the firm feel about precast construction, including tilt-up's. Pro or con, the code language was limited. Today, the young engineer may need to substantiate his judgment based on a non-linear analysis prescribed in detail in a standard such as FEMA 356. Engineers are required to be intimately familiar with much more complicated analytical procedures. The consensus, which I support, is that by requiring engineers to consider displacement-based as well as force-based performance, and nonlinear response as well as linear, today's engineers need to think in more depth about their problems and their solutions. The counter to this argument is that the code adds complexity, and results in more voluminous calculations, but doesn't necessarily result in better structures because much of the effort has become mechanical. No solution to this issue is offered, probably since young engineers are much more willing than older ones to accept change. That in itself suggests a resilience that may help deal with the changing world.

- The changing market for US engineers: Outsourcing has become a key issue in US politics and business. Politicians offer short-term solutions, generally related to regulations and penalties, but probably neither the short nor long-term solution is that simple. Most young engineers recognize that the global forces will cause their careers to be

different than those of the previous generation, but it appears that this has only recently become obvious to them and career plans haven't been re-focused. However, some are starting to recognize that they should broaden their skill set to include more than code applications and that communication and business development skills are now as important as technical ones. Business development is being identified as a front burner issue. It isn't clear whether that's a positive or negative thing with young engineers, but it is a reality.

- Dealing with schedule and budget: Young engineers are affected by the usual issues that have affected any generation - competing agendas and dealing with the stress of project deadlines and budgets. Those who aspire to become project managers recognize that this is a critical area of professional development and that on-the-job training, more than coursework, is the usual path to development in this area. The soft skill category of dealing with people - bosses, co-workers, clients and consultants was also lumped into this area. I wasn't able to determine whether such people are more or less difficult to deal with than in the past, but I think the issue is mentioned more now. Solutions include using humor to diffuse tension, using small talk to build rapport and limiting anxiety based on level of responsibility. It was noted that since our current culture favors experiential learning (Just do it) the current group of young people should be better prepared than the previous generation.

Appropriately, while writing this I received an email from SEAONC Member Bob Levenson, with an attached memo from ShyShenq Liou, Director of the School of Engineering at SF State, which begins like this:

Dear Students:

I don't know how to break this news to you so I will be very straightforward about it. Because of University budget problems, the School of Engineering is on a proposed

list of programs to be discontinued.

The letter goes on to express hope that this unfortunate decision can be reversed and to assure the current group of students that they will be taken care of.

Meanwhile in China, the universities are now graduating engineers annually by the hundreds of thousands. Assuming that some reasonable percentage of them are becoming gainfully employed within this global economy, there seems to be a large gap somewhere in our own national strategy. Or as our immediate past president, Steve Tipping likes to say: "what's wrong with this picture?" I'm a member of the generation of Americans who believed that our parent's generation didn't have it all figured out. Now it looks like this new generation of engineers will need to take the lead in meeting the challenges we all face in this profession.

- David Bonneville, President



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CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE
A Summary of the 2004 Spring Seminar

by Troy Morgan, Committee Chair

The SEAONC Spring 2004 Seminar was held at the PG&E auditorium on March 24th and 31st, 2004. About 230 people attended the seminar, which was entitled "Post-Tensioned Concrete Design and Construction". Topics included in this seminar covered a broad range of timely issues encountered in the design and construction of post-tensioned structures.

Dr. Mark Ketchum started off the seminar with an introduction and overview of post-tensioned concrete, including the history of its development and its numerous applications. He was followed by Dr. Bijan Aalami, who presented design methodologies and applicable code provisions for PT concrete. Mr. Nick Watry concluded the first night with a discussion on applying proper detailing to a variety of PT concrete conditions.

For the second evening of the seminar, Dr. Rene Luft began with a presentation on PT concrete slabs-on-grade, and highlighted many design and construction issues related to them. He was followed Mr. Guido Schwager, who spoke on repair and modification of existing PT structures, and provided many helpful anecdotes from which engineers can learn. Mr. Dirk Bondy concluded the seminar with a presentation on construction issues in PT concrete, and showed a large number of photos describing what can go right or wrong on a PT jobsite.

Many thanks to all of the speakers for their informative presentations and special thanks to the SEAONC office and Continuing Education Committee members Taryn Williams, Julia Hunting, Jackie Bassett, C.S. Hwang, Howard Zee, Marc Ramirez, Grace Yamamoto, and Arne Halterman for all their help. And get ready for the Summer Seminar on the Design of Unique Structures, scheduled for July 14th and 21st. More details to follow soon!



Business Forum
Simin Naaseh
415/837-0700
simin@forell.com

Bylaws
J.E. Goudie
925/933-5876

Computer Applications
(TBD)

Construction Quality Assurance
Art Dell
415/989-9900
adell@soha.com

Continuing Education
Troy Morgan
415/837-0700
troy@forell.com

Disaster Emergency Services
Joe Zsutty
408/298-9018
jzsutty@aol.com

Existing Buildings
David Bonowitz
415/771-3227
dbonowitz@mindspring.com

Legislative
David Wilson
415/834-2010
dwilson@cdengineers.com

Professional Practices
Douglas Hohbach
650/617-5930
dhohbach@hohbach-lewin.com

Program
Hamid Fatehi
415/957-9445
hamid.fatehi@arup.com

Pat Chow (South Bay)
650/428-2860
patchow@rpse.com

Public Affairs & Membership
Derrick Roorda
415/398-5740
droorda@de-simone.com

Public Relations
Carrie Bischoff
415/392-6952
cbischoff@degenkolb.com

Seismology & Structural Standards
Gary Mochizuki
925/938-3303
gary@structsol.com

Website
Darrick Hom
510/272-9040
dbhom@comcast.net

Young Members Forum
Ali Afrasiabi
650/494-1600
aafraziabi@umerani.com

Thank you to the following members and firms who contributed to the SEAONC Scholarship Fund since last month:

\$51 - 150

Arthur Sevey



Make a contribution this year when renewing your membership and join this prestigious list!

FOR LEASE: 641 MISSION STREET

Located in the heart of downtown SOMA, this small brick and timber building is ideally suited to the needs of a growing small business. The second floor office space and downstairs storage are available immediately with the ground floor available January 2005.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Central location around the corner from the MOMA and Yerba Buena Gardens
- Brick & timber building with complete seismic structural upgrade
- (12) Large built in custom workstations
- Workstations wired, T1 connection to building
- 2 large printer stations
- Operable windows
- Large 3'x 5' operable skylights plus ceiling fans
- Shared conference room, kitchen and bathroom
- Storage available

LEASING RATES Including Janitorial and Power

2nd floor lease (1,575 sf)	\$22.00/sf
Library/useable space (1,071 sf)	\$11.00/sf
Storage (1,000 sf)	\$09.00/sf

SEARCH & TOUR: CALL: 415.356.2842 E-MAIL: KIM@MCMILLAN.COM

New Members

Member SE

Steven Curry
Vice President, Murphy Burr Curry, Inc.

Member

Betty Chan
Project Engineer, GPLA, Inc.
Chan Siong Loh
Design Engineer, Hohbach-Lewin, Inc.
Swee-Yong Tan
Project Engineer, DES Architects & Engineers

Associate

Akuavi Hine
Project Engineer, Murphy Burr Curry

Affiliate

Stephen Tobriner
Professor, University of California

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



May 2
ATC-20 Training
Golden Gate Club, San Francisco

May 4
San Francisco Dinner Meeting
City Club, San Francisco

May 12
Business Forum Luncheon
City Club, San Francisco

May 25
Seismology & Structural Standards
(Location TBD - refer to SEAONC website for more information)

May 27
YMF Monthly Mtg. w/BAYA
Jillian's (Metreon), San Francisco

Posting for Membership

Member SE

Derrick Lind
Civil Engineer, Lifetech Consultants, Inc.
Shaun Moynahan
Principal, SEMCO Engineering, Inc.
Ann Roche
Civil Engineer, Rutherford & Chekene
Mark Sinclair
Project Engineer, Degenkolb Engineers

Member

Andrew Arnold
Design Engineer, Hohbach-Lewin
Alice Chen
Project Engineer/ 4 years, KPFF Consulting Engineers
Abdul Hafeez
Structural Consultant
Brent Koch
President, Koch Engineering
Wen-Hsiung Lin
Engineer/2002, Ben C. Gerwick
Alexander Sivyer
Project Manager, Holmes Culley
Robert Smith
Engineer, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill
Do Tran
Owner, TND2 Engineering & Construction

Associate

Nesrin Basoz
Assistant Vice President, St. Paul Companies

Industry

Heidi Braverman
Principal, H. Braverman & Assoc.

Student

Emma Goodson
MS Graduate Student, UC Berkeley

Opportunities

The Office of Statewide Health Planning & Development (OSHDP) is advertising Request of Qualifications RFQ 03-4002 for structural plan checking services. Please visit our website at www.oshpd.ca.gov under FDD "Business Opportunities" for more information.

STRUCTURAL DRAFTING

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Civil Engineer C022059

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\$30 per HOUR

www.McMillanEngineers.com

746 Bryant Street Palo Alto CA 94301



Bulletin Board

New SEAONC Member Benefits

By Constantine Shuhaibar, SEAONC Treasurer

The SEAONC Board of Directors has been working for more than six months on a new program aimed at increasing member benefits. These benefits are non-technical in nature. By using our collective bargaining power, we are able to negotiate lower group rates on everyday services such as banking services, car insurance, and cell phone calling plans.

By assembling several group discounts with various companies, it is possible to partially or totally offset our membership dues. The hope, of course, is increased membership and increased member satisfaction.

Our first partner in this program is Bank of America. A flier has been included in this newsletter that outlines the services offered exclusively to SEAONC members.

For more information or a copy of the flier, please contact Megan Toohey at (415)953-2471 or megan.toohey@bankofamerica.com.

YMF Monthly Meeting with the Bay Area Young Architects (BAYA)

Do you want to meet with young architects? This is the time so please join us.

Why: Play pool, drink beer, hang out with friends, and meet young architects

When: Thursday May 27th at 5:30

Where: Jillians, in the Metreon

If you have any questions E-mail YMF Chair Ali Afrasiabi at: aafraziabi@umerani.com or call him at (650) 494 -1600.

Hope to see you there!

Steel TIPS Online

The Structural Steel Educational Council (SSEC) has launched a new web site, www.steeltips.org, to better serve the structural engineering community. In this new web site California and Nevada structural engineers can obtain free of charge Steel TIPS, educational materials on structural steel construction. Users are required to register but only to establish state of residence.

Registered California and Nevada users can then download available Steel TIPS for free. Currently there are about 40 different Steel TIPS titles on the website, one dating back to 1976.

Registered users will receive direct announcements of new Steel TIPS as they become available.

Business Forum

SEAONC BUSINESS FORUM MAY MEETING

A Look at the Capital Improvement Program for California Courts

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

City Club - San Francisco

155 Sansome Street, Game Room, 10th Floor

As our speaker of the May program we are pleased to have Clifford Ham, the senior architect for design and construction in the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), Office of Court Construction & Management. Clifford Ham is responsible for architectural quality and standards in the development of new and renovated court buildings throughout the State. He will give us an introduction to the California Court building inventory and a look at the capital improvement program in the decade ahead. He will discuss the role, responsibility and goals of the Office of Court Construction & Management, the Administrative Office of the Courts, and the Judicial Council of California.

In addition, he will discuss the recently completed Seismic Assessment Program for 229 Superior Court buildings, a process that he has been managing for over a year. This assessment program has taken place in preparation for transfer of ownership and management responsibility for trial court facilities from the Counties to the State. Clifford Ham will discuss the next step in this process.

This promises to be a very informative program. We highly encourage you to attend and learn first hand about the future direction of the California Courts development.

Cost: \$25 for Business Forum Members
\$35 for SEAOC Members
\$40 for Other Attendees

Meal Selections: Chicken, Flank Steak or Pasta

RSVP: Contact the SEAONC office at:
seaonc@ix.netcom.com or 415/974-5147

Registration Deadline is Monday, May 10th, at 12:00 p.m.

Space is limited so register early!



Tipping Mar & Associates is an award winning structural engineering firm. We have an enthusiastic staff of 17 who work collaboratively. Our approach is innovative, and our projects are diverse. We are seeking a bright, creative, self-motivated individual for a challenging position as a structural engineer. Please send your resume with a cover letter to Tipping Mar & Associates, 1906 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley, CA 94704, fax to 510-549-1912, or e-mail to steve@tippingmar.com

DESIMONE Consulting Engineers, a leading national structural engineering firm, has an immediate opening in our growing San Francisco office for a bright, creative, self-motivated engineer with strong technical and management skills. The ideal candidate should have 2-5 years experience in new design and seismic rehabilitation, as well as excellent communication skills and a PE (preferred). We offer a very competitive benefits package, coupled with a fun and dynamic work environment. Fax your resume to 415/398-9834 or e-mail: rpolivka@desimone.com.

NISHKIAN MENNINGER SEEKS EXPERIENCED REGISTERED ENGINEER with 5 or more years experience in various types of structures; office buildings, high-rises, schools, multiple-tenant residential & other commercial projects, garages and seismic rehab. Resume & salary requirements to: 1095 Folsom Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 or e-mail: lnishkian@nishkian.com.

Senior Project Manager
KPFF Consulting Engineers seeks

Senior Project Manager w/a minimum of 10 years experience and SE license. Master's degree and healthcare experience preferred. Applicant must be motivated and possess excellent technical, written and verbal communication skills. We offer excellent career growth opportunities with a competitive salary & benefits package. Send resume to: Office Manager, KPFF Consulting Engineers, 1160 Battery, Suite 300, SF, CA 94111. EOE

CAD OPERATOR

KPFF Consulting Engineers seeks CAD Operator proficient with AUTOCAD 2000. Minimum 3 years structural drafting experience required. Send resume and salary history to: KPFF Consulting Engineers, 1160 Battery Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94111. NO PHONE CALLS or WALK-INS. EOE.

Jon Brody Consulting Engineers is a small San Francisco firm with a reputation for design creativity and a high level of professional service. We work on a wide variety of project types, with a focus on the integration of structural requirements with architectural design objectives. Committed and focused engineers with strong design, analytical, interpersonal, and communications skills and a minimum of two years of design experience in California are encouraged to apply for either Project Engineer or Project Manager positions on our team. You can be a key part of the growth of a highly esteemed, award winning firm, assume a higher level of responsibility, and enjoy the atmosphere of a smaller, more flexible company. Competitive salary and benefit package including paid vacation, medical and retirement plans.

E-mail resume/cover letter to inquiries@jonbrody.com, or mail to Jon Brody Consulting Engineers, 1045 Sansome Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, CA, 94111.

ENGINEER-STRUCTURAL MKM & Associates, Santa Rosa, CA seeks engr.w/min. 2 yrs.experience w/ emphasis in timber const. in low-rise res. & com. bldgs. Salary w/Bonus considerations dependent on experience & availability to start. Excellent benefits. Please fax resume to 707/578-7153.

**Associate Engineer
Plan Check Engineer**

Salary: \$74,380.80 - \$90,667.20
The **City of San Jose** is seeking a Plan Check Engineer to work in the Building Division. Typical duties include performing complex structural and life safety plan reviews for commercial, industrial and residential buildings to ensure compliance with uniform codes, ordinances and regulations. Incumbent will be required to work with City staff and customers to oversee coordination between the various review processes.

For complete job information and to apply, please visit www.jobs.cityofsj.org. Contact Leah McLaughlin at (408) 277-8376 if you have any questions.

STRUCTURAL PLAN CHECKER Kutzmann & Assoc. has an immediate opening for an EIT, CE or SE to do structural plan checking. Salary is DOQ. Nice benefit package with profit sharing program. Flexible work hours available. Quite, friendly office environment. Good written and oral communication skills essential. Mail resume to Kutzmann & Assoc. Inc., 39355 California St., Suite 200, Fremont, CA 94538, Fax 510.796.9422 or e-mail kutz@pacbell.net.

Umerani Associates, structural engineering firm located in Palo Alto, specialized in Civic, Educational & Healthcare facilities, is seeking self-motivated engineers with strong technical & management skills. Min. 3 years of experience is required. Firm is

also seeking experienced CAD drafts- persons. Contact: Jawed Umerani, 4020 Fabian Way, Suite 302, Palo Alto, CA 94303; Fax: (650) 494-1601 or contact@umerani.com

MMI Engineering

(www.mmiengineering.com), an em- ployee owned structural mechanics consulting firm with offices in Oak- land, Houston, Manchester, UK and Bristol, UK, is currently recruiting tal- ented individuals at all levels. Our work focuses on solving unique and chal- lenging problems using fundamental engineering principals and sophisti- cated analytical tools. Our projects in- clude risk/reliability, nonlinear dynam- ics, blast/extreme loads, and offshore/ deepwater structures. Minimum M.S. required. Please send resume to recruiting@mmiengineering.com or call 510 836 3002.

Tuan and Robinson Structural En- gineers is a 5-year old, 4-person firm located in San Francisco. Our work includes design, structural assessment, seismic evaluation and seismic retrofit of commercial, industrial and historic buildings in addition to providing shor- ing, underpinning and deep excavation design for building owners and con- tractors. Salary commensurate with experience. Casual attire, flexible work hours, health benefits and retirement plan. Send resume/cover letter to Tuan and Robinson, Structural Engineers, 221 Main Street, Suite 945, San Fran- cisco, CA 94105. Fax (415) 957-2483. E-mail trse@trseinc.com.

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: Grow- ing 7 yr-old civil/geotechnical/struc- tural eng. firm in Granite Bay (NE of Sacramento) seeks enthusiastic SE w/ 7+ yrs experienced in design of deep excavations, shoring, underpinning, falsework, foundations, earth struc- tures, water conveyance & storage structures, small bridges; superior tech- nical and communication skills; com-

petitive salary+ company truck/SUV, medical/dental, 401K, profit sharing. Fax 916-729-7706; e-mail: ssanders@sandersgeo.com

DASSE Design Inc. has opportunities for project engineers and staff engi- neers who are passionate about struc- tural engineering. Minimum qualifi- cations are: Staff Engineer - MSCE with 2-4 years structural analysis/de- sign experience; Project Engineer – PE or SE license and 4-8 years experi- ence on a variety of structures of in- creasing size and complexity. DSA and OSHPD experience desirable. Po- sitions require strong computer ana- lytical skills, excellent verbal/written abilities and a desire to grow in a collaborative, professional environ- ment. DASSE works with award-win- ning architects on health care, civic, education and corporate facilities, in both new construction and renovation. Our projects are challenging and di- verse. Send resumes with cover letters to William Andrews by fax (415)243- 9165 or e-mail (andrews@dasse.com). Learn more about our firm at www.dasse.com.

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1/4 Page	\$270/mo.
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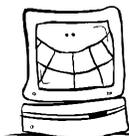
Inserts/Flyers

1 sided	\$1000/mo.
2 sided	\$1200/mo.

Rates are for finished camera-ready black and white ads or proofed PDF files with embedded fonts. *Full payment is required at time of insertion order.* For advertising contract, size specifications, and special rates for running an ad for multiple months, contact the SEAONC Office at by e-mail at seaonc@ix.netcom.com or phone at 415/974 -5147.

**June 2004 News
deadline:
Monday, May 10th**

**Submit your articles by
e-mail to:
SEAONC@ix.netcom.com**



**Job Forum
Insertion Fees:**

**\$150 for up to 450
characters/spaces**

**\$15 for each 45
characters/spaces
thereafter**

**All job forum ads will
also be posted on the
SEAONC web site.**

PUBLIC AFFAIRS & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

By Derrick Roorda, Committee Chair

The PA&M Committee is currently working on a number of exciting projects.

The annual Rebuilding Together (formerly Christmas in April) weekend will have come and gone by the time you read this. Many thanks to all of those who participated and made donations. We are still significantly short of the \$7500 required of SEAONC to sponsor the project, so if you have not yet donated, please consider doing so. All contributions are tax deductible. Please contact Joyce Feng at (510) 272-9040.

Nominations are requested for the annual Community Involvement award, which will be presented at the June dinner meeting. Please take a moment to consider who among your peers deserves to be recognized this year. As structural engineers we all contribute in significant ways to our community, so it should be easy to come up with a long list of potential recipients!

Please see the flier in this newsletter for PA&M's latest project, the Job Site Poster Board Competition. \$1,000 to be used for the production of a job site poster board will be awarded to one member firm. The board is intended to be educational and promotional, providing structural and seismic information regarding a specific project that is showcased for public view. The objective of the program is to encourage members to use such poster boards as a medium for educating the public about seismic safety, while at the same time promoting our work and profession.

PA&M Committee meetings are informal and held monthly. Tasks are taken, not assigned, and involvement is voluntary, so please give it try! New ideas are always welcomed! For a meeting schedule, more information on committee activities, or to express thoughts or concerns regarding the current state of membership in SEAONC, please contact Derrick Roorda at 415-398-5740, or at droorda@de-simone.com.



Letter to the Editor - Proposed Closure of the SFSU School of Engineering

I just submitted my personal opinion on the proposed closure of the SFSU School of Engineering to SFSU President, Dr. Robert Corrigan. This opinion was in response to an e-mailed message sent to the SFSU engineering students by SFSU's Director of the School of Engineering, Dr. ShyShenq Liou, who initially broke this disheartening news. Both my response and the initial message from Dr. ShyShenq Liou are copied below for the perusal of the SEAONC membership and those who may be interested in this proposed demise of the School of Engineering in order to balance the budget. It appears that the SFSU School of Engineering is expendable when compared with other SFSU Programs:

President Corrigan,

If the SFSU School of Engineering is terminated, our alternatives for pursuing a career in engineering would rest in the hands of the local "elite" schools such as Stanford University and the University of California, Berkeley. If Stanford and Berkeley were my only choices for furthering my knowledge and understanding of structural engineering, I would not be receive any training, whatsoever - I do not fit within their rigorous academic profile for acceptance. SFSU has been the only institution in the San Francisco Bay Area that has provided me with the ability and the opportunity to extend and sharpen my knowledge of structural engineering and is the only institution that has offered graduate level evening courses for older students who have to maintain a home and a family.

The opportunity to attend SFSU is an opportunity to refresh my structural engineering fundamentals in a learning environment that provides a depth of education and a continuity of thought that can not be achieved by attending a few seminars per year. For those of us who have graduated from a university several years earlier, attending SFSU is an opportunity to learn and discuss current and future Building Code issues that were not in existence at the time of our earlier graduation.

The general public needs to be assured that the men and women who design and build their homes and offices are provided with an opportunity to maintain and improve their engineering expertise, in an academic environment. For those of us who want to sharpen our engineering knowledge and who are not deemed eligible to attend the "elite" schools of engineering, SFSU is both an excellent choice and our only choice.

Sincerely,

Robert Paul Levenson, California Registered Professional Engineer (C27121) & SFSU Graduate Student - Class of 2006

Dear Engineering Students:

I don't know how to break this news to you so I will be very straightforward about it. Because of university budget problems, the School of Engineering is on a proposed list of programs to be discontinued. While the decision is preliminary and we believe this decision can be and should be reversed, it is possible that all or some engineering programs could be discontinued. This is such a shock to the entire engineering faculty and staff that we just cannot believe this is happening. It just does not make any sense!

What does this mean to your education here at SFSU? I would like to assure you that regardless of what the final decision is, all current students will be able to complete their degrees at SFSU as long as they progress according to the schedule. Therefore, as far as completing your degree at SFSU is concerned, you don't have too much to worry about at least for the next two to three years. Even so, helping to keep the engineering program at SFSU will still be crucial to you because you want to be the graduates of a good, strong engineering program.

Secondly, what can you do? Because the decision is only preliminary, we need to fight back and fight hard to keep the engineering program at SFSU. The faculty and staff have just heard the news from the Dean and we are determined to fight this. As a matter of fact, we are working hard to come up with a strategic plan to fight this right now. We have a very good engineering program and are well on our way to become a premier engineering school in the CSU system. I do want you to hear from me directly what is going on. This is only the first newsletter to you on this matter. We will keep you informed. We must be united in these difficult times.

Some of you are not from well-to-do families; some of you are the first in your families to attend a college. You have struggled to make ends meet and to balance study with other obligations. Even under such difficult conditions, you work hard now so that you will have an interesting and fulfilling career, a prosperous future and a contribution for your community. We are very proud of each one of you. And we are not going to let the university take this opportunity away from you and those who may follow you. Engineers made this country great and this country will continue to need engineers. Engineering levels the playing field for people of all economic, ethnic and cultural backgrounds. We have a good engineering program where we are working together on advancements in technology and safety and educating you to make developments that will create a better world. We just cannot let the university take this opportunity away from you and future students. We will fight this together! You will play a key role in this fight.

Sincerely yours,

ShyShenq Liou - Director, School of Engineering

upcoming events

MAY

- 2 **ATC-20 Training**
Golden Gate Club, San Francisco

- 4 **San Francisco Dinner Meeting**
City Club, San Francisco

- 12 **Business Forum Luncheon**
City Club, San Francisco

- 25 **Seismology & Structural Standards Committee Meeting**
(location TBD - refer to SEAONC website for more information)

- 27 **YMF Monthly Meeting w/BAYA**
Jillian's at the Metreon, San Francisco

Registration

Structural Engineers Association of Northern California
May 4th SEAONC DINNER PROGRAM, San Francisco, City Club

5:45 pm
General Assembly

6:30 pm
Dinner

7:30 pm
Program

Location:
City Club, San Francisco
155 Sansome Street
10th Floor

BART:
Montgomery St. Station,
exit on Sansome Street

If no label is shown above, or for guests, please fill in the form below.

NAME _____

COMPANY _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ FAX _____

RSVP by Fax: 415/ 764-4915, e-mail: seaonc@ix.netcom.com, Phone: 415/974-5147

Deadline for pre-registration: 12 noon, Friday, April 30th, 2004

Make check payable to SEAONC and bring with you to the door.

Register early! Dinner and program reservations are limited. No cancellations after 12 noon, *Friday*, April 30th, 2004. No-shows will be invoiced. Tickets not claimed by 6:45 p.m. on the night of the event are subject to being sold. Note: Individuals with outstanding monthly meeting balances are required to pay in advance for a meeting reservation and pay all outstanding monthly meeting invoices.

COST:	PRE-REGISTERED	LATE REGISTERED (After Deadline)
SEAONC Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$34	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39
Junior Mbr (29 and under)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$28	<input type="checkbox"/> \$33
Non-Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$44
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15