



The Structural Engineering Institute of ASCE

October/November, 2005

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SEI's Hurricane Katrina Response

September 12, 2005

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

ASCE and SEI have initiated a significant effort in response to the devastation wreaked by Hurricane Katrina. We share with many others around the world in our concern for the victims and in working toward easing their suffering. Your Society and Institute have initiated both humanitarian and technically focused activities. Relief activities include:

- Facilitating donations [directly to the Red Cross](#), a long standing partner of ASCE's
- Assembling donations from members and staff including offers to pay the dues of affected members
- Helping members in the affected areas [locate employment](#) – job opportunities have been received from across the country
- Assisting our members in [locating temporary housing or office space](#) and
- Helping students with [temporary admission](#) to other schools.

A number of Sections have also initiated direct relief activities as have many individual members. For complete details on the Society's efforts, to make a contribution or post an offer of employment, please visit [ASCE Responds](#).

The breaking of the levees in New Orleans has once again brought to the forefront the critical role of civil engineers in providing for the safety and welfare of our communities. As a learned Society, ASCE has also initiated a number of activities to enhance our knowledge of the physical world and that of the general public. These activities include:

- A performance assessment team is being deployed by SEI's sister institute, COPRI (Coasts, Oceans, Ports and Rivers Institute)
- A team is being assembled by the Geo Institute to document and examine the breached levees to bring forward a better understanding of the failure mechanisms
- SEI is providing assistance to the American Association of Wind Engineers with multiple damage assessment teams deployed by several universities
- ASCE has posted over [30 different technical publications](#) and articles on the web to enable learning about what occurred and the issues to be confronted in rebuilding
- The Society and Institutes are fulfilling hundreds of requests from the media around the world so that they can accurately relay the engineering issues being confronted and

- [its Quality Assurance](#)
- [ASCE Publication Lists](#)

- SEI has engaged a range of experts to explore establishing structural performance studies on the affected buildings, bridges, transmission lines and petrochemical facilities, examining both failures and successes.

Seminars

- [Concrete Performance Specifications Seminar](#)
- [Dam Safety Seminars](#)
- [Risk Management Convocation \(2005\)](#)

As work progresses by SEI, ASCE, and all of the other Institutes, we will do our best to keep you apprised through postings on the [ASCE Responds](#) site and information in the *SEI Update*. If you are interested in participating in an SEI activity or wish to propose an area of study, please contact me directly at jrossberg@asce.org.

Conferences

- [World's Tall Building experts convene in Manhattan](#)
- [2005 FHWA](#)

Please keep the victims of Katrina in your thoughts and prayers and continue in your personal efforts. As your Institute and Society, we will continue to provide immediate help and, through our profession, work to minimize the impact of all hazards in the future.

Regards,

Call For Papers and Proposals

- [SEI Continuing Education](#)
- [ASCE Continuing Education](#)
- [2006 A&C Specialty Conference](#)
- [Mathcounts](#)

James A. Rossberg, P.E., M.ASCE
Director, SEI of ASCE

Hurricane Katrina Image links:

[Photos from New Orleans](#)

[New York Times Interactive New Orleans map](#)

[Mississippiand Alabama coast](#)

[Satellite images of affected areas \(LA, MS, and AL\)](#)

[USGS photos \(including before and after\)](#)

[New Orleans before and after Katrina](#)

[WLBT \(Jackson, MS\) photos and helicopter video](#)

**Save our Span!
Working to save America's historic bridges**

Todd Milano, the president of Central Pennsylvania College, in Summerdale (a suburb of Harrisburg), recently accomplished the extraordinary feat of rescuing a doomed 133-year-old iron span, transporting it across the state, rebuilding it, and installing it on his campus. He and others are part of a new generation of people struggling to preserve the accomplishments of the past and keep a crucial part of America's engineering legacy alive. *Invention and Technology's* Eric DeLony examined the stories of 10 historical spans, and people's efforts to save them, in "Save Our Span!," an article about people who are joining together to preserve some of the most visible, yet most threatened, of America's engineering achievements. [Read the full article.](#)



Pictures: Henszey's Bridge (1869), one of the first all-wrought-iron bowstring truss bridges, in its original home in Slatington, PA (left) and its new home at Central Pennsylvania College (right).

Full article from
http://www.inventionandtechnology.com/xml/2005/1/it_2005_1_feat

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SEI/ASCE NEWS



SEI joins forces with IStructE

SEI is pleased to announce that on August 5, 2005 it entered into an agreement with the UK-based Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE) in the interest of promoting world-class standards of structural engineering excellence. Both SEI and IStructE will be working independently and together to develop areas of common interest and to better serve the interests of their members, the profession of structural engineering, and the wider community.

Immediate benefits to SEI members are as follows:

- SEI members will receive discounts on IStructE technical publications and standards. SEI will extend the same privileges to interested IStructE members.
- Members of SEI will be able to sign-up for the IStructE e-newsletter if they wish to receive it, and will be able to access the "members' only" section of the IStructE web site. SEI will extend the same privileges to interested IStructE members.
- Both SEI and IStructE are interested in opportunities that will enable members to network internationally. IStructE will extend reasonable privileges and courtesies to SEI members interested in engaging in IStructE activities during a temporary stay in countries that have an IStructE branch section, division or group, and SEI will extend the same privileges to interested IStructE members.



From left: SEI President Jeremy Isenberg and IStructE President Mike Fordyce (left) and SEI Director Jim Rossberg and IStructE Chief Executive Keith Eaton (right)

In addition to the above, SEI and IStructE will be working jointly on the continuing education of their members and promoting structural engineering to young people. Both organizations will also explore other areas of collaboration, such as joint technical publications, workshops, and conferences. For more information on IStructE, please visit their web site at www.IStructE.org.uk

Call for Nominations

2006 SEI Awards Program for Structural Engineering Nomination: deadline for each award - November 1, 2005

The **Walter P. Moore, Jr. Award** is presented annually by SEI in recognition of a structural engineer who has demonstrated technical expertise in, and dedication to, the development of structural codes and standards.

The **Dennis L. Tewksbury Award** is presented by the SEI Board of Governors to recognize an individual for outstanding service to the Structural Engineering Institute.

The **Gene Wilhoite Award** is presented in recognition of significant contributions to the advancement of the art and science of transmission line engineering.

Award criteria for Structural Engineering Institute awards, nomination forms, and further information on ASCE Structural Awards can be found at: <http://www.seinstitute.org/inside/honorawards.cfm>.

SEI Election Results

Please join SEI in congratulating our newly elected committee chairs and 2006 Technical Activities Division Executive Committee.

New committee chairs:

Michael Symans, Structural Control Committee

Reagan Herman, Steel Bridges

Tom Sputo, Cold Formed Members

Ronald Shaeffer, Special Structures

Richard Nielsen, Fatigue & Fracture Reliability

Milan Vatovec, Wood Building Design

V. K. Gupu, Wood Research

Roy Denoon, Designing for Wind Induced motion in Tall Buildings (New Subcommittee, Joint between Wind Effects and Tall Buildings)

Jon Galsworthy, Full Scale Monitoring of Tall Buildings (New Subcommittee)

2006 Technical Activities Division Executive Committee

Mike Ritter, Chair
 Jasbir Arora, Past Chair
 Donald Dusenberry, Vice Chair
 Charles Roeder, Secretary
 Dennis Mertz, new member
 Robert Ratay – BOG Liaison
 Roberto Leon – BOG

ASCE Election results

SEI is pleased to announce the 2005 ASCE election results for the 2005-2006 election year:

President-elect Elect (2005-2006)

W.F. Marcuson III, Ph.D., P.E., Hon.M.ASCE

Vice Presidents-Elect (2005-2007)

Zone I: Anni H. Autio, P.E., M.ASCE

Zone III: G. Nicholas Textor, P.E., F.ASCE

Directors-Elect (2005-2008)

District 1: Andrew W. Herrmann, P.E., F.ASCE

District 2: Paul D. Moyer, P.E., M.ASCE

District 7: Mark H. Stemmer, P.E., M.ASCE

District 9: Michael H. Wenning, P.E., M.ASCE

District 10: Kathy J. Caldwell, P.E., M.ASCE

District 13: Karl E. Longley, ScD, P.E., DEE, M.ASCE

District 15: Allen M. Beene, P.E., M.ASCE

Technical Region: Stan R. Caldwell, P.E., F.ASCE

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Committee News

**Seismic Rehabilitation of Buildings
 Report on First Committee Letter Ballot**

by Chris Poland, Jon Heintz, and Andrew Mitchell

The SEI Standards Committee on Seismic Rehabilitation of Buildings has completed the resolution of the first committee letter ballot for a new standard entitled ASCE 41 *Seismic Rehabilitation of Existing Buildings*. The results of the first committee ballot comment resolution have been incorporated in the second ballot draft document to be presented to the committee.

Over the past few years, the SEI Standards Committee on Seismic Rehabilitation of Buildings has undertaken the task of formal balloting of FEMA 356, *Prestandard and Commentary for the Seismic Rehabilitation of Buildings*, to produce an ASCE standard. Nearly 800 ballot comments were received from the committee on the 91 individual ballot items.

The second ballot opened September 6, 2005 and is expected to be completed by December 2005, with the third following during 2006. The Committee is on track for a projected fall 2007 publication date of ASCE 41. [Full report summary.](#)

**Status Report on
 the New Standard for Blast Protection of Buildings**

by Donald Dusenberry

The Structural Engineering Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers has formed a Standards Committee to develop a new standard for blast resistant design of buildings. The Blast Protection of Buildings committee is preparing a comprehensive document addressing the design requirements that are essential for blast-resistant building design. Specifically, the document in preparation will address the appropriate design approaches that constitute a "minimum standard" for design of the vast majority of structures that are at risk of being exposed to blasts and related loadings. Read the [full status report](#).

Fatigue and Fracture Committee of the SEI TAC on Metals

by Ed Zhou

As an on-going SEI special project, the Fatigue and Fracture Committee is in the process of developing a special publication: *Guidelines for Evaluating Remaining Fatigue Life of Existing Steel Bridges per AASHTO Specifications*. Several Members of the committee are also actively involved in organizing the *First International Conference on Fatigue and Fracture in the Infrastructure Bridges and Structures of the 21st Century*, to be held during August 6-9, 2006, in Philadelphia, PA. Read the [Fatigue and Fracture Committee article](#).

First Invitational Workshop on Performance-Based Design of Woodframe Structures held at Colorado State University July 28th and 29th, 2005

by John van de Lindt

The 1st Invitational Workshop on Performance-Based Design of Woodframe Structures was held in Fort Collins, Colorado at Colorado State University on July 28th and 29th, 2005. The one-and-a-half day workshop was attended by 15 experts from US and Canadian industry and academia, and is part of the Structural Engineering Institute Special Project entitled "The Next Step for ASCE 16: Performance-based Design of Woodframe Structures." This project is being executed by the Committee on the Reliability-Based Design of Wood Structures.

Post-workshop action items were assigned to three groups of volunteers. These included a performance-based design of wood structures literature review for seismic and non-seismic literature and documentation worldwide, an international session to highlight the similarities and differences in performance-based design around the world at the 2006 World Conference on Timber Engineering (including New Zealand, Canada, U.S., Japan, and Italy), and fine tuning the definition of PBD for woodframe structures, among other things.



Participants at the 1st Invitational Workshop on Performance-Based Design of Woodfram Structures in Fort Collins, CO

For more information on the workshop or the committee, contact Dr. John W. van de Lindt at jvw@engr.colostate.edu.

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Committee Meetings

ASCE/SEI Structural Application for Steel Cables Standards Committee September 14, 2005, New York, New York

The ASCE/SEI Structural Application for Steel Cables (ASCE 19) Standards Committee will meet on September 14, 2005, at the offices of Hardesty-Hanover, LLP, 1501 Broadway, 3rd Floor, New York, New York. The committee will be discussing the following topics: cable fatigue, zinc-poured fittings, cable creep, fire protection, corrosion protection, and emergency inspection procedures. For more information, contact committee chair, Dr. Charles Birnstiel, P.E., at (212) 944-1150.

ASCE Fiberglass Grating Standards Committee September 29, 2005 Columbus Ohio



The first meeting of the ASCE Fiberglass Grating Standards Committee will be held September 29, 2005 at 3 PM to be held during ACMA's COMPOSITES 2005 show in Columbus, OH.

Since 1996, the Fiberglass Grating Manufacturers Council (FGMC) of ACMA, consisting of representatives of all major manufacturers of fiberglass grating systems, has been developing a consensus prestandard for fiberglass grating to be utilized by engineers, designers and specifiers. The prestandard is now moving to ASCE Standards Committee 10-23-75.1 to begin the National balloting process. To view the Prestandard document, please go to: http://www.fiberglassgrating.org/fgmc/asce_standard.htm It is not necessary to register for Composites 2005 to attend this meeting. For additional details on Composites 2005, see <http://www.acmashow.org/>. For additional information on the Standards Committee or if you would like to participate on the committee, contact Kenneth Berg, P.E., F.ASCE at ken.berg@amgrating.com or 972-353-3185.

Participate in Research to Improve the Telecommunications Industry's Infrastructure



The ASCE Committee on Telecommunications Facilities is looking for participants to discuss issues related to the design and maintenance of Telecommunications Facilities, with a view to fostering and monitoring research in associated fields by matching up available funds with the appropriate researchers. Of particular interest, at this time, is the structural engineering of communication towers, including wind loads on appurtenances and tower and

design of connection details. [Read more here.](#)

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SEI/ASCE PUBLICATIONS

The Journal of Bridge Engineering September 2005

The September 2005 issue of the *Journal of Bridge Engineering*, edited by Bruce E Peterson, begins with two companion papers on transverse cracking in bridge decks. Next is an investigation of the seismic performance of as-built, retrofitted and repaired hollow bridge columns with insufficient shear strength. The fourth paper presents a probability-based methodology for load rating bridges, while the fifth presents a simplified equal distribution factor for live load shear. Paper six investigates the engineering response to cotton duck bearing pads, while the next paper presents a simple, practical, and inexpensive method for measuring static and dynamic deflections of bridge spans under loads. The last three papers address the subject of flexible load-carrying bridge structures that interact with soil. A technical note is also included in this issue: it discusses the difference between the actual moments and shear in primary members of randomly selected bridges against the values that would be used by the current risk-based practice codes. This month's discussion is on Huo, et al's "Simplified Method of Lateral Distribution of Live Load Moment." [Further information on these papers.](#)

The Journal of Structural Engineering September 2005

The September 2005 issue of *The Journal of Structural Engineering* opens with four papers focusing on earthquake-related design: a two-part paper on the behavior and design of bridge joints, the second on the interaction effects between bridges and approach embankments during earthquakes, and the third and fourth on direct inelastic earthquake design and the seismic performance of concentricall braced steel frames respectively.

Further technical papers look at partially-retrained steel framing systems, cold-formed steel, harp bracings, a novel wood concrete composite system, prestressed concrete beams, shear panels, concrete-filled FRP tubes, steel-doweled wood connections, and light-frame wall systems. The final two technical papers deal with the subject of system identification and damage detection.

The September '05 issue also furthers discussion of Zarghamee et al.'s January '05 paper "Thrust Restraint Design of Concrete Pressure Pipe" with pieces written by Andrew Romer, who questions the validity of relying on the adjacent soil to provide stability to the pipe, William Dana, who questions the details of the formulation and modeling of the design procedure proposed, and John Scarino, who contends that design procedure involving soil-structure interactions cannot be justified by mathematical modeling alone. The original writers respond to these three authors by addressing each of their concerns.

[Click here to read full article.](#)

NEW PUBLICATIONS!

Non-Destructive Test (NDT) Methods Applied to Fatigue Reliability Assessment of Structures

edited by **Jamshid Mohammadi**

This book is a collection of nine specific application cases of various non-destructive test (NDT) methods in fatigue and fracture reliability assessment of structures. The reader will find it useful in learning about areas where current methods have actually been applied in real world applications. Applications cited include problems such as steel girder bridges, airframe systems, welded connections, and bridge components (including concrete slabs), which were subjected to fracture failure. Instructors and graduate students of structural engineering courses as well as structural engineers will find the fatigue reliability assessment extremely beneficial. A variety of NDT methods are included: structural monitoring; use of various methods for the identification of the extent of damage; acoustic emissions technique; electromagnetic; portable hardness test; liquid penetrant; magnetic particle; radiography; residual stress by hole drill; and ultrasonic methods. [Purchase online](#) or by phone at 1-800-548-ASCE.

STRENGTH DESIGN IN ALUMINUM: A REVIEW OF THREE CODES

edited by **Mousa Tabatabai Gargari**



Prepared by the Task Committee on Strength Design in Aluminum of the Committee on Special Structures SEI/ASCE, this review compares the design requirements presented in the Canadian CSA S157-03 Strength Design in Aluminum, 2003; the Eurocode 9 Design of Aluminum Alloy Structures (EC9); and the Aluminum Association's Specification for Aluminum Structures: Load and Resistance Factor Design, 2nd Edition, 2000.

The aim of this book is to provide a basis for the preparation of a common document by signaling the areas of agreement, and more importantly, the areas of disagreement. By stripping the load and resistance factors from the design expressions, this book is able to compare the essential rules of engineering on which the codes are based, and to compare the positions taken by three different code writing committees. This book is a valuable resource for structural engineers working with aluminum, especially in the U.S.A., Canada, or in Europe. [Read more here.](#)

Structural Safety and Its Quality Assurance

edited by: **Bruce Ellington and Jun Kanda**

The structural engineering profession plays a key role in the assurance of safe and serviceable building performance. *Structural Safety and Its Quality Assurance* looks at structural safety problems from the basic concept phase, to the design and construction phase. The committee report also discusses the overall concept of safety including how to ensure safety, and will be of value in explaining these concepts of safety to a client or to the public. Topics include: safety concepts, role of regulation and standards, load modeling, reliability analysis, reliability-based design, durability in structural safety assessment, soils and foundations, assessment of existing structures, quality management of structural design,

quality management in construction, and human error. Practicing structural engineers and students in the field of structural engineering will find this committee report beneficial. [Purchase online](#) or by phone at 1-800-548-ASCE.

ASCE Publication Lists

If you are interested in a list of ASCE Titles published in 2004 or 2005, or the complete Structural list of ASCE publications, please follow the links below:

[ASCE 2004 Publications](#)

[ASCE 2005 Publications](#)

[ASCE Structural titles, 1971-2006](#)

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SEMINARS

Risk Management Convocation November 4 - 5, 2005



Structural engineering firms pay some of the highest professional liability insurance premiums because of claims associated with their projects even though structural engineers may have little or no responsibility for the claim. This program and related efforts are intended to reduce the rate of claims against

structural engineering projects and raise the level of quality services provided by all firms involved in a project.

Join SEI in Dallas for a comprehensive program on managing risk in your firm and learn how to turn so-called risky projects into profit makers. For further details on this day and a half convocation, please [click here](#).

"Performance Specifications for Concrete: The Good, the Bad, and Ugly."

**Crown Plaza Hotel – Market Center Dallas
September 12, 2005 1-2.00 PM**

The Structural Engineering Institute (SEI) Committee of the Dallas ASCE branch will hold a technical seminar regarding "Performance Specifications for Concrete: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly" September 12, 2005 from 1-2pm at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Market Center, Dallas, TX. The speaker is Dr. Richard S. Szecsy, PE, who is widely recognized as a national expert in the areas of concrete technologies, recycled materials, self-compacting concrete, and high volume fly ash concrete. [More info.](#)

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CONFERENCES

**World's Tall Building Experts Convene in Manhattan
October 16-19, 2005**



(New York, New York, July 7, 2005) With one of the most complex tall building challenges underway in Lower Manhattan, New York City will host the world's experts in the development, planning, design and construction of skyscrapers. An estimated 800 people representing more than 30 nations will convene from October 16 – 19 for exhibits and presentations examining the theme of "Renewing the Urban Landscape," announces the Council on Tall Buildings & Urban Habitat. [Read the full article here.](#)

**"Accelerated Bridge Construction – Path to the Future"
2005 Federal Highway Administration**



**San Diego, CA
December 15-16, 2005**

The "2005 FHWA Accelerated Bridge Construction Conference – A Path to the Future" will be held **December 15 and 16, 2005 at the Sheraton Hotel and Marina in San Diego, California.** On December 14th the day before the event there will also be workshops on designing bridges using AASHTO/LRFD Bridge Design Specifications. This event is undoubtedly one of the most important bridge events of the year, and its focus will be on pre-fabricated bridge elements and systems and technologies that will enable accelerated bridge construction using various construction materials.

The conference is sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration, and co-sponsored by SEI. The following States' DOTs are also co-sponsors and will actively participate in the conference: California, Florida, Colorado, Georgia, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Utah, and Washington State.



There is no Registration fee for this conference, however, you must register to attend.

For more information about the conference visit:

<http://www.acceleratedbridge.org>

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CALLS FOR PAPERS

Call for Course Proposals

The Structural Engineering Institute is developing a continuing education program of its own for members and the profession. SEI's Administrative Committee on

Continuing Education (ACCE) is separate and distinct from ASCE Continuing Education courses in several important ways:

- The ACCE seminars will be delivered primarily through SEI Local Activities Division, local SEI committees or similar organizations (state structural engineering association, local SECA structural committees, etc.) rather than through a centralized structure.
- The cost and schedule will appeal to practicing engineers. SEI intends that the cost will be nominal (\$50-\$250 depending on the length and content) or free.
- The course content will be tightly focused on the practical application of recent knowledge (technology transfer as opposed to discussions of recent research or overviews of broad topics).
- Some courses will be highly portable to enable local experts to present the material with minimal preparation.

If you or the committee on which you serve has one or more ideas for such seminars, the next step is to submit a short proposal to SEI's Cathy Cardno at ccardno@asce.org. [Proposal Form](#).

ASCE Continuing Education Opportunities

ASCE is currently looking for professionals willing to develop and present 2- or 3-day seminars in all disciplines within the Civil Engineering profession and in management training. If you are interested in creating a seminar for the professional engineer, an application packet and more information is available [here](#). ASCE offers the prestige of a nationally recognized program, monetary compensation, travel reimbursement and an opportunity to improve the civil engineering profession.

2006 Structures Congress Analysis and Computation Specialty Conference



**May 18-21, 2006
St. Louis, MO**

Extended CFP: The Analysis & Computation Technical Administration Committee invites researchers and practitioners to submit original work to the 17th Analysis & Computation Specialty Conference, to be held in conjunction with the 2006 Structures Congress, St. Louis, Missouri, USA, May 18-21, 2006. **The deadline for peer-reviewed papers is September 30, 2005.** Visit the A&C webpage to submit papers: <http://www.asce.org/conferences/structures2006/17/>

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Mathcounts for Future Engineers



MATHCOUNTS® is a national math enrichment, coaching, and competition program that promotes middle school mathematics achievement through grassroots involvement in every U.S. state and territory. With more than 21 years of experience, MATHCOUNTS is one of the most successful education partnerships involving volunteers, educators, industry sponsors, and students. It is a wonderful place for young adults to explore mathematics and mathematics-related careers. To learn more about this program, go to <http://www.mathcounts.org/>

Future newsletters: The October/November 2005 issue of the *SEI Update* has been compiled by SEI's new program coordinator, Cathy Cardno. If you have ideas for future articles, announcements, book reviews, columns, or other information that you would like to see in future issues of the *Update*, please email me at ccardno@asce.org.

Spread the Word: Please forward this message to your friends and colleagues who share an interest in Structural Engineering and would like to hear from the Structural Engineering Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Encourage your friends and colleagues to [join SEI](#) and receive all the benefits of being an SEI Member.

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Advancing and Serving the Structural Engineering Profession