

News of the Institute

Younger Members Committee Event

The EERI Younger Members Committee (YMC) is targeted at EERI members within 5 years of graduation, and has three main goals: (1) to help younger members find projects and purpose within EERI, (2) to create projects and events that help bring together younger members, and (3) to connect younger members with more experienced EERI members.

Last year the committee conducted a survey of all EERI younger members in order to understand their interests. One of the key survey results was a strong desire for more social and networking events within EERI. With that in mind, the YMC is planning its first happy hour for all Student and Young Professional members near San Francisco. The EERI Younger Members Committee San Francisco Happy Hour will be held on Thursday, April 4, at 6:00 pm at Pi Bar, 1432 Valencia St, San Francisco, CA 94110. Attendees should RSVP to the YMC chair, Nick Sherrow-Groves, at nick.sherrow-groves@arup.com.

2011 Spectra Outstanding Paper Award

The *Earthquake Spectra* Editorial Board and the EERI Honors Committee selected the following paper to receive the 2011 Earthquake Spectra Outstanding Paper Award: "A Computationally Efficient Ground-Motion Selection Algorithm for Matching a Target Response Spectrum Mean and Variance," by Nirmal Jayaram, Ting Lin, and Jack W. Baker (Volume 27, No. 3, pp. 797-815.)

The Editorial Board citation states "The selection of ground motions is a critical aspect of PBEE, in particular the consideration of ground motion

uncertainty. Most existing ground motion selection methods consider only fitting to a single target spectrum and therefore provide an under-assessment of this uncertainty. The proposed algorithm of the authors has a theoretical basis for correctly accounting for the uncertainty in selecting ground motions and therefore will lead to PBEE calculations that are objective. The Editorial Board was impressed by the clarity with which the authors discussed this (not necessarily straightforward) topic, facilitating the process of conveying to practitioners and researchers the important message regarding the fact that spectrum-matched records should feature spectra with no additional variance about the Uniform Hazard Spectrum (UHS), typically employed as target spectrum, because the latter already accounts for variability in spectral accelerations at each period being considered. We believe this paper provides significant insight into the selection of accelerograms within the structural engineering community. The fact that the authors also make the Matlab code of their algorithm openly available is also a factor that we believe should be acknowledged. We find that it is an important topic to which high quality work has been devoted. It has clear findings and is easy to understand and implement."

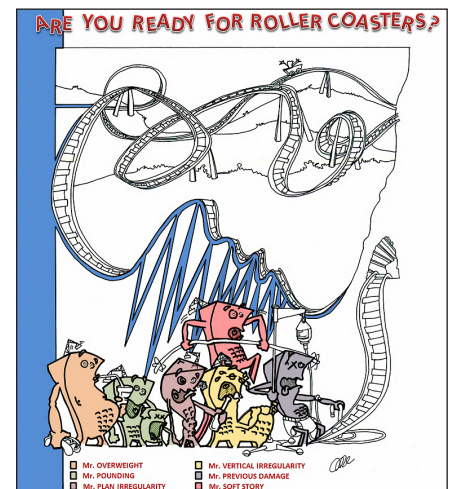


Ting Lin accepting the 2011 Outstanding Spectra Paper Award. (Photo: Marshall Lew)

Annual Graphics Competition Winners

The winners of the 2013 EERI Annual Graphics Competition were announced at the Awards Luncheon at the 2013 Annual Meeting.

The first-place winner was Cesar Arredondo from the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, for "Are you Ready for Roller Coasters?" The graphic compares the dynamic behavior of buildings during earthquakes with the ups and downs of a roller coaster. Each of the characters in the graphic represents a building type with an unsuitable structural configuration. Only structures that are designed and built well will ride the roller coaster without falling off, and, therefore, the invitation: *Are you ready for rollercoasters?*



First-place winner: "Are you Ready for Rollercoasters?"

The second place finisher was "Base Isolating Your Holidays" by Matthew Tobolski from Tobolski Watkins Engineering. The Tobolski Watkins holiday card illustrated performance based earthquake engineering principles with a holiday twist.

In third was a second graphic from Cesar Arredondo entitled "Earthquake Virus Vaccine." The poster contains information about an "AMAZING" cure for a virus that is causing a structural epidemic.

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