



Postcards from Kansas City!

By Jon A. Schmidt, P.E., SECB

NCSEA held its Thirteenth Annual Conference October 27-29, 2005, in Kansas City, Missouri. Hosted jointly by the Structural Engineers Association of Kansas & Missouri (SEAKM) and the Oklahoma Structural Engineers Association (OSEA), the event was a great success, breaking all previous attendance records with 83 full registrants, including Delegates from 34 of NCSEA's 39 Member Organizations; 66 Friday-only registrants from Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma; and 35 exhibitor representatives. The primary venue was the Fairmont Hotel at the Country Club Plaza, a retail and restaurant development initially designed in 1922 as the first suburban shopping center in the United States and modeled after the unique architecture of Seville, Spain.

Thursday was primarily a day for NCSEA committee meetings, including Advocacy, Code Advisory (General Engineering), and the Editorial Board for STRUCTURE magazine. CRSI and RAM International held a workshop in the afternoon; and a welcoming reception took place that evening in the exhibit hall, giving attendees their first opportunity to visit with the 26 vendors who reserved booth space.

The SEAKM-OSEA Host Committee planned the Friday program around the theme, "Engineering the World from the Heart of America." After opening remarks from NCSEA Past President John Joyce, Host Committee Chair Jon Schmidt, and NCSEA President Ron Hamburger, Bill Zahner of the A. Zahner Co. and Steve Huey of Wallace Engineering jointly presented the keynote address, "Digital Definition and the Production of Highly Shaped Metal Surfaces." Zahner and Huey described several of their landmark collaborations, which typically have unusual shapes requiring very precise fabrication and erection of metal cladding panels and their attachments to the supporting structure. Photographs of the damage caused to several such buildings in Biloxi, Mississippi by Hurricane Katrina were a sobering reminder of the power of nature.

The second presentation was by Jennifer Prichard of The Benham Companies on "Superweapons of the Ancient World: The City Destroyer." Prichard was one of four team members selected by Darlow Smithson Productions to construct a replica of a four-story siege tower for a one-hour special that aired on the Discovery Channel. The project took place in Morocco, on the northwest coast of Africa, and involved constructing, in just seven days, a mobile tower equipped with a drawbridge and armor and capable of conquering a 28-foot-tall wall using materials local to the region.

Michelle Lahey of the Linda Hall Library wrapped up the morning session by talking about "Linda Hall Library: A Unique Resource for Engineers Worldwide." LHL is the world's largest independent public library of science, engineering and technology, in part because of its acquisition of the Engineering Societies Libraries in 1995. LHL's collections include more than 150,000 engineering standards and specifications issued by industry and government, and as a result of the conference, a new addition is a complete set of back issues of STRUCTURE magazine, along with a permanent subscription.

After lunch sponsored by NFPA and a presentation by Milosh Puchovsky on "NFPA's Perspective on High Rise Fire Safety," Larry Kaiser of W. R. Grace & Company provided an overview of "High-Performance Fibers for Concrete Reinforcement." Kaiser discussed the basic principles behind fiber reinforcement and highlighted the advantages and disadvantages of steel and low- and high-volume synthetic products. He also touched on various strength test methods, a sample specification, and available design software.

Next, Roger LaBoube of the University of Missouri-Rolla summarized "Design Standards for Cold-Formed Steel Framing." LaBoube explained the relationship between the AISI *North American Specification for the Design of Cold-Formed Steel Structural Members* and the publications prepared by the Committee on Framing Standards. The latter documents address general provisions, installation practices, and the design of specific assemblies, including trusses, headers, prescriptive framing, lateral-force-resisting systems, and wall studs.

After one last break with the exhibitors, attendees heard from Dave Landis of Walter P. Moore & Associates on "Sprint Center: Applying Global Experience to a Local Project." Landis described some of the aesthetic and functional considerations for this facility, which is now under construction in downtown Kansas City, before elaborating on its structural aspects. The selected configuration features cast-in-place and precast concrete for the lower portion, and structural steel for the upper portion, with a one-way truss system as the primary roof framing.

Jon Schmidt of Burns & McDonnell concluded the day by addressing "Blast and Progressive Collapse Design of Military Facilities." Schmidt reviewed the *DoD Minimum Antiterrorism Standards for Buildings* and briefly covered simplified methods for predicting explosion effects on structures and components using vulnerability assessment, dynamic analysis, and glazing evaluation. He also mentioned the DoD general, tie force, and alternate path requirements for resisting progressive collapse, which apply to all inhabited buildings of three or more stories.

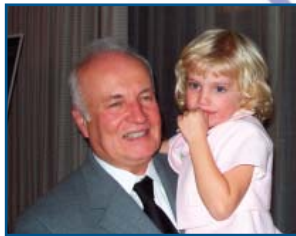
Many of the conference attendees gathered for dinner Friday evening at Plaza III, one of the top ten steakhouses in the country. The Skip Hawkins Band, a locally based jazz quartet,



provided lively entertainment, especially when joined by Dan Lavrich of the Florida Structural Engineers Association (FSEA) on the drums.

NCSEA conducted its business meeting on Saturday morning, with committee reports from Code Advisory (David Bonneville), Advocacy (Vicki Arbitrio), Continuing Education (Mike Tylk), Publications (Craig Cartwright), Member Organization Development (Marc Barter), Structural Engineering Emergency Response (Ed Huston), and Basic Education (Craig Barnes). Delegates also heard from the NCSEA Treasurer (Davy Beicker), SECB (Marc Barter), ATC (Chris Rojahn), and SEI (Rawn Nelson), as well as a presentation on the "Need for Executive Directors" by Linda Delahay, who holds that position for the Structural Engineers Association of Alabama (SEAoAL).

After lunch sponsored by PCA and a presentation by Amy Trygestad on "Post-Tensioned Concrete Construction," NCSEA President Ron Hamburger led a brief plenary session before breaking everyone into four separate focus groups to brainstorm and vote on NCSEA's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats, and priorities. NCSEA Board members recorded the results (audio file available at www.ncsea.com) and will discuss them further in a facilitated meeting with the Past Presidents Committee in early December. NCSEA will subsequently publish a draft Strategic Plan for the next five years on its website for review and comment by its Member Organizations. Watch for more information about this initiative in future editions of NCSEA News.



The conference concluded Saturday evening with a closing banquet that featured a number of award presentations. Craig Cartwright presented NCSEA Executive Director Jeanne Vogelzang with a special award thanking her for her contributions to the success of STRUCTURE magazine. Marc Barter presented Craig Barnes with the Robert Cornforth Award for his many years of service to the structural engineering profession. Ron Hamburger presented John Hooper with the first James Merriam Delahay Award for his efforts to improve building codes by increasing the input that structural engineers have in their development. Hamburger also acknowledged retiring NCSEA Past President John Joyce and retiring NCSEA Board member Larry Meyers. Carrie Johnson presented the Eighth Annual Excellence in Structural Engineering Awards (see pages 34-39); and, concluding the program, incoming NCSEA President Vicki Arbitrio recognized Ron Hamburger's accomplishments in that position over the past year.

NCSEA's Fourteenth Annual Conference is scheduled for **September 14-16, 2006**, in Salt Lake City, Utah. **Mark your calendar now and plan to attend!**

Many thanks to the SEAKM-OSEA Host Committee Members:

Jon Schmidt, Chairman

Steve Ashton	Tom Wright
Brent Bonham	Stephanie Arbogast
Mike Gray	John Finke
Karen Hand	Tom Bergquist
Tom Heausler	Anjie Weidman
Jim Palmer	Carrie Johnson
Bill Wall	John Joyce

2006 Winter Institute
 February 10-11, 2006
Jacksonville, Florida
www.ncsea.com/winterinstitute.htm

