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## Student Leadership Council Activities

The first activity of MCEER's newly formed Student Leadership Council was a seminar by Guy Nordenson, Structural Engineer and Associate Professor, School of Architecture, Princeton University, titled "*Seismic Codes in Moderate Seismic Regions - the New York City Experience*" on April 19, 2000. The seminar was the first in a series to be sponsored by MCEER on behalf of the newly formed Council and took place in Ketter Hall, Dept. of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering, University at Buffalo. Mr. Nordenson concentrated on the development of seismic codes in regions of moderate seismicity, including the seismic code developed for New York City that has been in effect since 1995.

The Council held its first formal meeting on June 7, 2000 prior to the annual NSF site review. Fifteen students from various MCEER-affiliated institutions participated in the meeting, including representatives from the University at Buffalo, University of Delaware, University of Washington, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Cornell University, New Jersey Institute of Technology and Virginia Tech. One participant was an undergraduate student who is participating in MCEER's REU (Research Experiences for Undergraduates) program (see related article). The objectives and responsibilities of the SLC were summarized by Ms. Andrea Dargush (Education Coordinator) and Dr. Andrei Reinhorn (Faculty Advisor). The meeting then concentrated on ways to develop/improve interaction among members of the SLC and the next day's meeting with the NSF site review team.

On June 2, the MCEER-SLC participated in the *Tri-Lateral SLC Workshop* that took place within the context of the EERI Annual Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. This was the first formal gathering of the three earthquake centers' (MAE, MCEER and PEER) council members. After introduction of the councils by each representative, presentations were made on issues regarding the REU program, mini-shake table project, web-based course modules, NSF SLC annual retreat (by Dr. Priscilla Nelson of NSF), and SLC participation in Centers. Future activities involving the three Centers' councils were discussed. Among these are a tri-lateral poster and e-mail list serve, a journal as part of the REU program for which reviewers will consist of graduate students, and communication via video-conferencing. The councils discussed way to involve undergraduates, such including them in the tri-lateral e-mail list serve and the proposed journal.

However, because MCEER's affiliated institutions are so geographically diverse, it is challenging to convene students from all universities. Members of the MCEER SLC will be meeting next at a conference jointly organized by MCEER and the EERI student chapters at Cornell University and University at Buffalo. The meeting will be held on August 7-8, 2000, at Cornell University. This event is meant to expose students to other campuses, provide an opportunity to know each other better – and to be only one of many more joint activities in the future. ❖



■ *Members of the Student Leadership Council attended the annual NSF site visit. Shown from left are Natali Sigaher, Gauri Guha, Jerry Shen, Gyuhae Park, Yingjuan Wang, Dyah Kusumastuti and Walter Svekla*