

ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

Southern California Section

"Serving Professionals in Engineering, Environmental, and Groundwater Geology Since 1957"

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2002

MONTHLY DINNER MEETING

Date:

Tuesday, December 10, 2002

Location:

Stevens Steakhouse, 5332 Stevens Place, Commerce, CA

Time:

5:30 p.m. - Social Hour; 7:00 p.m. - Dinner; - 8:00 p.m.

Presentation

Reservations:

Call (949) 253-5924 ext. 564 by 12:00 p.m., Monday,

December 9, 2002

Cost:

\$25.00 per person with advanced reservations, \$30.00 at

the door, and \$10.00 for students w/ valid I.D., "No-

shows" will be billed \$10.00

SPEAKER:

Scott Burns

TITLES:

"AEG: A Bright Future," and "Lessons Learned from Landslides"

ABSTRACT: AEG has gone through many changes this past year: a new headquarters, a new leadership team, a new publications board, a new fiscal year, new awards, and a new innovative specialty conference. President Scott Burns will summarize these new changes and some of the directions AEG is going. We are trying to build an organization that will represent the membership nationally and internationally, develop new leaders starting with students, strengthen sections, continue to cultivate partnerships with other professional organizations, and arrive at fiscal stability in the future. How can each of us play a part in our future?

Scott Burns has been working in all phases of landslide research for 26 years. Using case histories he will summarize 15 different principles he has learned related to landslide mapping, research, and mitigation. Topics included will be: signs to look for and not look for, relationships to geology, field techniques, reactivation of old landslides, landslide development in "flat" terrain, human involvement in slides, landslides on volcanoes, earthquakes and landslides, developing maps to be used, importance of debris flows, looking for failure surfaces, and innovative fixes.

OFFICERS

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SECRETARY Jeff Kofoed (818) 842-2543 Scott Burns is the president of AEG. He is a Professor of Geology at Portland State University where he is in his 13th year of teaching. He has been teaching for 33 years, with past positions in Switzerland, New Zealand, Washington, Colorado and Louisiana. Scott specializes in environmental and engineering geology, geomorphology, soils, and Quaternary geology. He has projects involving landslides and land use, environmental cleanup of service stations, slope stability, landslide and earthquake hazard mapping, Missoula Flood paleosols, loess soil stratigraphy, radon generation from soils, and the distribution of heavy metals and trace elements in Oregon soils. Scott has won many awards for outstanding teaching with the most significant being the Faculty Senate Chair Award at Louisiana Tech University in 1987 and the Distinguished Faculty Award from the Portland State in 2001. He has authored over 90 publications and has had over 25 research grants. He was editor of AEG's 1998 publication: Environmental, Groundwater and Engineering Geology: Applications from Oregon.

He has a BS and MS degree from Stanford University and a Ph.D. from the University of Colorado. He has held several positions in the past: president of the Oregon Society of Soil Scientists, chair of the Oregon Section of AEG, chair of the engineering geology division of the Geological Society of America, Associate Dean for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Portland State, fellow of the Kellogg National Leadership Program, and president of the faculty senates of three universities.

CHAIR'S COLUMN

By Tania Gonzalez

I hope that you all had a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving! As usual, this is the time of year we typically find ourselves wondering where the year has gone, and stressing out over all the end-of-year activities. Therefore I hope that you can spare some time this 10th of December and joins us for our last meeting of the year. As promised, Scott Burns, President of AEG will be our guest speaker. If you are interested in hearing about the status of AEG, or about landslides, then I do hope you join us.

A very warm thank you to all of you who responded to our frantic faxing of the November newsletter and came to the meeting with little advance warning. As it turned out, we had a pretty good turnout. E.D. Michael, our speaker, argued that infinite slope analysis is not a reliable method to evaluate mudflow risk, and suggested various mitigation measures that can be used to reduce this hazard. This led to a lively discussion at the end of the presentation, including the participation of several of the geotechnical engineers in the audience.

A review of the Southern California AEG membership shows that out members are located primarily around three main areas: in southeastern Ventura and western Los Angeles counties, in central Orange County, and in western San Diego County (see map below, showing number of members by zip code). This proves that our usual meeting location in Commerce, while perhaps somewhat equidistant to both Ventura and Orange counties, is really not convenient to most of our members. This further strengthens our resolve to find other meeting venues for the next year. If you have any suggestions for meeting locations in these areas, please call me or send me an e-mail.

Some of the topics that we are lining up for next year include the impact of tsunamis on the southern California coastline, the Denali, Alaska Earthquake of

October 2002, and damage caused by Hurricane Mitch in Honduras. We still have about 5 meetings open, for which we have not identified a speaker. If you have any suggestions for future speakers, please contact Matt Hawley, our Vice-Chair.

Last but not least, please join me in congratulating our past Chair, Dave Seymour and his wife, Kerri, for their latest addition to their family, a baby boy that weighed in at 10 lbs! They are now the proud parents of 4 kids. Dave finished his 2-year term as Section Chair just in time to take on more responsibilities at home. Way to go Dave!

If you have any comments or comments regarding the AEG, both at the National or southern California level, please give me a call or drop me an e-mail. As usual, we are always looking for volunteers. For example, it has been several years since the Southern California Section has put together a field trip. I would like to start holding these again on a regular (yearly or every other year, at least). If you have ideas, do give me a call.

Do not forget to check out the AEG web page at http://www.aegweb.org. If you use your membership ID and password (on the membership card we each get annually from National), you can access several different member services, including the more recent member directory. In the next month or two, we should also be able to order publications and pay our annual dues online.

2003 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

You probably received your 2003 dues statement from AEG National by now. If you have not received it, or are unsure about your membership status, please contact AEG Headquarters <u>aegweb.org</u>, or Tania Gonzalez. We are currently looking for a new Membership Chair. Please contact Tania Gonzalez you wish to volunteer.

YEAR 2002 CONTRIBUTORS

Our special thanks to:

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YEAR 2002-3 CONTRIBUTORS NEEDED

Contributions from corporations and individual members for 2002 are greatly appreciated. Contributors will be listed in our newsletter throughout the year and can post their logo or business card in the newsletter if so desired. Please mail contributions made out to **AEG** to our section chair, Tania Gonzalez.

AEG/ASCE, CGS Special Publication 117 Landslide Workshop

This two-day workshop, presented by the members of the slope stability committee, is intended to summarize and explain the recommended procedures, and provide time for interaction with the authors. The workshop is intended for both managing and practicing engineers and geologists. Speakers will include T. Blake, R. Hollingsworth, R. Jibson, R. Masuda, D. Pradel, C. Real, N. Sathialingam, and J. Stewart. Participants will receive a notebook containing printed copies of the speakers' presentations and a CD-ROM of the presentations as PowerPoint files. The CD will also include an Excel spreadsheet that can be used to calculate earthquake-induced displacements by a committee-recommended simplified procedure and a Windows computer program developed by R. Jibson (USGS) to perform rigid-block Newmark-type seismically induced displacement integration analyses. Workshop materials also will include worked examples of seismically induced slope deformation calculations. Continuing Education units will be available to attendees through the Association of Engineering Geologists. Please visit he website for registration form and additional details. www.scec.org/resources/landslide.html

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Please send resume to:
Jeanne Krinsky
Petra Geotechnical, Inc.
3185-A Airway Avenue
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
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Southern California Section

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