

## 2000 Annual Investigators Meeting Review

### Researchers Meet in Buffalo to Coordinate Year 4 Activities

This year's Annual Investigators Meeting was held November 2-4, in Buffalo, New York. Over 70 MCEER investigators, committee members, partners, University at Buffalo officials, students and staff members attended the event at the University Inn and Conference Center.



■ Over 70 people attended the 2000 Annual Investigators Meeting. The entire group is shown outside the University Inn and Conference Center in Buffalo.

Introducing the University at Buffalo's newly appointed Vice President of Research, Dr. Jaylan Turkkan. Dr. Turkkan spoke briefly on her commitment to guiding basic science and engineering research into real world applications. She also related her personal experiences following the recent Marmara, Turkey earthquake, where she has friends and family.



■ Michael Kiley-Zufelt, DRC, and Ron Meis, UNR, both members of the Student Leadership Council, discuss their research projects during Friday's session.

Deputy Director Michel Bruneau. Program leaders then presented overviews of projects currently underway in their respective areas. Speakers were:

- Masanobu Shinozuka and Thomas O'Rourke, Program 1: Seismic Evaluation and Retrofit of Lifeline Networks
- Michel Bruneau, Program 2: Seismic Retrofit of Hospitals
- Kathleen Tierney, Program 3: Earthquake Response and Recovery
- Andrei Reinhorn, Program 4: User Networks for Seismic Assessment and Rehabilitation of Critical Facilities
- Andrea Dargush, Program 5: Education and Educational Outreach

Following lunch, MCEER's Donald Goralski made a presentation on the Center's numerous Industry/User Collaborations, and discussed its Strategic Partnerships Network in some detail. Several industry partners took part in the meeting.

Barbara McManus, MCEER computer specialist, demonstrated a new web-based reporting system for investigators. The remainder of the day on Friday was dedicated to breakout sessions for participants in each program area.

Following dinner, George Lee and Michel Bruneau made a number of presentations recognizing various contributions made to MCEER. A. Natali Sigaher was presented with a certificate of appreciation "for active service and support of MCEER's efforts in research and education."

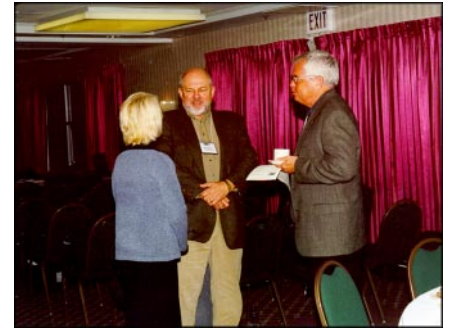
Also recognized was Mohammed Ettouney, a principal of Weidlinger Associates, Inc., in New York City. Dr. Ettouney was applauded for his contributions as a User/Advisory Group member for MCEER's Hospital Project.

A number of members of the Center's Strategic Partnerships Network were also on hand and received their membership plaques. These included: Imbsen & Associates, Inc. (Wiktor Wasielewski), Taylor Devices, Inc. (Douglas Taylor), and Weidlinger Associates, Inc. (Jeremy Isenberg).

Saturday featured a return to the program and cross-program area breakout sessions for most of the day. The meeting concluded with reports from the program coordinators on action items and/or outstanding issues, and remarks from standing committees and partnership representatives. ❖

The meeting began Thursday, with a luncheon and closed session for members of the Student Leadership Council (SLC). SLC members discussed a variety of issues (*see related article on page 5*), and selected A. Natali Sigaher as chair and Mettupalayam Sivaselvan as vice-chair, both of the University at Buffalo. The session was followed by an Icebreaker reception Thursday evening.

MCEER Director George Lee opened Friday morning's session by welcoming everyone to Buffalo and introducing the University at Buffalo's newly appointed Vice President of Research, Dr. Jaylan Turkkan.



■ The annual meeting provides investigators with an opportunity to coordinate research efforts for the coming year. Shown (from left) are Kathleen Tierney, DRC, Daniel Alesch, University of Wisconsin and Chris Rojahn, A TC.

Dr. Lee then provided an overview of the EERC NSF Year 3 evaluation of MCEER and guidelines for renewal in Year 4. Overall, the Year 3 evaluation was positive and the review team cited MCEER's integration of social sciences with engineering, and application of advanced technologies to earthquake hazard mitigation as particular strengths of the Center.

The requirements of the Year 4 proposal effort and highlights of the strategic plan were discussed in detail by MCEER



■ George Lee presented members of the Center's Strategic Partnership Network with membership plaques at Friday evening's dinner. Shown with Dr. Lee is Douglas Taylor, President, Taylor Devices.