

N E W S L E T T E R

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MAE Center Recommended for Five-Year Renewal

The Mid-America Earthquake Center has been renewed for five more years of funding by the National Science Foundation. A Blue Ribbon Panel, appointed by the National Science Foundation Division of Engineering Education and Centers to review the three earthquake engineering research centers, has approved a research plan and recommended renewal of the MAE Center for the next five years.

The MAE Center, headquartered at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, has now begun its fifth year of operation. With this renewal, pending final approval by the NSF Engineering Review Board, the Center will commence a second five-year phase focusing on development of engineering approaches that implicitly address reductions in earthquake consequences. Newly defined core research thrust areas on hazard definition, damage synthesis and consequence minimization will complement the needs of stakeholder partners within the insurance, construction, transportation and building industries.

The MAE Center: An Overview



left: Newmark Civil Engineering Laboratory, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

right: Structural Engineering and Materials Laboratory, Georgia Institute of Technology

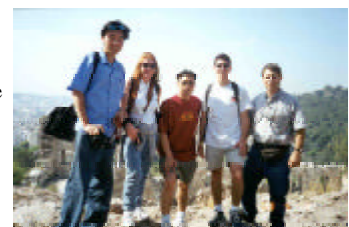


above and right: MAE Center Reconnaissance Team in India Studying the Bhuj 2001 Earthquake



left: a test at the Construction Engineering Research Laboratory Featured on the *NBC Nightly News*, 2001. Photo courtesy of CERL

right: MAE graduate students participate in the annual field training mission, now in its fourth year



Dan Abrams will continue to lead and direct the MAE Center, and will be assisted by Jim Beavers, Deputy Director and Coordinator of the Center's Industry Collaboration, Outreach and Technology Transfer Program, and Amr Elnashai, Associate Director in charge of research programs.

Joining with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to form the MAE Center's core institutions are Georgia Institute of Technology, University of Memphis, Washington University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Texas A&M University, Saint Louis University, and the University of Puerto Rico.