

Announcing
AEG San Francisco Section Meeting

**Katrina: Geologic, Disaster,
and Personal Perspectives**

Darrel W. Schmitz, Ph.D., P.G.
President, Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists
Professor of Geology & Head, Department of Geosciences,
Mississippi State University

Restaurant: Sinbad's, Pier 2 Embarcadero Street, San Francisco
(Phone 415.781.2555 for directions only—not a reservation line)

Date and Time: Tuesday, July 11, 2006

6:00 pm—Social Hour and Sign-in
7:00 pm—Dinner (Fish, Beef, Chicken or Vegetarian)
8:00 pm—Presentation

Cost: \$35 AEG Members, \$40 Non-members, \$15 Students

Reservations: AEG members fax or e-mail Sachiko Tanikawa (fax # 510.268.5099, treasurer@aegsf.org) with the following information

- (1) Name
- (2) Phone number
- (3) Meal choice

Please Note: Please try and make your reservations by this FRIDAY, July 7th. For financial reasons no-shows and last minute cancellations will be charged.

See over for abstract and speaker biography

Katrina: Geologic, Disaster, and Personal Perspectives

Katrina was “born” on August 24 as the twelfth storm of the 2005 Atlantic hurricane season. After raking southern Florida she became an extraordinary large category 5 (Safer-Simpson scale) storm covering about half of the Gulf of Mexico. Katrina made a second landfall, the first in the northern Gulf, as a category 4 at Burris, Louisiana. She then made an additional landfall near the Louisiana-Mississippi state line. The large size and prior strength, coupled with the geography of the shoreline, resulted in a record high storm surge. The storm surge affected coastal areas from Louisiana to Florida while spawning tornadoes in Georgia. Katrina’s impacts were disastrous. In addition to the devastation by the storm surge, coastal landforms were altered. Some offshore islands are nearly gone, while new sediment has been deposited in other areas. Landform also appears to have limited the inland distance of the storm surge in some areas. Debris deposited by Katrina’s storm surge was found inland to the first marine terrace in coastal Mississippi. Having witnessed the second and most destructive to date hurricane landfall along the Mississippi coast, there are many direct and personal impacts – astounding, amazing, miraculous, and horrendous. Hurricane Camille in 1969 destroyed the Mississippi coast, but even worse destruction occurred from Katrina. Many structures which survived Camille were destroyed by Katrina, primarily due to Katrina’s higher storm surge – about thirty feet in western Mississippi. The initial impact along the Mississippi coast was total destruction. Several towns no longer exist. The impact on New Orleans came later from flooding as a result of failed flood walls, that could not withstand the surge forces from Lake Pontchartrain. In northern Mississippi the direct impacts were trivial, compared to those at the coast, but there was damage and power outages over 250 miles from the coast. However, many at Mississippi State had personal impacts. One of our student’s parents swam to safety from a top story window – in the storm surge. Another student lost his entire family in Gulfport. Most considered the legend of Camille as the ultimate possible hurricane in terms of its destruction along the Mississippi coast. Katrina has now replaced that legend.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Darrel W. Schmitz is the current president of Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists and Professor of Geology and Head of the Department of Geosciences at Mississippi State University. Dr. Schmitz is a geologist with research interests in hydrogeology. His research interests range from the physical (groundwater movement and geologic controls on groundwater movement) and chemical (natural water composition and contaminant transport) aspects of hydrogeology to related environmental areas of hazardous and nonhazardous waste disposal (siting, seismic considerations, biodegradation, and the properties of earth materials). Recent studies have been conducted in Mississippi, other portions of the U.S. and internationally. Dr. Schmitz received his Ph.D. in Geology from Texas A&M University in 1991, M.S. in Engineering Science-Geology from the University of Mississippi in 1985, and B.S. in Geology from Mississippi State University in 1980.

See over for AEG Foundation Challenge Letter



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ADVANCING SCIENCE AND SCHOLARSHIP IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING

Dear AEG San Francisco Section Member:

Here is a new way to double your money

The AEG Foundation, founded in 1993 to assume responsibility for AEG's first scholarship, the Marliave Scholarship, is now a part of the heritage of our profession. Its net assets have grown to over \$250,000. The Foundation uses the income from these assets to

- fully fund five scholarships every year
- provide start-up funding the Roy J. Shlemon Specialty Conferences
- support the Richard H. Jahns Distinguished Lectureship, and
- support AEG's professional publications in engineering geology.

The Foundation succeeds in its mission because of the many donations it receives from people like you—people who want to help students with scholarships and advanced professionals with leading-edge conferences and publications.

We want to do more. We want to expand our scholarship fleet. We want to provide more support for the Jahns Lecturer (they all serve without compensation, and they all tell us the funding ended before they could fulfill all of the lecture opportunities). We want to tell the public about the value of engineering geology with educational materials for teachers.

We can do all these things and more when your tax-deductible donations go to work for our programs. Now you have a very special opportunity because Section Chair Patrick Drumm has issued a challenge: Patrick will match your contributions made at the July Section meeting (or anytime in July) dollar for dollar up to \$500. So, please bring your checkbook (or even cash or a charge card) and double the effectiveness of your contribution. (By the way, other AEG Sections raised over \$4500. for us this way.)

AEG President Darrel Schmitz and I will tell you more about the AEG Foundation at the July 2006 meeting, and I'd like to hear your ideas about new initiatives for the Foundation.

Thanks for thinking about the Foundation, and thanks for caring about the future of our profession.

Robert E. Tepel, AEG Foundation President