

## Schedule

### Mark Your Calendar (2003)

#### General Membership Meetings

(Breakfast 7:30 a.m.)

January 16  
March 13  
May 8  
July 17  
September 11

#### Business Practice Committee Meetings

(Breakfast 7:30 a.m.)

February 13  
April 10  
June 12  
August 14  
October 9

#### SEAC Board of Directors Meetings

(7:30 a.m.)

January 9  
February 6  
April 3  
June 5  
August 7  
October 2

#### Annual Dinner Meeting

November 6  
6 - 9 p.m.

## MARCH GENERAL MEETING

### *Structural Steel: Fire Design Update From the American Institute of Steel Construction*

Design of Steel Structures to resist the affect of fires is a complex task requiring the coordination of many disciplines. Typically the issues of allowable areas, exiting, separations, and ratings are established by the Architect working in conjunction with the Authority Having Jurisdiction. The fire sprinkler and alarm systems are addressed by the MEP consultants and closely coordinated with the local Fire Department. The fire protection requirements for the project have many issues that affect the structural engineering design and economy of the structure. These issues include classification of restrained and unrestrained members, minimum thickness of the slabs for sprayed and unsprayed metal deck, and clearances to structure in areas where spray-on fire protection is to be omitted. With the addition of a new chapter on thermal effects in the 2005 AISC combined specification, the consideration of fire as a loading condition will be expanded to many members.

**Farid Alfawakhiri** will lead the March program with an overview of current design codes as they relate to fire protection of steel structures. The talk will focus on the challenges the design team faces currently in providing reliable and affordable fire protection and on some of the future trends as they affect structural engineers. Some of the highlights of Farid's presentation will include:

- Provisions of the IBC2000 and NFPA 5000 regarding fireproofing of steel structures.
- Standard fire resistance test procedures.
- Allowable areas for various structural steel systems
- Definition of restrained and unrestrained elements in structures.
- Information sources for fire resistant assemblies and design data.
- Performance based structural design of steel structures for fire resistance.

**Farid Alfawakhiri** is a Senior Engineer, Fire Design, with the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC). He leads the AISC research and development efforts in Fire Design and serves as the Secretary of the AISC Fire Safety Engineering Committee. Before joining AISC, he was a Fire Research Engineer with the Canadian Steel Construction Council. Farid holds a Master's degree in Structural Engineering from the University of Ottawa and a Doctorate in Structural Fire Protection from Carleton University in Canada. He is a registered engineer in Ontario and has over 20 years of experience in research, design, construction and project management. He is an author of many publications in the fields of wind engineering, earthquake engineering and structural fire resistance.

Please note that as with last years presentation on Architecturally Exposed Structural Steel, this program may have considerable content of interest to some Architectural clients. Please feel free to bring clients and other guests to the program. Please reserve a spot for all guests when calling in reservations. Guest fee of \$12.00

#### Don't Miss Out

#### Upcoming General Meeting

**Date:** Thurs. March 13 @ 7:30am

**Speaker(s):** Farid Alfawakhiri, AISC

**Location:** Renaissance Denver Hotel  
3801 Quebec Street (south of the I-70 and  
Quebec intersection)



Please e-mail your reservations to Caryn Bauer at: [cbauer@martinmartin.com](mailto:cbauer@martinmartin.com), or phone in at 303-431-6100x403. **Reservations MUST be made By 12:00 noon on Monday, March 10, 2003.**

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*Information for inclusion in the newsletter  
must be received one month prior to the next  
general meeting.*

*Caryn L. Bauer*  
SEAC Executive Assistant

## President's Message

One of the major goals for SEAC in 2003 was accomplished in early February when the Board of Directors retained Caryn Bauer to act as our first Executive Assistant. The duties of the officers of SEAC were defined at a time when the membership was less than fifty members (only owners of structural engineering firms). The Organization has now grown to include more than 250 members in addition to the many building officials, educators and other interested parties to which we distribute our newsletters and mailings. The task of serving this membership reached a level several years ago that is an unreasonable burden on the volunteer time of our officers. It was at that time the idea of delegating the administrative functions of SEAC to permit the officers to focus on the issues affecting our profession came into being. For several years the newsletter has been published by a consultant to provide a consistent, professional publication. In addition to continuing this task SEAC's Executive Assistant will be charged with the following additional tasks:

- Distributing all SEAC communication to the membership via email
- Maintaining a current mailing and emailing roster.
- Sending our dues notices, second notices and collection calls and receiving dues payments.
- Sending out and collecting ballots for Board of Directors offices.
- Updating content on our web site on a bi-weekly basis.
- Assisting the Board in setting up and supporting programs and seminars
- Supporting committee activities requiring publishing, typing or mass communication to our members

In addition to easing the burden on SEAC officers, the position is being set up to provide a consistent location to call, email and correspond with SEAC as the officer's change year by year. The position was advertised to SEAC membership at the January general meeting and five applications were made. Several members of the Board of Directors interviewed three of the candidates and a selection was made on February 7. Thank you to all that participated in this process, it was a difficult decision for the interviewing committee.

In addition to selecting our Executive Assistant the Board addressed several additional items at our February meeting.

- SEAC has offered to act as a "friend of the court" as an interested party in the Dufficy vs. BRW case that is currently being appealed to the Colorado Supreme Court. In this capacity we will, upon request, offer a written perspective on how this case may affect our profession. Please see the box on page 3 for a summary of this case that may have important consequences for many members of SEAC.
- The Board reviewed the progress of several of our active committees. Reports from those committees will be published in future issues of the newsletter and will find a home as we begin the process of bringing our web site up to date.
- The Board approved the creation of a Colorado SEERP committee to coordinate post disaster activities with state and local governments in the event of emergencies. SEERP groups are operating in many NCESEA member organizations and will have good advice and tips for this committee. **Mike Piper** and past-president **Brent Norris** will be organizing this group, please call them if you are interested in serving our community in this manner.
- Finally, the Board approved a budget for 2003 that will increase service to the membership without raising dues.

We had an great turn-out for Jim Harris's talk on building codes in January. I look forward to seeing all of you for our March general meeting.

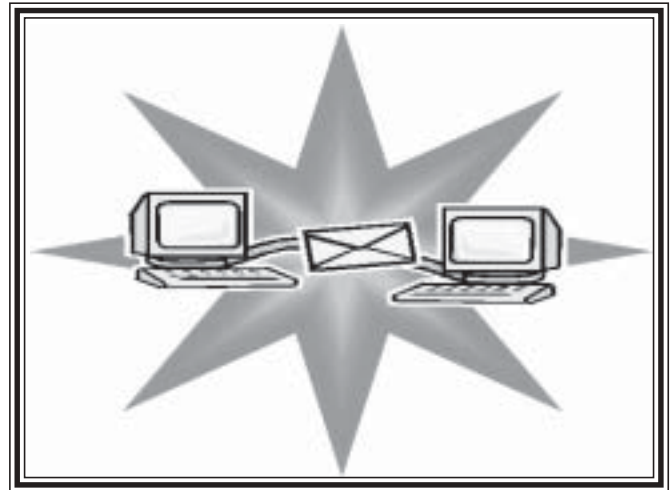
## *Dufficy & Sons, Inc. v. BRW, Inc.*

The following is a summary (provided by Phillip Cardo of Jackson Kelly PLLC) of a recent decision in Colorado Court regarding an economic loss suit between a subcontractor and an engineer. *SEAC* is following the progress of this case as it moves to the Colorado Supreme Court and will update our membership as information becomes available.

The Colorado Court of Appeals ruled recently that an engineer can be sued directly by a construction subcontractor for errors and omissions (negligence) in preparation of plans and specifications, and for negligence in construction phase administration, even

when there is no contract between the two, and even when the only damage the subcontractor suffered is so-called economic loss, that is, something other than property damage or bodily injury. *Dufficy & Sons, Inc. v. BRW, Inc.*, (Case no. 01CA2201) If this ruling is not overturned by the Colorado Supreme Court, it will increase the number of claims filed against all types of design professionals, costing A/E's and their firms many thousands of dollars in increased liability insurance premiums, more frequent payment of insurance deductibles, and lost time and productivity in dealing with lawsuits.

### ***CHANGE OF ADDRESS? NEW E-MAIL INFORMATION?***



If you have a change of address, phone, fax or e-mail. Please e-mail Caryn Bauer at [cbauer@martinmartin.com](mailto:cbauer@martinmartin.com)

### ***NCSEA CONFERENCE***

The annual conference for the National Council of Structural Engineering Associations (NCSEA) meeting will be held on October 23-25, 2003 at the downtown Marriott Hotel. *SEAC* will need many volunteers to assist in welcoming our peers from around the country and introducing them to the many engineering wonders of our state. If you have suggestions for the portion of the program showcasing Colorado's creative engineering history, please contact **Brent Norris** at 303-860-9021, or **Ben Nelson** at 303-431-6100.

#### ***Web site Update***

*We are working hard to update our web site. We appreciate your patience. We hope to have the web site completely updated by the end of March.*

[www.seacolorado.com](http://www.seacolorado.com)



University of Colorado at Boulder - TALL BUILDINGS: ARE THEY SAFE ENOUGH?

#### ***NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING***

Public Regional Symposium - Boulder, Colorado

Thursday, April 10, 2003

2:00 - 5:30 pm

Call 303-735-0539 for more information

#### **Program**

- Disasters by Design
- Tall Buildings - Evolution Toward Vulnerability
- Anatomy of a Disaster: The World Trade Center
- Probability-Based Structural Design: Acceptable Risk Bases

# Education/Student Activities Committee

Building Brighter Futures, a program that pairs professionals from the engineering and architectural communities with students from Denver Public Schools, is looking for volunteers. Volunteers would spend approximately 1-1/2 hours per week helping kids with homework after school. Available days are Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The primary focus of these tutoring sessions would be math and science, as these are usually the strong points of most engineers and architects.

This program is a great way for engineers to make a difference in the community by sharing their skills and knowledge, and by being a role model for kids that may not otherwise be exposed to the field of engineering and design. In addition, this program provides a great opportunity for the Engineering community to receive positive recognition in the local area.

For more information on the Building Brighter Futures Program, please contact:

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Concord West

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## **SEAC Newsletter**

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