

UB's "Science Exploration Day" 2009 at SEESL

SMALL GROUP PRESENTATIONS

1. STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING AND EARTHQUAKE SIMULATION TOUR

(Tom Albrechtski, SEESL/UB-NEES Site Operations Manager, Civil, Structural & Environmental Engineering, UB)

The Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation (NEES) laboratory is a part of the Structural Engineering and Earthquake Simulation Laboratory (SEESL). The laboratory is capable of conducting testing of full or large-scale structures using dynamic or static loading. This is enabled by the availability of two shake (earthquake simulation) tables; large-scale dynamic and static servo-controlled actuators; and a 40-ton capacity crane.

Participants will hear a presentation describing this very unique facility and observe an example of the nature of seismic testing using a "Mini-Shake Table" prior to the tour of the laboratory.



Approximately 40 Western New York high school students, participating in UB's-23rd "Science Exploration Day" toured UB's Structural Engineering and Earthquake Simulation Laboratory (SEESL), in the Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering (CSEE). They also observed a simulated earthquake, employing a "Mini-Shake Table", subjecting a sub-scale 27-story building to a seismographic record from the 1995 Kobe Earthquake. Ms. Lenore Dunnah, a senior in CSEE, President of the student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and a member Seismic Design Team that designed and constructed the model, to compete in the 2009 Annual National Student Design Competition, captured the attention and interest of the SED attendees as she discussed the competition and her interests in pursuing a career in Civil Engineering.