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**September 10th Meeting**  
**Topic: Extreme Events and their Impacts on Structures**

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Dr. Vijaya (VJ) Gopu will speak on "Extreme Events and their Impacts on Structures" at the September meeting.

**Abstract :**

One of the more challenging and difficult tasks in structural engineering is the design of structures to resist extreme natural events. The intersection of these high-energy events that include earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, ice and snowstorms, etc., with the increase in the population density is leading to costlier and deadlier disasters. Over the past thirty years the economic loss from natural disasters has quadrupled even though major advances have been made to better understand the phenomena and loads associated with these extreme events. This presentation will provide an overview of the performance of a variety of structures in different types of natural disasters. Particular emphasis will be placed on why the structures performed the way they did and what measures could have taken to enhance their performance

**Bio:**

Dr. Gopu is a Professor and Chair of the Civil Engineering and Environmental Engineering at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. He served as the Program Director for the Structural Systems and Engineering in the Directorate of Engineering at the National Professorship from 1998-2001 and held the Formosa Plastics Distinguished Professorship at LSU where he served 22 years. He received his MS and PhD. From Colorado State University in '72 and '75 respectively and worked as a structural consultant in Denver for three years before joining the faculty ranks in 1978. He is a recipient of the International Wood Award for the Forest Products Society. His areas of research interest include, structural hazard mitigation, structural polymeric composites, heavy engineered timber structures, non-destructive evaluation of infrastructure systems, and building science. He has over 150 technical publications and presentations to his credit. Dr Gopu is active in several national and international technical committees, and has served as a member of several federal interagency working groups. He was a member of the 1999 Structures Congress Organizing Committee and Chair of the 1996 International Timber Engineering Conference. Dr. Gopu has served a lecturer for short courses offered by the American Institute of Steel Construction, American Institute of Timber Construction, and the Heritage Workshop. He recently delivered the 2002 David Hunter Lecture to the New Orleans ASCE Structural Division.

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*Cost of the luncheon will vary, ordering directly from Ivey's menu. Please call in your reservation to Art Hargrove at 971-1622 or email him at [arthurh@ajtalabama.com](mailto:arthurh@ajtalabama.com) by noon Friday, June 28th.*

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**Iveys' for September Meeting**

We will try Ivey's Restaurant in September. We can then vote between Ivey's and the big room at Fogcutter.

Ivey's is located in the Heart of Huntsville Mall, Clinton Avenue entrance. Please email if you need more detailed directions.

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**Asphalt Trade Assoc Endorses Plan to Increase Highway Funding**

The National Asphalt Pavement Association and The American Road and Transportation Builders Association are promoting a proposal to increase the federal gasoline tax by two cents per year to provide additional funding for highway and transit programs. The plan would put the federal highway budget on track to total \$60 billion annually by 2009.

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**Southeast ASCE Conferences and Seminars**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Conference/Seminar</b>	<b>Location</b>
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Sept 11-13	Intro to Design and Construction Of Tunnels	Atlanta, GA
Sept 20	Finite Elements in Geo-tech Eng	Atlanta, GA

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For more information on these and other ASCE seminars visit:

[www.asce.org/distancelearning/index.cfm](http://www.asce.org/distancelearning/index.cfm)  
[www.asce.org/conferences/](http://www.asce.org/conferences/)

**Upcoming Huntsville Branch Meetings**

2002: October 1, November 5, December 3

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**Newsletter Items of Interest**

Please provide items of interest or announcements for the next newsletter two weeks before the next meeting date. Please e-mail any announcements or suggestions to Jennifer Trice at the following address: [jtrice@civsolutions.com](mailto:jtrice@civsolutions.com)

**NEXT MEETING: July 2nd**

**@ 11:30 A.M.**

**Ivey's Restaurant**

**3805 University Drive NW**

**RESERVATIONS: Art Hargrove 971-1622**

[arthurh@ajtalabama.com](mailto:arthurh@ajtalabama.com)

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**<http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Hangar/5545/>**

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