Project Abstract

During the summer of 2008, I participated in SCEC’s internship program Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) where I worked on education and outreach projects. I was assigned two major projects that were designed to educate the general public on earthquake science and earthquake safety. The first project was the remodeling of the old earthquake display, located in California State University, Los Angeles’ Physical Sciences building. The old display consisted of visually unattractive signs, outdated computers, and a seismograph with the rotating drum. The new display now consists of more attractive signs, two computers (each with 28 inch LCD screens that display the latest earthquakes, globally and locally), and information on earthquake preparedness. The second project of the two was a mockup of SCEC's "Plate Tectonics Learning Kit." This kit builds on Purdue University's professor Larry Braille's earlier creation of the plate tectonics kit. The purpose of SCEC's version of the kit is to educate students (primarily middle school students) about plate tectonics and its causes/effects. The kit includes USGS's map This Dynamic Planet along with the plate boundaries on the back so that others may cut the individual plates out of the map. Once the map is cut into its pieces, it could then be used as a puzzle. The kit includes other smaller items that would facilitate the teaching of plate tectonics.