Project Abstract

The Southern California Earthquake Center/Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SCEC/SURE) internship program brings students to work as interns with the world's preeminent earthquake scientists and specialists. Though most interns still work one-on-one with a mentor, the SURE program has done something different this summer. SCEC/SURE gathered a group of four interns Eugenia Hyung, Stephanie Kelly, Robert Leeper III and Rosie Santilena to work with internship mentor Dr. Lucile Jones of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) on Southern California's section of the USGS's Multi-Hazards Demonstration Project. A scenario for is being created that combines the latest knowledge about Southern California's natural hazards, specifically earthquakes, with the impact they have on the physical, social, and economic fabric of our society. The interns' tasks for the scenario were to act as an interface between the scientific communities and the general public, interpret Southern California Geologic map data, find innovative ways to communicate the project's results to various audiences, and collaborate with the project leaders to develop a cohesive scenario. A cohesive scenario requires both a cohesive process and a coherent product. It was part of my job to communicate our ideas for a public-friendly scenario to the scientists on the project and to gauge how well their various pieces would fit into our proposed framework. This framework included a website about the scenario that could be used by both the scientific and the public communities, and a timeline-based document to integrate the myriad facets of the scenario. I also worked closely with another intern to research, consolidate and summarize the major changes made to the building code. From this research I created a simplified chart to help homeowners determine the earthquake preparedness of their houses. This chart symbolizes my desire to communicate effectively the scenario's results to the public.