



**PARE Engineers Attend Building Seminar  
(3/15/2009)**

On March 5 - 6, 2009 Kevin Champagne, P.E. and Adam Cabral attended an American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Continuing Education Seminar entitled "Wind and Seismic Retrofit of Buildings." Alexander Newman, P.E., a forensics engineer and expert in structural renovations of buildings presented the seminar which provided resources to further develop PARE's familiarity with current building code requirements and methods for analyzing and strengthening existing buildings for lateral loads.

The seminar included a discussion of ASCE 31, which provides a tiered approach to evaluating existing buildings. This approach divides the analysis of an existing structure into differing levels of complexity based on building end-use and life safety requirements. This process enables structural engineers at PARE to determine project feasibility and likely retrofit requirements prior to launching an extensive analysis.

As part of the seminar, case studies were reviewed that outlined suggested approaches to commonly encountered situations. Historic construction practices were illustrated for timber, steel, concrete, and masonry structures. PARE's library was reinforced with additional details for strengthening buildings to resist earthquake and wind forces required by current building codes.