

MEDIA INFORMATION

News Bureau

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Earthquake Drill Shakes its Way to Southeast April 28

CAPE GIRARDEAU, Mo., April 25, 2011 -- Southeast Missouri State University students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” to practice earthquake safety procedures at 10:15 a.m. on Thursday, April 28.

Southeast Student Government is hosting ShakeOut Southeast to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the New Madrid earthquake and bring attention to the importance of earthquake preparedness. The goal of the campaign is for every person on the Southeast campus to drop to the floor, cover oneself and hold on to a stationary object.

Student Government President Katie Herring says she is excited about the opportunity for students to gain more knowledge on earthquake safety and drill procedures.

“Southeast is located directly on the New Madrid fault, which is constantly shifting, but we can’t always feel it. There’s always the possibility that an earthquake will occur, and I want students to be as educated as possible about how to stay safe,” she said.

The culmination of this campaign will occur on April 28 with the drill at 10:15 a.m., along with an event that afternoon to create more awareness about earthquake preparedness.

“Student Government is hosting a ShakeOut Cookout in front of Kent Library April 28 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to provide another opportunity to educate students about earthquake safety. We will be providing students with free lemon shake-ups and informational materials on earthquake safety,” Herring said.

Student Government advisor Michele Irby said she is pleased with Student Government’s initiative in sponsoring the ShakeOut endeavor.

“I am proud of Student Government’s commitment to spreading awareness of this critical issue. These student leaders have worked hard to care for the safety of the campus population in a fun, meaningful fashion,” Irby said.

ShakeOut Southeast will be held in conjunction with the national campaign titled The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut. This campaign has more than 2.4 million participants , with nearly 408,000 in Missouri, and has been an effective way for other communities to practice earthquake safety procedures.

“If and when another earthquake occurs on the New Madrid fault, Southeast Missouri State University will be ready,” Herring said.

To register and be counted as a participant in ShakeOut Southeast and to receive useful earthquake safety tips, visit

<http://www.shakeout.org/centralus/register>. For more information on the drill, visit

<http://www.shakeout.org/centralus/>.

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