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New Zealand's Kelvin Berryman to focus on Canterbury quakes in Joyner Lecture

Seismological Society of America 2013 Annual Meeting, April 17-19

SAN FRANCISCO, April 4, 2013 – Kelvin Berryman, principal scientist and director of the Natural Hazards Research Platform (NHRP) at GNS Science in New Zealand, will deliver the Joyner Lecture at the Seismological Society of America (SSA) 2013 Annual Meeting, April 17-19 in Salt Lake City.

Berryman will focus his April 18 lecture, titled “The Context and Impacts of the Canterbury Earthquake Sequence of 2010-2011,” on the earthquake sequence that began with the magnitude 7.1 quake in Darfield.

The 22 February 2011 magnitude 6.2 Christchurch earthquake, centered southeast of Christchurch, was part of the aftershock sequence. The Christchurch earthquake killed more than 180 people, damaged or destroyed more than 100,000 buildings, and is New Zealand's most deadly disaster since the earthquake that struck the Napier and Hastings area on 3 February 1931.

The NHRP integrates all of New Zealand's government-funded natural hazards research. Berryman has been integrally involved in the Darfield and Christchurch earthquakes response and recovery assessments and also in the region's plans to rebuild. Since the September 2010 Darfield earthquake, Kelvin has coordinated the scientific community in providing advice to all responding agencies in Canterbury including central and local government, consultants, and the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority.

SSA's Seismological Research Letters (SRL), a bimonthly journal, published a special issue on the 2011 Christchurch earthquake, featuring 19 original technical papers that cover different aspects of the 2011 Christchurch earthquake, including seismological, geodetic, geological and engineering perspectives.

SSA established The William B. Joyner Memorial Lectures in cooperation with the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) to honor Joyner's distinguished career at the U.S. Geological Survey and his abiding commitment to the exchange of information to keep society safer from earthquakes.

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The Seismological Society of America is an international scientific society devoted to the advancement of seismology and the understanding of earthquakes for the benefit of society.