

# Hofstra University Professor Dr. Charles Merguerian Explores *The Terrifying Truth About Earthquakes* on "ABC's World of Discovery"

## ***It Can Happen Anywhere, even in New York***

Hofstra University Geology Professor Dr. Charles Merguerian appeared on "ABC's World of Discovery," Saturday, May 21, 1994 on the ABC Television Network. Actor Martin Sheen hosted and narrated the one hour national broadcast of "Earthquakes: The Terrifying Truth."

Today, at least 39 states in the United States (including New York, Illinois, Missouri, South Carolina, Texas, and of course, California) face real seismic danger. Cities such as New York City, St. Louis, Little Rock, Memphis, Boston, Anchorage, Seattle, Louisville, Chicago, Charleston, Portland, Reno, and Salt Lake City are all at risk for sizable quakes, and most are ill-prepared for their fate.

"Earthquakes: The Terrifying Truth" included footage of quakes in action and coverage from some of the more notorious jolts from this century. Dr. Merguerian and other eminent seismologists explained what science can and can't predict, and how the panic resulting from predictions themselves could cost more lives than the damage of an earthquake.

Beyond California, "Earthquakes: The Terrifying Truth" revealed that New York City is "a seismic time bomb." Dr. Merguerian has identified numerous fault lines throughout New York City. "Earthquakes can and have occurred in New York City," said Dr. Merguerian.

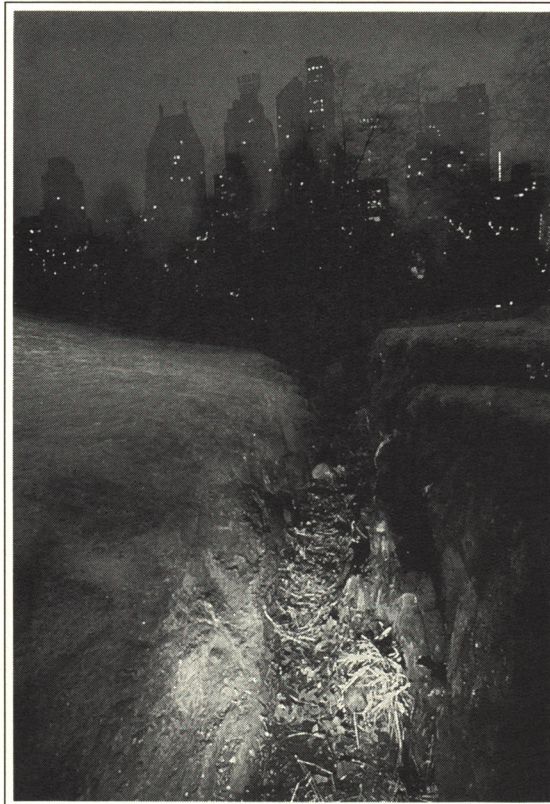
Dr. Merguerian is a Professor of Structural Geology at Hofstra. He is the President of Duke Geological Laboratory in Westbury, New York and chief geological consultant for Geoteknika Resources in Winsted, Connecticut. He has worked as a consultant for the United States Geological Survey, the California and Connecticut

State Geological Surveys, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, and numerous geotechnical and engineering firms. His consulting experience encompasses basic and site-specific geologic mapping, subsurface engineering geology and foundation analysis, mineral exploration, and expert courtroom testimony.

Dr. Charles Merguerian has over 20 years of experience in geologic mapping and structural analysis of complexity deformed metamorphic terrains, plutonic and volcanic districts, and areas underlain by

sedimentary and glacial strata. His chief interests lie in ductile- and brittle-fault analysis and earthquake-hazard assessment of crystalline terrains, and tectonic studies of Phanerozoic orogenic belts. His secondary interests lie in computer analysis of geologic processes and data presentation, prediction of ore and mineral deposits according to plate tectonic setting, and geophotography. He has performed pure and applied research and publishes maps and reports from such widely separated areas as New York City, western Connecticut, eastern New York, western Massachusetts, central and southern California, and Nevada.

Dr. Merguerian's recent research efforts focus on field and tunnel mapping and laboratory research on the surface and subsurface structure of New York City and vicinity, resolving fine details in the local structure, stratigraphy, and metamorphism. His work documents the existence of numerous ductile and brittle faults which crosscut Manhattan Island and the East River Channel and affirms the seismic potential of southeastern New York, long thought to be invulnerable to earthquake hazard.



*Geologists including Hofstra's own Dr. Charles Merguerian fear the worst should New York ever suffer a major earthquake. Photo: 1994 Capital Cities/ABC Inc.©*

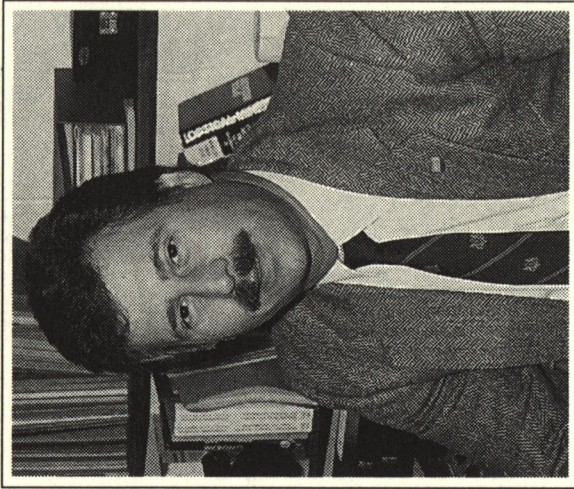


# Geology Professor is a True Mover and Shaker

In the aftermath of the January 17, 1994, Los Angeles earthquake, Associate Professor Charles Merguerian (Geology Department) was interviewed by Chuck Scarborough on WNBC-TV. He offered his opinion on the possibilities of a similar earthquake striking the New York City area based on his research on existing faults and their bearing on localizing modern and ancient earthquakes. In addition, Dr. Merguerian was interviewed by Bob Salter of WXRK (92.3 FM) for a one-hour Sunday morning broadcast on January 23, 1994, in which he was able to elaborate on his research efforts in the region and to promote Hofstra's leading role in geologic investigations of this area. Dr. Merguerian also was contacted by many local and regional newspapers for his opinions on seismic activity in the northeast.

Earlier, in November 1993 Dr. Merguerian took part in filming of a documentary titled "Earthquake" to be nationally broadcast later this year on WABC-TV. Location shooting included the new New York City water tunnel presently under construction in the subsurface of Brooklyn, the famous 125th Street fault in upper Manhattan, and faulted exposures in Central park.

On a more professional level, Dr. Merguerian is presenting new data on his research at three conferences to be held in March (Northeast Section of the Geological Society of America), April (Stony Brook State University Conference on the Geology of Metropolitan New York and Long Island), and in May (National Association of Geology Teachers). In addition, this spring he will conduct two field trips for the



*Professor Charles Merguerian*

New York Academy of Sciences (Bear Mountain and the Hudson Highlands and mines and dinosaurs of central Connecticut), a field trip for the Center for Teaching Excellence, and a field trip for the May NAGT meeting (northern end of the Newark basin in New York).

