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For Immediate Release

‘ASK THE STRUCTURE’
IS KEY TO WJE’S HISTORY OF SOLVING ARCHITECTURAL,
ENGINEERING AND MATERIALS CHALLENGES

WJE celebrates 50 years of solving design and structural mysteries worldwide

NORTHBROOK, Ill. (April 2006) – Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE) may be the only architectural and engineering firm anywhere that loves to solve a good mystery.

WJE is a nationally recognized leader in building and structure preservations. Using advanced testing capabilities coupled with construction materials deterioration expertise, structural engineers, architects and materials scientists at WJE diagnose construction and materials problems that threaten the sustainability of our nation’s architectural heritage. Applying lessons learned from a half-century of structural and architectural investigation and materials failure studies, WJE provides repair and preservation strategies to ensure the conservation of historic buildings and landmarks nationwide.

“Throughout the years, thousands of clients, from individuals and small companies to large corporations and government agencies, have relied on WJE to provide solutions to their construction-related challenges,” says William Nugent, president of the company.

Representative projects have included the reconstruction of downed TWA Flight 800 for the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB); preservation consultation and instrumentation engineering during the relocation of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse on the Outer Banks of North Carolina; masonry restoration at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and

instrumenting the lift of two 11-million-pound super trusses and monitoring related stresses during construction of the roof on Cardinal Stadium in Glendale, Ariz.

WJE's Uniqueness

“We specialize in synergism,” says Jim Connolly, a principal of the firm who focuses on material sciences. “WJE’s uniqueness lies in the kind of testing we do, both in the lab and on the job site. We count on the expertise of our staff members to collaborate in finding a solution to a problem, but we always begin our analysis by ‘asking the structure’ to give up its secrets.”

Experts and resources at WJE’s Janney Technical Center (JTC), a state-of-the-art research and testing laboratory, provide advanced testing and forensic capabilities to solve the most technically challenging structural and construction material problems. WJE engineers, architects, and materials scientists apply laboratory and field technologies to diagnose problems in structures of all types, and are often rapidly deployed to sites of structural failures, fires and natural disasters to gather critical information necessary to understand the cause of failure, extent of damage, and potential for repair. Work conducted by WJE at the JTC has improved the construction industry’s understanding of why structures fail. WJE’s technical solutions lead the industry in preventing future problems.

Although the firm’s expertise is wide-reaching, its project areas can generally be summarized in the following categories:

- High rise buildings
- Government facilities
- Universities
- Churches
- Museums
- Stadiums
- Bridges
- Building envelopes (exterior skins, facades)

“A common thread in all of our projects, whether it’s a bridge collapse or a historic preservation project, is our creative, hands-on approach to client problem solving,” says Harry Hunderson, principal and expert in historic preservation. “We go to the structure armed with what we like to refer to as our magic mobile diagnostic tool kit and draw on all possible resources and disciplines to determine the best solution.”

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE), a recognized leader in construction problem solving, provides professional services in structural engineering, architecture and materials science. For 50 years, WJE has provided practical, innovative and technically sound

solutions to challenging construction problems in contemporary and historic buildings and structures. WJE's understanding of structural behavior and materials performance is based on experience from more than 70,000 investigative, repair, preservation, and testing assignments. WJE has investigated and designed repairs for buildings and structures worldwide, including high rise buildings, government facilities, universities, churches, museums, stadiums and bridges. In 2006, WJE will be celebrating its 50th anniversary of providing solutions to the built world. Headquartered in suburban Chicago, WJE maintains 20 offices in 15 states. For more information, visit www.wje.com.

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