



University at Buffalo
The State University of New York

Department of Civil, Structural and
Environmental Engineering



Earthquake Engineering
Research Institute

EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING RESEARCH INSTITUTE

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO STUDENT CHAPTER

ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008

UB-EERI General information

Affiliation of UB-EERI

The parent organization of the UB EERI Student Chapter (hereafter denoted UB-EERI) is the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI).

UB-EERI is headquartered at the Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering ([CSEE](#)) at the University at Buffalo ([UB](#)), the State University of New York.

The UB-EERI Student Chapter is recognized as a Special Interest Club under the Graduate Student Association ([GSA](#)) at the University at Buffalo.

Executive Officers 2007 - 2008

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| President: | Saeed Fathali |
| Vice President: | Ioannis P. Christovasilis |
| Treasurer: | Seda Dogruel |
| Webmaster: | Bing Qu |
| Senator: | Antonios Tsitos |
| Senator: | Petros Sideris |
| Senator: | Ryan Davies |

Contact Address

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The UB-EERI Website

Website: <http://civil.eng.buffalo.edu/UBEERI/>

All the information in this annual report is on our website.

Our website presents minutes, reports, abstracts, pictures, and additional links and material regarding all our activities. Please visit our website to learn more about each of the activities listed in this report.

Faculty Advisor

Prof. Andrew S. Whittaker
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 e-mail: awhittak@buffalo.edu
 webpage: http://www.civil.buffalo.edu/professors_whittaker.shtml

Local Professional Contact

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 e-mail: serafim_g_arzoumanidis@parsons.com

UB-EERI Members during 2007-2008

| No. | Name | Department | Level |
|-----|-------------------------|------------|-------|
| 1 | Abolfath, Ramin | Physics | GRAD |
| 2 | Apostolakis, Georgios | CSEE | GRAD |
| 3 | Antoniou, Eleftheria | CBE | GRAD |
| 4 | Barmpoutis, Vasileios | Economics | GRAD |
| 5 | Cho, Sangyul | CSEE | GRAD |
| 6 | Christovasilis, Ioannis | CSEE | GRAD |
| 7 | Cimellaro, Gian Paolo | CSEE | GRAD |
| 8 | Davies, Ryan | CSEE | GRAD |
| 9 | Dogrueel, Seda | CSEE | GRAD |
| 10 | Ecemis, Nurhan | CSEE | GRAD |
| 11 | Fathali, Saeed | CSEE | GRAD |
| 12 | Fenz, Daniel | CSEE | GRAD |

| | | | |
|----|---------------------|-----------|------|
| 13 | Fujikura, Shuichi | CSEE | GRAD |
| 14 | Gardner, Jeff | CSEE | GRAD |
| 15 | Gavahi, Daniel | CSEE | GRAD |
| 16 | Goodwin, Elizabeth | CSEE | GRAD |
| 17 | Hu, Hanjin | CSEE | GRAD |
| 18 | Huang, Yin-Nan | CSEE | GRAD |
| 19 | Ikeda, Masamichi | CSEE | GRAD |
| 20 | Kadas, Koray | CSEE | GRAD |
| 21 | Kalpakidis, Ioannis | CSEE | GRAD |
| 22 | Keller David | CSEE | GRAD |
| 23 | Keleshis, Christos | EE | GRAD |
| 24 | Luvollo, Vincent | CSEE | GRAD |
| 25 | Qu, Bing | CSEE | GRAD |
| 26 | Sarlis, Apostolos | CSEE | GRAD |
| 27 | Sideris, Petros | CSEE | GRAD |
| 28 | Staikos, Dimitrios | Economics | GRAD |
| 29 | Taylor, Donald | CSEE | GRAD |
| 30 | Timpleton, James | CSEE | GRAD |
| 31 | Tsitos, Antonios | CSEE | GRAD |
| 32 | Wang, Hongbo | CSEE | GRAD |
| 33 | Zhoo, Yihui | CSEE | GRAD |
| 34 | Wang, Qian | MAE | GRAD |
| 35 | Tao, Yuna | EE | GRAD |
| 36 | Yu, Tianyi | Economics | GRAD |
| 37 | Guo, Xuhan | Economics | GRAD |
| 38 | Yao, Yabin | Economics | GRAD |
| 39 | Zhang, Yanyan | Economics | GRAD |

The majority of the members are registered graduate students in the Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering ([CSEE](#)) at the University at Buffalo ([UB](#)), the State University of New York. Some members are graduate students in the Department of Economics, the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (MAE), the Department of Electrical Engineering (EE) and the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering (CBE).

Many of the chapter members are also members of the [Student Leadership Council](#) of MCEER (MCEER-SLC).

The UB-EERI and the MCEER-SLC have a close relationship and work together on a number of activities on the UB campus, including the Seminar Series on Earthquake Engineering.

Financial Information

The UB-EERI student chapter is recognized as a Special Interest and International Club of the Graduate Student Association at the University at Buffalo.

Funding for club activities comes from the EERI at \$10 for each member of the club that is also a member of and in good standing with the EERI. In addition, the club receives support of up to \$500 annually from the Graduate Student Association at UB.

The above support has been used to fund the activities of the UB-EERI student chapter, which are listed below.

UB-EERI Activities during the 2007-2008 Academic Year

September 11, 2007: General meeting

The purpose of this meeting was an introduction of the club and discussion on past events and proposed club activities for academic year 2007 - 2008. Introduction to the EERI and the benefits of student membership followed. Officers for the 2007-2008 academic year were also elected.

July 6, 2007: UB-EERI Student Seminar Series

Mr. Dohwan Kong, Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Civil, Structural & Environmental Engineering, University at Buffalo, gave a presentation on "**Test Preparation for Seismic Evaluation and Qualification of Transformer Bushings.**" This seminar was sponsored by MCEER Networking and Education Programs, MCEER SLC, the UB-EERI Student Chapter and the UB Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering.

July 20, 2007: UB-EERI Student Seminar Series

Mr. Dimitrios Lignos, Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Stanford University, gave a presentation on **“Sidesway Collapse of Deteriorating Structural Systems under Seismic Excitations.”** This seminar was sponsored by MCEER Networking and Education Programs, MCEER SLC, the UB-EERI Student Chapter and the UB Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering.

August 3, 2007: UB-EERI Student Seminar Series

Mr. Daniel Fenz, Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Civil, Structural & Environmental Engineering, University at Buffalo, gave a presentation on **“The Next Generation of Spherical Sliding Bearings.”** This seminar was sponsored by MCEER Networking and Education Programs, MCEER SLC, the UB-EERI Student Chapter and the UB Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering.

September 28, 2007: UB-EERI Student Seminar Series

Mr. Georgios Apostolakis, Ms. Seda Dogruel, Ms. Nurhan Ecemis and Mr. Bing Qu, Graduate Research Assistants at the Department of Civil, Structural & Environmental Engineering, University at Buffalo, gave a presentation on **“Tri-Center Field Mission to Japan.”** This seminar was sponsored by MCEER Networking and Education Programs, MCEER SLC, the UB-EERI Student Chapter and the UB Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering.

October 19, 2007: UB-EERI Student Seminar Series

Mr. Yi-Lun Chu, Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Civil, Structural & Environmental Engineering, University at Buffalo, gave a presentation on **“Seismic Response Analysis of Horizontally Curved Highway Bridges”** This seminar was sponsored by MCEER Networking and Education Programs, MCEER SLC, the UB-EERI Student Chapter and the UB Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering.

January 15, 2008: UB-EERI Seminar Series

Prof. Kyle M. Rollins, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Brigham Young University, gave a presentation on **“Full-Scale Lateral Load Testing of Deep Foundations in Liquefied Sand.”** This seminar was sponsored by MCEER Networking and Education Programs, MCEER SLC,

the UB-EERI Student Chapter and the UB Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering.

March 18, 2008: EERI Distinguished Lecturer Series

Mr. Ronald T. Eguchi, President and CEO of **ImageCat, Inc.**, gave a presentation on **"Earthquakes, Hurricanes and other Disasters: A View from Space."** This seminar was sponsored by EERI Distinguished Lecturer Series. Partial sponsorship was provided by MCEER Networking and Education Programs, MCEER SLC, the UB-EERI Student Chapter and the UB Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering.

February 26, 2008: UB-EERI Seminar Series

Prof. Kazuhiko Kasai, Tokyo Institute of Technology, gave a presentation on **"E-Defense Full-Scale Experimental Projects on Conventional and Value-Added Steel Buildings."** This seminar was sponsored by MCEER Networking and Education Programs, MCEER SLC, the UB-EERI Student Chapter and the UB Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering.

March 27, 2008: UB-EERI Resume Critique

Prof. Andrew S. Whittaker, faculty advisor of UB-EERI, provided useful advice about what to include or not in a resume and a cover letter. This session was sponsored by the UB-EERI Student Chapter and the UB Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering.

April 16, 2008: EERI Friedman Family Visiting Professional Program

Dr. Ronald L. Mayes, from **Simpson, Gumpertz & Heger, Inc.**, gave a presentation on **"Base Isolated Addition to 185 Berry Street Building in San Francisco's China Basin."** This seminar was sponsored by the EERI Friedman Family Visiting Professional Program.

Goals for the 2008-2009 academic year

- Continue to promote and support the seminar series on earthquake engineering related topics in cooperation with the Student Leadership Council of the MCEER, the MCEER Networking Program and the Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering at UB.
- Invite a speaker to give a presentation at UB in Spring 2009, as a part of the EERI Visiting Professionals Program.
- Have informal monthly meetings with fellow UB-EERI students, other students and faculty on multidisciplinary issues regarding earthquake engineering.
- Host a BBQ/picnic at the end of the 2008-2009 academic year for UB-EERI members.

Recent developments at the time of submission of the report:

Executive Officers 2008 - 2009

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| President: | Ioannis P. Christovasilis |
| Vice President: | Seda Dogruel |
| Treasurer: | Petros Sideris |
| Webmaster: | Ioannis P. Christovasilis |
| Senator: | Daniel Gavahi |
| Senator: | Muhammad Fahad |
| Senator: | Vikram Singan |