

# FRIEDMAN FAMILY VISITING PROFESIONALS PROGRAM

Visit to the University of Illinois at  
Urbana-Champaign: February 29, 2016



This report summarizes the visit of **Richard Eisner** – a member of the Board of Directors at SF CARD – which took place at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on February 29, 2016.

## ITINERARY OR AGENDA

TIME:	ACTIVITY:
9:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Welcome by the Student Chapter President Walking tour of campus
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Meeting with Prof. Paolo Gardoni, MAE Center Director
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Meeting with Prof. Daniel Abrams, EERI colleague and friend of Mr. Eisner
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Lunch
2:00 PM – 2:30 PM	Meeting with Prof. Ahmed Elbanna, course instructor for Earthquake Engineering
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Tour of Newmark Civil Engineering Laboratory (i.e. the Smart Structures Technology Lab, the large-scale structural testing facility, and the former NEES lab)
3:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Break
4:00 PM – 5:30 PM	Seminar presentation by Richard Eisner and Q&A session
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM	Dinner with student chapter board members at local restaurant

## STUDENT CHAPTER VISIT PLANNING COMMITTEE

**LEAD ORGANIZER:** Mitch Knapp, President, mrknapp2@illinois.edu

**CO-ORGANIZERS:**

- Cynthia Suminto, Secretary, suminto2@illinois.edu
- Martha Cuenca, Graduate Advisor, martha.r.cuenca@gmail.com

## VISITING PROFESSIONAL LECTURE OVERVIEW

Mr. Eisner's lecture was attended by approximately 125 students and a handful of faculty members. It was well-received by those in attendance, and Mr. Eisner was able to take questions following his presentation. These questions allowed Mr. Eisner to clearly distinguish between the need for providing engineering solutions to combat *probable* risks and the need to be mindful of and plan for *possible* worst-case scenarios. A small group of lecture attendees was then able to hold a short discussion with Mr. Eisner.



## Lecture Abstract

The consequences of an earthquake represent the convergence of not just seismicity with engineering design, but of land-use and development decisions, architectural design, community demographics, cultural history and traditions; with the resilience of individuals, families, communities, businesses, infrastructure and government and non-government organizations. The impacts are not isolated to a single building or structure, but more often they are community-wide or regional, with damage and disruption (physical, economic and social) compounded and complex. In 2011, Japan's world-class engineering design and construction practices, research facilities, real-time seismic networks and warning systems, and community education programs were challenged by a complex, compound disaster that "exceeded expectations."

The presentation utilized the consequences of the 2011 Great Northeast Japan Earthquake and Tsunami (Tohoku Earthquake) to illustrate why earthquake risk reduction has to be broadly conceived and multidisciplinary in implementation, and not rely solely on probabilistic assessments of the hazard.

## Professional Bio

Richard Eisner graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a Bachelors in Architecture and a Masters in City and Regional Planning. As an architect, urban planner, and urban designer, a key element of his work has been the integration of knowledge from the earth and social science communities into mitigation and preparedness programs.

For 22 years, he served as the Administrator of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services Coastal Region, coordinating the preparedness and disaster response for the northern region. He also developed and managed the State's Earthquake and Tsunami Preparedness Programs and the California Integrated Seismic Network.

For 3 years, he worked for the Fritz Institute as a liaison to government agencies in developing and facilitating the adoption of best practices for rapid and effective disaster response and recovery. Shortly after, he served as a visiting professor at Kyoto University's Research Center for Disaster Reduction Systems. He conducted research and taught in areas of community resilience and compound disaster risk management.

Richard Eisner was elected in 1996 to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects in recognition of his contribution to improving the quality of the built environment and to the architectural profession. He also served on the Board of Directors of the National Institute of Building Sciences and the California Earthquake Safety Foundation. And he is a distinguished expert for the National Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazards Reduction.

Mr. Eisner has been an active EERI member for 31 years, served on EERI's Board of Directors, and participated in numerous post-earthquake reconnaissance trips. Today, he serves as a representative for the Friedman Family Visiting Professionals Program.

## SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

### Campus Tour

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has a very large and diverse campus. As such, the morning tour of the campus that was provided to Mr. Eisner was rather extensive. He was taken through the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, the main quad, the business quad, and the engineering quad. He was also shown the main student center at the Ikenberry Commons, where efforts to renovate and rebuild some of the student dormitories are currently ongoing. Mr. Eisner was then led to the Krannert Art Museum where he was able to observe some of the outdoor exhibits.

### Tour of Newmark Civil Engineering Laboratory

Prior to giving his lecture, Mr. Eisner was guided on a tour of the Newmark Civil Engineering Laboratory facilities. Martha Cuenca showed him the Smart Structures Technology Lab and discussed some of the ongoing projects she and her colleagues are conducting. Shortly thereafter, Mitch Knapp led Mr. Eisner through the large-scale structural testing facility. He described some of the facility's capabilities and then proceeded to show Mr. Eisner the former NEES lab while discussing his involvement in previous NEES projects.

### Dinner

Mr. Eisner was treated to dinner at Destihl in downtown Champaign. Student chapter board members – Mitch Knapp, Martha Cuenca, and Cynthia Suminto – were in attendance. Discussion included career-related advice, general life lessons, and memorable life experiences. Everyone admired Mr. Eisner's ability and effort to enjoy life, and everyone agreed that travel and opportunities should be taken advantage of.



## RESULTS, FEEDBACK AND LESSONS LEARNED

### Challenges

- Coordinating schedules was difficult in the initial stages. Both the UIUC and Purdue student chapters made efforts to accommodate Mr. Eisner during pre-scheduled seminar sessions. This sometimes required several layers of communication – those between the EERI student chapters, department seminar organizers, and Mr. Eisner himself. Nevertheless, after some time, everyone was able to settle on a date and time for Mr. Eisner's visit.

### Results & Lessons Learned

- Despite initial scheduling difficulties, a coordinated visit to the University of Illinois and Purdue proved feasible and worthwhile for Mr. Eisner.

- Scheduling the visit during pre-planned seminar sessions ensured large attendance for Mr. Eisner's lecture and provided him a greater forum for subsequent discussion.
- In light of last year's difficulties preparing faculty meetings for the visiting lecturer, a concerted effort was made to schedule one-on-one meetings for Mr. Eisner with professors and colleagues. These efforts were successful and will be made for future visits.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's EERI Student Chapter gratefully acknowledges the support of the Friedman Family for sponsoring the travel of Richard Eisner through their Friedman Family Visiting Professional Program endowment.

## LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Included at the end of this report are various attachments to supplement the information included above. A list of the attachments is included below:

- Item 1: Event Flier





**Earthquake Engineering Research Institute**

**Friedman Family Professional Visit**



**Preparing for the Worst Case...  
Because It Just Might Happen**

**By Richard Eisner, FAIA**

**Monday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
4:00pm, 1310 Yeh Center**



In 2011, Japan's world class engineering design and construction practices, research facilities, real time seismic networks and warning systems, and community education programs were challenged by a complex, compound disaster that "exceeded expectations."

In this seminar, Richard Eisner, FAIA, will utilize the consequences of the 2011 Great Northeast Japan Earthquake and Tsunami (Tohoku Earthquake) to illustrate why earthquake risk reduction does not rely only on probabilistic assessments of the hazard but has to be broadly conceived and multidisciplinary in implementation.



**EERI UIUC Chapter**

[http://sites.google.com/a/illinois.edu/eeri\\_uiuc](http://sites.google.com/a/illinois.edu/eeri_uiuc)