

# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

## New York - Northeast Chapter of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute



Report Date: February 10, 2017

This report summarizes the membership and activities conducted by the NY-NE Regional Chapter of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute during 2017.

### MISSION & GOALS

The purpose of the New York-Northeast Chapter is to reduce earthquake risk in the Northeast U.S. by creating an interdisciplinary organization in which relationships are built and information is shared, by advancing the science and practice of earthquake and extreme event engineering in the Northeast, by improving understanding of the impact of earthquakes on the physical, social, economic, political and cultural environment and by advocating comprehensive and realistic measures for reducing the harmful effects of earthquakes.

### MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

The NY-NE Regional Chapter had a total of 22 paying local members in 2016.

#### OFFICERS

The Board consisted of the following members:

Role	Name	Affiliation	Email
President	Sissy Nikolaou	WSP Parsons Brinkerhoff	<a href="mailto:nikolaous@pbworld.com">nikolaous@pbworld.com</a>
Secretary-Treasurer	Jesse Richins	Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers	<a href="mailto:jrichins@mrce.com">jrichins@mrce.com</a>
Director	Ramon Gilsanz	GMS	<a href="mailto:Ramon.Gilsanz@gmsllp.com">Ramon.Gilsanz@gmsllp.com</a>
Director	Jagtar Khinda	NYC DOT	<a href="mailto:jkhinda@dot.nyc.gov">jkhinda@dot.nyc.gov</a>
Director	Troy Morgan	Exponent	<a href="mailto:Tmorgan@exponent.com">Tmorgan@exponent.com</a>
Director	Aspa Zerva	Drexel University	<a href="mailto:aspa@drexel.edu">aspa@drexel.edu</a>
Director (Younger Members Representative)	Guillermo Diaz-Fanas	WSP Parsons Brinkerhoff	<a href="mailto:diazfanasg@pbworld.com">diazfanasg@pbworld.com</a>

A board meeting was held on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

### BUDGET & FINANCIALS

As of the end of 2016, our account which is maintained by EERI has 3,250.35 available. However, as of today, this quantity will have changed due to recent activities and chapter dues.

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

### University at Buffalo Student Field Trip

The UB-EERI Chapter Field Trip to NYC took place 11/17- 11/19 with 25 students from the Department of Civil, Structural, and Environmental Engineering (CSEE) of the University at Buffalo (UB). They visited 3 firms and 2 projects (World Trade Center (WTC): Towers 4, 7, and 9-11 Memorial; and Tappan Zee Bridge). The field trip was organized by Dr. Andreas Stavridis, Assistant Professor at UB and member of the Students Activity Committee of EERI, in collaboration with the NYNE EERI Chapter and members of the Advisory Board of the UB.

Attendance: 25 students + 12 members

### EERI-NYNE – DFI WiDF joint event – Panel Discussion: Professional Women in the World of Construction

The NYNE Chapter and the Deep Foundations Institute's (DFI) Women in Deep Foundations Technical Committee (WiDF) co-hosted a Reception and Panel Discussion on Professional Women in the World of Construction on the evening of Thursday, March 10, 2016, in the magnificent Library of General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen. Panelists included: Dr. Liesl Folks, Dean of Engineering of the University at Buffalo, Mr. Ramon Gilsanz, founding partner of GMS and Chair of the 2014 NYC Building Code Technical Committee, Ms. Mary-Jane Augustine, Partner of Construction Law at McCarter-English, LLP, and Dr. Aspa Zerva, Professor at Drexel University, and lead member of the NSF program ENHANCE

Attendance: 90+

### Creation of the 1st regional Younger Members Committee

The NYNE Younger Members Committee provides opportunities to early career professionals within the EERI-NYNE chapter to advance their careers as earthquake professionals and become involved in the Institute. Elections were held with the following results:

#### COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Role	Name	Affiliation	Email
Chair	Guillermo Diaz-Fanas	WSP Parsons Brinkerhoff	diazfanasg@pbworld.com
Secretary	Panagiota Kokkali	WSP Parsons Brinkerhoff	kokkali@pbworld.com
Academic Liaison	Ezra Jampole	Exponent	<a href="mailto:ejampole@exponent">ejampole@exponent</a>
Events Coordinator	Nonika Antonaki	WSP Parsons Brinkerhoff	antonaki@pbworld.com
PR Director	Said Maalouf	International Relations Specialist	Maalouf.said@gmail.com
Web-master	Patrick Bassal	WSP Parsons Brinkerhoff	bassalp@pbworld.com

Attendance: 15

A committee meeting was held on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## COMMUNICATIONS

Communications are generally via our EERI NY-NE email account, , our social media and announcements with partner organizations.

## STUDENT CHAPTERS COORDINATION

The first student chapter in NYC was founded at the New York University (NYU) under the mentorship of our former academic liaison Guillermo Diaz-Fanas and President Sissy Nikolaou. Additionally, NYNE encouraged and supported the creation of a student chapter in the Dominican Republic (DR) at PUCMM Santo Domingo, where no regional chapter exists. NYNE guided the DR student chapter during the proposal phase for the 2017 Undergraduate Seismic Design Competition. The DR team was notified of their selection to participate in the annual meeting in late 2016.

Friedman lecture Sissy at Lehigh??? We have helped set up speakers for the Lehigh chapter. In addition, we have continued collaboration with the University at Buffalo (as shown in the field trip).

## ELECTION & ELECTION RESULTS

With the agreement of the Board, we have decided to delay elections this year until next year.

## 2017 GOALS

### Membership

We would like to grow our membership through younger members primarily and with reaching out to Universities and hosting large scale events such as the New Zealand Mini-Symposium

- Membership target = 32
- Increase membership by 10 members

### Chapter Meetings and Ongoing Activities

We have already kicked off this year by hosting a mini symposium with the LFE program on the New Zealand earthquakes on 2/2/17. Speakers included Professors Tom O'Rourke, Jon Bray, Brendon Bradley, and Ellen Rathje and Panelists included Mary Comerio, David Wald, Ramon Gilsanz, Andrew Whittaker, and Sissy Nikolaou. Attendance was ~ 150. Additional plans include:

- Host 3 additional Chapter Meetings/Events
- Organize 1 field trip.
- Hold Chapter election.
- Update website content and add new events/activities throughout the year.

### Chapter Initiatives

We will continue to grow our connections with universities through the UB-EERI Field Trips

(i) introducing students to engineering firms and exposing them to the consulting engineering culture; (ii) fostering relations between UB and engineering firms to develop a direct link for internship and employment opportunities; (iii) enhancing the learning experience through real-world large-scale projects presented on-site

by the designers and contractors; (iv) providing UB-EERI students the chance to network with practicing engineers and discuss career paths;

We will grow our organization through younger members committee.

## CHAPTER NEEDS AND REQUESTS FOR THE BOARD OR EERI STAFF


We would appreciate if some funds could be made available for our events. NYC is particularly expensive in terms of space rental, suppliers, etc.

## LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Chapter Event Pulse News

## Chapter Spotlight

### **NYNE Co-hosts Event: Professional Women in the World of Construction**

The New York-Northeast Chapter of EERI and the Deep Foundations Institute's (DFI) Women in Deep Foundations Technical Committee are co-hosting a Reception and Panel Discussion on *Professional Women in the World of Construction* on the evening of Thursday, **March 10, 2016**, in the magnificent Library of General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen ([generalsociety.org](http://generalsociety.org) ) at 20W 44th St in New York City from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.



Confirmed panelists are Liesl Folks, Dean of Engineering of the University at Buffalo; **Ramon Gilsanz** (M. EERI, 2011) founding partner of EERI subscribing member Gilsanz Murray Steficek, Chair of the 2014 NYC Building Code Technical Committee, and Director of the EERI-NYNE chapter; Mary-Jane Augustine, Partner of Construction Law at McCarter-English, LLP; and **Aspa Zerva** (M. EERI, 1992), Professor at Drexel University, lead member of the NSF program ENHANCE for career of women in earthquake engineering, and Director of EERI-NYNE chapter.

The event will be moderated by **Sissy Nikolaou** (M. EERI, 2004) of MRCE (EERI subscribing member), Director of EERI and President of the NYNE chapter, and Helen Robinson of Schnabel Engineering, Chair of the DFI Women in Deep Foundations Technical Committee.

There is no cost to attend the event, but reservations are required – please RSVP to [nyne@eeri.org](mailto:nyne@eeri.org)

[Back to top >](#)

---

## Chapter Spotlight

### EERI-NYNE Co-Hosts Professional Women in Construction Event

On March 10, 2016, the New York-Northeast Chapter of EERI co-hosted a reception and panel discussion event with the Deep Foundation Institute and the General Society Library of Mechanics & Tradesman of New York on "Professional Women in the World of Construction."



About 100 attendees enjoyed a program moderated by EERI Director **Sissy Nikolaou** (M. EERI, 2004) and Helen Robinson of Schnabel Engineering, who is Chair of the DFI Women in Deep Foundations Technical Committee. The panel consisted of four successful individuals with diverse backgrounds ranging from academia to law to practice:

- Mary-Jane Augustine, Partner of Construction Law at McCarter-English, LLP
- Liesl Folks, Dean of Engineering of the University at Buffalo
- **Ramon Gilsanz** (M. EERI, 2011), founding partner of GMS, Director of EERI-NYNE chapter
- **Aspa Zerva** (M. EERI, 1992) professor at Drexel University, lead member of the NSF program ENHANCE for career of women in earthquake engineering, Director of EERI-NYNE chapter.

Each panelist addressed questions related to professional women in the world of construction, touching on keys to success, stereotyping of skill and leadership ability, and work/life balance.

At least 30 students and young professionals participated, and discussion among participants continued long after the conclusion of the formal program. Sponsorship for the event was provided by **Gilsanz Murray Steficek** (EERI Bronze Subscribing Member), Hinman Consulting Engineers, and Langan Engineering, with a number of local professional societies and chapters acting as outreach partners. The number of people, organizations involved, and the interest and passion that the event generated, indicated to representatives of EERI-NYNE that similar events nationwide would be valuable.

[Back to top >](#)

## Publications

<https://www.eeri.org/cohost/member-resources/pulse/611-december-15-2016#ub-eeri-chapter-s-new-york-city-field-trip-november-2016>

## **UB-EERI Chapter's New York City Field Trip, November 2016**



On November 17-19, 2016, twenty-five students from the University at Buffalo (UB) Department of Civil, Structural, and Environmental Engineering (CSEE), visited three consulting engineering firms and two project sites in the New York City (NYC) area. The field trip was organized by Dr. **Andreas Stavridis** (M. EERI, 2004), Assistant Professor at UB and member of EERI's Student Activities Committee, in collaboration with the NY- Northeast Chapter of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI-NYNE), and members of the UB School of Engineering Dean's Advisory Council. Financial support was provided by the UB School of Engineering, UB Student Association, and the participating firms. The trip was attended by seventeen seniors enrolled in Reinforced Concrete Design (CIE429), and eight graduate student members of the UB-EERI chapter.

Following a successful pilot event in 2015, the purpose of the field trip is to: (i) introduce students to engineering firms and expose them to the consulting engineering culture; (ii) foster relations between universities and engineering firms to develop a direct link for internship and employment opportunities; (iii) enhance the learning experience through exposure to real-world, large-scale projects presented on-site by the designers and contractors; and (iv) provide students with the opportunity to network with practicing engineers and discuss career paths.

The students visited project sites at the World Trade Center (WTC) including Tower 4, Tower 7, and the 9/11 Memorial, as well as the Tappan Zee Bridge in Tarrytown, NY. The participating and sponsoring firms included [WSP|Parsons Brinckerhoff](#), [HDR](#), and [Exponent](#).

The event opened with breakfast and welcome remarks at **WSP|PB**, an EERI Silver Subscribing Member organization, from **Mr. G. Diaz-Fanas** (M. EERI, 2015), Geotechnical Engineer, on behalf of EERI-NYNE, followed by an introduction from EERI-NYNE Chapter President **Dr. Sissy Nikolaou** (M.EERI, 2004), who spoke about the firm's history, services, and projects. Mr. M. Ferrucci, Senior Geotechnical Engineer, gave a technical presentation on the multi-disciplinary projects of LaGuardia Airport Central Terminal Building, Kosciuszko Bridge, LIRR Mainline 2nd Track, and MTA MNR Harmon Shop Replacement. Mr. D. Abrahams, Sup. Tunneling Engineer, presented highlights of the Geotechnical and Tunneling Technical Excellence Center with some major tunneling projects. Following the presentations, students broke into small groups to speak with consulting engineers and discuss career options.

### **Project Site Visits**

**World Trade Center Towers (WTC):** Mr. M. Burton, WSP|PB Vice President, Building Structures, welcomed students to the tenth floor of WTC Tower 7. The students viewed scale models of the WTC towers, learned about the challenges faced during design and construction, and future developments. The tour continued to the top of Tower 4 which provided an excellent view of Tower 3 which is currently under construction. The site visit was followed by a networking event on Friday night at the Dark Horse Restaurant.

**WTC 9/11 Memorial:** On Saturday morning, the group visited the 9/11 Memorial. Professor Stavridis discussed the recovery process regarding the underground structures, repair and construction of the

slurry walls, as well as design procedures for the new towers.

**Tappan Zee Bridge:** The students visited HDR's project site to better understand the structural, environmental, social and political challenges that they had learned about the previous day. They also discussed design alternatives and construction innovations before heading back to Buffalo.



<https://www.eeri.org/cohost/member-resources/pulse/570-october-1-2016#new-student-chapter-of-eeri>

## Student Spotlight

### **New Student Chapter of EERI**

EERI is pleased to introduce the new EERI student chapter established in the Dominican Republic at Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra—Campus Santo Tomás de Aquino. The chapter's faculty advisor is **Jaruselsky Pérez-Cuevas** (M. EERI, 2016) Head of the Civil Engineering Department. The local professional contacts are **Leonardo Pockels** (M. EERI, 2016) and **Ashley Morales-Cartagena** (M. EERI, 2016). **Sissy Nikolaou** (M. EERI, 2004) and **Guillermo Díaz-Fañás** (M. EERI, 2015) will serve as professional advisors from the EERI NY-NE Regional Chapter. Recently elected officers include **Javier Crespo Almanzar** (President, M. EERI, 2016), Casandra Nuñez (Vice President), Julio Pimentel (Treasurer), and Marivid Rijo (Secretary).



<https://www.eeri.org/cohost/member-resources/pulse/628-january-15-2017#eeri-nyne-chapter-to-hold-1-day-symposium-on-new-zealand-earthquakes-february-2-2017>

## Announcements

### **EERI NYNE Chapter to hold 1-Day Symposium on New Zealand Earthquakes February 2, 2017**

The EERI-NYNE Chapter is sponsoring a 1-day symposium and panel discussion:

#### **2010-2011 and 2016 New Zealand Earthquakes: Assessment, Lessons, Planning, Reconstruction, and Code Modifications - Relevance to New York City and U.S. Critical Infrastructure.**

The event will be held on Thursday, February 2, 2017 from 3:30 - 7:30 PM at The General Society of Mechanics & Tradesmen, 20 W. 44th Street, New York, NY.

Attendance is free but pre-registration is required due to space limitations. Please email [nyne@eeri.org](mailto:nyne@eeri.org) to register.

PDH units are offered at no cost to EERI members and \$25 to non-members.

The program will feature talks by four of the foremost seismic experts involved in the 2010/11 Canterbury New Zealand and 2016 Kaikoura, New Zealand earthquakes: **Thomas D. O'Rourke** (M.EERI,1980), **Jonathon D. Bray** (M.EERI,1990), **Brendon A. Bradley** (M.EERI,2012) and **Ellen M. Rathje** (M.EERI,1996).

A panel discussion will follow featuring **Andrew Whittaker**, **David Wald** (M.EERI,1988), **Ramon Gilsanz** (M.EERI,2011), **Sissy Nikolaou** (M.EERI,2004), President of the EERI NYNE Chapter, **Mary Comerio** (M.EERI,1988) EERI President.

[More information on the symposium can be found on the promotional PDF here.](#)