

FRIEDMAN FAMILY VISITING PROFESSIONALS PROGRAM



2015-2016 ACADEMIC YEAR ACTIVITIES REPORT

OBJECTIVES:

The Friedman Family Visiting Professional Program aims to bridge the gaps between the academic and professional worlds of earthquake engineering and earthquake risk reduction by:

- Improving the understanding of students and faculty of the active professional earthquake engineering and risk reduction community;
- enhancing the students' understanding of the multi-disciplinary nature of earthquake engineering;
- Increasing the professional's understanding of the educational process;
- Utilizing the unique intellectual resources of EERI to broker useful relationships; and
- Using the resources of EERI to help students understand and consider professional careers associated with earthquake engineering and earthquake risk reduction.

With generous funding from the Friedman Family endowment, and supplemental support from FEMA in 2015-16, the program sends professionals to universities to provide a lecture and meet with students to discuss the options available to them upon graduation. These meetings also benefit the visiting professionals by increasing their understanding of the educational process experienced by young professionals now entering the field.

2015-2016 PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

The Friedman Family Visiting Professionals program launched in November for the 2015-2016 academic year. The process has led to a refreshed list of visiting professionals, great interest from student chapters, and eighteen scheduled visits by thirteen professionals from February to May 2016.

In early November 2015, EERI staff and the FFVP chair reviewed the budget and clarified the program's operational procedure for the academic year. In this process, the list of visiting professionals was updated and two new professionals were invited to join the program, Elizabeth Hausler Strand and Ron Mayes.

In late November 2015, the program was advertised to EERI student chapters and an application form required student chapters to select their top three professionals and describe the reasons for their choices. Thirty EERI student chapters applied to the program, and eighteen were selected to participate. Selections were made based on the following criteria:

- Budget limitations
- Diversity in professionals selected

- Diversity in universities selected
- Providing opportunities to new chapters or chapters who have not had recent visits.
- Quality of description and reasoning for professionals in application form

Before the first visit in February, EERI staff launched the participating cohort of professionals by hosting a conference call to summarize the procedures and by reviewing the EERI introduction slides that describe EERI's mission, disciplines, and the benefits to students of being a member.

Upon the conclusion of the spring visits, student chapters were required to complete a report summarizing the visit and submit it via a questionnaire designed to solicit their feedback on the success of the program and areas for improvement. The reporting template put in place last year effectively streamlined visit feedback. More timely reporting could be achieved by providing a deadline to student chapters.

The template includes the following sections:

- Itinerary or Agenda
- Student Chapter Planning Committee
- Visiting Professional Lecture Overview
- Supplemental Activities
- Results, Feedback and Lessons Learned
- Acknowledgements
- List of Attachments

Visiting professionals were also asked to complete an evaluation that would help EERI staff improve the program. Generally, feedback from the professionals was very good and will help improve our program in the coming academic year. More details about the results of these evaluations are included later in this report.

LIST OF VISITING PROFESSIONALS:

Below are the names of the visiting professionals participating in the program during the 2015-16 academic year, along with their firm and disciplinary area of expertise

- David Cocke, Structural Focus, Structural Engineering Expert
- Ronald Eguchi, ImageCat Inc., Expert in Risk Analysis, Lifelines, and Industrial Facilities
- Richard Eisner, FAIA, Expert in Emergency Management & Public Policy
- David Friedman, Forell/Elsesser, Structural Engineering Expert
- Ramin Golesorkhi, Treadwell & Rollo, Geotechnical Engineering Expert (*no visit scheduled for 2015-2016*)
- Nathan Gould, ABS Consulting, Structural Engineering Expert
- Elizabeth Hausler, Build Change, Structural Engineering Expert
- John Hooper, Magnusson Klemencic Associates, Structural Engineering Expert

- Annie Kammerer, Bechtel Corporation, Expert in Risk Analysis, Lifelines, and Industrial Facilities (*no visit scheduled for 2015-2016*)
- Janiele Maffei, California Earthquake Authority, Structural Engineering Expert
- Faiz Makdisi, Sage Engineers, Geotechnical Engineering Expert (*no visit scheduled for 2015-2016*)
- Jim Malley, Degenkolb Engineers, Structural Engineering Expert
- Ron Mayes, Simpson Gumpertz & Heger, Structural Engineering Expert
- Jorge Meneses, Group Delta Consultants Inc., Geotechnical Engineering Expert
- Farzad Naeim, Farzad Naeim Inc., Structural Engineering Expert (*no visit scheduled for 2015-2016*)
- Sissy Nikolaou, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff, Geotechnical Engineering Expert
- Maryann Phipps, Estructure, Structural Engineering Expert (*no visit scheduled for 2015-2016*)
- Ivan Wong, URS Corporation, Expert in Seismology

SELECTED UNIVERSITIES:

Eighteen universities were selected to participate in the 2015-2016 program. Complete reports summarizing each visit have been submitted by the participating universities and can be found in PDF format on EERI's website at: <https://www.eeri.org/projects/friedman-family-visiting-professionals-program/reports/>

California State University, Sacramento

Janiele Maffei visited on April 27, 2016. She was hosted by:

- President William Cope
- Vice President Jeremy Nottnagel
- Secretary Christina DeOllos
- Secretary Lorenzo Hernandez
- Treasurer George Brown
- Treasurer Kylie Ahlstrand

Report not yet submitted

Cornell

Sissy Nikolaou visited on April 26, 2016. She was hosted by:

- President Brad Wham
- Vice President Victoria Rhodes
- Secretary Shannon Spiers
- Treasurer Kimberly Bernstein

Report not yet submitted

Johns Hopkins University

David Cocke March 3, 2016. She was hosted by:

- President Camilla Favaritti
- Vice President George Yap
- Dr. Anne Lemnitzer, Seminar Host
- Design Captain: Strength, John Sanchez
- Faculty Advisor Dr. Farzin Zareian

David Cocke's lecture aimed to give students a sense of what the professional world was like. As engineers, he suggested that the critical skills for a successful career include calculation, analysis, vision, communication, and a strong network. Mr. Cocke encouraged the students to understand their role as engineers in terms of the big picture, and to keep that goal in mind every step of the way.

Lehigh University

Sissy Nikolaou visited on February 26, 2016. She was hosted by:

- Vice President Amy Kordosky
- Secretary Xin Chu
- Public Relations Chair Michael Gritzmacher
- Treasurer Joshua Core
- Member Georgios Tsampras
- Faculty Advisor James Ricles

Based on the feedback received from the participants of the event, the program with Dr. Nikolaou was very rewarding for her, the EERI officers, and the students who were able to attend the seminar. She had many ideas on how to further grow within the chapter and knew of activities being done in the northeastern region that Lehigh can be a part of. In moving forward, the Lehigh University EERI chapter would like to host more seminars from professionals that cover multi-hazard mitigation strategies, community resilience, and the transition to performance based design standards. Ms. Nikolaou also helped the student chapter come up with other goals beyond the scope of the Friedman program, including participation in the Seismic Design Competition, field trips to structural engineering firms in New York City, and inviting other speakers to the university.

Purdue University

Rich Eisner visited on March 1, 2016. He was hosted by:

- President Yunlang Zhang
- Vice President Aishwarya Puranam
- Secretary Ryan Whelchel
- Webmaster Lucas Laughery
- Social Chair Rachel Chicci
- Treasurer Aman Anand

Students at the seminar appreciated seeing earthquake engineering from a different perspective: that of the person planning, rather than the person building. The use of media and examples from a recent event made it more interactive and memorable.

San Jose State University

Jim Malley visited on April 20, 2016. He was hosted by:

- President Mary T. Nguyen
- Vice-President Daniel Boyett
- Secretary Brandon Brooks
- Treasurer Henry Harrison

Report not yet submitted

University of California, Davis

Rich Eisner visited on April 21, 2016. He was hosted by:

- Co-President Vincente Pericoli
- Co-President Trevor Carey

Reception of Rich was excellent. Many students attended the presentation and were excited to ask questions and chat. This event boosted the prominence of the UC Davis EERI chapter. Since many non-members were invited to the event, this served as an indirect recruiting tool for the chapter. To that end, Rich's quick plug for EERI at the beginning of the presentation (the required "About EERI" intro slides) was much appreciated. Rich also directly encouraged students to join the chapter.

University of California, Irvine

Ron Eguchi visited on February 18, 2016. He was hosted by:

- President Camilla Favaretti
- Vice President Pablo Torres Rodas
- Faculty advisor and Seminar host Dr. Farzin Zareian

Based on the feedback received from the seminar attendees, the program with Mr. Eguchi was very rewarding for the EERI Chapter members and the students that attended the seminar. They would like to host more professionals like Mr. Eguchi, who was able to inspire undergraduate and graduate students with his enthusiasm and knowledge. In particular a future goal of the chapter is the increasing of graduate students involvement by hosting more outstanding professionals in the field of earthquake engineering.

University of California, Los Angeles

Ron Mayes visited on April 26, 2016. He was hosted by:

- President Yazhou Xie
- Vice President Soheil Kashani
- Secretary/Treasurer/Webmaster Yi Tyan Tsai

Report not yet submitted

University of Colorado, Boulder

David Friedman visited on March 30, 2016. He was hosted by:

- President Sarah Welsh-Huggins
- Vice President Cody Harrington
- Secretary Kristen Hess
- Treasurer Sally Gerster

Report not yet submitted

University of Connecticut

Nathan Gould visited on April 27, 2016. He was hosted by:

- President Michael Harris
- Vice-President Amanda McBride
- Faculty advisors Arash Zaghi and Richard Christenson

In addition to the lecture and meeting with graduate students to discuss their research projects, the chapter hosted a Q&A with graduating students for career advice. Nathan Gould provided useful insight into the value of pursuing higher education in conjunction with work opportunities depending on each student's goal.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Rich Eisner visited on February 29, 2016. He was hosted by:

- President Mitch Knapp
- Secretary Cynthia Suminto
- Graduate Advisor Martha Cuenca

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.

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.

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Jim Malley visited on March 4, 2016. He was hosted by:

- President Stephanie Castine
- Vice President Mirna Mendoza
- Treasurer/Secretary Ignacio Cetrangolo
- Seismic Design Team Co-Captain Tracy Donoghue
- Seismic Design Team Co-Captain Michael Morano
- Faculty Advisor Dr. Scott Civjan

One of the challenges that the chapter faced was the coordination of activities and events with the professional. By communicating with the professional directly, the chapter was able to decide on activities and coordination, it was initially tough to decide how to present the school and students to Jim Malley. In future, it might be beneficial to connect this chapter with other schools for advice or guidance.

University of Notre Dame

Elizabeth Hausler visited on March 16, 2016. She was hosted by:

- President Kevin Fink
- Vice President Theresa Aragon

Dr. Hausler Strand met with the students' Engineering2Empower Undergraduate Research Team, who has developed and implemented an alternative housing model in post-quake Haiti. Dr. Hausler Strand was able to meet with these students and provide invaluable feedback to their work and discuss the successes and challenges Build Change has encountered throughout its own pursuit of seismic resiliency.

Having Dr. Hausler Strand visit Notre Dame as a Friedman Family Visiting Professional was a terrific experience for EERI student chapter. She was a joy to work with, gave an excellent lecture, and provided both life advice and engineering expertise to the students she met with. The organization, planning, and execution of her visit all went incredibly smoothly. The Notre Dame EERI student chapter is grateful for Dr. Hausler Strand's willingness to participate and eager to take advantage of the Friedman Family Visiting Professional Program in the years to come.

University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez

Jorge Meneses visited on February 16, 2016. He was hosted by:

- President Esteban Osorio
- Vice President Kennia Maldonado

- Secretary Raphael Luna
- Treasurer Andres Ocampo
- Faculty Advisors Luis E. Suarez & Ricardo Lopez

Report not yet submitted

University of Southern California

David Cocke visited on February 24, 2016. He was hosted by:

- President Cindy Wei
- Vice President Natasha Nazarian
- Faculty Advisor Navid Nastar

Report not yet submitted

University of Texas at Austin

Ivan Wong visited on April 27, 2016. He was hosted by:

- President Anne Hulseley
- Executive Board member Andrew Stolte
- Faculty advisors Patricia Clayton and Ellen Rathje

The university students appreciated the clarity with which Mr. Wong presented the potential consequences of earthquakes on infrastructure and the local economy. Students with a wide range of backgrounds came to attend the lecture and everyone was able to understand the content presented. The chapter found this approach broadly engaging and successful.

Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

John Hooper visited on November 5-7, 2016. He was hosted by:

- President Gage Pepin
- Vice President Pat O'Brien
- Secretary Jeena Jayamon
- Treasurer Max O'Krepki
- Diplomat Adrian Tola
- Faculty Advisors Professors Ioannis Koutromanos, Finley Charney, & Matt Eatherton

The only major challenge faced by the chapter was the timeline, since this chapter wanted to arrange for a visit in November so soon after the applications for the program were posted. The chapter reported that this was resolved very smoothly and became a nonissue; and that EERI was very accommodating here.

Since VT's EERI chapter has now hosted seminars in both Geotechnical and Structural fields (and even a presentation on Risk Analysis, outside of the Visiting Professional program), the idea of hosting a seminar on

Seismology seems like it would work well as a marriage between all of these topics. A seminar on Emergency Management would also be a great opportunity, allowing for a more direct inclusion of students interested in social sciences. Generally speaking, we would like to make these visits as inclusive and interactive as possible for students across all fields related to Earthquake Engineering.

2015-2016 OUTCOMES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The 2015-2016 program achieved great success, as shown in the evaluation forms submitted by both professionals and students.

"The presentation went very well with roughly 30(?) in the audience at the University of California, Irvine. It was a new topic for them (tsunami) so felt liked I expanded their understanding and knowledge of earthquake risks. The majority of the students were well aware of EERI whether or not they were part of the student chapter, and we were able to discuss career options and goals during the social hour."

- Ron Eguchi

"There was a great turnout with multiple people from different disciplines at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. This session had a roundtable setting where students talked about classes, internship and work opportunities, tips for graduate school, and many more topics."

- Jim Malley

"Mr. Hooper's visit was extremely well received. Following his presentation, several faculty members even commented that this had been the most successful Fall seminar yet (Mr. Hooper presented as part of an annual, extracurricular seminar hosted by the CEE department)."

- Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

GOALS, PLANS, AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2016-2017 ACADEMIC YEAR

For the 2016-17 academic year the committee plans to schedule at least eight to ten university visits pending a detailed budget assessment.

The University of Massachusetts, Amherst, suggested that it might be useful for them to touch base with other student chapters for guidance on how to make the most of their Friedman visit.

We have had overwhelmingly positive feedback from schools and professionals. Because of our efforts to streamline the application and feedback reporting process for 2014-15, it took less staff time to manage the program in 2015-16. Next year EERI plans to host a call for student chapter leadership. Similar to the professionals call, this will enable more experienced chapters to help mentor and guide chapters in the process as well as share ideas on how to make the most of their Friedman Family visit.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

See the Friedman Family Visiting Professional webpage for report downloads and other information:

<https://www.eeri.org/projects/friedman-family-visiting-professionals-program/>