

# FRIEDMAN FAMILY VISITING PROFESSIONALS PROGRAM

## 2018-2019 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, 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.

### 2018-2019 PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

The Friedman Family Visiting Professionals program launched in September for the 2018-2019 academic year. Twenty-four visits were scheduled by 14 professionals from February to May 2019. One visit is scheduled to occur in fall 2019.

In August 2018, EERI staff and the FFVP chair reviewed the budget and clarified the program's operational procedure for the academic year.

In early September 2018, the program was advertised to EERI student chapters and an application form required student chapters to select their top 3 professionals and describe the reasons for their choices. Twenty-eight EERI student chapters applied to the program, and 24 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, EERI staff launched the participating cohort of professionals by email summarizing the procedures and the EERI introduction slides that describe EERI's mission, disciplines, and the benefits to students of being a member. There were no professionals this year so a conference call to explain this information was not needed.

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 has 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 2018-2019 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
- David Friedman, Forrel/Elsesser Engineers Inc., Structural Engineering Expert
- Ramin Golesorkhi, Langan, Geotechnical Engineering Expert
- Nathan Gould, ABS Consulting, Structural Engineering Expert
- John Hooper, Magnusson Klemencic Associates, Structural Engineering Expert
- Annie Kammerer, Annie Kammerer Consulting, Expert in Risk Analysis, Lifelines, and Industrial Facilities
- Janiele Maffei, California Earthquake Authority, Structural Engineering Expert
- Faiz Makdisi, Consultant, Geotechnical Engineering Expert
- Jim Malley, Degenkolb Engineers, Structural Engineering Expert
- Jorge Meneses, RMA Group, Geotechnical Engineering Expert
- Sissy Nikolaou, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff, Geotechnical Engineering Expert
- Jay Wilson, Clackamas Co Emergency Management, Resilience Coordinator
- Ivan Wong, Lettis Consultants International Inc, Expert in Seismology

## SELECTED UNIVERSITIES:

Twenty-four universities were selected to participate in the 2018-2019 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 POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN LUIS OBISPO

David Cocke visited on May 2, 2019. He was hosted by:

- Jenna Williams, EERI Student Chapter President
- Sophia Looney, SEAOC Student Chapter President
- Anahid Behrouzi, Faculty Advisor
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Quote from chapter report: "Students benefit from having a visiting professional who was actively engaged in industry: David Cocke was able to educate students on current code changes and processes, and this was something that the students had not seen presented by anyone else before."

### CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO

David Friedman visited on March 27, 2019. He was hosted by:

- Inna Radova
- Harpreet Gill
- Julie Fogarty, Faculty Advisor

Quote from chapter report: “The hosting of the visit of David Freedman went very well without any significant challenges in the process. The topic of seismic retrofit sparked student interest in earthquake engineering as well as brought more awareness of EERI and its mission.”

## IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

John Hooper visited on February 5, 2019. He was hosted by:

- Enrique Rubio Delgado, President
- Hartanto Wibowo, Faculty Advisor

Quote from chapter report: “Mr. Hooper’s presentation dove into the aspect of engineering where a codebook cannot provide the most efficient solution. MKA, being a leader in Performance-Based Seismic Design, has taken this design approach to heart. The presentation discussed how more than the structural components, further consideration has to be taken, such as building down time, expected injuries and/or fatalities and repair costs. This sparked interest in the civil engineering graduate student community and some undergraduate; there were nearly 25 attendees.”

## OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

John Hooper visited on May 2, 2019. He was hosted by:

- Dominga Sanchez, President
- Amanda Slawinski, Vice President
- Annabel Shephard, Secretary
- Ignace Mugabo, Treasurer
- Walker Maddalozzo, Industry Outreach Coordinator
- Zhongliang Xie, Education Outreach Coordinator
- Erica Fischer, Faculty Advisor

Quote from chapter report: “Hooper met with a group of undergraduate and graduate students for lunch over a couple of famous Corvallis, Oregon pizza pies. All the students shared with Hooper an interest in seismic design and structural engineering. Additionally, Hooper met with the EERI local chapter leadership team for one final time over coffee. The discussion strayed to career and life advice, which the team, at this moment in their lives, appreciated greatly.”

## PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA MADRE Y MAESTRA (PUCMM)

Sissy Nikolaou will be visiting in fall 2019

## PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

Faiz Makdisi visited on April 25, 2019. He was hosted by:

- Melissa Preciado, President
- Evgeny Kozyaev, SDC Captain
- Sepehr Nadalizadeh, Chapter Member
- Arash Khosravifar, Faculty Adviser
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Quote from chapter report: “Both the lecture and other interactions with Dr. Makdisi were received very well. His lecture served as a valuable promotion of our EERI chapter. This helped us gain new members and leaders for next year. The lecture garnered significant interest from our local professional

community and helped to strengthen our EERI chapter's relationship with that community. Our EERI leaders and graduate students were very appreciative of the valuable advice and experience that Dr. Makdisi shared. This was a wonderful opportunity for all of us."

## **PURDUE UNIVERSITY**

Annie Kammerer visited on April 16, 2019. She was hosted by:

- Jonathan Monical, President
- Ryan Whelchel, Seminar Coordinator
- Ayhan Irfanoglu, Faculty Advisor

Quote from chapter report: "Annie described her journey from enrolling in a community college in San Francisco to finishing her PhD at Berkeley. Her focus, work ethic and courage allowed her to embrace the opportunities that came her way, including coding a healthcare model for a law firm where she was working. A few years later, Annie received an NSF scholarship to fund her geotechnical research for her thesis at Berkeley. Annie also briefly talked about her role in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and how reading and revising nuclear policy became a forte for her. Purdue EERI chapter members attended this event."

## **RICE UNIVERSITY**

Jay Wilson visited on March 7, 2019. He was hosted by:

- Hesam Talebiyan, President
- Carl Bernier, Vice President
- Jayant Patil, Treasurer
- Roger Parades, Secretary
- Au Do, Event Coordinator
- Catalina Gonzalez, Webmaster
- Jamie Padgett, Faculty Advisor

Quote from chapter report: "The event went on schedule and smoothly. The lecture was received well by graduate students and faculty of the civil engineering department, and lead to engaging discussion afterward. Visiting professional lectures are an effective way to inform the community about disaster resilience from the perspective of local emergency management leadership and how risk communication and addressing uncertainty informs translating science into policy. This event aspires to continue holding events that inform our community about policy-related consequences of engineering fields of expertise."

## **STANFORD UNIVERSITY**

Nathan Gould visited on March 5, 2019. He was hosted by:

- Andres Acosta, President
- Rodrigo Silva, Vice President
- Gregory Deierlein, Faculty Advisor

Quote from chapter report: "Round table discussion: In this opportunity, Structural Engineering students from the MS and PhD program as well as a couple postdocs from the John A. Blume Earthquake Center shared an hour and half discussion with Nathan about a variety of topics. The conversation started with the challenges of the profession where a more interdisciplinary and multi-hazard approach is needed. Then, Nathan shared his view about the job market on structural engineering for MS and PhD graduates in light of the challenges we previously discussed."

## **STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK – BUFFALO**

Jim Malley visited on March 29, 2019.

## THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS

Sissy Nikolaou visited on May 3, 2019. She was hosted by:

- Nima Nazemi, President and SLC representative
- Ali Farhadi, Vice President
- Mehdi Rostamian, Treasurer
- Christine Moore, SDC Graduate Coordinator
- Dr. Shahram Pezeshk, Faculty advisor

Quote from chapter report: “We asked Dr. Nikolaou to have a mentorship session with graduate students to discuss resumes and job opportunities. In this one-hour friendly meeting, graduate student discussed their projects, their CVs, experiences in applying for jobs and internships. It was a meaningful discussion since students were able to hear a professional’s experience and ideas.”

## THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Ronald Eguchi visited on February 21, 2019. He was hosted by:

- Farid Khosravikia, President
- Ghassan Fawaz, Vice President
- Reihaneh Hosseini, Treasurer
- Sedef Kocakaplan, Secretary
- Patricia Clayton, Faculty Advisor
- Ellen Rathje, Faculty Advisor

Quote from chapter report: “Mr. Eguchi gave his lecture to over 30 graduate students from civil department. Most of the attendees are from geotechnical and structural programs of the department. Moreover, there were some faculty members such as Dr. Rathje and Clayton among others. Based on the survey conducted after the session, his presentation got a rate of 4.8 out of 5.0, which indicates that almost all of the students were very interested and satisfied with his lecture.”

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Janiele Maffei visited on April 8, 2019. She was hosted by:

- Tal Feinstein, President
- Paolo Martuscelli, Vice President
- Jack Moehle, EERI faculty advisor
- Tracy Becker, Professor of Earthquake-resistant design course

Quote from chapter report: “The students that participated in the lecture were very interested and asked many questions at the end of the lecture. The supplemental activity of meeting with some of the graduate students was very helpful for the students and contributed to their understanding of their research topics.”

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

Jorge Meneses visited on April 4, 2019. He was hosted by:

- Francisco Humire, Co-President
- Pouria Kourehpaz, Co-President
- Maya El Kortbawi, member
- Sumeet Sinha, member

Quote from chapter report: “The reception from the audience was excellent, which was reflected in the questions and talks after the lecture. The lecture gathered students from both disciplines (geotechnical

and structural), which was one of the main goals of the chapter. The chapter thinks that the topic selected for this lecture helped in having this massive concurrence of people from both disciplines. The chapter deeply appreciates the initial minutes dedicated to promote EERI. The event helped in promoting the EERI Student Chapter to several non-members that attended the lecture.”

## **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES**

David Cocke visited on February 27, 2019. He was hosted by:

- Bryan Hong, President
- Michael Weyant, Vice President
- Omar Issa, External Affairs Officer
- Rodger Lee, Secretary
- Honor Fisher, Media Director

Quote from chapter report: Graduate Q&A Session - “We had excellent attendance since we coordinated this event to occur during Professor John Wallace’s lecture. The students were very engaged and were able to ask David Cocke both more technical questions, as well as career advice questions. It was clear that the students got a lot out of our speaker’s advice, and they were quite happy that they were able to spend more time with him when they did not really have the opportunity to after finishing his lecture earlier in the day.”

## **UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO - BOULDER**

Ramin Golesorkhi visited on April 10, 2019. He was hosted by:

- Sally Gerster, President
- Christopher Frishcosy, Vice President
- Sonny Moraga, Treasurer
- Dr. Brad Wham, Faculty Advisor

Quote from chapter report: “CU and the CEAE department (Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering) received Dr. Golesorkhi very well and many students and staff were excited for the visit and enjoyed it. We try to have a variety of topics covered between the Friedman Family Speakers over the years. We appreciate that EERI provides such a diverse group of professionals to choose from and hope this continues to be the case.”

## **UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN**

Annie Kammerer visited on April 22, 2019. She was hosted by:

- Xulai Xu, President
- Karl Eid, Head of Corporate Outreach Committee

Quote from chapter report: “Over dinner, EERI’s board members were able to meet with Dr. Kammerer and Mr. Godoy to learn more about career paths and different work environments. We discussed the different careers between academia, traditional consulting practice and international organizations (like the IAEA). They also further elaborated on how their training and education contributed to their success.”

## **UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**

Ivan Wong visited on April 17, 2019. He was hosted by:

- Arthriya Sukswan, President
- Ahmed Abdelhady, Vice President
- Monica Jambu, Secretary
- Seymour Spence, Faculty Advisor



Quote from chapter report: “Having Ivan Wong as a visiting professional has provided the University of Michigan Civil engineering community with another perspective from an engineering seismologist that fulfills an understanding of earthquake hazard and consequences. The lecture was clear so that students with different backgrounds were able to process all the information provided. Various case studies highlighted different lessons learned that are very useful for students.”

## **UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA - TWIN CITIES**

Nathan Gould visited on April 5, 2019. He was hosted by:

- Anu Tripathi, President
- Thao Truong, Vice President
- Juan Pablo Mendieta, Member
- Catherine French, Faculty Advisor

Quote from chapter report: “The program was very well received by the students, faculty and industry as demonstrated by the excellent turnout of the Friday morning lecture. For future visit the Student Chapter would like to learn more about the details of the challenges of the multi-hazard design. We would also want to learn which structural systems are more suited in different scenarios.”

## **UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO**

David Friedman visited on March 1, 2019. He was hosted by:

- Ali Hammad, President
- Luna Nurdianti Ngeljaratan, Secretary
- Elif Ecem BAS, Treasurer
- Mohamed A Moustafa, Faculty Advisor
- Ian G Buckle, Foundation Professor
- Ecem Ozsahin, Volunteer

Quote from chapter report: “The meeting with graduate students generated positive impacts as most of the graduates were about to finish their program. They learned from the visitor how EERI changed his life and how EERI acted as an advocate in disaster preparedness, recovery and risk-reduction efforts. The meeting broadened their insights about EERI especially encouraged them to get involve in earthquake risk reduction activities during their professional career in the future.”

## **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

Ivan Wong visited on March 18, 2019.

## **UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**

Jim Malley visited on March 28, 2019. He was hosted by:

- Pedram Mortazavi, President
- Myron Zhong, Vice President
- Allan Kuan, Director-Finance
- Mohamed Sayed, Director-Events
- Luis Ardila Bothia, Director-Undergraduate Relations
- Joshua Tapia, Chapter Member

Quote from chapter report: “Jim Malley’s lecture provided a great opportunity for the University of Toronto structural engineering community to learn more about the current earthquake engineering practices in the west coast. In addition, it peaked the interest of undergraduate and graduate students in earthquake engineering.”

## UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Jay Wilson visited on March 4, 2019. He was hosted by:

- Sarah Wichman, President
- Andrew Makdisi, Vice President
- Karen Izumoto, Outreach Coordinator
- Kamal Ahmed, Secretary
- Alex Baird, Treasurer

Quote from chapter report: “It was our goal from the beginning to bring in a professional with extensive experience from outside our core disciplines (structural and geotechnical engineering), and Jay’s experience and affability made it an absolute pleasure to interact with him throughout the day.”

## VIRGINIA TECH

Ramin Golesorkhi visited on April 8, 2019. He was hosted by:

- Raul Avellaneda, President
- Bishal Khadka, Vice-President
- Kristin Ulmer, Geotech Chair
- Edward Gil, Outreach Chair
- Adrian Rodriguez-Marek, Faculty Advisor

Quote from chapter report: “The program and the visit were a fantastic opportunity for the students to be exposed to a practicing engineer with real life experience. For the students interested in earthquake engineering, the presentation was a great demonstration of the challenges that can arise in practice.”

## 2018-2019 OUTCOMES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The 2018-2019 program achieved great success, as shown in the evaluation forms from student chapters and professionals.

*“The intention of this event in the first place is the dissemination of information from professionals to students. Hooper was eager to engage in a dialogue with the next generation of engineers here at Oregon State and, for us, the most beneficial aspect of the visit was the opportunity of intellectual growth provided to our students through the conversations had and connections made.”*

-Oregon State University

*“Meeting the students and discussing their research and what excites them. Also, meeting with Professors to see what new innovations they are working on.”*

- Ronald Eguchi speaking about the most beneficial aspects of the visit.

## GOALS, PLANS, AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2019-2020 ACADEMIC YEAR

For the 2019-2020 academic year the committee plans to schedule at least 18 university visits pending a detailed budget assessment.

We plan to continue having consistent staff support for the 2019-2020 academic year. This created a consistent schedule and more follow up with the program than in previous years.

We plan to collect more quantifiable data from our visits to better track the program as a whole. We will begin asking student chapters to report how many undergraduate and graduate students, and faculty members attended the event.



## 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/>