FRIEDMAN FAMILY VISITING PROFESIONALS PROGRAM

Visit to University of Minnesota: March 7, 2025

This report summarizes the visit of **Dr. Ezra Jampole** from Exponent that took place at the University of Minnesota on March 7, 2025, as part of EERI's Friedman Family Visiting Professional Program.

ITINERARY OR AGENDA

March 6th	
TIME:	**ACTIVITY:**
Late Afternoon	Arrival to Minneapolis
March 7th	
TIME:	**ACTIVITY:**
08:00 – 08:50 am	Breakfast at Beacon Restaurant, Pedram Mortazavi
09:00 – 10:00 am	Friedman Family Visiting Professional
10:00 – 10:30 am	Extended Q&A with Faculty and Graduate Students
10:30 – 11:15 am	Meeting with Lauren Linderman
11:15 – 12:00 pm	Tour of the Galambos lab
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch at Faculty Club with Pedram Mortazavi
01:15 – 02:00 pm	Meeting with Ben Worsfold
02:00 – 02:45 pm	Meeting with Jialiang Le
03:00 – 03:45 pm	Meeting with Qizhi He
03:45 – 04:45 pm	Tour of the MAST Lab
05:30 pm	Leave for the airport with Pedram Mortazavi

STUDENT CHAPTER VISIT PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Mohammad Amin Dargi, President, dargi019@umn.edu
- Hans Lagerquist, Vice-President, lager099@umn.edu
- Professor Pedram Mortazavi, Faculty Advisor, pmortaza@umn.edu

VISITING PROFESSIONAL LECTURE OVERVIEW

The title of the lecture was "Earthquake Engineering Gone Wrong: Legal and Insurance Disputes." After providing an overview of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, Dr. Jampole gave an overview of his extensive expertise with legal cases in earthquake engineering.

The lecture was well attended by graduate students, faculty members and industry professionals. Professors Dos Santos, Worsfold, Mortazavi, Linderman, Le, and He attended the lecture. The pictures below were taken during the lecture.

Figure 1: A Picture of the Lecture by Dr. Ezra Jampole at the University of Minnesota

Lecture Abstract

In an ideal world, an engineer's involvement in a structure would end after construction is finished. But the reality is that many structures are subject to costly litigation or arbitration because of allegations of inadequate design or performance. Additionally, when a structure is subjected to extreme loading such as from an earthquake, insurance disputes arise regarding the source of damage and if the damage was caused by the earthquake, and who is responsible. This talk will review the types of legal disputes that structural engineers can find themselves in and how expert witnesses are used to sort through the issues and provide independent opinions. Several case studies on earthquake engineering disputes will be discussed, including: alleged reduction in the earthquake-resisting capacity of a building because of water intrusion; distinguishing between damage caused by earthquakes and caused by other actions following a large earthquake, the alleged insufficient earthquake resistant design of transportation infrastructure in a high-seismic zone, the safety of a bridge with seismic design errors, and more.

Professional Bio

Dr. Jampole is a Principal Engineer at Exponent in New York City. He specializes in risk analysis and performance of structures subjected to extreme loads such as earthquakes, wind, and flood events. He has served as a consultant on projects assessing the origin of damage to structures following natural disasters, adjacent construction incidents, corrosion and deterioration, settlement, and long-term issues.

SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITES

Meetings with Faculty Members

During Dr. Jampole's visit, several one-on-one meetings were organized with structural faculty members within the department of Civil, Environmental, and Geo- Engineering (CEGE) at the University of Minnesota. These meetings led to fruitful discussions regarding research and potential collaboration.

Tour of the Galambos Lab

In the day of the visit on March 7th, a tour of the Galambos structural testing laboratory was given to Dr. Jampole. The tour was led by Professor Pedram Mortazavi. During the tour, the testing capabilities of the Galambos lab were outlined along with the history behind the development of the lab.

University of Minnesota Campus Tour

A separate tour of the University of Minnesota Campus was provided to Dr. Ezra Jampole by Professor Pedram Mortazavi on March 7th, after lunch. In addition, a more detailed tour of the CEGE building was provided.

Meeting with Graduate Students

Towards the end of the day, several graduate students met with Dr. Ezra Jampole. In their meeting, graduate students discussed their research projects with Dr. Jampole and got valuable feedback on their research. In addition, they explained their short-term and long-term career goals, on which they received valuable guidance and feedback from Dr. Jampole.

Tour of the MAST Lab

Dr. Ezra Jampole's visit was concluded with a visit to the Multi-Axial Subassemblage Testing (MAST) laboratory. The tour was led by Professor Pedram Mortazavi. The tour included outlining the testing capabilities at the MAST lab, providing an overview of past projects, and visions for future research at the MAST.

RESULTS, FEEDBACK AND LESSONS LEARNED

The lecture by Dr. Ezra Jampole attracted a large audience from undergraduate students, graduate students, UMN alumni, Industry professionals, and faculty members. Dr. Jampole's lecture provided a great opportunity for the University of Minnesota structural engineering community to learn more about legal cases in earthquake engineering practice, how to navigate them, and how to avoid them. The graduate students had the unique opportunity to discuss their research projects with Dr. Jampole and receive valuable feedback from him. Further, Dr. Jampole provided the Chapter members and graduate students with valuable career advice.

One of the challenges our chapter faced was coordinating schedules with our other departmental seminars and activities. We were able to accommodate the presentation during our prescheduled seminar sessions. This ensured that students, faculty, and professionals were able to attend without impacting their current obligations.

In the future, we will also plan to coordinate and collaborate with other student groups on campus to help expand our reach to the undergraduate and graduate student body, including the ASCE Student Chapter and the AISC/ASCE Steel Bridge Team.

For future topics, students expressed interest in presentations discussing the implementation and impact of performance-based design, the use of specialized structural systems, and the design of seismic retrofits to existing structures.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The University of Minnesota EERI Student Chapter gratefully acknowledges the support of the Friedman Family for sponsoring Dr. Ezra Jampole's travel through the Friedman Family Visiting Professional Program endowment.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

A list of the attachments is included below:

- Item 1, Dr. Jampole's visit itinerary.
- Item 2, Flier for event

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to Discover®
Crookston Duluth Morris Rochester Twin Cities

Itinerary for

Ezra Jampole

EERI Friedman Family Visiting Professional

Arrival Thursday Night (March 6th)

Airport pickup:	Pedram Mortazavi (pick-up time TBD)

Friday, March 7th

08:00 – 08:50 am	Breakfast at Beacon Restaurant, Pedram Mortazavi
09:00 – 10:00 am	Friedman Family Visiting Professional
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Earthquake Engineering
Research Institute

Civil, Env. & Geo - Eng.

Earthquake Engineering Gone Wrong: Legal and Insurance Disputes

EERI Seminar Series with

Ezra Jampole, P.h.D, P.E.

Exponent, Inc.

Abstract

In an ideal world, an engineer's involvement in a structure would end after construction is finished. But the reality is that many structures are subject to costly litigation or arbitration because of allegations of inadequate design or performance. Additionally, when a structure is subjected to extreme loading such as from an earthquake, insurance disputes arise regarding the source of damage and if the damage was caused by the earthquake, and who is responsible. This talk will review the types of legal disputes that structural engineers can find themselves in and how expert witnesses are used to sort through the issues and provide independent opinions. Several case studies on earthquake engineering disputes will be discussed, including: alleged reduction in the earthquake-resisting capacity of a building because of water intrusion; distinguishing between damage caused by earthquakes and caused by other actions following a large earthquake, the alleged insufficient earthquake resistant design of transportation infrastructure in a high-seismic zone, the safety of a bridge with seismic design errors, and more.

Speaker

Dr. Ezra Jampole visits the University of Minnesota as part of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) Friedman Family Visiting Professionals Program. Dr. Jampole is a Principal Engineer at Exponent in New York City. He specializes in risk analysis and performance of structures subjected to extreme loads such as earthquakes, wind, and flood events. He has served as a consultant on projects assessing the origin of damage to structures following natural disasters, adjacent construction incidents, corrosion and deterioration, settlement, and long-term issues.

Start date:

Friday, March 7, 2025, 9:05 a.m.

Location:

- In person in the 205 Civil Engineering Building.
- Via Zoom. (Link)