

FRIEDMAN FAMILY VISITING PROFESSIONALS PROGRAM



Visit to University of Cal Poly, SLO: April 15, 2021

This report summarizes the visit of **Janiele Maffei** from the California Earthquake Authority that took place at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo on April 15, 2021.

ITINERARY OR AGENDA

TIME:	ACTIVITY:
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Student Chapter President meets & welcomes Visiting Professional on Zoom
11:00 AM – 11:45 AM	Guest lecture by Visiting Professional
11:45 AM – 12:15 PM	Post Lecture Q & A Session with students

STUDENT CHAPTER VISIT PLANNING COMMITTEE

LEAD ORGANIZERS:

- Tomlinn Cox, President, tmcox@calpoly.edu
- Garrett Barker, Vice President, gabarker@calpoly.edu
- Quinn Porter, Student, qporter@calpoly.edu
- Anahid Behrouzi, Faculty Advisor, behrouzi@calpoly.edu
- Nicholas Slavin, EERI Student Leadership Council Moderator, nickslavin16@gmail.com

VISITING PROFESSIONAL LECTURE OVERVIEW

Janiele Maffei spoke on the topic of *Making California More Earthquake Resilient, One House at a Time*. She spoke to our EERI student chapter in accompaniment with other Architectural Engineering students and faculty, totaling around 35 attendees. The response from participants was nothing short of impressed, they noted that Maffei presented with immense knowledge in her field and was able to educate them on a topic they have not heard discussed in their coursework. An additional note from the Architectural Engineering Department head mentioned how he was impressed with the multi-faceted approach Janiele has taken with her resiliency work and as such has recruited her as a new Advisory Board member for the department, a multi-year term.

Lecture Abstract

Janiele Maffei spoke about the importance of unpacking risk and resiliency, with an emphasis on the social and economic dimensions of engineering. Her presentation shed light on the intricacies of earthquake insurance in California and the loopholes that leave residents liable for the damage caused by earthquakes. To better understand California's risk, Maffei taught about common issues in residential structures, methods used to predict seismic risk, and how areas of lower income are more susceptible to financial losses after a seismic event. Furthermore, she spoke about efforts to make a more robust California resiliency plan, starting with the founding of the California Earthquake Authority, the Loss Mitigation Fund, and additional programs that identify and address common retrofits. Throughout the presentation, Maffei gave insight into her interdisciplinary work and how she carved her own path while maintaining to balance her passions for engineering, advocacy, and family.

Professional Bio

Janiele Maffei joined us from the California Earthquake Authority (CEA) where she serves as Chief Mitigation Officer. After graduating from the University of California, Berkeley with her AB in Architecture and MS in Engineering, Maffei obtained her civil and structural engineering licenses. As a registered structural engineer, working in the earthquake engineering industry her experience includes new construction, in addition to seismic strengthening of existing structures. In her role at the CEA, she is responsible for the statewide residential retrofit program, the lead on developing educational programs to stress the importance of mitigation, collaborating with academic institutions and industry professionals to promote research, as well as other actions that support mitigation-related insurance.

SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Post Lecture Q & A Session with Students

After Janiele gave her lecture, extra time was taken to acknowledge all the students that had more in-depth questions. This gave the time to more thoroughly answer questions that arose during her lecture, but also was able to allow for questions related to our coursework as well as future career plans. Janiele was able to respond openly about these topics and gave specific care to each question at hand.

RESULTS, FEEDBACK AND LESSONS LEARNED

- *Challenges:* This year, being unique in that the visit was virtual, posed a new challenge of engaging students in an online format. In addition, not having Janiele have the opportunity to visit our campus, limited the activities that were available for us.
- *Future Visits:* With the regular industry professionals we have come to talk to our students at Cal Poly, SLO, it was refreshing having topics discussed that can encourage students to explore other career paths than the typical engineering firm, especially ones relating to earthquake engineering.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo's EERI Student Chapter gratefully acknowledges the support of the Friedman Family for sponsoring the travel of Janiele Maffei through their Friedman Family Visiting Professional Program endowment.

Thank you to our SEAOC Student Chapter for helping host the meeting. Another special thank you to EERI who has continued to bring industry professionals to our campus to educate and excite students on the work that is being done in the realm of earthquake engineering.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

1. See below for the flier that was distributed to EERI and SEAOC Student Chapters, reaching the whole Architectural Engineering Department at Cal Poly, SLO that houses around 300 students.

