

Friedman Family Visiting Professionals Program



2019-2020 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
- 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 visiting professionals by increasing their understanding of the educational process experienced by young professionals now entering the field.

2019-2020 Program Overview

The Friedman Family Visiting Professionals program launched in September 2019 for the 2019-2020 academic year. Twenty-six visits were scheduled by 21 professionals from January to May 2020.

In August and early September 2019, EERI staff and the FFVP chair reviewed the budget and clarified the program's operational procedures for the academic year. The staff and chair also decided to add 7 new visiting professionals to the program. This included 2 young professionals and 5 mid/late-career professionals. Adding these professionals would minimize the number of professionals who needed to make 2 visits in one academic year. The new professionals are indicated in the list below and were appointed for a one-year renewable term.

In late September 2019, 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. Thirty-seven EERI student chapters applied to the program, and 26 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 the 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. In early 2020 there was also a kick-off call where returning professionals discussed what they enjoy most during their visits and what activities are most successful. New professionals had the opportunity to ask questions and get advice.

On March 12, 2020 EERI announced it was canceling all in-person activities (including FFVP visits) for the remainder of March and all of April due to the coronavirus pandemic. EERI sent a [letter](#) notifying professionals of the cancellation. On April 27, 2020 EERI extended this cancellation through the end of June 2020. Professionals were notified by an [updated letter](#) and told to cancel all remaining travel plans and work to reschedule their visits for the next academic year. The pandemic greatly impacted the number of visits that took place. Only 9 out of 26 visits were able to happen. It also impacted student chapters who had a visit by making it difficult to complete their reports.

Upon the conclusion of their 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. As stated above, reporting was difficult this year due to the coronavirus pandemic disrupting chapters and students transitioning to remote learning.

The template includes the following sections:

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

Visiting professionals were also asked to complete an evaluation that would help EERI staff improve the program. 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 2019-2020 academic year, along with their firm and disciplinary area of expertise.

- Christine Beyzaei, Exponent, Geotechnical Engineering (new)
- Erik Bishop, Reid Middleton, Structural Engineering (new)
- Dana Brechwald, Bay Conservation and Development Commission, Urban Planning (new)
- David Cocke, Structural Focus, Structural Engineering
- Ronald Eguchi, ImageCat, Risk Analysis, Lifelines, and Industrial Facilities

- David Friedman, Forell/Elsesser, Structural Engineering
- Ramin Golesorkhi, Langan, Geotechnical Engineering
- Nathan Gould, ABS Consulting, Structural Engineering
- John Hooper, Magnusson Klemencic, Structural Engineering
- Ezra Jampole, Exponent, Structural Engineering (new)
- Janiele Maffei, California Earthquake Authority, Structural Engineering
- Faiz Makdisi, Gannett Fleming, Geotechnical Engineering
- Jim Malley, Degenkolb Engineers, Structural Engineering
- Brent Maxfield, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Structural Engineering (new)
- Jorge Meneses, RMA Group, Geotechnical Engineering
- Troy Morgan, Exponent, Structural Engineering (new)
- Sissy Nikolaou, WSP USA, Geotechnical Engineering
- Maryann Phipps, Estructure, Structural Engineering
- John Thornely, Golder, Geotechnical Engineering (new)
- Jay Wilson, Clackamas County Disaster Management, Emergency Management
- Ivan Wong, Lettis Consultants, Seismology

Selected Universities

Twenty-six universities were selected to participate in the 2019-2020 program. Nine visits were completed and 5 reports were submitted. Reports can be found on [EERI's website](#) and are also linked below. Below is a list of all universities, their matched professional, and the status of their visit.

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

Troy Morgan visited on February 8, 2020. He was hosted by:

- Ryan Millward, Chapter President
- Tomlinn Cox, Chapter Vice President
- Anahid Behrouzi, Chapter Faculty Advisor

Their chapter did not submit their visit report.

California State University, Chico

Janiele Maffei visited on March 10, 2020. She was hosted by:

- Ernesto Alvarez, Chapter Outreach Coordinator
- Jack Anderson, Chapter Publications officer
- Jordan Beach, Chapter President
- Dr. Steffen Mehl, CE Department Chair
- Dr. Jared DeBock, Professor
- Dr. Curtis Haselton, Professor
- Brent Cunningham, NMR Engineer

Concordia University, Montreal, QC, Canada

David Friedman visited on March 10, 2020. He was hosted by:

- Timir Baran Roy, Chapter President

- Hasan Ayouby, Chapter Vice President
- Dr. Ashutosh Bagchi, Chapter Faculty Advisor

Their chapter did not submit their visit report.

[Johns Hopkins University](#)

Ezra Jampole visited on January 30, 2020. He was hosted by:

- Zhidong Zhang, Chapter President
- Dr. Benjamin Schafer, Chapter Faculty Advisor

[Stanford University](#)

Maryann Phipps visited on February 18, 2020. She was hosted by:

- Corinne Bowers, Chapter President
- Armando Messina, Chapter Vice President
- Yijie (Andrea) Gao, Chapter Secretary
- Professor Eduardo Miranda
- Professor Greg Deierlein

[The University of Texas at Austin](#)

Ramin Golesorkhi visited on February 20, 2020. He was hosted by:

- Farid Khosravikia, Chapter President
- Ghassan Fawaz, Chapter Vice President
- Patricia Clayton, Chapter Faculty Advisor

Their chapter did not submit their visit report.

[University of California, Irvine](#)

Christine Beyzaei visited on February 14, 2020. She was hosted by:

- Sarah Balaian, Chapter President
- Farzin Zareian, Chapter Faculty Advisor
- Larrie Aguirre, CEE Department Manager
- Bryan Orozco, Chapter Structural Design Co-Captain
- Melisa Akkaya, Chapter Structural Design Co-Captain
- Irma Nazario, Chapter Architectural Captain
- Austin Wang, Chapter Engineering Student Council Representative

[University of California, Los Angeles](#)

Brent Maxfield visited on February 4, 2020. He was hosted by:

- Omar Issa, Chapter President
- Siddhant Jain, Chapter Vice President
- Henry Burton, Chapter Faculty Advisor

Their chapter did not submit their visit report.

[University of California - San Diego](#)

Ivan Wong had a virtual lecture on May 11, 2020. An in-person visit is tentative for the next academic year.

[University of Toronto](#)

David Friedman visited on March 9, 2020. He was hosted by:

- Myron Chiyun Zhong, Chapter President
- Mohamed Sayed, Chapter Vice President
- Patrick Clarke, Chapter Director-Finance
- Allan Kuan, Chapter Director-Undergraduate Relations
- Nicole Piperis, Director-Events
- Jeffrey Salmon, Chapter Member
- Luis Ardila Bothia, Chapter Member
- Pedram Mortazavi, Chapter Member
- Dr. Michael Montgomery, Kinetica Dynamics
- Professor Evan Bentz
- Professor Constantin Christopoulos

Tentative for the next academic year

Erik Bishop - University of Notre Dame

Dana Brechwald - University of California, Davis and University of Victoria

David Cocke - Oregon State University

Ronald Eguchi - Rice University

Nathan Gould - University of Massachusetts Amherst

John Hooper - University of British Columbia, Vancouver

Ezra Jampole - University at Buffalo

Faiz Makdisi - University of Washington

Jim Malley - California State University, Sacramento and University of Kansas

Jorge Meneses - Portland State University

Troy Morgan - University of Nevada, Reno

Sissy Nikolaou - University of Nebraska, Lincoln

John Thornely - University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Jay Wilson - Lehigh University

2019-2020 Outcomes and Accomplishments

Despite the cancellation of most visits, the visits that did take place had great success. Below are a few quotes from students and professionals.

“Mr. Friedman’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. Mr. Friedman also gave the students career advice that was extremely beneficial.”

- University of Toronto

“Dr. Jampole’s visit was a successful event; our students benefited from his professional perspective on Legal and Insurance Disputes in Earthquake Engineering and his suggestions about their future careers.”

- Johns Hopkins University

“The most beneficial aspects of my visit were meeting with the student chapter and discussing pathways to a career in earthquake engineering and specializing in geotechnical engineering. Also, touring the lab facilities and hearing about the students' experimental research, meeting with the faculty, and learning more about the department and UCI EERI chapter activities.”

- Christine Beyzaei

“I most enjoyed learning about the efforts of the EERI Student Chapter President and Board to promote EERI and get the student members out into the community of engineers.”

- Brent Maxfield

Goals, Plans, and Activities for 2020-2021 Academic Year

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, it is unclear if the 2020-2021 program will be like typical years. The committee is working to get input from participating professionals to solidify a plan that would allow lectures and other visit activities to happen virtually if needed.

Consistent staff support will continue for the next academic year, and may increase if the program moves virtual. There is also still a plan to collect quantitative and qualitative data from visits to better track the program as a whole.

List of Attachments

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

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