

Friedman Family Visiting Professionals Program



2023 - 2024 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 student's understanding of the multidisciplinary 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.

2023-2024 Program Overview

The Friedman Family Visiting Professionals program launched in August 2023 for the 2023-2024 academic year. 27 visits were scheduled by 18 professionals from February to June 2024.

In August 2023, EERI staff and the FFVP chair reviewed the budget and clarified the program's operational procedures for the academic year. That same month, an application for new professionals to join the program was advertised. In total, 9 professionals applied to the program, and 4 were accepted. These new professionals were Charles Scawthorn, Rafael Sabelli, Lindsey Maclise, and Maria Mohammed.

In late September 2024, the program was advertised to EERI student chapters with an application form requiring student chapters to select their top 3 professionals and describe the reasons for their choices. 30 EERI student chapters applied to the program and 29 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.

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 feedback on the success of the program and areas for improvement. The reporting template and questionnaire have streamlined visit feedback, but chapters still regularly need reminders to submit by the deadline.

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. Generally, feedback from the professionals was very good and will help improve our program in the coming academic year.

List of Visiting Professionals

Below are the names of the visiting professionals participating in the program during the 2023-2024 academic year, along with their firm and disciplinary areas of expertise.

- Erik Bishop, Reid Middleton, Inc., Structural Engineering
- David Cocke, Structural Focus, Structural Engineering
- Ronald Eguchi, ImageCat Inc., Risk Analysis, Lifelines, and Industrial Facilities
- David Friedman, Forell | Elsesser Engineers, Structural Engineering
- Ramin Golesorkhi, Langan, Geotechnical Engineering
- John Hooper, Magnusson Klemencic Associates, Structural Engineering
- Lindsey Maclise, Forell | Elsesser Engineers, Structural Engineering
- Janiele Maffei, California Earthquake Authority, Structural Engineering
- Faiz Makdisi, Gannett Fleming, Inc., Geotechnical Engineering
- Jim Malley, Degenkolb Engineers, Structural Engineering
- Jorge Meneses, Advisian, Geotechnical Engineering
- Maria Mohammed, Structural Focus, Structural Engineering
- Sissy Nikolaou, NIST, Geotechnical Engineering
- Rafael Sabelli, Walter P Moore, Structural Engineering
- Charles Scawthorn, SPA Risk LLC, Risk Analysis, Lifelines, and Industrial Facilities
- John Thornley, WSP USA Inc., Geotechnical Engineering
- Jay Wilson, Oregon Emergency Management, Emergency Management
- Ivan Wong, Lettis Consultants International, Seismology

Selected Universities

29 universities were selected to participate in the 2023-2024 program. The participating universities have submitted reports summarizing each visit which can be found at the links below.

University (and link to report)	Professional	Date
Rice University	John Thornley	2/13/24
University of Texas at Austin	John Hooper	2/21/24
California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo	Charles Scawthorn	2/26/24
Polytechnique Montreal	Jim Malley	2/27/24
University of Washington, Seattle	Janiele Maffei	3/7/24
University of Victoria	Maria Mohammed	3/10/24
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona	David Cocke	3/12/24
Stanford University	Lindsey Maclise	3/13/24
University of British Columbia	Ramin Golesorkhi	3/13/24
University of Minnesota	Ronald Eguchi	3/15/24
North Carolina State University	David Friedman	3/19/24
Utah State University	Faiz Makdisi	3/21/24
Johns Hopkins University	David Friedman	3/28/24
University of Massachusetts Amherst	Rafael Sabelli	4/1/24
University of Toronto	David Cocke	4/3/24
University of California, Berkeley	Jay Wilson	4/3/24
University of California, Davis	Jay Wilson	4/4/24
University of Notre Dame	Sissy Nikolaou	4/4/24
University at Buffalo	David Cocke	4/5/24
University of California, San Diego	Ramin Golesorkhi	4/16/24
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	Ivan Wong	4/18/24

University of Nevada, Reno	John Hooper	4/26/24
Portland State University	Rafael Sabelli	5/10/24
The University of Memphis	Ivan Wong	5/14/24
Oregon State University	Jorge Meneses	5/17/24
Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú	Ivan Wong	5/21/24
Virginia Tech	Jorge Meneses	5/25/24
Purdue University	Erik Bishop	Will take place Fall 2024
Universitas Indonesia	John Thornley	Will take place Fall 2024

2023-2024 Outcomes and Accomplishments

The 2023-2024 program achieved great success, as shown in the evaluation forms from student chapters and professionals.

The most beneficial aspect of the visit by Mr. Ivan Wong to the University of Nebraska—Lincoln, as part of the Friedman Family Visiting Professional Program, was the comprehensive insight into earthquake hazards provided during his presentations. The student chapter particularly enjoyed the interactive Q&A sessions, where they engaged directly with Mr. Wong on various topics of earthquake engineering. These discussions not only deepened their understanding of earthquake risks and seismic design but also allowed them to explore the practical implications of theoretical knowledge in real-world settings. The opportunity to converse informally with an expert of Mr. Wong's stature and to receive firsthand knowledge on the nuances of earthquake preparedness and prediction technologies was immensely valued by the students. This interactive element of the visit was especially appreciated as it bridged the gap between academic learning and professional application.

- University of Nebraska—Lincoln

For the board what we enjoyed the most was the lunch where she [Lindsey Maclise] gave us career advice. She gave valuable information on how to pick a firm that will help you grow. For the chapter as a whole, we think people enjoyed her discussion on what got her involved in EERI and what she has done with the organization, specifically relating to community service.

- Stanford University

Meeting with professors, especially the younger ones, and students and visiting laboratories. I continue to learn new things about what they are doing, thinking about, and what their long-term goals are. Fantastic experience for me.

- Ronald Eguchi

Throughout my visit, I had the opportunity to question and make suggestions, and found the intellectual atmosphere to be warm and welcoming. I departed Cal Poly feeling my role had been reversed – while my intention had been to bring experience and knowledge to the students, I left feeling I gained much more than I'd brought.

- Charles Scawthorn

Goals, Plans, and Activities for 2024-2025 Academic Year

For the 2024-2025 academic year, the program plans to schedule at least 20 university visits pending a detailed budget assessment.

Staff plans to assess the number of visiting professionals, how long some have served in this role, and look into inviting new professionals to join the program. Staff is especially looking to add additional women and individuals on the East Coast or Central US to increase the diversity of the program. This may be done using an application, similar to how new professionals were found at the start of the 2022-2023 program year.

Additionally, staff also plans to continue to collect quantifiable data from our visits to better track the program as a whole. Improved surveys and a plan to implement an individual student attendee survey to collect more feedback and aid in membership recruitment.

List of Attachments

See the [Friedman Family Visiting Professional web page](#) for report downloads and other information.