

# FRIEDMAN FAMILY VISITING PROFESIONALS PROGRAM



## Visit to California State Polytechnic University, Pomona: April 16th, 2024

This report summarizes the visit of **David Cocks** from Structural Focus that took place at the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

### ITINERARY OF VISIT

TIME:	ACTIVITY:
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Student Chapter Representative meets & welcomes David to campus
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	<b>Cal Poly Pomona (CPP) EERI Chapter General Meeting</b> – David serves as a guest speaker for EERI CPP and shares his industry expertise and advice with students
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM	<b>Meeting with Structural Engineering Association (SEA) CPP Timber Strong Design Build Team</b>
2:30 PM – 4:00 PM	<b>Meeting with CPP EERI Officers about Seismic Design Competition</b>
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	<b>Tour of Campus</b> including structural design labs and showcasing prior EERI CPP SDC balsa wood structures

### STUDENT CHAPTER VISIT PLANNING COMMITTEE

#### LEAD ORGANIZER(S):

- **Marissa Hernandez**, EERI CPP President, **email:** marissahernandez237@gmail.com
- **Joshua Romero**, EERI CPP Design Captain, **email:** joshuaromero626@gmail.com
- **Khanh Doan**, EERI CPP Design Lead, **email:** phuongkhanh2210@gmail.com

Supporting faculty include the EERI CPP Faculty Advisor Felipe Perez.

### VISITING PROFESSIONAL LECTURE OVERVIEW

#### Lecture Abstract

David discussed his experience in the preservation and seismic retrofitting of historic buildings. He discussed how historic buildings are regulated by a unique set of codes different than those applicable to new construction structures. He also discussed a couple specific historic buildings he has worked on such as the Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood. Lastly, he concluded his presentation with a set of advice for aspirational structural engineers including how to navigate their careers during college and beyond.



Figure 1. David's Guest Lecture to Cal Poly Pomona's EERI Student Chapter

## Professional Bio

David Cocke is a principal and the founder of Southern California structural engineering firm Structural Focus. He is a registered structural engineer in California and several other states. He has a wide range of expertise in structural engineering, but one of his specialties is the preservation and retrofit of historic buildings. David has also served in a variety of leadership roles and has been an active participant in a variety of professional engineering organizations such as the Structural Engineers Association of Southern California, ASCE SEI, and the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute.

## SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

### Meeting with Structural Engineering Association (SEA) CPP Timber Strong Design Build Team

The SEA chapter at CPP constructed a 2-story wood light-framed building and competed in an ASCE regional competition in Hawaii this past March. The goal of this activity is for the design and construction team to present their project to David, share their experience, and seek advice for their future careers. Additionally, another goal of this activity was for the SEA CPP club to collaborate with EERI CPP for this visit.



Figure 2. David with Timber Strong Design and Construction Team Presenters

### Meeting with CPP EERI Officers about Seismic Design Competition

The goal of this activity was for EERI CPP Officers to share their SDC presentation with David and seek advice for future competitions. It was attended by both EERI CPP as well as SEA CPP club members. David's visit was the week following SDC, so we discussed challenges we had to overcome both leading up to as well as during the competition. The officers also sought advice on planning for future years.



Figure 3. David with EERI CPP Officers and Presenters

## RESULTS, FEEDBACK AND LESSONS LEARNED

Challenges during the process were scheduling the visit date with other structural engineering clubs on the Cal Poly Pomona campus. CPP EERI only holds general meetings every other Tuesday so there were limited dates to select from to schedule a visit.

David's visit and guest lecture were well received by both CPP EERI officers and general members alike, and we were grateful to hear from a passionate, experienced industry professional.

- A goal for the future would be to collaborate with other larger Civil Engineering clubs on campus such as ASCE
- Another lesson learned would be to schedule the visit before SDC because this visit was the week immediately following the competition

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Cal Poly Pomona EERI Student Chapter gratefully acknowledges the support of the Friedman Family for sponsoring the travel of David Coke through their Friedman Family Visiting Professional Program endowment.

Our chapter is growing and having a guest lecture from an industry speaker who has a wide portfolio of expertise is valuable and appreciated by our chapter.

## LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Included at the end of this report are various attachments to supplement the information included above. A list of the attachments is included below:

- Flier advertising event

# ABOUT DAVID COCKE

David Cocke, a seasoned expert in seismic evaluation, historic preservation, retrofits, and new design, has significantly contributed to our understanding of earthquake engineering. His commitment to EERI and various professional communities underlines his passion for advancing our field and mentoring the next generation of engineers. With notable projects like the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts and the new Amazon campus at Culver Studios under his belt, David's work exemplifies engineering excellence.

JOIN US TO HEAR DAVID SHARE HIS JOURNEY, VISION, AND INSIGHTS ON THE FUTURE OF EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE.

The logo for the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI), featuring the letters 'EERI' in a stylized, stacked font.The logo for the Structural Engineers Association of California (SEA), featuring the letters 'SEA' in a stylized font with 'STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION' and 'CAL POLY POMONA' around it.The logo for the American Concrete Institute (ACI), featuring the letters 'aci' in a stylized font.The logo for CalGeo, featuring the text 'CalGeo' next to a stylized map of California.

UPCOMING SPEAKER EVENT

## MEET DAVID COCKE

Tuesday, April 16  
U- Hour (12pm-1pm)  
Bldg. 9 Rm. 243