

FRIEDMAN FAMILY VISITING PROFESIONALS PROGRAM



Visit to University of California, Davis: May 14, 2015

This report summarizes the visit of **Dr. Ramin Golesorkhi** from Langan Treadwell Rollo that took place at the University of California, Davis, on May 14, 2015,

ITINERARY OR AGENDA

Provide the itinerary of the visit. For example:

TIME:	ACTIVITY:
11:30 AM – 11:50 AM	Student Chapter Co-presidents meet & welcome Dr. Golesorkhi to campus.
11:50 AM – 12:10 AM	Informal chat with faculty
12:15 PM – 1:05 PM	Guest lecture by Dr. Golesorkhi
1:10 PM – 1:30 PM	Informal discussions with students and faculty.
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	Lunch with students at UC Davis Gunrock Pub

STUDENT CHAPTER VISIT PLANNING COMMITTEE

LEAD ORGANIZERS:

- Diane Moug, co-president, dmmoug@ucdavis.edu
- Trevor Carey, member, tjcarey@ucdavis.edu
- Dr. Sashi Kunnath, faculty advisor, skkunnath@ucdavis.edu

VISITING PROFESSIONAL LECTURE OVERVIEW

Effect of Soil-foundation-Structure Interaction on Site-specific response spectra – A Case History Perspective

Lecture Abstract

The effect of soil-foundation-structure interaction (SSI) on the site-specific response spectra is presented. These effects are evaluated using non-linear SSI computer program FLAC for three levels of ground shaking. The selection and development of ground motion time series using the concept of Conditional Mean Spectra is also discussed.

Professional Bio

Registered civil (California and New York) and geotechnical engineer (California), principal/vice president and director of earthquake engineering services at a 850-person geotechnical and environmental engineering firm with more than 26 years of experience in seismic analysis and foundation engineering. He received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from Tufts University and his PhD from the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Golesorkhi directs the development of seismic and geotechnical design criteria appropriate for industrial, residential, private and government office buildings, hospitals and healthcare facilities, bridges,

elevated freeways and viaducts, base isolated structures, tunnels, and seismic strengthening of existing structures. His projects include: the new Asian Art Museum, numerous high-rise towers, a major refinery in Peru, AT&T Park, Levi's Stadium, and the State office building in San Francisco. His experience stretches throughout the United States, South America, Southeast Asia, India and the Middle East.

SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Informal discussions with students and faculty

After his lecture was finished and questions were answered, Dr. Golesorkhi had time to chat with students and faculty—especially Professor Ross Boulanger, who knew Ramin from his days at UC Berkeley. Similarly, many other students and faculty know Dr. Golesorkhi from his previous visits to UC Davis, so they were able to touch-base and catch up with him. Dr. Golesorkhi was presented with a bottle of the famous UC Davis olive oil, as a token of appreciation for coming to Davis.

Lunch with students at UC Davis Gunrock Pub

Trevor, Vincente, and Mohamed took Dr. Golesorkhi out to lunch at Gunrock Pub. They had informal discussions about research, projects, courses, faculty/colleagues, and the Civil Engineering discipline. Ramin was able to offer everyone career advice and suggestions for achieving success. He also shared amusing anecdotes about many prominent figures in the Civil Engineering discipline, and about his own work as a Geotechnical Engineer in the Bay Area.

RESULTS, FEEDBACK AND LESSONS LEARNED

- Reception of Ramin was excellent. Many students attended the presentation, and students and faculty alike were excited to ask questions and chat. Ramin offered insightful responses, and everyone seemed to really appreciate his visit.
- This event boosted the prominence of the UC Davis EERI chapter. Since many non-members were invited to the event, this served as an indirect recruiting tool for the chapter. To that end, Ramin's quick plug for EERI at the beginning of the presentation (the required "About EERI" intro slides) was much appreciated.
- Challenges included the UC Davis chapter's lack of funding for lunch; this funding was supplemented by the UC Davis GGSS chapter. Furthermore, Dr. Golesorkhi had visited UC Davis many times before, and so giving tours of lab facilities would have been redundant and wasteful of time. In future years, perhaps the chapter will try to select a more unfamiliar face for the Friedman Visiting Professional event, while still inviting Ramin and others as separate events. Finally, it was difficult to coerce structures students into attending a presentation primarily about geotechnical information, although attendance was excellent nonetheless.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The UC Davis EERI Student Chapter gratefully acknowledges the support of the Friedman Family for sponsoring the travel of Dr. Ramin Golesorkhi through their Friedman Family Visiting Professional Program endowment. Furthermore, the chapter would like to thank the Geotechnical Graduate Student Society (GGSS) at UC Davis, which provided funding for students to have lunch with Dr. Golesorkhi, and supported the EERI chapter in organizing and hosting the event.