



Visiting Professional Report October 3, 2006

Ron Eguchi

ImageCat, Inc., Long Beach, CA

Introduction

On Tuesday, October 3, 2006 Ron Eguchi visited the Civil Engineering Department of the Georgia Institute of Technology through the Friedman Family Visiting Professionals Program. The objective of this visit was to help enhance the students' and faculty's knowledge of current professional practices in the area of earthquake risk analysis and post-earthquake damage detection studies and to provide Ron with an understanding of the current educational practices being employed at Georgia Tech.

Department Seminar hosted by EERI

EERI supported the lunch seminar which was open to the whole Civil Engineering Department at Georgia Tech. The topic of the presentation was "Using Remote Sensing Technologies to Improve Community Resilience." The lecture focused on the practice of structural and earthquake engineering related, in particular, to earthquake damage detection techniques and remote sensing technologies for earthquake reconnaissance. The presentation provided the students with an understanding of conventional approach and recent development in hazard mitigating strategies. Emphasis was placed on a decade of research funded by the Multidisciplinary Center for Earthquake Engineering Research (MCEER) on earthquake damage detection techniques after large earthquakes, the application of new and advanced technologies for earthquake reconnaissance, and the future direction of remote sensing technologies for multi-hazard damage analysis. The ultimate goal of all these research efforts is to improve the ability of communities to plan and respond to large disasters. The lecture was well received by all of the students in the class with many of them staying after class to ask Ron further questions.



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(b)

Figure 1, Views from departmental EERI lunch seminar ; (a) EERI President, Matthew Speicher, introducing Ron Eguchi as the guest presenter and (b) Memorial photo with Dr. DesRoches, Ron Eguchi, and EERI Officers after the seminar



Faculty and Graduate Lunch

After the seminar, Ron was invited to join some of the faculty and graduate student members of EERI for lunch. The informal setting at Nan Thai Fine Dining provided some time to relax and discuss some of the work that he and his company had been doing and introduce some of the research that our faculty and the graduate students are working on in the structures group at Georgia Tech.

Lab Tour

After the lunch, EERI faculty advisor, Dr. DesRoches gave Ron on a structural laboratory tour. The tour provided an opportunity to explain some of the large scale experimental research that is being done at Georgia Tech and allowed Ron to see first hand some of the innovative technology that is being developed and may some day be used in practice. A guided tour of old tested specimen sitting outside was also very informative to see and learn the visible history of technology development.

Campus Tour

EERI President, Matthew Speicher accompanied on a walking tour of Georgia Tech's campus and explained some of the history and background of Georgia Tech and its buildings. Ron was very impressed at the award winning recreation facilities of Georgia Tech. The campus tour provided Ron with a break from his tight schedule and allowed him to enjoy some of the great fall weather in Atlanta.

Meetings with Graduates

The afternoon provided an opportunity for Ron to meet individually with some of the graduate students of the structures group at Georgia Tech. He met with students who work in the areas of seismic risk assessment and rehabilitation of bridge structures, seismic hazard assessment of port structures and the development of safety and serviceability criteria for structural design. The students were very pleased to share their work with Ron and gather his insight on the state of practice in the field of structural and earthquake engineering. The meetings were a good way for current practice and state-of-the-art research to come together.

Dinner

The school visit concluded with dinner at a local restaurant with a couple of the EERI officers. Further discussion continued over dinner about some of the aspects of earthquake engineering brought up earlier in the day. Dinner also provided a means of feedback on how the visit ran from both Ron's perspective and those at Georgia Tech. It was concluded that Ron's visit was entirely successful in reaching the goals of the visiting professionals program and all were pleased with how the day had progressed. As a parting gift, Ron was given a Georgia Tech EERI chapter polo shirt as thanks for his time and efforts.



Visit around Atlanta

At the next day of school visit, Ron and his wife enjoyed the one day tour of Atlanta city area under the brilliant weather of fall. Dr. DesRoches and his wife, Paula invited them to an oceanic restaurant at uptown Atlanta to enjoy the last moment.

Final Remarks

The Georgia Tech EERI student chapter is grateful for the support that EERI and the Friedman Family Visiting Professional Program has given in regards to Ron Eguchi's visit. The success of the visit is a true testament to the programs ability to bring the academic and professional side of earthquake engineering together and provide a unique opportunity for students to see what their future may hold. The experience and knowledge brought by Ron was both interesting and educational for the Department of Civil Engineering at Georgia Tech. A tremendous thanks goes out to Ron Eguchi and all of those involved with making this visit possible.