



**Earthquake Engineering Research Institute  
University of British Columbia Student Chapter**



Friedman Family Visiting Professional Program

Mr. David Friedman, S.E.  
March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 2007

The EERI sponsors the Friedman Family Visiting Professional Program to match potential visiting professionals with host institutions, usually universities, for a one or two day workshop of current topics related to earthquake engineering and earthquake risk reduction. This exchange is meant to be part lecture and part informal discussion with faculty and students. The visiting professionals come from a wide range of disciplines, including engineering, earth science, seismology, architecture, planning, public policy and the social sciences.

Following the success of visits by Bill Holmes in 2005 and John Hopper in 2006, the UBC-EERI Student Chapter once again participated in the EERI Friedman Family Visiting Professional Program. The Chapter was extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to host Mr. David Friedman, S.E. on March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of 2007. Mr. Friedman is President and Chairman of the Board of Forell/Elsesser Engineers, Inc., a mid-sized structural and earthquake engineering firm in San Francisco, California.

On the first evening of his visit, Mr. Friedman was met by several UBC-EERI Student Chapter members and the Chapter's Faculty Representative, Dr. Ken Elwood, at an acclaimed restaurant on Vancouver's scenic waterfront. Over dinner, Mr. Friedman, Dr. Elwood and the Student Chapter introduced themselves and discussed some of the ongoing research at UBC. Recent activities of the UBC-EERI Student Chapter were explained by Tim Matthews, the Chair of the Student Chapter, while the itinerary and time schedule for the presentations were outlined by Soheil Yavari, the organizer of the event. A variety of other topics were discussed at dinner, including earthquake engineering, the fields of research and professional practice, and of course, non-engineering related issues such as politics, sports and family.

Mr. Friedman presented the first of his three lectures to a fourth year undergraduate

engineering class at UBC. The topic of the lecture was “The Practice of Structural and Earthquake Engineering Today”. Mr. Friedman emphasized the need to learn from previous earthquakes, and discussed the importance of structural engineers understanding the needs of the owner and architect in achieving a successful project. The lecture concluded with detailed descriptions of several of Forell/Elsesser’s highest profile projects, including San Francisco City Hall and the San Francisco Asian Art Museum.

After the morning lecture, Mr. Friedman met for lunch with two faculty members of the UBC Department of Civil Engineering. A short tour of the UBC Structural/Earthquake Lab followed lunch. On this tour, Mr. Friedman was advised of several current UBC experimental shake table tests.

Mr. Friedman’s second presentation was given to graduate students of the UBC Civil Engineering Department at the weekly Structural and Earthquake Engineering Seminar. The topic of the lecture was “Base Isolation: What, Why, Where & How?” Mr. Friedman compared conventional fixed base systems with systems using seismic isolation technology. A chronology of Forell/Elsesser’s base isolation projects demonstrated the application of this technology.

Mr. Friedman’s third lecture was presented to an audience of practicing engineers, graduate students and university faculty at a conference hotel in Downtown Vancouver. This presentation discussed the development of building code seismic provisions relative to seismic performance. Recent project examples were used to illustrate high performance and performance-based designs, including a number of base isolation projects.

A brief abstract of each of Mr. Friedman’s presentations can be found on the Student Chapter Website:

<http://www.civil.ubc.ca/research/EERI/>

The UBC-EERI Student Chapter would like to thank those who made Mr. Friedman's visit possible. In particular we would like to thank the EERI Friedman Family Visiting Professional Program, the UBC Department of Civil Engineering and the Vancouver Structural Engineers Group Society (VSEGS). Finally, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to David Friedman for his enlightening and enjoyable visit to UBC.



Morning presentation for undergraduate students



Evening presentation for practicing engineers, graduate students, and faculty