



Earthquake Engineering Research Institute
University of Notre Dame Student Chapter
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February 24, 2005

Ms. Sonya Hollenbeck
Member Relations
Earthquake Engineering Research Institute
499 14th Street, Suite 320
Oakland, CA 94612-1934

Dear Ms. Hollenbeck:

On behalf of the Department of Civil Engineering and Geological Sciences and the Student Chapter of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute at the University of Notre Dame (EERI@UND), we'd like to thank EERI for sponsoring the recent visit of Mr. Leslie E. Robertson of Leslie E. Robertson Associates, R.L.L.P. as part of the Friedman Family Visiting Professionals Program. The visit was a tremendous success amongst our faculty as well as our undergraduate and graduate students.

Enclosed you will find a brief report which is featured on the EERI website, Mr. Robertson's formal itinerary, and our advertisement for his lecture. Throughout his visit, Mr. Robertson shared a number of experiences and candid thoughts with our students and faculty. We feel that the Friedman Family Visiting Professional Program is a tremendous benefit to the universities involved, and we were thrilled to be able to participate. It was a pleasure to host such a renowned structural engineer as Mr. Robertson, and we look forward to hosting future EERI Visiting Professionals.

Sincerely,

Brad Weldon
President
bweldon@nd.edu

Elizabeth Kerr
Vice President

Michael Kochly
Secretary

Kyle Butler
Treasurer

Rachel Bashor
Webmaster

VISIT SUMMARY

The University of Notre Dame's EERI Student Chapter was fortunate to host Mr. Leslie E. Robertson of Leslie E. Robertson Associates, R.L.L.P. in New York City, New York as part of the EERI Friedman Family Visiting Professionals Program.

Mr. Robertson was kept extremely busy throughout his visit at Notre Dame. He arrived in South Bend on Tuesday February 22, and was greeted by EERI@UND president Brad Weldon. He then proceeded to a couple of faculty meetings, and concluded his day by enjoying dinner with Brad Weldon, EERI@UND vice president Liz Kerr, and Notre Dame faculty member Dr. Wilasa Vichit-Vadakan.

On the day of his lectures, Mr. Robertson started the day off by eating breakfast with Liz Kerr and EERI@UND secretary Michael Kochly. He then engaged in several more meetings with faculty, the dean of engineering, and was treated to a tour of the new DeBartolo Performing Arts Center on campus. Later that morning, Mr. Robertson gave a class lecture entitled "The Design of a 500-Meter Building Located in a High Seismic Zone." The lecture highlighted several of Mr. Robertson's projects, and focused on the Shanghai World Financial Center, which had earthquake implications in the design. The talk was attended by EERI@UND members, undergraduate students, other graduate students, and faculty members.

For lunch, Mr. Robertson sat down with the entire EERI student chapter for an informal gathering. During this time, the students discussed with him the major activities of the Notre Dame chapter of EERI, particularly in the areas of community outreach programs, and had an opportunity to learn more about Mr. Robertson's achievements, both academic and personal. In addition Mr. Robertson had the opportunity to learn more about the individuals that make up the membership of the EERI@UND student chapter.

That evening, Mr. Robertson presented another lecture for the Notre Dame engineering community and numerous professional engineering members. This talk, entitled "The Merging of Structural Engineering and Architecture: A Short History of the Designs of Leslie Robertson" was held in the Notre Dame Football Stadium Pressbox, a unique setting that has never previously been granted to a student group. His talk was an overview of his prolific career and contained insight into many of his upcoming projects.

The following day, Mr. Robertson started his morning off with a breakfast with EERI@UND officers Brad Weldon and Kyle Butler. Following breakfast, Mr. Robertson sat down to meet with several professional engineering members in the South Bend area. To conclude his short visit to Notre Dame, he ate lunch with EERI@UND officers Brad Weldon, Liz Kerr, Michael Kochly, and Rachel Bashor. After lunch he concluded his short, but successful visit, and departed to the Chicago O'Hare Airport.

In addition to this summary, a summary of Mr. Leslie E. Robertson's visit is available on our chapter website. [www.nd.edu/~eeriund].

ITINERARY

Leslie E. Robertson
LERA – New York, NY
EERI Friedman Family Visiting Professional

Tuesday, February 22, 2005

Arrive in South Bend
Accommodations at the Inn at Saint Mary's, confirmation #14702
2:30 p.m. Meet Brad Weldon in lobby at the Inn at Saint Mary's
3:00 p.m. Dr. Lynn A. Salvati, Room 168, Fitzpatrick Hall
3:30 p.m. Dr. Yahya C. Kurama, Room 157, Fitzpatrick Hall
4:00 p.m. Meeting with undergraduate students, Room 156 Fitzpatrick Hall
5:45 p.m. Dinner at LaSalle Grill with Dr. Vichit-Vadakan, Liz Kerr and Brad Weldon

Wednesday, February 23, 2005

7:00 a.m. Breakfast at the Inn at Saint Mary's with Mike Kochly and Liz Kerr
8:30 a.m. Butch Layman in the Main Building
10:00 a.m. Ray Phillips in the Debartolo Performing Arts Center
11:30 a.m. Prep time for lecture
11:45 a.m. Lecture, "The Design of a 500-Meter Building Located in a High Seismic Zone",
ETS Theater, McKenna Hall
1:30 p.m. Lunch with EERI students, Room 256 Fitzpatrick Hall
3:00 p.m. Dean Frank Incropera, Room 257, Fitzpatrick Hall
3:30 p.m. Dr. Tracy L. Kijewski-Correa, Room 158, Fitzpatrick Hall
4:00 p.m. Dr. Peter C. Burns, Room 156, Fitzpatrick Hall
4:30 p.m. Return to the Inn at Saint Mary's transportation provided by Dr. Vichit-Vadakan
5:45 p.m. Meet Dr. Vichit-Vadakan in lobby at the Inn at Saint Mary's
6:00 p.m. Reception at the Football Stadium Press Box
6:30 p.m. Dinner
7:30 p.m. Lecture, "The Merging of Structural Engineering and Architecture:
A Short History of the Designs of Leslie Robertson"
9:00 p.m. Return to hotel

Thursday, February 24, 2005

7:30 a.m. Breakfast at the Inn at Saint Mary's with Kyle Butler and Brad Weldon
9:00 a.m. Meeting with community engineers
10:00 a.m. Coffee break with Brad Weldon
10:45 a.m. Dr. Wilasa Vichit-Vadakan, Room 160, Fitzpatrick Hall
12:30 p.m. Lunch at Legends with EERI@UND officers
2:00 p.m. Depart for Chicago O'Hare International Airport



EERI@UND Presents:



LESLIE E. ROBERTSON
of Leslie E. Robertson Associates, R.L.L.P.



February 23, 2005

Class Lecture:

The Design of a 500-Meter Building Located in a High Seismic Zone

Time: 11:45 am - 1:00 pm

Location: ETS Theater (McKenna Hall)

Dinner & Lecture:

*The Merging of Structural Engineering and Architecture:
A Short History of the Designs of Leslie Robertson*

Time: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Location: Notre Dame Stadium Press Box

Mr. Robertson began his engineering career in 1952, leading to the establishment of Leslie E. Robertson Associates, R.L.L.P. (LERA) with the guiding principle of providing an imaginative and responsible approach to engineering problems. Mr. Robertson is responsible for the structural design of hundreds of buildings and structures about the world...including the World Trade Center (New York), the United States Steel Headquarters (Pittsburgh), the Bank of China Tower (Hong Kong), Puerta de Europa (Madrid) and the Continental Arena (Meadowlands) as well as exceptional museums in Berlin and Portland (Maine) and the Miho Museum and Bridge (Japan). Mr. Robertson was recently named one of *Engineering News Record's* "125 Top People of the Past 125 Years". He has received numerous additional awards and honors including the Gengo Matsui Prize as the outstanding Structural Engineer in the world, the AIA Institute Honor and honorary membership with the AIA, New York; the Institution of Structural Engineers Gold Medal, the first Fazlur Rahman Khan Medal for his leadership in the structural design of tall buildings, the American Society of Civil Engineers' Outstanding Projects and Leaders award for lifetime contributions in design, the first Henry C. Turner Prize for Innovation in Construction Technology, and was recognized as ENR's Construction 'Man of the Year'. In 2003 the University of Notre Dame has awarded him an honorary doctorate degree in engineering. With his innovations in structural engineering, Mr. Robertson has set new standards in the design and construction of tall buildings.