Georgia Institute of Technology, EERI Student Chapter
2007-2008 Annual Report

General Chapter Information:

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2007-2008 Officers:

President: Benjamin D. Kosbab
Vice President: Varun
Treasurer: Juan M. Jimenez Chong
Secretary: Laura Diana Jacobs
Webmaster: Masahiro Kurata

Faculty Advisor:
Dr. Reginald DesRoches

Student Chapter Members:

1 Benjamin D. Kosbab 2 Varun
3 Juan M. Jimenez Chong 4 Laura Jacobs
5 Masahiro Kurata 6 Bo Yeon Lee
7 Curtis O’Malley 8 Jee Eun Hur
9 Laura Spencer 10 Lynne Schleiffarth
11 Karthik Ramanathan 12 Robert Moser
13 Matthew Speicher 14 Tim Wright
15 Tiziano Perea 16 Zhang Hui
17 Amal Raj Puther Jayapalan 18 Hunter Brown
19 Kristopher Neighbor 20 Christopher Shearer
21 Jazalyn Dukes 22 Soravit Vitoontus
Student Chapter Activities Calendar:

- July, 2007  GIFT-NEES-EERI Collaboration
- August 31, 2007  Executive Board Meeting
- September 5, 2007  Introduction and recruitment for EERI GT Chapter
- October 25, 2007  Friedman Visiting Professional: Mason Walters
- November 1, 2007  Outreach – East Valley Elementary School
- November 16, 2007  GT-EERI Officer Election Meeting
- December 5, 2007  Social Event – Atlanta Thrashers
- February 12, 2008  Seminar – James Pawlikowski S.E., SOM
- March 25, 2008  Small-Group Discussion, Dr. Dennis S. Mileti
- March 27, 2008  Seminar – Dr. Patrick Paultre, U. of Sherbrooke
- April 10, 2008  Outreach – Heritage Preparatory School visit
- May 13, 2008  Seminar – Dr. Markus J. Buehler, MIT
- May 20, 2008  Seminar – Dr. Masayoshi Nakashima, E-Defense

Community Outreach Activity Program:

GIFT-NEES-EERI Collaboration
Approximately 10 high school students from the GIFT program are doing an experimental investigation on cranes and their response to EQs. Laura Jacobs and Ben Kosbab gave an overview presentation of earthquake engineering and container crane dynamics. Laura provided demonstration and guidance with the shaketable, etc. The students built a crane out of wood and tested it on the table.

East Valley Elementary School Visit
EERI members visited the East Valley Elementary School in Cobb County, GA gifted class of 4th and 5th grade students during their bridge learning module. EERI gave an interactive presentation about structural concepts, bridge types, and the opportunities within engineering. The students had a lot of fun and were active participants with many questions. It was a successful event that provided a stimulating and positive learning experience, as well as encouraged the students to pursue higher education.

Heritage Preparatory School Visit
The chapter visited the Atlanta-based Heritage Preparatory School and presented to a class of 6th and 7th graders about the dangers and implications of earthquakes, and how we can prepare. A demonstration on the shaketable of structural performance of a model building was well received, as well as a liquefaction demonstration showing how a building sinks and a tank rises to the surface. The students demonstrated their learning by participating in a seismic building design competition.
EERI Annual Meeting
This year’s annual meeting was held in New Orleans, Louisiana. The theme of this conference was “Hurricane Katrina: Lessons for Earthquake Risk Reduction.” Laura Jacobs represented the Georgia Tech EERI chapter by presenting a poster on the previous years chapter activities.
Seminars and Guest Lecturers:

Friedman Visiting Professional – Mason Walters of Forell/Elsesser Engineering, Inc.
Georgia Tech was grateful to host Mr. Mason Walters of Forell/Elsesser as part of the Friedman Visiting Professional program. Mr. Walters gave a lecture to the undergraduate concrete design class, met with faculty, had lunch with EERI members, and was hosted to dinner by faculty and students. He also gave a departmental seminar about seismic isolation case studies, and their particular challenges.

Seminar – James Pawlikowski, S.E. of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP
James J. Pawlikowski of SOM gave a lecture entitled “Burj Dubai: A Case Study in Tall Building Design” to a group of over 100 students. The seminar focused on the process of designing a tall building, including the design of the structural system, wind engineering, and construction methods by considering SOM’s premier Burj Dubai project, which will be the tallest man-made structure.

Seminar – Dr. Patrick Paultre
Dr. Patrick Paultre, the Canada Research Chair in Earthquake Engineering at the University of Sherbrooke, gave a seminar to EERI members regarding the “Use of high-strength concrete in seismic zones: code development, experimental validations and damage under seismic excitation.” Dr. Paultre also joined several student members for dinner.

Seminar – Dr. Markus J. Buehler
Dr. Markus J. Buehler, the Esther and Harold E. Edgerton Assistant Professor at MIT, brought EERI members and faculty out of their seismic comfort zones with a presentation entitled “Beyond genomics: Deformation and fracture of protein materials.”

Seminar – Dr. Masayoshi Nakashima
Dr. Masayoshi Nakashima, professor of Kyoto University and the Director of E-Defense, entertained EERI members with an enthusiastic lecture regarding the “Roles of Large-Scale Structural Testing for Advancement of Earthquake Engineering.” The audience will never forget the videos of such large-scale experiments.

Small-Group Discussion – Dr. Dennis S. Muleti
Dr. Dennis S. Miletä, Director of the Natural Hazards Research Applications and Information Center at the University of Colorado Boulder and expert in the sociology of hazards and disasters, provided his views on the role and direction of the engineering community, especially in the handling of and preparedness for disasters during a small-group discussion with EERI members. The discussion turned out to be very eye-opening for many members, and a great opportunity to look at engineering from outside the technical details.
James Pawlikowski of SOM lectures to a packed house about the Burj Dubai

Mason Walters of Forell/Elsesser presents to EERI members

EERI officer presents Mason Walters with GT-EERI shirt

Standing room only for James Pawlikowski
Social Activities:
The Georgia Tech Chapter hosts social events for chapter members to foster the development of relationships outside of the school environment. In addition to lunches held on campus, EERI members attended an Atlanta Thrashers (NHL) game. This event offered an excellent opportunity for members to establish relationships and connections in order to work together and learn from one another.