



**University at Buffalo**

*The State University of New York*

Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering



Student Chapter  
University at Buffalo

# **Earthquake Engineering Research Institute**

## **University at Buffalo Student Chapter**

### **(UB-EERI)**

**Annual Report 2012-2013**

## Student Chapter of EERI at the University at Buffalo (UB-EERI)

### General information

#### *Affiliation of UB-EERI*

The parent organization of the Student Chapter of EERI at the University at Buffalo (abbreviated as UB-EERI) is the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI).

UB-EERI is headquartered at the Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering ([CSEE](#)) at the University at Buffalo ([UB](#)), the State University of New York. The UB-EERI Student Chapter is recognized as a Special Interest Club by the Graduate Student Association ([GSA](#)) of the University at Buffalo.

#### *Executive Officers 2012 - 2013*

<b>President:</b>	Maria Koliou	(mkoliou@buffalo.edu)
<b>Vice President:</b>	Siamak Epackachi	(siamakep@buffalo.edu)
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Alireza Farhidzadeh,	(alirezaf@buffalo.edu)
<b>Senator:</b>	Zahrasadat Lotfian	(zahrasad@buffalo.edu)
<b>Senator:</b>	Maikol Del Carpio Ramos	(mdcarpio@buffalo.edu)
<b>Senator:</b>	Mohammad Javad Hamidia	(mhamidia@buffalo.edu)
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Bismarck Luna	(bismarck@buffalo.edu)
<b>Past President:</b>	Konstantinos Oikonomou	(ko24@buffalo.edu)



**President:**  
Maria Koliou



**Vice-President:**  
Siamak Epackachi



**Treasurer:**  
Alireza Farhidzadeh



**Webmaster:**  
Bismarck Luna



**Senator:**  
Maikol Del Carpio



**Senator:**  
Zahra Lotfian



**Senator:**  
Mohammad Hamidia



**Past President:**  
Konstantinos Oikonomou

*2012-2013 UB-EERI Faculty Advisors*

**Dr. Andre Filiatrault**

Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering, University at Buffalo – State University of New York

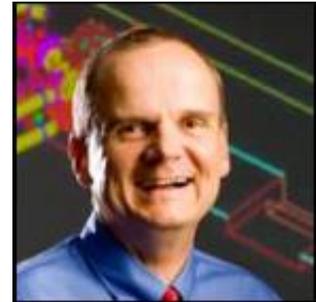
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**Dr. Andrei M. Reinhorn**

Professor Emeritus, Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering, University at Buffalo – State University of New York

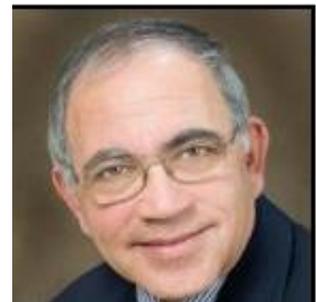
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***Contact Address***

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University at Buffalo – State University of New York  
Buffalo, NY 14260-4300  
U. S. A.

***UB-EERI Website***

Our website presents reports, abstracts, pictures, additional links and material regarding all our activities. Please visit our website to learn more about each of the activities listed in this report.

Webpage: <http://gsa.buffalo.edu/eeri/>

**UB-EERI Members during 2012-2013**

The majority of the members are registered graduate students in the Department of CSEE at the University at Buffalo – State University of New York. Some members are graduate students in the Department of Economics, the Department of Education, the Department of Chemistry, the Department of Physics, the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering (CBE), the Department of Electrical Engineering etc.

Many of the UB-EERI members are also members or officers of the Graduate Student Association of the Department of CSEE (CSEE-GSA).

The list of members of UB-EERI during the academic year 2012-2013 is provided below.

The UB-EERI and the CSEE-GSA work together on a number of activities on the UB campus, including the **Engineering Seminar Series**, **T.T. Soong Distinguished Lecture Series**, and **Poster Competition** which will be presented later.

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Grad / Undergrad or Non-Student</b>
1	Abolfath, Ramin	Physics	GRAD
2	Aleman, Juan	CSEE	GRAD
3	Alzeni Yasser	CSEE	GRAD
4	Alimperti, Styliani	CBE	GRAD
5	Bismarck, Luna	CSEE	GRAD
6	Bolisetti Chandrakanth	CSEE	GRAD
7	Calderon, Jean	Chemistry	GRAD
8	Del Carpio, Maikol	CSEE	GRAD
9	Epakachi Siamak	CSEE	GRAD
10	Erdemir, Ersoy	Foreign & Second Lang. Educ.	GRAD
11	Farfaras, Giorgos	Economics	GRAD
12	Guo, Xuhan	Economics	GRAD
13	Karakosta, Loukia	Medicine and Biomedical Sciences	GRAD
14	Koliou, Maria	CSEE	GRAD
15	Marin, Jesus	MAE	GRAD
16	Markopoulos, Panagiotis	EE	GRAD
17	Masroor, Armin	CSEE	GRAD
18	Mastri, Michalis	Medicine and Biomedical Sciences	GRAD
19	Merry, Brenna L	Education	GRAD
20	Mistriotis Panagiotis	CBE	GRAD
21	Moore, Kimberley	Urban Planning	GRAD
22	Moradinezhad Dizgah, Azadeh	Physics	GRAD
23	Muños Garcia, Ana Luisa	Education	GRAD
24	Mulero, Julie	Education	GRAD
25	Nicknam Afsoon	CSEE	GRAD
26	Oikonomou, Konstantinos	CSEE	GRAD
27	Oliveto, Nicholas	CSEE	GRAD
28	Ozel, Banu	English	GRAD
29	Panning, Katie	Education	GRAD
30	Roumpanis, Spyridon	Economics	GRAD
31	Sarlis, Apostolos	CSEE	GRAD
32	Sideris, Petros	CSEE	GRAD
33	Sklivanitis, Georgios	EE	GRAD
34	Staikos, Dimitrios	Economics	GRAD
35	Tao, Yuna	EE	GRAD
36	Temel, Melih	ISE	GRAD
37	Tsagkarakis, Nikolaos	EE	GRAD

38	Tsoutsoura Aikaterini	CBE	GRAD
39	Velazquez, Jesus M.	Chemistry	GRAD
40	Wang, Qian	MAE	GRAD
41	Whittaker, Luisa	Chemistry	GRAD
42	Yao, Yabin	Economics	GRAD
43	Yu, Tianyi	Economics	GRAD
44	Zhang, Yanyan	Economics	GRAD

### ***Financial Information***

The UB-EERI student chapter is affiliated to the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, while is also recognized as a Special Interest Club by the Graduate Student Association at the University at Buffalo.

Funding for club activities is provided by the EERI and is \$10 for each member of the club that is also a member of and in good standing with the EERI. The budget provided for the Academic year 2012-2013 was \$420. In addition, the club receives support of up to \$500 annually from the Graduate Student Association at UB.

The above support has been used to fund the activities of the UB-EERI student chapter, which are listed below.

### **2012-2013 UB-EERI Activities**

A major activity of the UB-EERI Student Chapter is the organization **Engineering Seminar Series** which is jointly organized and sponsored by UB-EERI, the Graduate Student Association of CSEE at UB (CSEE-GSA), the MCEER (formerly known as the Multidisciplinary Center for Earthquake Engineering Research), the Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation (NEES) and the Department of CSEE at UB. The purpose of this seminar series is to provide current information on topics of interest to the structural and earthquake engineering students at UB and provide a worthwhile opportunity for students to become familiar with industry and professional atmosphere through some technical presentations.

The distinguished **T. T. Soong Student Lecture Series** was established during the academic year 2011-2012 and is an enhancement to the traditional annual lecture series and recognizes Prof. Soong's outstanding research accomplishments and contributions to the field of structural and earthquake engineering over the course of his 48-year career at the University at Buffalo.

The seminar is organized and sponsored by the UB-EERI, CSEE-GSA, MCEER, NEES and the Dept. of CSEE at UB.

All Engineering Seminars as well as T.T. Soong Lectures are recorded, archived and posted on the website of the UB-EERI student chapter (<http://gsa.buffalo.edu/eeri/index.html>). Most of the UB-EERI / CSEE-GSA / MCEER / Dept. of CSEE seminars are webcast and can be attended online.

Apart from this series of activities, the UB-EERI organizes and participates in educational, social and outreach activities, such as a Departmental Poster Competition (CSEE Annual Graduate Poster Competition), annual pot-luck parties, coffee meetings, bowling nights, etc.

Some major events organized by the Student Chapter of EERI at UB are:

### Engineering Seminar Series

- **Eduardo Miranda:** Associate Professor at Stanford University, “*Recent Advances in Earthquake Loss Estimation in Buildings*”(June 20, 2012)
- **Satish Nagarajaiah:** Professor of Civil and Mechanical Engineering, Rice University, “*Adaptive Stiffness and Negative Stiffness for Seismic Protection*” (October 10, 2012)



**Prof. Satish Nagarajaiah with several attendees of his presentation**

- **Amado Gustavo Ayala-Milián:** Professor at Institute of Engineering at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), “*Recent Advances on Seismic Evaluation and Displacement-Based Design of Structures*” (November 7, 2012)

- **Dominic J. Kelly:** Principal, Simpson Gumpertz & Heger Inc. (SGH), “*Collapse of Shoring during Construction of the Elevated Walkway for the Atlanta Botanical Gardens*” (December 5, 2012)



**Mr. Dominic J. Kelly with several attendees of his presentation**

- **Alireza Hadjesfandiari:** Research Scholar, University at Buffalo-State University of New York, “*Size-Dependent Continuum Mechanics*” (February 22, 2012)

### **T. T. Soong Student Lecture Series**

- **Thomas D. O'Rourke:** Thomas R. Briggs Professor of Engineering, Cornell University, “*The New Normal for Natural Disasters*” (2012 EERI Distinguished Lecturer) (October 11, 2012)

The major sponsor for this event was the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI).



**Prof. Thomas D. O'Rourke with several attendees of his presentation**

- **Kazuhiko Kasai:** Professor and Director, Structural Engineering Research Center (SERC), Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan, “*Full-Scale Steel Building Tests Using the World's Largest Shake Table*” and “*Recorded Performance of Tall Buildings during the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake*” (November 26, 2012)



**Prof. Kazuhiko Kasai with several attendees of his presentation**

- **Jacobo Bielak:** Professor, Carnegie Mellon University, “*Soil-Structure Interaction Effects of Building Clusters During Earthquakes*” (March 22, 2013)



**Prof. Jacobo Bielak with several attendees of his presentation**

- **Andrei M. Reinhorn:** Professor Emeritus, University at Buffalo-State University of New York, “*Control of Inelastic Structures by Weakening and Damping*” (April 5, 2013)



**Prof. Andrei M. Reinhorn with several attendees of his presentation**

### **2013 Annual CSEE Graduate Student Poster Competition**

The Annual CSEE Graduate Student Poster Competition was co-organized and co-sponsored by the UB-EERI, the CSEE-GSA and the department of CSEE at UB. The poster competition took place on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at the University at Buffalo. Prof. Jacobo Bielak served as a guest judge of the student posters along with faculty and post-doctoral researchers from the department of CSEE at UB. The posters covered a wide range of topics in civil engineering, including computational mechanics (1), earthquake engineering (6), environmental engineering (2), and transportation engineering (1).



**2013 Annual CSEE Graduate Student Poster Competition winners, from left: Manish Kumar (3<sup>rd</sup> place), Afsoon Nicknam (1<sup>st</sup> place), Jacobo Bielak (guest judge) and Manish Kumar (2<sup>nd</sup> place)**

## Goals for the 2013-2014 Academic Year

- ◆ Support and help to improve the Engineering Seminar Series and the T.T. Soong Distinguished Lecture Series by inviting more speakers from both academia and engineering practice.
- ◆ Develop an outreach program in collaboration with the CSEE-GSA, the MCEER and the Department of CSEE. Involve local schools.
- ◆ Promote student membership of UB-EERI Student Chapter.

## 2013 UB-EERI Elections (September 4, 2013)

The 2013 UB-EERI elections was the last event of the UB-EERI Student Chapter for the 2012-2013 academic year. During this event, the UB-EERI president presented the work her club and invited the students to remain active and involved in all future activities. Feedback was also received to help the new executive officers. The elected **Executive Officers for the 2013-2014 academic year** are:

<b>President:</b>	Aikaterini (Katerina) Stefanaki	(astefana@buffalo.edu)
<b>Vice President:</b>	Laura Liliana Hernandez	(lhernand@buffalo.edu)
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Hossein Aghakhani	(haghakha@buffalo.edu)
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Winifred Lao	(wlao@buffalo.edu)
<b>Senator:</b>	Basit Qayyum	(basitqay@buffalo.edu)
<b>Senator:</b>	Theodoros Eleftheriou	(theodoro@buffalo.edu)
<b>Senator:</b>	Seyedsina Yousefianmoghadam	(seyedsin@buffalo.edu)
<b>Past President:</b>	Maria Koliou	(mkoliou@buffalo.edu)

The **2013-2014 UB-EERI Faculty Advisor** is:

**Dr. Andre Filiatrault**

Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Civil,  
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