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ABSTRACT

The Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) Student Chapter at North Carolina State University is a growing group of students and faculty. The main goal of the organization is to create earthquake awareness within the community. For this purpose, several activities are held every semester including lectures, seminars, workshops, and tours to the Constructed Facilities Laboratory (CFL), among others. These activities allow students from all research areas to collaborate on ideas and share new findings, and to inform and engage the local community.

Last fall, the student chapter developed and launched a website (https://sites.google.com/site/eerincsu/) where the different activities and earthquake engineering related news are shared. The purpose of the website is not only to reach out to other students who would like to join the chapter, but to promote all the activities and share important information.

Another important activity performed last fall was the recruiting process for the 2016 Undergraduate Seismic Design Competition. Several students showed interest on the competition and six of them were selected to be part of the team to represent NC State University. In order to provide the team members with fundamental concepts, an introduction to earthquake engineering was offered as a seminar series by graduate students, which not only benefited the seismic design team, but other students as well. The seminar series started with an introduction to earthquakes by Ms. Cuiyan Kong. Mr. Diego Aguirre continued with a seminar focused on fundamentals of structural dynamics. Subsequently, a seminar on structural systems was given by Mr. Christopher Price. Mr. David Overby discussed the importance of material behavior on seismic design. Then, a procedure for seismic design was depicted by Mr. Zachary Krish in his seminar. Finally, Mr. Emrah Tasdemir discussed the use of a structural analysis software to conduct time history analyses.

In addition to the Introduction to Earthquake Engineering Seminar Series, the student chapter hosted the 2015 EERI Distinguished Lecturer, Dr. Robert Olshansky. There was significant attendance for this lecture, which also involved students and faculty from social sciences, including attendees from UNC Chapel Hill. Several activities are planned for the 2016 spring semester. Dr. Karl Wegman will give a seminar on “Earthquake Hazards above the Cascadia Subduction Zone, West of Seattle”. In addition, Dr. Tugce Sevil Yaman, a visiting scholar from Mersin University – Turkey, will offer a seminar on “Strengthening of Masonry In-filled RC Frames under using Steel Fiber Reinforcement”.

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