LIFE AFTER GRADUATION: HOW TO STAY INVOLVED WITH EERI

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The Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) Younger Members Committee promotes the benefits of EERI to young professionals and academics. This is achieved by fostering relationships between young members of EERI and the distinguished earthquake engineering professionals throughout the world. The Younger Members Committee plans to execute networking events both amongst young professionals and the earthquake engineering field, professional training seminars, and mentoring programs to reach the goal of increasing the number of young members in EERI.

Every year, EERI hosts the Annual Meeting where leaders of the earthquake engineering field travel to present work to the earthquake engineering community. This is a great opportunity for young professionals and academics participate in the discussions of cutting edge research and new technology developed for industry. To promote this discussion, the Younger Members Committee suggests a number of events, such as:

1. Post-disaster assessment training
2. Social events for all EERI Annual Meeting attendees
3. Women in Earthquake Engineering events
4. Seminar on how to join committees

The annual meeting provides a venue for facilitating interaction between recent graduates and distinguished members of the earthquake engineering community. Committees should encourage recent graduates to join and participate in the discussions. Networking events such as one for women in earthquake engineering offers a platform for recent graduates to interact with more established members of the community. The authors were both past presidents of the Student Leadership Council (SLC), and are familiar with organizing and promoting earthquake engineering activities that provide resources for members to develop skills to succeed in their careers.

The 2015 EERI Annual Meeting is an opportunity for the authors to meet with both the Student Activities Committee (SAC) of EERI and the Membership Committee. During this meeting, the committees will review and discuss methods of engaging the young members of EERI. The Younger Members Committee has been inactive and the 2015 EERI Annual Meeting offers a chance for this committee to restart and recruit new and energetic members to promote the benefits of EERI.