



Chicago Professional Weekend 2015

October 2-3, 2015

Friday Program

Departure via Charter Bus

When: Friday, October 2, 2015

6:45am

Where: National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA)
1205 West Clark Street
Urbana, IL

What:

Students and faculty will depart for Chicago via charter bus at 6:45am on Friday morning. The group will meet at the north driveway of the NCSA building on Clark Street, *just northeast of Newmark Lab*.

Professional Panel Session

When: Friday, October 2, 2015

10:00am-1:30pm

Where: Illini Center Chicago (Orange & Blue Conference Room)
200 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL

What:

Students will arrive directly at our hotel, the Holiday Inn, via charter coach to *quickly* drop off bags, since Friday afternoon activities will involve walking. Students will then be transported directly to Illini Center.

The event will begin with a short welcome and introduction from UIUC Structures faculty at 10am. This introduction will be followed by brief presentations by each company representative. The main component of the morning program, a faculty-moderated panel discussion, will then commence. The goal of the Professional Panel Session is to generate meaningful discussions between practitioners and

students on topics of relevance to graduate students in search of careers in structural engineering. Following the panel discussion, catered box lunches from Panera will be provided for both students and company panel participants (vegetarian options available); at this time, more informal interactions with company representatives will take place.

Loop Walking Tour & Office Visits

When: Friday, October 2, 2015
1:30pm-4:30pm

Start at: Illini Center Chicago
200 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL

End at: Holiday Inn – Chicago Mart Plaza River North
350 West Mart Center Drive
Chicago, IL

What:

The second segment of our Professional Weekend activities will begin directly after lunch on Friday. Groups of students will be led by company representatives on a walking tour of the famous Chicago Loop, where most companies are located. If applicable, students will also visit the office of their tour leader. In some cases, students will be able to visit up to two offices.

Tour group leaders will then return students or otherwise direct them to our hotel (Holiday Inn) around 4:30pm, at which time students will have free time to check into the hotel and get ready for group dinner.

Group Cocktail Hour & Dinner at Reza's

When: Friday, October 2, 2015
6:00pm-7:00pm: Cocktails
7:00pm-9:00pm: Banquet Dinner

Where: Reza's River North
432 West Ontario Avenue
Chicago, IL

What:

The group will depart Holiday Inn hotel **at 5:45pm** and take a short, 0.5-mile walk to our dinner venue, Reza's. Upwards of 10 young professional engineers who are now working in the Chicago area—mostly

alumni of our Structures graduate programs—will join us for drinks, dinner, and very informal networking.

Students will be treated to Reza's Mediterranean and Persian cuisine, and both vegetarian and non-vegetarian options will be available.

After dinner, students may choose to head back to the hotel or explore the city. The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) buses and light rail are a great way to get around town. Ventra fare cards are available for purchase at most 'el' (elevated rail) stations. Check out maps and schedules at www.transitchicago.com.

Saturday Program

Wendella Architectural Boat Tour

When: Saturday, October 3, 2015
9:15am-10:45am

Where: Wendella Dock at Trump Tower
West of the Wrigley Building at Kinzie & Rush (lower level)
North Wabash Avenue
Chicago, IL

What:

In order to arrive at Wendella Boats on time, the group will coordinate to leave together at 9:00am to walk to the Wendella boat dock in the River North area. Please note that ***students must check out of the hotel on their own***, and the group will reconvene at the Wendella Dock at Trump Tower around 9:15am (***please arrive early***—the tour leaves promptly at 9:30am) for Wendella’s Architectural Boat Tour of Chicago.

An expert architecture guide will lead our group through all three branches of the Chicago River during this 75-minute tour, highlighting Chicago's rich architectural heritage, including a wide range of architectural styles designed by notable architects/firms such as Mies van der Rohe, Bertrand Goldberg and Skidmore, Owings & Merrill.

Chicago Riverwalk Site Tour

When: Saturday, October 3, 2015
11:00am-12:30pm

Where: Chicago Riverwalk

What:

Representatives from Alfred Benesch & Company will be giving us a briefing of the Chicago Riverwalk Improvement project, followed by a tour of the site with opportunities for questions and discussion. Accordingly, please prepare by *wearing suitable clothing and closed-toed shoes* for touring an active construction site.

In the event of poor weather or no possibility to get “on-site” on Saturday, this period may be designated as additional free time, or we may arrange to head back to Champaign early.

Following the tour, students will have about 4 hours of free time to explore Downtown Chicago on their own, at which time students should take lunch—SEGSO will not be providing lunch on Saturday.

Otherwise, the bus will pick up our group at 5:00pm outside of the Holiday Inn hotel, at which time we will head back home to UIUC! Arrival in Champaign-Urbana should be around 8pm.