



STRUCTURAL
ENGINEERING
INSTITUTE
Graduate Student Chapter
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Chicago Professional Weekend 2019

September 20-21, 2019

Friday Program

Departure via Charter Bus

When: Friday, September 20, 2019
Start arriving at **6:00am**
Bus leaves at 6:15am

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

What:

Students will depart for Chicago via charter bus at **6:15am** on Friday morning. The group will meet at the north driveway of the NCSA building on Clark Street, *just northeast of Newmark Lab*.

Bus will go directly to the Illini Center. Luggage will be picked up at the hotel at 4:30 p.m. when doing check-in, bus will be waiting right outside the hotel from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. for luggage pick-up.

Students should call Alfredo (217) 979-5174 in case of emergencies.

Professional Panel Session

When: Friday, September 20, 2019
10:00am-1:30pm

Where: Illini Center Chicago (Orange & Blue Conference Room)
200 South Wacker Drive, 19th Floor (MC-200)
Chicago, IL

What:

Students will arrive directly at Illini Center via charter coach. Bags will be picked up at the hotel from the bus from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm, since Friday afternoon activities will involve walking. Students will have access to their bags when they check in at the hotel after the walking and office tours.

The event will begin with a short welcome and introduction from Justin Nevill at 10:15 am. This introduction will be followed by brief presentations by each company representative. The main component of the morning program, a student-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.

Participating Companies:

Magnusson Klemencic Associates:



HNTB:



Alfred Benesch:



Skidmore Owings and Merrill:



Thornton Tomasetti:



Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.:



Loop Walking Tour & Office Visits

When: Friday, September 20, 2019
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.

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, get their bag from the bus and get ready for group networking social.

Networking Social at Haymarket Pub & Brewery

When: Friday, September 20, 2019
Group leaves from the hotel at **6:00pm**
Event duration 6:30pm - 9:00pm

Where: Haymarket Pub & Brewery
737 W Randolph St.
Chicago, IL

What:

The group will depart Holiday Inn hotel **at 6:00pm** and take a short, 1-mile walk to our networking venue, Haymarket Pub & Brewery. 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, refreshments, and very informal networking.

Students will be treated to refreshments, but may purchase additional food and drinks if desired.

If the office visits run long, students can go directly to the restaurant and check into the hotel after dinner. In which case, they can pick up their luggage at the hotel by texting or calling Alfredo (217) 979-5174.

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.

Students should call Alfredo (217) 979-5174 in case of emergencies.

Saturday Program

Wendella Architectural Boat Tour

When: Saturday, September 21, 2019
Group leaves from the hotel at **8:45am**
9:30am-11:00am

Where: Wendella Dock low level close to Michigan Ave
400 N Michigan Ave
Chicago, IL 60611

What:

To arrive at Wendella Boats on time, the group will coordinate to leave together at **8:45am** 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 leave their bags on the hotel or carry them***, and the group will reconvene at the Wendella Dock at Trump Tower around 9:20am (***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.

Going Back to Campus

When: Saturday, September 21, 2019
5:00pm – 8:00pm

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

What:

Following the tour, students will have about four hours of free time to explore Chicago on their own. The bus will depart promptly at **5:00pm** at Holiday Inn – Chicago Mart Plaza River North, 350 West Mart Center Drive. Arrival at Main and Goodwin in Urbana should be around 8pm.

Students should call Alfredo (217) 979-5174 in case of emergencies.