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WBFO News

UB earthquake engineering student hopes for strict building codes in Haiti[+ SHARE](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) ...

Mark Scott (2010-01-27)



BUFFALO, NY (WBFO) - It's been two weeks since the devastating earthquake hit Haiti. The head of UB's earthquake engineering center is in Port-au-Prince assessing the damage for the United Nations. Meanwhile, an earthquake engineering student who hails from Haiti remains in Buffalo, anxiously monitoring the recovery effort back home.

Pierre Fouche is perhaps Haiti long earthquake engineer. The thing is he's still studying at UB. He hopes to return to Haiti at the end of the semester. For now, Fouche is weighing in on what he would like to see happen. Among his recommendations is an enforceable building code for his country.

Fouche was interviewed by NPR's Neal Conan on Tuesday's Talk of the Nation. Fouche says his country needs more home-grown engineers to help with the recovery.

"Many of the universities have collapsed. So, now there's a need for training of engineers to design buildings according to the code that will be adopted," Fouche said.

For now, Haiti is dependent on outsiders like Fouche's teacher, Andre Filiatrault, who is heading up a UN team that is now in Port-au-Prince assessing the integrity of the remaining structures.

In a news release, Filiatrault says many buildings are still standing, but people do not want to use them because of fear of aftershocks. He says his team inspected several hospitals that are empty although the buildings were perfectly fine.

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