WELCOME TO THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING E-NEWSLETTER!

The purpose of this e-newsletter is to share with all employees the accomplishments that have been made by your colleagues and the recent events that have occurred in the college. At the bottom of this issue is the method for submission of items to be included in future issues. We encourage you to let us know about news from your discipline.

NEWS

The Civil Engineering department has a new name that is more descriptive: the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Scott Norville is the chair.

The Chemical Engineering department appears in the national ranking of "Tenured/Tenure-Track Faculty at the Top 50' Chemical Engineering Departments by Race/Ethnicity, by Gender, and by Rank (FY 2005)" compiled by the Diversity in Science Association under the direction of Dr. Donna Nelson (associate professor, AAAS Fellow 2005, Ford Foundation Fellow 2003-2004, Guggenheim Fellow 2003), University of Oklahoma.

http://cheminfo.chem.ou.edu/faculty/djn/diversity/Faculty_Tables_FY05/ChemEngTable2005.pdf

Dr. Lloyd Heinze was quoted in the online business journal Red Herring as seeing a decline in the number of petroleum engineering students from 11,000 students enrolled in 1983 to less than 2,500 enrolled today.

www.redherring.com/PrintArticle.aspx?a=16854&sector=Industries

Dr. Heinze was featured in a related article about the increase in interest in the engineering field in sync with oil and natural gas prices.

www.zwire.com/site/index.cfm?newsid=16671063&BRD=2288&PAG=461&dept_id=475626&rfi=8

The Wind Science and Engineering Research Center is highlighted in the premier issue (Summer 2006) of Archways, a monograph that features major multidisciplinary, funded research endeavors at the university, published by TTU's office of the Vice President for Research.

Kevin Ludlum has joined the College of Engineering as the new development officer effective May 8, 2006. Kevin received his master's degree from TTU, and after obtaining his PhD in Sports Psychology from the University of Idaho, he served as a faculty member at both Western State College (CO) and Anderson College (SC). Early on he discovered that his talents and passions were geared toward fundraising, so he left the traditional faculty academic route to become a development officer. Kevin came to Texas Tech six months ago to work as a major gifts officer in the central office of Institutional Advancement. Welcome, Kevin!

Pat Patterson joins the College of Engineering as the chair for the Industrial Engineering department. He was previously chair of the Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering department at Iowa State University. His PhD is in industrial engineering (ergonomics) from Texas A&M. Welcome, Pat!

Corrie Prieto is the new administrative assistant in the COE office of Undergraduate Studies. She has been with TTU for about a year, and takes over for Patsy Harris, who recently retired. Welcome, Corrie!
AWARDS

Mario Beruvides, associate professor in Industrial Engineering, received the "Outstanding Professor Award for 2006" from the TTU chapter of Tau Beta Pi, the national engineering honor society.

Ernst Kiesling was awarded the Nania Award from the Tulsa Partners for "weaving together and strengthening the fabric of disaster-resistant communities." Nania is a Cherokee word meaning "all together," which exemplifies the mission of the Tulsa Partners to create public/private partnerships dedicated to making communities stronger and safer. This is the third individual award. The first went to James Lee Witt, Federal Emergency Management Agency director during the Clinton Administration. The second went to Robert K. Godwin, CEO of the National Points of Light Foundation.

A Weather Channel crew visited the wind debris cannon at the Reece facility on May 8. They interviewed Larry Tanner (research associate, Civil and Environmental Engineering) during two spots - the 8:30 p.m. piece featured a video package including several shots of the debris cannon at work interspersed with interview segments featuring Tanner. A 9:30 p.m. segment featured a live demonstration of the cannon and further interviews. The segment was repeated on the Weather Channel the following day.

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

Wind Science and Engineering Research Center Professor Andy Swift and Civil and Environmental Engineering Professor Chris Letchford, led by John Schroeder, associate professor in Atmospheric Sciences and former civil engineering graduate student, participated in the Vice President for Research multidisciplinary "Think Big" competition with a proposal titled, "The Development of Innovative Observational and Simulation Technologies to Facilitate New Research." They earned a $1 million grant for two high-resolution mobile research Doppler radars for the Wind Science and Engineering Research Center. These will be used to study the lower atmosphere and create four-dimensional wind flow simulations to better understand weather patterns near the earth's surface. The grant is funded by the Research Development Fund, created by the Texas Legislature to support research activities in higher education. www.depts.ttu.edu/vprgs/rd_grants.php

www.wind.ttu.edu/Events/News/N20060509.php

Sergey Nikishin, associate professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering, received a $100,000 grant from the Texas Advanced Research Program (ARP) for his work on AlGaN-based Nanostructures for High Power Ultraviolet Light Emitting Diodes. This was one of nine TTU proposals that was funded out of a total of 22 submitted.

Ken Rainwater, professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, along with PI Professor S. Dasgupta (Chemistry and Biochemistry) and Co-PI Professor C. Martin (Mathematics and Statistics); and Alex Idesman, assistant professor of Mechanical Engineering along with PI Professor W. Dayawansa and Co-PI Associate Professor S. Padmanabhan, (both of Mathematics and Statistics) also were recipients of the Texas ARP awards. The winning proposals were "Perchlorate and Iodide Intake and Excretion in Breastfed Infants" ($100,000) and "Multidisciplinary Research Program in Computation and Control of Biological Systems" ($79,000), respectively.

Iris Rivero, assistant professor in Industrial Engineering, received a research initiation grant from the Society of Manufacturing Engineers Education Foundation for "Development of Efficient Manufacturing Processing Technology for Carbon Nanotubes Polymer Composite Components." The grant will sponsor student involvement in the field of carbon nanotubes; the results will be applied to attract more funding for the field.
STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Engineers Without Borders is a new student organization led by Jason Fields (Chemical Engineering). It is a nonprofit humanitarian organization established to partner with developing communities worldwide in order to improve their quality of life. The students hope to travel to other nations to use their engineering knowledge for good works. Professor Siva Parameswaran (Mechanical Engineering) is the primary faculty advisor.

TTU's American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) student chapter was selected by the ASCE Committee on Student Activities to receive a letter of honorable mention for its outstanding activities as recorded in the 2005 chapter annual report. Nancy Gerrish is the student president. The faculty sponsors are Assistant Professors Audra Morse and Sanjay Senadheera.

Engineering Ambassadors for the Fall 2006 term are: Jeff Beeler (mechanical), Alisha Bloodworth (chemical), Bryce Bradford (electrical), Cody Edwards (construction technology), Caleb Francis (mechanical), Tracy Giles (petroleum), Amanda Gordon (mechanical), Angela Ibanga (civil), Daniel King (electrical/computer science), Scott Legler (electrical), Simeon Losoha (petroleum), Crystal Mahon (industrial), Meredith McLeroy (civil), Jeremy Miller (mechanical/engineering technology), Jamie Millisor (industrial, graduate student), Erika Nordstrom (petroleum), Michael Oskierko (industrial), Alex Pearson (mechanical), and Maarooif Shahriar (petroleum, graduate student).

Luis Barroso and Tosan Maku, students in Industrial Engineering, have been selected to receive a 2006 summer dissertation/thesis research award, given by the Texas Tech Graduate School.

Jason Crawley, Civil and Environmental Engineering '06, received the Texas Space Grant Consortium Fellowship for the 2006-2007 academic year. Jason is currently pursuing his masters in the same discipline. www.tsgc.utexas.edu/grants/index.html

Electrical engineering students created robots equipped with global positioning systems and demonstrated the navigational abilities on April 29. Local CBS and ABC affiliates covered the exhibition.

John Kriile, a PhD student in ECE, was awarded one of the two Tom Burkes Outstanding Student Awards at the IEEE International Power Modulator conference held in Washington, D.C., May 14-18. Tom Burkes was a former faculty member in ECE.

Sameera Muthya (Industrial Engineering masters degree candidate), Iris V. Rivero (assistant professor, Industrial Engineering) and Louisa Hope-Weeks (assistant professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry) presented their paper, "Silver Nanorods in Polyaniline Nanocomposites for Superior Electrical Conductivity," to the 2006 Industrial Engineering Research Conference held in Orlando, Florida the last week of May.

Chemical engineering students Erin Frantz, Alison Nix, and Kyle Purvis are recipients of the 2006 Gas Processors Association Permian Basin Chapter scholarships. The awards were presented at a luncheon in Midland on April 25.

Recently named McNair Scholars: new scholars - Adrian Escudero (Mechanical Engineering) and Didiana Rojas (Chemical Engineering); May graduates - Uriyah Robinson (Mechanical Engineering) and Lakysha Mosley (Chemical Engineering/Microbiology). The McNair Scholars Program (named after Dr. Ronald E. McNair, one of the astronauts on the ill-fated Challenger in 1986) informs, supports, prepares, and motivates first generation college students from low-income families for the rigors of doctoral education.

ALUMNI RECOGNITION

Kent Lawrence '59, '60 Mechanical Engineering, professor of Mechanical Engineering at The University of Texas Arlington, has been selected to receive a prestigious Minnie Stevens Piper Professor Award. Only 15 awards are made annually to professors in Texas for superior teaching at the college level. www.uta.edu/public-affairs/pressreleases/page.php?id=1710

Archie Nystel '42 finally received his diploma in Mechanical Engineering this May 15. He was in the armed forces on his commencement day (June 1, 1942) and the diploma wasn't foremost in his mind. But 64 years later he got to thinking and realized he had never received that diploma. Thanks to Pearl Trevino and Jeff Woldstad in the dean's office for facilitating the process that allowed
Mr. Nystel to receive his diploma after all these years.

EVENTS OF INTEREST

Pamela Eibeck (dean) and Lloyd Heinze (Petroleum Engineering) addressed an audience in Midland on May 23 about the challenges in engineering education. Our nation's economic viability in a globally competitive world depends on engineers' technological innovations and ingenuity. Dr. Eibeck discussed education enrollment trends and implications while Dr. Heinze addressed the current and future status of petroleum engineering in relation to the workforce available today. www.zwire.com/site/index.cfm?newsid=16683851

On May 11, 112 golfers teed off at the 16th Annual Texas Tech College of Engineering Scholarship Golf Tournament hosted by the Texas Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE), South Plains Chapter, held at the Rawls Golf Course. The TSPE board of directors established a $25,000 scholarship endowment for the benefits of engineering students. Proceeds from the golf tournament will go to increase the endowment.

WE CAN - high school summer camp on the TTU campus June 4-16, taught by Mary Baker and Tanja Karp, ECE faculty members. Nine girls are registered to participate in curriculum that includes software-and hardware-based projects that will give them an overview of what electrical and computer engineers do and what students can expect from their college studies. www.ee.ttu.edu/ece2/wecan/wecan.html

Teacher Training Institute - six week-long professional development workshops for Texas teachers focusing on hands-on engineering education topics begin in June and run through the first week of August. Topics include Introduction to Robotics; Applied Robotics for the Classroom; Green Engineering; Exploring Space; Introduction to Rocketry; and Advanced Rocketry. www.engineeringoutreach.ttu.edu/institute

PUBLISHED

Siva Parameswaran, professor Mechanical Engineering, is presenting a paper at the Fourth International Conference on Computational Wind Engineering in Yokohama, Japan, July 16-19. He is also a member of the scientific committee, organized by Tokyo Polytechnic University (TPU). Prior to the conference, he will provide a two-day colorful fluid dynamics short course at TPU. www.wind.arch.t-kougei.ac.jp/cwe2006/download/2nd_circular.pdf

IS YOUR NEWS LISTED HERE?

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The COE e-newsletter will be posted online on the 5th of each month. News submission deadline is the 28th of each month.