The John Tickle Building
designated to house the
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Department of Industrial and Information Engineering

Groundbreaking Ceremony

December 1, 2009
About the College of Engineering

In 1834, Joseph Estabrook, a man of strong scientific interest and background, became the president of what was then East Tennessee College. Estabrook hired a group of distinguished professors to provide instruction in chemistry, geology, mineralogy, trigonometry and civil engineering. In 1877, the university was organized into three colleges: Agriculture and the Organic Arts; Mechanic Arts, Mining and Engineering; and Languages and Fine Arts. The State of Tennessee legislature officially named the institution The University of Tennessee in 1879 and authorized the granting of advanced degrees in both civil and mining engineering.

The Cooperative Engineering Program, which offers students an opportunity to combine both academic study and professional work experience, was established in the College of Engineering in 1926.

UT alumnus and football hero Dr. Nathan Dougherty became dean of The University of Tennessee College of Engineering in 1940. Dougherty initiated an exciting new era at the college. In 1951, the college began a doctoral program that offered a specialization in chemical engineering and metallurgy was added in 1957 to support the growing involvement with the university in cooperative projects with the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and the U.S. Air Force’s Arnold Engineering Development Center in Tullahoma, Tenn.

The College established the Minority Engineering Scholarship Program (MESP) in 1973 in order to increase the number of African-American students enrolled in engineering studies. This highly successful program was re-named the Diversity Engineering Scholarship Program (DESP) in 2000, recognizing the broad need for diversity in the engineering profession.

Acknowledgements

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Agenda

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Welcome and Introductions
Dr. Jimmy G. Cheek
Chancellor, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Remarks
Dr. Wayne T. Davis
Dean of Engineering

Remarks
Dr. Jan Simek
Interim President, The University of Tennessee

Proclamation Presentation
Mr. Bill Haslam
Mayor, City of Knoxville

Proclamation Presentation
Mr. Michael Ragsdale
Mayor, Knox County

Introduction of Mr. John Tickle
Dr. Jimmy G. Cheek

Remarks
Mr. John Tickle
Owner/President, Strongwell Corporation

Special Presentation
Dr. Jimmy G. Cheek

Introduction of Groundbreaking Team
Dr. Jimmy G. Cheek

Groundbreaking Ceremony

Closing Remarks
Dr. Jimmy G. Cheek

Reception
All guests are invited to attend
The John Tickle Building will be a five-story, 110,000 square foot building, strategically located on Neyland Drive behind the Pasqua Engineering Building. The building will be the featured facility for a prominent new entrance to campus on Neyland.

The first two floors of the building will house the laboratories of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE), which are currently disbursed across several different buildings on and off campus. This space will include the ASCE Project Lab/Student Project Lab, the GeoTech Lab and the Undergraduate Soils Laboratory. The third floor will house the CEE departmental office, classrooms, computer and senior design labs, a student study and seminar room, and faculty and graduate student offices. The fourth floor will also offer classroom, office and laboratory space.

The Department of Industrial and Information Engineering (IIE) will be located on the fifth floor of the building, including the departmental office, a student work area, laboratory space, faculty and graduate student offices and a conference room.

A unique feature of the building is the pedestrian bridge that will connect the Tickle Building to the main campus. Easing pedestrian access for students, faculty and staff to “The Hill,” the bridge is a signature element that will also provide a visual link from the facility to the engineering campus on “The Hill.”

The classrooms, labs, conference rooms, and spaces throughout this building provide opportunities to recognize individual or corporate donors or for donors to honor special faculty, family, or friends. Gifts will be used to build an enrichment endowment in each department that will ensure a strong foundation for the future.

The new John Tickle Building will be home to both the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) and the Department of Industrial and Information Engineering (IIE).

In recognition of these two departments, the faculty and staff of both CEE and IIE have been named honorary members of today’s groundbreaking team.
Dr. Wayne T. Davis - Dean, College of Engineering

Dr. Davis was named as dean of the College of Engineering in March 2009 after serving as interim dean since May 2007. Dr. Davis was previously the associate dean for research and technology, a position he had held since March 2004 after serving as interim associate dean since July 2003.

He has been a faculty member and researcher at UT for over 33 years and served as the University of Tennessee's 2003 Macebearer.

Dr. Davis was also recently elected as the Vice Chair/Chair-Elect of the American Society of Engineering Education's Engineering Research Council for 2009-2010.

Dr. Davis, a professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, received his bachelor's in physics from Pfeiffer University, his M.S. in physics from Clemson University and his M.S. in environmental engineering and Ph.D. in civil engineering from the University of Tennessee. He also served as assistant and associate dean of the UT Graduate School from 1985 until 1991.

Dr. Dayakar Penumadu - Professor and Head, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering

Dr. Dayakar Penumadu, was named as permanent head and Fred N. Peebles Professor of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in June, 2009.

Dr. Penumadu received his Bachelor of Science degree from the Birla Institute of Technology and Science in Pilani, India; two Master of Science degrees, one from the University of Kentucky and the other from Purdue University; and his Ph.D. from the Georgia Institute of Technology, all in civil engineering.

Dr. Penumadu joined the College of Engineering faculty in 2001. He was previously an associate professor at Clarkson University in Potsdam, New York.

Dr. Penumadu currently holds the Joint Institute for Advanced Materials (JIAM) Chair of Excellence. He is also the recipient of numerous teaching and research awards including the Research Faculty Award in 2002, the Outstanding Teacher Award in 2003 and the Scholar Faculty Award in 2006, all from the UT CEE department; the Moses E. and Mayme Brooks Distinguished Professor Award from the College of Engineering in 2006; and he was named as a COE Research Fellow for 2003-2004 and 2004-2005.

Dr. Bruce Robinson - Professor and Interim Head, Industrial & Information Engineering

Dr. Bruce Robinson serves as the Interim Head of the Department of Industrial and Information Engineering. Dr. Robinson's last appointment was as the Armour T. Granger Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering. He was also the coordinator of the environmental engineering program in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

Dr. Robinson received his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. in sanitary engineering from Iowa State University. His doctoral dissertation won the 1980 Nalco Award for Significant Chemical Research in Water and Wastewater Treatment presented in conjunction with the Association of Environmental Engineering Professors.

Dr. Robinson is a co-holder of two patents and a technology licensing agreement.

He has served as chair and member of several national professional society committees including the ASCE Water Supply Committee and AWWA's Small Systems Research Committee. He is a registered professional engineer in Tennessee and Iowa.

Mr. and Mrs. Tickle have provided a generous donation toward the construction of the John Tickle Building, which will house the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the Department of Industrial and Information Engineering.

John Tickle is the owner and president of Strongwell Corporation, headquartered in Bristol, Tenn.

He received his bachelor's degree in industrial engineering in 1965 from the University of Tennessee. He served in positions with Owens Corning Tech Center, Justin Enterprises and Krueger Metal Products before returning to his hometown of Bristol to assume the presidency of Morrison Molded Fiber Glass Company (MMFG). Mr. Tickle stayed with MMFG after its acquisition by Shell in 1985, and eventually purchased the company outright. He renamed the company Strongwell in 1997. Today, Strongwell is a world-wide operation, with the Bristol division serving as its headquarters.

Mr. Tickle has been the recipient of a host of local, regional and national business and philanthropic awards, including having The Mall at Bristol Regional Medical Center, which was dedicated in 2004, named for him; Laureate in the Junior Achievements Business Hall of Fame, 2000; Virginia Chamber of Commerce Torchbearer Award for Western Virginia in 1999; and the Bristol Regional Hospital Chairman from 1987 to 1992. He has also been a member of the UT Athletic Board and has served on the College of Engineering's Board of Advisors and is a member of the Campaign for Tennessee Engineering Executive Committee.

Ann Tickle graduated with a bachelor's degree from the UT College of Education. She is the former “Miss Ann” from television’s Romper Room. Mrs. Tickle has also been extensively involved in philanthropic work.

Mr. and Mrs. Tickle provided considerable support for the John and Ann Tickle Small Animal Hospital expansion within UT’s College of Veterinary Medicine. Their gift allowed construction to go forward on the $10 million, 32,000-gross-square-foot addition in 2007. The facility was opened in the spring of 2008.
Mr. Bill Haslam - Mayor, City of Knoxville

Bill Haslam began his first term as Knoxville mayor December 20, 2003, following a successful career in business and a history of community service.

Previously, Mayor Haslam served as president and director of Pilot Corp., a Knoxville-based company operating convenience stores and travel centers nationwide. He also is the former chief executive officer of SAKS Direct, the e-commerce and catalog division of Saks Fifth Avenue. He is an owner of the Tennessee Smokies East Tennessee AA Baseball Team.

He has served in leadership roles in numerous charities and non-profit organizations in the Knoxville area, including chairman of the board and general chairman of the United Way of Greater Knoxville; chairman of the board and president, Project GRAD; chairman of the board, East Tennessee Center for Non-Profit Management; campaign chairman, Foothills Land Conservancy; and vice chair, Knoxville Museum of Art.

In 2008, President George W. Bush appointed Mayor Haslam to a four-year term to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

The mayor received a B.S. degree from Emory University.

Mr. Michael Ragsdale - Mayor, Knox County

Prior to his election as Knox County Mayor, Mayor Ragsdale served two terms as Knox County Commissioner in the Fifth Commission District while working as a partner and vice president at Barber & McMurry architecture firm for 16 years. Prior to that, Mayor Ragsdale was working in education at Pellissippi State Technical Community College, first as Director of Admissions and Records and later as Dean of Administrative Affairs.

Mayor Ragsdale has been active in a wide variety of civic and community activities throughout his career. He currently serves as the vice chairman for EdSouth, one of the country’s largest student loan corporations.

Mayor Ragsdale received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Tennessee, earning the Torchbearer award, the highest university award given to students. In 1977, Mayor Ragsdale, completed his master’s in education from Auburn University and in 1981 he earned a doctorate in education from UT.

Dr. Jan Simek - Interim President, The University of Tennessee

Dr. Jan Simek became interim president of the University of Tennessee on July 1, 2009. Dr. Simek had served as acting president since March 1, 2009.

As president, Dr. Simek serves as chairman of the UT-Battelle Board of Governors and as a member of the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees.

Most of Dr. Simek’s academic career has been spent at UT; Knoxville, where he has served in various academic and administrative posts with the campus over a 25-year period.

Dr. Simek previously served as interim chancellor of UT, Knoxville for one year and before that was chief of staff to former Chancellor Loren Crabtree from 2005 to 2008.

Dr. Simek is an archaeologist who came to UT in 1984 as an assistant professor of anthropology. He is now a Distinguished Professor of Anthropology and has served as head of the Anthropology Department, the interim director of the School of Art and interim dean of the College of Architecture and Design.

Dr. Simek earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of California at Santa Cruz and a master’s and doctorate from the State University of New York in Binghamton.

Dr. Jimmy G. Cheek - Chancellor, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Dr. Jimmy G. Cheek is the seventh chancellor of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Prior to his appointment in February 2009, he served the University of Florida for 34 years, most recently as senior vice president of agricultural and natural resources.

Dr. Cheek earned his bachelor’s degree with high honors and his doctorate from Texas A&M University. He received his master’s degree from Lamar University.

Throughout his career, Dr. Cheek has held pivotal positions in professional organizations and has served in many leadership and governance roles. His numerous awards while at Florida include Teacher of the Year for the college, Alpha Zeta Professor of the Year and first recipient of the university’s Faculty Superior Accomplishment Award.

He is a Fellow of the National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture and was awarded the Ensminger-Interstate Distinguished Teaching Award. In 2005, he became a fellow in the American Association for Agricultural Education.

Mr. Michael Crabtree - Representative, Campaign for Tennessee College of Engineering Executive Committee

Entrepreneur and UT graduate Mike Crabtree is currently chief manager, Crabtree Ventures, LLC. Mr. Crabtree holds both B.S. and master’s degrees in electrical engineering from the College of Engineering.

His career began in the co-op program at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center through Tennessee Tech and the University of Tennessee, assisting on Apollo 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17. Mr. Crabtree’s career achievements include co-founding Computer Technology & Imaging, which became CTI Molecular and was sold to Seimens AB; chairman, CEO and COO in United States Internet, Inc. subsequently purchased by Earthlink; and chairman, CEO and president of IdleAire Technologies. In 2004, he received the EPA Clean Air Excellence Awards in California and Texas and the 2002 R&D 100 Award for most significant R&D invention while with IdleAire. Mr. Crabtree’s additional honors include the 1998 EXCEL Top 50 Fastest Growing Company Award while with U.S. Internet and the 1987 Coopers & Lybrand Entrepreneurial Company of the Year while with CTI.

Mr. Crabtree earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of California at Santa Cruz and a master’s and doctorate from the State University of New York in Binghamton.

Mr. Jim Porter - Chair, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville College of Engineering Board of Advisors

Mr. Porter joined DuPont in 1966 as a chemical engineer in the engineering service division (ESD) field program at the Engineering Test Center in Newark, Del.

After assignments at DuPont locations across the country, Mr. Porter was appointed director of operations in 1995. He also assumed the position of vice chairman of the DuPont Corporate Operations Network. He was named as vice president of Engineering and Operations in January 1999. Mr. Porter retired from DuPont in 2008.

Mr. Porter serves on the Board of Governors for the Argonne National Laboratory. He is the current chair of the University of Tennessee's College of Engineering Board of Advisors.

A native of Knoxville, Mr. Porter received a B.S. degree in chemical engineering from the University of Tennessee.

Mr. Porter is currently a board member and secretary/treasurer of East Tennessee Children’s Hospital. He is a member of Tau Beta Pi and the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers and serves actively on Campaign for Tennessee Engineering Executive Committee.