Celebrating 40 Years of Diversity at the University of Tennessee
ENGINEERING DIVERSITY celebrates 40 Years of Achievement in 2013

In 2013, the University of Tennessee College of Engineering (COE) is celebrating 40 years of engineering diversity programs in 2013.

This year, the ODP will also host four summer enrichment programs for potential engineering students. The Middle School Introduction to Engineering Systems (MITES), for rising seventh and eighth graders, offers hands-on projects, teambuilding experiences, and a tour of the American Museum of Science and Energy in Oak Ridge.

The Engineering Volunteers for Ninth Graders (eVOL9) is sponsored by the Battelle-Tennessee STEM Innovation Network and offers rising ninth graders engineering project sessions, introduction to ACT math preparation, and off-campus visits to manufacturing sites. The companion program, Engineering Volunteers for Tenth Graders (eVOL10), will include an introduction to chemistry, more project design elements, and instruction on the different engineering disciplines.

Since 1997, the ODP has established a number of outreach programs for universities and colleges in the nation for graduation rates of African-American youth. Griffin said in the four decades since the minority outreach programs were established, UT has consistently ranked among the top fifty universities and colleges in the nation for graduation rates of African-American engineering students. The college has graduated more than nine hundred minority students.

The dedication of the John D. Tickle Engineering Building takes place at 10:00 a.m., and a luncheon and program with a keynote speaker and awards will take place at 12:00 p.m., banquet at 7:00 p.m. and a special program after dinner that includes a keynote speaker and video presentation.

Wayne T. Davis
Dean, College of Engineering

A Message from the Dean of Engineering

The University of Tennessee College of Engineering is celebrating in 2013.

This year, we are hosting several special events to acknowledge the 175th anniversary of engineering at the University of Tennessee. In 1838, the first engineering course, surveying, was offered at what was then East Tennessee College.

The ODP forty-fifth anniversary celebration will be marked with a special (reservations required) luncheon and program on Friday, October 4, at noon after the dedication ceremony of the John D. Tickle Engineering Building. The dedication event and reception following the event is open to all University of Tennessee faculty, staff, students, and alumni as well as the general public. Invitations to the ODP luncheon event will be mailed later this year. For more information, contact the COE dean’s office at (865) 974-5321 or e-mail coe@utk.edu.

ODP also has another very special milestone to celebrate. The UT Board of Trustees recently approved the Fred D. Brown Residence Hall, the first building on the UT Knoxville campus to be named for an African-American person and commemorates Brown’s contributions to engineering diversity.

The residence hall, currently under construction on Andy Holt Drive, is the first new residence hall to be built in forty-three years, and it will accommodate seven hundred men and women when it opens in 2014.

The forty-fifth anniversary celebration will acknowledge the many years of pre-college, undergraduate, and graduate achievement by our students,” said Griffin. “We hope that everyone will join us for this exciting and very special event.”

Wayne T. Davis
Dean, College of Engineering
HITES Program Receives National Recognition

The National Association of Multicultural Engineering Program Advocates (NAMEPA) has selected the College of Engineering's High School Introduction to Engineering Systems (HITES) program as its 2013 Outstanding Pre-College/Community Organization Award recipient. HITES offers a one-week residential experience for rising eleventh and twelfth grade students. The program provides an introduction to engineering, college life preparation, and showcases the applications of math and science.

The award recognizes HITES for inspiring students through college preparatory, retention, and graduation. The program serves as a model for research institutions and minority-serving institutions to increase minority engineering enrollment. HITES was recognized at the 34th Annual NAMEPA National Conference in West Lafayette, Indiana, in February since the beginning of 2000. HITES has provided the experience to over two hundred high school students and seniors. In 2011, 86 percent of seniors decided to major in engineering once they enrolled in engineering.

“For me, the HITES program was the beginning of my college experience,” Brandon Hanrick, a freshman in industrial engineering, said. “I was exposed to many different engineering majors and switched interests to industrial engineering. The program also got me excited about UT by showing the programs, facilities, and campus life available, despite that walk up the Hill.”

The NAMEPA Outstanding Pre-College/Community Organization Award was established to honor pre-college programs, community organizations, or individuals who have been active in increasing the participation of minorities in engineering disciplines at the pre-college or community level.

NAMEPA is a national network of educators and representatives from industry, government, and nonprofit organizations who share a common commitment to improving the recruitment and retention of African Americans, Hispanics, and American Indians earning degrees in engineering. For more information about NAMEPA, visit http://www.namepa.org.

GEM Consortium Hosts GRAD Lab

The University of Tennessee and Oak Ridge National Laboratories (ORNL), in conjunction with the national GEM Consortium, hosted the Getting Ready for Advanced Degrees Laboratory (GRAD Lab) on Saturday, Sept. 29, 2012, at the Carolyn P. Brown University Center on the UT campus. The fun, free event was designed to inform and motivate students from underrepresented groups in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) fields to understand the importance of a graduate degree. The event hosted sixty-one participants consisting of undergraduate STEM students—particularly freshmen, juniors, and seniors—and master’s students considering a PhD pursuit from seven institutions. (Humboldt State University, Mississippi State University, Norfolk State University, Southern Polytechnic State University, Tennessee Tech, UT-Knoxville, and UT-Chattanooga).

Speakers provided their insight and experience on graduate school and beyond, including Dr. Carolyn Hodges, Vice Provost and Dean of the UT Graduate School; Michele Lezama, Executive Director of the National GEM Consortium; Dr. Ashley Green, Director of Energy and Transportation Science at Oak Ridge National Laboratories (ORNL); Dr. Ernest Brothers, Assistant Dean of the UT Graduate School; Chana Patlich, Hispanic Recruitment Officer from UT; and Marcus Huggins from the GEM Consortium; and other GEM representatives.

Students learned how to successfully apply to graduate school and find funding opportunities. Topics included “Why Graduate School?”, “How to Prepare for Graduate School”, “Understanding the GEM Fellowship”, and “Voices from the Field: Real Life Research and Internship Experiences.” Participants from the GRAD Lab expressed the following experiences:

“My expectations were exceeded. I had no desire to attend graduate school before but now I am putting serious consideration into attending graduate school.”

“It was wonderful and I hope to apply very soon to the fellowship and graduate school.”

Diversity Office Welcomes Erica Echols

Erica Echols is the new coordinator in the Engineering Diversity Office. Echols earned an MS in environmental science and policy from the University of South Florida St. Petersburg campus and a BS in chemistry from North Carolina A&T State University. Her college and graduate experiences in programs such as the NC-LSAMP, FG-LSAMP, and Minority Striving and Pursuing Higher Degrees of Success (MS PHDS) programs have enhanced her professional qualities by honing her interpersonal skills and exposing her to both scientific research and educational leadership.

“All three of these programs taught me what it means to be a mentor and how to show genuine interest in the success of another individual.”

Echols said, “My passion in the field of education is primarily focused on mentoring students underrepresented in STEM fields. As I continue to serve as a mentor I work to encourage others to pursue STEM fields, inspire students to work hard toward their educational goals, and enrich students’ overall professional development and educational experience.”

Echols said she is honored to work with the diversity programs at UT.

“It is truly a blessing to work with programs, such as TL-SAMP, that are similar to the ones that have afforded me many opportunities.” she added. “The Engineering Diversity Programs staff and students have welcomed me with open arms and made my transition to Tennessee a smooth one.”

1984
College of Engineering

1986
College of Engineering

1987

Fred Brown, Jr., Scholarship Endowment was established.

1993

James T. Pippin Diversity Scholarship was established.
TLSAMP news

UT Hosts 3rd Annual TLSAMP Awards Banquet

The University of Tennessee (UT), Knoxville, hosted its Third Annual Tennessee Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (TLSAMP) Awards Banquet on Monday, April 15, 2013, at the Carolyn P. Brown University Center. The event was moderated by Andre Shibata, a sophomore majoring in material science and engineering and Elyse Vaughn, a sophomore majoring in biochemistry and cellular and Molecular Biology. The goal of the TLSAMP program is to increase the enrollment and graduation rate of underrepresented ethnic minority students (Hispanic, African-American, American-Indian, Alaskan Native, and Pacific Islander) in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) by at least 100 percent at the end of the five-year period.

Guests were welcomed by Travis Griffin, Director for the Office of Engineering Diversity Programs. Students, faculty, administrators and guests were recognized for their exceptional involvement in the TLSAMP program.

Cavanaugh Mims, an UT nuclear engineering alumnus and entrepreneur, was the evening’s guest speaker. Mims is the president of Visionary Solution, LLC, a small business and minority business enterprise (MBE) providing proven solutions for complex issues involving transportation and logistics, program management, reclamation and recycling, industrial, and training services.

“Always believe in yourself, because if no one else is going to believe in you, you’ve got to be the one to always believe,” Mims told the group in his remarks.

The program included recognition of faculty and students receiving special honors from TLSAMP; the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) and the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE). The ceremony also featured a slideshow during dinner of TLSAMP, the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) and the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE).

Outstanding Volunteer Service to the TLSAMP Program

TLAMP Graduating Seniors Awards

Darryl (T.J.) Bell
Christian Canady
Shanea Cockrell
Shanel Crawford-Harris
Breana Harvell
Erica Hawkins
Amber Ingram
Omar James
Stephanie Long
Timothy Mickens
Mia Mitchell
Eric Padro
Harrisa Prinston
Kristin Richard
Desiree Sassy
Diana Shelby
Michael Swift
Bradford Taylor
Thomas Turner
Chandler Wallace
Jasmine Wheeler
Evon Wilson
Tedros Yohana

NSBE Awards

NSBE Freshman of the Year
Brandon Hambrook
Material Science & Engineering

Outstanding Research Award
Eboni Lomons
Civil Engineering

The Golden Torch Award
Michael Swift
Electrical Engineering

Freshman of the Year
Cynthia Nkem
Biological Sciences

Faculty of the Year
Christiane Barnes
Chemistry

TLSAMP Scholar of the Year
Evan Wilson
Chemical Engineering

Outstanding Volunteer Service

Electrical Engineering

TLSAMP Graduating Seniors Awards

Darryl (T.J.) Bell
Christian Canady
Shanea Cockrell
Shanel Crawford-Harris
Breana Harvell
Erica Hawkins
Amber Ingram
Omar James
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Diana Shelby
Michael Swift
Bradford Taylor
Thomas Turner
Chandler Wallace
Jasmine Wheeler
Evon Wilson
Tedros Yohana

Dr. Masood Parang (left) and Cassandra Smith (right) present a plaque to Cavanaugh Mims, president of Visionary Solutions LLC, COE Board of Advisors member, and keynote speaker for the TLSAMP Awards Banquet.
DuPont Executive Alfred Ogden Presents TLSAMP Seminar On Summer Internships

Always put your best foot forward, and be well prepared for the interview,” Ogden added. “Since the interview is probably the most important part of the hiring process, it is essential to sell yourself and ask yourself if that really is the company you want to work for.”

Ogden also emphasized skills that are needed to succeed in the working environment, such as “soft skills” and leadership.

“We’re counted on to lead, so get to know your colleagues!” Ogden emphasized.

This topic ended with the fact that having these skills is not enough, and you need to master them.

In his presentation, Ogden highlighted that an internship is a job, and jobs require work ethic, which is just another part of which young students have to be able to recognize.

“It’s never good enough!” he said, breaking down the subject into four key points: keep accountable for your results, “hold peers accountable,” and “go where the action is.”

After going over key factors in succeeding in a job, the last part of the presentation contained frequently asked questions that represent common mistakes made by young students in their first internship experience.

Q & A’s

Q: Is it okay to send an informal email?

Ogden: Some of these things are not written down, but you should always be professional and consistent with your emails.

Q: What if there’s a disagreement with the manager?

Ogden: Talk to him, not with coworkers, because respect always matters.

Q: Workplace romance?

Ogden: Reality? Not a good idea, be aware of policies and don’t mix personal life with work.

Q: What to do to prepare for an interview?

Ogden: Do your homework, make sure the material beforehand is more comfortable, and try to be extra-traversed.

Q: What if my GPA is bad?

Ogden: Work harder! They have limits to hire people, so do your best to be prepared.

Q: How to acquire that first opportunity to have valuable experience?

Ogden: Go to job talks and to companies; it is the best way to get your foot in the industry for your first time.

Adolaysa Ademola, industrial engineering junior, received a spring 2013 cooperative education experience with Johnson & Johnson as Revenue Analyst located in Skillman, New Jersey.

Oluwakemi Aina-Ajibade, biomedical engineering freshman, received a summer 2013 internship with Johnson & Johnson as Research Analyst located in Skillman, New Jersey.

Carlos Calloway, mechanical engineering sophomore, received a summer 2013 internship with Logan Aluminum located in Russellville, Kentucky.

Shane Crawford-Harris, electrical engineering senior, received a summer 2013 internship with Eaton Corporation as an Application Engineer located in Sumter, South Carolina.

Kim Crouch, biological science sophomore, received a summer 2013 undergraduate research experience with the Department of Neuroscience at the University of Missouri located in Columbia, Missouri.

Alfredo Cruz, mechanical engineering sophomore, received a summer 2013 internship education experience with DuPont located in LaPlace, Louisiana.

Xavian Daniel, industrial engineering junior, received a summer 2013 cooperative education experience at Shaw Industries located in Dalton, Georgia.

Courtney Dennis, materials science and engineering junior, received a summer 2013 internship as a Power Engineering Intern with Tennessee Valley Authority located in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Jacinda Dunn, food science & technology senior, received a 2013 George Washington Carver scholarship from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, Tennessee.

Brandon Hambrock, materials science and engineering freshman, received a summer 2013 internship in Polymer Science with the Department of Chemistry at the University of Wisconsin located in Madison, Wisconsin.

Alan Hancock, computer engineering senior, received a fall 2012 internship as an Information Technology intern with Logan Aluminum located in Russellville, Kentucky.

Tyrone Harris, nuclear engineering senior, received a summer 2013 study abroad experience during the summer 2013 semester in Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Republic.

T. Shantae Hunter, mechanical engineering senior, received a summer 2013 internship with Eastman Chemical in Kingsport, Tennessee.

Amber Ingram, industrial engineering senior, studied abroad during the fall 2012 semester at the Universidad La Salle located in Mexico City, Mexico.

Darius James, electrical engineering senior, received a summer 2013 internship with Federal Express as an Information Technology intern located in Memphis, Tennessee.

Marcus Jeter, mechanical engineering senior, conducted fall 2012/spring 2013 undergraduate research within the Mircro/ Nano-Scale Fluidics and Photonics Laboratory at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tennessee. He received a summer 2013 internship with Knoxville Utility Board located in Knoxville, Tennessee.


Marquinta King, biochemistry & cellular and molecular biology senior, studied abroad during the fall 2012 semester in Beijing, China.

Ashley Lipford, mechanical engineering sophomore, received a summer 2013 internship with DuPont located in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Stephanie Long, nuclear engineering senior, received a full-time job with Southern Nuclear Operating Company located in Augusta, Georgia.

Johnson Luma, civil & environmental engineering junior, was recognized as a Board of Corporate Affiliates (BCA) Scholar by the National Society of Black Engineers at the 39th Annual National Convention held in Indianapolis, Indiana on March 27-31, 2013.

Darius Rehman received a summer 2013 internship with Tennessee Valley Authority Sequoyah Nuclear Plant as Nuclear Operator located in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Mackenzie Washington, mechanical engineering sophomore, received a summer 2013 internship with DuPont located in LaPlace, Louisiana.

Evan Wilson, chemical & biomolecular engineering junior, received a full-time job with International Paper as Process Engineer located in Augusta, Georgia.
The 2012 Engineering Summer Diversity Programs

The 2012 Engineering Summer Diversity Programs were held from June 18 through July 27, totaling five separate weeks of pre-college engineering programs. In 2012, the college was able to increase the summer pre-college programs by two weeks thanks to corporate support for this diversity initiative. AT&T sponsored a full week of MITES ( geared towards seventh and eighth graders) and Bechtel sponsored a full week of HITES ( geared towards eleventh and twelfth graders). TVA and Boeing were also participating sponsors that assisted in covering the costs of these five weeks.

Designed to develop a diverse applicant pool by introducing young people to engineering with exciting projects, the summer programs have been experienced a sixty percent increase in student enrollment for the 2012 programs. All program projects were designed and implemented by the college’s NSF funded Center for Ultra-wide-area Resilient Electric Energy Transmission Networks (CURENT), which emphasizes research on power transmission systems and sustainable energy. This allowed the participants to be heavily involved with our UT faculty involved with CURENT.

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Dr. Chien-fei Chen, the Education and Diversity Co-Director of CURENT, and Dr. Syed Kamrul Islam oversee all five weeks with the assistance of Dr. Kevin Tomovick, Director of CURENT, Adam Hardieback, and Rebecca Dillard. Several PhD students also worked with the participants including Brad Tento, Terrence Randall, Liu Liu, and Geneva Doak. In addition, Miller Cashay (a middle school teacher) and Carolyn Clowers (a high school teacher) assisted with the MITES weeks.

Projects consisted of building a miniature transmission line, a solar car, and wind turbines. The engineering design projects challenged students to apply their knowledge through hands-on projects and inspired problem-solving skills and an interest in engineering.

All five weeks closed out with an awards program, during which the corporate sponsors were recognized. We were excited to have Alan Hill, the Regional Director of External Affairs at AT&T Tennessee, speak at the AT&T sponsored MITES week, and to have Stephen Buckley, Senior Project Manager for Bechtel, speak at the Bechtel sponsored HITES week.

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Stephen Buckley, Bechtel representative (third from left) joins counselors (in white shirts from L-R): Marquinta King, Michael Swift, Sam Littlejohn, Antwanette Anderson, A’Ricks Mitchell, Lance Powell, Geoff Conklin and students (Orange shirts) in the 2012 Bechtel HITES program for the awards presentations.

College of Engineering selected Travis Griffin as director after the retirement of James Pippin.

James Griffin

James Pippin

James T. Pippin Pre-College Program Endowment was established.

2010

2010

2010

2010

2010

2012

American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) student chapter was established and chartered.

INSTEP was restructured to develop two new programs: Engineering Volunteers for Ninth Graders and Engineering Volunteers for Tenth Graders.

2013

2013

2013

2013

2013
The National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) recognized two University of Tennessee (UT), Knoxville, students with scholar awards for the 2013-2014 academic year at the organization’s annual national convention held in Indianapolis, Indiana, on March 27-31, 2013. The awards were presented at NSBE’s 16th Annual Golden Torch Awards event to honor exemplifying the organization’s ideals of academic excellence, professional success and dedication to improve the African American community. DeAnna Walker, a civil engineering junior from Chattanooga, Tennessee, received the ExxonMobil Scholar award and Johnson Luma, a civil engineering sophomore from Memphis, Tennessee, received the NSBE Board of Corporate Affiliates National Scholar award. The UT chapter garnered regional recognition by receiving 2013 Medium Chapter of the Year. NSBE recognizes and celebrates the achievements of chapters that advance the goals of the society, contribute to the community and the engineering profession. NSBE awards chapters that have excelled in the academic enhancement of its members, in scholarship, leadership, and in the overall facilitation of programs and activities. The mission of NSBE is to increase the number of culturally responsible Black Engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the community. NSBE is the largest student-run organization in the country with more than 29,000 collegiate, pre-collegiate, alumni, and lifetime members all over the globe.

UT’s NSBE Top Scholars and recognize as Regional Chapter of the Year

Jelece Morris (NSBE Region 3 Chair), Tiffany Sithiphone (UT NSBE President), and Michael Boswell (NSBE Region 3 Vice Chair).

National Society of Black Engineers Chapter Officers 2013-2014

Diamond Wallace, President
Email: president@nsbeutk.com

DeAnna Walker, Vice President
Email: vicepresident@nsbeutk.com

Kalese Howse, Secretary
Email: secretary@nsbeutk.com

Courtney Dennis, Programs Chair
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Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Chapter Officers 2013-2014

Diana Shelby, President
Email: dshelby2@utk.edu

Carlos Gonzalez, Vice President
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Alfredo Cruz, Treasurer
Email: lyw192@utk.edu

Cristian Orozco, Secretary
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