

Richard Koubek, New Dean, Dedicated to Diversity



Dr. Richard J. Koubek was named Dean of the LSU College of Engineering; joining the college June 1, 2009. Dr. Koubek is LSU's tenth Dean of the College of Engineering and former head of the Harold and Inge Marcus Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering at The Pennsylvania State University (Penn State).

Dean Koubek recently sat down with the Engineering's Office for Diversity and shared his vision and plan for Diversity at LSU's College of Engineering.

What is your vision for diversity in LSU's College of Engineering?

Diversity should be integrated into the fabric of the College. The Office for Diversity serves as the coordinating energy to keep us moving forward. However, the responsibility for creating a diverse and open College rests with each of the faculty, staff and students. We must view ourselves as a diverse and inclusive community that is respectful and appreciative of different ideas, opinions and backgrounds. Diversity provides us the richness needed to see our College move to new levels of achievement.

How do you conceptualize the relationship between diversity and academic excellence?

I do not believe we can be an excellent college without being a diverse college. Academia by its very nature is about soliciting and integrating viewpoints from multiple perspectives. Strong colleges have a broad palette of experiences upon which to draw to solve problems, create programs, educate students and reach out to the community. To support this type of structure you must have people in your college community that respect and appreciate the fact that we are all different and we bring different experiences. So, for the LSU College of Engineering to be excellent, we must have a mindset that embraces diversity as an essential component to realizing our vision.

What leadership efforts will the College of Engineering undertake to encourage a commitment to diversity?

This fall the College of Engineering will begin working on a strategic plan, with a targeted delivery date of July, 2010. We have debated a bit about how diversity would be placed in the strategic plan. I suspect it will be brought forward along two paths. First, we will have a task force exploring diversity as a major strategic initiative of the College. There will also be other strategic thrusts in the plan exploring such topics as research signature areas, community engagement and educational initiatives. I will ask each of these task forces to also address the manner in which diversity is woven into their particular signature areas.

Who will oversee the implementation of the College of Engineering's strategic plan?

We have established an ad hoc group called the Strategic Planning Council. This group has representatives from each Engineering department and industry. They have the responsibility to oversee the process of gathering input and managing of the process. They will also oversee five or six task forces that will put together the actual plan for each area. Once completed, this group, or some other such entity, will be asked to work with the College on execution of the strategic plan.

Upcoming events

- *Engineering Alumni Reunion Office for Diversity Reception Friday, November 13, 2009 5:30 pm until 6:30 pm*

For more information visit <http://www.eng.lsu.edu/events>

- *Jr. Faculty Professional Development Seminar Series Fall 2009*
- *Marathon Diversity Awareness in Engineering Education Seminar Series Fall 2009*

For more information visit <http://www.eng.lsu.edu/diversity>

"Making an impact not just an impression"

Meet the Office for Diversity



Kelly A. Rusch, PhD, PE
Associate Dean



Sarah Jones
Women Engineering Programs (WEP)



Vaneshette Henderson
Minority Engineering Programs (MEP)



Akilah Taylor
Faculty Programs & Development



Tira Ishikawa
Administrative Coordinator

Supriya Jindal and Engineering Office for Diversity Visit Scotlandville Elementary



Mrs. Jindal during Scotlandville Elementary visit

Supriya Jindal, Louisiana's First Lady, visited Scotlandville Elementary School on May 8 with the College of Engineering's Office for Diversity and LSU's Cain Center as part of Teach for America week in Louisiana. During the week Mrs. Jindal also visited schools in St. Landry, Pointe Coupee, East Feliciana and Orleans parishes.

"Mrs. Jindal is an advocate for science and math and recently announced the development of a foundation she has started in Louisiana to promote science and math education," said Brenda Nixon, PhD, Co-Director, LSU Cain Center.

"A strong foundation in math and science will help all of our State's children in whatever career path they choose to pursue as adults," Jindal said, adding "it has been a pleasure to visit with our State's children and educate them about the roles math and science play in their daily lives - from the food they eat and their sneakers they wear; to playing sports and videogames and driving a car; math and science is an integral part of the world we live in. Thank you to

LSU's Cain Center and to LSU's Engineering Office for Diversity for helping to bring math and science to life in the form of interactive activities with the students. It is my hope that we not only raise awareness with our State's children about the importance of math and science in our daily life, but also help them see that math and science can be fun."

Mrs. Jindal and LSU engineering graduate students assisted the Scotlandville students with a building project called snap circuits. The activity was based around building simple *electric circuits* using batteries, a "circuit board" and color-coded parts that snap together. The easy and fun assembly was completed when sirens, doorbells and alarms were heard throughout the class.

"Mrs. Jindal is a very inspiring and knowledgeable presenter who shares her excitement for science and math as well as her experiences as a chemical engineer to highlight the importance of learning and doing well in school so students, too, can become scientists or mathematicians," Dr. Nixon said.

The fourth grade class of 16 students listened to Mrs. Jindal's examples of how math and science are important in many jobs. Students were motivated, encouraged, and some students announced they wanted to be engineers like Mrs. Jindal.

Richard Koubek, New Dean, Dedicated to Diversity cont.

Who will serve on the strategic planning council (SPC)?

The SPC consists of one faculty member from each department and a member of the Dean's Advisory Board. In addition, the task forces addressing each signature area will have broad representation across campus, including staff and students.

What do you see as the most challenging aspects of increasing the College's diverse community?

One of the key challenges is recruitment and retention of a diverse faculty and student body in engineering. For many reasons, the engineering community must continue to work diligently in this regard.

What leadership efforts will you undertake to encourage a commitment to excellence through diversity?

The Dean's Office needs to be very clear that it is a priority of the College. Again, striving for a diverse engineering college is critical for LSU. I hope that through avenues such as the strategic planning process we can continue to make diversity a core value of the college.

Final thoughts?

The College of Engineering is greatly indebted to our students, faculty, alumni and corporate friends who have helped position us with regard to our diversity initiative. During the interview process for the Dean's position, I was impressed with the energy and commit-

ment in this regard. I look forward to working with all in the future to continue the effort.

For more information on the Office for Diversity please visit <http://diversity.eng.lsu.edu>



Dean Koubek listens to poster presentations during the REHAMS closing ceremony.

Mrs. Phyllis Taylor Hosts Scholars Dinner

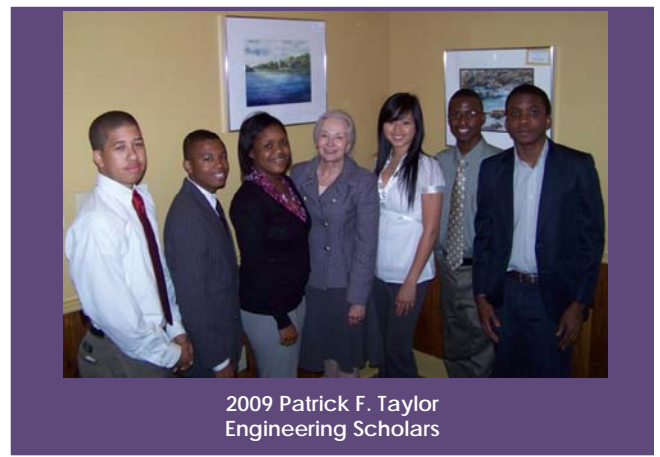
The annual Patrick F. Taylor Scholars Dinner was held April 14 at Mansur's Restaurant in Baton Rouge and sponsored by the Patrick F. Taylor Foundation. Patrick F. Taylor Scholarships benefit underrepresented engineering students, in addition to chemistry, geology and geophysics students. The event honors Mr. Taylor and brings together, Mrs. Phyllis Taylor and recipients of Patrick F. Taylor Scholarships to celebrate academic achievement and support.

The Taylor Scholars are a high-achieving and academically outstanding group of students. These scholarship recipients must be full-time undergraduate students at LSU. This year nearly 30 scholarship recipients, Taylor Foundation members, Chancellor and Mrs. Martin and LSU faculty, including the Interim Dean of Engineering and Dean of Basic Sciences, attended the dinner.

Engineering recipients of the Patrick F. Taylor Scholarship for 2009:

- **Jeremy Chavis**, mechanical engineering
- **Ebenezer Omojola**, mechanical engineering
- **Julie Quach**, electrical engineering
- **Jaworski Sartin**, civil engineering
- **Charlaya Washington**, electrical engineering
- **Johnny Williams, Jr.**, electrical engineering

"It was a great dinner," said Johnny Williams Jr., a freshman electrical engineering scholar. "I had the opportunity to



2009 Patrick F. Taylor
Engineering Scholars

personally thank Mrs. Taylor for helping me achieve my goal. I enjoyed conversing with her and the other scholarship recipients."

The event was a great opportunity for students to mingle with each other and gain valuable advice about study options and career opportunities.

Besides providing financial benefits, the Taylor Foundation understands the impact scholarships have on supporting students enrolled in top-quality engineering programs.

"It was a pleasure to meet the outstanding Taylor scholars and thank the Taylor Foundation for their continued support," said David Constant, Interim Dean for the College of Engineering. "Supporting higher education has always been a strong priority for Mrs. Taylor, and her generosity provides support to increase minority and female enrollment in the College of Engineering."

Recruitment into Engineering of High Ability Multicultural Students (REHAMS)



2009 REHAMS
participants
with LSU
Alumnus
Delwyn
Mitchell

The LSU College of Engineering (CoE) partnered with three major industry leaders to provide a two week engineering experience for high school students. Recruitment into Engineering of High Ability Multicultural Students (REHAMS) is a pre-engineering camp for underrepresented students established in 1977 to meet the challenge of recruiting greater numbers of academically talented, high school female and minority students. It is designed to spark participants' interest in engineering by providing fun hands-on experience projects, introducing basic engineering concepts, facilitating interaction with industry professionals, LSU engineering alumni and LSU engineering professors, as well as building confidence through leadership and team-building activities.

Sponsored by Shell, Dow, and Fluor Companies, REHAMS campers lived in LSU's on-campus housing, attended classes, participated in experiments, worked on individual and team/group projects and heard informative and motivational talks by guest speakers.

The 2009 cohort of 23 represented Louisiana, Texas, Illinois, Georgia and California.

Selected highlights of the camp included:

- industry tour of the Marathon Garyville Refinery by Fluor representatives
- industry luncheon with Shell employees
- closing ceremony with Dow representatives
- seminar on ACT Prep test taking skills

Organizing an engineering summer camp and getting high school students engaged during summer vacation isn't easy, but previous participants have confirmed that the camps are making a difference, as those campers typically apply to LSU's College of Engineering after high school.

The Office for Diversity Programs initiatives focus on the recruitment and retention of female and minority students to thereby improve overall enrollment and graduation rates, and enhance diversity both within the CoE and the workforce.

Attracting aspiring students to CoE, and fostering their educational development, underscores the importance of short and long term efforts of the Office for Diversity Program.

Xploration Camp Inspiring Tomorrow's Engineers (XCITE)

The LSU College of Engineering Office for Diversity Programs' held the 2nd Annual eXploration Camp Inspiring Tomorrow's Engineers (XCITE) July 6-17, 2009. XCITE, sponsored by Marathon Oil Corporation and Fluor Corporation, was a residential program for high school girls entering 9th and 10th grade. Girls were introduced to the various types of engineering through engineering courses, hands-on activities, engineering design projects and through professional engineers and their work environments.

Each weekday, the campers attended classes, participated in experiments, worked on individual and team/group projects, and completed ACT prep and Computer-Aided Drafting courses lead by engineering doctoral students. Participants heard informative, motivational talks by guest speakers, faculty, staff and students. Industry activities included field trips to Marathon Oil Company Refinery in Garyville, Louisiana, Occidental Chemical Corporation in Geismar, Louisiana, and a "Behind the Scenes" tour of the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas to get a firsthand look at engineers in the field working. The girls also participated in communication, teamwork and leadership building activities by completing the LSU Challenge Course at the University Recreational Center. Getting female high school students engaged during their summer vacation is not easy, but comments from XCITE participants confirm that the camps are exciting and making a difference.

Natasha Rankins, a freshman attending Jehovah-Jireh Christian Academy in Baton Rouge, was enthusiastic about her camp experience. "Xcite has been the most educational and XCITEing

Program I have ever attended," said Natasha. "I plan to pursue a degree in Biological Engineering and then veterinary school."

Sharon Lagos, XCITE tenth grade participant from West Jefferson High School in Harvey, LA, added "Coming into this program I did not know what to expect, considering that this is my first time coming to a camp. I thought this would be like one of those boot camps, but it turned out to be the exact opposite. Over the past two weeks, I've learned the importance of engineering, and what engineering truly is. This program has helped me expand my choices, and actually consider engineering as one of my career options!"

Parents of participating students were equally impressed with the programs' impact on their children. Monita Overstreet, mother of XCITE participant Meaghan Overstreet, said, "Thank you for hosting such a wonderful event. My daughter has learned so much and you all did such a great job. She wants to come back next year!"



2009 XCITE participants and counselors

Marathon High School Teachers Engineering Awareness Program

High school teachers can be very influential in helping students decide on a chosen major in college. Without the encouragement of teachers and opportunities to investigate science in fun, inquiry-based learning activities, students have limited information on which to base future career paths.

The Marathon High School Teachers Engineering Awareness Program was held June 8-12, 2009. This program was designed to build an infrastructure of engineering knowledge and understanding amongst high school teachers in the Louisiana area may gain the expertise and strategies in promoting and strengthening Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education practices with an emphasis in engineering. The expectation is that teachers exposed to engineering concepts will be better prepared to incorporate engineering-based applications in their math and science courses. The program consisted of a series of mini-workshops on the fundamentals of engineering and exposure to the different engineering disciplines.

Sponsored by Marathon Oil Corporation and hosted by the CoE Office for Diversity Programs, the week-long educational institute consisted of a series of mini-lectures and hands-on activities on the fundamentals of different engineering disciplines. Fifteen math/science teacher pairs developed engineering lesson plans that can be incorporated in each of the math, science and physics courses at their specific school. A common lesson plan implemented across several courses will help high school

students make the physical connection between math, physics and science.

The facilitators for the institute, Shelly Tornquist and John Hansen, expressed enthusiasm over their first engagement in the state of Louisiana and with LSU, "We love this campus and were so impressed with the hospitality. We are ready to come back," stated Tornquist. Tornquist is the Texas Project Lead the Way Master teacher trainer for the Introduction of Engineering Design course, and a professor of technology at University of Texas at Tyler. Hansen is a teacher educator and a curriculum specialist for the Center for Advancing the Teaching of Technology and Science, or CATTs, which is part of the International Technology Education Association, and is a teacher at Memorial Senior High School, Spring Branch Independent School District in Houston.

"If you change a teacher, you can change the kids. This program brings the best experience to teachers," said Tornquist.

Highlighted areas of interest from the program included investigating the design process versus scientific method in engineering, a case study scenario of a Savonius Wind Turbine, learning about the environmental engineering concept of rainwater harvesting, and engineering and technology continuum of skills.

Engineering Awareness for High School Teachers cont.

"We wanted to integrate the engineering component into math and science curriculum, because engineering provides a creative element that serves as the glue to hold math and science together," stated Tornquist. Hansen added, "We focused on the design process in problems facing the world today. We have to develop a better capacity in students for creativity and imagination. Engineering addresses an open ended problem with multiple solutions. Teachers can use the design process and develop solutions."

The teachers have given positive feedback regarding the 2009 Marathon High School Teachers Engineering Awareness Program provided to them through College of Engineering's Office for Diversity.



2009 Marathon High School Teachers Engineering Awareness Program Participants

"This experience has allowed me to not only explore deeper connections between math and science but to build content connections with engineering. Many things I already do in the classroom are engineering related, I just never knew so. Through the knowledge I have gained this summer I can now better implement my content and include engineering elements into activities to enlighten my students," said Christina Carter, math teacher at Dutchtown High School.

"I think the best part of the workshop was the design process that Shelley and John used. I think I will use it in my Calculus class when discussing related rates. I will have students work in teams of three and design and build a model of their own," said Cara O'Dell, math teacher at Baton Rouge Magnet High School.

"The program was excellent! I enjoyed meeting math/science educators from around the state. We Are implementing the engineering design process in both our junior high and high school science classes this year. We look forward to introducing our students to the amazing field of engineering," said Katie Moise, science teacher at Bethany Christian School.



Daivon Craft, REHAMS 2009



Del Dugas, Allison Mouney, Andrea Turriciano and Sharon Hulgán



Stephanie Castro Padiila, REHAMS 2009



Dynell Jones, REHAMS 2009

Thank you for your wonderful support

Since our first newsletter, many alumni have taken the time and energy to support the College of Engineering's Office for Diversity. We truly appreciate all you have done!



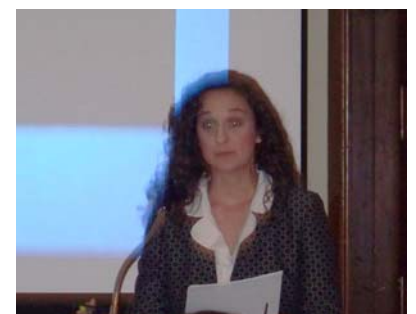
Jeremy Jenkins, REHAMS 2009



Judea Goins-Andrews, XCITE 2009



Jeffrey Handal, REHAMS 2009



Kim Odell, XCITE 2009

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*"Where excellence is
priority"*

We Want Your Story

Yes, we want your story! Thanks to those of you who responded to our call to participate in our first Diversity Alumni Book.

Help us celebrate our outstanding women and minority alumni and the varied ways in which LSU has changed people's lives. We are seeking names and contact information for women and minority LSU Engineering Alumni to highlight in the first College of Engineering Diversity Alumni Book. The profiles will allow us to show the many fields of engineering to underrepresented students. Our hope is that by showing prospective students and donors the numerous successful women and minority engineering professionals who have graduated from LSU, it will enhance our efforts to further increase diversity in the College of Engineering. If you know of any women or minority LSU Engineering Alumni that are particularly successful and/or respected in their careers, please forward their names and contact information to Akilah Taylor, ataylor1@lsu.edu, 225-578-0092.

Stay Connected!

We want to be able to keep in touch with you, to update you on activities of the Office for Diversity and to share news about your professional accomplishments and other significant events in your life with fellow alumni and our students. Please send all updates to Akilah Taylor, ataylor1@lsu.edu, 225-578-0092.

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT



Brian Carrington II, is a sophomore majoring in civil engineering. Brian was recently recognized in the National Society of Black Engineers Convention Magazine for obtaining the Academic Pyramid of Excellence. He has received the Marathon Diversity Undergraduate, S-STEM and Northrop Grumman Corporation Scholars Awards, in addition to the certificate of Achievement from the LSU Black Faculty and Staff Caucus.

Brian's involvement in school activities include participation in the American Society of Civil Engineers, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Phi Sigma Pi National Honors Fraternity, Alpha Lambda Delta National Honors Society, Phi Eta Sigma National Honors Society and serves as the intramural Chair for the National Society of Black Engineers. This summer Brian completed an internship with the Environmental and Infrastructure sector of the Shaw Group, Inc. With the rigorous studies of an engineering student, this is quite an accomplishment!



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