



Area outside of Minority Engineering and Women in Engineering Program Offices (3203 & 3203 Patrick Taylor Hall)

Open House

On February 5th, the College of Engineering's Office for Diversity hosted its first Open House. The event introduced students, faculty, staff and community partners to the diversity office staff, programs and initiatives. Representatives from student organizations like the National Society for Black Engineers, Society of Hispanic Engineers, and Society of Women Engineers were present and visited both the Minority Engineering and the Women in Engineering Program Offices. Our community partner, INROADS, also participated in the day's event.

"The open house provided a venue for already connected students, faculty and staff to stop by and interact with one another, and maybe more importantly, for people unfamiliar with our services, to come by and learn about what we do. Increasing the diversity of our college will

require participation by all stakeholders, and today was a great opportunity to bring them together," said Kelly A. Rusch, PhD, PE, Associate Dean for Diversity Programs.

The Minority Engineering Program (MEP) acts as a support system for students and provides them with opportunities for leadership development and professional growth, while the Women in Engineering Program (WEP), established in the spring of 2007, creates a positive change in the engineering environment at LSU. WEP provides a support structure for women seeking engineering degrees and for girls considering engineering as a college major and/or career.

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

In the Community

Julie Harris, Minority Engineering Program, spoke at Chevron's 17th Annual Black History Awareness Program on February 18th. This event was hosted by Chevron's Black Employee Network.

The Black Employee Network's mission is to provide an integrated organization that gives employees more access to opportunities for career development, mentoring, company participation and

community involvement.

"Julie Harris presented an eloquent overview of the state of Black America as it related to our community, region and nation. Her reflections using personal experiences gave credence to the fact that even one person can make a difference if they are willing to go the extra mile," said Victor Simon, Category Manager with Chevron.

Upcoming events

- *Recruiting into Engineering of High Ability Multi-Cultural Students (REHAMS) 2 week residential camp June 8 - 19, 2009*

For more information visit diversity.eng.lsu.edu/mep

- *Xploration Camp Inspiring Tomorrow's Engineers (XCITE) 2 week residential camp for girls July 6 - 17, 2009*

For more information visit diversity.eng.lsu.edu/wep

Diversity Alumni Reception Homecoming Weekend

"Making an impact not just an impression"

Meet the Office for Diversity



Kelly A. Rusch, PhD, PE
Associate Dean



Julie Harris
Minority Engineering Programs (MEP)



Vaneshette Henderson
Women in Engineering Programs (WEP)



Akilah Taylor
Faculty Programs & Development



Tira Ishikawa
Administrative Coordinator

Engineering Extravaganza

In anticipation of an upcoming shortage in professionals within the STEM – science, technology, engineering and mathematics – fields, the College of Engineering hosted the Engineering Extravaganza, March 7th, in Patrick F. Taylor Hall. Over 300 parents and students, in grades 6th through 12th, attended this free event open to the public.

Students participated in fun hands on activities designed to teach them basic engineering principles. Informational sessions were available for parents and students, including a discipline chat, panel discussion, with faculty and student organization leaders.

"The feedback from our youth and parents was tremendous and we're glad to have been a part of the program activities," Dynell Jones, LSU Engineering Alumnus. "We look forward to participating in upcoming events and activities." Mr. Jones brought with him nearly 25 parents and students from the Believers Family Worship Center located in New Iberia, LA.

Attendees also had the opportunity to join in three nanotechnology demonstration sessions

given by Dr. Sunggook Park, Assistant Professor in Mechanical Engineering.

"It was a great experience for me to get in touch with the students and their parents during the Engineering Extravaganza. I saw it in their eyes, responses, and questions during the nanotechnology demonstrations. They were eager to learn about what engineering is. We definitely need more events like this in order to attract more students to engineering" Dr. Park.

"It was very exciting to see the dedication of the various members of the College of Engineering building bridges to the K-12 community. This day would not have been possible without the support and efforts of our Engineering student organizations, faculty and staff! My hope is to continue to water this seed we have planted and continue to provide this service to our community and future engineering students," said Summer Dann one of the event coordinators.



Students stopped by the civil engineering table to create building structures out of gum drops and toothpicks

ExxonMobil Scholars' Reception

On February 19, 2009, ExxonMobil and the College of Engineering's (CoE) Office for Diversity hosted the ExxonMobil Diversity in Engineering Scholars' Reception. ExxonMobil's renewed \$250,000 scholarship program was established to encourage academically talented underrepresented undergraduate students to pursue degrees in engineering. The scholarship can award up to \$5,000 annually to state and non-state residents. ExxonMobil provides mentors to support and improve the students chances of success, during the scholars' undergraduate years. The ExxonMobil Diversity in Engineering Scholarship reflects the spirit, dedication and innovation that the ExxonMobil Company brings to the field of engineering.

"ExxonMobil has been a true partner and supporter of the Minority Engineering program," said Julie Harris, program manager for the Minority Engineering Program. "The renewal of the ExxonMobil Scholars program will continue to help LSU advance engineering through academic excellence and scholarship."

"This is a continuation of a successful partnership with LSU to stimulate interest in science, math and technology," said Del Dugas, capital investment planner with ExxonMobil. "The scholars are quite impressive, and we look forward to serving as engineering mentors."

Winners of the ExxonMobil Diversity in Engineering Scholarship for 2009 are: Jerrad Rolon, Ta'Ryan Lloyd, Awonu Lekia, Jarrod Living, Crystal Osejo, Taylor James-Lightner, Jamol Brown, Ryan Pazdera, Michael Milfton, Neil Bourda and Renika Bradley.

"Being a part of the ExxonMobil Scholars program is a great opportunity for me. I will have a mentor to give me first-hand information on industry practices. The seminars will help me grow into a successful petroleum engineer. Also, this relationship could possibly lead to future employment at ExxonMobil, so I am very excited about this opportunity," said Neil Bourda, a sophomore scholar.



ExxonMobil Diversity in Engineering Scholars and ExxonMobil Scholars Advisory Board Members: Del Dugas, Louisa Hayward and George Pietrogallo David Constant, Interim Dean and Kelly Rusch, Associate Dean

The ExxonMobil Diversity in Engineering Scholarship represents only a part of ExxonMobil's overall support to LSU. In May 2008, the ExxonMobil Foundation's Matching Gift Program presented a check to LSU in the amount of \$1,119,724 which represents ExxonMobil's 3 to 1 match of funds donated to LSU by ExxonMobil employees and retirees. With this gift, LSU became the first university in the world to receive more than \$1 million in matching funds from ExxonMobil in one calendar year. ExxonMobil has been an integral part of advancing and sustaining the quality of education at LSU.

Support for Diversity, like that shown by ExxonMobil, helps the College of Engineering move closer to its Forever LSU Campaign goal. The Office for Diversity is included in the college's development efforts, with a goal of attaining \$10 million in support for LSU by the end of the year 2010. To find out how you can become involved, visit <http://diversity.eng.lsu.edu/>.

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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.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT



Lakiesha Williams, was recognized at the 2008 Women of Color Technology Awards Conference. Williams was recently named a "rising star" by Women of Color magazine and IBM Corporation. She is a specialist on the hierarchical nature of biological tissues from nano-scale to micro-scale levels. Her most renowned research is in quantifying the impact of vehicle crashes on brain tissue.

After completing her bachelors and masters degrees in biological and agricultural engineering at LSU, she went on to Mississippi State University (MSU) and received her doctorate in biomedical engineering. She is currently a research assistant professor of biomedical engineering at MSU and a faculty member in the university's agricultural and biological engineering department.

Article excerpted from August 27, 2008 MSU Website, University Relations, News Bureau, Robbie Ward, (662) 325-3442

Should your travels bring you to Baton Rouge, please feel free to call Akilah at 225-578-0092 and schedule a time when you can stop by and meet us.


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City, State Zip Code