



Volume 1, Issue 1

Louisiana Tech University
College of Engineering and Science

College News Fall 2011

New Building Campaign Officially Kicks Off

Special points of interest:

The College will hold its **final tailgate Homecoming weekend, October 29th, beginning at 12:30 p.m.** Everyone is welcome! The Bulldogs will play San Jose State starting at 3 p.m.

Tech Engineering grad **Jerry Hudson of Ruston** has been named the **University's Alumnus of the Year!** Jerry will be honored during Homecoming festivities. **Charles Gandy** of Annapolis, MD., is the College's Alumnus of the year for 2011.

On Friday, September 30, 2011, the Gathering Room at Squire Creek Country Club was standing room only as the College officially launched its Campaign for a new Integrated Engineering and Science Education Building with an auction fundraiser. Special guests of the evening included officials and employees of Hunt, Guillot & Associates (HGA) of Ruston who had recently announced a \$100,000 commitment to the project. HGA Vice President Jay Guillot is a Tech engineering graduate. The event raised more than \$30,000 for the new building with auction items including a private piano recital by Dean Stan Napper and trips to dream vacation homes bringing in over \$3,000 each.

The President of the Engineering and Science Foundation Board, Hilton Nicholson, was the event's auctioneer. Music was provided by Lawrence Gibbs and his jazz ensemble from Tech. To contribute, go to www.latech.edu/coes/building.



Dean Stan Napper 'passes the bucket' for the new building during the College's recent auction-fundraiser. To see more auction photos, see page 4.

Educators from New Zealand Eye Tech Teaching Methods...

Development and engineering leaders from the Wintec Waikato Institute of Technology in Hamilton, New Zealand, have visited Louisiana Tech University to investigate the College of Engineering and Science's innovative methods of teaching.

Louisiana Tech was one of only a few universities that Wintec selected to tour. Other universities toured include Stanford, MIT, and universities in Singapore and Germany. The Wintec representatives chose Louisiana Tech due to interest in the College of Engineering and Science's integrated learning curriculum and "Living with the Lab" program. They met with engineering professors, interacted with students, and explored labs to learn more about the integrated learning approach.

Dr. David Hall, Associate Professor and Program Chair of Mechanical Engineering, noted that the College's approach to learning is unique. "While a number of schools around the country are using portions of our first-year engineering curriculum, we were honored for a university in New Zealand to pick up on what we are doing here at Louisiana Tech and to put us on their short list of places to visit."

Wintec is one of New Zealand's largest Institutes of Technology/Polytechnics (ITPs) and delivers high quality, vocational and professional education. The university will incorporate information gained on this trip in redeveloping its undergraduate engineering curriculum and development of new environments for hands-on learning.

Hall said that the New Zealand University learned about Tech's "Living with the Lab" program online. "If we put high quality educational materials on the web that others can use, there's a chance that what we are doing will catch on at other places and bring recognition to Louisiana Tech and our 'Living with the Lab' team."

Tech's "Living with the Lab" program is a six-hour course sequence that engages first-year students in service to the community and hands-on projects. The projects are designed by the students using their own curriculum-required equipment and tools. This program is supported by funding from a National Science Foundation Course Curriculum and Laboratory Improvement Program grant and is maintained through faculty dedication.

Did you know...

Louisiana Tech University's Tier One Ranking is determined by, among other things, alumni participation in events and alumni giving. If you'd like to support the College of Engineering and Science, visit www.latech.edu/coes. On the home page, you will see a link for making donations as well as a list of recent news stories and upcoming events.

Industry News

The College's Industrial Partner Program has received funding from five companies for the 2011-2012 academic year. **Cameron International**, **Centerpoint Energy**, **Entergy**, **NST** and **PPG Industries** have each renewed their partnerships with the College. Funds from these companies are used to bring industry leaders to campus to speak to students and pay for student field trips to visit nearby companies and plants, as well as support the annual Senior Projects Competition. Additionally, **Chesapeake Energy** has donated \$7,500 in scholarship funds this year, and the **Praeses Company** in Shreveport has started a scholarship program for students majoring in Computer Science.

Alumni News

Engineering Alumnus Takes a Different Path...

Shane Hough graduated from Louisiana Tech in 1993 with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and worked for Dresser Industries in Pineville for four years. However, in late 1996, he decided to do something completely different with his life and joined the Peace Corps. Hough moved to the East African country of Tanzania and taught math and physics at an all-girls government boarding school until 1999. Following his stint in the Peace Corps, he decided to continue to work with developing countries in a different way. He moved to Washington, D.C., and began work for Congressman John Cooksey while pursuing a Master's Degree in development management from American University. (He wrote his thesis on the development of appropriate cook stoves in African refugee camps which he said came easy thanks in large part to a Heat Transfer course he took in 1992.) Afterward, he entered the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration as the Central Africa desk officer overseeing \$50 million in annual projects earmarked for one million refugees in camps in Rwanda, Tanzania and Burundi. His work primarily centered on providing clean water and food. After four years, Hough decided to move from behind a desk into the field and was sent to Guayaquil, Ecuador, where he served as a consular officer for a year followed by two years in San Salvador. He transferred to Guatemala in 2010 where he is now the U.S. government point of contact for energy (particularly biofuels) development and renewable energy production. He says his engineering training at Louisiana Tech provided a firm basis for his unusual career, and he is grateful for his education.

If you'd like to contact Shane, his email address is **HoughMS@state.gov**.

If you know of an engineering or science alum who's taken an unusual career path, email us at **cfraser@latech.edu**.

Trott Hunt, President of Hunt, Guillot & Associates, visits with Dr. Chester Wilson and artist Marie Bukowski during the auction. Bukowski donated two pieces of artwork for the event.



A bid is placed on Dr. Virgil Orr's stained glass Tech bulldog during the silent auction. Jim Terrill of Alexandria, Louisiana, had the winning bid.

Jean and George Baldwin of Shreveport visit with Sandy Johnson of Houston during the College's auction fundraiser. George and Sandy are members of the Engineering and Science Foundation Board.

