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What do engineering and science alumni do at a Tech bowl game? Find out in the next edition of *College News*....

Associate Dean Recognized at the White House

Dr. Jenna Carpenter, associate dean for the College of Engineering and Science and the Wayne and Juanita Spinks Professor of Mathematics and Statistics at Louisiana Tech University, travelled to Washington, D.C., in early December where she and the leadership of Women in Engineering ProActive Network (WEPAN) were recognized at the White House for their work with and contributions to advancing women in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.



Each week, the Obama Administration highlights a group of Americans, businesses or organizations who embody the concept of “Innovate, Educate and Build.” On Friday, the White House Office of Public Engagement will host an event to honor those who are “Winning the Future” by helping to recruit girls and retain women in the STEM disciplines. The leadership of WEPAN selected Carpenter to represent them at the White House event. WEPAN is a national organization that works to transform culture in engineering education to attract, retain and graduate women.

“I am so pleased that President Obama is highlighting the importance of changing stereotypes and sharing best practices on recruiting and retaining more women in the engineering and science workforce,” said Carpenter. “Resolving these issues is central to our nation’s ability to meet future workforce demands in these fields, as well as maintain our edge in innovation.”

In addition to her roles with WEPAN, Carpenter is also a member of the Board of Governors of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA), serving as the Governor of the Louisiana-Mississippi Section. She has served on the Board of Directors of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) and sits on the Board of Directors for WEPAN.

Carpenter is the director of the Office for Women in Science and Engineering at Louisiana Tech, directs the College of Engineering and Science’s Faculty Mentoring Program, and is the advisor for the College’s Chapter of the Society of Women Engineers.

College News

Twenty receive Graduate Certificate in Communications Systems during ceremony

Twenty CenturyLink employees were among the first group of Louisiana Tech University students to receive a Graduate Certificate in Communications Systems during a recent recognition ceremony at CenturyLink headquarters in Monroe. The certificate program was developed by Louisiana Tech specifically for CenturyLink employees and consists of five courses, totaling 15 semester credit hours. It is designed for those CenturyLink employees with general responsibilities and interests in telecommunications engineering, information technology or information systems.



Program courses include Telecommunication Theory and Application, Modern Wireless and Optical Networking, Optical Communications Systems, Introduction to Information Assurance, and Network Design and Implementation.

CenturyLink CEO and President Glen Post (bachelor's accounting '74, master's accounting '76) was on hand to offer his congratulations to the graduates along with program professors and University administrators. Dr. Stan Napper, dean of Tech's College of Engineering and Science, and Dr. Terry McConathy, executive vice president and dean of the Graduate School at Tech, presented the students with their certificates.

Napper says the graduate certificate in Communications Systems was created to meet the workforce development and training needs of CenturyLink. "Demand has increased significantly subsequent to CenturyLink's acquisition of and merger with Embarq in 2009 and is expected to increase further with their acquisition of Qwest in 2011."

The Graduate Certificate in Communications Systems program is currently offered in the evenings at CenturyLink headquarters in Monroe in order to serve full-time employees. The class presentations are captured and posted for students' use after the class or in case their work schedule requires them to miss class. The class capture technology also enables the class to be taken by students in other locations.

Students who complete the program may consider pursuing an MBA offered by the College of Business or an M.S. in Engineering and Technology and Management or M.S. in Engineering offered by the College of Engineering and Science, depending on the student's undergraduate background and career goals.

Roddey Engineering Services, Inc. of Shreveport Makes Gift to Capital Campaign

Roddey Engineering Services, Inc. of Shreveport has announced it will donate \$25,000 to Louisiana Tech's College of Engineering and Science Campaign for a New Integrated Engineering and Science Building. The gift moves the Campaign past the \$3.1 million collected to date from private donors and area businesses and industry.

John B. 'Bob' Roddey (bachelor's chemical engineering '60), President of Roddey Engineering Services Inc., founded the company in 1985. He says that Louisiana Tech has provided the company with quality engineers since the business began. "They have proven to be extremely qualified in applying the things that they have learned at Tech to real industry applications. We have also found the work ethic of the Tech engineers to be excellent. In fact, all the members of the management team at Roddey Engineering are Louisiana Tech graduates."

To learn more about the College's capital Campaign, see www.latech.edu/coes/building.

Alumni News

Alexandria Airpark Named After Engineering Alumnus

Last month, the Alexandria, La., Airpark was renamed in memory of James L. Meyer (bachelor's chemical engineering '56, master's chemical engineering '65), Louisiana Tech University engineering alumnus and founder of the central Louisiana-based firm Meyer, Meyer and Lacroix. Meyer was a very active member of the Louisiana Tech Engineering and Science Foundation (ESF) Board of Directors, serving as President five times in the late 1980s and early 1990s. He was a Life Director of the group when he passed away in 1998.



According to ESF Life Director Dr. Bobby E. Price, Meyer was an excellent example of a person who was professional in all activities in his life. “He mentored young engineers not only to increase their knowledge and experience regarding design of engineering projects, but guided them and let them know that they needed to be involved in engineering organizations that promote and serve the engineering profession. Jim was a strong supporter of Louisiana Tech through time, effort and resources. He never forgot where he received the education that would carry him through an outstanding career as an engineer, a businessman and an entrepreneur. Jim had a pleasing personality which made those in his presence feel at ease. He was an exceptional individual.”

Alumnus Turns Passion into Career

When Joe Barbosa (bachelor's mechanical engineering '02) was an engineering student at Louisiana Tech, he enjoyed long distance running and mountain biking in Lincoln Parish Park when he was not in a classroom or a lab. When it came time to search for an internship, Joe felt it was important to find ‘real world experience in an area that speaks to you,’ so he chose AMP Research in Southern California. At the time, AMP was the Patent-holder of the true four-bar linkage design for Mountain Bike rear suspension. After graduation, Joe knew he did not want to work in the oil and gas industry or in construction, so he returned to his true passion and moved to Waterloo, Wisconsin to take a position at Trek Bicycle Corporation Headquarters. Today, Joe is back in sunny southern California working in engineering sales. He said he sees the value of his Louisiana Tech education everyday.

“Tech moved to the integrated teaching approach my second or third year of school and it really helped me. I realized that you may not always be right, or even if you are, that may not be what's best for the group. I learned the importance of adapting and the intricacies of group dynamics.”

Although Joe attended West Feliciana High School in southern Louisiana, he chose Louisiana Tech in north Louisiana because he knew he would receive a great education in smaller sized classes. He said that as an undergraduate, he wanted to be taught by a full professor versus a graduate student.

“Louisiana Tech engineering should get the same respect as other larger schools. They prepare students well in a strict but compassionate environment. They want students to be good engineers as well as savvy learners.”

If you know of a College of Engineering and Science alumnus who has an interesting story, contact Catherine Fraser at cfraser@latech.edu

More Photos



Century Link employees line up to receive their communications certificates in Monroe.



Dean Stan Napper addresses the crowd following awarding communications certificates to CenturyLink employees.



Bogard Hall is decked out for the holidays. (Does that hallway look familiar?)



Engineering alumnus, Eugene 'Gene' Trammell (bachelor's mechanical engineering '78), visits with industry representatives at the December Tech Rouler event in University Hall.