Ostenfeld to Present Boh Lecture

Left: Klaus H. Ostenfeld

Right: The preliminary designs for a Gibraltar Strait crossing include a 3,550 m multi-span suspension bridge.

Hoffman, Johnson, and Rosen Named to Hall of Fame

Assistant Dean Emeritus Beth Hoffman, Dean Emeritus Lee H. Johnson, and 1947 alumnus Harold Rosen, will be inducted into the Tulane Engineering Hall of Fame at the STIE Homecoming Brunch, October 12.

Beth Hoffman served the School of Engineering for over 45 years as assistant to deans Robert, Johnson, MacDonald (acting), Hulbert, and Thompson. According to Johnson, “She was probably the most effective person in the history of the School of Engineering when it came to being able to create a genuine spirit of dedication and cooperation between faculty, students, staff, and alumni... It was most befitting that when she retired, it was as Assistant Dean Emeritus. Very few people have been so honored.”

Dean Johnson was dean of engineering at the University of Mississippi for thirteen years before succeeding Dean Robert at Tulane, in 1950. His tenure as dean was marked by a steady growth in teaching and research contributions. Under Johnson, a curriculum for advanced degrees was implemented and the first Ph.D. was awarded in chemical engineering in 1963. Additionally, programs were initiated in biomedical engineering, operations research, and computer research. Johnson served as dean of engineering and professor of civil engineering for over 22 years when he was named the William R. Irby Professor of Engineering.

Harold A. Rosen, a 1947 graduate of electrical engineering, is best known for his development of the world’s first geosynchronous communications satellite, Syncom, and the first commercial communications satellite, Intelsat, which made available transatlantic voice in television. He has received numerous national and international awards, most recently the renowned Draper Prize in Engineering.

Hall of Fame continued on page 2

The 1996 Catherine and Henry Boh Lecture in Civil Engineering, scheduled for November, will be presented by Klaus H. Ostenfeld, President of the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering (IABSE). The IABSE, headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland, has approximately 4,000 members in 93 countries.

Ostenfeld is Director of COWconsult, a large multi-faceted planning and design firm with headquarters in Copenhagen, Denmark, with Boh Lecture continued on page 2
Dean's Message

Greetings from Tulane. The school year is starting up again and the new freshman class has arrived. The class consists of 190 very bright young people, 30% of whom are women. We look forward to getting to know them better.

During the summer, the University offered a very attractive early retirement package to the senior faculty. Four of our faculty took the offer: Hugh Thompson, former dean and current Entergy Professor of Electric Power Engineering; Sam Sullivan, Associate Dean and Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering; Frank Dalia, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering; and Ed Williamson, Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering. Dean Thompson has already left and the others will leave in December 1996. Together these men have devoted over 140 working years to the School and have helped make the School what it is today. We shall miss them.

On July 1, 1996, two of our departments merged to become the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Undergraduate and graduate programs in electrical engineering and computer science as well as an undergraduate program in computer engineering will be administered by the new department. The department is the sole occupant of Stanley Thomas Hall, which is now 84 years old. Thanks to the National Science Foundation, to the Entergy Corporation, and to the generosity of many of you, Stanley Thomas Hall will be completely renovated in 1997.

I look forward to meeting with many of you during the coming year. If you visit the campus, please come and see us in the Engineering Dean's Office. We are very proud of our graduates and want to keep up with you. One way to visit us is via the internet. Tulane's home page is at http://www.tulane.edu. There you will find links to the home page of the School of Engineering and to the websites for each of the departments. You will also find a directory of the e-mail addresses of our faculty. I am sure the faculty would be pleased to hear from you. Please stay in touch.

William C. Van Buskirk
Dean of Engineering

Boh Lecture continued from page 1

worldwide operations in 17 countries including the United States. He is directly involved in the planning and design of the crossing of the Strait of Gibraltar, a project in the planning stage with authorization and funding by the governments of Spain and Morocco. Ostenfeld is also involved in the major crossing presently under construction which will connect Denmark and Sweden. These crossings, plus other international projects such as the Normandy Bridge, will be the subject of Ostenfeld's presentation.

Previous Boh lectures have been presented by T. Y. Lin, discussing the International Peace Bridge between Alaska and Siberia; by Colin Kirkland, Technical Director of the English Channel tunnel project; and by Robert Boh on the early days of Tulane engineering. It is anticipated that Ostenfeld's presentation will continue the tradition of excellence associated with the Boh Lecture Series.

The 1996 Boh Lecture is scheduled for 4:30 PM, November 7, in the Richardson Memorial Hall on the Tulane campus.

Submitted by Professor Robert N. Bruce Jr.

Catherine and Henry Boh Chair in Civil Engineering

Tulane Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Hall of Fame continued from page 1

Rosen was the featured speaker at the Engineering Centennial Celebration, in 1994, and was selected by Tulane University as the 1994 Distinguished Alumnus. The School of Engineering also selected Rosen as its Outstanding Alumnus of 1995-96 and will also present him with this honor at the Homecoming Brunch.

The Engineering Hall of Fame was established during the 1994 Centennial to honor Tulane engineers who have made significant contributions to the fields of engineering and science through the practice of engineering, education, science, technology, business, management, or government on a level of national or international importance. Hoffman, Johnson, and Rosen have made extraordinary contributions to the School of Engineering and to Tulane University, continuing the tradition of achievement and excellence celebrated by selection to the Hall of Fame.
International Initiatives in the Pacific Rim

Tulane Engineering historically has had strong international ties, including an excellent Junior Year Abroad (JYA) Program in Europe. However, in the wake of the University's focus on international programs in the last five years, efforts have been doubled in that regard by the School of Engineering. In the Pacific Rim arena, which has seen the fastest economic growth rate in the world, several activities have already been in place. In the summer of 1995, Dean William C. Van Buskirk and Professor S. T. Hsieh visited Beijing, Xian, Hong Kong, and Taipei, where the Dean delivered a seminar on the mechanics of bone to the faculty and students of Tsinghua University and the National Taiwan University. After that trip, several ideas for exchange programs were developed.

In August 1996, Van Buskirk and Hsieh repeated the visit to China with stops at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, the Beijing Polytechnic University, Tsinghua University, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), Kolej Unitex Malaysia, INTI College, the National Taiwan University (NTU), and the National Open University (ROC). One of the major initiatives of this trip was a proposed course on international engineering practices to allow Tulane students a hands-on experience in a very rapidly developing region. The course will be implemented in 1997 and is intended for a select group of Engineering juniors and/or seniors.

Currently, there are two major components of the course. The first part will begin in the summer of 1997 with Tulane students visiting Beijing, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, and Taipei for a month, averaging a week per city. During this part of the course, the students will be hosted by the Tsinghua University, HKUST, INTI, and NTU. In addition to cultural exposure during the trip, workshops will be conducted by local faculty members, U.S. engineers, and business representatives in each city with in-depth discussions of the cultural background and society, economic development potential, and engineering needs of the region. Tulane students will have the opportunity to interface with local engineering students, faculty, and laboratory personnel as well as tour major engineering project sites. Included are Hong Kong's new S20 billion dollar airport at Chek Lap Kok and the 450-meter high Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, currently the tallest structure in the world. Also, by 1997, completion of a 457-meter tower is projected in China and will be included on the agenda. Students will be briefed on site by local and international engineers on each project's development, utilities, and technology transfer.

After the summer tour, the second component of the program begins in the fall of 1997 with Tulane students enrolled in a three credit course which will include further discussions and updates on the summer experience. Finally, each student will be required to write a term paper on pre-approved topics related to the trip.

The long term benefits for students who attend this program may include international placement opportunities and networking. For example, in 1996, Hewlett-Packard has an expanding regional work force of 22,000 people in China. Tulane Engineering intends to operate this summer program on a continuing basis and to expand the concept in the near future to other major cities, such as Singapore and Tokyo.

Other initiatives from the trip included the following: For cultural enrichment, the School of Engineering is recruiting highly qualified students from the Pacific Rim. Van Buskirk and Hsieh established a JYA Program with HKUST during the recent trip which will allow juniors from both countries to participate in an exchange program for a year. To enhance faculty research exchanges, a short-term visiting scholar program with China is being developed with Tulane periodically hosting distinguished Chinese researchers who will collaborate with the Engineering faculty. Another focus of the trip was the organization of an international conference on information technology for distance-learning.

The US/China Institute for Energy and Environment recently received DOE funding, which complements prior EPA funding, to operate the Center in Beijing at Tsinghua University. Partial funding will also come from the Chinese government. Directed by Hsieh, this Center represents a unique international partnership among government, industry, and academia in the deployment of U.S.
Letter from the STE President

It has been a long time since the last issue of The Tulane Engineer was produced. Change, a factor ever present in all of our lives and accelerating in our jobs, has been especially pronounced at Tulane this year. The new Tulane 2000 plan included a significant cutback in staff. A person who was near and dear to the hearts of engineers for quite some time and who helped STE to put The Tulane Engineer together was affected by these cutbacks. Shelley Richardson will be profoundly missed by the faculty, staff, students and alumni.

You can expect to see a new issue of The Tulane Engineer this fall. Many of you have commented how much you enjoy the Alumni News section so we encourage everyone to let us know what you have been up to via the enclosed envelope or through our website.

Speaking of our website, we figured that it was about time for STE to join the web age so we have created a site to include a variety of STE information. It can be located at http://www.tulane.edu/engineering/ste. The site is under construction and it will eventually include a listing of Tulane engineers by city, recent STE awards, new members (recent graduates) and a job classified ads section. This last section will be open to any firm interested in placing a job posting for Tulane Engineers and for any Tulane Engineer to place his/her resume. We look forward to your visit, your comments, suggestions and your participation in the site.

You will all be happy to know that the recent graduates of the school of engineering are an excellent group. Their scholastic achievements boggle the mind. There were 2 students with GPA's of 4.0, 11 with 3.9's and 14 with 3.8's. Having attended the STE Senior Awards Banquet for the last 4 years, I can attest to the fact that the number of students with high GPA's has risen dramatically. Much as the way in which a new product can cause the stock of a company to rise, the value of a Tulane Engineering degree rises for all of us when new alumni with outstanding qualities enter the working world.

Alfred Freudenberger
President of STE

1996 Senior Awards Banquet

Each year the Society of Tulane Engineers sponsors the Senior Awards Banquet. Traditionally, it is an occasion to recognize students who have attained an outstanding GPA or citizenship record. At the 1996 Senior Awards Banquet, the officers of the Society of Tulane Engineers introduced the “Well Rounded Student Award” - an award that recognizes one individual in the School of Engineering who excels in leadership, teamwork, time management, and communication skills. Each department was asked to nominate one student who maintained a high quality academic performance, who was involved with community and/or student organizations, and who commanded the respect of the department and his or her peers. Ira Robert Nemeth was presented the first “Well Rounded Student Award” by the Society of Tulane Engineers. Ira participated extensively in student government, was involved with TUCP, and was a certified emergency medical technician for both the Tulane Emergency Medical Service and the New Orleans Health Department. At the same time, Ira maintained a 3.2 GPA and graduated with honors.

Another award presented at the Senior Awards Banquet by the Society of Tulane Engineers is the “Lee H. Johnson Award for Teaching Excellence”. It is given to a professor who has distinguished him or herself with the students as well as in academics. This year, the award was presented to Dr. Paul Frank Duvoisin, Sr., Professor of Electrical Engineering. Many of you will remember Professor Duvoisin as an excellent instructor, but his academic and professional achievements are equally impressive. After receiving both a B.S.E. and M.S. degree from Tulane and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, Professor Duvoisin began his career at Tulane in 1959. He has received a wide array of honors and awards ranging from those presented by students to those presented by industry with multiple academic fellowships. His technical publications are equally impressive.

Join us in congratulating Ira Nemeth and Paul Duvoisin for their outstanding efforts in the School of Engineering.

Alfred Freudenberger
President of STE
Watts Invested in Mechanical Engineering Chair

Robert Watts reflected on "a series of happy accidents" that led him to become a mechanical engineer as he was invested in the Cornelie and Arthur L. Jung Chair in Mechanical Engineering on January 29.

"I first came to Tulane in 1955, intent on studying architecture," Watts said. "A friend told me it was a five-year course, so I decided, what the heck, civil engineering was close enough. So when it came time, after completing my first year, to register in a particular discipline, I got in one of the long lines that we had to stand in those days—only to find out, after waiting an hour or so, that it was the mechanical engineering line. Now, I'm not one for standing in lines, so I decided to become a mechanical engineer."

Watts said it was no accident that he returned to Tulane after receiving his master's in nuclear engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and his doctorate in heat transfer at Purdue University. Since joining the Tulane faculty in 1965, Watts' research interests have ranged from the engineering principles of baseball to the effects of fossil fuel use on climate and the environment. He has published two books, *Keep Your Eye on the Ball: Science and Folklore of Baseball and The Engineering Response to Global Climate Change: Planning a Research and Development Agenda.*

Excerpted from Inside Tulane, March 1996.

Midshipmen Mambo

It all started about five years ago when one Tulane Naval ROTC Drum and Bugle Corp member decided to "go out on a limb," says David Haydel, a senior mechanical engineering major from Luling, Louisiana, who is the platoon commander and director of the band. That one midshipman would dance every time the band played music. After a while, the idea caught on and the group started incorporating dance moves as a part of its routine.

"I guess you could say the band has developed more along the lines of entertainment than just military representation," Haydel says. So far, its performances have been well-received by the local military community.

To say the least, the crowd's response to the military marching group has been overwhelmingly positive. Performances have been known to elicit participation from onlookers, who have planted kisses on midshipmen, placed beads around their necks or sometimes danced with them, Haydel says.

The media has also taken a liking to the drum and bugle corps. In the past two years, the group has been featured on "Entertainment Tonight," "E!" (the entertainment network) and "A Current Affair." Locally, the group got a "thumbs up" from *Gambit* last year, in the weekly newspaper's review of the Carrollton parade (during Mardi Gras).

Excerpted from Inside Tulane, February 1996.

Marshall Scholar Aims to Make Computers Accessible

Benjamin Kleinman, a 1995 Marshall Scholar, says he plans to use his computer science and mathematics skills to make computer programs more accessible to people of all socioeconomic levels. Kleinman (E '96), of Marietta, Georgia, was one of 40 selected among 800 applicants who will be studying in the United Kingdom next fall. He hopes to pursue advanced study at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

Kleinman graduated last spring from the School of Engineering with a double major in computer science and mathematics. During his time at Tulane, he was an active member of the community.

While at Edinburgh, Kleinman says he will study ways to simplify computer programming so that programs will be more accessible to a broader base of people. "Programming is becoming more and more accessible, with the Internet, with visual basics, and things like Delphi (a commercial Internet-access program). And, a lot of people think they can write programs," he says. "I would like to help make tools that are easy to use."

Kleinman has selected Edinburgh because "(it) has an excellent reputation and is very well-known for computer science and going into theory—why programs work the way they work, why they don't work, and how they should work."

Excerpted from Inside Tulane, March 1996.
Calendar of Events

SOCIETY OF TULANE ENGINEERS HOMECOMING BRUNCH
AND
ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, October 12, 1996
10:00 AM
Faculty Dining Room
University Center
$10 Per Person/Cash Bar
Payable in Advance or At Door

RSVP Engineering Dean’s Office
Winnie Beuerman
504/865-5764

Agenda: Alumnus of the Year Award will be presented to Harold Rosen; the Levey Award winner will be announced; Dr. Rosen, Dean Emeritus Johnson, and Assistant Dean Emeritus Beth Hoffman will be inducted into the Hall of Fame. **SEATING IS LIMITED for this special event and ADVANCE RESERVATIONS are highly recommended.** Please join us in honoring these outstanding leaders and friends.