Harold A. Levey Award

The 2003 Levey Award recipient is John J. Kelly III. Dr. Kelly is president of Model Software Corporation and an expert computer consultant.

Dr. Kelly received his M.E. in Computer Science (1987) and PhD in Computer Science (1996) from Tulane. He has worked as a senior engineer on the NASA space shuttle program where he received a NASA Certificate of Appreciation for his contribution to the Challenger investigation.

Before starting Model Software Corporation, he led the artificial intelligence group at Martin Marietta Manned Space Systems. He has since consulted with Silicon Valley electronics companies, New York investment banks, NASA and the U.S. Navy.

Dr. Kelly has performed research and development in model-based reasoning and constraint-based programming resulting in journal and conference publications.

Awards bestowed Homecoming Weekend ’03

Breaking from the tradition of a homecoming jazz brunch, this year’s Society of Tulane Engineers annual meeting was held on the evening of Friday, October 10. The decision to move the meeting to Friday night of homecoming was made by the Executive Committee to free up Saturday for tailgating prior to the game.

David Gereighty, 2002-2003 STE president, presided over the meeting, and Dean Nicholas Altiero announced the Hall of Fame Inductees and alumni award recipients.

Hall of Fame

William “Bill” Cavanaugh III graduated from Tulane in 1961 with a degree in mechanical engineering. He is recognized throughout the U.S. and worldwide as an industry leader in commercial energy and as an authority on nuclear power. In 1998, he was a recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor for his accomplishments in the field of energy. He holds numerous board memberships, including the Business Roundtable, the National Academy of Engineering, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Cavanaugh is chairman and CEO of Progress Energy.

David R. Filo graduated from Tulane in 1988 with a degree in computer engineering. He is the co-founder and Chief Yahoo of Yahoo! Inc., a leading provider of comprehensive online products and services to consumers and businesses worldwide. Yahoo! is the #1 Internet brand globally and the most trafficked Internet destination worldwide.

Outstanding Alumnus

The 2003 Outstanding Alumnus Award was presented posthumously to Albert Baldwin Wood (1879-1956). Receiving the award on behalf of the Wood Family were Mrs. Leo (Susie) Seal, great-niece, and Ms. Lucinda Pringle, great-great niece of Mr. Wood.

Mr. Wood received his bachelor of engineering (mechanical) in 1899 from Tulane School of Engineering, and in 1939 was awarded an honorary doctor of engineering from Tulane. He was a recent graduate when he designed the pumps for which he became world-famous. The Wood pumps presently drain the city of New Orleans and are also used in the Zuider Zee region of Holland, as well as Egypt, China and India.

(L to R) Mrs. Seal and Ms. Pringle accept the 2003 Outstanding Alumnus Award for Mr. Wood.
Alumni, friends and students celebrated homecoming by visiting the STE tent in homecoming village.

STE officers served as hosts, dishing out jambalaya to the enthusiastic football fans that dropped by prior to the game.

This year’s officers are already making plans for next year so stay tuned. We may see them in aprons grilling up hamburgers and hot dogs.

The weekend was chock full of class reunions scattered all over New Orleans.

Under the leadership of Al Gottschall (ME’43), the Class of 1943 held a successful reunion at Southern Yacht Club.

Garnett Bedenbaugh got the Chemical Engineering Class of 1963 together at Tony Angelo’s.

Out of eleven people who graduated in ChE in 1963, eight attended the reunion. Attendees came from many places. Clay Lewis came from Saudi Arabia, Tom Regan from Paris, Paul Woolverton from Raleigh, N.C., Bat Dejean from Houston, Garnett Bedenbaugh from Hammond, and John Funk from Atlanta. Bobby Hassinger (Commercial Real Estate) and Phil Knieper (Technical Department, Cytec) currently reside in New Orleans.

On Saturday evening the Classes of 1977, 78 and 79 met at Rock ‘n Bowl for a lively reunion with several faculty members and emeritus faculty in attendance. Irvin “Sandy” Dares (CE’78) spearheaded this rockin’ reunion.

The Class of ‘83 at Tony Angelo’s
(top row L to R): Tom Regan, Bat Dejean, Phil Knieper, Garnett Bedenbaugh, Bobby Hassinger
(bottom row L to R): John Funk, Paul Woolverton, Clay Lewis

The Classes of ’77, ’78 and ’79 reunite at Rock ‘n Bowl in Mid City

Prof. Bob Bruce (civil) and Sandy Dares (CE’78)
Innovative Plan for Long-Distance PhD Program

Dr. Ken Ford, director of the Institute for Human and Machine Cognition (IHMC) in Pensacola, Florida was finding it difficult to retain employees, often losing them to academic aspirations. Several had left to pursue PhD degrees at distant institutions.

Hoping to solve this dilemma and keep his employees from relocating, Dr. Ford contacted Bill Buckles, Professor of Computer Science at Tulane, who jumped at the opportunity to create a long-distance PhD program.

The plan includes transferring masters credits and taking several independent study courses. Required extracurricular testing is performed off-site.

Participation in regular graduate courses from classrooms is also in place with IHMC providing video-conferencing gear.

Employees who wish to be considered must have credentials indicating they are prepared for advanced, research-oriented academic work.

For instance, they must have earned a masters degree and exhibit a significant list of publications on their resumes. Being published is a particularly important requirement because it shows that the candidate is prepared for research upon entering the program.

The plan includes transferring masters credits and taking several independent study courses.

Planned Gifts Boost Engineering Endowment

The endowment of the School of Engineering has been substantially boosted recently by funds received from planned gifts established long ago.

These gifts were made by alumni and friends who wanted to provide support for the School of Engineering while still being able to meet other financial obligations. In the last fiscal year, over $638,000 went to the school's endowment through planned gifts.

Some of the planned gifts paid lifetime income to the donors, providing a source of income for their other financial goals. Others were provided for in donors' wills leaving the donors with complete lifetime access to their assets to meet other financial objectives.

The School of Engineering Board of Advisors has begun working on a plan to achieve our vision of the school by the year 2010. That vision includes an increase in the number of faculty and undergraduate students, an enrollment of students in our new practice-oriented masters degree programs, an increase in the number of research-oriented graduate students, and a fourfold increase in research funding. Achievement of these goals will firmly place Tulane among the elite schools of engineering in the country.

In developing this plan, we have identified three “products” of the school of engineering. These products derive from our mission: to provide outstanding opportunities for learning and discovery in engineering and computer science and to foster an environment that is student focused, research intensive, entrepreneurial, and responsive to the needs of the community.

The first of our three products is obvious: outstanding graduates. Tulane alumni occupy leadership positions in virtually every field. We attract remarkably talented students to our programs and we are committed to preparing them for success.

Another product is innovative research. Our faculty is comprised of world-class scholars dedicated to advancements in all areas of research.

Our third product is economic impact. The School of Engineering is also dedicated to having a local impact. One example is the FIRST LEGO league robotics competition for middle school children, which strives to inspire them to pursue careers in engineering and science.

To learn more about our programs, please review our 2002 Annual Report on the School of Engineering web site (www.eng.tulane.edu). Our 2003 Annual Report will be posted in the near future.

A Message From the Dean

WHO

HOW

WHAT

Paul M. Pope, Jr.

Unitrust paid donor and spouse variable income for their lives; remaining amount then passed to Tulane

Establish the Paul M. Pope, Jr. Trust Fund, an endowed fund for partial scholarships

Marjorie Burchfield Janssen

Revocable trust, which became irrevocable upon Mrs. Janssen's death, provided for half the trust's assets to go to Tulane

Establish the Hermann John Janssen Memorial Scholarship Fund – Endowed for scholarships

Paul H. and Helga L. Ricker

Unitrust paid donors variable income for their lives; remaining amount then passed to Tulane

Establish the C.W. Ricker Fund, an endowed fund for scholarships and equipment in the Department of Electrical Engineering

On behalf of the School of Engineering, Dean Nicholas Altiero expresses his gratitude for these donors’ generous foresight in planning and implementing these gifts.

“Through planned giving, these donors were able to meet what otherwise might be viewed as competing objectives: having access to assets or income during their lives while also making substantial gifts to the Engineering School,” he says. “I am especially pleased that these donors chose to support our endowment through their planned gifts.”

Dean Nicholas J. Altiero
W. T. Godbey is an assistant professor in the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering. He received his bachelor of science in mathematics from Southern Methodist University and his PhD from the Institute for Bioscience and Bioengineering, Rice University. He did postdoctoral work at Children’s Hospital at Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Godbey’s research interests include development and application of gene therapy techniques for tissue and cellular engineering and the application of gene therapy for clinically oriented results.

Vijaya (VJ) Gopu has joined the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering as Department Chair. Prior to joining the school, Dr Gopu was Professor and Chair, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Alabama at Huntsville. He received his B.Eng in Civil Engineering from Andhra University in India, First Rank with Distinction, and his MS and PhD in Structural Engineering from Colorado State University.

Dr. Gopu’s research interests include Structural Engineering and Structural Mechanics, Structural Polymeric Composites, Analysis and Design of Heavy Engineered Timber Structures and Components, Finite Element Analysis of Composite and Concrete Structures, and Dynamics of Light Frame Structures.

Yeqin Huang is an assistant professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science. He received his bachelor of science and master of science degrees in physics from Peking University, Beijing, China, and a PhD in electrical engineering from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

Dr. Huang’s research interests include antenna design, analysis and characterization, electromagnetic theory, wave propagation and scattering. He is a member of IEEE and ASEE.

Third Annual Outstanding Researchers

At a ceremony held on Nov. 6, 2003, Dean Altiero presented two faculty members with the prestigious Outstanding Researcher Award. This year’s recipients were Daniel C.R. De Kee, Professor of Chemical Engineering, and Efstathios E. Michaelides, Professor of Mechanical Engineering.

The award was established in 2001 by the faculty of the School of Engineering. It serves to honor deserving scholars and increase the visibility of the school’s research activity.

Dr. De Kee also serves as Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies and Director of Tulane Institute for Macromolecular Engineering and Science. His presentation was entitled Polymer Rheology.

Dr. Michaelides is the Leo S. Weil Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Director of Southcentral Regional Center of the National Institute for Global Environmental Change. His presentation was entitled Paris, Volcanoes and Champagne.

New Faculty Faces in the School of Engineering

Dr. Duvoisin Retires

Dr. Paul F. Duvoisin of electrical engineering and computer science retired July 1, 2003.

In appreciation for his services to Tulane over 34 years and for his continued interest in the electrical engineering and computer science department, Tulane honored him with the appointment of emeritus status.

Prof. Duvoisin received a BS in Electrical Engineering from Tulane in 1956, and his MS degree in 1962. Upon receiving his MS degree, Paul served as instructor in the department for several years before pursuing his PhD at the University of Wisconsin in 1969. He then returned to Tulane as an assistant professor, moving up in ranks to retire as a full professor.

Paul was instrumental in curriculum development and renovation, and in creation and sustainability of computer engineering. He was effective in the merger of the departments of computer science and electrical engineering in 1996, and in researching communications and power systems.
Shunmugham R. Pandian is an assistant professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. He received his bachelor of engineering from Madurai-Kamaraj University, Madurai, India, his master of technology from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, India, and his Doctor of Philosophy from the Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi, India.

Dr. Pandian’s areas of research include motion control, robot design and control, underwater robotics, electric and pneumatic actuators, controller and observer design, and rehabilitation.

T. A. Venkatesh is an assistant professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. He received a bachelor of technology degree in Metallurgical Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, India; a minor in business administration from Sloan Graduate School of Management; and a PhD in Materials Science and Engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Dr. Venkatesh’s research interests include: Mechanical behavior of materials at micro- and nano-size scales, fatigue and fracture behavior of nanostructured materials, fundamental aspects of contact fatigue, and nanomechanical testing.

Lucy Zhang is an assistant professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. She received her bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering from Binghamton University; her master of science in mechanical engineering from Northwestern University; and her PhD in Mechanical Engineering at Northwestern University.

Dr. Zhang’s research interests include: Multi-scale Analysis on Computational Fluid Dynamics and Fluid-Structure Interactions using FEM and Meshfree Methods, Computational and Experimental Analysis of Dynamic Behavior on Nano Sensing Device, Studies in Meshfree and Finite Element Methods for 3-D Incompressible Flows on Parallel Computers.

LEGO League launches learning in Louisiana

On November 15, Dean Altiero and numerous faculty, staff and students from the School of Engineering were involved in the FIRST LEGO League competition for children from 9 to 14 years of age.

Dr. Annette Oertling of the mechanical engineering department was instrumental in coordinating the volunteers who helped make the tournament possible. Associate Dean Jack Grubbs served as the Master of Ceremonies.

The FIRST Program’s LEGO League is an international program that combines hands-on, interactive robotics with a sports-like atmosphere. Teams consist of up to 10 players who, over the course of 8 weeks, strategize, design, build, program, test and refine a fully autonomous robot capable of completing the various missions of the “Robot Game.”

The students also conduct research developing compelling presentations related to a problem or opportunity facing the world today.

In addition to its role as one of the organizers of this event, Tulane Engineering sponsored and mentored two teams, one from the New Orleans Center for Science and Math and one from Lusher Alternative Extension School. Although this is the first year for the LEGO League in Louisiana, an impressive 15 teams of students participated.

Attention

Class of ’54!

Your 50 year reunion is coming up so mark your calendars! Beginning on Thursday, May 20 through Saturday, May 22, 2004, there will be events that you won’t want to miss, including your second commencement. Check out the events calendar on the last page of the newsletter for all of the activities.

Former Class President Rev. Sam Laine is encouraging all to attend. Following is a letter from Bill Fuhr:

“I must confess, I’ve never participated in a class reunion before, somehow always managing to be ‘too busy’ to make the trek back to New Orleans.

But, having seen the pictures in the most recent Tulane Engineering of Louie Orth (ME’53), Vince Speer (EE’53), and others celebrating their 50th earlier this year, I fully intend to break with my long-standing tradition and participate in the 50th reunion of the Class of ’54 in May, 2004.

I urge all Engineering ’54 grads to make it there, where I hope that we might compare waist lines, hair lines, and story lines.”

Bill Fuhr (EE’54, MS’57)
(MBA, University of Minnesota)
The Green Wave Engineering Students Need YOU!

If you are in a position to consider engineering students for a summer internship, we need your help. Our vision is to provide an internship opportunity for every student.

We are strengthening ties with companies, working closely with Career Services at Tulane, requiring our students to enter the Careers Database and developing a discipline-specific listserve. With your support, we can take this program to the next level. If you would like to help us, contact Dr. Jack Grubbs at (504) 865-5742 or jgrubbs@tulane.edu.

The Engineering Dean’s office has available a CD containing the resumes of 65 undergraduate students. The Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) has compiled the resumes and have them organized by major. Recruiters need only to open the folder for the type of engineer they’re looking for. If you would like to receive a Resume CD, please contact Dr. Grubbs.

Tulane Students Going the Distance

Ross Doyle (BME’04) was the recipient of a cash award from the Woman’s Auxiliary to the New Orleans Chapter of the Louisiana Engineering Society.

Joe Olberding (BME graduate student) has been awarded the Rita Schaffer Award from the National Biomedical Engineering Society.

Ana Maria Ocampo (environmental engineering graduate student) was featured, along with nine other students, on the cover of The Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (Aug./Sept. 03 issue). The issue’s lead article, A Degree of Distinction – Latina PhD Candidates Prove Engineering is Women’s Work, showcased Ana Maria under the environmental engineering section.

Engineering was well represented on the homecoming court this year with Senior Matt Pang (electrical engineering) serving as 2003 King, The cover of the December 2003 issue of Annals of Biomedical Engineering featured the graduate work of Dan Shimko and Kyle White, from their research paper titled A device for long term, in vitro loading of three-dimensional natural and engineered tissues.

Carlos Villa (ChE’04) received a full MD/PhD scholarship to Cornell University Medical School in Manhattan.

President’s Corner

What an honor it is to be the head of an organization that represents the engineering alumni of Tulane. I look forward to continuing the successes of the past years and addressing some challenges that face Tulane in the future.

Many things are planned for the next year, including initiatives to establish class agents, developing a program to increase the retention of engineering students between the freshman and sophomore year, and increasing the rate of overall giving to the school.

Homecoming at Tulane has taken on a new feel at City Park. STE had a tent and catered food and drink at this year’s event. Many folks stopped by to reminisce with old friends and meet current engineering students. One student remarked that this was the first time she had talked to “real engineers.” This type of activity builds foundations for tomorrow.

Becoming a greater engineering school involves active participation by its alumni. The dean and I want to thank you for supporting the school’s annual fund drive. Each dollar given goes directly into the school’s operating budget. Your gift also helps to raise our donor participation which is a factor in determining Tulane’s national ranking.

I urge you to support these programs by participating on a committee, attending the Tulane Engineering Forum and/or writing a check.

Thank you,
Robert Kahl
Phil Closmann (ChE’44) conducted a workshop during the summer on Basic Steam flooding for the Society of Petroleum Engineers in Bakersfield, CA. He is retired from Shell Development Co. in Houston, where he spent 33 years conducting laboratory research and analysis of field projects in thermal methods of petroleum recovery from heavy oil and tar sands and oil shale.

Robert H. Boh (CE’51, MsE’53) was honored by Hilton New Orleans Riverside by having his name engraved in the hotel’s Walk of Fame. He represents the business community for positive contributions to the way of life in the City of New Orleans.

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Louisiana has named

Colonel Albert J. “Red” Wetzel, USAF Ret., (EE’39) was one of four recipients of the 2003 Air Force Space and Missile Pioneers Award at a ceremony in August. At the ceremony, he was inducted into the Air Force Space and Missile Pioneers Hall of Fame, which is located in Colorado Springs.

Wetzel directed the Titan (WS 107A-2) intercontinental ballistic missile program from its concept stage to operational readiness during 1958-61. His leadership resulted in the decision to make a complete configuration change for Titan II, which remained on alert as an ICBM into the late 1980s, was man-rated to launch NASA’s Gemini spacecraft into Earth orbit, and was refurbished to launch satellites into the 21st century.

Retiring from active duty in 1965, Red returned to Tulane where he held a variety of appointments until 1995 when he received Vice President Emeritus status. He served on the centennial committee of the Tulane School of Engineering, and in 2001 was inducted into the school’s Hall of Fame.

Dr. Harold Rosen (EE’47) a consultant and former 37-year Boeing employee is among 17 aviation and aerospace inventors being inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame on May 3, 2004 in Akron, Ohio.

Rosen was selected for his pioneering work developing the world’s first 24-hour commercial communications satellite and his subsequent contributions to satellite communications.

As a founder of the modern communications satellite industry, Rosen lead the team at Boeing Satellite Systems in El Segundo, CA that developed Syncom, the world’s first synchronous communications satellite.

Tulane University honored him in 1994 by naming him Distinguished Alumnus of the Year. In 1996 he was inducted into the Tulane School of Engineering Hall of Fame.

Dr. Harold Rosen

John Holtgreve (CE’70, MsE’76), Design Engineering, vice president of the board of governors, and Dr. Anthony Humphrey, Jr. (CE’63, MsE’64) of the Humphrey Group, board member at large for the New Orleans area.

Etienne Senac Jr. (Master of Engineering-Mech ’78) has been promoted to vice president of power plant operations for Entergy Corporation.

Briana Baker Morrison (ComptEngr’87) is an assistant professor in the computer science department at Southern Polytechnic State University in Marietta, GA. She received the school’s Outstanding Faculty Award for 2002-03.

Paul E. Duncan, Jr. (ChE’92; MBA’97) and Lynell Marie Duhon were married on November 15. The couple resides in New Orleans where Mr. Duncan is employed by Conoco Phillips.

Irfan Azeem Sayyad (ComptEngr’98) and Nicole Elizabeth Lavigne were married on July 19, 2003. He received his MS in computer and electrical engineering from Georgia Tech and is employed by Clark Research and Development.

Briana Baker Morrison

Joseph Accardo, Sr. (nongrad ’67)
Lloyd M. Bryan (nongrad ’45)
John H. Bruns, Jr. (EE ’43)
Benjamin S. Catlin III (nongr.ad ’43)
Milton E. Drewes, Jr. (ChE ’64)
Culpepper Exum III (nongrad ’60)
Norman P. Getz (ChE ’78)
William S. Huey, Sr. (ChE ’39)
Exmond J. Keating (ChE ’42)
Jeffrey H. Lane (CS ’87)
Owen V. Le Blan, Sr. (CE ’44, MS ’52)
Alton L. Melancon (ME ’47)
Earl R. Nichols (ME ’67)
Murray N. Padwa (EE ’49)
Albert B. Paterson, Jr. (ME ’38)
Walter T. Pietrzak (EE ’48)
Thomas O. Porteous, Jr. (nongrad ’63)

Memorial donations are welcome.
Calendar of Events

April 21, 2004  STE Annual Student Awards Banquet  
Audubon Tea Room (Audubon Zoo)  
6:00 pm

May 20, 2004  Emeritus Club Seafood Buffet  
Yeager’s on the Lake  
1928 West End Blvd.  
5:00 pm

May 21, 2004  Emeritus Club Induction Luncheon  
Honoring the Class of 1954  
Metairie Country Club  
580 Woodvine Ave.  
11:30 am

Class of 1954 Reunion  
Antoine’s Restaurant, Capitol Room  
713 St. Louis Street  
6:30 pm

May 22, 2004  Unified Commencement  
Louisiana Superdome  
9:30 am

Engineering Commencement  
McAlister Auditorium (Uptown Campus)  
1:00 pm

Sept. 17, 2004  5th Annual Tulane Engineering Forum  
New Orleans Hilton