Under the capable leadership of our STE officers, alumni returning to campus to participate in Homecoming weren’t disappointed in the festivities.

On Friday evening, October 22 in the lobby of the Lindy Boggs Center, STE President Bob Kahl (CE’79) presided over the annual meeting of the Society of Tulane Engineers. Dean Altiero gave an informative State of the School Address, unveiled the 2004 Hall of Fame Inductee plaque, and presented alumni awards. Robert H. “Bob” Boh (CE’51, MS’53, Honorary Doctor of Engineering ‘96) and Mrs. Boh were there to see for the first time the plaque that now hangs in the lobby of the Boggs Building in the Hall of Fame Display. Bob was informed of this honor in early spring in time to serve as commencement speaker in May, but the plaque was unveiled at homecoming.

The presentation of the annual alumni awards is always a much-celebrated part of the annual meeting and this year we were fortunate to have in attendance the 2004 Outstanding Alumnus, John Dane III. John holds a B.S. and Ph.D. in civil engineering from Tulane and is president and chief executive officer of Trinity Yachts, one of the world’s leading builders of mega-yachts ranging from 72 feet to 300 feet.

The Harold A. Levy Award is presented to a Tulane engineering alumnus to recognize outstanding achievement during the period from five to ten years after graduation. This year’s recipient, Jeffrey M. Crystal is a 1996 graduate in biomedical engineering. In the eight years since graduation, he has shown remarkable achievement as an entrepreneur and as a co-founder of several technology companies. Jeffrey has recently become an equity employee of The Spoken Hub LLC, a company that creates technology to organize grassroots efforts of political campaigns, membership organizations, and government affairs groups.

At the close of the meeting the gavel changed hands and incoming president Dave Kanger (CE’95, MS’96) thanked Bob Kahl for his four years of service to the Society and welcomed newly elected secretary, John O’Brien (E’74) into the fold. Photos and contact information for all four officers of STE are located at the school of engineering website.

The officers headed to Tad Gormley Stadium bright and early on Saturday morning (Oct. 23) to open up the tent located in homecoming village. They welcomed alumni and friends, including many current students and parents, who stopped by to partake of cold beer, hotdogs and hamburgers before the big game.

Stay tuned to the university website for news of Homecoming 2005 that will be posted as soon as a date has been selected.

If any significant classes would like to stage reunions during Homecoming 2005, please consult your class agent or contact the dean’s office (bhogue@tulane.edu) or (504) 865-5764.
Chemical and biomolecular engineering graduate student Donghai Wang won the Materials Research Society’s Graduate Student Gold award, a prestigious award given to outstanding graduate students worldwide. There was a total of 28 students in the competition and only eight received the gold medal.

Eileen Gentleman, biomedical engineering graduate student, has been named a winter-session policy fellow with the National Academies Christine Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy Graduate Fellowship Program. This program is designed to engage graduate science, engineering, medical, veterinary, business and law students in the analysis of science and technology policy and to familiarize them with the interactions of science, technology and government.

Senior civil engineering student Barton D. Grasso is the recipient of a $2500 scholarship from the Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute.

The Prestressed Concrete Institute announced in a recent issue of the PCI Journal that Tulane had won first place in the PCI Zone 6 competition and sixth place nationally in the PCI “Big Beam” competition.

The civil engineering team consisted of students, David Birrcher, Herman Alb, Jerrod Egley, Jeremy Martin and Nick Mannix.

SHPE, NSBE and TECHS students participated in the Viva Technology program at Eleanor McMain High School on September 10. This pre-college outreach program is administered through the Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Corporation. Our students headed up ten-student teams from participating middle and high schools through a series of educational challenges designed to help students develop their team building, time management and analytical skills. Participants from Tulane engineering were Sergelynn Francois, Jassini Young, Ernesto Richards, Daniel Pelase, Ashton Harper and Justin Cooper.

Electrical engineering graduate student Wanda Solano has received a NASA Fellowship for 2005-06.

Clayton M. Marbury, chemical and biomolecular engineering graduate student was the recipient of the Louisiana Engineering Foundation’s Vincent A. Forte Graduate School fellowship.

Stephen C. Cowin, CUNY Distinguished Professor of Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering, has been elected a member of the National Academy of Engineering for his contributions to “orthopedic biomechanics, the mechanics of granular materials, and the mechanics of anisotropic elasticity.” Dr. Cowin was on the Tulane Engineering Faculty from 1969 to 1989 and serves on the Biomedical Engineering Department’s Advisory Board.
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For the second straight year, faculty and staff from the school of engineering were involved with the Louisiana First Lego League Tournament. This year’s event was held on Saturday, November 23, 2004 in Metairie at Bonnabel High School. Over twenty teams consisting of students ages 9-14 from all over Louisiana and Mississippi competed using robots each team designed from a Lego MIndstorm Kit.

The tournament is made possible through the organizing efforts of BLAST (Building Louisiana Science and Technology) and major funding provided by The Bruce J. Heim Foundation, Intralox, Best Tech Computer Services and the Schreier-Edisen Foundation. For further information on the tournament please consult our website at www.tulane.edu/~first_la.

It’s hard to believe that in the fall of 2004, I welcomed my fifth incoming class since becoming Dean of Engineering at Tulane. As in previous years, I was again able to truthfully tell them that they are the brightest incoming class ever! This year’s class of 213 freshmen earned an average combined SAT score of 1350 and 64% of them graduated in the top 10% of their high school class. They have joined 485 returning upperclassmen in what not only is an increasingly talented student body but is also an increasingly diverse student body. The undergraduate engineering student body at Tulane is now 28% female and last year we were ranked 319 in the country in the percentage of engineering bachelors degrees awarded to women. Of our 667 undergraduates who are U.S. citizens, 8% are other African American or Hispanic American, two of the most under-represented minorities in the field of engineering. Our graduate student body is also becoming increasingly more talented and diverse. The average combined GRE score of our incoming graduate students is near 1300 and they are coming to us with bachelor degrees from the finest universities in the world including, of course, Tulane. As of Fall 2004, there are 195 graduate students enrolled in engineering disciplines at Tulane, including 129 doctoral students, 43 master of science students, and 23 students enrolled in our new practice-oriented master of engineering programs. Nearly 35% of our graduate students are women and, of our 121 graduate students who are US citizens, 12% are African American or Hispanic American. We missed making the top 20 in percentage of master’s degrees awarded to women last year by just one percentage point. Unfortunately we did not graduate a sufficient number of doctoral students to be included in the official rankings (25 are required and we graduated 19), but our percentage of engineering doctoral degrees awarded to women was higher than that of the university ranked 81.

We are committed to providing these outstanding students with the finest engineering educational experience possible and to producing leaders for a world driven by technological innovation. Judging from the accomplishments of our alumna and alumnus, we have been extraordinarily successful in doing just that for over a hundred years. On May 21, 2005, we will confer degrees on the 111th graduating class in the school’s history and they will join the proud ranks of our alumni association, the Society of Tulane Engineers. As you will read in this issue of Tulane Engineer, the STE is flourishing. I am particularly pleased with the STE initiative to identify class agents to keep us informed about the accomplishments of their classmates and to help us strengthen ties between the school and its alumni and alumnae. Strong alumni and alumnae involvement is an essential ingredient for a strong school of engineering that can provide the rich educational experience our exceptional young scholars deserve.

Dean Nicholas J. Altiero

A Message from the Dean

2nd Annual Louisiana First Lego League Tournament

2000 Lego Tournament (courtesy of Judith A. Krus)

The tournament is made possible through the organizing efforts of BLAST (Building Louisiana Science and Technology) and major funding provided by The Bruce J. Heim Foundation, Intralox, Best Tech Computer Services and the Schreier-Edisen Foundation. For further information on the tournament please consult our website at www.tulane.edu/~first_la.

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Bequests to Tulane for the School of Engineering

One way to express your commitment to the Tulane University School of Engineering is to include in your will or trust a charitable bequest. Whether large or small, a charitable bequest can have a real impact on the school.

Here is some sample language you could insert in your will or trust:

“t I give and bequest the sum of ____ dollars ($____) to The Administrators of the Tulane Educational Fund located in New Orleans, Louisiana, for the general support of the School of Engineering.”

or

“t I give and bequest _____ percent (___ %) of my residuary estate to The Administrators of the Tulane Educational Fund located in New Orleans, Louisiana, for the establishment of the “Mary Doe Scholarship Endowed Fund,” the income from which shall be used for scholarship support of deserving students in the School of Engineering.”

Note: “The Administrators of the Tulane Educational Fund” is the legal name of Tulane University. This sample language is only suggested language and is meant to be used only with the advice of your attorney.

Fifth Annual Tulane Engineering Forum

This year’s theme, Advanced Technologies for Homeland Security, attracted over 400 engineers with over 50 corporate sponsors. It was held on December 9, 2004 at the New Orleans Hilton after a hurricane threat had caused the cancellation of the original date in September.

The morning opened with two plenary panel presentations, the first of which was entitled Government Role and Actions in Upgrading Homeland Security, included speakers Ed Badalato, Executive VP of Homeland Security, The Shaw Group, John McGaha, President of Entergy Nuclear South; and, Gary Lagrange, Director of the Port of New Orleans.

The forum then broke into three concurrent sessions with three presentations in each, for both the morning and afternoon with a luncheon panel presentation by R. King Milling, President of Whitney National Bank, Randy Hanchey, Deputy Secretary of LA Dept. of Natural Resources and John P. Saia of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District. The forum concluded with, Ethics: Engineering and Beyond, presented by Associate Dean Jack Crabill of the Tulane School of Engineering.

Postcard announcements for the online alumni community were sent out in early December with instructions and the ID# code needed for first-time registration at www.tulanecommunity.com. First time registrants will need only their last name and this ID# code.

Class Agent Link

Class Agent Link

Debuts Online

During the Spring 2004 board meeting of the Past Presidents of the Society of Tulane Engineers, a recommendation from the Public Relations Committee to stimulate a class agent listing for the school of engineering was suggested and enthusiastically endorsed by the entire board. This suggestion arose during a discussion of how to encourage more reunions at homecoming. Most of you will remember that for years a class agent program was in place but had been neglected for many years and needed a complete overhaul.

We are pleased to list our new class agents and to announce that a link at the school of engineering website in place and contains these names and contact information. You are encouraged to contact your agents to indicate interest in class reunions and to provide ideas.

Missing from the list are agents for decades 1930 and 1940. Within the near future those class members will be contacted but if there’s anyone who would like to volunteer at this time, please get in touch with Barbara Hogue at the dean’s office.

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The 2005 forum, Engineering in a Coastal Environment, will be at the New Orleans Hilton on September 30. Information will appear at www.eng.tulane.edu/ef as it becomes available. It continues to be under the sponsorship of the officers of the Society of Tulane Engineers and the Tulane School of Engineering.

Tulane Online Alumni Directory

At last you can keep in touch with classmates, update your information and more through the new online alumni directory. Postcard announcements for the online alumni community were sent out in early December with instructions and the ID# code needed for first-time registration at www.tulanecommunity.com. First time registrants will need only their last name and this ID# code. Once in the system, you can change your user ID and password to suit yourself. The toll free trouble shooting phone number is 1(877) 272-0009. Give it a try and stay in touch with the university.

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Class Agents located in New Orleans, Louisiana, for the establishment of the “Mary Doe Scholarship Endowed Fund,” the income from which shall be used for scholarship support of deserving students in the School of Engineering. [Named endowed funds require a minimum gift amount, currently $20,000.]

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President's Corner

2004-05 President

David Kanger

It has been my pleasure to serve this organization of 8,000 members for the past four years and to serve as its president this year. More than that, however, has been the satisfaction of watching the exciting changes that STE has undergone in the years since Dean Altiero has become a part of the Tulane family. When we set out in 2000 to revitalize this venerable group, the new dean had some rather ambitious goals for us. Goals that I believe we have successfully met and will continue to meet in the years to come.

We’ve put amended bylaws into place, ensuring a continuity of leadership for the organization. We instituted the Board of Past Presidents – a group of individuals comprised of our most active prior officers. We have committees of interested participants focusing on such things as planned events, public relations, student relations and technical programs. On the public relations front, the Tulane Society of Engineers’ website (http://www.eng.tulane.edu/alumni) is in order. One of the great items of interest contained on the site is the large stock of back issues. If you happen to have a copy of one of the issues we’re missing, STE would love to borrow it and display it online. They’re all worth checking out!

Of course I can’t mention the Society’s technical programs without mentioning the Tulane Engineering Forum. This event has grown beyond all expectations. The 2004 Tulane Engineering Forum held December 9, 2004 was no exception. Due to the untimely whims of Hurricane Ivan, the Forum had to be rescheduled from its original date on September 17. Despite that, we were still able to pull in more than four hundred registrants and over fifty sponsoring companies who were all interested in the forum’s theme: Advanced Technologies for Homeland Security. Forum attendance and sponsorship is especially important to STE since we’ve abolished dues. The Society gains the majority of its annual operating budget from the Tulane Engineering Forum. It is because of the forum that we are able to bring you and the engineering students such great events like the Homecoming tent or the Senior Awards Banquet. The Homecoming tent has been successful in bringing together alums and current students alike. Events like this are important to building and maintaining the Tulane family. And of course, it is the Society which sponsors the Senior Awards Banquet in the spring. It is our chance and the Society’s great honor to recognize not just tomorrow’s members of STE, but also tomorrow’s leaders of society. Which brings me to my final item. We’re trying a new event this year. On Thursday, January 13 the Society has partnered with the undergraduate Engineering Student Council to provide a presentation on the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) Exam and professional licensing in July as one of the students in the Naval War College’s recent academic year in New Orleans. He was presented with the Louisiana Cincinnati Association Medal.

Marine Lt. Col. Kevin Mahne (EE’86) was honored in July as one of the top students in the Naval War College’s recent academic year in New Orleans. He was presented with the Louisiana Cincinnati Association Medal.

Christopher P. Cannon (CS’88) and Tiffany Anne Gautreau were married in June in Groton, Louisiana, where they now reside.

Captain Douglas G. Hurley, USN (CE’88) is a member of the 2000 Astronaut class at NASA and is training for an upcoming space flight. He was married in 2000 and lives in League City, Texas.

William J. Likos (CE’94, MS/CS’97) serves as an assistant professor in the civil engineering department at the University of Missouri, Columbia. He has recently published a book entitled, Unstructured Soil Mechanics. For more information, see the details at www.amazon.com.

Greg Tombragel (BM’94) is currently relocating to Belgium for a temporary position. Greg, his wife, Esther, daughter Eva (age 3) and son Lars (15 months) are looking forward to living abroad.

Liz Filter (BM’87) represented the United States at the 2004 Summer Olympic Games in the first-ever women’s keelboat event. While at Tulane, she was a three-time all-American in crew. Liz lives in Stevansville, Maryland with her husband, Henry and their two children, Christian and Megan.

Robert H. Listar (CE’40) has written to the office of the dean to let us know that he is very much alive! His name was inadvertently listed in the “In Memoriam” column in the last newsletter. Our apologies again to Mr. Listar for this near “fatal” mistake.

Byun L. Levy (ME’41) writes that he’s working hard in retirement, teaching watercolor painting at Forstall Art Supply in New Orleans. He would like to teach engineers to “paint outside the lines!”

Ralph Slovenko (BS CE’48; JD’53; MA’60; PhD Psychology ’65) has taught courses at Wayne State University Law School since 1969. He is the author or editor of almost 40 books and over 200 articles in serious fields. He teaches Evidence, Tort and Psychiatry and Law, and regularly contributes to Journal of Psychiatry and Law and Detroit Legal News. Professor Slovenko has lectured throughout the world.

The Society can do and should be doing more events like these. But, these activities are all possible only by having an active and interested Society. I would like to ask for your help in continuing to support us.

There’s many ways that you can help from attending the Tulane Engineering Forum to serving on a committee to simply making a donation.

On behalf of the Society, I wish you all the best.

2004-05 President

David Kanger (CE ’95, ’96)
President’s Corner

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Harold J. Gorman (ME’63) is the recipient of the National Environmental Achievement Distinguished Performance Award, sponsored by the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies, Washington, D.C. The National Environmental Achievement Award Program recognizes the contributions and accomplishments of elected and appointed officials and public utilities across the nation.

David Kanger (CE ’95; ’96) has been named assistant director for safety and engineering at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center. He will consolidate engineering analyses by implementing an independent, internal organization oversight of the Marshall Center’s engineering systems and operations. In this role he will be the Marshall focal point for NASA’s independent technical authority.

Liz Filter (BME’87) represented the United States at the 2004 Summer Olympic Games in the first-ever woman’s keelboat event. While at Tulane, she was a three-time all-American in crew. Liz lives in Stevensville, Maryland with her husband, Henry and their two children, Christian and Megan.

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In Memoriam

Jack G. Bonner, Sr. (ME’72)
Dr. Paul Munafo
Lt. Elisabeth M. Hurley
L. Sherwood Crews, Sr. (CE’47)
Steadman M. Lecourt
Stanley M. Lecourt
Dr. Edward L. Busby, Jr. (CE’59)
John D. Bruns III
Louis Villere “Bill” Cressy, Jr.
Edward J. Welsch, Jr. (EE’45)
Byron L. Levy (ME’41)
Christopher P. Cannon (CS’88)
Lt. Elizabeth M. Hurley, U.S. Army (CE’02) is serving with the 1st Calvary Division at Forward Operating Base Falcon in western Baghdad, running part of the communications center there. Her dad reports that with luck she should be back at Ft. Hood, Texas in February or March.

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Memorial donations are welcome.

We were saddened to learn of the death of Mrs. Raths Sogin in November 2004. Mrs. Sogin was the widow of Dr. Harold H. Sogin, a member of the faculty in mechanical engineering for 29 years. He is pursuing a doctorate in computer science at the University of Florida and the couple is residing in Gainesville.

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Jan P. Medina (BME’96) and Danielle Kimberly Weis were married in early December at Beechwood, the Sogin family mansion in Newport, RI. Ms. Weis is a senior engineer for MTV news and documentaries in New York and Mr. Medina is a managing director and research analyst at Monarch Valley Asset Management, a hedge fund in New York.

If you have alumni information you’d like to share please email bhogue@tulane.edu or call the dean’s office at (504) 865-5764.

Tulane Alumni in the Spotlight

Captain James E. S. Yeates (ME’76) is a member of the 296th Brigade of the Louisiana National Guard, and he is currently serving in Iraq as a combat engineer. His wife, Eileen, sent in this photo of Captain Yeates and their son, Calin taken shortly before his departure for Iraq. Our best wishes go out to Captain Yeates and all other Tulane engineering alumni who are currently serving our country in the Middle East and around the world.

It has been my pleasure to serve this organization of 8,000 members for the past four years and to serve as its president this year. More than that, however, has been the satisfaction of watching the exciting changes that STE has undergone in the years since Dean Alterio has become a part of the Tulane family. When we set out in 2004 to revitalize this venerable group, the new dean had some rather ambitious goals for us. Goals that I believe we have successfully met and will continue to meet in the years to come.

We’ve put amended bylaws into place, ensuring a continuity of leadership for the organization. We instituted the Board of Past Presidents—a group of individuals comprised of our most active prior officers. We have committees of interested participants focusing on such things as planned events, public relations, student relations and technical programs. On the public relations front, the Tulane Society of Engineers’ website (http://www.eng.tulane.edu/alumni) is in order. One of the great items of interest contained on the site is the large stock of back issues. If you happen to have a copy of one of the issues we’re missing, STE would love to borrow it and display it online. They’re all worth checking out!

Olympic First

Robert H. Lister (CE’40) has written to the office of the deans to let us know that he is very much alive! His name was inadvertently listed in the “In Memoriam” column in the last newsletter. Our apologies again to Mr. Lister for this near “fatal” mistake.

Byron L. Levy (ME’41) writes that he’s working hard in retirement, teaching watercolor painting at Forstall Art Supply in New Orleans. He would like to teach engineers to “paint outside the lines!”

Ralph Slovenc (BS CE’48; JD’53; MA’60; PhD Psychology’65) has taught courses at Wayne State University Law School since 1969. He is the author or editor of almost 40 books and over 200 articles in various fields. He teaches Evidence, Tort and Psychiatry and Law, and regularly contributes to Journal of Psychiatry and Law and Detroit Legal News. Professor Slovenc has lectured throughout the world.

Harold J. Gorman (ME’63) is the recipient of the National Environmental Achievement Distinguished Performance Award, sponsored by the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies, Washington, D.C. The National Environmental Achievement Award Program recognizes the contributions and accomplishments of elected and appointed officials and public utilities across the nation.

David Kanger (CE ’95; ’96) has been named assistant director for safety and engineering at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center. He will consolidate engineering analyses by implementing an independent, internal organization oversight of the Marshall Center’s engineering systems and operations. In this role he will be the Marshall focal point for NASA’s independent technical authority.

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Memorial donations are welcome.

We were saddened to learn of the death of Mrs. Raths Sogin in November 2004. Mrs. Sogin was the widow of Dr. Harold H. Sogin, a member of the faculty in mechanical engineering for 29 years. He is pursuing a doctorate in computer science at the University of Florida and the couple is residing in Gainesville.

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May 20, 2005
Emeritus Club Induction Luncheon
Honor the Class of 1955
Metairie Country Club
11:30 am

Class of 1955 Reunion
Home of Mr. and Mrs. Black Chaffe
1546 Jefferson Ave. (Uptown New Orleans)
6:00 pm

May 19, 2005
Emeritus Club Seafood Buffet
Honoring the Class of 1955
Jieger’s Seafood Beer Garden
5:00 pm

May 21, 2005
Unified Commencement
Louisiana Superdome
9:30 am

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

Sept. 30, 2005
6th Annual Tulane Engineering Forum
New Orleans Hilton

Calendar of Events

Week of March 14, 2005
Engineering Week
Check with the dean’s office for more info.

March 18, 2005
Board of Advisors Spring Meeting
1200 St. Charles Ave.
8:00 am

Board of Past Presidents of STE Meeting
1200 St. Charles Ave.
1:30 pm

April 20, 2005
STE Annual Student Awards Banquet
Audubon Tea Room (Audubon Zoo)
6:00 pm

May 19, 2005
Emeritus Club Seafood Buffet
Honoring the Class of 1955
Jieger’s Seafood Beer Garden
5:00 pm

Questions or inquiries may also be directed to bhogue@tulane.edu