DEAN JOHNSON APPOINTED WILLIAM R. IRBY PROFESSOR OF ENGINEERING

Dr. Lee H. Johnson, dean of the Tulane University School of Engineering, has been appointed the William R. Irby professor of engineering at Tulane, effective July 1, Dr. Herbert E. Longenecker, Tulane president, announced today.

Dr. Johnson, who has served as dean of engineering and professor of civil engineering at Tulane for the past 22 years, will resign his position as dean in order to devote his full time to teaching at the University, Dr. Longenecker said.

A committee to select a new dean for the Tulane engineering school will be formed.

According to Dr. Longenecker, William R. Irby professorships are awarded to faculty members of the university’s various schools and colleges who are exceptional scholars and leaders in their fields.

The professorships were established in 1957 by the Tulane Board of Administrators in honor of the late Mr. Irby, former chairman of the Tulane board and a benefactor of the university.

"After many years of continuous service to engineering education in a leadership role as dean, Lee Johnson will turn his talents to full time teaching," Dr. Longenecker said.

"His deanship has been marked by a steady growth in both teaching and research contributions of the Tulane School of Engineering and in its attractiveness to young people in search of preparation for meaningful and productive lives."

Progress in the School of Engineering, Dr. Longenecker said, was recently cited by the Louisiana Engineering Society’s study on education in engineering.

The report, prepared for the society

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Tulane University’s School of Engineering has a “new look” and one which is catching the eye of the student body.

There are now six women enrolled in the freshman class. And with two others who have transferred from other schools at the sophomore and junior level, as well as women students already in the school, the total of women undergraduates is now 11 — an all-time high. And also there is one full-time woman graduate student.

This year’s freshman class is undoubtedly the “fanciest” to enter the School of Engineering — with both brains and beauty.

Shown in the picture with Dean Johnson are (left to right): Caroline Mullen, Michala Joyce, Debbie Sorbet, Linda White, Catherine Chiappinelli, Dianne Wheatley, Donna Dickson, Miriam John, Linda Fried, Helen Patterson, Odile Duconge and Suzanne Brou.

How are the girls doing academically? Well, for the first semester their grades averaged about 2.7 (out of 4.0) with Linda White and Helen Patterson having straight "A" averages.

Dianne Wheatley, senior in Mechanical Engineering, will be the first black woman graduate of the School. A strong student, she has taken enough extra mathematics for a major in Mathematics, which accomplishment is being officially acknowledged by A&S. She expects to do graduate work at Rice.

The three girl seniors — Debbie Sorbet, Dianne Wheatley and Helen Patterson — represent the largest senior group of women in the history of the school and our first female graduates since 1962.

Suzanne Brou, freshman from Jackson, Mississippi, has made national news as the first Tulane woman member of an ROTC unit and one of the first few nationally to be admitted under the new rules.

The old school isn’t like it used to be. But that’s O.K.

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**SENIOR DINNER AND AWARDS**

**PROGRAM SCHEDULED FOR MAY 4**

The Society of Tulane Engineers will play host to the seniors and faculty of the School of Engineering again this year at the Annual Awards Program. The event, a buffet dinner, is scheduled for Thursday, May 4, 6:30 p.m. in the Kendall Grain Room of the University Center.

William R. LeCorgne, President of the Society, will preside. Dr. Lee H. Johnson, Dean of Tulane University School of Engineering, will be the speaker. The program will also feature a presentation, by Dean Johnson, of the various awards won annually by seniors in engineering.

Seniors and their guests, members of the faculty and their wives, and members of the Society are invited to attend. Any member of the STE who wishes to attend should make his reservation through Dean Johnson’s office (865-6105) by Monday, May 1.

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**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

Private universities depend on financial support from their alumni, endowments, grants, etc. Tulane is no exception, and tuitions alone are insufficient to meet these needs. There is yet another method of securing additional income: increase the student enrollment. The School of Engineering could accommodate more than 100 additional fulltime students without creating additional strain on present faculty. Therefore, as mentioned in our last publication, I urge you to seek out qualified students and encourage them to obtain a Tulane Engineering education.

As mentioned elsewhere in this publication, President Herbert Longenecker appointed Dean Johnson the William R. Irby Professor of Engineering at Tulane. Dean Johnson will resign his position as Dean to devote full time to teaching in the School of Engineering. We extend to this fine gentleman our warmest congratulations and best wishes. Dean Johnson has played a most vital role in STE and his assistance will be missed.

As you probably know, the modifications to ME 205 lecture rooms have been completed. There remains one task to be handled; payment to the university for the air conditioning. This obligation must be met in two annual installments. Last year, Dean Johnson had also requested STE to assist in a special report of “Engineering Education in Louisiana.” Therefore what more befitting gift can we make to Dean Johnson than to eliminate these two financial obligations. By now you should have received your 1972 Membership Card and request for dues and contributions. Please take the time to read my message and make your reply.

The senior awards banquet will be held on May 4th this year. I encourage everyone to attend and meet the new group of Engineers.

William R. LeCorgne

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**PROFESSOR WALTER BLESSEY**

**ASCE DIRECTOR**

Professor Walter E. Blessey, Head of the Civil Engineering Department, has been elected Director of District 14 of the American Society of Civil Engineers. His installation as a national officer took place at the Annual Meeting of the Society which was held in St. Louis in late October. Professor Blessey will serve a three-year term which runs until October of 1974.
SCHOLARSHIP CHECK PRESENTED BY WOMEN'S AUXILIARY TO NEW ORLEANS CHAPTER OF LOUISIANA ENGINEERING SOCIETY

The Woman's Auxiliary to the New Orleans Chapter of the Louisiana Engineering Society presented a scholarship check on February 24 to Mr. Samuel J. Stokes III, Mrs. W. B. Martin, Jr., President, and Mrs. Lawrence C. Grundmann, Jr., Treasurer, represented the New Orleans Auxiliary in giving the check to Mr. Stokes who is a sophomore in electrical engineering. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel J. Stokes Jr. of Covington, Louisiana.

BUSH FOUNDATION GRANT OF $180,000

The School of Engineering at Tulane University received last Fall from the Bush Foundation a three-year grant of $180,000 for support of biomedical engineering educational and research systems. The fund is to be used to support both faculty and graduate students in a number of research programs which will provide answers to problems in certain areas of biomedical engineering as well as experience needed to produce well-qualified graduate engineers for biomedical and engineering research and teaching. Programs selected for initial support are as follows: screw and fracture-induced strains in living bones; mathematical modeling and control of human systems; genetic effects of laser irradiation in biological systems; biomechanics of the semicircular canals; enzyme engineering.

The program is under the direction of Professor E. H. Harris and provides support for six principal investigators, seven graduate student research assistants, and supporting services, supplies, and equipment.

SHORT COURSES — SUMMER, 1972

As part of Tulane University's program of continuing education, the School of Engineering is offering an extensive program of Short Courses during the summer of 1972. The courses will take the form of refresher or review courses, which in effect would constitute a review of material previously studied; or updating courses which would introduce new materials and developments in an effort to bring the specialist up to date in his field. It is felt that both refresher courses and updating courses are needed, and that the two are compatible in an effective program of continuing education.

Some of the courses offered include such topics as environmental engineering, ecology, theoretical and applied mechanics, power systems, digital computers, instrumentation, stress analysis, vibrations, probability and reliability, radiation, heat transfer, process control, applied acoustics, urban planning, laser physics, and others. Most courses are five days in duration.

The fee for a five day course is $280, which includes textbooks and handouts and campus parking. Additional information regarding the Short Course Program, or regarding any of the courses, may be obtained by writing Dr. Robert Bruce, or calling Area Code 504-863-4401.

DEAN MARTINEZ HONORED FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS ON FACULTY

Assistant Dean John L. Martinez was honored at the annual faculty reception held in December, 1971 at the Tulane Alumni House on the completion of twenty-five years on the faculty of the School of Engineering. He was presented with an electric watch from his colleagues in honor of the occasion. He is professor of mechanical engineering and is in charge of undergraduate student affairs including recruiting.

Left to right: Dean John L. Martinez, his son, Michael, his daughter, Maria, and Mrs. Martinez.
Dean Johnson Appointed William R. Irby Professor of Engineering  
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by Newman Hall, executive director, Commission on Education, National Academy of Education, stated that the faculty of Tulane’s School of Engineering “has demonstrated readiness and ability to keep pace with the economy of the nation and with society in general.

“Tulane’s continued philosophy of program flexibility and opportunities for collaboration with programs in the School of Medicine and the Graduate School of Business Administration shows leadership which is to be commended.”

In citing Dean Johnson’s contributions to Tulane, Dr. David R. Deener, Tulane provost, said that the dean has been instrumental in the adoption of a curriculum to offer advanced professional degrees in engineering and the development of strong programs in biomedical engineering, operations research and computer research.

“Contrary to trends in many undergraduate engineering schools, Tulane has increased its undergraduate engineering student body significantly since the mid-60s,” Dr. Deener said. “Since the award of the first Ph.D. in chemical engineering in 1963, a total of 67 Ph.D. degrees have been conferred in the engineering departments at Tulane.”

Waldemar S. Nelson, president of the School of Engineering’s board of advisors, expressed appreciation for the service of Lee Johnson to the School of Engineering.

“We are fortunate that he will continue to serve as Irby professor of engineering and will assist the university in selecting a new dean,” he said.

Prior to his appointment as Tulane dean in 1950, Dr. Johnson served for 15 years as dean of the School of Engineering and professor of civil engineering at the University of Mississippi, bringing to 35 years his service as an administrator.

From 1935 to 1937, he was a staff member of the U.S. Waterways Experiment Station in Vicksburg, Miss., and a staff member of the Corps of Engineers of the U.S. Army at Vicksburg and at Mobile, Ala.

Dr. Johnson received a bachelor of arts degree with honors in mathematics in 1930 and a master of arts degree in 1931 from Rice Institute. At Harvard University, he earned a master of science degree in 1932 and a doctor of science degree in civil engineering in 1935.

“A member of the education and accreditation committee of the Engineers Council for Professional Development, Dr. Johnson is former vice president, American Society for Engineering Education; former director, Engineers Club of New Orleans; and past president of the Mid-South and Louisiana sections of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

He is the author of numerous articles published in professional journals and three textbooks in engineering.

In commenting on his new appointment, Dr. Johnson said:

“I am highly pleased that President Longenecker has accepted my request that I be relieved of my duties as dean and especially complimented that he has appointed me the W. R. Irby professor of engineering.

“I wish to express my profound gratitude to the faculty and staff of the school as well as to all my associates at Tulane, to the engineering student body, to the loyal engineering alumni and to my friends in the community for their warm and friendly support over the years.”

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Society of Tulane Engineers  
Financial Statement  
March 15, 1972

Cash on Hand, January 1, 1972 .................................. $ 431.34
Dues Collected .................................................. 21.00
Donations Received ........................................... 28.00
Assessment, 20th Anniversary Luncheon .................. 385.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS ................................................. $ 865.34

Printing Expenses, Special Issue “Tulane Engineer” ........ $ 195.57
Mailing Expenses, Special Issue “Tulane Engineer” ........ 129.84
Engineers Club, 1972 Dues .................................. 30.00
Printing Expenses STE Award Certificates ................. 17.61

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS ....................................... $ 373.02
Balance, Cash on Hand ....................................... $ 492.32

L. C. Grundmann, Jr.  
Treasurer

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