Tulane Engineering Alum David Filo Gives $30 Million for Engineering Scholarships

Yahoo! co-founder David Filo and Netscape co-founder Jim Clark, two of the biggest names in computer technology, have announced a combined gift of $60 million to Tulane University’s endowment—the largest individual or combined gift in the university’s history. David Filo, who received his B.S. in computer engineering from the Tulane School of Engineering in 1988, has designated his $30 million gift for scholarships for undergraduate engineering and computer science students.

Filo’s first venture into business, while still in graduate school at Stanford, gave birth to a new industry. He co-created the Yahoo! Internet navigational guide in April 1994 with Jerry Yang, a fellow graduate student, and co-founded Yahoo! Inc. with Yang in April 1995. Working out of a trailer, Filo and Yang developed their search engine and directory, initially calling it “Jerry’s Guide to the World Wide Web” and later “David and Jerry’s Guide to the World Wide Web.” As their Web site became more and more popular, attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors, a shorter, catchier name was needed. After several hours locked in a room together with only a dictionary, Filo and Yang came up with Yahoo!, which according to legend stands for “Yet Another Hierarchical Officious Oracle.”

Today, Filo is Chief Yahoo of Yahoo! Inc., and serves as a key technologist, directing the technical operations behind the company’s global network of Web properties. As the first online navigational guide to the Web, www.yahoo.com is the leading guide in terms of traffic, advertising, household and business user reach. Yahoo! is the number one Internet brand globally and reaches the largest audience worldwide. The company’s global Web network, which is currently moving into China, has offices in Europe, Asia, Latin America, Australia, Canada, and the United States. According to Fortune Magazine, Yahoo! Inc. is “the most successful company ever spawned by the World Wide Web.”

In addition to Filo’s work at Yahoo!, he is also a member of the board of trustees of Akamai Technologies, Inc., a company dedicated to ending the “World Wide Wait” through intelligent Internet content delivery.

“That I was able to get into the position to start Yahoo! was in large part due to Tulane,” Filo says.

As well as showing my gratitude for the wonderful education I received at Tulane.”

Filo is a native of Moss Bluff, Louisiana, was a scholarship student and a Dean’s Honor Scholar while at Tulane. He graduated summa cum laude and was named Tulane’s “top graduate” of 1988. He was the 1997 recipient of the Harold A. Levey Award for Early Career Achievement from the School of Engineering and was the 2001 recipient of the School of Engineering’s Outstanding Alumnus Award. Last year, Filo was elected to the Tulane School of Engineering Hall of Fame. He credits Tulane for much of his success in his relatively short business career.

“That I was able to get into the position to start Yahoo! was in large part due to Tulane,” Filo says. “They gave me a scholarship, without which I probably would never have been able to attend. This gift is my way of contributing to higher education in my home state as well as showing my gratitude for the wonderful education I received at Tulane.”
It goes without saying that this gift will have a tremendous impact on the Tulane School of Engineering. To attract the nation’s most talented students, Tulane’s Office of Admission often encourages its most highly qualified applicants to attend by waiving at least a portion of their tuition. Although this is a key reason the School of Engineering has so many gifted students, it also means that the school suffers a loss in funding.

By creating an endowed scholarship fund that will generate approximately $1.5 million annually, Filo is not only helping students achieve their goals, but he is providing the funds that the School of Engineering needs to continually improve its research efforts, educational programs, and community involvement.

Dean Nick Altiero says, “Obviously this is wonderful news for the school, and we are deeply grateful to David for this extraordinary investment in future engineers and computer scientists and in the Tulane School of Engineering.” The School of Engineering has been developing a strategic plan to move the school to a higher level of excellence, and this plan involves significant investments in students through scholarships and fellowships, in faculty through endowed chairs and professorships, and in laboratories and infrastructure. Filo’s gift to the school is a major step toward the realization of this vision, and he has stated publicly that he hopes it will provide inspiration to others to give the support needed to make the school and the university second to none.

“David’s generosity has further fueled my enthusiasm for the future of the school,” Dean Altiero continues. “This is a very exciting time to be affiliated with Tulane University and the Tulane School of Engineering!”

Though the largest, this gift is not David Filo’s first to the Tulane School of Engineering. In December 1996, Filo donated Yahoo! Inc. common stock valued at approximately $1 million to the university for the establishment of The Yahoo! Founder’s Chair in Engineering. Doing so made him the youngest donor ever to establish an endowed chair at Tulane. In December 2002, Professor Bill P. Buckles was invested as the first Yahoo! Founder Chair in Engineering.

Many members of the Class of 1954 returned to New Orleans to celebrate their 50th anniversary by participating in events planned by Alumni Affairs and the School of Engineering.

On Thursday evening they were treated to a seafood buffet in a restaurant on the lakefront and on Friday at noon were inducted into the Emeritus Club. Friday night found most of them in the quarter at a dinner held at Antoine’s. The Chemical Engineering alumni chose the home of a fellow classmate, Ed Frank, to hold their reunion. Saturday they were up early and headed for the Louisiana Superdome for the unified ceremony, then back to the uptown campus for an afternoon ceremony with the School of Engineering where they received their 50-year certificates from Dean Altiero and Robert J. Kahl III (CE’79), President of the Society of Tulane Engineers.

Plans are already in the works for the Class of 1955 so please mark your calendars for commencement weekend, May 19-22, 2005.

You’ll be receiving more information in the mail from the alumni house and the school.
E-Week Events Exceed Expectations

Engineering Week, organized by the Engineering Student Council (ESC) was five days of fun in March of this year. The crawfish boil and faculty auction held on Friday of the active week was but one highlight of the fun-filled activities. The TURBO competition continues to be a big crowd pleaser and it’s become necessary to add more bleachers in the viewing section. BMES held another bone marrow drive this year and was able to sign up 26 potential donors.

New this year was a Hybrid Car presentation sponsored by ASME in conjunction with Honda of New Orleans who sent over salesmen and cars for all to see. Our two-year old student chapter of the International Game Developer’s Association showcased some of the projects that they’ve been working on that is helping promote a new concentration in computer science, computer games.

Always willing to lend a helping hand to outreach programs, ESC was able to collect $1,000 to donate to an after school program, Kid Smart, to help out with the art promotion program that reaches children in the New Orleans area. ESC President Joey Wignarajah proudly presented the check to a Kid Smart representative and several program participants at the conclusion of the crawfish boil.

The ESC wishes to thank the three sponsors that helped make it happen this year, Murphy Oil Incorporated, Coca-Cola and Laitram LLC.

Student News Briefs

Robert J. Maher III, a junior in mechanical engineering, received the Selina Bres Gregory Founder’s Scholarship from the Woman’s Auxiliary to the New Orleans Chapter of the Louisiana Engineering Society.

Darryl A. Dickerson, BME’03 and a first year graduate student in biomedical engineering, received the 2004 Women’s Auxiliary Louisiana Engineering Society Fellowship Award.

The recipient of the Vincent Forte Graduate School Fellowship, Louisiana Engineering Foundation, was graduate student Carol Mullenax (BME).

Alyssa M. Alter, a senior in biomedical engineering, received a national Biomedical Engineering Society Rita Schaffer Award for outstanding leadership and service to the field of biomedical engineering, her department and her university.

Bryon McCaughey, a current PhD student in Chemical Engineering, was awarded a 2004 Beckman Fellowship at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
STE-Sponsored Annual Student Awards Banquet

A record breaking number filled the Audubon Tea Room for this year’s student awards banquet held on April 21. Mingling among the crowd were emeritus faculty members, Walter Blessey with Ruth, Sam Sullivan with Marcie, and Chester Peyronnin. STE Officers in attendance were President Bob Kahl, presiding over the program, Vice-President Dave Kanger, Treasurer Dennis Lambert and Secretary John Shires.

The James Marshall Robert Award, established in 1965 by alumni and friends of the late Dean Robert, is given to a student who has been selected for outstanding leadership qualities. Kearny and Susan Robert represented the Robert Family and presented Joey Wignarajah (Compr Engr) with the award.

This award was established in 1993 in memory of Dr. Sogin, professor emeritus of mechanical engineering. It is given to a mechanical engineering student in recognition of superior scholarship and service ideals for which Dr. Sogin stood.

Mrs. Ruth Sogin, widow of Harold H. Sogin, her daughter Cecilia and grandson were in attendance to present the Harold H. Sogin Award. This award was established in 1993.

The Society of Tulane Engineers continues working on several projects. The Tulane Engineering Forum 2004 is scheduled for September 17, 2004 at the Hilton Riverside and Towers in New Orleans and it promises to be both timely and informative. Information on the Forum is at www.eng.tulane.edu/tef.htm.

This year’s theme is Advanced Technologies for Homeland Security and again features two excellent plenary panels in the morning. The first panel will discuss Government Role and Actions in Upgrading Homeland Security and will feature three panels, Jadwin “Jay” V. Mayeaux, Jr., Deputy Director, LA Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness; Joseph T. Booth, Deputy Superintendent, LA State Police and Terry J. Ebbert, Director, City of New Orleans Department of Homeland Security.

The second panel consists of three speakers discussing Industry Role and Actions in Upgrading Homeland Security. The panelists include Edward V. Badolato, Executive Vice President for Homeland Security, the Shaw Group; Gary P. Lagrange, President and Chief Executive Officer, Port of New Orleans; John R. McGaha, President, Entergy Operations.

The Forum will have three concurrent sessions and a final plenary session on engineering ethics given by John H. Grubbs, Associate Dean and Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Tulane University. This year’s luncheon session will have R. King Milling, President, Whitney National Bank, James R. Hanchey, Deputy Secretary, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources and John P. Saia, Deputy District Engineer for Project Management, U.S. Army Corps of engineers, New Orleans District, discussing Natural Hazards in Coastal Louisiana.

Also, the Society was a sponsor of the battlebots competition during E-Week. This competition allows student teams to design and build electro-mechanical systems that compete against each other. They learn the value of teamwork and working with a deadline, skills that will serve them well in the future.

This fall, the Society will again host a tent at homecoming as well as a reception the evening before for the election of new officers. We’d really like to see all of you there! If you graduated in a year ending in “4” or “9”, this is a special year for you.

The class agent initiative has been well received. Nearly 90 percent of those contacted have agreed to act as agents. Outstanding! This is the type of involvement that will allow the School continued improvement. A tailgate party is planned for the Louisville game. September 18, at the Superdome for those interested in the class agent program.

I encourage you to visit the website, www.eng.tulane.edu to keep up to date on the exciting activities at your School of Engineering.

Best Regards,

Robert Kahl
Dean Nicholas J. Altiero chaired the host committee for the 2004 American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) Engineering Dean’s Institute held March 28-31 in New Orleans. The theme for this year’s Institute was *The Changing Dimensions of Engineering*. Dean Altiero has been appointed chair of NASA’s Council of Deans. The council, a newly formed subcommittee of the space agency’s Aeronautics Advisory Committee, is charged with providing advice and recommendations on NASA’s research and educational partnerships with the nation’s colleges and universities. Altiero’s appointment is for a two-year renewable term. Dean Altiero served as the Leah Goldman Karp Lecturer at Metairie Park Country Day School in April. His topic was *Engineering and the New Industrial Revolution*.

Dr. Glen Boyd, civil and environmental engineering, is Tulane University’s recipient of the Louisiana Engineering Foundation’s 2004 Faculty Professionalism Award.

Dr. Robert N. Bruce, Jr., civil engineering, has been appointed to the Scientific Committee of the International Federation for Structural Concrete.

Dr. Yunfeng Lu, chemical and biomolecular engineering, was named by *City Business* as one of the Forty under 40 People for their Power Generation VI Award. Dr. Lu is the first recipient of the Tulane University Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. The award is funded by an endowment established by a Wall Fund grant and it provides help in the form of extra time and support to rising research stars so they can concentrate on developing their research programs.

Dr. Calvin Mackie, mechanical engineering, was honored by President Bush in May with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring. Each year the president recognizes people and institutions that have provided opportunities for women, minorities and disabled persons in science, mathematics and engineering.

Stathis Michaelides, mechanical engineering, Director of the SCRC of NIGEC, has been named to the grade of Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. ASME has more than 120,000 members worldwide and less than two percent attain the grade of Fellow.

Dr. Raj Pandian, electrical engineering and computer science department, was named by *City Business* as an Innovator of the Year. He has invented a device that stores energy generated by child’s play and converts it into electricity for later use. Pandian calls this invention a “playful energy converter,” and he introduced it in a power-generating retrofitted seesaw equipped with pneumatic cylinders beneath each seat.

Dr. Fred Petry, electrical engineering and computer science department, was awarded the 2004 Naval Research Laboratory’s Alan Berman Research Publication Award in the Marine GeoSciences Division. He was recognized for his work on the book chapter *Geographical Data Interchange Using XML-Enabled Technology within the GIDB System in XML Data Management*. The Naval Research Laboratory is the corporate research laboratory for the Navy and Marine Corps.

Postdoctoral fellow Blanca Rodriguez won the Young Investigator Award in Basic Science at the NASPE Heart Rhythm Society meeting in San Francisco in May 2004.
Robert H. Boh (CE’51, MS’53, Hon. PhD’96) was inducted into the Hall of Fame at this year’s commencement ceremony in McAllister Auditorium. He serves as chairman of the board of Boh Bros. Construction Co., LLC.

Bob’s long relationship with Tulane gives him a great perspective which he shared with our graduates and 50 year alumni.

“T’m delighted to receive this wonderful honor from the School of Engineering of Tulane University, an institution that has played such an important part in my life and which has had such a major impact on my career. As a student, member of the faculty, member and then chairman of the board of administrators, parent of three Tulane graduates, and strong fan and lifelong supporter of Tulane and the Green Wave in every way, I have always been conscious of how much Tulane has meant to me, my family, and my company, where numerous Tulane engineering graduates – some of them former students of mine – are important parts of our team. Today, however, is the big day for the younger generation. It is you, the graduates of 2004, whom we honor today, for you are the new wave of Tulanians who will be going forth to lead our society forward.”

“There have been many changes since I and the 50-year grads were here. Then there were four undergraduate degree programs, now there are nine. Then we enrolled in the graduate school to pursue advanced degrees, now we do so in house, so to speak. Then this ceremony was held outdoors, now it is here in the air-conditioning, for which we are all grateful. Then engineers were the keys to rebuilding our country after a great depression and a terrible war. Now, America again needs a new generation of individuals with the training and skills to deal with a new set of problems. In one important respect, there has been no change in fifty years. I can tell you from personal experience over a half century that engineers educated at Tulane have always enjoyed an unmatched reputation throughout the academic and business world, and a Tulane degree is recognized with great respect worldwide. I have always been impressed that Tulane engineers seem to rise to high levels in their chosen fields, especially in industry, often in top management positions.”

He closed by saying, “mark your calendars – May 2054 – right here – I’ll see you then!”

Alumni Career Services

The Tulane Alumni Association is pleased to announce an exciting career management service. Called Tulane eProNet, this benefit is an exclusive online recruiting and career management network for Tulane University alumni.

Whether you are a job seeker or a hiring manager, Tulane’s free eProNet service is a great way to discover exceptional opportunities and candidates. Tailored for high-achieving professionals, eProNet can provide excellent matches between our alumni and eProNet company clients.

The service network includes company profiles, industry research information, and salary and relocation comparisons. Candidates can list themselves anonymously for active or passive job searching. For hiring managers, the online recruiting service is ideal for filling mid-level and senior management positions.

Take advantage of this terrific benefit today by visiting http://tulane.epronet.com. Click “sign up today” to activate your free lifetime membership.

If you have questions, contact Liz Guillory in the alumni office, 862.8017 (local), 1.877.4.TULANE (toll-free long distance) or eguillo@tulane.edu. Please also let Liz know your success stories in using this service.
Tulane Alumni in the Spotlight

Col. Albert J. “Red” Wetzel, USAF Ret. (EE’39), was one of four recipients of the 2003 Air Force Space and Mission Pioneers Award and was inducted into the Air Force Space and Missile Pioneers Hall of Fame.

Dr. Harold Rosen (EE’47) was among 17 aviation and aerospace inventors inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame on May 3, 2004 in Akron, Ohio.

Robert H. Boh (CE’51, MS’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.

Jerry M. Haydel (CE’52) is the newly appointed vice chair of the Board of Emeritus Club of Tulane.

Robert E. Englekirk, Ph.D. (CE’59) received the distinguished T. Y. Lin Award for 2004. The ASCE Prestressed Concrete Award was endowed in 1968 by T. Y. Lin, FASCE, to encourage the preparation of meaningful papers in the designated field of endeavor. The Board of Direction instituted the award in May 1968. By Board action in October 1969, the name of the award was changed to the T. Y. Lin Award.

During April 2004, it was announced William “Bill” Cavanaugh III (ME’61), former Progress Energy chairman and CEO, has been named chairman of the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO) and currently serves as WANO’s Atlanta Center chairman. Cavanaugh is only the second chairman of WANO from the United States. He will assume his new role in July 2004.

Robert Mittelstaedt, Jr. (ME’65) has been named dean of Arizona State University’s W. P. Carey School of Business. He leaves Wharton at the University of Pennsylvania where he served as vice-dean and director of the Aresty Institute of Executive Education.

Yvonne Montes Scherz (ME’78) and her engineer husband, David, have been married for 22 years and have four children, 2 boys and 2 girls. They have recently resettled in Houston after living overseas for several years.

William B. McAleb, Jr. (MS’86) has been appointed leader of the oil and gas practice of R. W. Beck, Inc., a management consulting and engineering firm.

Elizabeth M. Filter (BME’87) will represent 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.

John W. Keating III (CS’91) and his wife reside in North Bethesda, Maryland with their daughter, Marina Rhiannon, who was born in February. Also in February he was promoted to Vice President of KoolSpan, Inc.

Alan C. Schroeder, M.D. (BME’93) and his wife, Elizabeth, announce the birth of their son, William Alan, born July 30, 2003. Alan is a resident in orthopedic surgery at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, Mississippi.

Tara Angelle Stoulig (Chem’97) and Brandon Michael Monistere were married in late May in New Orleans. The couple now reside in Metairie, Louisiana.

Brooke Phillips Quinlan (BME’98) and Aaron D. Quinlan, M.D. were married in December 2003 and now reside in Tampa, Florida where he is doing a residency in psychiatry and she is a math professor at Hillsborough Community College.

Alison Kay Herbert (BME’00) and Nicholas Todd DeJarnette, graduate of Tulane’s A.B. Freeman School of Business, were married May 8 in New Orleans. They now reside in Roswell, Georgia.

Jeffery P. Jones (ME’01) graduated from Georgia Tech in May with a master of science in mechanical engineering.

Melanie Alane Landry (ME’01) and Craig Thomas Stewart Shipley were married on May 1. They now make their home in the Lakeview area of New Orleans, Louisiana.

Kirsten Baldwin-Metzger (ME’03) has just completed a year of AmeriCorps service with Habitat for Humanity in Richmond, Virginia where she worked on their construction staff helping to build houses for families in need. She has accepted a Via Masters Fellowship to student structural engineering at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA.

Jason R. Garis (CE’03) is attending Aviation Training School at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida.

Robert A. Arrington (EE’53)
Bruce R. Brumfield (CE’63)
Daniel V. Cresap (CE’33)
Frank R. deGraauw (CE’47)
Elmer E. Dickson
(nongrad’55)
Charles H. Dieth, Sr. (CE’37)
Catherine Nielsen Dube (ME’87)
Frank C. Fromherz (CE’43)
Elton J. Green, Jr. (nongrad’45)
Frederick W. Hedges (CE’65)
John A. Helmer (EE’50)
Frank R. Hess (Chem’48)
Murray P. Holmes, Jr. (nongrad’60)
Leon Klein, Jr. (EE’40)
Herrick J. Lane, Jr. (nongrad’40)
Clancy A. Latham, Jr. (nongrad’44)
Alvin J. Lazarov (CE’51)
Robert H. Lister (Chem’40)
William J. Miller (ME’47)
George David Moate (ME’51)
Ralph L. Nilsen (CE’59)
Harry E. Osment (Chem’52)
Waldo S. Powell, Jr. (CE’35)
Samuel W. Ryniker, Jr. (ME’43)
Jack E. Sammer
(Charles H. Dieth, Sr. (EE’58)
Norman L. Sandelin (EE’50)
Lloyd J. Solis, Jr. (nongrad’62)
Roderick E. Swetman (ME’60)
Robert M. Williams (nongrad’43)

Memorial donations are welcome.
2003-2004 STE Officers

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**Calendar of Events**

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| Sept. 17, 2004 | **Tulane Engineering Forum**  
New Orleans Hilton Riverside  
See information inside newsletter |
| Oct. 22, 2004 | **STE Annual Meeting & Cocktail Party***  
Lobby of Lindy Boggs Center (on campus)  
6:00 to 8:00 p.m. |
| Oct. 23, 2004 | **Tailgating***  
STE Tent - 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Homecoming Village, Tad Gormley Stadium |
| Nov. 4, 2004 | **Annual Outstanding Researcher’s Award Ceremony**  
By invitation  
4:00 p.m. |
| May 20, 2005 | **Class of 1954 Reunion**  
Time and place to be announced |
| May 21, 2005 | **Commencement**  
Louisiana Superdome |

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* Please look for reservation form inside newsletter and return immediately.

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**Let us know!**
If you have alumni information you’d like to share, please submit it in the attached envelope, or email Barbara Hogue in the Dean’s office: bhoque@tulane.edu.

All archived *Tulane Engineer* newsletters can be found at [www.eng.tulane.edu](http://www.eng.tulane.edu)