Tulane University
School of Science & Engineering

2015 Alumni Awards Celebration
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Seventh Annual Alumni Awards Celebration

April 9, 2015
Lavin-Bernick Center for University Life
1834 Club

Welcome
Nicholas J. Altiero
Dean, School of Science and Engineering

Presentation of Alumni Awards
Thomas Meehan
Chemical Engineering '83

Outstanding Alumnus Award
Donald F. Boesch
Biology '67

Outstanding Young Alumnus Award
Alexander Evins
Neuroscience '11

Outstanding Service Alumna Award
Annette Oertling
Mechanical Engineering '78

Closing Remarks
Nicholas J. Altiero
Dean, School of Science and Engineering
Donald F. Boesch is a Professor of Marine Science and President of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science and the University System of Maryland’s Vice Chancellor for Environmental Sustainability. He grew up in the upper Ninth Ward of New Orleans and graduated from the Holy Cross School before attending Tulane University. There he was an undergraduate intern for Professor Alfred Smalley in invertebrate zoology before graduating with a B.S. in Biology in 1967.

Don completed a Ph.D. in oceanography at the College of William and Mary in 1971 and was a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Queensland in Australia. He was on the faculty of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science for eight years, before returning to Louisiana to become the first executive director of the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium during the 1980s. He was responsible for building LUMCON’s marine center at Cocodrie and for designing and building its two research vessels the Pelican and the Acadiana. Since 1990 he has been the President of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, a world-renowned institution in advanced research and graduate education based at four laboratories situated across Maryland.

Dr. Boesch has conducted research on the ecology and oceanography of coastal and continental shelf ecosystems along the Atlantic Coast and in the Gulf of Mexico, eastern Australia, and the East China Sea. He has been particularly active in extending scientific knowledge to environmental and resource management at regional, national, and international levels. He is an internationally recognized expert on solutions to address the impacts of land-based pollution, oil and gas development, coastal wetland loss, and climate change. He has frequently returned to his home state of Louisiana to contribute to and often lead committees providing scientific advice on coastal restoration.

Don is a past-chairman of the Ocean Studies Board of the National Research Council and currently a member of the Advisory Board of the National Academies Gulf Research Program and the Leadership Council of the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative. He serves as a member of the Maryland Governor’s environmental subcabinet and was appointed by President Obama in 2010 as one of seven members of the the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling.
Alexander I. Evins is the Chief Research Fellow in the Surgical Innovations Laboratory in the Department of Neurological Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College of Cornell University where he spearheads the development of new operative techniques in microneurosurgery, skull base surgery, and neuroendoscopy. As a doctoral candidate, Alexander works with neurosurgery fellows from around the world to expand the current boundaries of neurosurgical practice through the development of novel technologies, techniques, and procedures that have rapid clinical applicability; and enhance neurosurgical training through the integration of cadaveric dissections with 3D visualization, virtual reality, and computer simulation.

Alexander has published a large number of peer-reviewed studies on a range of neurosurgical topics and is regularly invited to speak at neurosurgical conferences around the world. His previous research on epilepsy surgery complications helped to widen the indications for the surgical management of epilepsy and was most recently cited in The Lancet Neurology. Alex’s pioneering work on minimally invasive transtubular neurosurgery is currently featured on the cover of this month’s issue of the Journal of Neurosurgery and will help to pave the way for robot-assisted neurosurgery. Alexander will become one of the youngest recorded individuals to publish a medical textbook, Transtubular Neurosurgery co-authored with Dr. Antonio Bernardo, which is scheduled to be published later this year.

Along with his work on transtubular neurosurgery, Alexander was recently awarded a grant from the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences of the National Institutes of Health to develop techniques for integrating 3D printing into the neurosurgical operating room. In addition to his research activities, Alex instructs the Clinical Neuroanatomy program for visiting medical students and serves as a clinical research consultant to several hospitals in the People’s Republic of China where he has been working to enhance the management of traumatic brain injury. Alexander is a proud Tulane alumnus and frequently collaborates with fellow Tulane alumni. In his spare time, Alex enjoys writing about aviation and inter-Korean relations.
Annette Oertling, Ph.D. is the president and a founding member of Building Louisiana Science and Technology, Inc. (BLaST), a non-profit organization responsible for bringing FIRST® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) LEGO® League to Louisiana in 2003 and FIRST Robotics to Louisiana and Mississippi in 2007. She is also the Fair Director for the Greater New Orleans Science and Engineering Fair serving grades 6-12 in Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines, and St. Bernard parishes, and serves on the board of Core Element, a regional collaborative between K-12, higher education, economic development, and business and industry institutions that are committed to improving the caliber of math and science education through teacher training. Recently retired from Tulane University as a Professor of Practice in the Biomedical Engineering Department and Assistant Dean for K-12 Outreach for the School of Science and Engineering, she now serves as Adjunct Faculty assisting with K-12 outreach programs. Her degrees from Tulane include a B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering and a M.A.T. in Math. She worked eight years for Exxon Company, U.S.A. in the production department, two years for Louise McGehee High School teaching math and science and twelve years for Tulane University. She lives in New Orleans and is married to Michael D. Oertling (Tulane Mechanical Engineering BSE ’78) and has 2 children, Matthew Oertling (Tulane Business BS ’08) and Sarah Oertling (Tulane Chemical Engineering BSE ’11) and 2 grandchildren.