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THE DEDICATION OF BLESSEY HALL



*Professor Walter E. Blessey
addresses the audience at
the dedication ceremony for
Blessey Hall.*

The renovation of the Civil Engineering building, the birthplace of engineering at Tulane, was carried out by Gootee Construction from July 2001 to March 2002.

The project architect was David Keiffer of Wettermark Kieffer of New Orleans, with inputs from campus architect Henry Fry.

The official dedication of the building, presided over by President Scott Cowen, was held on April 11th, 2002, with a reception following in Blessey Hall.

Alumni leadership on the Blessey Hall initiative has been ably provided by Dr. Bob Englekirk of Los Angeles (CE '59).

Fund raising for the project was bolstered by a sizable planned giving donation from the estate of Nancy Derickson (daughter-in-law of Donald Derickson, who served as departmental chair from 1912 to 1946). To

honor this contribution, the internal core of Blessey Hall is named the Derickson Departmental Office Suite, which houses the Donald Derickson Reference Library and the Derickson Family Conference Room.

We are also implementing plans to renovate the undergraduate soils lab, the undergraduate environmental engineering lab and a space for ASCE student chapter project work.

This work is currently underway, so by Fall 2002 our offices and lab infrastructure will be in extremely good shape.

Alumni and friends are welcome to come by any time for a tour of our renovated facilities.

The renovated building is absolutely stunning, and has been renamed Walter E. Blessey Hall, to honor Professor Blessey, who served as the departmental chair from 1959 to 1984.

Tulane Department of
Civil & Environmental
Engineering

Walter E. Blessey Hall
Building 11
New Orleans, LA 70118

www.tulane.edu/~civil

STUDENTS SCORE WELL IN COMPETITION

Fifteen students from the **ASCE STUDENT CHAPTER** attended the Deep South Regional Conference at Southern University in Baton Rouge during the first weekend of Spring Break.

The conference is a culmination of the Chapter's work on the Concrete Canoe and the Steel Bridge. **DAVID BIRRCHE** headed up the canoe team.



MICAH FLOREA captained the Steel Bridge team.

This year Tulane also participated in the surveying competition with a team

led by Jenny Snape. The group won several awards including 3rd in the Surveying Competition, 4th in the Steel Bridge Competition (2nd in Bridge aesthetics), 3rd in the Concrete Canoe Competition, and 4th place Overall in the Conference.

As part of our **FRESHMEN ENGINEERING COURSE**

taught by department chair Dr. Brian Baetz, the students designed and constructed wonderful bridge structures from popsicle sticks and craft glue.

These specimens were crushed under the watchful eye of Dr. San Hla Aung, and the top three bridges were composed of the following young engineers:

Gold Medal: Mike Debelius, Rob Judd, Lauren Mire

Silver Medal: Dan Hooper, Rob Maher, Heather Martinez

Bronze Medal: Victoria Blacik, Lewis May, Dana Ray

FUTURE P.E.'S GO FOR THE SLAM DUNK with 100% of our seniors from last year passing the EIT exam, with Civil Engineering leading the way in terms of the highest number of successful seniors.

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR STUDENTS

KIRSTEN BALDWIN-METZGER came to New Orleans from her home in Little Rock, Arkansas because she loves warm weather and southern hospitality.

She has just finished her Junior Year at Tulane in Civil Engineering. Currently her favorite classes are in structural design, and she is considering a masters degree in this area after graduation next year.

While away from classes, she headed up our award-winning ASCE Student Chapter last year, planned Engineering Week 2002 for the School of Engineering, and gave tours to prospective students.



Kirsten Baldwin-Metzger received the Frederick H. Fox Achievement Award at this year's Awards Banquet from Dr. Brian Baetz, Department Chair.

ENDOWING THE FUTURE

We are pursuing development resources on a number of fronts.

As Tulane enters a new era under a decentralized cost model in July 2002, the department will be putting a substantial emphasis on the augmentation of its departmental endowment fund.

Under the new rules, 100% of all resources donated to Civil and Environmental Engineering stay directly with us to benefit our students. The transition may provide some challenges, but with the assistance of our loyal alumni we look forward to building a very strong department.

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR FACULTY



DR. GLEN BOYD, P.E. conducts environmental engineering research in the areas of water resources and infrastructure systems.

His research pertaining to water resources includes investigations of fundamental processes and development of innovative in situ methods for the removal of dense non-aqueous phase liquid (DNAPL) contaminants from ground water.

Dr. Boyd's research is primarily aimed at maintaining water quality in drinking water distribution systems.

Dr. Boyd's research team is also developing analytical laboratory methods to quantify low-level (ng/L) concentrations of endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) and pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs) in the aqueous environment.

With regard to infrastructure systems, Dr. Boyd's research is primarily aimed at maintaining water quality in drinking water distribution systems.

For more information about these research activities, visit Dr. Boyd's website at www.tulane.edu/~glenboyd or contact him directly at 504-862-3266 or gboyd@tulane.edu.

For example, one of his graduate students currently is completing her research on the effects of hydraulic transients in water mains on the potential intrusion of pathogens.

Recently, Dr. Boyd completed another project that investigated applications of trenchless technologies for controlling lead in drinking water originating from lead pipes.

DR. LAURA STEINBERG was awarded a Rapid Response Grant from the Natural Hazards Center in Boulder, Colorado to support research regarding hazardous materials releases in the immediate aftermath of natural disasters.

She also received a grant from the National Science Foundation, along with Principal Investigator Raymond Burby of the University of North Carolina, to study the effect of land use regulation on development in areas prone to natural hazards.

Dr. Steinberg was also a participant at a workshop sponsored by the National Science Foundation to develop curricula and a national research agenda in Earth Systems Engineering, a discipline of engineering that emphasizes sustainability, community empowerment, and respect for natural systems.

She was also an invited participant at a conference sponsored by the Institute for Civil Infrastructure Systems at New York University and the National Science Foundation. The purpose of the conference was to discuss methods for addressing national infrastructure priorities.

DR. JOHN NIKLAUS



will be retiring effective July 1st, 2002. John plans to teach a few courses each year as a professor emeritus. We thank John for his 44 years of service as a faculty member and as a departmental Chair.

NEWS & NOTES

A GREAT CLASS OF FRESHMEN...

Our civil and environmental numbers for the freshmen class have increased, with 17 civil and 6 environmental freshmen signed up for academic year 2001-2002. Future freshmen class numbers should increase even more with the great recruiting efforts of **DR. JACK GRUBBS**, Associate Dean for External Relations, and our new web page and brochure.

ABET UPDATE...

We did very well on our ABET visit in Fall 2001, aided in large part by strong support from our Civil Engineering Advisory Board. We have prepared and

filed responses to the ABET Board, with final decisions to be given July 2002.

STATEWIDE MASTERS PROGRAM...

Tulane has recently approved its participation in a statewide masters program, which is targeted to State employees who wish to upgrade their credentials. **DR. BOB BRUCE** has led the departmental efforts on this, and all indicators point to increased numbers of working engineers coming to Tulane for graduate training.

ASCE AWARD WINNER...

MS. JOHANNA HUSSERL, a graduate student from Columbia,

recently won first place in the paper competition sponsored by the ASCE Acadiana Branch.

Johanna works in the area of DNAPL contamination of groundwater, and is supervised by Dr. Glen Boyd.

THE MARKETING OF AN EXCELLENT PRODUCT..

The departmental web page and brochure were both showing their age. We have contracted with **Studio Mundi** of New Orleans to prepare a new web page and brochure, which will greatly help our student recruiting efforts.

The next time you're on-line, visit: www.tulane.edu/~civil.

Walter E. Blessey Hall
Building 11
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

INSIDE



STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING RESEARCH AT TULANE

From the 1960's through to the present, several major research investigations in the pre-stressed concrete area have been undertaken under the leadership of Dr. Robert N. Bruce, Jr., who holds the Boh Chair in Civil Engineering at Tulane.

The Civil Engineering program hired Dr. Paul Ziehl in July, 2001 as an Assistant Professor in Civil Engineering. Dr. Ziehl obtained both his Master's and Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin. He recently completed his dissertation entitled *Development of a Damage Based Design Criterion for Fiber Reinforced Polymer Vessels*.

The Civil Engineering program has also hired Dr. Anthony J. Lamanna as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Lamanna earned his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin Madison, and recently

completed his dissertation entitled *Flexural Strengthening of Reinforced Concrete Beams with Mechanically Fastened Fiber Reinforced Polymer Strips*.

We stand on the verge of having a team of structural faculty that will be the envy of our peer institutions.

With three research-intensive faculty members in the structural engineering area, along with the potential for several new endowed Chairs in structural engineering, we stand on the verge of having a team of structural faculty that will be the envy of our peer institutions.

With this intellectual fire power comes the need for research infrastructure. The current experimental facilities at Tulane are adequate for basic testing purposes, but are not sufficient to meet the needs of a modern test-

ing facility. The Derickson Research Frame has recently been refurbished and is ready for use. However, to accommodate the needs of modern fatigue testing

systems, an enclosed space is required. A high bay steel frame structure with a movable, high capacity overhead crane system is necessary for the positioning of large-scale test specimens. The structure will be enclosed with light gage paneling that will compliment the recently finished renovation of Blessey Hall.

Fund raising for this building project, and for the creation of a separate endowment to maintain and enhance our research and teaching in the structural engineering area, are both currently underway.