Annual Report
2008-2009

School of Engineering

Linda M. Abriola

http://livecurio.us
Despite the economic downturn, it has been another banner year for the Tufts School of Engineering (SOE). Undergraduate and PhD graduate applications were up substantially, with an attendant increase in selectivity and student quality. The Tufts Gordon Institute leveraged its new facilities to greatly expand its Masters of Science in Engineering Management program. Through the efforts of the new Center for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Diversity and the Admissions Office, we are improving our programs for recruiting and retaining underrepresented students. Research productivity has exceeded our five-year goals, with a 35.5% increase in annual research expenditures (now totaling more than $11 million) over FY08 levels. The SOE now leads all Tufts Schools in technology transfer activity, accounting for 64% of all intellectual property disclosures. These encouraging trends reflect active involvement of an increasing number of SOE faculty in research and the success of our strategically focused interdisciplinary research model. New faculty hires in tissue engineering, photovoltaics, and groundwater remediation will further bolster research programs in our strategic areas. Although large capital projects are currently on hold, including construction of a new state-of-the-art Doble Integrated Laboratory Complex, the SOE has continued to acquire and renovate new laboratory and educational space to accommodate our growing interdisciplinary education and research activity. Our faculty and students garnered a number of national honors, including the election of Professor Diane Souvaine to the National Science Board, the selection of Professor Rich Vogel for the prestigious American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) 2009 Julian Hinds Award, and a second place finish for our Hybrid Racing Team in its first 2009 Formula Hybrid Competition.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS AND HONORS

The Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists named Associate Professor Laurie Baise (CEE) as co-recipient of the Best Paper of the Year Award. Biomedical Engineering (BME) Professor Mark Cronin-Golomb was elected a Fellow of the Optical Society of America. Chemical and Biological Engineering (ChBE) Professor Maria Flytzani-Stephanopoulos was elected in 2008 as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) for her distinguished contributions to the field of catalysis. Professor Diane Souvaine, Chair of Computer Science (CS), was appointed to the National Science Board. This 24-member board is the oversight and policy-making agency for the National Science Foundation (NSF). The ASCE presented the 2009 Julian Hinds Award to Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) Professor Rich Vogel for his advancement of the practice and science of water resources planning and management.

The year marked the awarding of tenure and/or promotion to four of our faculty, Professors Lenore Cowen (CS), Fio Omenetto (BME), Karen Panetta in Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE), and Associate Professor Norman Ramsey (CS). We also celebrated the retirement of Professor Vo Van Toi from the Biomedical Engineering Department after more than 20 years of dedicated service to the Tufts community. Professor Vo changed the landscape of biomedical engineering at Tufts, helping to create the BME program and eventually establish the Department of Biomedical Engineering.

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STUDENT AND ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS AND HONORS

Tufts’ team won the top prize for their video “Chemical Engineering: A New Era” as part of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers’ Computing and Systems Technology Division video contest. Jeremy Fryer-Biggs (E’11), Andrew Neville and Malcolm Cecil-Cockwell won the Tufts Business Plan Competition in the social entrepreneurship category for developing The Strivers Foundation, a Uganda-based program to find an inexpensive alternative to traditional college. As captain of engineering’s Hybrid Racing Team, Matt Liberatore (E’09) led the team to a second place finish in its first year of competition at the 2009 Formula Hybrid Competition. Matt Thoms (E’10), was named a Morris K. Udall Scholar—one of 80 students selected from 515 nominees nationwide. Thoms also leads the Tufts contingent of engineering students working on constructing an affordable solar home as part of the upcoming 2009 Solar Decathlon to be held on Washington D.C.’s National Mall (see front cover).

Among our graduate student award winners, Cassie Baughman (EG’09), Sackler School advisee of David Kaplan, received a postdoctoral fellowship from the American Heart Association. Marc Chiariini (CS) received the best paper of AIMS 2008 award with professor Alva Couch. Doctoral recipient, Elena Jakubiak (CS), received an Anita Borg Memorial Scholarship, which seeks to encourage women to excel in computing and technology and become active role models and leaders in the field. Two biomedical engineering graduate students, Konstantinos Tsioris (EG’08, EG’13) and Stanley Eosakul (E’08 EG’09), received a Dow Sustainability Innovation Student Challenge award.

We are also pleased to acknowledge some of the noteworthy achievements and milestones of our alumni. The 2009 Charles Pankow Award for Innovation was awarded to the Claremont Tunnel Seismic Upgrade Project, which pioneered innovative design features in upgrading a major water supply tunnel in the San Francisco Bay Area. The project team included Bill Edgerton, (E’70), President of Jacobs Associates, a consulting engineering firm. Sarah Freeman (E’05, EG’07), currently with the Louis Berger Group, Inc., has been named one of the 2009 Young Professionals of the Year by the American Council of Engineering Companies and was also named one of 2009’s New Faces of Engineering by National Engineers Week Foundation. Engineering Overseer and Tufts Trustee, Ellen J. Kullman, (E’78), was named the first woman CEO and President of DuPont. Kullman will continue to implement a sustainable growth business model and lead the company’s efforts in environmental sustainability. Thomas W. Peterson (E’72), Dean of the University of Arizona’s College of Engineering, was named Assistant Director of the National Science Foundation’s Directorate for Engineering. David Rosowsky (E’85, EG’87), Engineering Board of Overseers member, has been named the new Dean for Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute’s School of Engineering.

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UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

In 2009, freshman applications to the School of Engineering increased by 10% over 2008. This represents a 25% increase in applications since 2006 and, with a 29% acceptance rate, is the most selective admissions cycle in the past five years. The Class of 2013 continues to raise the bar, with a record high SAT-Math score of 751 (up 10 points from 2008). The middle 50% of incoming engineers scored between 730-780 on SAT-M, on par with available data from top peer institutions, including Carnegie Mellon, Duke, and Cornell Universities. Significantly, mean critical reasoning scores jumped 17 points from last year, with incoming engineering freshmen demonstrating scores comparable to incoming Arts & Sciences applicants. The mean class high school rank is 4%, with 85% in the top 10% of their class. The Class of 2013 includes 193 students from 29 states. Seven percent are foreign citizens, and nearly three-quarters of the class come to Tufts SOE from public high schools. Forty-five percent of the admitted class received a need-based institutional grant, down slightly from 50% last year, attributed to more limited financial aid resources in this difficult economic time. Although Americans of color make up 24% of the Class of 2013, up from 22% last year, we did not fare as well in our recruitment of women, with yields on our offers dipping significantly from 20% last year to a disappointing 13%. This poor yield reflects the strong priority that our peer institutions are placing on recruitment of this underrepresented group, and indicates that we must not grow complacent with our past success in female recruitment. Meanwhile, our undergraduate advising system, structured and administered by Associate Dean Kim Knox, has continued its strong record of success in reducing student attrition; remarkably, this year 16% more students transferred into the SOE from A&S than transferred out (see page 9 for enrollment details).

Total graduate applications to the School continued to rise, increasing 14% over last year (from 558 in Fall 2008 to 651 in Fall 2009). This increase is mostly associated with a dramatic (30%) increase in Ph.D. applications. We are encouraged by this trend and believe it can be attributed to ongoing measures to increase the quality and visibility of our graduate programs. The yield on fellowship offers also increased to 33%, up from 20% last year, with recipient GPAs holding strong at 3.8/4.0.

This academic year under the leadership of Dr. Robert Hannemann, Director of Tufts Gordon Institute (TGI), plans for a significant expansion of TGI’s flagship Master’s of Science in Engineering Management (MSEM) program were developed and carried out. The MSEM, targeted at practicing professionals but also open to full-time students, is now offered in two formats: an evening and our long-standing weekend program. To achieve TGI’s ambitious goal to increase incoming enrollment by 50%, a strategic branding and marketing campaign was initiated and carried out by a team led by Nancy Buczko that included effective use of TGI’s revised website, alumni outreach, and an increased number of MSEM in formation sessions. Despite current economic uncertainties, TGI significantly exceeded its goal and will be enrolling 68 new students in September 2009 (an increase of 80%). Total MSEM enrollment in AY09-10 will be 115.

As part of our continuing efforts to encourage our brightest students to pursue graduate study, a revised combined BS/MS or BS/ME program was approved for

Undergraduate Admissions, Class of 2013

Applications up 10%*

Admitted student profile

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>(A&amp;S 26%)</th>
<th>(A&amp;S 726)</th>
<th>(A&amp;S 719)</th>
<th>(A&amp;S 729)</th>
<th>(A&amp;S 5%)</th>
<th>(A&amp;S 59%)</th>
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<td>SAT-V</td>
<td>714*</td>
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<td>SAT-M</td>
<td>751*</td>
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<td>SAT-W</td>
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<td>Mean HS rank</td>
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<td>Public school</td>
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<td>Requested financial aid</td>
<td>63%</td>
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<td>*record for SOE</td>
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implementation in AY09-10. Under this selective program, admitted students may count two undergraduate course credits toward their graduate degree and receive support for summer research during their junior and senior years.

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

The School of Engineering continues to enjoy significant growth and momentum in research productivity. To encourage faculty development and participation in research, in the past two years the SOE Faculty Discretionary Fund has distributed more than $200,000 to principal and co-principal investigators. In FY09, we had 155 active grants, with 105 new and supplemental awards, and total annual research expenditures exceeding $11M. This represents an extraordinary doubling of research expenditures over the last five years and a 35.5% increase over FY08. Over the past five years we have also seen the effective rate of indirect cost recovery (ICR) climb from 31% to 46%, attributed to initiatives in developing new funding sources and improved cost sharing management as well as a proposal review processes under the direction of Executive Associate Dean Scott Sahagian. The SOE also witnessed a 56% increase in proposal submissions over last year. Of the 265 proposals submitted, more than 65% were sent to the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health. Private and state support for research grew by 22% in FY09.

The sections below highlight some significant achievements in interdisciplinary research and education in SOE strategic areas.

Bioengineering:

Activities of the Advanced Technology Laboratory (ATL) group at 200 Boston Avenue continue to thrive. Work from the edible optical sensor platform research group (Fio Omenetto, David Kaplan, Mark Cronin-Golomb, Irene Georgakoudi, and student Brian Lawrence, EG’08) was covered in a multitude of media outlets including ABCNews, MSNBC, and Mass High Tech with specific media attention focusing on applications to detect harmful bacteria levels in food. New developments in David Kaplan’s research on silk-based materials were also featured in The Economist. A remarkable one-fourth of all Tufts University invention disclosures submitted in FY09 were attributed to Stern Family Professor David Kaplan and his research partners. Other new bioengineering projects of note include the NSF-sponsored research of
Associate Professors Soha Hassoun (CS) and Kyongbum Lee (ChBE) to create dynamic predictive models of cellular metabolism and Associate Professor Irene Georgakoudi’s (BME) NIH-funded project focusing on developing non-invasive, optical technologies to monitor the functional development of engineered tissues. This latter research has the potential to affect millions of patients that undergo surgical procedures for tissue repair or reconstruction.

This year marked a significant SOE milestone in the graduation of our first undergraduate class of biomedical engineering majors. In addition, under the leadership of Associate Dean Sergio Fantini, a novel cross-school master’s program in Bioengineering was developed and approved for implementation in AY09-10. This program is grounded in a set of common core requirements and incorporates six departmental concentration tracks: Bioinformatics (CS), Biomaterials (BME), Biomechanical Systems and Devices (ME), Cell and Bioprocess Engineering (ChBE), Environmental Biotechnology (CEE), and Signals and Systems (ECE).

Environmental Sustainability:

Over the past two years, the SOE has strengthened its sustainable energy research and education programs through a cluster hire of four new professors across three departments. In addition, resources from the new Wittich Sustainable Energy Research Initiation Fund have been used as “seed funding” to jump-start new areas of renewable energy research. The first Wittich Energy Sustainability Research Symposium, supported by the Peter and Denise Wittich Family Fund for sustainable energy and organized by Associate Dean Shafiqul Islam, was held in late April. More than fifty students, faculty, and invited guests, including Peter Wittich (E’83), attended the symposium. The symposium highlighted findings from five seed-funded projects in sustainable energy, ranging from silk-based photovoltaic cells to off-shore wind turbines. Professor Maria Flytzani-Stephanopoulos’s (ChBE) new NSF-funded research is paving the way to synthesize nanocrystals by simple and low-cost methods of catalysis for the next generation of sustainable energy applications.

The impact of highway pollution on Boston-area neighborhoods, including Somerville and Chinatown, is the focus of a new collaborative Tufts research project supported by a five-year grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and co-directed by Doug Brugge of Tufts Medical School and Associate Professor John Durant (CEE). Professor Carla Brodley’s (CS) new NSF project on interdisciplinary machine learning integrates the use of machine learning into application areas ranging from training an artificial nose to land-cover mapping from remotely sensed data to non-invasive glucose monitoring.

Engineering Education Innovation:

This year, the Center for Engineering Education and Outreach (CCEO), in partnership with the Tufts Education Department’s MSTE program, graduated its first doctoral student in Engineering Education, Morgan Hynes (E’01, EG’09). Funded by a new NSF project, Associate Professor Chris Swan (CEE) and Professor Chris Rogers (ME), in collaboration with education department researchers at Purdue University, are investigating the application of
service-learning in engineering education and exploring how participation affects students’ self-efficacy, perceptions of the nature of engineering, and understanding of fundamental engineering concepts. Professor Chris Rogers also received an exploratory collaborative NSF research grant to use Robobooks software to develop a scalable K-12 model of engineering education.

During AY08-09, the SOE Curriculum Task Force (CTF) made significant progress in identifying and recommending revisions to the curriculum to provide a foundation in leadership for all of our engineering undergraduates. Under the guidance of Associate Dean Lew Edgers (CEE), CTF developed a list of engineering leadership attributes: communication/motivational skills; ethical values and awareness; managerial and organizational skills; and creativity/innovation. In addition, Professor of the Practice Ron Lasser (ECE) led a well-attended engineering leadership symposium that included a panel discussion by prominent engineers from industry, government, military and academic sectors. A subcommittee chaired by Robert Hannemann, Director of TGI, developed a revised leadership-focused engineering management minor. This five-course engineering management minor, which includes a foundation core of four courses, will be offered through Tufts’ Gordon Institute and implemented in the fall of 2009.

Technology Transfer:

The Tufts Office of Technology Licensing and Industrial Collaboration reported 45 invention disclosures from across the University in FY09; of these, the SOE leads all Tufts Schools, accounting for 64% (29). This year, Tufts has also granted Electric Truck LLC exclusive commercial rights to a technology developed by Professor Emeritus Ronald Goldner (ECE) that enables the batteries of electric-powered and hybrid vehicles to recharge en route. The Boston Globe reported on the environmental benefits of this new technology.

Invention Disclosures

FACULTY RECRUITMENT

Over the past five years, the School of Engineering has continued to make strides in increasing faculty critical mass and diversity. In AY03-04, the SOE had 54 tenure-track/tenured faculty, of whom 8 were women and 9 were ethnic minorities. By AY08-09, the size of the faculty increased to 65, of whom 15 are women and 13 are ethnic minorities.

This year, we have recruited three new tenure-track faculty members in the areas of bioengineering and sustainability. Kurt Pennell joins the faculty from his position as a full Professor in the School of Civil Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology. Pennell will head the CEE department and joins the Integrated Multiphase Environmental Systems (IMPES) laboratory.

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His diverse research interests include the environmental fate and neurotoxicity of engineered nanomaterials and organic contaminants, development and testing of groundwater remediation technologies, the role of persistent organic pollutants in neurodegenerative disease such as Parkinson’s disease, and the influence of neuroactive steroids on seizure frequency during pregnancy. Pennell has received many awards, including a National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Career award, the Outstanding Service Award from the Soil Physics Division of the Soil Science Society of America, and the Outstanding Advisor Award from the Chi Epsilon National Honor Society. He is a registered professional engineer in the State of Georgia and a board certified environmental engineer.

Lauren Black (Ph.D., Boston University) joins the BME department from his position as postdoctoral fellow at the University of Minnesota. A recipient of the prestigious NIH Pathway to Independence Award, his bioengineering research interests focus on cardiac tissue, including the development of a fibrin gel-based myocardial equivalent, and engineering cell alignment for improved beating in a fibrin-based heart patch. Matthew Panzer (Ph.D., University of Minnesota) joins the ChBE department from a postdoctoral research associate position at MIT. There, he worked to develop a nanoscale patterning process for thin metal films utilizing ordered arrays of quantum dots. He also studied novel quantum dot-metal oxide semiconductor structures for infrared photodetectors, photovoltaics, and light-emitting diodes. Panzer’s recruitment will increase our faculty critical mass in the area of engineering for sustainability.

Searches are ongoing to fill two positions in Computer Science and the Alvin Howell Professorship in Electrical Engineering.

ADVEMENT AND OUTREACH

In an increasingly difficult fundraising environment, the SOE, under the leadership of Sr. Director of Development Catherine de Lacy (E’82), has continued to secure new funding from a variety of sources. Although we secured only 87% of our annual fund target, capital achievement far surpassed our FY09 goal, with the announcement of a large gift pending. Two new endowed scholarships were named by engineering alumni: the Jeannie Diefenderfer (E’84) Endowed Scholarship Fund; and the Zeta Psi Class of 1969 Scholarship, founded by Jonathan Curtis (E’69) and Robert Stricker (E’69) (see last page).

With CFR oversight, SOE faculty members have also been forging relationships with industrial partners such as MIT Lincoln Laboratories, 3M, and Draper Labs. In particular, we have secured generous financial support from a number of sources for the School’s targeted areas of sustainability and engineering education innovation. For example, the CEEO received funding from: the Kodosky Foundation, to develop academic tracks for Tufts students interested in engineering education; the LLL Foundation and GE Foundation, to support the Student Teacher Outreach Mentorship Program (STOMP); National Instruments, to launch the development of a new educational high school software robotics platform; and Raytheon, to develop activities and training for their corporate outreach program. The Tufts Solar Decathlon team has garnered corporate support for its collaboration with the Boston Architectural College to compete in the 2009 international U.S. Department of Energy competition. Gift pledges and gifts-in-kind have been received from Alteris Renewables, the American Trucking Association, Berkshire Photovoltaic Services, and National Grid.

Under the leadership of Jonathan Kaplan (A’96), Alumni Relations Assoc. Director, our alumni outreach program hosted its third annual Boston-area engineering alumni reception, featuring a presentation and discussion on sustainable architectural design led by Glenn Bell (E’74), CEO of Simpson, Gumpertz, and Heger. In February, two
alumni networking events were held on campus and on the west coast. At our fourth annual Engineering Alumni Weekend Reception, more than 100 Tufts engineering graduates and guests gathered to learn about engineering’s role in the upcoming Tufts Solar Decathlon project.

Under the leadership of Robin Kahan (J’80), Associate Director of Career Services, we supported placement of students in internships and full-time positions, with two large career fairs drawing a record number of student attendees. The engineering, computer science, and technology industries remained the top recruiters on campus (22.4% of employers). Student consultation appointments also rose by 6% this year. Higher attendance at engineering-specific career service programming was due, in part, to increased outreach to student groups and clubs.

The newly named Center for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Diversity, formerly known as DILES, has made great strides over the past year under the leadership of its new Program Manager, Travis Brown, PhD. The Center has provided support and coordination for several student organizations, including campus chapters of the National Society of Black Engineers, the Society of Women Engineers, and Women in Computer Science. In a restructuring, the Center has established both a Student Advisory Board and a Coalition of diversity leaders within AS&E who are working on diversifying the STEM fields. Brown also took the lead in launching a successful study group program designed to increase academic success and retention in introductory science and engineering courses. Piloted in Biology 13 and 14 in AY08-09, this program will be expanded to Math 11 and Physics 11 in AY09-10. The capstone of the year was the Center’s first annual symposium, which showcased the accomplishments of Tufts student organizations. Brown has also helped to increase Tufts’ visibility in targeted national and state organizations with a particular emphasis on graduate student recruiting, including the National Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering and Science (GEM), the Massachusetts Consortium of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Programs (MC-STEMP), and the Leadership Alliance.

ADMINISTRATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

In FY09 the School of Engineering renovated and/or acquired an additional 30,000 square feet of space. More than a third of this space has been designated for interdisciplinary research, including an expansion of the Advanced Technology Lab at 200 Boston Avenue. As the Tufts Gordon Institute completed its move to its new location with expanded office, conference, and classroom space at 200 Boston Avenue, old TGI classroom space in the Science and Technology Center has been freed up for renovation. New interdisciplinary laboratory space for biomedical engineering, chemical and biological engineering, and civil and environmental engineering, will be created for incoming faculty hires. The Center for Engineering Education and Outreach was also completely redesigned to include new collaborative lab space and offices in Curtis Hall. In Anderson Hall, all classrooms received upgraded technology equipment, lab and faculty space was created on the garden level for incoming ME faculty, and the Blake-Perlman Computing Lab was redesigned.
## Enrollment and Degrees Granted

### As of September 2009

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<th>Engineering Program</th>
<th>Fall 2008 Enrollment</th>
<th>Degrees Granted¹</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BS²</td>
<td>ME</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biomedical Engineering</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biotechnology Engineering</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemical Engineering*</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civil Engineering*</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer Engineering*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electrical Engineering*</td>
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<td>Engineering Management</td>
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<td>Engineering Physics</td>
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<td>Engineering Psychology/Human Factors</td>
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<td>Engineering Science</td>
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<td>Environmental Engineering</td>
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<td>Mechanical Engineering*</td>
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<td>Engineering¹</td>
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<tr>
<td>No Major Declared</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong></td>
<td>741</td>
<td>43</td>
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*Engineering degree programs accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET).

#Includes Civil Engineering degrees in Architectural Studies and Environmental Health

¹August 08 to May 09

²Enrollment of first majors as of 3/25/09

³Computer Engineering degrees under Electrical Engineering
New Funds Established

- Alvin H. Howell Endowed Professorship in Electrical Engineering
- Jeannie H. Diefenderfer Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Dean Kim Knox Lecture Series in Engineering Ethics and Public Policy
- Program for Engineers as Teachers
- Zeta Psi Class of 1969 Scholarship in Memory of Paul Montle
- Jason H. and Eleanor H. Samuels Mechanical Engineering Prize

Significant Planned Gifts

- Lonnie A’67 and Chuck Horn
- Richard Leach, E’67
- Albion Bjork, E’58, to the “Class of 1958 Scholarship”

Significant Gifts to Existing Funds

- Peter Wittich, E’83, to the “Peter and Denise Wittich Family Fund for Alternate Energy”
- Jordan Birger, E’43, to the Dean’s Discretionary Fund