

Fall
2011

NEW WAVE NEWS

**Anne Skaja Robinson To
Chair Tulane University
Department »**

Anne Skaja Robinson, a leading researcher in the field of biochemical engineering, has been named chair of the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at Tulane University.

[Read Full Story »](#)**Flower Hall to
Blossom on Campus »**

When it debuts next year, the new \$7.4 million Donna and Paul Flower Hall for Research and Innovation will be a catalyst for Tulane's emergence as a science and engineering powerhouse, attracting scholars, expanding research and satisfying the region's demand for innovative problem-solvers, says Nick Altiero, dean of the School of Science and Engineering.

[Read Full Story »](#)**2012 Science and
Engineering Alumni
Awards Call for
Nominations »**

The Tulane School of Science and Engineering celebrates the accomplishments of Science and Engineering Alumni by bestowing honors at its annual celebration each spring.

[Read Full Story »](#)**Read Other News »**

Message from the Dean

Nicholas J. Altiero, Dean

In the last newsletter, I addressed one of the three elements of the School of Science and Engineering's mission: undergraduate education. In this issue, the topic is research and graduate education.

Since the inception of the School of Science and Engineering in July 2006, school faculty members have been successful in securing more than \$100 million in research funding from federal, state and industry sources. Even in these difficult economic times, the faculty has continued to aggressively pursue funding for research and has established a remarkably high success rate with federal agencies such as the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Defense. This funding has enabled the School to equip state-of-the-art research facilities, support student research assistants and postdoctoral scholars, disseminate research findings through the most prestigious scientific and technical journals, and have a strong presence at national and international scientific meetings. The number of graduate students enrolled in the School of Science and Engineering has grown each year and now exceeds 400. More than 300 of these are doctoral students, constituting the largest doctoral program at Tulane. And research opportunities are not restricted to graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. This past year nearly 250 undergraduate students were also engaged in research, another figure that continues to grow. The School of Science and Engineering has proudly delivered on the Tulane promise of a top tier research university committed to both graduate and undergraduate education.

Each spring, the School of Science and Engineering celebrates its research accomplishments at its Annual Research Day. This event commences with the presentation of the Outstanding Researcher Award to a school faculty member who is being honored by his or her colleagues for their internationally-recognized scholarly achievement. Past recipients of this award are distinguished faculty members John Perdew, Ulrike Diebold, Mike Herman, Vijay John, and Ken Muneoka. Their work, and the work of many other SSE faculty researchers, has been highlighted on our school's web site. Following a presentation by the Outstanding Researcher Award winner, a poster session is held at which science and engineering students present their work and awards are presented for the most outstanding posters and presentations. The 6th Annual School of Science and Engineering Research Day is scheduled for April 12, 2012, at the Lavin-Bernick Center on the Tulane University campus. I invite you to join us to enjoy first-hand the remarkable and exciting discoveries and innovations that have resulted from the work of the school's faculty and students.

The Marko Family Scholarship

Article by Robert M. Morris

One year ago, during the School of Science and Engineering's Advisory Board reception (homecoming weekend), Bill and Marta Marko found themselves deeply and

ACCOLADES

Cell and Molecular Biology Professor YiPing Chen was awarded \$339,826 from NIH to study the role of growth factors in the regulation of mammalian palate formation and cleft palate defect.

Cell and Molecular Biology Professor Frank Jones was awarded \$256,631 from NIH to study the influence of ERBB4 on altered gene expression contributing to breast cancer.

Earth and Environmental Sciences Professor Kyle Straub was awarded \$192,729 from NSF to develop methods to use the stratigraphic record in sedimentary rocks to understand the evolution of river and delta environments.

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Professor Jordan Karubian was awarded \$199,883 from NSF to study foraging ecology and population dynamics of brown pelicans in the Gulf of Mexico.

Mathematics Professor Ricardo Cortez and Biomedical Engineering Professor Donald P. Gaver were awarded \$251,040 from the LA Board of Regents to develop collaborative scientific projects focused on computational research essential for solving challenging problems in materials science and biology.

Psychology Professor Stacy Overstreet and her colleagues Professors Bonnie Nastasi, Michael Cunningham, and R. Enrique Varela were awarded \$199,464 from the Department of Education to support the third year of a \$634,342 four year training grant in trauma-focused school psychology.

CONTACT US

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unexpectedly moved as they listened to a young Cell and Molecular Biology student describe the world of opportunity that a Tulane scholarship had opened for her.

[Read Full Story »](#)

Fuel Found in Old Newspapers

Article by Kathryn Hobgood Ray

Here's one way that old-fashioned newsprint beat the Internet: Tulane University scientists have discovered a novel bacterial strain, dubbed "TU-103," that uses paper to produce butanol, a biofuel that serves as a substitute for gasoline. The researchers are currently experimenting with old editions of *The Times-Picayune* newspaper with great success.



Photo by Paula Burch-Celentano

[Read Full Story »](#)



Candy Guedry: Building a Community

Article by Robert M. Morris

Out of Candy Guedry's many years of working at Tulane, she says the most exciting by far have been the last four, reaching out to multiple generations of scientists and engineers to help build the identity of the School of Science and Engineering.

[Read Full Story »](#)

Excel-lent Skills Lead Student to Competition

Article by Kathryn Hobgood Ray

Green Wave fans, get ready to cheer on Tulane student Brian Broom-Peltz, who's competing for a world title Aug. 1–3 in San Diego. Broom-Peltz has been selected to represent the United States in the Microsoft Office Specialist Worldwide Competition in the 2010 Excel category.



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Philanthropy plays a critical role in our success. The School of Science and Engineering relies heavily on the support of our alumni and friends to fulfill our mission of fostering and promoting innovative scholarship, transformative research, and creative inquiry.

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Dr. C. Chrisman Wilson

(1944-2011)

Dr. C. Chrisman Wilson, Associate Professor of Psychology, passed away on Monday, July 25, 2011 at the age of 67. Dr. Wilson joined the Tulane faculty in 1981. He served as director of the School Psychology PhD program 1992–2004, and Department Chair 1987–1992. In 2005, he was named Distinguished Newcomb Fellow for his devotion to the academic life of Newcomb College. Nearly every psychology major over the past 20+ years elected to

take his course on Abnormal Psychology and, every semester, the course enrolled 150+ students. He continually added video and sound bites to keep the course engaging to each generation. He recently developed a new undergraduate course in clinical interventions, a sign that he remained the consummate teacher. He will be missed by his colleagues and by a generation of Tulane alumni.

Upcoming Events

School of Science and Engineering 2011 Homecoming Celebration

Open House, Reception, Research Lab Tours, & Flower Hall Showcase

Friday, October 21, 2011

2 PM – 4 PM

Lindy Boggs Building

First Floor Lobby

Everyone is Invited

NASA Astronaut Colonel Douglas G. Hurley, USMC

(Video presentation of last space shuttle Atlantis mission & presentation of School of Science and Engineering Fly Items)

Friday, October 21, 2011

2 PM

Lindy Boggs Building

Room 600

Everyone is Invited

[View All Events »](#)

School of Science and Engineering Tailgating Tent

Saturday, October 22, 2011

11 AM – Game Kickoff

Louisiana Superdome

Champions Square

Everyone is Invited

School of Science and Engineering Homecoming Game Suite

Saturday, October 22, 2011

1 PM – Game End

Louisiana Superdome –

Memphis vs. Tulane

Homecoming Game

Invitation Only

[See a weekly schedule of Science and Engineering Seminars open to the public »](#)