

**SUMMER
2011****NEW WAVE NEWS****Perdew Chosen for Top
Scientific Honor »**

John Perdew, professor of physics in the Tulane School of Science and Engineering, is a newly elected member of the prestigious National Academy of Sciences.

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First-class Teachers »

"The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery," wrote Ralph Waldo Emerson. This year's four outstanding Tulane teachers have proven that art in the classroom.

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Read Other News »**ACCOLADES**

Nicholas J. Altiero, Dean of the School of Science and Engineering, has been elected Chair of the Engineering Deans Council Executive Board for a two year term commencing July 2011. Dr. Altiero was first elected to the Executive Board of the Engineering Deans Council in 2005 and has served as the Vice Chair since 2009. As Chair of the Engineering Deans Council, he will also have a seat on the Board of Directors of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE).

On May 12, 2011, 267 undergraduate and 89 graduate science and engineering degrees were conferred at the Tulane Unified Commencement Ceremony held at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

Message from the Dean

Nicholas J. Altiero, Dean

In the next three newsletters, I will be addressing the main elements of the School of Science and Engineering's mission: undergraduate education, research and graduate education, and community engagement. In this issue, the topic is undergraduate education.

In the fall of 2006, the School of Science and Engineering's first academic year, the number of entering freshmen who declared a major offered by the School was 306. This has increased each academic year (to 369 in the fall of 2007, 412 in the fall of 2008, 462 in the fall of 2009, and 544 in the fall of 2010). This past year, the total number of undergraduates enrolled in majors offered by the School had grown to nearly 1650. While we don't yet know the final numbers for the fall of 2011, it is clear that the freshman enrollment in School of Science and Engineering majors will again well exceed 500. At the current pace, the School is projected to have a steady-state undergraduate enrollment on the order of 2000 students. There can be no doubt that the School is a resounding success!

The School of Science and Engineering currently offers Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degrees in biology (cell and molecular biology and ecology and evolutionary biology), chemistry, geology, mathematics, physics, psychology, biological chemistry, environmental biology and environmental science, and neuroscience and Bachelor of Science in Engineering (B.S.E.) degrees in biomedical engineering, chemical engineering, and engineering physics. New undergraduate degree programs are envisioned and these include computer science, geological engineering, and human factors engineering. In addition to degree offerings, the School is also the largest provider of courses that can be applied to the "scientific inquiry" requirement of the Tulane University undergraduate core curriculum. This requirement involves at least one course in quantitative reasoning and two courses in the sciences, one of which must have a laboratory component, for all students regardless of major.

But the undergraduate experience involves much more than course requirements. The School of Science and Engineering works closely with a number of offices on campus to facilitate both curricular and extra-curricular enhancements to the undergraduate experience. These include research and design projects, summer internships, study abroad, professional and honor societies, and public service. Tulane University places a strong emphasis on the undergraduate experience and the School of Science and Engineering is proud to feature undergraduate education as a main element of its mission.

Paul Flower - Flower Hall

Article by R.M. Morris, writer in the Office of Development

Seven years ago, Paul Flower established his first faculty chair at the university he loves. This summer, he will begin building a brand-new facility to hold it.

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Biomedical Engineering Professor Michael Moore was awarded \$450,000 from NSF to study the development of photoreactive biomaterials and computer simulations as integrated models of nerve growth in response to various structural and molecular guidance cues.

Cell and Molecular Biology Professor Nandini Vasudevan was awarded \$1 million from NSF to study the mechanisms used by estrogens to control social behaviors, using mice as model systems.

Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Professor Kim O'Connor was awarded \$499,377 from NSF to support research to develop effective stem cell technologies to repair damaged bone by gaining insight into the heterogeneity in composition of bone marrow-derived, human mesenchymal stem cells at the cellular and molecular levels.

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Professor Michael Blum was awarded \$491,608 from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to develop genetic methods for assessing water quality and to improve conservation of native fishes in Hawaii.

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FEEDBACK

We Want to Hear
From You!

Please send us your feedback on
the newsletter to:

✉ candy@tulane.edu



Getting a Grip on Groundwater Pollution

Article by Alicia Duplessis Jasmin

A team of Tulane engineers is addressing the problem of groundwater pollution through the formation of NanoFex — a company with an innovative method to curb contaminants in groundwater.

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Photo by Guillermo Cabrera-Rojo

Seniors' Project Rocks!

Article by Fran Simon

For four Tulane seniors who took the yearlong biomedical engineering design project course, developing an assistive device for elderly residents at St. Margaret's Daughters Home in New Orleans became a labor of love.

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Staff Support Robotics Competitions

Article by Mary Mouton

When she is not coordinating graduate programs at the School of Science and Engineering, you might find Elizabeth Keith volunteering as supervisor for "The Pit," the area where teams of high school students line up to compete at the annual FIRST™ Robotics Competition "Bayou Regional."

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Upcoming Events

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INVESTING IN SSE

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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School of Science and Engineering New Incoming PhD Student Orientation

Friday, August 26, 2011

1 PM – 4:30 PM

Lindy C. Boggs Center

Rooms 104 & 105

Invitation Only

School of Science and Engineering Freshmen Welcome - Open House for All New Incoming Students and their Guests

Sunday, August 28, 2011

2 PM – 4 PM

Everyone is invited

[View All Events >>](#)

School of Science and Engineering Open House - Research Labs & Flower Hall Tours

Friday, October 21, 2011

2 PM – 4 PM

Lindy Boggs Building

First Floor Lobby

Everyone is invited

School of Science and Engineering Tailgating Tent

Saturday, October 22, 2011

11 AM - Game Kickoff

Louisiana Superdome

Homecoming Village 2011

Everyone is invited