

the EXPLORER Newsletter

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY AT TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

CONTENTS

ENGINEERING PROGRAMS INAUGURATION

Page 1

COSET ANNUAL AWARDS

Page 2

TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE

Page 3

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY TRI BETA

Page 3

STAFF APPRECIATION

Page 4

TSU HOSA

Page 4

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Page 5

STUDENT SERVICES

Page 5

STAFF SPOTLIGHT STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Page 6

ALUMNI RAVES

Page 6

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Page 7

SCHOLARLY AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

Page 8

EDITORIAL

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Engineering Community Welcomes COSET Engineering Programs

Many members of Houston's engineering community attended a luncheon to celebrate the inauguration of the two new engineering programs in the College of Science, Engineering, and Technology of Texas Southern University. The program was moderated by Dean Lei Yu who, along with President John Rudley, and Professor David Olowokere, informed the

assembled visitors in a dynamic and entertaining manner of the issues involved in the process of gaining the approval of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Mr. Robert W. Harvey, President and CEO, of the Greater Houston Partnership, presented the importance of these two programs in the context of the economy and jobs in Houston. Mr. Harvey

shared some amazing facts, including the fact that the educational systems in Houston do not produce enough graduates with a Bachelor's degree to satisfy the demand for engineers, so that Houston is a net importer of degreed workers. The new engineering programs at Texas Southern will significantly increase the

continued on page 2



The Scholoscars: COSET Annual Award Ceremony

Students, faculty, and staff were recognized and awarded for their achievements at the Annual "SCHOLOSCARS Achievement and Awards" Ceremony that was held on May 7, 2015, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM in the Texas Southern University Science Center Atrium with graduate student, Rachel Guthrie as Mistress of Ceremonies. This year's theme "Engineering in America" paid tribute to the two newly inducted Engineering programs. Marquasha Foreman, 2015 Miss COSET, welcomed guests and all were entertained with an International Fashion Show featuring Bangladesh and Chinese styles modeled by COSET graduate students, Mahbuba Khan, Johora Munni, Ruksana Rahman, Mahreen Labeeba Nabi, Boya You,

Bimin Mao, and Ling Lu with Moderator: Wu Ying, a song by Peijia Tang, and music by DJ Master Mixer.

Eighty five students received scholarships this year for a total of \$50,000.00. Dr. Jackson stated that, "Again the COSET awarded scholarships to every applicant." Other student awards included: Departmental Outstanding Student Awards, Dean's Student Advisory Council Recognitions, COSET Student Ambassador Recognitions, and Special Student Recognitions. Recipients of the Distinguished Excellence Awards were: Distinguished Advisement/ Mentoring Award - Dr. Graham Thomas; Distinguished Research/Scholarly Activity Award - Dr. Maruthi Sridhar Balaji Bhaskar; Distinguished Graduate Student Award - Qing

Li; Distinguished Undergraduate Student Award - Reese Selman; and Distinguished Staff Award - Dolly Spencer, M.Ed. Presentation of awards ended with the Dean's Leadership Award for Exemplary Service in Student Advisement - Evangeline Pearson and recognition of all faculty and staff who participated in the Annual Faculty/Staff Campaign, contributing a record \$26,132.00, with a \$10,000.00 endowment donated by Dr. Robert Prater, Dean of School of Technology 1971-1984 & 1986-1993 and by recognizing, with presentation of a rose, all COSET Ambassadors who helped make the campaign a tremendous success. The celebration ended with the "COSET Family Feud Game,"



hosted by James Okpamen, 2015 Mr. COSET, and Mr. Jeff Shaw followed by our traditional dancing.

Engineering Community *continued from page 1*

number of local workers filling the demand. Mr. Harvey made the commitment on behalf of the Greater Houston Partnership to provide strong support of the TSU engineering programs going forward. Dean Yu and Provost James W. Ward provided welcome addresses that related the significance that these new program changes would bring to the College, and to the University.

The keynote speaker for the luncheon was Mr. John Barton, Deputy Executive Director of the Texas Department of Transportation. The Texas Legislature was in session and required Mr. Barton's presence in Austin.

Mr. Barton's address was recorded earlier and presented via video. Mr. Barton gave a very inspiring talk to the gathering, referring to the need for strong ties to the civil engineering program. Because of the growth of Texas, and hence, increasing transportation infrastructure needs, the Department of Transportation will need all the engineers it can "garner." Mr. Quincy Allen, the newly appointed District Engineer was present to represent Mr. Barton and to receive acknowledgement from the College.

Ms. Aminata Dicko, a civil engineering student, gave the students view of the changes

that the new engineering programs would have for its students. Ms. Dicko indicated that students were now relieved of the anxiety associated with an engineering technology degree that would not be fully accepted. She stated that the new civil engineering program would make students competitive in the industry. Young people sometimes take liberties and Ms. Dicko was no exception. She challenged the assembled engineering companies by stating that their presence indicated their willingness to provide internships, scholarships, and ultimately jobs for graduates of the

engineering program. She was warmly received. The College attempts to include prospective students at its major events and for this event, eleventh and twelfth grade students interested in engineering were invited from Furr High School, and they were warmly acknowledged.

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee provided final remarks and spoke of the importance of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics initiatives from a national perspective and recognized the College of Science, Engineering and Technology with a Congressional Citation.

High Speed and Intercity Rail: Connecting Texas

The Department of Transportation Studies hosted its Spring Conference on March 26, 2015. The theme for the conference was: "High Speed and Intercity Rail: Connecting Texas." This conference was designed to bring together industry leaders, officials, faculty and students to engage in dialogue about the importance of rail, transportation planning, local transportation, and development. The conference attracted over 100 attendees who are transportation

professionals from various agencies, including federal and state transportation organizations, local transportation industries, along with students and faculty members of the College of Science, Engineering and Technology.

Dr. Yi Qi, the Chair of the Department of Transportation Studies, welcomed the guests and gave a brief introduction to the Transportation programs at TSU. Dr. Carol Lewis, Director of the Center

for Transportation Training and Research, introduced the Breakfast Keynote Speaker, Dr. Lisa Nungesser, Senior Vice President / Project Manager of Parson Brinckerhoff, Inc. Dr. Nungesser, presented information on high speed rail which included its benefits and the cost of not developing the high speed rail systems.

Following the breakfast sessions, two panel discussions were held. The first panel discussed "High Speed and Intercity Rail: World Perspective." Panelists included representatives from the Gulf Coast Rail District, Lone Star Rail District, Texas Rail Advocates, and Texas Central Railway. The second panel responded to the first. The second panel included representatives from the Houston-Galveston Area Council, North Central Texas Council of Governments, The

Houston Wave, and Uptown Houston Association. The Panels were moderated by our Department of Transportation Studies Adjunct Professors: Paul Simmons, P.E. and Giovanni Puccini, P.E., KBR.

The conference also included a Luncheon Keynote Speaker, Alan Rutter, Division Head for Freight Mobility at Texas A&M Transportation Institute. Mr. Rutter spoke to the audience about Texas' unique approach to transportation and how that affects the high speed rail.

This conference provided TSU students with opportunities for networking with transportation professionals in government agencies and local industries, and increased their awareness of the issues, opportunities, and challenges associated with transportation.



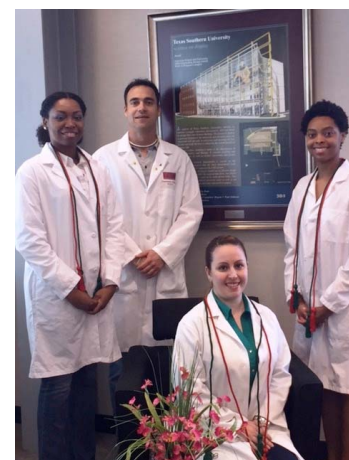
American Chemical Society TSU Chapter

The Student Chapter of the American Chemical Society (ACS) of TSU engaged in several activities to enhance the community during the 2014-15 academic year. The student organization is under the leadership of Quaylon Smith who along with other executive committee members organized activities and community service. Members engaged in helping the youth who participate in the STEM Foundation of the South Union Community Development Corporation to learn several lessons in science. These demonstrations

where held the first Saturday of each month. This service is one of the major highlights for members to interact and have meaningful experiences with youth. ACS members volunteered by distributing food to the families of students who attended Ed White Elementary School in October and December 2014 through the Houston Food Bank program. For the Earth Day activity in April 2015, they donated 700 ACS magazines entitled "Climate Science: More Than Just A Weather Report" to students at Ed White Elementary. This

magazine is a kid-friendly, hands-on activity publication for exploring important topics in chemistry. Lastly, ACS members purchased a plot with Blodgett Urban Gardens (BUG) to support the BUG's new initiative to provide healthy produce for residents in the third ward community. The Student Chapter of TSU ACS welcomes the opportunity to serve the community through science and partnering with other organizations to assist in carrying out the mission of the College of Science, Engineering and Technology.

Tri Beta



Graduating Members of Tri Beta Biological Honor Society with Faculty Advisor Dr. Jason Rosenzweig. Left to right: Erica Shead, Jason Rosenzweig, Kristina Curry, and Ty'Riana Wilson.

Staff Appreciation Day

The College of Science, Engineering and Technology honored its staff for their exemplary contributions and service to the College at a luncheon held Wednesday, April 22, 2015 in observance of Administrative Professionals Day. Our staff has worked tirelessly to accomplish the objectives, goals, and mission of the College. COSET staff continues to represent the College with the highest standards of excellence, professionalism, and dedication to students and

faculty. Recognition of their valuable roles in the workplace is of the utmost importance. Our professionals work efficiently behind the scenes to make certain daily operations run smoothly in their offices. They exceed all expectations and go a step beyond by participating in the planning and implementation of COSET special events and activities.

We salute your positive contributions and appreciate you for a job well done!



Student Town Hall Meeting

The 2015 COSET Dean's Student Advisory Council Town Hall Meeting was well attended by students, faculty and staff. The event was held on April 29, 2015 and the theme was "COSET wants to hear from you." The goal of the meeting was to engage students in an activity meant to hear student concerns, and student suggestions in an effort to improve the College. Members of the COSET Dean's Student Advisory Council and Student Ambassadors hosted the event. Representatives from every department in the College was present to

address students' questions and concerns. Students received a complimentary lunch in exchange for completing a short survey. The survey was aimed at determining how much students use their student email, Blackboard, Degree Works, and Grades First. The survey also asked about professor use of Blackboard. Students were given the opportunity to complete a comment/question card or to step up to the microphone to speak. The Dean, Assistant Dean, and Department Chairs responded to questions or comments.

TSU-HOSA Does it Again

Texas Southern University chapter of Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA-Gamma Eta Rho) continues their legacy of successful competition again in the 2014-2015 Texas HOSA State Leadership Conference held on April 9-11, 2015 in Dallas, Texas at the Hilton Anatole Hotel. At this leadership conference, officers and members attended a HOSA-sponsored leadership training seminar in order to increase their leadership skills allowing them to efficiently lead the chapter for the upcoming year. As officers and members studied diligently throughout the year, the officers prepared quizzes for their members and held the first TSU State leadership competition in order to help members be more prepared for their event. Under the leadership of Tommy Quach (President), Kristina Curry (Vice-President), Ben Caballero (Secretary), Ali Bilal (Historian), Autumn Pitre (Treasurer), Paul Ha (Treasurer), and Dayana Smoot (public relations), TSU was honored at the recognition and award ceremony at the end of the conference in the main

ballroom of Hilton Anatole hotel as 12 out of 14 members were recognized as finalists in their competitive events: CPR/First Aid, Sports Medicine, Forensic Medicine, Dental Terminology, Medical Terminology, Pathophysiology, Human Growth and Development, and Medical Laws and Ethics. Of the 12 members who were recognized as finalists, 8 members will continue to move to the next level of competition at the National Leadership Conference to be held in Anaheim, California, June 24-27, 2015. TSU-HOSA member, Sarah Sejero, received the highest score in the health care issue exam in the pool of over 250 collegiate competitive members. TSU-HOSA chapter was also recognized for their community service throughout the semester at the COSET award ceremony as all 14 members received the Barbara James Service Award. TSU-HOSA would like to show their appreciation by recognizing Dr. Lei Yu (Dean of COSET), Dr. Warren Williams (Biology Department Chair), Dr. Hector Miranda (Advisor), and Dr. Ayodotun Sodipe (Advisor) for their support of TSU-HOSA.



Faculty Spotlight Desirée Jackson

Dr. Desirée Jackson earned a Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences from Meharry Medical College with specialty in Molecular Parasitology. She moved to Houston and joined the laboratory of Dr. Edward McCabe at Baylor College of Medicine, working first as a Postdoctoral Fellow, and then as a Research Associate working on the identification and sequencing of the human Glycerol kinase gene, and on developing a DNA screening tool for β -thalassemia in Texas newborns.

Dr. Jackson came to Texas Southern University in 1996 as a Visiting Assistant Professor. In 1999, she became a tenure-track Assistant Professor, receiving tenure in 2001, and a

promotion to Associate Professor in 2003. In September 2004, she was appointed to the position of Interim Chair of the Department of Biology, a position she held until August 2007.

She was recognized as the TSU Teacher of the Year 2001-2002. She has also been recognized by the Golden Key International Honor Society for "commitment to higher education and ... outstanding job in the Department of Biology at TSU." These honors are indicative of her commitment to her students. Dr. Jackson believes that the approach to teaching must be suited toward the internet and technology based learners we are now seeing in the classroom.

As a result, she has developed extensive web pages in an effort to educate, and indirectly to compel students to become better acquainted with Molecular and Developmental Biology through computer technology. In short, her teaching philosophy is 'make the student comfortable in order to build esteem and thereby enhance their learning experience indirectly building a successful student.'

Dr. Jackson's service to the university has included service as member, and briefly, Chair, of the Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects, an Institutional Review Board, charged with the review of research



protocols proposing to use human subjects in research activities. She continues to serve on numerous graduate and doctoral student committees and has supervised several Biology Masters students. Her research interest is related to molecular studies on the effect of Arsenic on gene expression in fetal tissues and how any changes in gene expression may serve as a predictor for cancer in those tissues. She has served on numerous university- and college-level committees as well.

continued on page 8

Student Services and Instructional Support

In an effort to change the academic culture, the Office of Student Services and Instructional Support (OSSIS) was established. The office is overseen by an Assistant Dean, Desirée Jackson, Ph.D. who is assisted by an Administrative Assistant, Ms. Tioka Freeman.

OSSIS serves the College of Science, Engineering and Technology in multiple ways. The office is responsible for approximately 1600 majors, undergraduate and graduate, in a given semester. Under the umbrella of Student Services, this office is responsible for: resolving issues with student registration; resolution of student academic disputes; providing resources or referrals for tutorial services; answering financial aid questions; processing of

student academic documents; processing of COST scholarships; referrals for academic advisement; recruitment of freshmen majors and transfer students; orientation of incoming students; preparation for student events such as award ceremonies, career days, events for prospective students and etc.; facilitation of student interactions with recruiters from graduate and professional programs and/or companies seeking interns or hires.

Since its implementation in 2009, the staff has increased to include a Director for Advisement, Ms. Evangeline Pearson, who was brought on to assist with supporting mostly the freshman students. Orientation and retention of COSET majors is a main focus.

Through the COSET 101, students receive continuous reinforcement of skills to make them successful in their studies. The students are encouraged to attend monthly seminars on study skills, time management, library resources, graduation expectations and career placement and internships. Additionally, Midterm Madness and Finals Frenzy events have been implemented to encourage students to meet with science tutors and make adequate preparations for important exams.

Under the umbrella of Instructional Support, this office provides oversight to the instructional technology within the College. Specifically, some 40+ projectors used in the TSU Science Center lecture halls and lab classrooms for

classroom instruction; document projectors used in the lecture halls; audio systems housed in lecture halls and the accompanying accessories and equipment. Additionally, there are many computer laboratories housed in the College which also receive service through OSSIS. There is one Technical Support Specialist, Mr. Peter Olamigoke, who is currently serving the IT needs of the College through OSSIS.

COSET faculty receives support through OSSIS to identify and effectively utilize technology to enhance classroom instruction. There are scheduled workshops held through OSSIS to give faculty hands-on instruction in aspects of the Blackboard course platform used by the University.

Staff Spotlight Vera McDaniels

Vera McDaniels is a proud alumnus of Texas Southern University where she earned a B.S. in Physics in 1987 and a Masters of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy in 2005. She joined Texas Southern University in 1998. Over the past seventeen years Vera McDaniels has worked in a variety of professional capacities. In her current position, as a program coordinator, she has managed

in excess of 10M dollars of federal funds.

In addition to fiscal management of federal funds, Ms. McDaniels also is very active in student advancement. She administers the National Science Foundation STEP scholarship. Additionally, for the last 17 years, she has coordinated the STEM-READY internship program for high school students. Most recently, Ms. McDaniels has had the

opportunity to bring her passion for science into the classroom as a high school physics teacher.

Her research interests include easing the burdens of water resource depletion with an emphasis on water quality and emerging contaminants affecting public health.

Ms. McDaniels' personal attributes mirror her professional accomplishments. She has personally mentored



hundreds of students, both academically and personally. She is a very caring individual and life coach, always encouraging students to achieve their personal best.

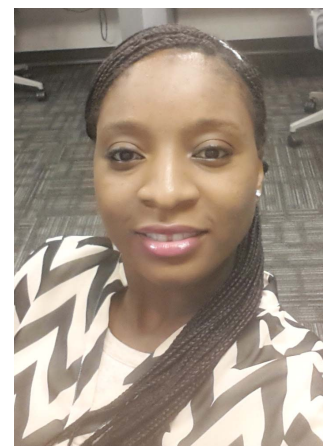
Student Spotlight Oluwakemi Adeoti

Oluwakemi Adeoti, a current graduate student of Computer Science at Texas Southern University was born into a family of hardworking and supportive academicians and grew up among three other siblings. She studied physics for her undergraduate degree program. She worked in the aviation industry for four years before making a decision to pursue a graduate degree. She was accepted into the Computer Science graduate degree program in August 2014 and has had a wonderful experience with members

of the faculty who are always ready and willing to give their support, and also mentor their students. She received a scholarship from the Computing Research Association – Women to attend their annual conference which was held in San Francisco on April 10th and 11th, 2015. At the conference, she had an opportunity to present a poster in the area of Artificial Intelligence titled "The Power of Computer Vision: In relation to human vision perception, intuition and object recognition." The conference

presented her with networking opportunities with leading women in computing and technology.

In March 2015, she had the privilege of being interviewed by a Senior Director of Talent Acquisition from the Thurgood Marshall College Fund Institute. She was selected as a Thurgood Marshall Leadership Scholar for Thurgood Marshall College Fund for the 2015 Leadership Institute program coming up in November 2015. Thurgood Marshall's Talent Acquisition recruiter referenced her to the Kellogg's



Company Campus Recruiters in May 2015 and she was accepted for a three-month internship program. She currently works for Kellogg's as an Information Technology Intern.

Alumni Raves Bruce Matson

Dr. Bruce Matson is a native Californian who won all-district basketball and football awards in Los Angeles. His undergraduate degree is in Chemistry and Biology from Texas Southern University and he received his Doctorate of Dental Surgery in 1989 from the University of Texas Dental Branch in Houston, Texas. Dr. Matson keeps his professional

skills current through frequent continuing education. He has been a member of the American Orthodontic Society since 1998 with certification in Straight Wire Orthodontics. Dr. Matson completed endodontic certification in 2001 and certification by the Institute for Advanced Dental Studies in 2006. Houston Magazine nominated Dr.

Matson as one of the city's Top Dentists in 2008 and 2009. Inspired by his father who won silver and bronze in the 1952 Olympics and whose successful career earned him a place in the NFL Hall of Fame, Dr. Matson believes in the power of hard work and attention to detail. He brings that philosophy into his practice of dentistry, making



sure that each and every patient receives a world-class standard of dental care. Dr. Matson is a devoted husband to Jocelyn Matson and father of two children, Kyle and Paige.

Student Accomplishments



Physics Students Win Bronze Medal

A team of Texas Southern University students recently competed in the University Physics Competition and won a bronze medal. Mr. Juan Amaya, Mr. Peter Doze and Mr. Eric Wilson (Dec. 2014 graduate) are the Physics Majors that participated in this competition. The University Physics Competition is an international contest for undergraduate students, who work in teams of three at their home colleges and universities all over the world, and spend a weekend in November, 48 hours, analyzing a real-world scenario using the principles

of physics, and writing a formal paper describing their work. The University Physics Competition takes place each year in November. The TSU team worked on establishing the conditions under which a planet can have a stable orbit in a binary star system, where a star has 50% of the mass of the other. Dr. Daniel Vrinceanu, Assistant Professor in the Department of Physics, served as the team's Faculty Sponsor. According to the rules of the competition, he was not allowed to consult or contribute during the contest.

Marquesha Foreman, COSET Mathematics major student, was valedictorian of the Spring 2015 graduating class. Photo: Marquesha receiving her recognition plaque from TSU President, Dr. John Rudley and TSU Provost, Dr. James Ward.



Physics Students win Research Award

Two students in the Medical Health Physics (MHP) program at TSU recently received awards in recognition of the outstanding quality of their computational investigation of radiation transport in matter. Mr. Zayne Belal (left) placed first in the student oral presentation competition during the 2015 Texas Southern University Research Week. He received a plaque. Mr. Ugo Ezenekwe (right) achieved third place in the student oral presentation at the 2015 Meeting of the South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society, where he competed against undergraduate students from major research universities

such as Texas A&M and the University of Houston-Downtown. He received a certificate and a check for \$50. Both students are recipients of TSU-MHP scholarships and conduct research in a computational laboratory under the supervision of Dr. Mark Harvey (center), Assistant Professor of Physics. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission funds TSU-MHP scholarship program.



TSU Engineering Students at NSBE Convention

The Department of Engineering was well-represented at The National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) 41st Annual Conference, held in Anaheim, California. A total of 13 students from the department were in attendance. The conference inspired innovation and celebrated excellence, and attracted over 100 employers. The career fair was a great success and all TSU students greatly benefited.

Students were interviewed for engineering positions with notable companies such as Turner Construction, Texas Instruments Incorporated, Bechtel, DuPont, Jacobs Engineering, Fluor Engineering, Hansel Phelps Construction, Cummins Inc., Microsoft, Intel, Accenture, and Johnson and Johnson. A number of students secured internship opportunities, while many are awaiting call backs. Our very own Martin

Banja was recognized for the \$1500.00 scholarship he received. The students capitalized on the opportunity to network with industry professionals during the conference and were motivated by the chosen speakers, as they were being honored for their outstanding contribution and dedication to NSBE.

TSU NSBE President Mr. Verret was elected as the Region V, Texas Zone Assistant Vice Chair.



Scholarly and Creative Activities

Publications

Ajofoyinbo A, Olowokere D (2015). Fuzzy Control Model for Structural Health Monitoring of Civil Infrastructure System. Journal of Control Science and Engineering, Vol 3, No. 1.

Maruthi Sridhar BB, Peterson M, Bevelhimer M. Landscape level patterns of mercury contamination and bioaccumulation in East Fork Poplar Creek (EFPC) watershed. TSU Research Week, Houston, TX, March 31- April 2, 2015.

Howlader HR, Maruthi Sridhar BB. Analyzing the mercury contamination in soil and sediments of East Fork Poplar Creek (EFPC) in Tennessee. TSU Research Week, Houston, TX, March 31- April 2, 2015.

Segun A, Maruthi Sridhar BB. Effects of landscape factors on mercury and methyl mercury contamination and

bioaccumulation in Redbreast Sunfish (*L. auritus*) in East Fork Poplar Creek watershed, Tennessee. TSU Research Week, Houston, TX, March 31- April 2, 2015.

Lakkaraju S, Maruthi Sridhar BB. Geospatial and statistical analysis of methyl mercury and polychlorinated biphenyl distribution in East Tennessee watersheds. TSU Research Week, Houston, TX, March 31- April 2, 2015.

Saah G, Maruthi Sridhar BB. Analysis of urban sprawl and its effect on urban environmental characteristics using spectral reflectance and Landsat data in Harris County, Texas. TSU Research Week, Houston, TX, March 31- April 2, 2015.

Esmaeili M, Maruthi Sridhar BB. Land use and land cover change in Galveston County, Texas. TSU Research Week, Houston, TX, March 31- April 2, 2015.

Books

Demetrious Kazakos and Nikos Mastorakis (Eds) Recent Advances in Electrical

Engineering and Electronic Devices, February 2015, ISBN: 978-1-61804-266-8 WSEAS Press.

Invited Talks

Demetrious Kazakos. Keynote Speaker at the 5th European Conference of Communications, (ECCOM'14) in Geneva, Switzerland, December 29-31, 2014

Maruthi Sridhar BB. Remote sensing to map water quality. United Nations World Water Day

Conference at Houston Community College – South West Campus, Houston, TX. March 27, 2015.

Maruthi Sridhar BB, Peterson M, Bevelhimer M. Mercury contamination and bioaccumulation in East Tennessee watersheds. TSU Research Week, TSU, Houston, TX, March 31- April 2, 2015.

ASCE International Conference

ASCE International Conference on Transportation & Development (ICTD 2016) invites you to submit an abstract and be a part of ASCE's next major event for transportation and development professionals. The conference will be held from June

26-29, 2016 at the Omni Houston Galleria Hotel in Houston, Texas. Abstracts to be considered for the various speaking opportunities are due by June 29, 2015. For more details and to submit an abstract, visit the conference website at www.asce-ictd.org.

Faculty Spotlight..... continued from page 5

In September of 2009, Dr. Jackson was appointed by Dr. Lei Yu to serve in the position of Interim Assistant Dean for Student Services and Instructional Support. In September of 2012, Dr. Jackson became the Assistant Dean. Dr. Jackson tries to get the input of

faculty, staff and students in order to best serve those stakeholders, and researches issues in order to facilitate resolution. Her desire is to continue to hone the repertoire of services of OSSIS in reaction to student needs and university requirements or requests.

OBITUARY

Dr. Kiran B. Chilakamarri
1952-2015



Dr. Kiran B. Chilakamarri, Associate Professor of Mathematics, had been at TSU since 2004 and had two Ph.D.'s one in mathematics and the other in aeronautical and astronautical engineering, from the Ohio State University. He worked in the area of graph theory, combinatorial mathematics, rotating stratified fluids, strength of materials, and metal fatigue and random vibrations. Dr. Chilakamarri published over 31 research papers in

mathematics and engineering journals. He taught at several universities including Central State University, Miami University (Ohio), Wright State University, and Wilberforce University. Dr. Chilakamarri was a regular invited visitor (with support) to DIMACS, an NSF Science and Technology Center for Discrete Mathematics and Theoretical Computer Science, during the summers of 1992-1996. DIMACS is a cooperative project of Princeton University, Rutgers University, AT&T Bell Laboratories and Bellcore. During his visit to Bellcore he developed a mathematical method for analyzing any large network with a view to measuring relative interaction levels among various subsets of the network. Dr. Chilakamarri developed a "Thermal-Acoustic fatigue damage accumulation model of random snap-throughs," with Dr. Jon Lee at AFRL (VASS), WPAFB. In the past few years at TSU he was an investigator for the CREST NSF Center for Research on Complex Networks. Dr. Chilakamarri was regularly invited to give talks at mathematics conferences and seminars, and collaborated with Dr. Alexandru Balaban and Dr. Douglas Klein (Texas A&M), Dr. C. J. Tymczak (TSU), Dr. Nathaniel Dean (San Marcos, TSU), and Dr. Matevz Pompe (Univ. Ljubljana, Slovenia).

"If you spent any time with Dr. Chilakamarri, you probably already have a fairly good picture of what he was like a dad, and that's because he was a man of uncompromising character. He spoke to me, I think, in the same way he spoke to you - he hid nothing, he feared no repercussions, and he was honest. I once joked to my friend that my father was the real life embodiment of an Ayn Rand character - someone who is fiercely independent; someone who cannot be controlled by societal forces but who is instead devoted to his own moral convictions, to his own thinking and judgment, even to his own short-term detriment."

Varu Chilakamarri, Daughter