



The theme of the 2012 RISE Program Student Achievement Convocation and Banquet is “A Matter of Determination...” This theme could be seen as basic, if not self-explanatory. But, it’s what is represented by the ellipsis that I believe can best be captured in the poem below. RISE Program participants, congratulations on the completion of another academic year. RISE Program graduating seniors, congratulations on meeting the challenge to reach this point in the preparation of your future. I applaud you all!... *Ms. Johnson*

*Manager, Student Development & Support, RISE & WIE,
College of Engineering*



You Must Not Quit **Author: Anonymous**

When things go wrong; as they sometimes will,
When the road you’re trudging seems all uphill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must, but don’t you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As everyone of us sometimes learns,
And many a fellow turns about,
When he might have won had he stuck it out.
Don’t give up though the pace seems slow,
You might succeed with another blow,

Often the goal is nearer than,
It seems to a faint and faltering man;
Often the struggler has given up,
When he might have captured the victor’s cup;
And he learned too late when the night came down,
How close he was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out,
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems afar;
So stick to the fight when you’re hardest hit,
It’s when things seem the worst that you must not quit

Editorial Team

Senior Editor: Marianne T. Johnson

Editorial Staff: Leslie N. O. Mills, Manuela Restrepo, Myles Powell and Etambuyu Akapelwa.

The editors wish to extend their gratitude to all who contributed articles to this newsletter and aided in its publication.

FROM OUR GRADUATING SENIORS

My name is Joanna Adadevoh and I major in Chemical Engineering. It's sometimes hard to believe I am actually a senior about to graduate because it seems like just yesterday when I first arrived at the University of Delaware. As an international student entering the U.S. for the first time, being a Blue Hen was definitely a shock for me. Everything was entirely new to me, from the food in the dining halls to the teaching styles in the classrooms. I remember feeling a bit overwhelmed as I walked to my first class – General Chemistry – in Brown Lab while thinking “so many new faces on such a big campus”. It was undeniably a different experience for me, but the RISE Program helped ease my transition into UD. The personal sessions with the RISE Manager, Ms. Johnson, or the RISE Graduate Counselor, Leslie Mills, provided academic advisement and support. The group sessions brought various RISE participants from different years and in different engineering disciplines together to discuss current



affairs that interested the students. The Saturday workshops presented us with different on-campus and off-campus opportunities to give our engineering education a more rounded experience. As a member of the RISE Program, I met many students like myself who were striving to excel academically and professionally. I met student mentors who had been in my shoes and had tips on how I could succeed in my engineering career. I probably would not have my current position as NSBE-UDEL co-president if I had not been a RISE participant because I would not have met the previous NSBE-UDEL e-board members. And as an added bonus of being a member of the RISE program, I had extra funding to finance my college education.

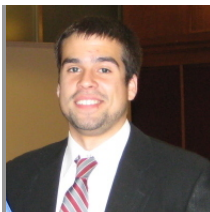
Now in my last semester of college, I look back over the past four years and I know that I have come far. With a UD Chemical Engineering education, research experience, workshops on how to conduct myself in a professional setting and how to be financially sustainable, and leadership experience, I know that I am ready for what the world outside of UD has to offer. Though I am not entering the work force just yet, as I am about to pursue a PhD in Chemical Engineering, I do know that when the time comes, I will be ready. My four years at UD have definitely been enlightening and rewarding.

“Hi! Everyone, I’m Myles Powell, senior Civil Engineering student from Philadelphia.” For anyone who has ever been to a RISE workshop, this tradition occurs one Saturday per month during the regular semester. Standing up and stating my name, major and classification in that order has become second nature. Over the past four years at the University of Delaware I have had a wide range of experiences: socially and academically. I’ve witnessed new dorms built from scratch, programs transformed and the growth of my fellow classmates. My college career has been dotted with a myriad of successes as well as my fair share of failures. However, one Program that has had the most influence on me, one which has guided me through my four years here is the RISE Program. If I were to take a snapshot of the RISE Program when I was a freshman and set it down next to a current photo of it, you would see a progression in terms of the number of participants and the bonds that



are continually formed over time. I have a special connection to RISE because of the friendships I have formed over the years. As my friendships grew, so did I as well. The Program has become more diverse in its fabric as more students with different backgrounds and majors have become participants. RISE is a diverse family and has its own niche within the College of Engineering. Initially, I viewed the “fulfilling elements” portion of the Program as a requirement to be a RISE participant in good standing. As I climbed the academic ladder towards graduation, I began to appreciate the personal and group sessions. Whereas before these sessions were normal in themselves, I now see the benefit of the connections I have made between peers, Leslie Mills, and Ms. Johnson.

For those who are new to the RISE Program, I advise that you look deeper into the Program. The more you put into it, I promise the more you will receive from it. The resources available as well as the connections to be made are priceless. I can tell that RISE will keep growing forever, and I can honestly say that I hope the same for me.

INTERVIEW WITH JAIME SANTIAGO *Conducted by Manuela Restrepo***Q. Tell us about yourself**

There was once a Puerto Rican father who gave his son the drive to do anything he ever dreamed of. The son made an effort to be both a musician and an engineer. Despite his father's push to study music and play the trumpet, this son was strong-headed and ironically chose to play trombone and study chemical engineering.

Q. Why Chemical Engineering?

When the decision for a college path came down to the major I would study I had a lot of evaluating to do. I had to assess what skills, passions, and results I had or was willing to pursue. Eventually, the process led to two paths: music and engineering. Both are challenging, but engineering provided a wider pool for jobs; a high salary was worth the effort too. The skill set requirements of math, physics, chemistry, and problem solving combined my abilities and interests into chemical engineering.

Q. How did you get to know about the RISE Program?

After applying to the University of Delaware, I received a notification for eligibility in obtaining a scholarship through the RISE Program.

Q. How has your experience with the RISE Program been?

RISE has provided for me an experience that has been supportive, guiding and enjoyable. I have learned a lot about myself through the Program. Understanding one's position and goals in life is of key importance and RISE has been instrumental in that regard.

Q. Who has made the most significant impact on your college career through the RISE Program and why?

Ms. Johnson has made the most significant impact on my college career in general through her constant help, discipline and advice. She was always there for me during the highs and especially during the lows of my academic career. She constantly pushed me to do more, to follow when necessary and be a leader when I was ready. Her impact could never be quantified but I am sure that the probability of my graduation increased thanks to her efforts to keep me on track.

Q. Are you involved in any extra-curricular activities on campus?

Extra-curricular activities are avenues for students to broaden their scope. There have to be occasions to share interests and have fun or do something worthwhile to counter balance heavy work load from classes. For me these avenues are music and sports. I am a member of multiple music groups including the marching band, jazz band, RISE banquet band, trombone choir and trombone jazz slides. I also play basketball and volleyball. I am also involved with AICHE, SHPE, and CCM where hands-on learning, leadership, and networking add to classroom learning.

Q. How do you balance that with school?

It was difficult at first. Managing time is developed over time in college. Key is sacrifice which can only be made once a person is able to prioritize their interests. The final element to the balance is determination to not give up, fall behind, or be afraid to ask for help.

Q. In your opinion what personal qualities should a student possess to be a successful engineering student?

There have been many successful engineering students with vast differences in personality; but there are two things that separate them from unsuccessful students: determination and balance. It involves the will power to push forward despite the challenges. Handling challenges is like the problem solving they teach us as engineering students. One must first understand the given circumstances, their background knowledge, then evaluate the issues or missing items that exist during their struggle, and use their best judgment and tools available to find solutions.

Q. Who was your favorite professor and why?

Professor Babatunde Ogunnaike was my favorite professor because of his drive to teach, the clarity of his lessons and the completeness that comes with his lectures. Lectures with Dr. Ogunnaike were intelligent and interactive and office hours were always professional and helpful. He knows his stuff and relays the material, especially concepts, to his students remarkably.

Q. What is your fondest memory of the University of Delaware?

My fondest memories of the University of Delaware would have to be the times spent with friends working diligently through the nights, many times all through the night, on problem sets, projects and reports. Those nights were high pressured moments that required a group of supportive, intelligent and hard working friends. Luckily for me, those were exactly the kind I had. We dispelled the myth that if engineering students were seated and we looked to our right and left, only one of those adjacent us would graduate with a degree in engineering. I took that to heart the first time I heard it and made a vow to myself and my friends that we would make it through no matter what. Some people fell back along the way but as a whole we beat the odds. At this point we are somewhat of a family and I will never trade the friendships established amidst the all night studying for anything in the world.

Q. What are your plans after graduation?

I plan to work directly after graduation then possibly attend graduate school in order to pursue my passion for teaching.

Q. What advice will you give to students interested in Chemical Engineering or engineering in general?

My advice to a student interested in engineering is that it will not be easy and you will test your strength as a human being, but in the end it is all worth it! My favorite quote from the great Jim Valvano is "Don't give up, don't ever give up".

LIFE IN THE FAST LANE BY AMIRA IDRIS, FRESHMAN, BMEG

Photo Credits: (www.bluehens.com)



Classes, practice, competition, clubs, friends, and study: this is what my life as a student-athlete at the University of Delaware encompasses. When I first decided to sign the letter of intent to be a *National Collegiate Athletic Association* (NCAA) student athlete, I knew it was going to be a huge responsibility to play a sport at a Division I school and also keep my grades up, while attempting to be part of the student community by participating in clubs and other programs. What I didn't expect was the amount of time I would have to dedicate to my sport and my studies. I found out quickly that student athletes have high expectations placed on them by parents, team, coaches, and school; and I was no exception. I am expected to give 100% on and off the field. How I carry myself is a reflection on my team, my coach and my school.

My first taste of university life was the summer of 2011, a few months before I officially started my first semester as a freshman. During that summer, I participated in the Summer Enrichment Program. Aside from classes, there were weekly meetings with advisors from the athletic department and RISE. As an engineer I was expected to attend classes and participate in activities and clubs that involved engineering, and as an athlete I was expected to attend practice and compete at track meets. Essentially, I had to comply with eligibility rules to remain a student-athlete. These responsibilities were not new to me as they also applied in high school; same responsibilities, new environment. Reality set in earlier than I expected. I was a full time college freshman student-athlete, away from home, living in a different state, and making responsible decisions for my future.

My first semester as a freshman took off with a blast. I knew what my professors expected, where I could get help when needed and the support of friends I had met over summer. A smart move was acquiring tutors for classes I knew I needed help in. I also made sure I visited my professors at least once a month and studied as much as I could. I took hold of extra-curricular opportunities and signed up with groups such as the Biomedical Engineering Club, National Society of Black Engineers, the Center for Black Culture mentoring program and the Blue Hen Leadership Program. Being part of these groups has given me the opportunity to meet new people and gather helpful tips for success in college.



A typical week for me includes waking up at 6am every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday to get ready for weight lifting from 7am-8am. For every day of the working week, I have classes till afternoon, after which I visit my athletic trainers at 2pm, practice from 3pm-5pm, have dinner (sometimes tutoring or evening classes), study and sleep around 2am. We travel for competitions as a track team typically during the weekends. Sometimes we travel for two or three days competing along the east coast. One advantage during travels is I get the chance to take a break from the rigors of campus life; but this also has its down side as I miss out on important classroom information. Unlike high school where there is make-up work or extra-credit, college has few alternatives to get my grades up and as such I have to work hard at my classes.

During periods in which school is on recess, athletes stay on campus most of the time to train and compete. In winter, athletes are typically given a break for two weeks or less, and return to campus for the rest of break. At times like these I wish I were home with my family, resting, or even traveling like some students do on break. But then I'm forced to look at the positive side of things. I am not alone on such breaks. I am able to spend time with my track team, which I have come to know as my second family away from home. In addition, sports helps me manage stress better, diverting my mind from stress and allowing me to keep a healthy balance.

What motivates me and gives me the courage to continue in this path of pursuing a major in biomedical engineering while being on the women's track and field team is the encouragement from my parents, coaches, teammates, and the knowledge that I am not the first person to attempt to be a student athlete, while working towards an engineering degree. Before attending the University of Delaware, I spoke with one of the seniors on the track team: Leah Putman, who was getting her degree in Mechanical Engineering. She advised me on paths I should take to make my experience at the university more rewarding and less stressful. And this has rightly been so. My advice to incoming student athlete freshmen who want to excel in sports without sacrificing academics is the same advice I obtained from my advisors, coaches, and mentors: you should not be afraid or embarrassed to seek help when you need it, do not wait until your grades are plummeting to get tutoring help, attend class, pay close attention and ask questions, because that might be the most studying you get before an exam. Don't be afraid to visit your professors and advisors during their office hours, don't be afraid to try before you give up, and also just because others are giving up doesn't mean you should do the same. Strive to be different and take the path less traveled; you might just learn something great about yourself.

STUDENT OUTREACH

By Edward Skolnick
Junior, MEEG

One of the most influential organizations that has shaped my development as a Mechanical Engineering student on campus is known as the Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity. It is a co-educational fraternity, open to all students dedicated to achieving educational excellence that prides itself on its ability to bring together some of the brightest and most motivated students on campus. At the foundations of the organization lie three core ideals known as the tripod which collectively define what we stand for: Scholarship, Leadership and Fellowship. Each ideal depends on the next and drives the path of the fraternity.

My experiences with Phi Sigma Pi began last semester. Although joining in my junior year was a challenge in itself, it taught me very important life lessons regarding the benefits of being a hardworking, efficient and balanced individual. I have learned a lot about my own personal potential and capacity to grow. Through the organization I have been able to mature as an individual and truly realize where I want my path in life to advance.

By Bianca Morales
Senior, ENEG

Alpha Omega Epsilon (A.O.E.) is the professional and social sorority composed of female engineering and technical science students. We were founded on November 13, 1983 and the sorority promotes ideals and objectives that further the advancement of female engineers and technical scientists. At the same time the Sisters of A.O.E. develop bonds of lifelong friendships and strive for scholarship and academic achievement. The Nu chapter here at the University of Delaware currently consists of 23 female engineering students. I joined the spring semester of my sophomore year and it has been one of the best decisions I have

As an Engineering student there is always endless emphasis and pressure placed on the importance of grades. Something that Phi Sigma Pi has helped me see is the significance of being a well-rounded individual. Some of the main contributing factors that helped foster my development as an individual came through finding a balance between the demanding curriculum presented to students and my extracurricular activities. While grades in some cases can lead to greater opportunities, I feel showing passion for something other than your school work is equally as important. It shows an interest to learn and an individual's ability to open their mind to new ideas.

Phi Sigma Pi has given me an extensive understanding of how much time and energy must be dedicated to one's work in order to reach prospective life goals. It has helped maximize my potential and shown me how far reaching an individual's ability to learn can be. Throughout my life I have always tried to find a way to use my passionate mindset to make a difference. My involvement in this short time has already exposed me to countless events on campus such as coffee talks, service events, alumni networking events, Greek life events and inter-chapter events. Each is unique in that it creates a different experience.

Another way Phi Sigma Pi has helped my development as an individual involves the diverse and dynamic backgrounds present within the entire organization. The fostering of diversity is essential because it nurtures open minds and creativity among individuals. Being surrounded by people with different life experiences is something that broadens perspectives. Through this great community I have been able to create a network of long lasting friendships that I have already learned so much from.

In my life Phi Sigma Pi has embodied the support and guidance necessary to allow me to personally reach my potential in all aspects of life. I appreciate all that the organization has done for me in such a short amount of time; I have learned so much about myself. If there is anything to inspire from my experiences it is that everyone should go out of their comfort zone, try something new, and find new passions.

made since coming to UD! I made some friendships that will last a lifetime. Being part of this sorority made it much easier to meet and mingle with other females in a male dominated major. Although we do a lot of fun activities, such as Formals, spa days, BBQ's, Greek Week and more, I did not anticipate the leadership experience I would gain.

From the start it was an honor to be elected Professional/Academic Chair, for which I had to plan multiple events. Some of the events we have hosted vary from resume critiques, networking events and our bi-yearly "Engineering 101" program. Planning "Engineering 101" has been one of my more rewarding endeavors because we invite female high school juniors and seniors to visit us at UD and tell them how wonderful

engineering is! This semester has been our most exciting because we brought in 20 new membership candidates. This will be our biggest incoming class and our sorority will be the biggest it has ever been! This will also be the first time in a while that we have non-engineering majors, such as computer science and physics majors. I am really excited to see how my sorority grows after I graduate this year and I highly recommend any lady who wants to meet other female engineers/technical scientists, gain leadership experience, or just have a good time, to check out Alpha Omega Epsilon!



MAY 2012

RISE Newsletter

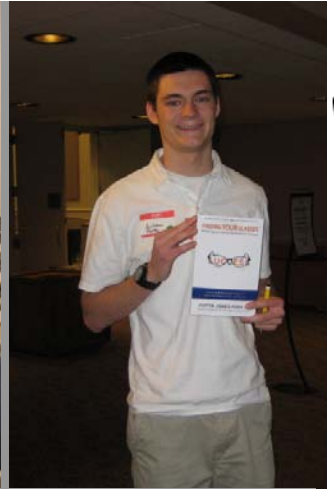
RISE STUDENT ACTIVITIES (2011-2012)

MONTHLY WORKSHOPS, SYMPOSIA, STUDY BREAKS



MAY 2012

RISE Newsletter



RISE Newsletter

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

NSBE

"To increase the number of culturally responsible black engineers, who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the community." As the semester comes to a close and we take record of past accomplishments and achievements over the past year, it is safe to say that the mission of the National Society of Black Engineers is as alive and well as ever before. This past year consisted of a number of events that allowed our chapter to supply others with the tools necessary to excel in the classroom and in a professional work-related environment. A number of community service events were held, as well as professional conferences that our chapter attended.

At the start of the academic year, the first general body meeting had an attached theme which was College 101. This video presentation gave a detailed look into the academic and social stresses students endure while attending a university and how to resolve these issues. This workshop provided information on study strategies and resources as well as tips and tricks to make the most of the college experience. This and other events such as Battle of the Sexes, NSBE Study Nights and Tutoring, and the launch of the Book Archive are ways in which we have helped to promote strong academics within the chapter.

One of the chapter's most significant accomplishments was hosting the Fall Zone Summit at the University of Delaware. Shortly after the Zone Summit, the chapter traveled to Baltimore to the Fall Regional Conference. The start of the spring semester saw the return of the Fashion Show. Displayed were outfits suitable for career fairs and interviews as well as lunch and after work attire with colleagues. A speed networking event



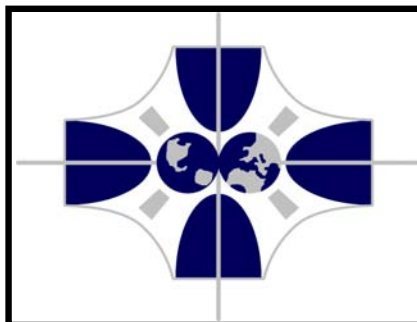
was held between students and employers which created a more informal, comfortable atmosphere where students were not affected by the pressure and nervousness associated with career fairs, job interviews, etc. The Chapter traveled to Pittsburgh during the spring break to attend the National Convention. This 5 day event brought all collegiate, pre-college initiative, and alumni extension chapters together in one place to celebrate NSBE.

One of the most effective ways the mission is promoted is by positively impacting the community. Last spring semester, a new position was added to the E-board: the Community Service Chair. This year the chapter participated in a number of community service events such as "Operation Warm: Coat Drive", A Walk For Education, and Hoops for Hearts. Additionally, a NSBE Jr. Chapter has been created at Newark High School to give high school students the preparation needed to succeed in an engineering program. The NSBE Jr. Chapter and UD Chapter will work hand in hand in participating in educational and community service events.

Although we as engineering students deal with an increased workload, we've had some fun along the way with our NSBE family. Some recreational activities we've hosted were the Kevin Hart Study Break, the Bowling Night Membership Drive, and our End of the Year Banquet. Through these activities, we've grown stronger as a chapter while fostering individual relationships. We optimistically look to a future filled with the potential for further growth and the expansion of our mission.

SHPE

The Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), University of Delaware chapter, is an organization based on networking and promoting professional and personal growth. SHPE can provide you with a multitude of opportunities for the development of a very strong, and very complete professional profile. Being located near Philadelphia and surrounded by engineering companies offers the chapter at the University of Delaware with unmatched resources. SHPE has served as the connection between the student body and surrounding companies. Networking events, on-site visits, guest speakers, student-driven project development, hosting company officials and aiding in their recruitment, as well as many other



activities have helped the student body merge smoothly into the workforce. Other events include national and regional conferences, workshops, competitions, and community service projects. Each event is geared toward supplying members with useful career building information and opportunities.

Benefits of a SHPE membership are scholarships, fellowships and co-op opportunities, access to the SHPE Career Center, professional, career, & leadership training, guides for graduate school application process, and more.

Being Hispanic or an engineer are not requirements for becoming a member of SHPE. Any student can join SHPE.

So come join us in Fall 2012!

MAY 2012

RISE Newsletter

FEATURED ARTICLE

Wireless highway charges electric cars as they go

By Jon Stewart

Source: <http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20120312-wireless-highway-to-charge-cars/1>

Road works. Inconsiderate drivers. Congestion. Today's drivers have their fair share of stress already. But now there is a new malaise for the modern motorist: range anxiety. That is the term given to drivers of electric cars that are struck by the sudden fear that their vehicle does not have enough charge to reach its destination. Most of us have experienced that sinking feeling when the little orange indicator light comes on to tell us we are low on petrol, but there is not a gas station in sight. Imagine that, combined with the feeling that you get when your cellphone starts beeping because the battery is low, and you are nowhere near a plug. That gets you close to the feeling of range anxiety.

It is an interesting phenomenon, particularly when you begin to look at how many of us actually use our cars. According to the US Bureau of Transportation Studies, 78% of drivers do less than 40 miles (65km) a day – a trivial distance for many of today's electric cars. In fact, the poster child of electric cars – the Tesla – has a range of 300 miles (485km) using some batteries. According to, Dr Richard Sassoon, of Stanford University, there are "three main reasons" that many of us choose the internal combustion engine over its cleaner, quieter alternative. "One is the short range that an electric vehicle can travel between charges, and that's based on the size of the battery," he said. "The second is the lack of a sufficient charging infrastructure, and the third is that even if you can charge, it takes a long time to charge – several hours. That means you're going to have to take a break in your trip in order to charge your vehicle."

Researchers and firms are trying to tackle all of these problems. Firms, such as Better Place, have started building battery "switching stations" that allow drivers to pull in and swap their batteries as easily as filling up with gas, whilst countless researchers are developing more efficient batteries.



But Dr Sassoon believes there may be another answer: recharging roads. Engineers in his lab are developing a way to wirelessly charge electric cars from magnetic coils embedded into the road. The car would pick up the power via another coil, meaning – in theory – that you would never have to make a charging stop again. The system works using a technique called "magnetic resonance coupling". You can think about resonance as the phenomenon that allows an opera singer to smash a glass using only the power of their voice. In that case, when the singer hits a note that has the same resonant frequency as the glass, they couple and energy begins to build up in the glass, eventually causing it to smash.

Instead of using acoustic resonance, the Stanford team uses the resonance of electromagnetic waves. A coil in the road that is connected to a power line is made to vibrate with the same resonance frequency as the coil on the bottom of the car, allowing energy to flow between them.

It builds on pioneering work done at MIT in 2006 which showed the technique could be used in stationary situations, to power televisions and other gadgets. The Stanford system now claims to have upped the efficiency dramatically. They have come up with designs of coil that allow 97% efficient transmission of power over a distance of about 2m (6ft). Using models, they estimate they can transfer up to 10kW of power. "That number is about the number we'd probably want to transfer to vehicles" says Dr Sassoon. And to turn this principle into a practical "recharging road" is not as difficult as it seems, he says. "Road beds are made of asphalt or concrete, but there is often a lot of steel in the roads - a lot of rebar, a lot of ties between the segments of the road and so on," he said. "What we want to do is use that to our advantage."

He believes they could use much of the metal in the roadbed as part of the transmitter, and then the receiver would use the metal of the car body, again avoiding too many extra structural components. It may take years, if not decades, until roads are retrofitted in this way. But various firms, including an MIT spin-out called WiTricity, are already taking the first steps by building charging stations for car parks, garages and beyond. And it has already caught the attention of car firms, including Toyota, Mitsubishi and Audi.

"We aim to offer our customers a premium-standard recharging method – easy to use and fully automatic, with no mechanical contacts," said Dr. Bjorn Elias of Audi Electronics Venture GmbH (AEV), a subsidiary of the car company that is working with WiTricity, recently. "Wherever you park the car, its battery will be recharged – perhaps even at traffic signals." Audi – and others – are working to create a public standard and believe that the first units – for use in garages – will go into production in a few years' time. At that time, Dr Sassoon believes, electric cars will become the technology of choice, displacing our current love of gas guzzlers and banishing the concept of range anxiety forever.

"You never need to worry about stopping and filling up," he said. Of course just because our cars can carry on forever does not mean that we will want to. I do not think I can go more than a couple of hundred miles without snacks and a bathroom break. A whole different kind of range anxiety...

MULTI-ETHNIC CAREER DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE – AS MEMORABLE AS ALWAYS

**By Leslie Mills
Graduate Counselor**

This year was the first time I attended the University of Delaware's Multi-Ethnic Career Conference (MECC) and it is by far one of the best events I have had the opportunity to attend this year. It was well-organized and well-attended which testifies to its relevance amongst staff at the Career Services Center and students who show up in their numbers with a high level of anticipation for such a unique event. 2012 marked MECC's 25th anniversary since it was first held at the University. The date for this year's Conference was Saturday the 10th of March and the venue Clayton Hall. Before the event started at 9am, students were streaming into the Hall in large numbers, immaculately dressed for the Conference. They were at their professional best and one could observe their eagerness to meet alumni, network with employers and to learn how to utilize University resources to build successful careers.

Registration began at 9 am and a continental breakfast was provided as Conference attendees interacted with one another and geared up for the day's activities. And once it started, the Conference did not fail to live up to its billing. It was a remarkable event marked by speeches, workshop sessions, a career fair and numerous networking opportunities. The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Justin Jones-Fosu, an inspirational speaker on the theme "Finding Your Glasses: Revealing and Achieving Authentic Success." Amongst other points Mr. Jones-Fosu defined a successful person as a person of value. Successful individuals are those whose core values mean the most to them and who eschew excellence in all their pursuits. There were break-out sessions after the keynote address where students had the opportunity to sit-in on workshops that met their particular classification. "Becoming an Involved Leader" targeted freshmen; "Marketing Yourself" was for sophomores; "Building Your Personal

Brand" dealt with juniors and seniors were encouraged to "Stop Networking and to Start Building Relationships." There were also alumni panels where UD alumni shared tips on a range of issues such as "Finding Careers Outside Your Major" and "Finding Jobs and Internships in a Tough Economy." There was a networking luncheon after the workshops and Mr. Dana Herbert, a UD alumnus and winner of the Cake Boss: The Next Great Baker, was the special guest. Mr. Herbert reinforced what it meant to be a successful individual and encouraged students to be passionate as they worked hard toward their life goals. Mr. Herbert provided a variety of mouth-watering cakes specially baked for the Conference. A career fair was held after lunch at the end of which was a raffle where cool prizes were offered to be won. Seven RISE participants won prizes at this year's event including Alex Lauderback, who won the grand prize of an Apple Ipad. All attendees acknowledged it was a memorable Conference.



The life of a civil engineering intern

By Eta Akapelwa
Junior, CE

My 6am alarm went off and I rolled over contemplating whether or not to hit the snooze button. Still groggy from the "rude" awakening, I eventually forced myself to sit up and gain my composure. No sooner had I overcome this painful experience than its realization hit me. Today was my first day as an official student intern at a structural engineering consulting firm. After months of worrying - much to my mother's disapproval because of the pressure this placed on her - I finally got the internship I had been hoping for. Not only did it offer me something to do over the winter break, but it was back in my hometown (Lusaka, Zambia) which was a sure proof way to convince my mother that I had to come home over the break.

I already had my business clothes pressed, hanging up on my wardrobe door and after a hurried breakfast, I finally left the house before 7am determined to make a great first impression. During the drive down to the office, my excitement slowly began to turn into nervousness and anxiety. After being in college for 3 years in the US and researching various internship openings, I felt as though I knew - more or less - what to expect as an intern. Ironically, pursuing an internship back in Zambia was something that seemed completely foreign to me. I had not heard of the company before then neither had I spoken to any student who had worked as an intern for any civil engineering firm in Zambia. I was lucky enough to have landed the position through my mother's network and communicating with the company had been mainly through email. I began to wonder what the office would be like, how the other workers would relate to me, what work I would do and so on.



Fast forward a few hours later: I now knew it was a small office with a total of 5 civil engineers, a secretary and 2 attendants. Only one female worked in the office and everyone was above the age of 27. Not only did that make me the youngest person in the office but I was also the very first female engineer to work at this office. Of the other engineers, two were structural engineers, one was a geotechnical engineer and my would-be-supervisor was the senior engineer who worked largely on transportation projects.

I met with my would-be boss and supervisor and after much deliberation about my experience and capabilities; I was awarded my own desk. My first task was to go over a stack of architectural drawings to get an idea of what was being designed. One of the structural engineers was assigned as my overseer and I understood the core of my task would come from helping him with his work. In the 4 weeks I worked with them, I looked over architectural drawings, carried out analyses and checks of various building designs, was trained to do simple drawings in AutoCAD, taught some basics about structural design and the use of design codes. I also learned the basics of foundation design.

For a country that sees few females in fields such as engineering, I was determined to show my boss and my coworkers that I was capable of excelling at any task I performed even with my limited knowledge in structural design. While I felt extremely intimidated in the beginning, I quickly learned that there was no room for prejudices in this workplace.

In the end, while they really took advantage of the extra **free** help I had to offer, and while some days seemed way too long to be real, my time with the company was truly worth it. At the end of the day, I learned a lot about my major, formed many personal relationships with my coworkers and gained a few more recommendations☺. I even had a personal mug assigned to me for the morning coffee - a deal which I'm sure isn't easy to find anywhere else.

3 morals to this story: networking REALLY is a valuable "skill" that we should practice and take advantage of, every class you take (yes, that means English too) is relevant no matter how "unimportant" you think it may be, and don't be afraid to step outside the bubble and explore the many options open to you. You might be surprised by the results.

I WOULD TELL YOUNG PEOPLE TO START WHERE THEY ARE WITH WHAT THEY HAVE AND THAT THE SECRET OF A BIG SUCCESS IS STARTING WITH A SMALL SUCCESS AND DREAMING BIGGER AND BIGGER DREAMS, I WOULD TELL THEM ALSO THAT A YOUNG WOMAN OR A YOUNG MAN CAN'T DREAM TOO MUCH TODAY OR DARE TOO MUCH IF HE OR SHE WORKS HARD. PERSEVERES AND DEDICATES

MY FIRST YEAR IN COLLEGE BY STACEY WALLACE, FRESHMAN, CHEG

There I was: front and center of the stage with my white cap and gown, eager to move my tassel from right to left. There I was standing amongst my fellow classmates at our high school convocation. The venue was the UD Bob Carpenter Sports Center, my new home that Fall but of course that was not on my mind at that moment. There I was eager to sing "I am done with high school". Yes, yes the time has finally come. Wait, wait he's about to say it: "Now, I present to you Mount Pleasant's Class of 2011. Seniors, please move your tassels from right to left!" And the crowd went wild; while the parents were shedding tears of joy, we the students, all had the biggest smiles on our faces to symbolize one of the best days of our lives. After the pictures and hugs I said my final goodbye to enjoyable memories of high school and hello to the wonderful world of college.

The following day after graduation was a Monday and I thought to myself, "Hey, I am a free woman and there's no more school for now!" But, then the mail came and I received a letter from the University of Delaware's Academic Enrichment Center congratulating me on my acceptance into the Summer Enrichment Program (SEP). Of course I was overwhelmed with joy that I had been admitted into the Program but it did not strike me that I was starting college earlier than most freshmen. And that was when the panicking started! "What do I bring to school? Who's my roommate? I wonder if she'll be nice. What about my classes? Are my professors going to like me?" So the shopping began, and the packing, and saying goodbye to friends and family; time to begin a NEW chapter in my life.

Move in Day 1: hot and hectic are the two words that remind me of this day. People were everywhere moving into the same building for the same reason with the same facial expression as me: I don't want to do this; I'm not ready to be on my own. After unpacking and rearranging the layout of my room it was time to say goodbye to Mom and Dad and meet the people I will be living with for the next five weeks. During the five weeks I met some really talented, hardworking, and athletic students who all had the same mindset as me: success. But there were two students that really stood out to me and are now the people I call my best friends and support team: Farnaz Yousefi and Steven Swank. I really click with these two and it is because we all want the same thing after we graduate: to be successful, find a job and have good financial standing. In any academic situation I find myself in or just need someone to talk to, these two are always there for me and I truly appreciate it because I know I cannot go through college alone.

One word for first week of college classes: woah! First day of classes, my professors started teaching right away. Notebook out and pen in hand, I could not remember the last time I took so much notes in a one hour period. I remember walking away from both of my classes thinking, college is a complete different structure than high school. The fun and games are over; it is now time to get real serious.

I walked away from my first week of classes with a headache and some changes I had to make starting with time management. Partaking in SEP taught me

how to balance two courses along with my social and personal life. At first I struggled balancing my academics with my personal life but my resident assistants helped in providing me with advice on how to approach stress and any academic issue.

Life after SEP? Entering the Fall Semester I felt as though I had been at UD for almost a year: I already had friends, a good GPA under my belt, maturity, knowledge of the campus, and experience. Move in day number 2 was a piece of cake. This time around I didn't even need my parents help unpacking since I already knew what to do. First day of classes, unlike the kid that sat next to me in MATH241, I had my notebook out and ready to take notes because I knew the professor was going to dive right into teaching. Needed a place to eat and study? I knew exactly where to go. So how was my transition from high school to college? Challenging. However, I had the opportunity to start my college career early, made my mistakes then, learned from those mistakes and when I started my official Fall semester I made sure I did not repeat those mistakes. Now, I am winding down my final weeks as a college freshman and I am well adjusted to college life. Everything is easy as 1-2-3; not sure about EVERYTHING though, but knowing what to do is certainly easy.

ACADEMIC SURVIVAL KIT FOR ENGINEERS; (Source: <http://www.udel.edu/AEC>)

- **Set Goals:** Set SMART short-term and long-term academic goals. Goals should be **Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic** and **Time-bound**. Goals must then be evaluated periodically to assess whether you are on track to achieve them or not.
- **Manage Time Effectively:** Organize academic tasks and attach a priority level to each task. Schedule an ample amount of time for each task and work on it till it is completed. Where necessary divide complex tasks into manageable sub-groups.
- **Studying Strategies:** Review notes from class while they are still fresh and endeavor to work on course material regularly. Work hardest when you are at your best and avoid distractions as much as possible. Take control of the material you are studying.
- **Test-Taking:** Lay out a strategy prior to the exam. Plan in advance: during the semester, a week prior to the exam and hours before the exam. Make some effort to know the material at first hand. Make use of tutors, TA's and professors. Do well to manage stress before and during the exam.

