



## AT&T Minority Engineering Program

### Message from the Director

One morning I received a call from a young man who had graduated several years ago with a degree in electrical engineering. This young man was excited as he explained to me that he was part of the Alabama Power Campus Activity Program (CAP) and would be visiting the campus periodically to recruit and talk with students about career opportunities. He enthusiastically shared with me how much he loves his job. He stated, "This is one of the best things that could have happened to me." We reminisced about his experiences here at Auburn and the current things that are happening in his life. As we talked I shared with him that I vividly remember his first semester at Auburn. At the time, I was his pre-engineering academic advisor. This young man was special to me. He was constantly in my office.

He became a frequent guest at my house, and for a time, became part of my church family. He was quite the serious student. In his third semester I became concerned about him because I thought he was over extending himself. He was a race car driver, he joined the College of Engineering Baja SAE team, he worked part-time, he was a musician at one of the local churches, and he was a tutor in the BellSouth Minority Engineering Program. Even while involved in so many extracurricular activities, he maintained a cumulative GPA greater than a 3.4. I tried to talk with him and encourage him to slow down. It just didn't sink in. Later, I would acknowledge that he was not over extended, but as part of his personality, he was adept at multi-tasking and time management.

As always when I talk with alums, the conversation gravitates toward the success and progress of the program. He mentioned that the program was a life saver for him and every new student should get involved.

"Alright," I said to him, "Now that we have the program benefits at the forefront, this is the opportune time for me to talk to you about the merits of giving back."

Within the African American community, it was taught that when one succeeds, one's obligation is to give back. I'm not sure if this tradition resonates much these days. That is why I have tried to instill this tradition to the minority engineering students in the program. A special luncheon is provided at the end of each semester with graduating minority engineering students. We talk about their experiences at Auburn, their short- and long-term goals and their dreams. During this time of reflection, I admonish them to remember that the program is here today because someone cared. As our alumni base grows, there should be a domino effect that triggers everyone to remember something special about the program. I ask them to store AT&TMEP in their collection of Auburn experiences and join the many graduates who have committed to giving back based on the worth of their experiences and benefits from the AT&T Minority Engineering Program. Let's redirect our efforts on the legacy of giving back.

Shirley Scott-Harris  
Director, AT&T Minority Engineering Program



Harris



# Fall 2007 enrollment

AT&TMEP students develop strong positive attitudes and tend to be goal oriented, flexible, self-disciplined, focused, punctual, dependable, organized, motivated and good at problem solving. Immediately after their freshman year, they become mentors and tutors. When they move into their major, they become facilitators. Becoming mentors and tutors is an intrinsic motivator that most self-regulated students in the program strive for. Many of our students pursue graduate studies, while others embark on careers in their respective engineering field.

Status	Female	Male	Total
Freshmen	26	56	82
Sophomore	4	29	33
Junior	3	18	21
Senior	2	8	10
Total	35	111	146

Average GPA: 2.7



Aerospace engineering senior Joseph Moore was named the Outstanding Graduate from The Samuel Ginn College of Engineering for the spring semester by the E-Council on April 24. The E-Council is comprised of all the professional and honor societies in the college of engineering.

## How we are doing

Twenty-eight students in the program (61 percent) received scholarship awards for achieving a 3.4 GPA or higher. Eighteen students (39 percent) achieved awards for GPAs ranging from 3.0 to 3.39. The scholarship award increased approximately 14 percent, \$4,828 to \$5,594, from 2004-2005 to 2007-2008.

Number of Recipients	Semester	Scholarship Amount
58	Fall 2004	\$56,710.00
47	Spring 2005	\$61,937.50
46	Fall 2005	\$27,800.00
42	Spring 2006	\$54,000.00
49	Fall 2006	\$24,000.00
35	Spring 2007	\$67,001.00
30	Fall 2007	\$73,994.00
46	Spring 2008	\$104,116.00

Our sponsors, including our major sponsor **AT&T**, make it possible for us to recognize students for their exemplary academic performance.

## Corporate Sponsors

Boeing  
 Chevron  
 ExxonMobil  
 Harris Corporation  
 Lockheed-Martin (2004-2005)  
 Southern Nuclear (2006)  
 Pratt and Whitney Rocketdyne, Inc.

## Endowments and Foundations

Coca-Cola  
 Rod & Geneva Grandy Endowment  
 Hank & Betty Hayes

## Annual Scholarship Awards

W. George Hairston, III  
 Willie T. Grant-Seeds of Love (The Community Foundation of Birmingham)

## Individual donors

Joseph and Amy Dobbs  
 Samuel Harris  
 Kenneth Kelly  
 K-Rob Thomas  
 Martha Todd Treadwell  
 Harold Lewis Wilson

The following companies are just a few who have hired AT&T minority engineering students over the past 10 years:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Accenture-Atlanta</li><li>• Alabama Power</li><li>• AT&amp;T</li><li>• Boeing</li><li>• BP</li><li>• Chevron</li><li>• Cummins</li><li>• Eastman</li><li>• ExxonMobil</li><li>• Fast Enterprises</li><li>• FedEx</li><li>• Georgia Power</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Harris Corp</li><li>• Honda</li><li>• International Paper</li><li>• Lockheed-Martin</li><li>• Milliken</li><li>• Mississippi Power</li><li>• Neptune</li><li>• Red Stone Arsenal</li><li>• Shaw Industries</li><li>• Southern Company</li><li>• Tencate</li><li>• Vulcan</li></ul>
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## The Student CEO

What began as a favorite pastime has quickly become a successful and thriving business for AU mechanical engineering junior Andre “Kel” Jackson. From an early age, Jackson has been interested in hobby-class, radio-controlled cars.

“I’ve had the entrepreneurial spirit from day one,” said Jackson. “I used to try and make toys and models out of ordinary objects and sell them to my friends or relatives. Even though none of that ever worked, I was always trying to find unconventional ways to make something to sell.”



Jackson

At age 16, Jackson decided to transform his part-time passion into a full-time business. In 2004, he formed RCM RC Products, LLC to engineer precision aftermarket products that enhance the performance of high-end, model cars. This time, he got it right.

“These are not the typical remote-controlled cars often found at a neighborhood RadioShack,” said Jackson. “Many are high-performance machines which can easily operate at speeds in excess of 70 miles-per-hour. These cars require superior

components made from durable, high-quality materials on which their drivers can rely to outperform others under demanding race conditions.”

In its first year of business, the company’s flagship product - the G-10 Chassis Kit, a lighter, aftermarket chassis - was introduced to the marketplace. It quickly garnered brand awareness and interest, and glowing product reviews in several key industry publications.

Today, RCM RC’s products, which augment these popular hobby cars, are sold on the company’s Web site, [www.rcm-rc.com](http://www.rcm-rc.com), as well as through various hobby stores and online retailers. Jackson’s undergraduate studies, specifically his engineering classes and

participation in the Business-Engineering-Technology (B-E-T) minor, have given him a unique, competitive edge in developing high-performance products and expanding his business model for the future.

"I started the company by myself and provided the initial financing," said Jackson. "Now, our products have been sold to satisfied customers all across the United States and in four additional countries. Our kits are well-known by professionals and consumers, and are so tough that they satisfy the recreational needs of American soldiers stationed in the harsh environment of Alaska and those serving overseas in Europe and the rugged Middle East."

As an advisor to the company and the student CEO, Paul Swamidass, director of the B-E-T program and professor of operations management, recommended that Jackson investigate the possibility of having his own machine shop.

"At present, our original designs are being contracted out to an inland machine shop for manufacturing," said Jackson. "In the near future, we are going to purchase CNC equipment. It will give us more flexibility with product designs, both for prototypes and production models. This will allow us to penetrate new markets more swiftly and effectively than before."

Jackson projects that RCM RC will produce over \$100,000 in sales in 2008. During the month of February, the company experienced phenomenal growth with a sales increase of 240 percent over the previous month. It is a successful growth pattern that he hopes to continue as he keeps his eye on development for the future.

Jackson is also currently researching the possibilities of trademarks and patents to protect brand identity and the company's competitive edge. In addition to in-house manufacturing, his strategic goals for growth in 2008 include aggressive marketing campaigns and the rapid introduction of targeted new products. He hopes to soon move the business into a commercial suite, complete with offices, manufacturing center and warehouse.

Upon graduation, Jackson hopes to continue to develop and expand RCM RC on a full-time basis. He is a native of Birmingham and is currently co-oping with Pratt & Whitney (UTC) in Columbus, Ga.

For more information about RCM RC, LLC, please visit [www.rcm-rc.com](http://www.rcm-rc.com).



Shey Fadamiro, a senior in AT&TMEP, is currently an intern with ExxonMobil in Houston.

# Top 100 Degree Producers in 2007

## Diverse Issues in Higher Education

For the seventh consecutive year, Diverse Issues in Higher Education magazine ranked Auburn as one of the top 25 producers of baccalaureate degrees awarded to African American engineering students.

Auburn is ahead of 27th ranked Mississippi, 36th ranked University of Alabama and 42nd ranked University of Alabama-Huntsville. The top ranked schools are Georgia Tech, 120 graduates; North Carolina A&T State University, 117 graduates; and North Carolina State University at Raleigh, 72 graduates.

2007 Rank	Institution	State	'06-'07	% Graduates
1	Georgia Institute of Technology Main Campus	GA	120	9%
2	North Carolina A & T State University	NC	117	81%
3	North Carolina State University at Raleigh	NC	72	6%
4	Southern University and A & M College	LA	67	97%
5	Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University	FL	66	97%
6	Prairie View A & M University	TX	64	81%
7	University of Maryland College Park	MD	63	10%
8	Tuskegee University	AL	61	80%
9	University of Michigan-Ann Arbor	MI	61	6%
10	Morgan State University	MD	57	77%
11	Howard University	DC	54	61%
12	Alabama A & M University	AL	43	88%
13	Florida State University	FL	41	17%
14	Clemson University	SC	39	8%
15	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	VA	39	4%
16	University of Florida	FL	36	4%
17	Drexel University	PA	34	8%
18	New Jersey Institute of Technology	NJ	33	9%
19	Tennessee State University	TN	33	94%
20	George Mason University	VA	33	10%
21	University of Central Florida	FL	31	7%
<b>22</b>	<b>Auburn University Main Campus</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>6%</b>
23	Florida International University	FL	30	10%
24	Ohio State University Main Campus	OH	29	4%
25	Pennsylvania State University Main Campus	PA	28	2%
26	Iowa State University	IA	28	3%

# Meet Jeremy DeWayne Echols

**Age:**

23

**Hometown:**

Auburn, Ala.

**Major/minor:**

Wireless electrical

**Graduation date:**

May 10, 2008 at 10 a.m.

**When and where did you attend high school?**

Auburn High School class of 2003

**Who are your parents?**

George and Patricia Echols of Auburn, Ala.

**How many brothers and sisters do you have, and have any attended or plan to attend AU?**

I have one brother and one sister. My sister, Melanie Echols, graduated from Auburn in 2004 with a degree in business.

**What makes Auburn Engineering stand out among its peer institutions and made you decide to attend Auburn, especially since so many Auburn High School graduates anticipate attending school in another city?**

I chose to attend Auburn for one simple reason: it was the only school to offer me a scholarship. I didn't realize why Auburn stood out amongst its peer institutions until I began as a student. When coming in contact with company representatives, they all informed me of how highly regarded Auburn engineers are, especially electrical.

**Why do you want to be an engineer?**

Being an engineer will allow me to use knowledge gained in the classroom and put problem solving skills to practical use. There is no limit to the things you can do with a background in engineering.

**What sparked your interest in wireless engineering?**

The fact that Auburn was one of the only institutions that offers wireless engineering as an undergraduate degree was very intriguing to me. I feel like this is the direction technology is heading, so it would be beneficial for me to pursue my degree in wireless engineering.

**Your above average GPA, throughout your academic career, helped you earn the AT&T Minority Engineering Scholarship for every semester at Auburn. What is your incentive for maintaining this level of excellence?**

I knew that as long as my grades were good enough, school would be paid for. I didn't have the burden of taking out student loans or getting a part-time job in order to assist paying for school because I made good grades.

**Do you have a job lined up after graduation? If so, where?**



Echols



The AT&T Minority Engineering Program received a \$7,000 check from Exxon Mobil in support of its program initiatives. Exxon Mobil made an additional \$27,000 donation to Auburn's College of Business and the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering. The Exxon Mobil gift will benefit the Departments of Chemical, Mechanical, Electrical, Civil and Industrial Engineering, as well as the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering. A portion of the gift will go to the management information systems program in the College of Business.

Pictured left to right - front row: Dean Larry Benefield; Scott Arvin, ExxonMobil; Jay Gouge, Auburn University president; Shirley Scott-Harris, AT&TMEP; back row: Casey G. Cegielski, College of Business; Keith Hagler, ExxonMobil; and Dewayne R. Sanders, ExxonMobil.

Yes. I will be working for ExxonMobil in Houston, Texas.

**How do you feel that the work ethic that helped you earn the scholarship will benefit you in your career?**

All of the hard work and dedication I put into maintaining my scholarship has shown me that I can succeed both in the classroom and in industry. Earning the scholarship has given me confidence that I can excel and will indeed benefit me as I go on in life.

**Do you think that working to retain the scholarship has made you an even better student than you would have been otherwise? Why?**

Making good grades has always been a high priority for me. It became an even higher priority when I was given the opportunity to have school paid for, so I do feel like working to retain the scholarship has made me a better student.

**How has your time at Auburn thus far helped your social and personal development in addition to academic enrichment?**

Since starting at Auburn, I have come in contact with people from all walks of life. By being exposed to these people I feel like I have developed socially. Being in the National Society of Black Engineers has exposed me to the social and professional side of my curriculum.

Being in engineering has also given me the opportunity to come in contact with different company representatives and establish connections with numerous individuals.

**What promising attributes of a career in engineering would you point out to a potential student asking your advice about pursuing an engineering career?**

A career in engineering offers interesting job assignments as well as a high salary.

## **AT&TMEP holds annual awards ceremony for 2007-2008**

On Tuesday April 1, the Minority Engineering Program held its annual scholars award ceremony in the Shelby Center Auditorium. Sponsored by Southern Company, the event recognized students involved in the program as well as AT&T scholars and the program's outstanding mentee and mentor. The event included remarks from Debbie Shaw, vice president of alumni affairs at Auburn, and Dean Larry Benefield. After an introduction by Joe White, a distribution engineer with Georgia Power, Anthony Topazi, Auburn alumnus and CEO of Mississippi Power, gave the keynote address.

"It is always an exciting time when we can recognize the hard work of students in our program," said Shirley Scott-Harris. "I am especially appreciative of Southern Company's commitment to this event. They have been a sponsor for seven years."

The event was followed by a barbecue for the awardees and their guests.

The award honorees included:

**Alexander, Andrea**  
**Barnes, Ashley**  
**Beavers, Kristopher**  
**Belinga, Rose-Gaëlle**  
**Blair, Udarius**  
**Bland, Stacy**  
**Bryant, Megan**  
**Clarke, Rodmesia**  
**Clayton, Christopher**  
**Coleman, Marcus**  
**Dantu, Sai**  
**Duncan, Arthur**  
**Echols, Jeremy**  
**Fadamiro, Shey**  
**Ghant, Jeremy**  
**Gibson, Michael**  
**Gooden, Harry**  
**Grady, Michael**  
**Grice, Daisha**  
**Hale, Joshua**  
**Harris, Alicia**  
**Iddawela, Givantha**  
**Jennings, Carla**

**Jones, Kevin**  
**Jones, VanLisa**  
**Lacey, Shawn**  
**Lewis, Marcus**  
**Lewis, Miguel**  
**Massey, David**  
**May, DeVarus**  
**McCants, Dwight**  
**Moore, Joseph**  
**Ntam, Baharanyi**  
**Patrick, Sequoyah**  
**Pulliam, Mshon**  
**Richardson, Brandon**  
**Smith, Derek**  
**Snyder, Kelvin**  
**Swayzer, Sonya**  
**Walton, Kendall**  
**Ward, Jordan**  
**Young, Herbert**  
**Jackson, JaForrest**  
**Owen, Lydia**  
**Mosley, Greg**  
**Betterson, Jason**



Chevron Corporation recently presented Auburn Engineering with a check for \$38,000. This money will support the Departments of Chemical, Electrical, and Mechanical Engineering, as well as the AT&T Minority Engineering Program, the Society of Women Engineers and the TIGER Vehicle project.

Pictured left to right - front row: Alicia Stockstill, Chevron; Dean Larry Benefield; and Jacob Ansley, Chevron; back row: Chris Roberts, chemical engineering; Dave Irwin, electrical engineering; Sushil Bhavnani, mechanical engineering; David Dyer, mechanical engineering; Shirley Scott-Harris, AT&TMEP; and Jason Morehouse, Chevron.

## Parents, students attend AT&TMEP information session

Students and parents were given an opportunity to find out more about AT&TMEP and the College of Engineering during an informational meeting held as part of an extended session of Camp War Eagle. Students had the chance to pick the brains of Bob Karcher, director of engineering students services, and Tommy Wilson, Auburn University Student Financial Services. The National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) representatives, Rose-Gaelle Belinga, Shey Fadamiro, Harry Gooden and Millison Wright, shared the opportunities available through membership with NSBE. A panel was available to discuss strategies to ensure the best ways for students to succeed in college and after graduation. The panel members were Oladiran Fasina, assistant professor of biosystems engineering; Yolanda McMillian, adjunct instructor at Tuskegee University; Joseph Moore and Gregory Mosley, AT&TMEP mentor/facilitators; and Joe White, senior engineer from Georgia Power.

Director Shirley Scott-Harris provided an overview of AT&TMEP. During lunch parents and prospective students met with AT&TMEP students on a one-on-one basis to share their personal college experiences.

## In memoriam

Dennis Weatherby, founding director of the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering's AT&T Minority Engineering Program, died unexpectedly Sept. 15 at the age of 47. During his tenure at Auburn, Weatherby boosted minority recruitment and increased Auburn's retention rates of minority students to nationally recognized levels.

Initially sponsored by BellSouth, and officially known as the BellSouth Minority Engineering Program, it is now known as the AT&T Minority Engineering Program at Auburn University, following the recent merger of those firms. Dean William F. Walker inaugurated the program with the help of BellSouth executive Bill McNair.

"Dennis was a respected colleague as well as a close friend," said Larry Benefield, dean of engineering. "He left a legacy that few others will be able to match. Many students can credit their success in engineering, and in life, to the example that he set."

Born in Brighton, Ala. in 1960, Weatherby gained recognition as an engineer for his role in the development of Cascade, a lemon-scented, liquid dishwashing detergent that would become an instant and long-term success. The formula Weatherby and his team created continues to serve as the basis for all of today's lemon-scented cleaning products containing bleach.

Weatherby left Auburn and went on to serve as the associate dean of the Graduate School at the University of Notre Dame. At the time of his death, Weatherby was the associate provost for student services at Northern Kentucky University.

Donations can be made to the family in care of his widow, Mrs. Marpessa Weatherby, 10269 Goldeneye Drive, Alexandria, KY 41001 or to the Dennis Weatherby Scholarship Fund in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, 1301 Shelby Center, Auburn University, AL 36849.



Weatherby

# Pursuing the vision for Auburn Engineering



Achieving our vision to become one of the top engineering programs in the country is always in our sights, and the college has set an ambitious vision goal of raising \$153.5 million that will move Auburn Engineering to the next level of excellence. Our generous alumni and supporters continue to play a vital role in our pursuit of these efforts, even as we have met our goal in the "It Begins at Auburn" campaign.

Reaching this vision goal will provide benefits that can be seen in a number of outcomes. For example, your gift will fund professorships, which are critical for attracting talented faculty. They will also support scholarships that help us recruit the best and brightest students, as well as fellowships, which enable us to attract exceptional graduate students.

Help this generation of students realize their potential. Your support has never been more important as the college works to maintain its competitive edge. For more information on giving to the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, visit [www.eng.auburn.edu/givenow/](http://www.eng.auburn.edu/givenow/).

THE AT&TMEP NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE AT&T MINORITY ENGINEERING PROGRAM. MAILING AND E-MAIL ADDRESS CHANGES, NEWS ITEMS AND SUGGESTIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO SHIRLEY HARRIS, 1214 G SHELBY CENTER, AUBURN, AL 36849-5330.

[www.eng.auburn.edu/at&tmeep](http://www.eng.auburn.edu/at&tmeep)

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