

MINORITY
ENGINEERING
PROGRAM
OFFICE

EXCELLENCE

1808

ISSUE ONE
FIRST EDITION
WINTER 1997

Auburn University
College of Engineering
<http://www.eng.auburn.edu>

Dennis W. Hesterly, MSEP Director, 4010A
Milton J. Carter, MSc Facilities, 4011
Marcus O. Oni, BS Sophomore, 4011

Minority Engineering Program Hosts Black Inventions Museum

On January 31, 1997, the Minority Engineering Program co-sponsored the Black Inventions Museum at Auburn University. The event was a part of Auburn University's efforts to commemorate Black History Month.

The traveling exhibit displayed inventions by African American inventors from the early 1800s to present day. The museum promotes positive images and self-esteem in both children and adults. The exhibits teach people of all nationalities of the contributions that African Americans have given to the world.

The items displayed are used every day and include the on/off switch, the temperature gauge, the lawnmower, the refrigerator, the window cleaner, the egg beater, the typewriter and over 100 other inventions.

In addition to attracting Auburn University faculty, staff and students to its exhibits, over 600 public school students from the region attended the event.

The Black Inventions Museum was founded in 1988 and is a non-profit corporation based in Los Angeles, California.

Outstanding Pre-Engineering Student

Marcus O. Oni Named Fred H. Pumphrey Award Recipient

Each year, the College of Engineering recognizes its most outstanding pre-engineering students through its prestigious Fred H. Pumphrey award.

The award is given to students who have attained sophomore status and have achieved the highest standing in their respective pre-engineering disciplines.

One of this year's recipients is Marcus O. Oni, a sophomore electrical engineering major.

Oni, who is a native of Columbia, Missouri, embodies many of the prerequisites for future success in engineering. He is already assuming a leadership role as a peer mentor and tutor. Since January, Oni has

assisted students in calculus and chemistry in the Minority Engineering Program's Sunday Evening Tutorial.

Plans Under Way for MEP Learning Laboratory

With the help of College of Engineering faculty and faculty from the College of Education, the Minority Engineering Program (MEP) is developing a Learning Laboratory designed to be a structured, nurturing environment where students transitioning into engineering can receive supplemental instruction in mathematics, chemistry, physics, critical thinking and college survival skills.



The Learning Laboratory will blend a variety of approaches to learning including one-on-one tutoring and collaborative (peer) learning. However, the centerpiece of the forum will be the instructional programs offered via CD-ROM interactive software technology. The Laboratory will consist of computer stations, allowing students to use the software to practice their classroom learnings by way of interactive exercises in chemistry, mathematics and physics. The computer assignments will be automatically graded and made available to the student and laboratory coordinators. The coordinators will use the feedback to advise students as to their deficiencies in technical areas and to help them plan and refine a strategy for success.

The software will also have critical thinking, time management and college success strategies components, tailored specifically for the Auburn Engineering environment. Once developed the Learning Laboratory concept will be introduced to high school science and math teachers in an effort to encourage them to use the CD-ROM technology.

Tom Shumpert (Electrical Engineering), and Jeffrey Fergus (Materials Engineering) are developing the technical components for the laboratory. Scott Beckett, a Ph. D. student in the College of Education and a former high school science teacher is helping to develop the technology with an eye toward the needs of high school science and math teachers. Jennifer Good a Ph.D. student in the College of Education along with faculty members Gerald and Glennelle Halpin (College of Education) are developing the critical thinking and college survival skills aspects of the laboratory.

The Learning Laboratory is expected to be on-line by Fall Quarter 1997.

Profile In Excellence . . .

When we think of leaders we often picture an articulate orator or motivational speaker standing before a podium offering inspirational words to the masses.

However, in most cases, an effective leader is someone who has a vision, who is able to inspire others to share the vision and possesses the courage to see the vision through to its conclusion.

Such is the case with Antonio Benford, a junior chemical engineering major. Antonio is the president of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity at Auburn. During February, his fraternity wanted to raise awareness of the plight of the homeless and to create an experience its members would always remember.

Alpha Phi Alpha sponsored the university's first "Homeless for a Day" program during Winter quarter. They spent 24 hours in tents on the campus concourse.

During that time, students and organizations across campus brought donations in the form of clothes, bedding and canned food to be distributed to local charities.

Benford said that Alpha Phi Alpha chose the service project because of the personal involvement it required. "Usually people have drives where they just collect things, but we wanted to take it a step further," he said. "The entire fraternity participated in this because it gives us an idea of how the homeless live while raising students' awareness about the homeless problem." The fraternity anticipates that Homeless for a Day will become an annual event.

Alpha Phi Alpha donated a mountain of clothes and bedding to His Place, an Opelika shelter that serves as a halfway house for recovering drug and alcohol addicts. The canned food went to the East Alabama Food Bank.

Brother Royce Whitehead of His Place said that the contributions will be put to good use. "The guys in our program usually come in here with no clothes of their own, so they go through it and see what they can wear," he said.

Whitehead said the rest would be shipped to some missions in Mexico or sold at a local store to raise money for His Place.

Antonio Benford and other members of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity are a model for creative achievement. Through their efforts, the area homeless have benefited materially and a greater awareness of the homeless' plight have been created in their classmates at Auburn.

Auburn
University
Pulp
& Paper Foundation Scholarship



A U B U R N
P U L P & P A P E R F O U N D A T I O N

The Auburn Pulp and Paper Foundation offers merit scholarships to top students based on academic achievement and professional promise. Auburn is the only program in the country offering B. S. degrees in Chemical, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering with an emphasis in pulp and paper technology.

To qualify for a scholarship, a student first must be accepted to Auburn University. The average ACT score for students in the program is 30; either ACT or SAT (1340) scores are acceptable.

By maintaining a 3.0 grade point average, students then keep a scholarship which is valued at the equivalent of full in-state tuition for sophomores, juniors, and seniors. The freshmen scholarship is valued at about one-half the cost of in-state tuition.

For information, contact:

The Pulp and Paper Research and Education Center, 242 Ross Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849-3501, or by calling 334-844-2016.



Congratulations to our 1996-97 Engineering Graduates!

Photo Gallery . . .



Eric Brown, a freshman electrical engineering major, examines an exhibit at the Black Inventions Museum.

Marcus Oni, a sophomore electrical engineering major, has been chosen as one of this year's recipients of the Fred H. Pumphrey Award for outstanding pre-engineering students.





Antonio Benford, a junior in chemical engineering, is the president of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.



Tracy Coleman, NSBE's Academic Excellence Chair, is pictured here giving a report on her committee's activities at a weekly NSBE meeting.