The Cougar Engineer

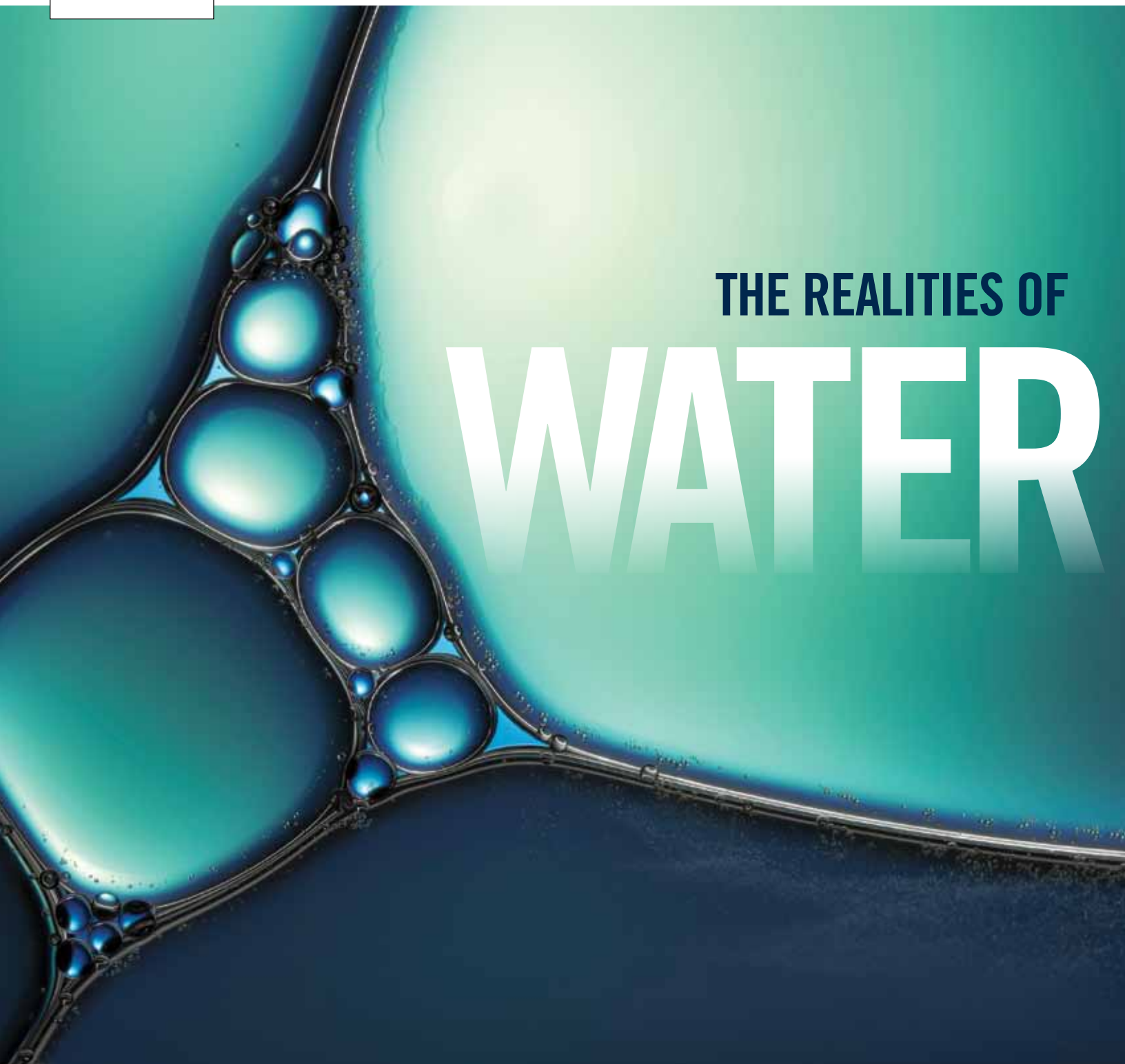
summer 2012 volume 7

Support Structure

Remembering C.J. Tamborello

GoodbYe

The Y Building Finally Comes Down



FEATURE

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE?
The Realities of Water

How engineers are the essential managers of civilization's key resource, ***page 6.***

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON
CULLEN COLLEGE of ENGINEERING

The Cougar Engineer

Director
Lindsay Lewis

Editor
Toby Weber

Graphic Designer
Andy Rich

Photographers
Thomas Campbell, Nine Nguyen, TBS Photography

Contributing Editors
Esmeralda Fisher, Angie Shortt

Dean
Joseph W. Tedesco

Associate Dean for Administration & Research
Frank J. "Fritz" Claydon

Associate Dean for Graduate Programs & Computer Facilities
Suresh K. Khator

Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs
David P. Shattuck

Chairs

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING
Metin Akay

CHEMICAL & BIOMOLECULAR ENGINEERING
Ramanan Krishnamoorti

CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING
Abdeldjelil "DJ" Belarbi

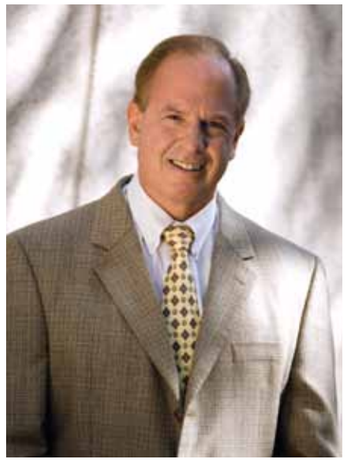
ELECTRICAL & COMPUTER ENGINEERING
Badrinath "Badri" Roysam

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING
Gino Lim

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
Pradeem Sharma

Office of Communications
Cullen College of Engineering
University of Houston
E301 Engineering Bldg. 2
Houston, Texas 77204-4009

Phone: 713-743-4220
Fax: 713-743-8240
E-mail: cougarengineer@egr.uh.edu
Website: www.egr.uh.edu



Greetings Cougar Nation!

Since our last issue of *The Cougar Engineer,* remarkable things have happened at the Cullen College. This spring, we received notification that five of our assistant professors have received prestigious National Science Foundation CAREER Awards, one of the highest honors for junior faculty. Unbelievably, we only had six faculty apply this year and we just received notification that we will, in fact, be receiving the sixth award in the coming months — a feat unmatched throughout the nation. This accomplishment demonstrates the level of scholarship this new generation of researchers have and the quality of faculty we have here at the Cullen College to teach and mentor our students. What a truly proud moment for our college!

Though it has been rumored for more than 30 years, the Y Building, formerly known as the Engineering Laboratory, is finally being demolished. The facility is thought to have served as either a tank rehabilitation facility or hangar during World War II before becoming a central part of the engineering culture at UH. Classes and labs were held in that building, and yes, even the dean's office at one point. In more recent years, the majority of the building was committed to our students and their organizational activities. Though it was quite deteriorated, the Y Building continued to provide much needed space for our growing college.

Recently, we held an event to commemorate the longstanding Y Building, a central part of the student experience at the Cullen College for nearly 70 years. More than 650 alumni, students, faculty and staff attended the event, which was sponsored by Charlie and Nancy Beyer. It was a great reunion event that brought together more than six generations of engineering alumni, all of whom turned out to celebrate this memorable occasion.

In this issue of *The Cougar Engineer,* we feature alumni who are faced with the many engineering challenges associated with water. Whether extracting oil in deep subsea operations, creating plans for disasters involving urban areas and flooding, continuing to deliver clean and safe water to our local communities or engineering devices to provide clean water to developing countries, these alumni are truly challenged and committed to making a difference in their professions.

Go Coogs!

Joseph W. Tedesco

Joseph W. Tedesco, Ph.D., P.E.
Elizabeth D. Rockwell Dean and Professor

eBook Engineers

Like most engineers, Cullen College alumni couple **Chris Jensen** (BSEE '96) and **Michele Jensen** (BSEE '00) have never been slow to embrace new technologies. In fact, thanks to a truly disruptive technology they're building a business in a field not normally associated with engineers.

The couple are co-owners and operators of Twenty or Less Press, an e-book publishing firm that specializes in works under 20,000 words. Founded in February 2011, the company has so far published 19 books in genres that include fantasy, science fiction, horror, women's fiction and children's fiction, among others. Their works are available online and through practically every e-book platform on the market.

In deciding to start the company, Chris and Michele drew upon each of their backgrounds and inclinations.

Chris, who holds an MBA in addition to his engineering degree, has an entrepreneurial bent and has been involved in multiple startups. His focus with the firm is on the business end, analyzing trends in the market while also developing a new e-book technology designed to facilitate interactions between the authors and readers. Michele, meanwhile, is a lifelong book lover, a published author and senior editor for the press.

"We don't look for authors that are big names," said Michele. "I'm willing to work with new authors if the story's good. When I get a submission, I have to be able to read the story five to seven times and enjoy it each time. Those are the kinds of stories we look for and that we put out." – ***Toby Weber*** ©

photo by TBS Photography

EAA's EWeek Continues to Make History

The UH Engineering Alumni Association (EAA) hosted its annual EWeek event in February in celebration of National Engineers Week. Nearly $44,000 in cash awards was presented to 55 students and four student organizations at the reception and program that was attended by about 225 engineering alumni, students, industry sponsors, faculty and staff.

"Our event was specifically created to benefit just UH engineering students and organizations," said Cynthia Oliver Coleman (BSChE '71), founder and chair of the event. "The primary goal each year is to enable the many UH engineering students and organizations to receive cash awards and lots of recognition during National Engineers Week."

Over the past eight years, the EAA's EWeek event has raised more than $200,000 in support of UH engineering students and organizations. This year, the EWeek Engineering Challenge grand prize of $1,280 was awarded to the UH American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE). The UH Society of Women Engineers (SWE) won the Engineering Community Outreach grand prize for conducting the most effective engineering-related outreach to local schools or non-profit organizations. The runner-up prize of $1,008 was awarded to UH Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE).

2012 Awards Gala Honors Alumni, Faculty

Four UH Cullen College of Engineering alumni and one professor were honored at the 2012 UH Engineering Alumni Awards Gala on June 1. Hosted by the Engineering Alumni Association, the event recognizes significant contribution to the college, society and the engineering profession.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

William C. Miller (BSPE '55)

Owner, W.C. Miller Operating Company

DISTINGUISHED ENGINEERING ALUMNI AWARDS

D. Wayne Klotz, P.E. (MSCE '76)

President, Klotz Associates Inc.

C. Rick Coneway, P.E. (BSCE '73, MSCE '76)

Vice President, Austin Division Manager
Doucet and Associates

DISTINGUISHED YOUNG ENGINEERING ALUMNI AWARD

Rebecca Ginsburg, P.E. (BSIE '03, MSIE '04)

Macro Distributor Supply Coordinator
Shell Lubricants

ABRAHAM E. DUKLER DISTINGUISHED ENGINEERING FACULTY AWARD

Demetre J. Economou, Ph.D.

Professor and Associate Chair, Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished University Chair

Mark Your Calendar

AUG 16 — **EAA Annual Meeting & Networking Social**
6 p.m., UH Athletics/Alumni Center
RSVP to alumni@egr.uh.edu

SEP 1 — **UH vs. Texas State Tailgate**
5 p.m., EAA Pavilion at Robertson Stadium

SEP 8 — **UH vs. Louisiana Tech Tailgate**
5 p.m., EAA Pavilion at Robertson Stadium

OCT 6 — **UH vs. North Texas Tailgate**
TBA, EAA Pavilion at Robertson Stadium

OCT 13 — **UH vs. UAB Tailgate**
TBA, EAA Pavilion at Robertson Stadium

OCT 27 — **UH vs. UTEP Tailgate**
1 p.m., EAA Pavilion at Robertson Stadium

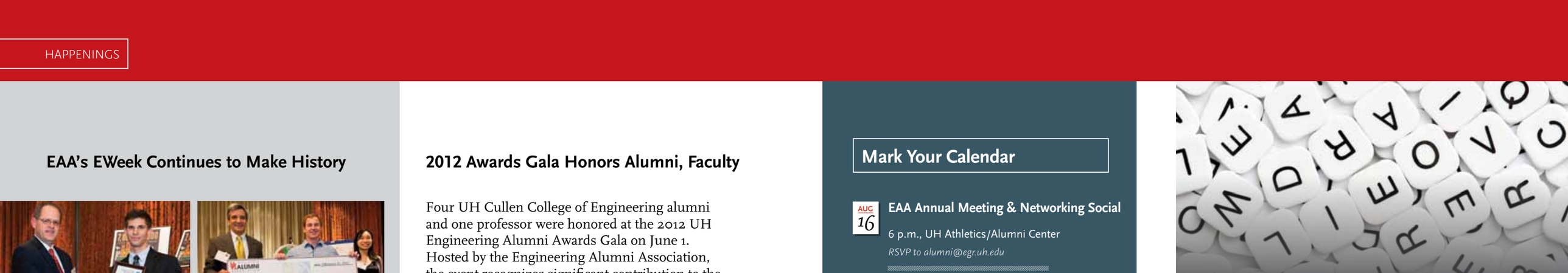
NOV 10 — **Homecoming - UH vs. Tulsa Tailgate**
2 p.m., EAA Pavilion at Robertson Stadium

NOV 24 — **UH vs. Tulane Tailgate**
TBA, EAA Pavilion at Robertson Stadium

Cougars Getting LinkedIn

Join the Cullen College's fast-growing LinkedIn group and connect professionally with other Cougar Engineers! More than 900 UH engineering alumni, faculty, staff and students have joined this network. Check it out at linkedin.com, search groups for "UH Cullen College of Engineering."

Scan this code



The Blackboard

A Mathematical Brain Teaser from the Cullen College

Solve a puzzle, win a prize! In each issue of *The Cougar Engineer,* the magazine staff will present a new alumni challenge.

This Issue's Challenge:

DECIPHER THE MESSAGE, WIN AN IPAD

A piece of sage advice is encoded in the letters below.

juiigatontnasiiiyelsonvseuonteermcnhrninioesgniaw

If you can decipher the message, you'll be entered into a drawing to win a new iPad, courtesy of the Engineering Alumni Association.

Email your answer to cougarengineer@egr.uh.edu by November 1 to be entered into the drawing. The contest is open only to graduates of the Cullen College of Engineering. Good Luck!

(**Hint:** ***Count the characters!***)

LAST ISSUE'S WINNER:
Azim Jivan *(MSME '85)*

In the **Which Door Leads to the iPad** challenge, readers were asked to identify which out of 100 doors would be open after toggling them according to a specific pattern. Nearly 50 people submitted the correct answer, **ten doors, corresponding to all the perfect squares between one and 100.** The iPad winner selected by a random drawing was Azim Jivan (MSME '85). ***Congratulations, Azim!***

Past issues of *The Cougar Engineer* can be found online at *egr.uh.edu/cougarengineer*

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE?

HOW CIVILIZATION RELIES ON ENGINEERS TO MANAGE, MAINTAIN AND MANIPULATE LIFE'S MOST ESSENTIAL RESOURCE

by Toby Weber

photos by TBS Photography

FEATURE

If there's one substance that keeps more engineers employed than any other, it almost certainly is water.

It is too important as a resource, it looms too large as a threat in the form of flooding, and the simple fact that there are literally oceans of it mean that a huge number of engineers have careers that focus, in one way or another, on water.

Among these, of course, are several alumni of the University of Houston Cullen College of Engineering. Some like Tina Petersen and Arup SenGupta, focus on water as a resource, working to purify water, using it more efficiently or securing its supply. In their work with the Harris County Flood Control District, David Saha and Bill St. John deal with water not so much as a resource, but as a potential threat that must be contained. Then there are alums like Nikhil Phansalkar. Working as a subsea engineer, he deals with water as neither a resource nor threat, but as a challenge that must be grappled with.

While there are obvious differences in the work these alumni perform, the fact that they work with water means their efforts make life not just better, but make it possible.

Rolling in the DEEP

"Everyone is taking a closer look at everything we do. You analyze every piece, every tool and the history of every tool to make sure everything will work like it's supposed to."

Nikhil Phansalkar (BSME '10) has been in the workforce for just two years, but he's already seen how one big event can change an entire industry.

Phansalkar is an engineering technologist in the Order to Remittance group with GE Oil & Gas' Subsea Drilling Systems. The event, obviously, was the Deepwater Horizon disaster.

Entering the full-time workforce just weeks after the spill has given Phansalkar a front-row seat to the changes that have been implemented in its wake.

Phansalkar's group acts as a support team to the sales side, supporting the execution of sales contracts from the time that an order is initiated to the time that final payment is received. When a customer places an order for subsea drilling equipment, Phansalkar and his colleagues are charged with determining exactly what the customer needs, making sure all the parts are up to specification and ultimately shipping orders out. While these tasks once might have undergone one simple confirmation, they are now double, triple, even quadruple checked.

"Everyone is taking a closer look at everything we do," he said. "We're not just checking something once or twice; it's being looked at by a full team. You go through customer support, you look at the service we're providing. You analyze every piece, every tool and the history of every tool to make sure everything will work like it's supposed to."

This sort of review makes an extreme amount of sense for subsea operations, noted Phansalkar. Because of the added complexities of subsea drilling — high pressures, widely varying temperatures and corrosion caused by seawater — subsea drilling systems are far more complex than systems used on land. They are also more difficult to service once installed and have more interdependencies among their various components.

This complexity, though, is what makes subsea engineering so appealing to Phansalkar. The sophistication and interdependencies of the final product, he said, make these systems astounding feats of engineering. "The subsea wellhead is just a part of what I work on, but when you see the whole thing put together, it's huge. It's so many different product lines coming together to form this one massive, complex tool. It's incredibly impressive."

Keeping in CONTROL

Bill St. John (left) and David Saha (right) survey a section of Houston's White Oak Bayou.

As members of the Harris County Flood Control District, the ultimate job of both **David Saha** (BSCE '93) and **Bill St. John** (BSCE '75) is protecting both people and property from devastating floods.

It's surprising, then, that so much of this work doesn't involve channels and basins, but instead negotiations.

As a watershed coordinator, Saha works with land developers to devise development plans that do not overtax the county's bayou system and drainage ways, either near their developments, upstream or downstream. St. John, a project manager, oversees work on major flood control initiatives, such as the construction of new storm water basins and bridges and the widening of channels. While both these jobs sound straightforward enough, there are a large number of stakeholders involved or affected by practically every project, making coordination and the achievement of consensus major parts of both Saha's and St. John's job descriptions.

Take Saha's work. One of the projects he is currently involved with is the expansion of a six-mile stretch of Langham Creek near Katy, Texas. The expansion will be funded primarily by land developers who own about 10,000 acres of property along that corridor. The actual construction, which will provide opportunities for environmental and recreational enhancement, will occur as the land is actually developed. The entire project, then, might take up to 30 years to complete, depending upon the pace of development. Since each developer's drainage plans will impact what all the others do, Saha must get all the developers — businesses that are in competition with each other on a daily basis — to agree to a fair and unified approach.

"Obtaining consensus can be like herding cats, especially if there are numerous developers and property owners in an area," he said. "The Langham Creek project is unusual in that the land is mostly undeveloped and there are only a handful of developers to work with. But sometimes we're dealing with many developers, utility districts, land owners and homeowners associations. Reaching a consensus in that sort of situation is much more challenging."

St. John's quest for consensus is slightly different. When widening a channel or improving basin, one of his main tasks is getting all the different consultants involved in the project on the same page. Civil engineers, structural engineers, environmental engineers, geotechnical engineers — sometimes all with different firms — must agree to an overall plan.

While many of the parties Saha and St. John work with need the approval of Flood Control, there are others where the relationship is reversed. Serving all of Harris County, Flood Control (and by extension Saha and St. John) must have the buy-in of several cities and towns, and state and local agencies and authorities in order to succeed.

While the missions of these bodies are not in direct conflict with the mission of Flood Control, what they prioritize does change how people like Saha and St. John do their business.

"County commissioners have a need to make sure that the things we're doing will improve the area," said St. John. "We're in the business of reducing flood damage — channel improvements, basin improvements. We don't build trails or parks, but we can provide the space and through the county commissioners we can make sure the space is available so that other groups can put in these features."

Accommodating desires for such features can make the jobs of St. John and Saha more difficult. In many ways, though, it can also be one of the most satisfying aspects of their work. Progress in Flood Control can be very slow — recall that Saha's Langham Creek project is on a 30-year timetable — so seeing their efforts not just protect but also enhance the community is a great motivator.

"I grew up biking along the trails on Bray's Bayou," said Saha. "Wherever possible, we don't want to build something that people think of as just a ditch. We're trying to build drainage projects that not only reduce flood risks, but also enhance the community by providing multi-use opportunities for recreation, aesthetic and environmental enhancement."

What's in the WATER

While many engineers are focused on getting rainwater into bayous and basins, **Tina Petersen** (MSEE '03, Ph.D. '06) is more concerned about what's in that water.

Petersen graduated from Baylor University with a bachelor's degree in environmental science and biology in 1997. Energetic and driven, she took a job after graduation that fit her personality and education: environmental investigator with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, where she inspected agricultural and industrial facilities. After just a couple of years, though, she realized that she wanted to do more.

"I liked the job, but I saw all these complex problems," she recalled. "So I wondered what I could do to solve them, what's the solution. Science taught me how to understand the problem, but I realized I needed engineering to come up with the solution."

Hearing about the water quality work being performed in the lab of Hanadi Rifai, professor in the civil and environmental engineering department at the University of Houston's Cullen College of Engineering, Petersen saw a path she wanted to follow, and was admitted as a Ph.D. student. Her doctoral dissertation focused on determining the levels of indicator bacteria in Buffalo Bayou and White Oak Bayou in Houston — exactly the type of work she went to graduate school to pursue.

Petersen used three different modeling approaches to analyze the bacteria levels in these bayous, and all were in agreement that there were water quality standard violations in both channels. Based on her work, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has since approved total maximum daily loads of bacteria in these channels, which provides a foundation for a stakeholder-driven process to improve water quality in Houston bayous.

Today, Petersen is a water resource engineer with CDM Smith, a consulting firm offering services covering water, the environment, transportation, energy and facilities to public and private clients around the world. Working for municipalities, state and county agencies, and industrial operations, her projects include water quality investigations similar to the ones she pursued in graduate school. She also supports water supply and water conservation projects, both of which have grown in prominence since last year, when the state of Texas suffered an historically brutal drought.

"Science taught me how to understand the problem, but I realized I needed engineering to come up with the solution."

Conservation efforts, she noted, are often undertaken by utilities and industrial facilities with high water usage levels. The recommendations Petersen makes in these projects can be surprisingly basic, such as fixing leaking pipes used in industrial processes. Other recommendations are more complex — replacing single-stage water pumps with multi-stage pumps, which can then be adjusted to pump only what is needed, or adjusting the types and amounts of chemicals added to a cooling tower's water so it will operate more efficiently.

On the water supply front, her efforts include making water availability projections based on various climate scenarios over a given period and identifying alternate sources of water for both municipalities and industry. One supply option that is increasing in popularity, Petersen noted, is reclaimed water or water reuse, which involves treating wastewater and then reusing it for municipal, irrigation or industrial applications.

"Setting up a reclaimed water system can be a pretty significant investment," she said. "But when you're facing water shortages, it is a valuable water supply because it is highly reliable and the cost can be comparable or less than the cost to treat imported water to potable water standards. Wastewater exists and is not going anywhere."

Water resource projects aren't the only things taking up Petersen's time at work, though. Last year she was promoted to a management position, overseeing CDM Smith's water resources staff in Texas and New Mexico.

The duties she has assumed in this role are typical for a manager: meeting with clients, staffing water resources projects and developing her staff. As someone who once found herself wanting to do more with her career, this new role has also put her in an interesting position: She is now able to help others stay satisfied and engaged with their work.

"I want to make sure that they're working on the right projects for them, the projects that they're interested in," she said. "I want to try to connect them across the firm so they can work on the type of projects that interest them when the opportunity arises."

Clean Water, Saving LIVES

Residents of a village in Cambodia discuss their newly installed arsenic removal system (left), developed by Cullen College alumnus Arup SenGupta (above).

When all is said and done, tens of thousands — possibly even hundreds of thousands of people — will owe their lives and health to **Arup SenGupta** (MSEE '82, Ph.D. '84) and his water purification efforts.

SenGupta, P.C. Rossin Professor in the departments of civil and environmental engineering and chemical engineering at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Penn., has developed a sustainable system that removes arsenic from groundwater. While arsenic-contaminated water is not a major problem in the United States, in South and Southeast Asia, it threatens the health and lives of 200 million people, earning it the title of worst mass poisoning in human history, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

"This is probably the biggest natural calamity civilization has ever seen," SenGupta said. "But it is slow, and since it is slow it doesn't attain the notoriety that it should. It's not like a plane crash or a sudden natural disaster where people die instantaneously."

Over the past several years, though, SenGupta has made huge strides to combat arsenic poisoning. To date, he has been instrumental in installing over 200 community-based arsenic removal systems in South and Southeast Asia, providing arsenic-safe water to more than 200,000 people, earning national and international honors in the process.

In SenGupta's purification system, a handpump is used to bring water from a well through piping to the top of a cylindrical chamber. The water enters the chamber in a spray of tiny droplets, which exposes them to atmospheric oxygen. This exposure causes iron in the water to oxidize and precipitate out. Arsenic in the water then adsorbs, or attaches to the surface of this iron oxide. More arsenic is subsequently adsorbed by a novel polymer-based adsorbent developed by SenGupta's research group at Lehigh University. Most importantly, the new adsorbent is reusable, thus reducing the cost of treated water. This two-step process drops arsenic content in water to below 10 parts per billion, the limit set by the WHO, making it safe to drink.

While this system is certainly effective from a technological point of view, SenGupta's work also focuses on helping communities sustain these advances. He is, for instance, a proponent of educating young people in the developing world to combat various types of water crises confronting these regions. To this end, he is engaged in active collaborations with academic institutions in Argentina, Cambodia, India, Mexico, Nepal and Vietnam.

The device itself is also designed with real-world operation and challenges in mind. In order for a village to receive a unit, members of that village must agree to pay for its upkeep — typically around 40 cents per family per month. In return they receive 20 liters of arsenic-safe water per day.

What's more, these water purification systems also help spur local economies. Villagers are employed to maintain the units and work at the central processing plants, while others have actually built businesses around the availability of clean water, said SenGupta.

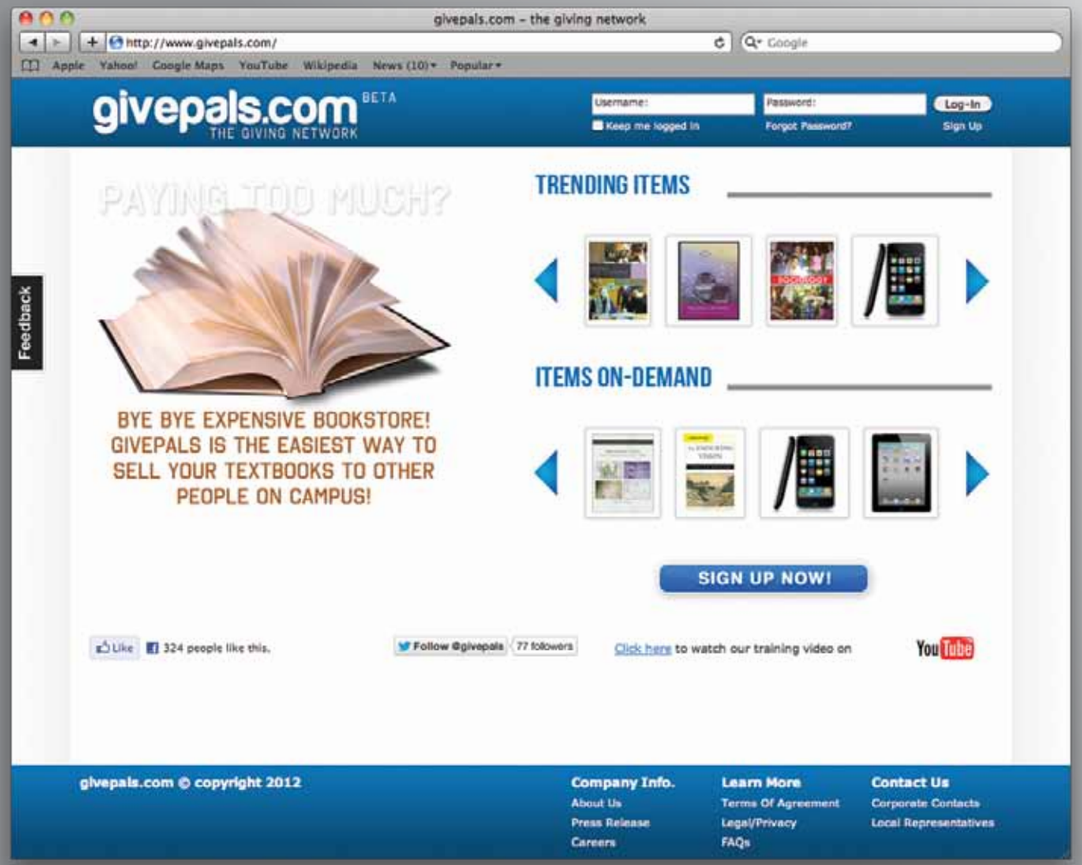
"As the demand for arsenic-safe water gradually increased from distant places, a group of enterprising young people in many villages started water vending using local transport (rickshaw van) with a value-added price," wrote SenGupta in a recent paper. "In essence, through intervention of appropriate technology and a community-based business model, the arsenic crisis was transformed into a business enterprise."

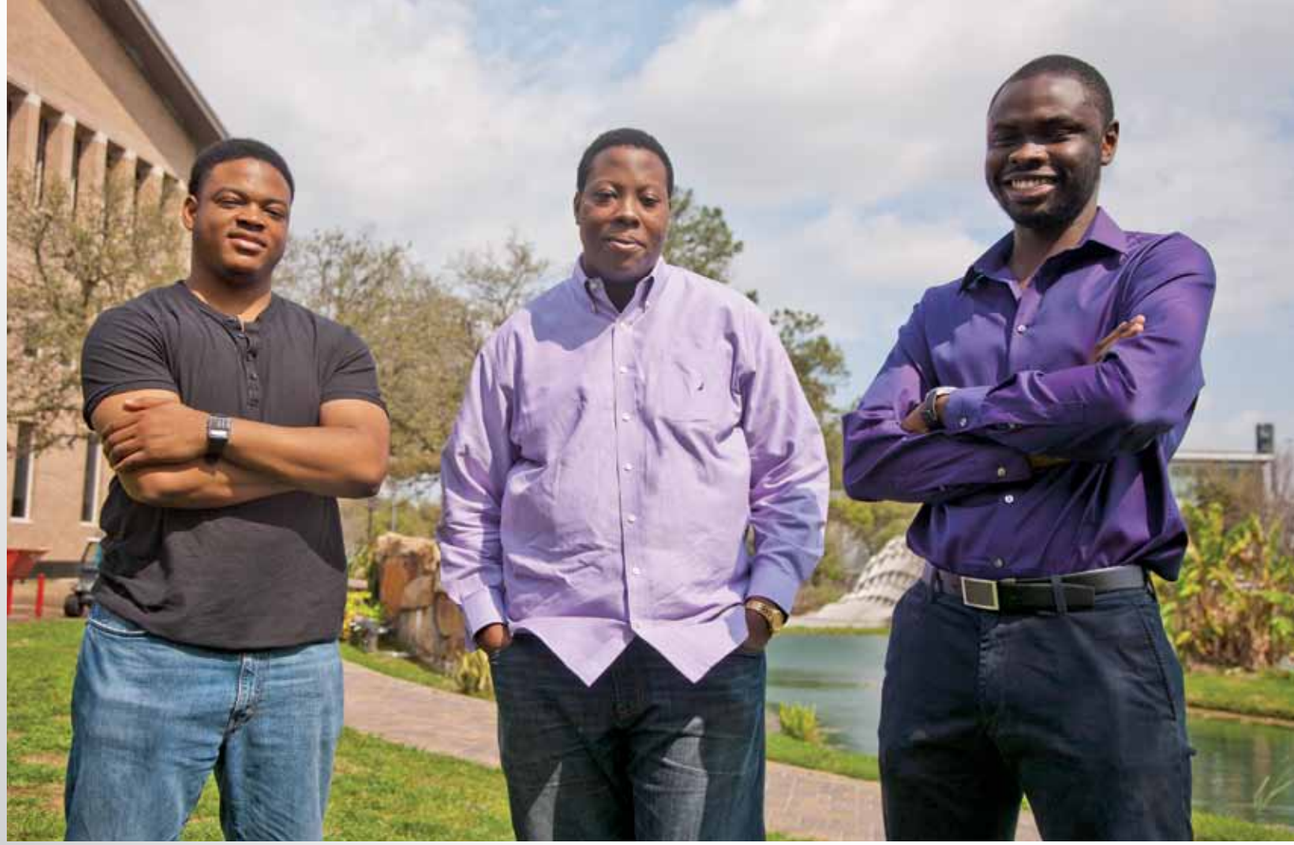
That is just a bonus, though. In the end, the most significant benefit of this system is the most obvious one: thanks to SenGupta, hundreds of thousands of people now have access to arsenic-safe drinking water.

Connecting Cougars

Engineering Alums Create Online Social Marketplace

By Esmeralda Fisher





Eric Imasogie, Ore Ayodele and Ade Adesanya
Photo by Nine Nguyen

As undergraduates, **Eric Imasogie** (BSIE '10) and **Ade Adesanya** (BSEE '11) often conversed about college life, always with a focus on improvement. The price of textbooks was a hot issue with the duo. "We decided there is no reason why anyone should sell a used book to the bookstore," Adesanya said. "You spend $200 on a book and the bookstore buys it back for a fraction of that. The ideal thing would be for students to sell or trade books to each other."

The concept of textbook trading led to the larger issue of connecting students based on mutual interests, such as job opportunities or tutoring. Imasogie and Adesanya developed a social site called givepals.com that gives college students an online space to list items or services they need, a technological version of the bulletin board posts that adorn every wall on campus.

"When you can make that process more efficient and totally replace a 'dinosaur' way of doing things, you can capitalize on a niche that most people overlook," said Imasogie. Most of the transactions are localized to UH and are not monetary.

Imasogie serves as the CEO of givepals.com. He delivers roles and expectations to the team, and sets goals on a weekly basis. He also oversees product development, ensuring that the software stays user-friendly and functional. Adesanya's role is in product development, business development and networking.

"My homework is to get to turn this into a million dollar idea," he said. "If you have a good idea, you have to tell everyone about it."

Since October 2010, the team has grown to include web developer **Kelvin Ihaza** (BSEE '11) and **Ore Ayodele,** a recent graduate from the UH College of Technology. The team is focused on building capital and keeping the site creative and competitive. Since launching in August 2011, the site now has approximately 2,000 users. A mobile application is in the works, and the team aims to make givepals.com available to 100 colleges by the end of the year. Additionally, they are working with area businesses to bring exclusive retail offers to givepals.com users, including dining, shopping and services.

A central goal of givepals.com is to foster a culture of community spirit at UH. "Tier One schools need Tier One ideas and innovation," said Adesanya. "School spirit is a big part of becoming Tier One. It's really about connecting people."

CORPS skills

ALUMNUS UTILIZES HIS EDUCATION IN SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY AS A MEMBER OF THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

By Toby Weber

Army Captain and Cullen College alum Joshua Sturgill (right) briefs Col. D. Peter Helmlinger (center), commanding officer of the Army Corps of Engineer's Europe District, on the housing renovation project at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey.

When **Josh Sturgill** (BSCE '02) joined the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program during his freshman year at the Cullen College, he had a pretty good idea of what he was signing up for. He grew up in a military family, after all, so he was familiar with disciplines and demands he would live under as a member of the U.S. Army.

What he may not have known is how nine-plus years later those same disciplines and demands would become a part of him. "With any organization, when you've been in it for a while, you start to take on the culture of that organization," said Sturgill. "For me, the Army is a lifestyle."

Not surprisingly, among the most prominent aspects of this lifestyle are a commitment to order, discipline and fulfilling one's duties – qualities that, even in a short conversation, shine through in Sturgill.

Today, Sturgill is a captain in the army and a member of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Currently based in Turkey, he has spent time stationed everywhere from Hawaii to Iraq.

One of the responsibilities of the Corps is to manage construction on military bases located overseas. These projects can include everything from building temporary barracks to constructing roadways for long-term military installations.

From an engineering perspective, much of the work performed by members of the Corps mirrors the regimented nature of the military. The army, Sturgill said, provides a manual that includes formulas for how to build certain structures. Simply plug in the parameters of the project in question, and the formula will give construction guidelines, offering, for example, the correct sized beam to use for structural support. The project engineer's job then becomes keeping the project on time and on budget.

While it would never be easy to oversee an $800,000 road construction or a $42 million refurbishment of on-base housing, two projects Sturgill is currently working on, the job can be made more difficult by the language and cultural barriers that arise when working overseas.

"I have one contractor who always says, 'you are right' and then will say the opposite of what I just told her," he recalled. "I came to understand that she wasn't saying she agreed with me, but that she understood my opinion or understood what I was trying to explain. You really have to step back and ask yourself, 'what message are they trying to get across, even if they're not actually saying it.'"

This is a challenge Sturgill will likely be dealing with for the foreseeable future. With more than nine years of military service completed, he anticipates serving for a full twenty. After that, he said, he sees himself becoming an engineering project manager for a municipal government or pursuing his Ph.D. and then teaching at the college level.

"That's really because of the instructors I had at the University of Houston," he said. "They were willing to work with any student that was having a hard time. I went to instructors when I was having trouble, and they were able to work with me and help me overcome any issues I was having. I want to give back by doing the same thing." ©

1960s

Norman Carnahan (BSChE '65) was nominated by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers to represent the organization as a member of the Board of Directors for the Offshore Technology Conference. He was also selected as the founding chair of the Upstream Engineering and Flow Assurance Forum of AIChE, a new and permanent part of AIChE focused on providing ongoing education for practitioners in upstream energy production and flow assurance.

1970s

John Odis Cobb (BSCE '71, MSCE '79), **Billy Cooke** (BSCE '78), **D. Wayne Klotz** (MSCE '76) and **Jimmie Schindewolf** (BSCE '67) were inducted into the UH Academy of Distinguished Civil and Environmental Engineers in April.

1980s

Delvin Dennis (BSCE '80) is now vice-president and director of Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) services within Klotz and Associates. Dennis most recently served as the TxDOT district engineer for the Houston district. He was responsible for department operations in Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Montgomery and Waller Counties.

Steve Simmons (BSCE '81) has joined Huitt-Zollars Inc. as vice president and will focus on the firm's highway practice. Simmons will provide the leadership to expand Huitt-Zollars' services in highway planning, design and construction management. He will support the firm's practice that currently serves state highway agencies, toll road authorities, local agencies, design/builders and public/private partnerships. He served as deputy executive director of the Texas Department of Transportation for the past 10 years.

Joe Zimmerman (BSCE '83) is the new vice president and public works practice manager at Klotz Associates Inc. He is currently serving his second term on the city of Sugar Land Planning and Zoning Commission and previously served as a board member of the Fort Bend County Toll Road Authority. He is the former deputy program manager of operations at the HNTB Companies.

Submit your own class notes to:
www.egr.uh.edu/news/submissions

SUPPORT STRUCTURE

REMEMBERING C.J. TAMBORELLO

By Toby Weber

There are thousands of Cullen College alumni who owe a debt of gratitude to Charles Joseph "C.J." Tamborello (BSCE '61), and most of them probably don't even know it. Among them: any alum who competed on the college's concrete canoe team, who received a scholarship from the college, or who has reconnected with friends or made a professional contact at an Engineering Alumni Association event.

That's because Tamborello, who died in 2006, was one of the best friends the University of Houston Cullen College of Engineering has ever had. He was one of the founding members of the EAA and one of its most important and most active members during its earliest days. Without his efforts — as well as the efforts of his late wife Marge, whose contributions earned her an honorary EAA membership — the organization wouldn't be what it is today.

Twenty-three years ago, for example, Tamborello led the committee that organized the college's first annual golf tournament. Starting with the strong foundation laid by Tamborello, today that same tournament is one of the Cullen College's biggest fundraisers, providing support for everything from new faculty recruitment to student scholarships.

Tamborello was also a great supporter of individual students. Over the years, he served as an advisor and mentor to perhaps dozens of undergraduates, many of whom went on to join the ranks of the college's most successful alumni. He was also generous with his own money and materials, donating, for example, the supplies for the college's first concrete canoe team. Today, that team regularly advances to compete at national competitions.

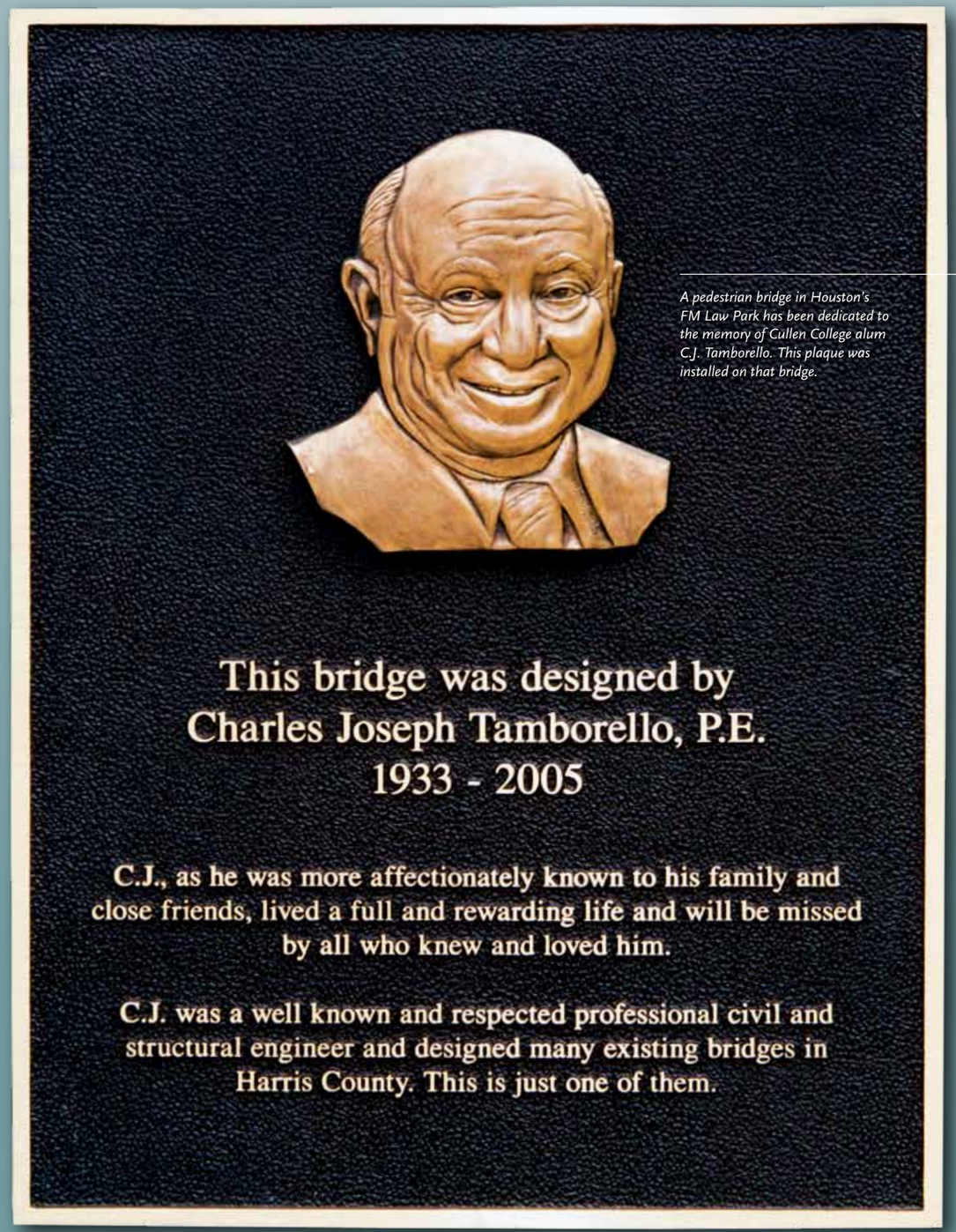
For these efforts, and many more, Tamborello was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus by the EAA in 1994.

"If you needed something and you went to C.J., you could be sure he would deliver," recalled Jerry Rogers, associate professor of civil engineering. "He was always very generous and very much a friend of the University of Houston and its civil engineering students. I'll always remember his contributions."

On top of his efforts with the EAA, Tamborello gave back to his profession as a member of groups such as the American Society of Civil Engineers and Texas Society of Professional Engineers. In recognition of his contributions to the area's engineering community, the Harris County Flood Control District recently dedicated a bridge located at Sims Bayou in Houston's F.M. Law Park in Tamborello's honor. The formal dedication was held last April, with dozens of colleagues, friends and family turning out to celebrate Tamborello's life.

Speakers at the event included Mike Talbott, director of the Harris County Flood Control District, which oversaw the bridge's design and construction; Roger Eichhorn, former dean of the Cullen College; and Jim Moffatt, a longtime friend and colleague of Tamborello.

"My first thought today is that Flood Control and Harris County got it right," said Moffatt. "No one is more deserving of this recognition than C.J., which is ironic because C.J. was never after recognition. He was a generous, honest and kind man."



A pedestrian bridge in Houston's FM Law Park has been dedicated to the memory of Cullen College alum C.J. Tamborello. This plaque was installed on that bridge.

September 1, 2010 – August 31, 2011

Thanks to your generous donations, the Cullen College of Engineering had an outstanding fundraising year. More than $8 million was given in support of UH engineering students and programs. Thank you!

Gifts of $1,000,000+
Landmark Graphics Corporation
Dr. and Mrs. William A. Brookshire
William A. Brookshire Foundation

$250,000 to $999,999
William C. Miller Jr.

$100,000 to $249,999
BP America Inc.
BP America Production Company
BP Corporation North America Inc.
BP Fabric of America Fund
Cameron
Cornell University
Cummins Inc.
Shell International E&P Inc.
Southwestern Energy Company
Weatherford International Inc.
The Robert A. Welch Foundation.

$50,000 to $99,999
ConocoPhillips
Jafar R. Davoody
El Paso Corporation
Exxon Mobil Corporation
ExxonMobil Upstream Research Company
Ford Motor Company
National Semiconductor Corporation
Shell Oil Company
Tokyo Electron

$10,000 to $49,999
Mr. and Mrs. Brij Mohan Agrawal
American Petroleum Institute Houston Chapter
Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Beyer
Beyer Construction LLP
Dr. Akhil Bidani
British American Foundation of Texas
Chevron Corporation
Chevron Phillips Chemical Company LLC
CNA Metals Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. John Odis Cobb
Cyberonics Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. William F. Fendley
FMC Technologies
Debbie Foster
Gas Processors Association of Houston
Mr. and Mrs. Jesse G. Gonzalez
GSI Environmental Inc.
Halliburton Company
Halliburton Energy Services
The Henley Foundation
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas K. Holley
Drs. Thomas T.C. and Laura Hsu
INEOS Olefins and Polymers USA
Kalsi Engineering Inc.
Drs. Manmohan S. and Marie-Luise Kalsi
KBR Inc.
KJT Enterprises Inc.
Lubrizol Foundation
Marathon Oil Company Foundation
Marathon Oil Corporation
NACME
Omron Foundation Inc.
PVF Roundtable
Mr. and Mrs. R. Larry Snider
Society of Iranian American Women for Education
Spectra Energy Foundation
Valvtechnologies Inc.

$5,000 to $9,999
Alpha Omega Electromagnetics LLC
Bechtel Group Inc.
CITGO Petroleum Corporation
Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Clifford
Jim L. Culpepper
The Dow Chemical Company Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Cecil L. Holder
Klotz Associates Inc.
Omron Oilfield & Marine
Permaform
Dr. and Mrs. Ram V. Seetharam
SEG Foundation
Society Women Engineers - Houston Area
Dr. and Mrs. L.C. Witte

$1,000 to $4,999
Dr. Metin Akay
American Society of Mechanical Engineers
Applied Optoelectronics Inc.
Auxiliary to Greater Houston Chapter TSPE
Stepan Baranov
Linda Kiefer and Tim Bartholome
Dr. and Mrs. Benton Baugh
Drs. Srinivas and Meere Rao Bette
Dr. and Mrs. James Dee Bozeman
Mr. and Mrs. James M. Braus
Brown & Gay Engineers Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Tony Catalano
Cobb, Fendley & Associates Inc.
Cynthia Oliver Coleman
Mr. and Mrs. Billy M. Cooke
Dr. and Mrs. Stanley Curtice
Jeffery E. Daly
Daneshy Consultants Intl. Inc.
Delvin Lee Dennis
Gerald M. Diaz
Wilbur I. Doty
Henry C. Dress
Emerson Process Management
Endothelix Inc.
Otis W. Fine
Fluor Enterprises Inc.
The Fluor Foundation
Dr. Matthew Franchek
Garza + McLain Structural Engineers Inc.
GeoScience Engineering & Testing Inc.
Dr. and Mrs. Ganesh Laxmikant Ghurye
Charles Newton Grichar
Gurrola Reprographics Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. George Leroy Hall
David Wayne Hampton
Ronald Harrell
Todd A. Hauser and Barbara A. McNew
Robert P. Herrmann
Hobas Pipe USA Inc.
Donald Holender
Houston Assembly of Delphian Chapters
IDC Inc.
INEOS Nova LLC
Jerri Lee Pledger Family Trust
Thomas H. Jones
Sandra Kovar
Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald E. Lohec
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Lum
Dr. Christopher J. Matice
Fred and Dr. Dianne McGuire
Anthony W. McLain
Mr. and Mrs. William A. McMahon Jr.
Carl Meisner

National Society of Black Engineers
Dr. and Mrs. Tim Nedwed
Okechukwu A. Ofili
Jerilyne Busse O'Neill
Mr. and Mrs. Rafael Ortega
Roger Padamada
Dr. Gerhard F. Paskusz
Peter A. and Elizabeth S. Cohn Fdn. Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Piwetz
Dr. and Mrs. L. Douglas Power
Mr. and Mrs. Volker R. Rathmann
Mr. and Mrs. Chris J. Rhine
Mr. and Mrs. Dean Rietz
Dr. Hanadi S. Rifai
Eric J. Rodriguez
Dr. Charles and Dean Dana C. Rooks
Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Roxburgh
Rudolph Rusnak
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Joseph Schaefer
Schlumberger Technology Corporation
Mr. and Mrs. David S. Seiver
Dr. and Mrs. Arup K. SenGupta
Sigma Energy Corporation
Society of Petroleum Engineers of AIME
State Farm Insurance
Storm Water Solutions
Mariel Syma Sturm
Phillip Mathew Swanson
Texas Association of Environmental Professionals
Treadwater Energy
Dr. Anthony R. Tripp
Mr. David M. Turner
United Space Alliance
Water Environment Assoc. of Texas
Andrew Zechariah Weaver
Mr. and Mrs. Randy James Wester
Dr. Katherine Zerda
Dr. Yaowu Zhang
Ziff Energy Group LTD

$750 to $999
Mr. and Mrs. Lambert Austin
Baker Concrete Construction Inc.
Jeffery O. Beauchamp
Dessault Systems Simulia Corporation
Gonzalez Group LP
Edwin F. Hessel
Mrs. and Mrs. Jim A. Palavan
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Rogers
Dr. Janis L. and Charles H. Simonds
Ling Kong Szeto

$500 to $749
Jamaar B. Anderson
James Gregory Badgett
Ashima Bagga
Mr. and Mrs. Ashish Bagga
Dr. and Mrs. Mohan S. Beltangady
Dr. Said Bina
Mr. and Mrs. Melvin B. Brackendorff
Mark Broadfoot
Mr. and Mrs. Ruey-Tang Chen
Tim Deines
Abhijit Dhumne
Mr. and Mrs. J.F. Dishron
Walter C. Dobbs III
Timothy S. Duncan
David Charles Englet
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey B. Flores
Dr. Larry Fore

John Gray Fowler
Freescale Semiconductor Inc.
Frederick D. Gillespie Jr. and Holly A. Leitch
Andrea Goodwin
David R. Hamilton
Dr. and Mrs. Michael P. Harold
Mr. and Mrs. Steven J. Henning
Mr. and Mrs. Alfonzo Hernandez
John Ernest Herod
Hewlett-Packard
Elaine Ann Higgins
Mr. and Mrs. Terri N. Ivers
Mr. and Mrs. Ramesh Narandas Jasani
Rick Jenner
Edward G. Johnson
Katy Steel Company
Carolyn C. and Douglas A. Kirkpatrick
Stanley Lasser
Dr. Xiaohua Lin
Diane Renee Lindsey
William Martin
Ronald C. Merrick
Dr. Stefan John Murry
Gerardo Fabio Noejovich
James Yang Ong
Park Environmental Equipment Ltd.
Rahul Subodh Patel
James Pearce
Project Storm LLC
Dr. Charles R. Quick Jr.
Michelle R. Ramotowski
Stephen C. Redd
Dr. William G. Rixey
Sonia M. Rocha
Dr. Debora F. Rodrigues
Dale A. Rudick
Mr. and Mrs. Larry K. Siller
Hollie M. Stanley Jr.
Suresh Subramonian
Jacob Thomas
Tideland Signal Corporation
Total Petrochemicals USA Inc.
Traffic Engineers Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Bal C. Trivedi
Dr. Cumaraswamy Vipulanandan
Dr. and Mrs. Ching-Tang Wang
Weishuhn Engineering Inc.
Dr. Robert Emmett Yates

$250 to $499
Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Adamek
Anan Al-Bahish
Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Lee Alexander
Hector David Arambula
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth L. Bickham
Binkley & Barfield Inc.
Manikantesh Bonatham
Marcelyn K. Boone
Alan A. Broussard
Donald E. Brown
Kimberly H. and Bobby D. Butler
Cambio Family Rev Living Trust
Edward Earl Castor II
Civiltech Engineering
Costello Inc.
Dr. and Mrs. Henry J. Crowder
DAE & Associates Ltd.
Dr. Charles Dalton and Patricia M. Cavanaugh
Mr. and Mrs. Rey de la Reza
Dr. and Mrs. Prem Bhushan Dewan
Cindy A. Drnevich
Allen G. and Madelyn M. Dusek
David A. Eastwood
Dr. and Mrs. M.T. Fleischer
Mrs. Diane Rober Franke
Fred J. Gentile
Charles L. Gerlovich
Dr. Karolos Grigoriadis
Anthony Grigsby
Mr. and Mrs. Vance A. Ham
Astrid Yvonne Han
Douglas D. Haude
Michael Patrick Hemmi
Heritage Realty Corporation
Mark Charles Hickey
Mr. and Mrs. Reynold B. Hillegeist
Dr. and Mrs. D. Keith Hollingsworth Jr.
Richard W. Hon

Richard Bruce Hopper
HR Green Inc.
HTS Consultants Inc.
Dr. Chung-Chi Raymond Hu
Richard H. Huckaby
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Brian Irvine
Roderick G. Johnson
Jones & Carter Inc.
David Hayden Jones
Saqib S. Karori
Vikram M. Kashyap
Mr. and Mrs. John Curtis Killinger
Stilianos E. Kountakis
Mr. and Mrs. Joe P. Lamb
Satyavrat Ramchandra Laud
Paul R. Laware
Dr. Jeng-Shung and Wen-Yi Liaw
Dr. Liping Liu
LJA Engineering & Surveying Inc.
Dr. and Mrs. Stuart A. Long
Sirish Madichetti
Tarik M. Madkour
Dung Son Mai and Hein Thi Duong
William Wickliffe Masters II
Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. May
Mr. and Mrs. Jack D. McCartney
Kevin McQuain
Katherine W. and D. Scott Miller
Dr. Yi-Lung Mo
Mark C. Moyer
Nathelyne A. Kennedy & Associates
Carl Edmund Pascoe
Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Tim Pease
Thuc D. Phan
Mr. and Mrs. Scott H. Prengle
Armando Puente
Peter V. Ralph
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth W. Repsher
RJT Construction LLC
Mr. and Mrs. M.H. Shepherd III
Dr. and Mrs. Leang San Shieh
James D. Sikes
Mr. and Mrs. Steven E. Simmons
Steven F. Stanley
Major William Henry Stanley (Ret.)
Stargel Office Solutions
James L. Steller
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy E. Swaty
TEO Engineering Organization Inc.
The Acord Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Tilton
Tolunay-Wong Engineers Inc.
Mr. William F. Trainor Jr.
Dr. Leonard P. Trombetta
Edward Allen Turner
United Engineers Inc.
Esau R. Velazquez
Vestas Technology R&D Americas Inc.
Walter P. Moore and Associates Inc.
Dr. and Mrs. Matthew Whiteside
Dr. Kaspar Willam
Denzel W. Wiseman Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. John C. Wolfe

$100 to $249
Abraham Abdalla Jr.
Omar G. Aboudaher
Drs. Rachana Agrawal and Ramesh R. Sharma
Carolyn D. and John R. Allen
Dr. David Hamel Anderson
John M. Anderson
Robert F. Andrews
Mr. and Mrs. Christos O. Angelides
Robert B. Armstrong
Dr. Hitohisa Asai
Benito Avila
Dr. Ashraf S. Ayoub
Seyed Ali Azizi-Yarand
Kay R. Babineaux
Mytrang Thi Baccam
Robert D. Barnett
Walter Ronald Bartel
Lewis C. Bartmess
Richard Clark Bauman
Dorota Bernatek
Mr. and Mrs. Donald R. Betterton Sr.
Gerry A. Bollom

Stephen Timothy Braun
Mr. and Mrs. Allen W. Brehm
Brent Ward Insurance Agency Inc.
Robert J. and Dr. Bethany A. Brunsman
Nicholas R. Brunson
Khanh L. Bui
Mr. and Mrs. Barry A. Campbell
Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Chase
Jun Chen
Shirley Hsiao-You Chen
Dr. Yi-Chao Chen
Dr. and Mrs. Jo-Chieh Chuang
Richard Dana Clark
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph D. Cole
Richard R. Collins
Clayton A. Compton
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher S. Cowles
Grant Andrew Cox and Elizabeth Ann Sager
CRCM Inc.
John Lee Cuddihee
Mr. and Mrs. Brian S. Daly
Patrick Nathanial Daniel
Dr. Lohit and Manjula Datta-Barua
Dr. Mina M. Dawood
Eric Alan De Vries
Carolyn S. DeVine
Steven H. DeWolf
Parminder S. Dhaliwal
Paul Dinh
Mr. and Mrs. Hasmukh Harilal Doshi
Naomi S. Doss
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Parr Doss Jr.
Cheikh Drame
John Duboise
Craig Earl Dunham
Elton E. Dyal
Edminster, Hinshaw, Russ, Assoc. Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Paul Egan
C.E. Ennis
Holly Falleri
Benjamin J. and Kathleen D. Fasenfest
April L. Feick
Robert E. Felder
Mr. and Mrs. William B. Focke
Dr. Joseph Paul Formica
Rick S. and Kirstin M. Friedman

Dr. Shein Liang Fu
Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Funderburg Jr.
Andrew John Gafford
Mr. and Mrs. Eleuterio Galvan Jr.
Jessica Garcia
Mr. and Mrs. Leo P. Garcia
Drs. Steven Wade Gaskey and Jo-Ping Lee
Dr. Kirk R. Gerdes
Dr. John R. Glover Jr.
Jeffrey David Gobeli
Dr. Sudhir Vasant Golikeri
Alan Lee Goodrum
Verland Lee Granberry
Nathan Taylor Hahn
Dr. Phillip Guy Hamilton
Dr. Kye J. Han
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Hansen
Hardey Engineering Co.
Ronnie Dale Harris
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Hart
Timothy Hartz
Lynn Hawk
Mr. and Mrs. Richard E. Heath
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory G. Hendrickson
Duane M. Hengst
Juan Herrera
Mr. and Mrs. Nathan L. Higginbotham
Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Higgins
Terry V. Hight
Mr. and Mrs. H. Vernon Hough
Dr. and Mrs. Zaki D. Husain
Dr. and Mrs. A.K.M.F. Hussain
Dr. Michael R. Irwin
Shahriar Javaherian
Mr. and Mrs. Joe W. Jeanes
Frederick D. Johnson
G. Wade Johnson and Debbie Campbell
Dr. Robert L. Jones
Kitty J. and Dr. Marvin Karson
Mr. and Mrs. Dale W. Kempenski
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. Muscara

Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Kin
Claude R. Kirby
KMS Technologies
Doug Kevin Kneupper
Christopher George Kocurek
Thanassis Vassilio Kontonassios
Mr. and Mrs. Paul C. Koomey
Bhoom R. Korpol
Mr. and Mrs. James Kuo
Mr. and Mrs. David L. LaGroue
Thuy T. Le
Heinz G. Leistner
Dr. and Mrs. John H. Lienhard
Kay Ko Lin
Dr. Meng Ling
LTC (Ret) and Mrs. Elbert W. Link
Mr. and Mrs. John T. Linn
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Little
Dr. Dong Liu
Shammy Liu
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald B. Long
Jo Carole and J. Randy Long
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Loomis
Luis Lopez
Dr. Robert B. Luper
Nicholas John Lyons
Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Macias
Dr. Xiuting C. and Tony Tung-Ming Man
Jeffrey Wayne Maresh
Myriam Beatriz Marin and James P. Khyne
Bruce A. Martin
Frederick R. Masterton
Reginald Mayo
Travis McCarty
Mark William McPherson
Lawrence E. Merkel
Dr. Ralph W. Metcalfe
Mr. and Mrs. William Bryan Mills
Richard Mitchell
Mr. and Mrs. Jim E. Moffatt
Mr. and Mrs. Garlan B. Moreland
Norma E. Moreno
Michael J. Morrow
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald L. Mullinax
Mr. and Mrs. Naresh V. Murthy
Dr. Rangaramanujam S. Muthu
NBG Constructors Inc.
Hannah Hanh Nguyen
My Van Nguyen
Thaison T. Nguyen
Than-Nhi Thi Nguyen
Thomas M. Nichols
Dr. Linda L. Noble
Mr. and Mrs. Satoshi Sut Oishi
Judith P. Oppenheim
Abimbola O. Oyediran
Mr. and Mrs. Larry James Pace
Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Joseph Parker
Linda D. Pechacek and Dr. Theodore G. Cleveland
Dr. Steven S. Pei
Robert Pentuk
Raquel Padilla Perez
Trent Alan Perez
Ed H. Peterson
Hung Van Pham
Robert R. Pinder
Alvin L. Pitre Jr.
Postle Property Services Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Prichard Jr.
Whitney D. Prospere
Frederick H. Ramer Jr.
Scott Alan Ramsey
David C. Randal and Dr. Beatriz Tobon-Randal
Dr. J.R. Jagannatha Rao
Steve A. Reeves
Mark L. Reinke
Randall J. Richert
Douglas Johns Robbins
John K. Roberg and Marcia D. Kistner
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard R. Roesler
Eric Rosenblum
Edward John Rosser Jr.
Rotary Club of River Oaks
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Rouse
Mr. and Mrs. David M. Rubin
John Saiz

Dr. Kamel Salama
Dr. W. Neal Sams
Dr. Merri Juanita Sanchez
Chris Sandilos
Charlene A. and Edwin J. Sarver
Terrie Lynn Scharfer
Emily Ann Schroeder
Mr. Purvish Shah
Hamid Shahmehri
Dr. Pradeep Sharma
May B. Shek
Stephen Li-Chun Shen
Dr. Chia-Fu Sheng
Patrick James Siemsen
Anil Kumar Singhal
Dr. and Mrs. Richard D. Slater
Dr. and Mrs. Darren T. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin G. Smith
Dr. Gangbing Song
Edward P. Sopko
Thomas J. Sorg
Mr. and Mrs. Ross H. Spencer Jr.
Robert Eric Spong Jr.
Sanjay Srinivasan
Patrick Peter Steffanelli
Gilbert Strong
John W. Sunkel Jr.
Priyadharshini Swaminathan
Sophia S.Y. Tang
Maebeth Tappin
Corey Mckinney Thacker
Myo W. Thane
Mr. and Mrs. David F. Tharp
Joseph M. Thayer
Mr. and Mrs. L.J. Tichacek
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon E. Tinker
Kimberly D. Topps
June A. Trammell
Nhatquang N. Tran
Jesse Tristan
USI Southwest
Veenker Resources Inc.
Winston K. Vije
Dr. Aaron L. Wagner
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Wahlheim
Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Waite Jr.
Charles L. Waligura
M. Judson Wallace
Jack H. Walters
Eddy T. Wang
Charles Wesley Warner Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Joseph Watkins
Gene W. Webster
Wells Fargo Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald E. Werchan Sr.
Billy Wayne West
Carletha C. West and Paul Hewes
Dan N. Westigard
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Lee Westwick
Mr. and Mrs. Dick Whipple
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Whitworth
Dr. and Mrs. Moye Wicks III
Alfred M. Williams
Carla Wingerson
Ji Yan Wu and Hou Su
Daniel R. Wyant
Dr. Robert Miner Wygant Sr.
XS Environmental Consulting LLC
On-Na Yeung
Dr. Lixin Zhang and Jing Lu
Dr. Chuangen Zheng
Dr. Bintuan Zhu
Gene Xian-Jin Zhu
Dr. Geyan Zuo

The list above reflects private support made to the UH Cullen College of Engineering during the period of Sept. 1, 2010 through August 31, 2011. The college regrets any errors or omissions and would appreciate notification of corrections. To make a gift to the college, contact:

Russell Dunlavy
713-743-4209
rtdunlavy@uh.edu

GOODBYE

AFTER NEARLY A DECADE OF FALSE STARTS, THE Y BUILDING FINALLY GETS HER BON VOYAGE PARTY

1943*–2012

*As of our publishing date, no one could verify for us the exact year that the Y building was constructed. 1943 is our best guess.

The UH Cullen College of Engineering celebrated 70-plus years of a university legacy at the Goodbye Y Party in July. Approximately 650 alumni, students, faculty and staff attended the reception in honor of a structure that has, for decades, served as an integral part of engineering student life at UH.

Guests enjoyed barbecue provided by alumnus Charles Beyer (BSCE '72, MSCE '77) and wife, Nancy, music from the UH Pep Band, and catching up with long-time engineering colleagues and friends.

The Y building, formerly known as the Engineering Laboratory, housed classrooms, labs and student organization offices for generations of Engineering Coogs. Built in the 1940s, the structure is rumored to have served as an airplane hangar or tank rehabilitation facility during World War II and was intended to be temporary. Instead, it became a home base for engineering students, and an enduring symbol that bridged the past and future of the Cullen College.

To many, the Y building's plain façade is a testament to the engineering principles of functionality, efficiency and simplicity. Despite its deterioration, the Y building remained open until last year, when it became widely acknowledged that the structure should be demolished.

The building sits adjacent to the construction site of the University's Classroom and Business Building, and this juxtaposition is a salient demonstration of the ongoing demand for new academic facilities and resources. Although there are no plans to replace the Y building, the space will be open for innovation to meet the evolving needs of future Cullen College students.

To everyone in the Cullen College of Engineering community, thank you for the many memories, stories, photos and emails. They will remain as a documented part of the college's written history. – ***Esmeralda Fisher***

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON | ENGINEERING

UH Cullen College of Engineering
Office of Communications
E301 Engineering Bldg. 2
Houston, TX 77204-4009

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
P A I D
PERMIT NO. 5910
HOUSTON, TEXAS

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

The UH Cullen College of Engineering celebrated 70+ years of a university legacy at the Goodbye Y Party. Alumni, students, faculty and staff attended the reception in honor of a structure that has served as an integral part of engineering student life at UH, and is scheduled for demolition in August.

THE HONORARY Y BUILDING DEMOLITION CREW *(left to right)*:

John Odis Cobb (BSCE '71, MSCE '79), William Fendley (BSCE '71), Cullen College Dean Joseph Tedesco, Charles Beyer (BSCE '72, MSCE '77) and Nancy Beyer.