Diversity Program Graduates Join Together to Celebrate as the University Dedicates Fred D. Brown Jr. Residence Hall
On Friday, October 10, 2014, engineering alumni gathered to celebrate the legacy of the founder of the college’s Engineering Diversity Programs (EDP) during a luncheon at the University Center ballroom and the dedication of UT’s first new residence in nearly forty years, the Fred D. Brown Jr. Residence Hall. The facility is named after the first director of the college’s diversity programs, established in 1973.

The day started with breakfast for a small group of volunteers in the Executive Dining Room of the University Center. Engineering alumni Dwight Hutchins (BS/ChE ’86), Rodney Brooks (BS/ME ’85) and Cavanaugh Mims (BS/NE ’86) chaired the meeting, which focused on efforts to raise $1 million for three specific EDP funds—the Engineering Diversity Excellence Endowment, the Fred D. Brown Jr. Minority Academic Endowment, and the James Pippin Pre-College Program Endowment (named for James Pippin, who succeeded Brown as director of diversity programs until 2006)—between December of 2011 and December of 2018. College of Engineering Dean Wayne Davis spoke enthusiastically about the progress that EDP has made in recent years and thanked the alumni volunteers for their leadership and help in communicating the fundraising initiative to their fellow alumni.

A luncheon featured heart-warming reunions between former participants in the college’s diversity programs, and included remarks by UT Chancellor Jimmy J. Cheek, Dean Davis, current EDP director Travis Griffin, and Fred Brown Scholarship recipients Andre Norfleet and Tina Anjonrin-Ohu, Hutchins. Hutchins, Mims, and Rodney Brooks (BS/ME ’85) spoke passionately about Fred Brown’s impact in their lives and the importance of alumni and friends joining them in investing in the UT funds that support today’s diversity efforts to continue Brown’s legacy of providing access, opportunity, and student support in pursuit of a UT engineering education. Approximately sixty alumni were in attendance, including around sixty of Fred Brown’s family members, some from as far away as Massachusetts and California.

In the afternoon, UT President Joe DiPietro, Chancellor Cheek, Dean Davis, and Brown’s family, friends, and former students joined in celebrating Brown’s life and legacy in a dedication ceremony that included live music, food, and tours of the residence hall.

Brown’s son, Douglas Brown, delivered one of the most poignant of the day’s speeches. As he recalled memories of his father—some of which sparked laughter and some of which highlighted his impact on the hundreds of former students who were mentored by his dad in attendance—the standing-room-only crowd gained insight to a man responsible for making great leaps in UT’s diversity efforts. Brown, who died in 1986, was the College of Engineering’s first director of what was then called the Minority Engineering Scholarship Program, which started in 1973. Renamed the Engineering Diversity Programs office in 1999, the office serves to increase the number of underrepresented—African American, Hispanic, Native American, Pacific Islander, Alaskan Native, and female—students.

The EDP now offers successful summer recruitment and education programs for pre-college students, provides support and mentoring for underrepresented students during their time on campus, and encourages and facilitates enrollment of its participants in graduate school.

Brown was the first African-American teacher at Oak Ridge High soon after it was integrated and became the first African-American member of the Alcoa Board of Education. He is credited with laying the foundation for the UT College of Engineering’s diversity program, one of the most successful college-based diversity recruiting programs in the nation.

“Fred Brown was an extremely important person in the lives of his students,” said Dean Davis, who was a professor at UT when Brown
College of Engineering Executive Development of Director Dorothy Bryson (third from right) with special guests at the fundraising breakfast (left to right): Mea Reeves (BS/ChE ’92); Bryan McBride (friend of a guest); Ted Dunnaville (BS/EE ’82); Artis Williams (BS/EE ’79); Sonya Baskerville (BS/IE ’89); Travis Griffin (Director of Engineering Diversity Programs); Rodney Brooks (BS/ME ’85); Deborah Brown (BS/EE ’82); Cavanaugh Mims (BS/NE ’86); Dwight Hutchins (BS/ChE ’86); Lou Etta Burkins (BS/ChE ’88, MBA ’92); Dr. Mark Dean (BS/EE ’79).

Unveiling the plaque at the Fred D. Brown Jr. Residence Hall are (left to right) Vice Chancellor for Student Life Vincent Carilli; Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Executive Director of Housing Frank Cuevas; UT President Joe DiPietro; UT Chancellor Jimmy G. Cheek; Fred Brown’s widow Thelma Brown; and Fred Brown’s son Douglas Brown.

Fred Brown’s son Douglas Brown speaks at the dedication of the Fred D. Brown Jr. Residence Hall.

arrived. “He was instrumental in making sure that students didn’t just come to UT, but that they graduated.”

Many former students who participated in the engineering diversity programs described how Brown took a “hands-on” approach to their education.

“He would come to dorms and check to make sure you were studying and he would make a point of walking with you to class to make sure you went,” said Robert McKinney (BS/ME ’86). “He made it clear that you were here to learn.”

Mims said Brown came to his house in Georgia to convince him to come to UT, something a number of his former students echoed. Mims said that at the time he didn’t even know where UT’s campus was located, but something about Brown’s pitch convinced him to come.

Several students echoed the sentiment that Brown’s guidance was key to them not only getting through college, but thriving.

“He would come to our dorm and see if we were playing cards or studying,” said Spruell Driver Jr. (BS/IE ’87), who emceed the EDP luncheon and is now on UT’s Board of Trustees. “He did everything he could to make sure we were prepared for success.”

The Fred D. Brown Jr. Residence Hall is the first building at the university named for an African American individual. The two hundred and fifty thousand square-foot residence hall houses about seven hundred undergraduates. The building includes an art gallery, two restaurants, recreation and workout facilities, Internet and conference lounges on every floor—even its own post office.

For more information and a look at the facility, visit: housing.utk.edu/students/halls/suite/#fred-d-brown-jr

For more information on the fundraising campaign for Engineering Diversity Programs, visit www.engr.utk.edu/give/diversity.
2014 Women of Color in STEM Conference

During the Fall 2014 semester, the Office of Diversity Programs in the College of Engineering presented students with the opportunity to attend the Women of Color (WOC) Conference. The WOC is held to celebrate and acknowledge the success and incorporation of women into the fields of STEM. The symposium took place October 23-25, 2014, at the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center in Detroit, Michigan.

Participating students appreciated numerous opportunities to network at almost every event at WOC. One particular seminar discussed the importance of having a mentor, and left time for those in the room to reach out and make connections with others. Seminars included “Breakfast with Leaders and Legends.” “Think, Act, Achieve Extraordinary Results,” the WOC’s career fair, and the “WOC Awards Gala.”

“The Women of Color conference offered me an excellent opportunity for professional growth, as well as inspiration from some of the top minds in the engineering profession,” said Andre Norfleet, a junior in biomedical engineering.

“The workshop on leadership and the career fair enhanced my professional skills and the panel of women engineers gave me the motivation I needed to see my collegiate journey through to fruition and positively impact society.”

The WOC Career Fair was also a great experience for Jasmine Worlds, a sophomore in mechanical engineering.

“The fair had various corporations I could envision myself working for in the future,” said Worlds. “I enjoyed interacting with the companies and talking with their representatives. I actually received my summer 2015 internship with Chrysler at the career fair. I had approached a Chrysler representative, gave her my elevator speech, answered a question, and was offered an on the spot interview.”

The two women who interviewed Worlds were both mechanical engineers who work in the automotive manufacturing industry.

“They had been the first women engineers that I met that had pursued the path I wanted to take,” said Worlds. “It was a great opportunity to have many of my concerns answered. Towards the end of the interview, I had the opportunity to ask the representatives about their daily work routines, balancing of work and personal life, and adversity in the workplace. It was exhilarating to hear about their experiences in the field.”

Overall, being a part of the conference left Worlds with a sense of belonging and community.

“My takeaway was being able to meet successful minority women in the fields of STEM,” said Brandon Lowe, a sophomore in mechanical engineering. “It was very encouraging to see how they achieved their life goals through determination and perseverance. It was very inspiring to realize that a lot of their hardships are closely related to my own.”

Students selected to attend a professional conference with the Office of Diversity Programs should take advantage of every opportunity that presents itself. Networking is one of the most important aspects of being an STEM student and attending a conference provides many opportunities.

Back row: Evan Wilmer, Michael Massey, Brandyn Newsome, Cullen Johnson, and Freeman Johnson, Front row: Tiffany Sithiphone, Wilbert Wheeler, Brianna Nichols, Laura Ferrer, Monique Barksdale, Breanna Ellis

Left to Right - Yonas Simon, Laria Nelson, Dennis Norfleet II, Jasmine Worlds, David Hamilton, Ashley Caston, Brandon Lowe, and Imani Jackson.

29th Annual Black Engineer of the Year Conference

The Black Engineer of the Year Awards (BEYA) is an annual event that honors and recognizes the best of the best students, administrators, and professionals in the field of engineering. This year, the twenty-ninth BEYA was held February 6-8, 2015, at the Marriott Wardman Hotel Park in Washington D.C.

The conference is a benefit to all engineers with its numerous amounts of resources and opportunities that are provided. The 2015 BEYA conference started on Thursday and lasted throughout the weekend, and within that short time span, events occurred almost non-stop. There were workshops that critique and help craft engineering professionalism on all levels.

As well as the beneficial workshops, there was a career fair held each day leading up into the BEYA Awards Show. At the career fair, there were companies from across the country eager to hire undergraduate engineering students for intern/co-op positions. The atmosphere was swift and exciting with all of the opportunity inside of one room. Even if a student did not leave the conference with an internship, the networking that was available could benefit that student for upcoming years.

Attendance to this prestigious conference, if possible, is recommended for every minority-engineering student. The testimonies heard from professionals were motivational factors for all engineering majors to persevere despite the difficulties one might experience.
Every year, the office of engineering diversity hosts the Council of Partners Networking Breakfast, a great opportunity for students to network with recruiters from top companies seeking talented and hardworking students. Besides great food, students get the privilege to interact with companies from the Engineering Expo—before the event even happens—in a much more “reserved” setting. In this year’s breakfast, Denso Manufacturing, ExxonMobil, Eaton, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) all came to talk with students and provide them with information about possible internship/co-op opportunities.

This event is a great chance for students who want to get started in pursuing early experience in the workforce. As Sara Harris from Denso Manufacturing said, “In an event like this, you can learn more about the company and opportunities that are available for students, such as internships and co-ops that can help you get started and build your resume. Those things are important because when you graduate you have to show that you have some experience when you’re looking for a job.”

In a job-fair setting such as the Engineering Expo, there can be other students behind you, rushing and competing for the same opportunity. The networking breakfast is a totally different scenario where you have the chance to stand out more. As Brian Crawford, also from Denso added, “It’s easier to remember someone who you sat in the same table with you to have breakfast with, than someone at the expo.”

The recruiters’ perspective shows that this is a breakfast you should definitely not skip. Dr. Jaime Fernandez-Baca, representing Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), emphasized why companies attend events like these.

“ORNL is a national laboratory that recruits on the national level, but it makes every effort to push for diversity and recruit locally, especially from the University of Tennessee,” said Vaca. “There’s a lot of talent here, and we definitely don’t want to overlook it.”

Some of the participating students offered comment on what they thought about the event, its meaning, and advantages. Stephanie Steren-Ruta, a junior in electrical engineering, said, “Attending the Council of Partners Networking Breakfast was a great way for me to network with companies in a more casual setting before seeking an interview. It is a great way to stand out when searching for a job or internship because you already had that initial introduction.”

So, great breakfast, great companies, and great opportunities—if you’re looking for an internship or a co-op this is a great way to start.
UT Hosts Fifth Annual TLSAMP Awards Banquet

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, hosted its fifth annual Tennessee Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (TLSAMP) Awards Banquet on Monday, April 13, 2015, at the Carolyn P. Brown University Center Ballroom. Stephanie Steren-Ruta, a junior majoring in electrical Engineering; and Nicolas Lopez Montilla, a freshman majoring in animal science, moderated the event.

The goal of the TLSAMP program is to increase the enrollment and graduation rate of underrepresented ethnic minority students (Hispanic, African-American, American-Indian, Alaskan Native and Pacific Islander) in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) by at least 100 percent at the end of the five-year period.

Students and faculty were recognized for their exceptional involvement in the TLSAMP program. Dr. Denise Ford Jackson, UT alumnus, faculty in the Department of Industrial Engineering at UT, and the initial principal investigator for the TLSAMP grant at UT, was the evening’s guest speaker. Jackson’s professional activities include: examiner and editor, Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence; Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) examiner; review panelist for National Science Foundation (NSF) and for Department of Labor (DOL); and membership in Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society and Order of the Engineer. Her words of inspiration focused on the initial vision of TLSAMP and the importance of research in STEM.

The program included recognition of faculty and students receiving special honors from TLSAMP, Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS), the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) and the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE). The ceremony also featured a slideshow during dinner of TLSAMP, MANRRS, SHPE, and NSBE activities that took place throughout the school year. Before the conclusion of banquet, Travis Griffin, director of the Office of Diversity Programs, provided closing remarks.

Awards presented at the banquet included:

**MANRRS Awards**
- Freshman of the Year Award
  - Jasmine Morriissette, Animal Science
- The Isaac Bennett Member of the Year Award
  - Mautrice Lee, Animal Science

**SHPE Awards**
- Outstanding Leader Award
  - Miles Gepner, Computer Science
- Creative Member Award
  - Stephanie Steren-Ruta, Electrical Engineering

**NSBE Awards**
- NSBE Freshman of the Year
  - Breanna Ellis, Material Science & Engineering
- The Golden Torch Award
  - Tiffany Sithiphone, Industrial Engineering

**TLSAMP 2014-15 Student Research Awards**
- Tina Anjonrin-Ohu, Biomedical Engineering
- Mwamba Bowa, Electrical Engineering
- Daniel Caballero, Computer Engineering
- Courtney Dennis, Materials Science and Engineering
- Miles Gepner, Computer Science
- Samira Ibrahim, Chemical Engineering
- Larry Igoubadia, Microbiology
- Johnson Luma, Civil Engineering
- Michael Massey, Mechanical Engineering
- Samantha Medina, Materials Science and Engineering

**Special Recognition Awards in Leadership and Mentoring**
- Cristian Orozco, Civil Engineering, 2014-15 SHPE President
- Diamond Wallace, Biomedical Engineering, 2013-15 NSBE President
- Tiffany Sithiphone, Industrial Engineering, 2011-13 NSBE President, 2014-15 NSBE Regional Chair
- Laria Nelson, Animal Science, 2014-15 MANRRS President

**TLSAMP 2014-15 Research Scholar Awards**
- Thanh “Tony” Nguyen, Aerospace Engineering
- Brianna Nichols, Industrial Engineering
- Dennis Norfleet, Biomedical Engineering
- Cristian Orozco, Civil Engineering
- Andre Shibata, Materials Science and Engineering
- Melanie Smith, Civil Engineering
- Diamond Wallace, Biomedical Engineering
- MacKinzie Washington, Mechanical Engineering

**TLSAMP 2014-15 Research Advisor of the Year Award**
- Dr. Stephanie TerMaath, Assistant Professor - Mechanical, Aerospace, and Biomedical Engineering Department

**TLSAMP Graduating Seniors Awards**
- Amirah Anderson, Biology
- Xavian Daniel, Industrial Engineering
- Howard Hensley, Chemical Engineering
- Larry Igoubadia, Microbiology
- Johnson Luma, Civil & Environmental Engineering
- Michael Massey, Mechanical Engineering
- Shaylind Nance, Animal Science
- Laria Nelson, Animal Science
- Thanh “Tony” Nguyen, Aerospace Engineering
- Cristian Orozco, Civil Engineering
- Lance Powell, Mechanical Engineering
- Ashley Scott, Chemical Engineering
- Brittany Scott, Food Science
- Yonas Simon, BCMB
- Tiffany Sithiphone, Industrial Engineering
- Casey Smith, Nuclear Engineering
- Elyse Vaughn, Microbiology
- MacKinzie Washington, Mechanical Engineering
- Trenton Willis, Industrial Engineering
Outstanding Student Leadership Awards (Craig Picket, Laria Nelson, Diamond Wallace, Tiffany Sithiphone, Cristian Orozco, and Travis Griffin).

NSBE Awards (Diamond Wallace, Breanna Ellis, Tiffany Sithiphone, and Amber Nixon).

MANRRS Awards (Craig Picket, Maurrice Lee, Jasmine Morrissette, and Dr. Sharon Jean-Philippe).

TLSAMP Graduating Seniors (Cristian Orozco, Shaylind Nance, Michael Massey, Johnson Luma, Xavian Daniel, Tiffany Sithiphone, Lance Powell, Ashley Scott, and MacKinzie Washington).

TLSAMP Research Scholar Awards (Melanie Smith, Andre Norfleet, Johnson Luma, Tina Anjonrin-Ohu, and Michael Massey).

TLSAMP Student Research Awards (Back – Cristian Orozco, Andre Norfleet, Johnson Luma, Courtney Dennis, Daniel Caballero, Michael Massey, and Thanh Nguyen. Front – Melanie Smith, MacKinzie Washington, Mwamba Bowa, Miles Gepner, Brianna Nichols, Tina Anjonrin-Ohu, and Diamond Wallace).

SHPE Awards (Cristian Orozco, Miles Gepner, and Stephanie Steren-Ruta).

Outstanding Student Leadership Awards (Craig Picket, Laria Nelson, Diamond Wallace, Tiffany Sithiphone, Cristian Orozco, and Travis Griffin).
Movers and Shakers

Amirah Anderson, biochemistry & cellular and molecular biology senior, received a spring 2015 apprenticeship experience with VolsTeach located in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Tina Anjornin-Obu, biomedical engineering junior, received a summer 2015 summer research experience with the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) program at Clemson University in Clemson, South Carolina.

Mwamba Bowa, electrical engineering senior, received fall 2014 and spring 2015 undergraduate research experiences in the Department of Mechanical, Aerospace, and Biomedical Engineering and CURENT in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Courtney Dennis, material science and engineering senior, received a 2015 summer research experience at the University of Tennessee participating in computational study of oxide interfaces in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Sierra Ellis, mechanical engineering sophomore, received a 2015 summer internship at General Motors participating as a GM intern in Pontiac, Michigan.

Eric Hampton, computer-engineering sophomore, received a summer 2015 internship experience with Memphs Light Gas and Water as an information technology intern in Memphis, Tennessee.

Cassandra Finney, chemical engineering sophomore, received a spring 2015 co-op with ExxonMobil Chemical Company as an engineering co-op in Pensacola, Florida.

Lina Gouto, chemical engineering sophomore, received a fall 2014 co-op with Dow Chemical Company as a site logistics co-op in Hahnville, Louisiana.

Corey Hemphill, food science and technology junior, received a 2015 summer research experience at the University of Tennessee participating in food science and technology in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Kalose Howse, industrial engineering junior, received a summer 2015 industrial engineering co-op position with Toyota in Georgetown, Kentucky.

Nathaniel Ige, computer science junior, received a summer 2015 internship experience with Tennessee Valley Authority as a contractor intern in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Cullen Johnson, industrial engineering sophomore, received a 2015 summer internship with Norfolk Southern as an engineering intern in Atlanta, Georgia.

Jaylyn Johnson, civil engineering senior, received a 2015 summer internship with K.S. Ware and Associates LLC as an engineering intern in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Maurice Lee, animal science junior, received a 2015 summer internship as a quality intern with Ardent Mills in Decatur, Alabama.

Amber Link, food science & technology junior, received a 2015 summer research experience at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville participating in food science and technology in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Ashley Lipford, mechanical engineering junior, received a 2015 summer internship at PepsiCo as an Engineering Intern in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Johnson Luma, civil engineering senior, received a 2015 summer research experience at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Michael Massey, mechanical engineering senior, participated in undergraduate research during the 2014-15 academic year focused on metals and electron beam melted additive manufacturing at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Kelvin Mbogua, mechanical engineering senior, completed a fall 2014 co-op as a design engineer with Bosch Home Appliances in La Follette, Tennessee. Mbogua also received a 2015 summer internship with Logun Aluminum as a manufacturing intern in Russellville, Kentucky.

Chima McGruder, physics sophomore, received a summer 2015 REU within the Space Astronomy Summer Program at the Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI) in Baltimore, Maryland.

Samantha Medina, material science engineering sophomore, conducted 2015 undergraduates research with the Department of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering focused on electrochemical evaluation of novel materials for fuel cells at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Shaylind Nance, animal science junior, received a 2015 internship opportunity with the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) in Louisville, Kentucky.

Brianna Nichols, industrial engineering freshmen, conducted 2015 undergraduate research with the Department of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Amber Nixon, industrial engineering junior, received a summer 2015 internship with Frito Lay as a supply chain intern in Perry, Georgia.

Dennis Norfleet, biomedical engineering junior, received a summer 2015 summer research experience with the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (REU) Program at Texas A & M in College Station, Texas.

Cristian Orozco, civil engineering senior, received a summer 2015 internship with Messer Construction as a project engineer intern in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Andre Shibata, material science and engineering senior, received a summer 2015 internship with Alcoa Howmet as a material engineer intern in Morristown, Tennessee.

Tiffany Sithiphone, industrial engineering senior, received a full-time job with Manhattan Associates as an engineering consultant in Atlanta, Georgia.

Melanie Smith, civil engineering junior, received a summer 2015 internship with ExxonMobil as an engineer intern in Houston, Texas.

MacKinzie Washington, mechanical engineering senior, conducted 2015 undergraduate research with Oak Ridge National Laboratory focused on the advanced materials and manufacturing group. Washington also received a summer 2015 internship with Logan Aluminum as an engineering intern in Russellville, Kentucky.

Wilbert Wheeler, mechanical engineering freshman, received a 2015 summer internship with Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Evan Wilmer, chemical engineering freshman, completed a fall 2014 College of Engineering Alternative Winter Break service experience in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.

Khari Williams, a computer-engineering junior, completed a 2014-2015 CO-OP opportunity with DENSO in Maryville, Tennessee.

Jasmine Worlds, mechanical engineering sophomore, received a summer 2015 internship with Chrysler Group LLC as an engineer intern in Tipton, Indiana.
A leading global auto supplier to automakers and the aftermarket and heavy-duty industries, DENSO delivers advanced technology, systems and components. We focus on our customers’ needs to provide pioneering solutions.

One of DENSO’s largest operations is in Maryville, Tenn., in the foothills of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. DENSO Manufacturing Tennessee, Inc. produces electronic components, instrument clusters, alternators, and starters (among them DENSO’s new technology -- the stop/start starter).

Key customers include Toyota, Honda, the Detroit 3, and Harley-Davidson.

Engineering and co-op positions available include the following:

- Electrical
- Mechanical
- Industrial

DENSO is proud to call some of your finest alumni “our Associates.” We are always seeking talent.

Join our team!
COE Hosts Fourth Annual Breakfast of Champions

The University of Tennessee College of Engineering hosted the 2015 Breakfast of Champions event on March 7 and 8. This is an annual event for graduating high school students that have been accepted into the University’s College of Engineering program. This two-day experience allows students and their parents an opportunity to learn about the scholarship, student life, housing, and so much more. This event was publicized with the social media hashtag “COEBOC2015” for Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.

This event provided an atmosphere where the future Volunteers, current students, parents, and College of Engineering faculty could converse about the university’s culture. In an overview of the College of Engineering by Dean Wayne Davis, he announced that University of Tennessee’s engineering program is ranked 32 in the nation; five spots higher than last year. He also shared many of the achievements made by UT alumni, such as the creation of GarMin global positioning systems by Min Kao and nineteen IBM patients by Mark Dean.

With keynote speaker, recent UT graduate Shanel Crawford-Harris shared her story from high school to her position in the workforce today. With the memorable quote “to climb mountains, you must descend into valleys,” Harris let everyone know that engineering at UT is not easy but it possible and worth all the trouble. After presentations by engineering students, there was a student panel where parents and future volunteers where given the chance to ask questions about college life.

The second portion of Breakfast of Champions allowed for a more in depth look into the engineering as a freshman at UT. The future engineering scholars and proud parents learned about engineering fundamentals, housing, and financial aid. In a separate section, the parents and students were able to ask the questions that were truly on their minds. The COE Ambassadors showed students different engineering departments of interest, and gave a taste of walking on the hill.

Overall, the 2015 College of Engineering Breakfast of Champions event was a total success. The event hosted thirty-six prospective engineering students and their families. The future volunteers loved all the advise about teachers, studying, and weekend event. Their parents liked the information on housing, scholarships, and all the campus resources.

by Kalese Howse
Dr. Richard Bennett teaches Engineering Fundamentals 101

Breakfast of Champions students participates in hand-on sound project

Sierra Ellis, juniors in mechanical engineering shares her UT experience with incoming freshmen

Dr. Mark Dean welcomes and presents to EECS freshmen
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