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Issue #3

NSBE Mission:

“Increase the number of culturally responsible Black engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact the community.”



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Welcome by Ninrat Datiri, President

The Wisconsin Black Engineering Student Society (WBESS), a student chapter affiliated with the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), is an organization dedicated to improving the enrollment, retention, and academic achievement of ethnic minorities pursuing education in mathematics, engineering and related sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. NSBE-WBESS is committed to promoting programs that increase academic excellence, community involvement, corporate awareness, and professional development. We strive to meet these goals through collaboration with other student organizations, local area high schools, and industry.

Our mission statement is to increase the number of culturally responsible Black engineers that excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact the community.

We have excelled academically through a peer mentoring program, graduate/undergraduate student mentoring program, corporate mentoring program, exam file, study sessions, and the NSBE Achiever’s Plus program.

We have positively impacted the community through outreach activities and community service volunteering opportunities that have included the 3rd Annual Day on Campus event, tutoring at local high schools and after-school programs, and volunteering at UW-Football games.

We have strived to succeed professionally through corporate workshops and resume feedback opportunities with Fortune 500 companies and a resume database for our corporate affiliates. Professional Regional and National conferences have included workshops to increase marketability, opportunities to network with other NSBE chapters, career fairs, the Business Plan Competition, the Boeing Flight Competition, and the Academic Technical Bowl.



Thanks to

Faculty & Staff!

We would like to thank the faculty and staff of UW-Madison for their unending support of the organization. There are too many faculty/staff supporters to list here, but in particular we would like to thank:

Dr. Tim Shedd,
Professor of Mechanical Engineering and NSBE-WBESS Faculty Advisor

Mark Mastalski,
Director of the Student Leadership Center and Manager of the Engineering Centers Building

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Associate Student Services Coordinator and Director of the Leaders in Engineering Excellence and Diversity (LEED) scholarship program

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Pre-college Program Coordinator

Dr. Jia-Ling Lin,
Director of the Supplemental Instruction Program

Dean Donald Woolston,
Assistant Dean of Engineering

Dr. Douglass Henderson,
Professor of Engineering Physics

Dr. Mercile Lee, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Coordinator of the Chancellor's Scholars and Powers Knapp Scholars programs

NSBE Fall Regional Conference by Tyrus Cartwright, Programs Chair

In November 2005, our chapter had seven members attend the Fall Regional Conference (FRC) in Indianapolis, IN.

As a first time attendee to any large scale NSBE event, the experience was unforgettable.

The theme of FRC was "Building the F. I. R. E..."

Foundation to Impact, Revitalize, and Empower". I remember arriving at the hotel and being amazed by the number of black engineers attending with the same goal

in mind. This goal was "...to make sure each member acquires as much knowledge ... to help REGION IV members impact, revitalize, and empower future members and fulfill the NSBE pipeline."

Attending FRC provided the opportunity to hear Carl Mack (Executive Director of NSBE) speak for the first time. He gave the infamous 'Fire-starter' speech, which still lives in my soul today.

Carl Mack instills the principles and mission of NSBE and he serves as a great asset to the organization.

The most important part of this conference was networking with members and company representatives. I have learned that opportunity changes everything; just be aware of when such an opportunity is present and to take advantage of that opportunity when it comes.



3rd Annual Day on Campus by Derek Davis, 2nd Vice President

This year's Day on Campus event was a great success. 25 high school students from Middleton H.S., Janesville Craig H.S., Edgewood H.S., and Milwaukee Rufus King H.S. participated in the event. This event included a tour of the engineering campus and also a class visit. Half of the students had the opportunity to attend a first semester Calculus lecture and the other half had the opportunity to attend a General Chemistry lecture. By visiting the class lectures, the students had the opportunity to experience classes that a first year engineering student would take. Also during the day, the

high school students had an opportunity to visit the Brain Interface Lab in one of the Biomedical engineering department laboratories. The high school students found the lab to be very interesting and informative. The students also had the opportunity to think and build like an engineer when they were given the task of constructing bridges out of K'nex with the goal of sustaining a load. After designing their miniature bridges, the students found that their bridges could withstand loads beyond their expectations. The bridge building activity was definitely a fun event for the students to work

together as a team like engineers. The highlight of the Day on Campus event was during the luncheon, when the students had the opportunity to ask members of our organization about life as an engineering student here at UW-Madison. The students gained a better understanding of the engineering disciplines from current undergraduate and graduate students through this college panel activity. Overall the purpose the Day on Campus event was emphasized by Benjamin Reed, a graduating senior in civil engineering, who stated, "Any one of you can be an engineer."

Graduate School Forum by Brittany Ardrey

One of the many ways that we can excel academically is by looking at the options that are laid before us after the undergraduate level. One of these options is graduate school. Thus, on March 23rd, 2006, NSBE-WBESS along with the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) hosted a graduate school forum. At this forum there was a panel of individuals from a variety of graduate engineering disciplines. The panel also

featured university faculty and staff. During the meeting, the undergraduate students received feedback from the graduate students regarding their research and their reasons for choosing to attend graduate school. Members were also advised about financial aid and fellowships available for graduate students. A representative from the Graduate Engineering Research Scholars (GERS) program described how the GERS pro-

gram offers aid for underrepresented students within the College of Engineering. There was also a representative from the McNair scholars program who talked about opportunities for undergraduates to prepare for graduate degrees. Graduate school is a great option for undergraduates that are interested in research or may not be sure of their professional aspirations.

African American Movie Night by Alesia Allen, Historian

The African-American movie night took place on campus at the Multicultural Student Center (MSC) satellite. Held at a central campus location, this event attracted many new students and non-members. Many students were able to interact with new people in a familiar

environment. The event began with some greetings, mingling, catching-up with members, and meeting new students before viewing the movie. In celebration of African-American history, we viewed the film Something the Lord Made, the story of two men - an ambitious white

surgeon and a gifted black carpenter turned lab technician - who defied the racial strictures of the Jim Crow South and together pioneered the field of heart surgery. Students watched the movie while enjoying food provided by NSBE-WBESS.

BW3 Social Event by Alesia Allen, Historian

Our first social event of the fall semester at Buffalo Wild Wings brought together current members of our organization and those students interested in learning more about NSBE-WBESS. The purpose of the event was to connect current freshmen or prospective engineering majors with active upperclassmen NSBE-WBESS members. The event provided a

fun and energetic atmosphere for interested students to meet and mingle with current members. Students ate Buffalo Wild Wings and had the opportunity to enter a prize raffle, all provided by NSBE-WBESS. With great food, terrific company, and a pleasurable atmosphere, students were able to converse and learn more about NSBE-WBESS, the engi-

neering program, and UW campus life in general. Through this social event students were able to build a social as well as an academic support network. The successful social gave our organization an excellent opportunity to inform other students about the mission of NSBE and increase our membership.

Laser Tag Social Event by Ben Reed, Academic Excellence Chair

The laser tag social hands down was one of the best social events that NSBE-WBESS has sponsored to date. It was a successful event that brought students

together from all across to have a good time. I really enjoyed myself, especially since I ranked 8th, 3rd, and finally 1st in the competition. I feel the general con-

sensus was this was a crazy fun event and students would love to participate in the event again in the future.

Summary of Accomplishments by Ninrat Datiri, President

Our NSBE-WBESS chapter greatly anticipates an increase in our productivity over the next year. As the chapter expands, quality and frequency of programs sponsored by NSBE-WBESS will increase. Included in these are: expanding on the Pre-College Initiative program at local area high schools, developing outreach programs to positively impact the community, and inviting industry representatives to host seminars that align with our mission. We really look forward to implementing NSBE Jr. Chapters at local area high schools, so that our mission reaches everyone. Our various programs and activities serve as critical elements in our commitment to promote academic excellence, community involvement, corporate awareness and professional development.

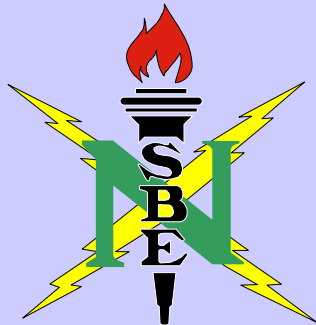
This past academic year was extremely successful. However, we want to build on our success next year. Five major goals were set for NSBE-WBESS for this past academic year, which were to increase membership recruitment, involvement and retention, provide academic, social and professional programs, provide community involvement opportunities, attend Regional Leadership, Fall Regional and National conferences, and become a more prominent and respected organization on campus.

As a result of our efforts, industry contributions, and the support of university faculty/staff, each of the aforementioned goals were met and exceeded. These combined efforts this year permitted seven corporate

workshops (Proctor and Gamble, GE Healthcare, Alliant Energy, Microsoft, Cargill, Kraft, and Rockwell Automation), our annual African-American Jeopardy, a graduate school forum, a membership drive, three outreach activities and pre-college initiative activities, the 3rd annual Day on Campus, and the 5th annual Torch Banquet. We attended six on campus recruitment fairs and two professional conferences. We also were able to bring cultural awareness to our community through a movie night during Black History month.

It was great serving as your president this year and I look forward to being president next year!

Fo' Solid, Fo' Life, Fo' Eva.....



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