

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Note from the President**
- **Beach Legacy Referendum**
- **AESB Spring Leadership Retreat**
- **AESB Banquet**
- **Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship**
- **Got Grad School?**
- **Netiquette: Professional Communication online**

## A Note From the President

The Spring Semester has come, and it is already a third gone! Since our December publication, we have had a Leadership Retreat in anticipation of all that this semester will bring, a successful Week of Welcome recruitment effort, and a well-attended College of Engineering Student Faculty Mixer.

At the moment the campus is critically considering the feasibility of the Beach Legacy Referendum in anticipation of a general body vote next week. We are also working on raising next year's leaders now so that the passing of the various torches throughout the College will be smooth

and the transitions seamless from this year to next. Finally, we are working to foster more collaboration across department and college lines, forging partnerships between each and every Engineering discipline, and between Engineering and the other six colleges on our campus, from Business to Liberal Arts.

Looking ahead, we are in the final stages of planning for the AIAA Student Conference, Engineering Open House, and Women Engineers at the Beach Day, all happening in the final weeks of this month. In the long run, we will have the campus-wide

open house (Kaleidoscope) on April 25, in which we participate as Engineering Day (E-Day); and an awards and recognition Banquet on May 8 to celebrate the accomplishments of this year and to anticipate those of the next.

While it is fun to remember yesterday and equally fun to plan for tomorrow, there is much work to be done today. The name of the game is participation and the only way to get everything done is to work together. So get up off of the couch and help make things happen!  
—Paul M. Nguyen,  
AESB President

## The Beach Legacy Referendum

The proposed Beach Legacy Referendum goes to the general body for a vote next week. It will add a \$95 student fee beginning Fall 2010, and the \$7 million in annual revenue will be split half for student athlete scholarships and for the repair and construction of athletic facilities. At this time, \$43 in student fees (\$1.6 million annually) will be returned to the Associated Students for Instructional-Related Activities (IRA) and the student organizations at large. In the College of

Engineering, we acknowledge that while the influx of funding for athletics will increase the visibility of our athletics program primarily and our campus secondarily. However, the general sentiment among students is that we already have working relations with local industry and that the value of our degree resides in the legacy that we already have as practically-trained engineers from the College of Engineering at CSULB. Based on the presentation from the Athletics department

and the thoughts and opinions of the members of the various student organizations throughout the College of Engineering, the representatives of the AESB as a whole voted 16 for, 1 against and 4 abstentions to formally oppose the Beach Legacy Referendum. With this decision, we recommend that all students in the College of Engineering strongly consider the attitudes of their peers in this regard, and to make an informed vote next week.

## AESB Spring Leadership Retreat

Hey everyone!!! For those of you who missed the Leadership Retreat on January 22... you totally missed out. Why the hell weren't you there!!? Just kidding.

The Engine Ear is proud to report that the Leadership Retreat was a major success with over 25 people showing up for snacks, games, and yes, a little bit of business. Walls were torn down and bridges were built. Identities were discovered and friendships were forged. In other words, we did an ice-breaker and then took a personality test. Apparently I have a "green" personality. But seriously, if you weren't there, you just won't understand.

Serious topics of discussion included strategies for enhancing membership retention, the (then) upcoming Week of Welcome, the Student Faculty Mixer, Open House, Kaleidoscope, and our new electronic communication policy, and more.

While the Week of Welcome and the Student Faculty Mixer have already happened at the time of writing, Open House and Kaleidoscope are yet to come, so get out there, get involved and represent your organization!

Open House is an event where prospective freshmen go on tours of the College of Engineering. Student organizations will have the opportunity to display and advertise their groups to the incoming class. This is a great way to recruit for the coming year

Kaleidoscope is a community outreach event where the entire University is

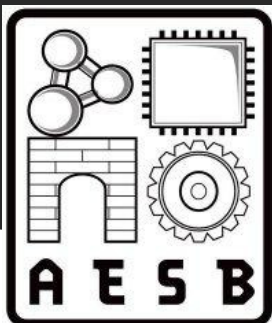
open to the general public for a day of food, games, and diverse celebrations. The College of Engineering does its part to put on activities and display the accomplishments and creativity of its students. Each department and student organization is encouraged to have a booth display with projects done over the past year.

A Speaker Event Series was also announced at the retreat. The program received a grant of \$1,500 to host a multi-disciplinary series of lectures on campus. Look for fliers announcing speaker dates and bring your org!

Once again it's time for Engineering 102 presentations! We are looking for people to go to the Engr. 102 sections and talk to new students about the college and show them the ropes to success! There are 14 sections so poll your organization and make a list of possible presenters.

Lastly the End of the Year Banquet was announced. Ideas regarding themes, location, and industry guests are welcome. Contact fearless Pres. Paul Nguyen (look under newsletter contacts section for email address).

With so much going on, keep your ears open and your org represented! Don't forget that our weekly meetings are every Friday at 1 pm in ECS-308! Every organization is required to send a representative so don't be the only one who doesn't know what's going on!!! —Vineet Gupta, Student



## AESB Banquet— Save the Date

The AESB is planning an awards and recognition banquet for May 8. The banquet will be a chance to acknowledge all the hard work and progress that has been made by the students this year, as well as to look

critically to the future, in light of our past. We plan to invite local industry representatives to attend and share in the festivities in hopes of strengthening existing partnerships and secur-

ing new ones for a richer experience for future generations of engineers. So save the date - Friday, May 8, 2009 for a relaxing evening about all of us!

## SIE- Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

With an objective to engage CSULB students in an activity that will help them unleash their creativity and innovation, while exposing them to entrepreneurship given the resources and time constraints, "The CSULB Innovation Challenge" a contest hosted by Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SIE), has attracted 35 teams and over a 100 students. Open to all CSULB students, teams (of any size) that participate in the Innovation Challenge are given three items to choose from to create monetary and/or social value in

seven days. The team that takes first place in the challenge will receive \$500; second place \$300 and third \$200. The winning submissions will be announced and displayed on March 17 during the Innovation Challenge Showcase in CSULB's University Student Union Ballroom from 3 to 5 p.m. All videos and reports will be accessible for general public through the SIE webpage. The SIE was founded in Fall 2008 to stimulate interest in entrepreneurialism among CSULB students. The club

also provides students real-time learning opportunities and supportive platforms to network with potential investors, successful entrepreneurs and mentors who may help them transform business ideas from concept to successful enterprise. The aim of the club is to foster innovation-driven entrepreneurship through incubation and dissemination of knowledge. We have kept our membership open to everyone: Join Us, unleash the Entrepreneurial Spirit. --Rajesh Yerrapothu, SIE President

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## Got Grad School?

Is research for you? Do you enjoy coming up with new ideas or trying to answer a complicated problem that will take you years to figure out? If so, then graduate school is for you. If you do not like school, are burned out of studying, then maybe graduate study is not for you, and that is ok. If everyone liked school or loved participating in research we would all have PhD's and this world would be a happy place. Of course, this is not the case.

Staying in school for another 2-5 years after graduating from CSULB is a question that most of us contemplate while in undergraduate studies. If you decide to attempt graduate school, here are some pointers to improve your chances of receiving an acceptance letter from your school of choice:

**APPLY!**—All the time, I hear from my peers that they don't think they are good enough for a certain school. Well, you don't know until you apply! What is the worst thing they will do to you, say no? Then move on and try another school. Thomas Edison took over 1000 tries when creating the light bulb; that is 1000 no's for one yes. **JUST APPLY!**

**Research Experience**—Since graduate school is about participating and doing research, you want to have some experience conducting a research project

while an undergraduate student. Find faculty that conduct research that interests you and ask if you can help. Again, I always hear, "Well, I am not sure if they will like me." You won't know unless you ASK! If they don't pay you, that is ok; it will look good on your resume and a good letter of recommendation will come your way.

**Contact Faculty**—You need to find and contact faculty of your chosen school. This is so important for your graduate career. Graduate departments are looking for students who have the "right" fit to their department. You need to email, call, and visit the graduate departments and meet with faculty and talk about your potential research plans, and how they correlate to their research. This will help you when faculty are deciding who to admit; if that one professor can remember an email, a call, or a visit from you, then you are certain that an acceptance letter is coming to your house.

In the end, it's up to you. Keep your grades up and take a leap of faith. Apply to all schools you are interested in, GO OUT and find research experiences, and CONTACT future faculty mentors. If you follow these simple guidelines and stretch your hand a little farther, then maybe your dream graduate school will grasp your hand and pull you in. —David A. Stout, Student

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## Upcoming Events

March 19-21	AIAA Student Conference
March 21	COE Open House
March 27	Engineering Girls @ the Beach
April 25	Kaleidoscope and E-Day
May 8	Awards Banquet

## Netiquette: Professional Communication Online

Over 50% of a professional engineer's work is communication, be it interpersonal communication or technical writing (2005 IEEE Professional Communication Conference Proceedings). These days, email has become the de-facto standard for written communications at every level, public sector and private, commercial enterprise and small business alike. Email began as an informal method of communication used for brief messaging online between the first users of the Internet. Due to its current prevalence among more formal parties, it has become necessary to observe standard writing etiquette practices in email (netiquette); there is no exception for communication between students and their instructors.

Based on this reality and the fact that many electronic communications received by instructors from their students are far from for-

mal, the AESB has teamed with the Recruitment and Retention Center in the College of Engineering to offer a presentation on netiquette to the various sections of ENGR-102 (Academic Study Skills). This presentation explains the importance of netiquette and gives students a chance to step through the various components of an email message. The presentation continues with brief coverage of the necessity for professionalism in communication in social networks, forums, and discussion boards. It concludes with the assignment to send a formal email to a student organization of the student's choice, and to copy their instructor on that message. It is our hope that the students will develop a sense of formal communication and use it effectively, and also that the student organizations might obtain more members through this effort. The presentation is available for public viewing on the AESB website.

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