

engineeringNews

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FACIA AND PHOTO



WIGGED OUT CIVIES

WHAT A 70'S SHOW: The style. The shades. The *hair*. CEE graduate student Daniel Work (left), Patricia Decker (M.S.'05 CEE) and CEE assistant professor Alexandre Bayen pose together at the "Disco Prom," a wildly successful CEE social mixer organized by graduate students and attended by more than 200 people earlier this year. Check out more photos online at www.coe.berkeley.edu/news-center/publications/engineering-news and get last minute ideas for your Halloween costume. Feel tha funk!

Armed with books

Their military service behind them, these vets pursue an engineering mission at Cal

RACHEL SHAFER PHOTO



OLD SOULS, NEW ROLES: After serving overseas in the Army, James Taheny (left) and Michael Gardner are full-time engineering students.

Before he was a CEE junior, Michael Gardner had one of the most dangerous jobs in the world — hunting for IEDs, improvised explosive devices, in the roads north of Baghdad.

Between March 2003 and March 2004, Gardner served as a combat engineer with the Army's 4th Infantry Division deployed in Iraq. As he explains it, a combat engineer doesn't

engineer. He looks for explosives or weapons caches buried in the ground. He sweeps for mines. He patrols a neighborhood with other soldiers, cordons off an area and searches for suspects or weapons. He mourns the death of guys in his squad.

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POP QUIZ



Who are you voting for in the presidential election?



Michelle Leahy, EECS sophomore
"I'm voting for Obama. Not really a fan of Sarah Palin."



Neil Sharma, EECS sophomore
"I'm probably voting for Obama. He seems to represent change more than the other candidate."



Brian Cox, CEE junior
"I'm going to vote, but I'm still not sure who I'll vote for."



Bob Goffin, ME junior
"In California, it's a foregone conclusion as to who will win, so the most important reason to vote is Prop. 8. I'm voting against it."

✓ Remember to vote on Tuesday, November 4!

Armed with books

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So today, when faced with a vexing homework problem or an important midterm, Gardner, 25, keeps it in perspective. "It's better than sitting on guard duty for eight hours," he says. "Or getting shot at," adds his friend, CEE junior James Taheny.

Gardner and Taheny, 28, are two of more than 150 military veterans enrolled at Cal, part of the latest generation who are building new lives after military service and war.

Emphasis on *new*. "You're talking to a different person now," Taheny explains. Before, the graduate of Tamalpais High School in Marin County dismissed an engineering career. "I had a difficult time with math," he says. "I thought, 'If I can't do math, I can't be an engineer.'"

After high school, he worked and traveled but wasn't ready for college. He enlisted in the Army in April 2001 and was sent to the Horn of Africa region in 2003, part of a mission to stem the flow of

suspected terrorists coming out of the Middle East. As an infantry soldier, he helped train Ethiopian troops, honed tactics for rescuing pilots from downed planes and served in missions that built wells

and schools for local villages.

Taheny rose to the rank of sergeant, then after four years, left the military to go to college. Now, he was ready. "I thought, 'I don't care how hard the math is, I'm going into engineering by sheer force of will.'" He overcame a difficult re-entry into civilian life, personal doubts and two years of community college to get here. The math came easier.

Today, he's thrilled and grateful to be at Berkeley Engineering. He enjoys his classes and is looking forward to doing research; he's interested in structural engineering. He also appreciates the weekly class for veterans, part of a campus program to help vets adjust and succeed in academic life.

Still, college isn't all roses. Taheny and Gardner struggle against the banality of class work after operating in the life-and-death arena of active service. They must also contend with financial aid until the new GI Bill, which will fully fund their studies, is implemented next August.

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Survey results dominate discussion at ME Town Hall Meeting



CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM: ME seniors Miguel Christophy (left) and Sam Woodard lead faculty-student discussion at the ME Town Hall meeting.

In the spirit of open dialog, ME undergraduates shared feedback on their academic experience with four professors representing department faculty during an hour-long ME Town Hall Meeting on October 22.

The event was organized by officers in Berkeley's chapter of the ME honor society, Pi Tau Sigma (PTS), and was the latest in a series of town hall meetings launched last year by ME students as a vehicle to address concerns.

More than 30 students in the audience listened as PTS president Sam Woodard and treasurer Miguel Christophy, ME seniors, presented the results of an online survey covering issues of greatest concern to mechanical engineering majors this semester.

The highlights:

- 84 percent of survey respondents said the faculty advising system, with its adviser code requirement, is less than

ideal because of the difficulty of arranging meetings with advisers, among other factors. One participant proposed reworking the system so students have the option of choosing a faculty adviser for their last two years.

- 80 percent expressed strong interest in product development/design and sustainability courses but said the department lacks enough up-to-date courses in these areas. ME professor Alice Agogino asked which courses the department should revamp or phase out. "The problem is there are only so many of us to go around," she said.

- 87 percent want a student lounge in Etcheverry Hall where students can work on group projects and study together. Department chair Al Pisano acknowledged the need and explained that he's constrained by building space and other operational issues. Possible solutions—such as a lounge in Hesse Hall—were kicked around.

- The group also addressed several issues surrounding course discussion sections, particularly how the sections are scheduled.

The meeting concluded with professors thanking audience members for their suggestions and encouraging further conversation. ■

Get a full report by contacting
Sam Woodard at
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Poster session deadline

Present your research at the Fall Undergraduate Science and Engineering Poster Session on Monday, November 20. To participate, you must apply by TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4. For the application and more details, visit http://coe.berkeley.edu/students/current-undergraduates/student-research/uro/original_science-and-engineering-poster-session.ics.

Kresge Library research workshops

“Finding Electronic Resources,” which teaches you how to locate publications on your research topic, will take place on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4. “EndNote Workshop,” which teaches you how to manage references in your papers, will take place on THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6. Both workshops begin at 1 p.m. in Bechtel 120C.

CEE Career Fair

A career fair for civil and environmental engineering majors will take place on WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5. For details visit <http://career.berkeley.edu>.

Sports Fridays

Unwind after a hard week of classes! Sports Fridays will take place on NOVEMBER 7, 21 and December 5 at 4:30 p.m. at North Hearst Field and will feature a different sport each time. All engineering majors and non-engineers are welcome.

VIEW FROM the TOP

conversations with innovative leaders

Thursday, November 6th, 12–1pm
290 Hearst Memorial Mining Building

James Truchard
President & Co-Founder



Dr. Truchard will speak on
“Founding and Growing into
a Billion Dollar Technology-
Driven Company”

Lunch will be served



www.coe.berkeley.edu/events/view-from-the-top

Career Center on northside

All engineering majors are invited to meet with Ed Free, Career Center counselor, for drop-in counseling hours EVERY TUESDAY from 3 to 5 p.m. in the ASCE student office, located on the third floor of Davis Hall (main entrance). Stop by and ask questions about resume building, interview skills, job or internship possibilities, careers in engineering and Career Center resources. <http://career.berkeley.edu/>

Win a \$100 Best Buy gift card

Take a short survey about *Engineering News*, and you'll automatically be entered into a raffle drawing for the gift card. Surveys can be found in the waiting area of 308 McLaughlin Hall, or take it online at www.coe.berkeley.edu/news-center/publications/engineering-news/take-our-survey.html. We want to improve this publication to better serve you!

Answer to last issue's puzzle

3	6	2	8	5	7	1	9	4
5	1	7	2	9	4	6	8	3
4	9	8	3	1	6	2	7	5
7	4	6	5	3	8	9	1	2
1	2	5	7	6	9	3	4	8
8	3	9	4	2	1	7	5	6
9	8	1	6	4	3	5	2	7
6	5	4	1	7	2	8	3	9
2	7	3	9	8	5	4	6	1

Puzzle by websudoku.com

Armed with books

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Both men nurse guilt over pursuing a college education. They view it as a personal indulgence, even selfish, after time spent dedicated to a team objective and the nation's security interests. But they see it as a means to an end; with a Berkeley Engineering degree, they can pursue projects that will help others less fortunate, perhaps in Africa or other developing regions around the world.

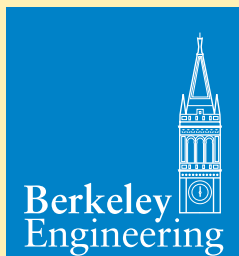
“If you're lucky enough to come back from deployment, you have a responsibility to achieve and give back,” says Gardner, who, like Taheny, plans to go to graduate school. “The guy who's dead or the guy who's jacked up — they don't have that opportunity. It's almost morally wrong to not try to make the most of yourself.” ■

< of note >



Are you a girl geek looking for new friends and networking opportunities? Bay Area Girl Geek Dinners brings together like-minded souls for an evening of food, speakers and mingling. Since its founding earlier this year, the group has already hosted two evenings in San Francisco and Mountain View. Keep an eye out for upcoming events by joining the group on Facebook or visit www.bayareagirlgeekdinners.com.

engineeringNews



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Thinking about internships?

A column of advice and tips by ME junior Eric Wei, Tau Beta Pi Student Relations Committee Chair

Want to put those engineering classes to use? It's never too late to start thinking about internships and your summer plans. Some employers have already begun to recruit for their summer interns! But before getting to applications, here's a quick overview.

You probably already know this, but internships are opportunities to find out what interests you and what career path you want to pursue after college. They also give you a better idea of what engineering electives to take.

Doing a summer internship helped me figure out my future plans and got me excited about engineering. Last summer, I interned with Beckman Coulter, a biomedical diagnostics equipment company. The value engineering department, where I worked, wanted to reduce costs by redesigning certain parts of the various devices the company manufactures. During my internship, I redesigned thermoformed plastic parts into injection-molded parts. It was a great experience because I learned a lot about plastics engineering, a topic that isn't covered in depth at most colleges.

So, when applying for internships, think about all the different industries you might like. Don't forget that internships are short term. They give you a chance to explore, even if you're sure you don't want a job in that field. If you're not sure about which industry interests you, check out company infossessions to get an introduction.

Now, about applying. You probably were at the Early Bird Internship Career Fair on October 29, but if you weren't, don't sweat! You'll have another chance to meet employers during the regular Internship Career Fair in February. In the meantime, you can see who was at the Early Bird Fair and apply for multiple internship positions

online. Just go to the Career Center website (career.berkeley.edu), and log into Callisto, the database for jobs, internships, info sessions and more. You'll want to check Callisto often because employers add new job positions every day.



ERIC WEI interned at Beckman Coulter.

Here are more application tips:

- Don't limit yourself to a particular industry or location. It doesn't hurt to apply, and you can always turn down offers later. But make sure the positions are interesting to you!
- To stand out as a candidate, submit a cover letter specific to the position.
- Don't forget about companies that don't recruit at UC Berkeley. Apply through the career sections of their websites.

Freshmen and sophomore students should check out "externships" on the Career Center website. An externship, which takes place during winter break, gives students the opportunity to shadow a Cal alumnus at his or her workplace to see what a particular career track is like.

These Career Center services give us a great advantage over students at other colleges. Cal engineers should not leave this resource untapped. Best of luck in your search! ■

Questions? E-mail
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