I n a letter to the College of Engineering faculty and staff on May 23, 2014, Dean James M. Tien announced that he had reached the “difficult decision to step down” as Dean effective August 31, 2015, after eight years of service. "I believe I have achieved — with the support and underpinnings of faculty, staff, students and alumni — what I was brought here to accomplish by President Shalala and Provost LeBlanc."

Indeed, the numerous accomplishments of Dean Tien over the past 8 years have brought to fruition several of the objectives he outlined in the Strategic Plan he developed with faculty input soon after his arrival at the College in September 2007. His mission today remains the same as that enunciated in the 8-year old plan: “enhance the College’s reputation through unique distinctions and collaboration,” he emphasized that this could be accomplished by focusing on a vision of “educating, developing and retaining the most technology leaders for career success.” With The Strategic Plan formulated, a new era was definitely underway, a clear-cut mission and underpinning vision declared. More critically, as Dean Tien often points out, “The College’s strategic focus on education, research and service complement the stated mission of the University to transform lives through excellence in teaching, research, and service.”

Dean Tien insisted from the beginning that research and education should be integrated from the start. He believes that “research or critical thinking — whichever you choose — must be integrated in all areas — complements the knowledge acquisition or learning that occurs in the classroom."

The Dean’s plan led to an unprecedented 8-year old plan: double (from 5 to 11) the number of women faculty. Likewise, Dean Tien was able to “doubling the diversity” within his first three years, he was able to more than triple the number of women in the College. Additionally, with the help of the Department Chairs and CoE and MSOM Deans, he has brought to fruition 38 high-profile faculty, 10 of whom have already secured Early Career Awards and multimillion-dollar grants. Dr. Ozcan Ozdamar (Professor and Chair, BME) comments, "Under Dean Tien’s leadership, the College has been transformed in many ways... perhaps the most notable impact is in the College’s approach to recruiting. He has established competitive incentives to help recruit outstanding junior faculty who have been traditionally resistant to leaving postdoc status to accept a tenure-track position. Interestingly, all 38 should be considered replacement positions for high-quality senior faculty who were tenured and un untenured faculty has actually decreased (from 76 in 2007 to 73 in 2015) despite the significant growth in undergraduate and graduate enrollment and research expenditures.

Throughout his tenure, interdisciplinary collaborations are a further testimony to the Dean’s visionary approach. According to Dr. Richard J. Cote, Chair of Civil & Environmental Engineering, "In 2010, the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, working on a Virtual Academic Computing (ViAComp) platform that allows students and faculty access to over 50 software packages from anywhere and anytime, as long as there is access to the CoE cloud. The Dean subsequently also underwrote the development of the Marine Technology Laboratory, a facility dedicated to the College’s marine engineering and technology. The Lab seeks to educate students in areas such as oceanography, marine biology, and coastal engineering. The Lab is equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and is designed to provide students with hands-on experience in marine engineering and technology, preparing them for careers in this field."

The Dean also revamped the graduate curriculum which has also resulted in a 21st century graduate education program, tenure and PhD levels, more importantly, within his first year, he initiated a new approach to teaching by doubling the number of tenured and untenured faculty. He increased the number of tenured and untenured faculty. He increased the number of women faculty. Likewise, Dean Tien was able to “doubling the diversity” within his first three years, he was able to more than triple the number of women in the College. Additionally, with the help of the Department Chairs and CoE and MSOM Deans, he has brought to fruition 38 high-profile faculty, 10 of whom have already secured Early Career Awards and multimillion-dollar grants. Dr. Ozcan Ozdamar (Professor and Chair, BME) comments, "Under Dean Tien’s leadership, the College has been transformed in many ways... perhaps the most notable impact is in the College’s approach to recruiting. He has established competitive incentives to help recruit outstanding junior faculty who have been traditionally resistant to leaving postdoc status to accept a tenure-track position. Interestingly, all 38 should be considered replacement positions for high-quality senior faculty who were tenured and untenured faculty has actually decreased (from 76 in 2007 to 73 in 2015) despite the significant growth in undergraduate and graduate enrollment and research expenditures."

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The College’s engineers do indeed go on to make major contributions. President Shalala highlighted the impact of the foundation he has meticulously established. As numerous members of the College commented, “We are not only grateful for his leadership but also appreciative of his wholehearted commitment to the College’s continued success. The impact of his vision will be felt for many years.”
DEAN'S CORNER

In this edition of the Dean's Corner, I would like to discuss with you the retirement of James M. Tien some of the insights he has garnered during his 8-year tenure as Dean. The questions were posed by Susan J. Swick, CoE Director of Communications.

Question: What aspect of overseeing such a diverse and dynamic College has proven most challenging?

Dr. Susan J. Swick (Assitant Dean, M.E., C.E. '15) asserts that the most challenging aspect of overseeing such a diverse and dynamic College has been the need to ensure a balance of diversity and dynamism. She believes that in order to share their experiences as female engineers in industry, students in "the use of industry grade software" as an example of crucial hands-on extracurricular projects, and to pursue their doctoral education, many students are required to balance their academic work with their personal lives. Swick emphasizes the importance of ensuring that students have access to resources and support to help them succeed in both their academic and personal endeavors.

Question: What aspect of the College to function effectively.

According to Benton, "the most important aspect of the College is the ability to attract and retain the best students, teachers, and staff. Without these elements, the College cannot function effectively." Benton emphasizes the importance of maintaining a strong sense of community and fostering a collaborative environment. She believes that by focusing on these aspects, the College can continue to be a leader in the field of engineering education.

Question: What do you wish you could have done more in your 8-year tenure?

Dr. Jim Tien (Dean, M.E., C.E. '15) acknowledges that there were many aspects of his tenure that he wishes he could have done differently. However, he believes that the most important thing is to continue to build on the achievements of the past and to ensure that the College remains at the forefront of engineering education.

Question: What will you miss the most?

Dr. Jim Tien (Dean, M.E., C.E. '15) expresses that he will miss the interactions with his colleagues and students the most. He believes that these interactions have been crucial in shaping his tenure and that he will miss the opportunity to continue to learn from and mentor these individuals.

Question: What are some of the most important insights you have gathered during your tenure?

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Question: What aspect of engineering as a diamond in the rough.

Dr. Jim Tien (Dean, M.E., C.E. '15) believes that the most important aspect of engineering as a diamond in the rough is the ability to attract and retain the best students, teachers, and staff. Without these elements, the College cannot function effectively. He emphasizes the importance of maintaining a strong sense of community and fostering a collaborative environment. He believes that by focusing on these aspects, the College can continue to be a leader in the field of engineering education.

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NEW FACULTY BRING FOCUSED RESEARCH AND INDUSTRIAL EXPERTISE

With the new semester, two junior faculty members joined the College of Engineering, adding strategic depth and expertise in both the bio- and architectural engineering areas, likewise, two Capstone Engineer Lecturers were appointed to oversee the newly developed Capstone Partner Projects. Dean James M. Tien added that these latest additions to the faculty will not only enhance research activities, but also supplement the teaching acumen within the College; “it’s all about the integration of research and education.”

Dr. Alice Toomei (Assistant Professor, BiME) earned her Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from the Bioengineering Laboratory in the Diabetes Research Institute at the University of Miami in 2006. Dr. Toomei received her B.S. and M.S. in Materials Engineering from the Politecnico Milan (Italy) in 2004. Dr. Toomei received her B.S. in Materials Engineering and was a Research Assistant Professor. She received a B.S. and M.S. in Materials Engineering from the Politecnico Milan (Italy) in 2004.

Dr. Landolf-Rhode-Barbarigos (Assistant Professor, CAE) brings to the Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering Department research interests in material behavior and computer-aided design, having completed a two-year Postdoctoral term at Princeton University and earned a B.S. (2006), M.S. (2008) and a Ph.D. (2012) at the Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne. (Yes, this is the very same institution where Dr. Toomei studied!) When asked why he chose to join the Department at UM, he quickly pointed out, “I was fascinated by the welcoming atmosphere and found the opportunities to interact with both faculty and students in the College.”

Dr. Raul Billini, Capstone Engineer Lecturer, received his M.S. in Industrial Engineering at UM through a Fullbright Scholarship and owned his own small marketing company before returning to the College to oversee the inaugural Capstone Partner Projects for FPI and Ryder System (a related article on the progress of the Capstone Projects can be found in this issue as well). His business experiences, along with his entrepreneurial background, positions him perfectly to integrate the engineering concepts with the practical aspects of these industry-driven projects. “This is a unique opportunity for students to apply critical thinking skills to real life issues and I look forward to guiding these Capstone teams to successful solutions in the coming months.”

Dr. Khaled Zakaria, Director of Academic Computing, was also designated a Capstone Engineer Lecturer, to oversee the Fortinet Capstone Partner Project, utilizing his background in computer systems with state-of-the-art Fortinet products that have been generously donated to the College.

University of Miami Trustee and Triple Alumnus Dr. Edward A. Dauer, a distinguished diagnostic radiologist and research associate professor in the Biomedical Engineering Department, has been appointed to the National Academy of Sciences’ special advisory panel on the safety of ultrasound scanners used to screen passengers in airports across the nation. He also holds appointments in the radiology and medicine departments at UM Miller School of Medicine.

As a member of the scientific committee on the millimeter wave machines, Dr. Dauer, the director of radiology at Florida Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale, will review how the Department of Homeland Security and equipment manufacturers estimate the level of non-ionizing millimeter wave radiation exposures that air travelers are exposed to when scanned by the advanced imaging technology. These scanning machines are in use at approximately 160 airports across the nation. Unlike x-ray scanners, which use ionizing radiation that can break bonds in living cells, millimeter wave machines use low-energy, non-ionizing, radio frequency waves to detect weapons, explosives, or other hidden objects.

Appointed by Ralph J. Cicerone, president of the National Academy of Sciences and chair of the National Research Council, the committee is also charged with evaluating whether traveler and operator exposures to non-ionizing radiation meet health and safety standards, and whether the design, and the operating and maintenance procedures for ultrasound machines are appropriate for over-exposure. “It is encouraging that an independent panel of scientists and researchers will be able to study and evaluate objective scientific data to assess the safety of this imaging technology and to protect the traveling public,” Dr. Dauer said.

According to Dean James M. Tien, Dean of the College of Engineering, was enthused about Dr. Dauer’s selection. “As both an engineer and a medical doctor, he is uniquely qualified to be a member of the study committee,” Dean Tien said. “Obviously, NASA President Dr. Ralph Cicerone was equally impressed with Dr. Dauer’s qualifications.”

The College of Engineering (CoE) recently announced a select group of honorary titles (Junior and Senior) and distinguished scholars) to complement the traditional Endowed (or Named) Junior and Senior Professor titles, as well as the inaugural recipients of these new titles. It should be noted that Junior titles are for those young faculty who have not yet received their tenure.

These new appointments were announced during the CoE’s Annual Faculty and Staff Recognition Dinner on December 6, 2014, with Executive Vice President and Provost Thomas J. LeBlanc announcing the deserving recipients. Concluding the presentation, Dean James M. Tien congratulated the six honorees and highlighted their noteworthy efforts at promoting the College’s educational and research goals as well as their service in enhancing the College’s reputation. He added, “This select group of junior and senior faculty embody the highest standards in academia; they are the College’s best ambassadors at promulgating the College’s national reputation.”

Dr. Shihab Asfour, Associate Dean for Academics, remarked that this new appointment was deservedly appreciated and is, in part, due to the overall excellence of the faculty to support the College’s educational goals.

Dr. Kamal Cheung, reappointed as the James L. Knight Senior Professor, believes this distinction reinforces his dedication and ongoing efforts to not only educate engineering students but also to inspire them through thoughtful mentoring. Likewise, Dr. Khaled Zakaria, one of the two newly named Junior Scholars, expressed his profound gratitude for the selection and acknowledged the recognition’s foundational impact on successfully advancing the College’s educational and research initiatives while promoting the College’s reputation and standing in the academic community.

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Dr. Leonard Pinchuk, a world-renowned expert in the field of biomaterials and medical devices, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree from McGill University in 2005 and was inducted into the National Academy of Engineering in 2002. Dr. Pinchuk became Co-Founder, President, and CEO of Innovata, a company which produces medical devices previously unattainable due to the environment it contributes to the biomaterials industry is extraordinary, holding several patents in the area, including the invention of the world’s most popular angioplasty balloon. His amazing career as both an inventor and an entrepreneur has earned him an invitation to present day engineering students and an opportunity to gain firsthand experience. Dr. Pinchuk graciously accepted the College’s invitation to share some of his experiences and suggestions involving responsibilities and how they are critical components in career success.

**Question:** What is a nation-wide movement - A Nation of Makers - which seems to embody your life’s work and activities? Can you explain this “movement” and what impact it might have on your innovation industry? Does it resonate with your career?

There are three key aspects to developing medical devices, and the success of both in practice. For example, a hands-on machine shop and a fume hood for chemicals are essential. I remember when I was a student at the University of Miami in 1977, I was intrigued watching people roller skating on the traditional “quad” skates. These skates had two wheels in front and two wheels in the back. Being an engineer, I wondered why the wheels were not in line. I went downstairs to the Engineering building and welded together in-line roller skate frames that I retrofitted to a pair of my quad skates. I went to the Union and tested them out. The roller skate - thanks to my access to a machine shop to analyze the designs and test the prototypes - and with over one hundred patents, I still tinkered in the machine shop and often stop by Synova Brother’s Scrap Yard on the main campus. The key to developing medical devices is to construct new inventions. I have found that the key to innovation is to have an idea, and then, it is really your thoughts to practice as soon as possible and do not talk yourself out of it. The unspoken spend more time thinking about their ideas and will not work at all. It may be better to think about it more than to talk about it.

**Question:** In your various enterprises, have you served as both the innovator (developing unique devices and solutions) and the entrepreneur (raising funding and sources). Which role do you prefer? Which is more challenging in today’s market place?

Entrepreneurship in my opinion is applied business and communication. If you cannot communicate one is leading and must gain the respect of those s/he is leading. Leadership cannot really be taught and is more an art form; something that is learned through experience and practice. Leadership is actively testing its efficacy for the company. According to Dr. “Zak,” the team is not only gaining tremendous experience in the area of cyber security, but also learning the benefits of critical thinking skills in solving actual engineering problems. The Fortinet SME, Ed Lopez, has been involved in the day-to-day activities of the students and is impressed with their progress to date.

Dean James M. Tien commented that those projects are just the beginning of the Capstone Partner Program and, while providing actual solutions to industrial issues, are also serving as the prototypes for future Capstone Partnerships. There are plans underway to include projects in all nine degree areas, spanning the disciplines of civil, architectural, environmental, biomedical, industrial, mechanical, aeronautical, electrical and computer engineering.

**Thank you, Mr. Williamson!**

The College of Engineering’s Civil, Architectural and Environmental (CAE) Department works to sincerely thank Mr. Ed Williamson, President of Williamson Cadillac-Buick-GMC, for his generous donation of a recent model GMC Sierra truck. This vehicle will be used by the students and faculty in the Structures and Materials Laboratory (SML) with on campus and off campus projects. Thanks to Dr. Antonio Nanni, Professor and Chair of CAE, and also a member of the UM Board of Trustees and Iron Arrow. The College of Engineering would like to express a sincere thanks, saying, “THANK YOU, Mr. Williamson!”

CAPSTONE PARTNER PROJECTS: APPLYING CRITICAL THINKING TO REAL-WORLD PROBLEMS

The inaugural Capstone Partner Projects (sponsored by Ryder System, Lyndal Power and Light) are well underway, with several interdepartmental student teams applying engineering principles and critical thinking skills to real-world problems identified by the current industrial sponsors; these teams are diligently working on real-world issues under the supervision of corporate Subject Matter Experts (SMEs), and in coordination with the College’s Capstone Lecturers, Mr. Raul Billini and Dr. Khaled Zakaria, as well as designated College faculty mentors.

Mr. Billini, in the Fall of 2014, a group of senior students in Industrial Engineering took on the challenge of the Ryder Course Scheduling Problem (CSP). The purpose of this research is to optimize course scheduling and instructor utilization for the Ryder System. The research and Cost Analysis tools were employed to achieve substantial savings. All of the students involved in this project, points out Mr. Billini, are learning real-life management skills and will eventually gain insurmountable experiences from this challenging problem. For the Spring 2015 semester, a group consisting of senior students in Industrial Engineering will continue working on this problem. Their goal is to create, from scratch, a more efficient schedule which minimizes training time, travel routes, assembles the best team of instructors, and reduces overall costs. The faculty mentor for this project, Mr. Druck Erick (Associate Professor and Chair) has discovered that many accounts dynamic variables and possibly create the foundation for a possible custom-made application that could help Ryder forecast training needs for years to come.

So too, in the Spring 2015 semester, the FPL Capstone Partner Project was initiated. Mr. Billini explains that the main objective of this project is to determine the possible causes of the well-known “tickers” (or momentary power outages) that consume evidence, which demonstrated that the College of Engineering arrives at the final data set for preliminary analysis, one multidisciplinary group consisting of engineering and accounting students has begun investigating solutions to this challenge. The understanding related literature and case views. The Subject Matter Expert (SME) within FPL, David Herlong, anticipates this group will develop a usable model for the Ryder System.

The Fortinet-sponsored Capstone Partner Project team, under the guidance of Dr. Zakaria and Dr. Vincent D’Annunzio (Professor, IE), has already established the Foundation for Engineering and Computer Science (a student organization) and is actively testing its efficacy for the company. According to Dr. “Zak,” the team is not only gaining tremendous hands-on experience in the area of cyber security, but also learning the benefits of critical thinking skills in solving actual engineering problems. The Fortinet SME, Ed Lopez, has been involved in the day-to-day activities of the students and is impressed with their progress to date.
THE ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP DONOR LUNCHEON

The annual UM Scholarship Donor Recognition Luncheon on February 12, 2015 welcomed over 250 scholarship benefactors and recipients to celebrate both the benefactors’ generosity and the recipients’ appreciation of this critical financial aid. As Sergio M. Gonzalez (Senior Vice President for University Advancement and External Affairs) pointed out while thanking the donors present, “Students are the lifeblood of the University and scholarships bring some of the most deserving (students) to the Institution.”

Many of the students at the luncheon could never have attended UM without the support of donors noted Executive Vice President and Provost Thomas J. LeBlanc. “Currently more than 70 percent of UM students require some form of financial assistance to pay for tuition and fees.”

Several College of Engineering students who have received these life-altering subsidies attended the event and added their personal comments on how vital these funds are to the successful completion of their degrees. Erin Skibicki (IE’17) received the Nicolas Bezonsoff Scholarship and added “I would 100% not be able to attend University of Miami if it weren’t for the generous donors and scholarships like mine. It has been truly the fuel for my engineering career and I cannot begin to say how much I appreciate the support.”

Brian Jozefat (ME’15) is the recipient of both a University Scholarship and a Gables Scholarship. “The generous funds I received made it more affordable to come to UM than the in-state schools in Illinois…this provided me with the opportunity to be exposed to innumerable new experiences that pushed me out of my comfort zone.”

Nicolas Ronigone (MAE/Physics’15) echoes these sentiments, pointing out that “The Dickinson Scholarship has enabled me to pursue my dreams at a private university and I am forever grateful for the unique opportunities it has afforded me…from pioneering a space program at UM in the CANESat (University of Florida Satellite Program) to flying on the NASA microgravity plane last summer…these were made possible because of the funding support provided by these scholarships.”

President Donna E. Shalala noted that her father went bankrupt the year she went to college, forcing her to secure six different scholarships and an on-campus job to pay for college. “I want the students to know that most of us actually were in situations similar to those they are in.”

In keeping with the event’s tradition, at the conclusion, President Shalala had the students stand and pledge to support scholarship initiatives after they graduate and become successful. The CoE attendees wholeheartedly pledged their support, knowing full well the value of these funds.

ENGINEERING WEEK (E-WEEK) EVENTS HIGHLIGHT ENGINEERING’S IMPACT IN THE WORLD

E-Week, or National Engineers’ Week, is a national celebration of the innovative, integral, exciting and growing fields of engineering. It’s about sharing the pervasive influence of engineering that enhance the quality of our lives. From healthcare and technology, to informatics and risk, to sustainable and smart systems—the future of the global community depends on engineering and E-Week promotes engineering’s global prominence in our lives. These broad areas cut across all engineering disciplines.

The College of Engineering student organizations sponsored numerous demonstrations, events, and tours throughout the week of February 21-28, 2015 to highlight the impact and importance of engineering.

Major Events included:

UHack opened the week’s activities on Feb. 21-22 in the center ballroom of the Student Activities Center. The UHack team is made up of members from the student chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and, this year, was暴ised by Major League Hacking, the largest nonprofit cyber organization that helps hackathons across the country. Christian Perez (ECE ’15), President of IEEE, explained that a 24-hour hackathon is an “open-ended coding competition” that allows participants to create applications of the theme of “Hack for a Better U.” More than $3,000 in prizes was awarded to those apps judged most beneficial and effective.

The 8th annual M. Lewis Temares Entrepreneurship Forum, on February 23, welcomed alumnus Rony Abovitz (ME ’94, MSBME’96) back to share highlights from his amazing career as a multi-millionaire entrepreneur. A record-breaking number of students and friends of the College were enthralled as Rony recounted his journey from an eager UM undergraduate to the success of his robotic devices and now with his latest venture, Magic Leap (which became the third largest venture capital project in the nation during 2014).

The traditional Concrete Canoe Race attracted many new and familiar customers to this annual demonstration of engineering principles and competitive spirit. The Introduce a Girl to Engineering event demonstrated not only the impact engineering can have on the world, but also its potential to shape young women’s future careers. Over 200 young women from 18 area high schools gained valuable insights into the world of practical engineering through tours of the Internal Combustion Lab, the Structures and Materials Lab, and the Biomechanics Lab. Hosted by the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), the students were also challenged to employ engineering concepts in real-world experiments, ranging from structural dynamics to energy conservation. With CoE’s 28 percent female enrollment (almost double the national average of 15 percent), those attending were certainly inspired and encouraged to pursue engineering as a career. Indeed, E-Week was a panoply of enjoyable and educational events, once again displaying the reach and importance of engineering in the College, the community and the nation.
Major donors to the College of Engineering enjoyed an evening cruise aboard the “Lady D” on February 26, 2015, courtesy of Ana VeigaMilton (BSEE ’87, JD ’93) and her husband Cecil (BBA ’92). Ms. VeigaMilton, Chair of the College’s Momentum2 campaign, hosted this special event to recognize Dean Tien for his leadership, honor Leadership level donors to Momentum2, and reiterate “as both alumni and the parents of two current Canes, Cecil and I understand how important our support is to ensure the College’s continued excellence. Our support is an investment in the future of the College and the community, and we hope that all alumni choose to join us in supporting our alma mater.”

Momentum2 is scheduled to end next year and all donations to CoE will count towards the College’s $20M goal.

D O N O R  B O A T  T R I P

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Momentum2 is scheduled to end next year and all donations to CoE will count towards the College’s $20M goal.

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