

Southeastern Association of Electrical and Computer Engineering Department Heads (SECEDHA)
Annual Meeting

November 3-4, 2011 - Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center

Thursday Evening (11/3/11)

[Reception in Conference Break Station, followed by dinner in Conference Five]

5:30pm: Reception in the conference Break Area

6:00-6:40: Dinner (Conference Room 5)

6:40-7:30: Dinner speaker

"Fostering Engineering Student Success through Mentoring and Collaborative Learning"

Shirley Scott-Harris, Ph.D.

Director, Alabama Power Academic Excellence Program, Auburn

7:30-8:00: SCEE membership meeting (in the dinner conference area): Paul Devgan, Tennessee State
(See separate agenda)

8:00-8:45: SCEE Board of Directors meeting. (in the dinner conference area):

Paul Devgan, Tennessee State

(See separate agenda)

Friday (11/4/11): Room: Conference Room Four

7:30 -- 8:00 Continental Breakfast in Conference Break Area

8:00 – 9:10 Special Session: *"Student-Centered Active, Cooperative Learning in Engineering"*

Lisa Benson, Ph.D.,

Clemson University

Recipient, IEEE Frontiers in Education Conference Helen Plants Award 2009

9:10 – 10:10 Freshman Engineering Approaches: Mark Nelms, Auburn (organizing chair)

(Presenters: Embry Riddle, Citadel, VMI, Alabama, and open discussion)

10:10 - 10:25 Break

10:25-11:25 Hard facts about 'soft-skills'. Discussion led by Ian Ferguson, UNC – Charlotte

The term 'soft-skills' is often used to describe the skill set that engineers gain outside the core analytical skills that is considered necessary for their discipline. However, it is unfortunate because the name 'soft-skills' can be considered by some to be derogatory term that undervalues a skill set that is necessary for success. Moreover, for some student demographics it minimizes a skill set that is intrinsic who they are and they often leave the engineering discipline to be with like-minded people, for example, in the business school. Therefore, in many instances, the first time in their career that engineering students often meet colleagues with this well-developed skill set is in workplace. It is then that they discover that the continued development of 'soft-skills' are essential for successful career and is in fact one of the more important elements of lifelong learning. The necessity for 'soft-skills' is something that is already intrinsic to ABET

accreditation although not always well developed in the curriculum. This discussion will address the issue of incorporating 'soft-skills' into the curriculum. It will review ways to better package this skill set to make it more attractive to both faculty teach and for the students to learn.

- 11:25-12:00 Roundtable Topics: (Led by Larry Holloway, University of Kentucky)
Future SECEDHA Format and Locations and Topics
Other topics.
- 12:00-12:45 PM Lunch, *Conference Dining Room: Private Dining Room 1*
- 12:45-1:45 ABET Feedback from Visited Programs: Led by Mark Nelms, Auburn (chair)
- 1:45 - 2:30 SECEDHA Business Meeting/Survey: Larry Holloway, Kentucky (chair)
- 2:30 Adjourn