

UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA
Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation
May 2009 Graduates

Four years have passed since the incoming 2005 class entered the University of Virginia. Within this four year time span, students have studied, meet new friends, had fun, and graduated in their respective science, technology, engineering, or mathematics fields. Of this incoming class, two students distinguished themselves through academics and leadership. Although they came to know each other quite well over this time span, you will come to see that their journeys have taken them down separate paths upon graduation - but not away from science and technology.

As a May 2009 graduate of the University of Virginia with a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering, Peter Rios has begun down a new pathway to his future career. This current alum served as mentor and Vice President for the Hispanic and Latino Peer Mentoring program. He was also President of the University of Virginia, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers. Under his leadership, this local chapter won two awards, executed the 2009 Regional Leadership Development Conference, and gave back to the community through the annual "Juntos Podemos" program. In addition to these highlights, Peter conducted undergraduate research under the guidance of Edward Botchwey. Through this undergraduate research experience, Peter helped to advance the Biomedical Engineering field by co-authoring two pending scientific research papers that delve into allograft-hosting and microvascular networks. Peter's leadership and engineering pursuits helped him earn the University Achievement Award, the School of Engineering and Applied Science Robert W. Honse Award and J.D. Pate Scholarship. To combine his scientific background and knack for leadership, Peter recently accepted and began working as a Program Analyst for the Department of Homeland Security in Biological and Chemical Warfare at Booz Allen Hamilton in Arlington, Virginia.



May 2009 Mechanical Engineering Graduates
 (from left to right)
 Chris Martin
 Corey Kerney (Northrop Grumman)
 Tumi Oredein (Pursuing Master's of Engineering at UVa)
 Yesika Castro-Hernandez (Northrop Grumman)



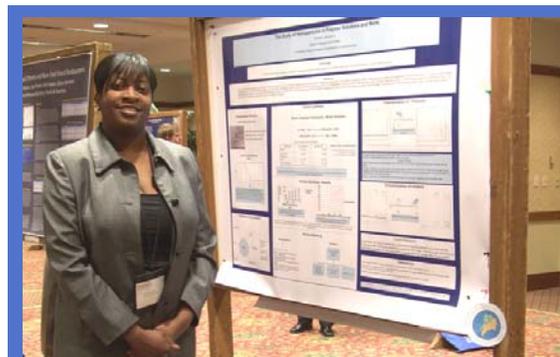
Peter Rios
 Placed 1st in the 2009 VT LSAMP Poster Symposium



Kendra Woodberry is a newly minted graduate of the University of Virginia with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering. Prior to attending the University, Kendra was awarded a School of Engineering and Applied Science Endowment Fund for the four years of her undergraduate studies. While at the University of Virginia, Kendra served as President of the National Society of Black Engineers, Class Representative for the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, and was involved with United Sisters. After participating in the summer Research Experience for Undergraduates program in 2007, Kendra's faculty mentor, David Green, asked her to continue conducting research in his laboratory. In the course of this undergraduate research experience, Kendra's research was highlighted at the 13th IACIS International Conference on Surface and Colloid Science and 83rd ACS Colloid and Surface Science Symposium. In addition to this, Kendra helped to advance the Chemical Engineering field by co-authoring the "Impact of ATRP Initiator Carbon Spacer Length on Grafting Poly(Styrene) from Silica Nanoparticles", as well as "The Impact of ATRP Initiator Spacer Length on Grafting Poly(Methyl Methacrylate) from Silica Nanoparticles". While working as a undergraduate research assistant, Kendra found time to volunteer as a tutor within the University and at Zion Union Baptist Church. Her desire to educate her peers within UVA led to her Chemical Engineering Jefferson Cup Instructors Award. As her adoration for research and teaching has continued throughout her undergraduate studies, Kendra decided to apply and was accepted into every graduate program which she applied. This September, she will begin her doctoral studies in Chemical Engineering at the VA-NC LSAMP Alliance Institution of Virginia Commonwealth University. Upon completing her doctoral degree, Kendra desires to obtain a faculty position at a researched focused higher educational institution. Within this position she hopes to show other minority men and women that "greatness is always achievable for those who work for it."

Both Kendra and Peter attribute much of their success to the support and services provided within the Center for Diversity in Engineering as well as the guidance and mentorship provided by Ms. Carolyn Vallas, faculty mentors, and family.

On behalf of the Center for Diversity in Engineering, congratulations not only to the two of you, but to all the 2009 graduates. We wish you much success in your future endeavors.



Kendra Woodberry
Presenting her research at the 2009 VT LSAMP Symposium



Engineering Graduates at the 22nd Annual CDE Awards Banquet
(from left to right)
Christie Alston (BS Aerospace Engineering, Boeing)
Chelsea Shorte (BS Computer Science & Engineering, IBM)
Yesika Castro-Hernandez (BS Mechanical Engineering, Northrop Grumman)
Janill Castillo (BS Chemical Engineering)



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