



LSU Mechanical Engineering said goodbye to the class of 2009, graduating 78 students in May 2008.

The following students graduated magna cum laude:

Santhana Balaji  
Eric Bourgeois  
Kevin Brassette  
Eric Frederickson  
Jacob Savoy  
Ed Scheuermann

The following students graduated cum laude:

Alexander Combe  
John Dykes  
Joseph LeBlanc  
Ryan Meyer

The following students received college honors:

Santhana Balaji  
Alexander Combe  
John Dykes

The following students earned the distinguished communicator award from LSU for their work in technical communications:

Santhana Balaji  
Christopher Brown  
Lance Brumfield  
John Dykes  
Alciades Velasquez

Santhana Balaji's academic achievements were recognized by LSU as a University Medalist. Ed Scheuermann was recognized by the faculty as the outstanding senior of the class of 2009. The faculty also awarded the "Chrome Shaft" award to Santhana Balaji in recognition of the spirited

manner in which he approached his engineering studies. Ryan Meyer received the 2009 LSU Donald W. Clayton Undergraduate Engineering Excellence Award.

Loren Faire was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. He was also honored with an Achievement Award from the Ole War Skule as the Outstanding USAF Graduate this year.

Valerie Vogler, a member of the LSU women's soccer team, also completed her degree in May. During her time at LSU, she regularly appeared on the SEC Academic Honor Roll while leading her team into the NCAA tournament.

A key part of the LSU mechanical engineering curriculum is the senior design project. Four student groups received awards for their projects. The High-Lift Aircraft for SAE Competition group, consisting of Eric Bourgeois, John Dykes, Ed Scheuermann, Ian Walsdorf, and Ted Bounds won the Ben Burns Jr. Award for best project. Santhana Balaji, Allison Belanger, Ryan Broughton, Eric Frederickson, Paul Giles, Peyton Marye, Jonathan McNabb, Valerie Vogler, and Joshua Williams won the Ned Adler Award for Outstanding project for their work on the LSU hurricane tower. The Vertical-Axis Wind Turbine group, made up of Baine Breaux, Alexander Combe, Joseph Leblanc, Lance Leblanc, Mary Leblanc, Michael Leblanc, and Jacob Savoy, won the Exxon-Mobil Design Panel's Research Project Award. Finally, the LSU Flugtag team, consisting of George Hunsucker, Abraham King, Eugene Lopez-Ona, Ryan Meyer, and Jason Cary, won the Fluor Corp. Design Panel's Choice Safety Award.

Several members of the class of 2009 were active in undergraduate research. The department gave Undergraduate Research Honors to three students: Lance Brumfield, John Dykes, and Ted Bounds. Ted Bounds and John Dykes presented their research, "The Aerospike Nozzle: An Investigation into a Single Stage to Orbit Rocket Engine," at the AIAA Region IV Student Conference, in Houston, Texas. Their paper won third prize out of the 35 papers presented. Lance Brumfield's work on manufacturing at the nano-scale is included in a paper to be published in the scientific journal "Applied Physics A." Chris Brown, Brooks Lowery, and Adam Romiguera worked on a mold base design for micro-manufacturing at the Center for Biomodular Multi-Scale Systems (CBM<sup>2</sup>). Tom Zimmerman worked in a separate microfabrication project. Monica Cage worked on an NIH-funded breast cancer research project.

We are proud of all of our graduates, and wish them the best of luck as they begin their careers in industry or public service, or head to graduate study.

The Mechanical Engineering faculty and staff