

CTE Lab Students Host Lab Tours during ENSPIRE 2008

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As part of UCSD's annual Engineering Week, the Triton Engineering Student Council hosts ENSPIRE, an outreach event encouraging middle school students to pursue science and engineering degrees. The 2008 session was held on February 19th.

As part of the event, Cartilage Tissue Engineering Lab graduate students Ben Wong and Brad Hansen, along with undergraduate Chris Kim, gave lab tours to approximately 50-60 middle school students from the San Diego area.

Ben started the tour with a brief overview of cartilage tissue engineering as well as some of the lab's specific research projects. This was followed by a brief tour of the entire lab, including the harvest room, tissue culture room, and lab bench areas.

The students then gathered around the robot mechanical test system for a demonstration of prototype hardware, mechanisms, and software. Brad showed the range of motion of the robot and described the capabilities for performing mechanical tests.

To finish the tour, Chris led the students to the video micro-shear setup in the mechanical test room. He demonstrated the setup and explained the purpose and impact of experiments that utilize the setup.

Beyond lab tours, ENSPIRE activities included an engineering design competition. These outreach events at UCSD inspire local youth to pursue science and engineering career paths.

For more information, please visit <http://cte.ucsd.edu> and <http://tesc.ucsd.edu>.