

CTE Promotes Engineering Exploration

by Brad Hansen; ed. Johnny Du

April 26, 2008 saw the debut of Engineering Explorations, a new outreach program hosted by the Triton Engineering Student Council. Building off the success of the middle school-focused ENSPIRE, Engineering Explorations was an outreach event aimed at encouraging high school students to pursue studies in science and engineering, drawing 90 attendees (including 46 students). Cartilage Tissue Engineering Lab graduate researcher Greg Williams and undergraduate Alifah Kasdi hosted lab tours for approximately 30 visitors consisting of both students and parents.

Greg and Alifah led the students and their parents through the lab facilities, showing a wide range of active projects. They started with an overview of cartilage tissue engineering and the problems associated in creating a viable biological replacement for treatment of osteoarthritis. The visitors then toured the lab, seeing the variety of testing devices being developed and used to study cartilage mechanics, including the new robot mechanical test system and the video micro-shear setup. They also caught a glimpse of the tissue harvest and culture rooms. The UV imaging setup was also shown to show the broad range of tests performed in the CTE Lab.

Outreach events at UCSD provide effective ways for the local youth to be inspired to explore science and engineering career paths. CTE Lab researchers are always willing to provide information and resources to encourage students to explore scientific paths.

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