

# AEMB National Newsletter

*Alpha Eta Mu Beta  
National Biomedical Engineering Honor Society*

## **2006-2008 National Officers**

### ***National President***

Herbert Voigt, Ph.D.  
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### ***National Student President***

Teresa Murray  
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### ***National Student Vice President***

Melodie Benford  
Texas A&M University  
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### ***National Student Treasurer***

Angela Bailey  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
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### ***National Student Secretary***

Priti Das  
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### ***Executive Director***

Patricia I. Horner  
Alpha Eta Mu Beta  
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### ***Alpha Eta Mu Beta***

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## ● ***Welcome***

I hope you are having an exciting and productive semester. The list below contains items that should help you get off to a good start this year.

First, if you have not already done so, please tell us who your new officers are for this school year so we can communicate with you. Please send your officer's names and email addresses to Pat Horner as soon as possible.

Next, plan on attending the AEMB Business Meeting held concurrently with the BMES Annual Meeting held September 26-29, 2007. The AEMB Annual Meeting is Thursday, September 27, at Noon in the Laurel Room of the Renaissance Hollywood Hotel in Los Angeles, CA. We will also have our Annual AEMB luncheon on Friday, September 28 at 11:30am-1:00pm in Grand Ballroom Salon 4. You may purchase a luncheon ticket at the conference from an AEMB officer. Enjoy a wonderful meal and an interesting speaker and meet other officers and share ideas. AEMB also provided ten student travel grants to the meeting, thanks to the generosity of the Coulter Foundation grant to BMES.

Also look for the chapter status report and new initiates list with the dues submission form toward the end of the year. Our only source of funds comes from the dues you send us. Thank you so much.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact one of the national officers. Our names and email address are listed to the left on the front page of the newsletter.

Finally, take the opportunity to grow your chapter by including graduate students. Last year at our annual meeting, we approved new wording to make easy to identify qualifying graduate students. The wording may be found on page 5. Since graduate students are often in a program of study for several years, they can help provide continuity for your chapters. Achieving continuing, not to mention a full slate of officers each year has been challenging for smaller chapters in the past as many undergraduates join during their senior year and then leave us at the end of the year. If you have anything that you would like to share with other chapters, please contact Terri Murray at [teresa.murray@asu.edu](mailto:teresa.murray@asu.edu).

## *2006 Annual Meeting Minutes (unapproved)*

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting**  
**October 12, 2006**  
**Chicago, Illinois**

**Present:**

***National Officer***

Herbert Voigt, National President  
Heather Swanson, Student President  
Terri Murray, Student Vice President

***Advisory Committee***

Paul Hale, Louisiana Tech University

***Chapter Advisors***

Sal Sutera, Washington Univ St Louis  
Ken Gustafson, Case Western Reserve Univ

***Student Members***

Dustin Ritter & Kyle Broussard, Louisiana Tech U  
Brent Satterfield & Priti Das, Arizona State U  
Yang Lin & Angela Bailey, Georgia Tech  
Lauren Smith, Case Western Reserve U  
Allison Rader, Washington U St Louis  
Laura Hensen & Paul Bienick, U Pittsburgh  
Melodie Benford, Texas A&M U  
Scott Bugenhagen & Meary Barbeau,  
Milwaukee School of Engineering

**2005 Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes of the 2005 annual meeting was made and they were approved as submitted.

**Chapter Development**

Herb announced that the University of Pennsylvania applied for a charter for a new chapter last spring. A vote was taken via email and the charter was approved in time for them to have AEMB honor cords for their graduating seniors. Unfortunately, none of their members was able to attend this annual meeting, so Pat Horner will mail their charter to them. He stated that Pat Horner recently retired as the Executive Director for BMES; however, she remains the Executive Director for AEMB in a voluntary capacity. She currently works out of her home managing AEMB business affairs and mailing membership certificates, pins, and honor cords.

Herb said there are currently 21 AEMB chapters. There are 36 ABET-accredited biomedical engineering departments, which should rise to about 40 next year. He noted that the following chapters have paid dues: Boston U, Case Western Reserve U, Georgia Institute of Technology, Johns

Hopkins U, Louisiana Tech U, Marquette U, Milwaukee School of Engineering, Tulane U, U of Illinois Chicago, U of Miami, U of Pennsylvania, U of Pittsburgh, U of Rochester, Virginia Commonwealth U, and Washington U St Louis. The following chapters are current but had no new initiates: Arizona State U, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Texas A&M U, U of Iowa, U of Wisconsin Madison, and Vanderbilt U. He further noted that all chapters are eligible to vote this year versus about 50% last year.

**Executive Director's Report**

Pat Horner's report was presented by Herb Voigt since she was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict (she is attending the new Air Force Memorial dedication with her husband). Our Smith Barney account has \$28,000, which is being maintained by BMES. BMES has been acting as an administrative umbrella for AEMB, allowing us to continue operating as a nonprofit organization since our own corporate status lapsed over 6 years ago. Pat was recently informed that BMES will require us to become an official program of theirs in order for us to continue operating as a nonprofit organization under the society. Historically, we have considered ourselves as an independent organization, so we must consider our options. She has reinstated our old corporate status in Louisiana. We also now have our own bank account and employee identification number. These were done upon approval of a resolution "Be it resolved that: The National President and Executive Director of Alpha Eta Mu Beta are hereby authorized to open a bank account for Alpha Eta Mu Beta and are hereby authorized to sell, assign and endorse for transfer, cash, certificates representing stocks, bonds, or other securities now registered or hereafter registered in the name of Alpha Eta Mu Beta." Pat is now in the process of working on the application to obtain 501(c)3 tax exempt status for us, which may cost \$200 or so. Having status as a nonprofit organization would free us from needing to be under the umbrella of BMES. Pat's report noted that she sent a total of 239 honor cords to chapters in the past year. Her report also stated that AEMB received 40 student travel grants distributed as follows: Coulter Foundation, 10; Boston University REU (Herb Voigt), 15; and Vanderbilt University VANth (Jerry Collins and Tom Harris), 15. Herb further mentioned that Terri Murray obtained pre-approval from the National

## **2006 Annual Meeting Minutes continued**

Science Foundation for supplemental funds for the ethics session sponsorship and student travel funds from the latter two grants.

### **Announcements**

Brent Satterfield and Terri Murray made announcements about the AEMB Ethics Sessions. This year's ethics session will be held on October 13. Brent summarized last year's session for newcomers, which revolved around ethical issues related to America's new digital health initiative. He noted that our keynote speaker, Celeste Null, took our students suggestions back to Intel's Digital Health Group for their further consideration. He announced that Jay West, founder of Arcxis, will be the Keynote speaker for tomorrow's ethics session topic of ubiquitous biosensors. Terri helped recruit facilitators for small-group discussions after the keynote address. The following people volunteered: Melodie Benford, Yang Lin, Priti Das, Brent Satterfield, Terri Murray, Dustin Ritter, Kyle Broussard, and Heather Swanson. Terri requested that the facilitators meet for a short training session immediately following the annual meeting.

Herb announced that our annual AEMB luncheon will take place tomorrow, October 13 at Noon in the Truffles Room.

A total of 34 tickets were sold on the BMES Fall Meeting registration site, which was close to our limit of 36. We were required to provide the Hyatt with a guaranteed number of attendees prior to the opening of the conference. Therefore, we were unable to sell additional tickets at the meeting this year. Herb anticipated that the event would be about 1-1/2 hours long. Sue Van, President of the Coulter Foundation, is our invited speaker. She and the Coulter Foundation will play an increasingly influential role in the direction of biomedical engineering.

### **Committee Reports**

**Ethics Session:** Brent Satterfield noted the importance of continuing the AEMB Ethics Sessions at future annual meetings. He proposed creating an elected position for a chair for the ethics sessions. Herb noted that that would require a change in our Constitution. Herb suggested that this duty be assigned to the Vice President. As Terri was planning to nominate Melodie Benford for the office of Vice President, she asked Melodie for her opinion. After a brief discussion, Melodie

agreed to Herb's suggestion. Brent made a motion, as follows: "Be it resolved that it is the intent of the Board that the portfolio of the AEMB Vice President include organizing the ethics session at the annual meeting." Melodie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Graduate Student Eligibility:** Melodie and Terri presented revised wording for graduate student eligibility requirements. Initial wording was presented at last year's annual meeting and it was decided at that time to open up the matter to further discussion rather than to present revised wording at this year's annual meeting. Terri and Melodie sent emails to chapter officers and advisors to solicit comments and suggestions. After numerous suggestions from emails back and forth between advisors and the committee for several months, a consensus was reached and the following revised wording was framed: "To be eligible for membership, a graduate student 1) must be a candidate for a degree in Biomedical Engineering or Bioengineering from a university with an ABET accredited undergraduate program; 2) must have completed at least 12 credits of graduate study for students in a Ph.D. program, or 8 hours of study in a Master's degree program, 6 of which are Biomedical Engineering or Bioengineering courses towards the degree, and 3) must have a grade-point-average of at least 3.75 on a 4.0 scale or rank in the upper one-third of eligible graduate students, whichever is higher." After a brief discussion regarding potentially ambiguous wording concerning "credits" and "hours," two changes were made to item 2 at the suggestions of Paul Hale and Sal Sutera. The wording of this friendly amendment is as follows (changes in bolded italics, word to remove is struck through): "2) must have completed at least 12 ~~semester hours~~ **credits** of graduate study for students in a Ph.D. program, or 8 **semester** hours of study in a Master's degree program,..." Melodie made a motion to accept the amendment, and Terri seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Herb noted that with only eight chapters in attendance, we may not have a quorum. He will check on this matter and if required, the Executive Board will request that the other chapters send their votes by email (*this was subsequently accomplished and all chapters voted*).

Heather Swanson noted that during last year's annual meeting there was a proposal for a fundraising idea to sell T-shirts and that we form a committee. Apparently no committee was formed and there no members present interested in this project.

## 2006 Annual Meeting Minutes continued

Case Western Reserve University Chapter gave permission for other chapters to use their chapter's seal. A digital copy can be obtained by sending a request via email to one of their officers.

### **“The Four Pillars” of AEMB**

**Scholarship, Leadership, Character and Service**  
Heather reported that last year we discussed adding to the chapters' annual reports any chapter activities involving the four pillars. There was no apparent interest in adopting this requirement or for forming a committee to discuss it.

### **Fundraisers**

Local funding was discussed. Herb suggested that BMES and AEMB chapters can co-produce BME Day. Both Boston University and Arizona State University have done this for over 10 years. Herb suggested that chapters have fundraisers to finance their BME Day speaker's travel and honorarium.

### **Web Site and Newsletter**

Pat Horner was thanked for producing and sending the 2006 Fall Newsletter. Heather Swanson, outgoing Student President expressed a desire to continue her involvement with AEMB on a national level by improving our web site. Lauren Smith of Case Western Reserve University suggested adding a forum for ideas on the site. Herb suggested including an accurate database of past members. Terri, who produced 2 years worth of newsletters, offered to forward them to Heather for inclusion on the web site. She will also forward Michael Cobb's email addresses to Heather so she can correspond with him. Michael was a former National Vice President and created our existing web site at [www.ahmb.org](http://www.ahmb.org) under his university student account.

### **Chapter Development**

Herb asked for a chapter to volunteer to mentor our new chapter at the University of Pennsylvania. Dustin Ritter and Kyle Broussard volunteered the LA Tech chapter.

### **2006-2008 National Officer Elections**

Melodie Benford nominated Terri Murray for the office of National Student President. Heather Swanson nominated Melodie Benford for the office of Vice President. Angela Bailey was nominated for Treasurer and Priti Das nominated for Secretary. Terri Murray nominated Herb for the office of national President. Herb made a brief statement that he has served for many years in this capacity and that this will be his last term. Being

that there were no further nominations, each of the nominees was appointed to their respective office by acclimation.

### **2007 Annual Meeting**

Herb announced that the 2007 BMES Fall Meeting will be held in Los Angeles. For the past 6 years, AEMB has held its annual meeting during the BMES Fall Meeting. Herb spoke with Frank Yin, current BMES president, and he granted permission to continue as such for next year's meeting. Herb mentioned that we may wish to explore alternatives for future annual meetings. He noted that having our annual meeting during the AIMBE annual meetings may be an option. AIMBE is an organization that includes 17-18 BME-oriented societies, including BMES, plus industrial members and approximately 90 Bioengineering departments. It also has a College of Fellows, which represents the top 3% of professionals in the field. He noted that they regard us as the “farm team” for the College of Fellows. Herb mentioned that their meetings are not scientific conferences. Their focus is primarily on public policy issues such as delivery of health care, research funding, and the impact of new [health care] technology on the Third World. He recommended that it may make sense for us to have our annual meeting during the AIMBE annual meeting, which meets in the spring. We can consider this among our options for the 2008 annual meeting. Angela commented that this suggestion would move us one step towards a sense of autonomy.

Paul Hale, Louisiana Tech and AEMB advisory committee member reiterated that BMES tax structure requires that AEMB and BME have a formal relationship if we are to continue to operate under their tax-exempt status. He also noted that the BMES Fall meeting is more student-oriented and we may have a better chance of getting BMES/supplemental travel funds to send our students. Sal Sutera, Washington University St. Louis chapter advisor, also mentioned that the BMES Fall meeting is more student-oriented. Terri mentioned having some meetings at the IEEE-EMBS meetings. Herb stated that we need a “champion” for obtaining student travel grants. Angela requested we add a statement on applications to require recipients of student travel grants to attend the AEMB Annual Meeting. Herb made a motion that the 2007 AEMB annual meeting be held during the 2007 BMES Fall meeting. Sal seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

## *2006 Annual Meeting Minutes continued*

### **New Business**

Herb noted that faculty may be elected to membership in AEMB. Terri said that she had a copy of the requirements. At Herb's request, she read aloud the applicable section of the Constitution. Lauren noted that the contact information for Case Western Reserve University is out of date. The current AEMB Directory was circulated for members to check and update if necessary. The only correction made was to update the CWRU President, now John Heddleston. Priti asked for suggestions for an initiation ceremony. Herb stated that Boston University couples their AEMB initiation with an annual dinner held in conjunction with BME Day, which occurs during Engineers Week in February. They send invitations in January. It is funded by the Bioengineering Department, their AEMB chapter, and their Engineering College. There are about a hundred attendees at their annual dinner. They have a guest speaker at the dinner; they have given motivational talks and discussed career paths. Inductees receive a local chapter certificate and a statement about that student is read which is written by a faculty advisor, the dean of the College, or the student President. Yang stated that GA Tech initiates new members every semester. Inductees present their community service and leadership experience, usually using PowerPoint or pictures. This allows members to get to know the new members better. Initiates are invited one month in the semester and inducted 3 weeks prior to the end of the semester. Herb mentioned that each applicant is voted on by members. Sal stated that they place all inductee's names in a leather-bound book. They use a rank ordered list of second semester juniors to obtain names of qualified applicants. Also, they do not have time to do character type screening. Lauren noted that CWRU builds the four pillars into their application form. Sal made an announcement that the 2006 AIMBE policy panel discussion will be held today at 3:30pm. He recommended that students attend the session.

Motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

*Respectively submitted,*

Terri Murray, Acting Secretary

### **Graduate Student Eligibility**

*To be eligible for membership, a graduate student:*

- 1) must be a candidate for a degree in Biomedical Engineering or Bioengineering from a university with an ABET accredited undergraduate program;*
- 2) must have completed at least 12 semester hours of graduate study for students in a Ph.D. program, or 8 semester hours of study in a Master's degree program, 6 of which are Biomedical Engineering or Bioengineering courses towards the degree; and*
- 3) must have a grade-point-average of at least 3.75 on a 4.0 scale or rank in the upper one-third of eligible graduate students, whichever is higher.*

***AEMB Annual Business Meeting  
Thursday, September 27, 2007***

***12Noon-1:00pm, Laurel Room***

***AEMB Annual Luncheon***

***Friday, September 28, 2007***

***11:30am-1:00pm, Grand Ballroom***

***Salon 4***

***Renaissance Hollywood Hotel  
Los Angeles, CA***

***Luncheon Tickets are \$45 and can  
be purchased from AEMB Officers  
at the BMES Meeting***

***Closing Remarks at MEDICON 2007***  
***Herbert F. Voigt, Vice President, IFMBE and National President, AEMB***

I am so pleased to be asked to give the closing remarks for this wonderful conference. I am sure few of you know me or my work, but I can assure you that we are very much alike. We are enthusiastic about Medical and Biological Engineering, its future and its impact on humanity. Never before in the history of humanity has so much money been spent on health care and on scientific research devoted to improving the quality of health care. But is it enough? According to a study commissioned by the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering, Biomedical Engineering research accounts for perhaps 3% of the scientific budget in the United States. I don't know what other countries are doing, but the International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering should commission such a study to find out. What is so sad right now is that world conditions are diverting funds away from health-related scientific studies and channeling them into more destructive activities—either directly via war efforts, or indirectly by efforts to secure the homelands from destructive activities. When inflation is taken into account, funding at NIH is declining. This may have a devastating impact on future scientific efforts and on making real progress in Medical and Biological Engineering. Why is this allowed to happen?—well partly because the people have let our leaders do this. Derek Bok, the former President of Harvard, has said, “If you think education is expensive—try ignorance.”

We must make sure that people throughout the world are educated and that we communicate to the voters in our countries, and to the leaders of our countries, that science and math education is important; that educating women is essential, that scientific research and engineering approaches to problems—health and otherwise—are vital to our future, and that education of all people—regardless of their wealth, is critical for our civilization.

We, humanity, have come a long way—instead of one or two scientific revolutions or technological breakthroughs per some unit time of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, we are experiencing an exponential avalanche of breakthroughs today. At the same time, there is an ever increasing divide between the haves and have-nots in our world. Juan Williams, a black journalist and author, cites a recent study that shows that some 70% of black babies born in the United States are born to single mothers! This stands in contrast to our electing the first black governor of the state of MA, where I live! The divide is great.

How do we change this? Many scientists and engineers like to stay in their labs and conduct research. Many like to come to meetings, like this, to discuss their results and make new and renew old friendships. What many engineers and scientists don't like to do is discuss their findings or the findings of theirs, with their neighbors and friends—it's almost like you don't talk politics, you don't talk religion, and now you don't talk science/engineering with guests. Well, here is my challenge to you—Speak up! Be heard! Talk about your work with non-scientists—with your parents, with neighbors, with politicians, even with children who represent the future. We have to get the importance of our work recognized—I don't mean brag about it—but share your enthusiasm for your work—this is very important. Remember, the improvements in the quality of life in the world are directly related to the work of engineers and scientist, like you. Finally, I thank the organizers of Medicon 2007; Thank-you for sharing your beautiful city and country. Thank-you.

## *Introducing AEMB New National Officers*

At the 2004 annual meeting in Philadelphia new officers were elected by the meeting attendees.

The new national officers will hold their position for two years (2004-2006).

The following board positions were filled:

- President: Dr. Herbert F. Voigt
- Student President: Teresa Murray
- Vice President: Melodie Benford
- Secretary: Priti Das
- Treasurer: Angela Bailey

The elected officers are listed on the front page of the bulletin along with their e-mail addresses.

Special thanks to Dr. Herbert F. Voigt for graciously accepting re-election and Teresa Murray for accepting election again as Student President after her terms as Student Vice President and Student President for the 2002-2004 term.

Thanks again to our Executive Director Patricia I. Horner [pat.horner@bmes.org](mailto:pat.horner@bmes.org)

The number of ABET-accredited Biomedical Engineering programs is growing substantially. With this growth, we have an unparalleled opportunity to increase the number of AEMB chapters, to hopefully represent the outstanding students at ABET-accredited programs, improving our sphere of influence, and increasing awareness of the prestige of membership in Alpha Eta Mu Beta.

## *AEMB Advisory Committee*

Advisory Committee Members:

**Eric Guilbeau, PhD**, Arizona State University

**Paul N. Hale, Jr, PhD PE**, Louisiana Tech University

**Dean C. Jeutter, PhD**, Marquette University

**Stan A. Napper, PhD**, Louisiana Tech University

**Jerry C. Collin, PhD**, Vanderbilt University

The AEMB Executive Council consists of the National Student President, National Student Vice President, National Student Secretary, and National Student Treasurer; the National President and National Executive Director; and the members of the AEMB Advisory Committee listed above. The AEMB Executive Council acts on behalf of Alpha Eta Mu Beta in between the AEMB Annual Business Meetings. The advice and counsel of the Advisory Committee members is greatly appreciated and we thank them for their service.

**PLEASE SEND US YOUR NEW OFFICERS NAMES AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES**

**Alpha Eta Mu Beta Chapter (Year Chartered)**  
**Advisor, Title and E-mail Address**  
**Department Address**  
**Chapter President and E-mail Address**  
**Chapter Web Site**

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**Boston University 1994**

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**Case Western Reserve University 2005**

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**Johns Hopkins University 1996**

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**Marquette University 1993**

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**Milwaukee School of Engineering 1994**

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**Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute 2002**

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**Texas A&M University 1998**

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**Tulane University 1980**

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**University of Illinois Chicago 2003**

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**University of Iowa 1988**

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**University of Miami 2002**

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**University of Pennsylvania 2006**

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**University of Pittsburgh 2003**

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**University of Rochester 2005**

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**University of Wisconsin Madison 2005**

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**Vanderbilt University 1998**

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**Virginia Commonwealth University 2005**

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*September 2007*

***We Need YOUR Help  
To Update Our Contact List To  
Enable Effective Communication This Year***

Please send us your list of 2007-2008 Officers.  
Include their name, title and e-mail address.

Also, if any of your school information listed  
above is inaccurate, please send us a  
correction.

Please send your updates to  
[pat.horner1@verizon.net](mailto:pat.horner1@verizon.net)  
Or, you may mail the information to  
Alpha Eta Mu Beta  
P.O. Box 268  
Bowie, MD 20719-0268  
Phone 301-262-1199

***Congratulations to our New AEMB Faculty Members***

This summer four new Faculty Members were elected by the National Executive Council  
Salvatore P. Sutera, Washington University St. Louis  
Frank C.P. Yin, Washington University St. Louis  
Gary L. Bowlin, Virginia Commonwealth University  
Gerald E. Miller, Virginia Commonwealth University