

## VITERBI VIEWS

FALL 2007

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students/vsc](http://viterbi.usc.edu/students/vsc)

## Viterbi's Got Talent

## THE 2ND ANNUAL ENGINEERING TALENT SHOW

By the Viterbi Student Council

Yes! Finally! Viterbi's Got Talent is back for a second round of fun and entertainment. This is the talent show specifically designed to highlight the (possibly hidden) talents of Viterbi undergraduate engineers. It features many different kinds of acts from dancing

to comedy to martial arts. The host is Viterbi's own Robbie Wright, and the panel of judges features a variety of Viterbi celebrities, both teachers and staff.

Last year, we had over 300 people show up at the event, so we're hoping to top that this year. If you're not one for the stage, and prefer to sit back

and enjoy the entertainment, we will be providing yummy carnival-themed snacks such as cotton candy, snow cones, nachos, and more.

The event will be this **Thursday, October 25th at 6:00pm in the E-Quad**. Anyone is welcome to come, so bring all your friends for a night of engineering entertainment!



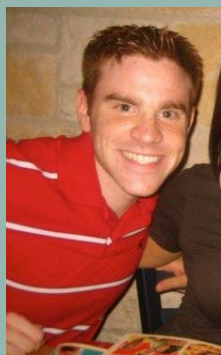
Thursday, October 25th at 6pm in the E-Quad

Featuring the Following Acts:

- ◆ Singing Performance "When the Lights Go Down"
- ◆ "High School Musical" Dance
- ◆ Martial Arts
- ◆ Vocal Performance
- ◆ Guitar and Vocal Performance
- ◆ Speed Cubing (Rubik's Cube in 25 Seconds)
- ◆ Piano and Vocal Performance
- ◆ Drum and Bass Performance
- ◆ "Crank That" Soulja Boy Dance
- ◆ "Viterbi Fly Girls" Hip Hop/Jazz Dance
- ◆ "The Most Stupid Questions Which We Ask" Stand-up comedy
- ◆ "Funkify" Hip Hop Dance
- ◆ Tap Dancing

## Student Quotes

## I CAN'T WAIT FOR VITERBI'S GOT TALENT BECAUSE...



I get to go up in front of my friends and introduce some of the most entertaining acts they have yet to see.  
-Robbie Wright



I'm excited to see if that guy who's good at calculus can also dance!  
-Rebecca Blasdell



I'm looking forward to hanging out with my friends and seeing people from my classes in a totally different light.  
-LauraLee Brown

## Viterbi Stars: Featuring Current Viterbi Students

### MEET CHELSEA MILLER



*Chelsea Miller is involved in almost everything, ranging from her sorority to an honor society.*

#### By Eric Lee

Chelsea Miller, a senior Chemical Engineer originally from Seattle, Washington, has truly taken advantage of the resources, opportunities, and societies located here at USC.

As President of Tau Beta Pi, the Honors Society open to all engineering majors, Chelsea recently attended the national convention held in Detroit at the University of Michigan. With representatives from 200 other Tau Beta Pi chapters, Chelsea was the only USC representative and interacted with people from all across the nation.

A four-year active member of the Alpha Delta Pi sorority, Chelsea is currently the Leadership Chair in

which she plans events for each of the different classes within the sorority. She has previously been the finance vice president and the culture chair where she organized trips to downtown Los Angeles to visit various neighborhoods, shows, and restaurants.

Last March, Chelsea joined Mortar Board, a senior honor society focused on leadership, scholarship, and service. As one of three engineers in this society, Chelsea participates in teacher recognition by presenting professors with a plaque of dedication in their name.

The American Institute of Chemical Engineering President, a Topping Scholar, two engineering internships, and a job offer, the list goes on and on for Chelsea Miller

and her achievements. Keep up the good work Chelsea, and we look forward to seeing your future endeavors and services!

**DO YOU HAVE A  
★ VITERBI ★  
STAR IN  
MIND?**

Send us your suggestions  
for the student to be  
featured in the "Viterbi  
Stars" section of our next  
issue: [vsc@usc.edu](mailto:vsc@usc.edu)  
Use the subject line "VSC  
Newsletter Article."

## VSC's Top 10 List

### EXCUSES FOR NOT DOING YOUR HOMEWORK... IF YOU'RE AN ENGINEER

Compiled By Jessica Midkiff

1. I was trying to figure out the Viterbi Algorithm and lost track of time.
2. I locked my homework in a trunk, but then my four-dimensional dog got in and ate it.
3. I could only get arbitrarily close to my textbook, so I couldn't actually reach it. (I reached half way, and then half of that, and then...)
4. I accidentally divided by zero, and my paper burst into flames.
5. I have the proof, but there isn't room to write it in this margin.
6. I couldn't figure out whether  $i$  am the square of negative one or  $i$  is the square root of negative one.
7. I made a beautifully engineered paper plane out of my homework, and it got hijacked.
8. Galileo didn't know calculus; what do I need it for?
9. I have a solar powered calculator, and it was cloudy.
10. I was watching the World Series and got tied up trying to prove that it converged.



Image from: <http://images.jupiterimages.com/common/detail/73/96/23239673.jpg>

**Applications are now available for the VSC Vice Chair Special Elections**

**Go to <http://viterbi.usc.edu/students/vsc/>**

**All applications are due by Sunday, October 28th at midnight!**

## Professor Profile: Featuring Viterbi Faculty Members

### MEET DR. JEAN-MICHEL MAAREK

By Eric Lee

Dr. Jean-Michel Maarek has been at USC since 1984, after receiving his Doctorate in Bio-medical Engineering, and is currently the Associate Professor of Engineering Practice. Aside from being a professor of Biomedical Engineering, Dr. Maarek is working on two research projects that include cardiopulmonary studies and cerebral functions through the use of tracers.

Dr. Maarek works on a team that injects fluorescent dye directly into the blood stream in

order to measure the cardiac output and blood volume in patients who receive chemo dialysis. The rate at which fluid moves through the cells or interstitial space back in blood vessels is not always matched with the rate at which the fluid is removed. Therefore, if the cardiac output and blood volume can be controlled and monitored, the removal rate of fluid may be modulated and create a better experience for the patient receiving dialysis.

Dr. Maarek also works on the development of a small, remote

controlled pump that injects tracers into freely moving animals. The tracer measures the brain activity involved in certain types of complex behaviors in mice and provides insight into the cerebral function or blood flow.

Outside of the engineering community, Dr. Maarek is an avid runner and has run the LA marathon three times. He coaches his children's two U-11 soccer teams in both the girls and boys division. More recently, he has been learning to play the piano. We are lucky to have Dr.

Maarek as part of the USC and Viterbi School of Engineering community.



*Dr. Jean-Michel Maarek is an accomplished member of the USC Viterbi faculty.*

## The Viterbi Summer Overseas Program

### MY SUMMER IN PARIS

By Courtney Trine

This past summer I lived in Paris! I still cannot believe that I can write those words and know that they are actually true. Paris represented a romantic fairytale land far away from my life in Los Angeles. In middle school and high school I studied Spanish due to the practical reasons of living in California. I never dreamed that I would spend any significant time

around the French language, but in May, my dreams became reality; I was in Paris, and I did not know French, or anyone in the country of France for that matter. My seven weeks in France posed many new and unexpected challenges, while also providing me the opportunity to explore Europe and enjoy living the everyday Parisian life.

As a Viterbi engineer, studying abroad didn't seem like an option at first. I was worried that I wouldn't have time to go abroad during the school year and that I should have started planning for it my freshman year. I did not decide that I wanted to go abroad until my junior year, leaving little time to plan. Luckily, I knew friends who visited Madrid the summer before with the Viterbi Overseas summer program, and through conversations with them, I soon realized that the summer 2007 trip to Paris was my chance to finally have the abroad experience I desperately wanted.

Once in Paris, I found myself facing many new challenges. Not only was I living in a city where I did not understand the language, but I was also meeting new friends and taking demanding courses. The first few weeks were marked by a period of anxiety and adjustment. However, I soon found myself falling into a daily routine and developing close friendships with others on the trip. At

that point Paris and I began to click. My friends and I found ourselves plowing through our Writing 340 papers in order to have as much time as possible to experience the city. Every afternoon after class, we hopped on the metro at the Bastille to explore more of the beautiful city. With every new discovery, we felt more and more like we were true Parisians; Paris was our home.

Now, as I look back at the seven weeks I spent in Paris, I treasure my experience. Not only did I meet 28 wonderful people that have taught me countless life lessons, but I also learned that life has many twists and turns and that each, although some daunting, enhances my view of the world and shapes how I will live in it.



*The group of students in the Summer Overseas Program 2007 in Paris, France.*

**For more information about Viterbi abroad programs please visit :**  
<http://viterbi.usc.edu/students/undergrad/overseas/>

# VSC Calendar of Events

## October 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
21	22	23 • VSC General Meeting	24	25 • Viterbi's Got Talent!	26	27
28 • IEEE Soccer Tournament • Deadline for application for VSC Vice Chair	29	30	31 • Halloween Fun Fair- AGC, SWE, etc. • National SHPE Conference • Voting Polls Open for VSC Vice Chair Elections			

## November 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 • SWE General Meeting	2 • Polls Close for VSC Vice Chair Elections	3
4	5 • Tau Beta Pi Progressive Dinner	6 • VSC Meeting • IEEE Meeting w/ Todd Brun	7	8 • SHPE Meeting w/ Industry Panel	9 • SHPE Member Leadership Retreat	10
11	12	13 • IEEE General Mtg. w/ Behrokh Khoshnevis	14 • AGC Speaker Meeting (APWA) • SHPE/LBSA Youth Conference	15	16 • SWE Charm School	17 • ACM's SS.12 Codeathon • AGC Rebuilding Together Project • SWE Try It Riot
18 • ACM's SS.12 Codeathon to develop software to help people with disabilities	19	20 • VSC General Meeting • IEEE Meeting. w/ Daniel Lidar	21 • AGC Bowling Night	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 • SHPE USC vs. SHPE UCLA football game	1 (Dec) • USC/UCLA Taco Bowl

## December 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4 • VSC General Meeting	5 • AGC Wrap Up Meeting	6 • SWE General Meeting	7 • Officer Leadership Retreat ***Last Day of Classes	8

**For further details on VSC events, please visit us online at**  
**<http://viterbi.usc.edu/students/vsc/>**  
**(see the EVENTS link)**

### Viterbi Views Staff

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