Project Aurora was organized by the Texas A&M High Altitude Balloon Club in conjunction with Project Aether Group. Dr. Sharath Girimaji and the undergraduate and graduate teams traveled to Fairbanks, Alaska, with the Project Aether team. As part of the project, students launched helium-filled weather balloons capable of reaching 100,000 ft altitude into the Arctic sky to observe the northern lights and make various measurements.

http://engineering.tamu.edu/news/2012/05/11/aggie-high-altitude-balloon-club-visits-alaska-for-study
Impact

- 3 National Academy of Engineering members
- 2 International academy members
- Technology commercialization (Since FY94)
  1 License agreements
- 10 National and international level awards
- 19 Fellow grades in professional societies
- 5 Authored adapted textbooks
- 64% of 2010-2011 BS graduates with job offers or plans to pursue graduate school
  (data voluntarily reported by students to the Texas A&M University Career Center; actual number may be higher)
- 706 PhDs in academia (60% in US Institutions)

Productivity

- Rankings
  Graduate – 8th
  Undergraduate – 6th
  (Source: U.S. News & World Report)
- 99 Refereed journal papers (2010)
- 131 Selective conference papers (2010)
- 19 US and international patents (since FY 94)
- $15 million in research expenditures (FY11)
  > 66% Federal
  (TEES Centers funding not included)
- 4 Young Investigator awards (since 2003)
  (NSF CAREER, Air Force, Navy, DARPA, and PECASE)

Service

- 26 Editorships and editorial board memberships
- 35 Memberships in professional society committees
- 12 Short courses taught and workshops offered
- 9 Symposia and conferences organized with estimated 1,695 participants
- 5 Days external consulting (FY11)

Diversity

- Faculty (Fall 2011)
  Male – 94%
  Female – 6%
  Hispanic – 8%
  African-American – 3%
  White – 69%
  Asian – 19%
  Native American – 0%
- Staff
  Male – 29%
  Female – 71%
  Hispanic – 0%
  African-American – 6%
  White – 94%
  Asian – 0%
  Other – 0%
- Departmental External Advisory Committees
  Male – 94%
  Female – 6%
  Hispanic – 3%
  African-American – 0%
  White – 97%
  Asian – 0%

STUDENT ENROLLMENT (College of Engineering)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Undergrad</th>
<th>Grad</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY11</td>
<td>683</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>818</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY10</td>
<td>676</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>819</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY09</td>
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<td>783</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY08</td>
<td>653</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>760</td>
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</table>

- Number of graduates (COE for FY11)
  BS – 67
  MS – 20
  PhD – 13
- Semesters to graduation (FY06-FY10 average)
  BS – 12 semesters
  MS – 7 semesters
  PhD – 15 semesters
- Students with international experiences
  through study abroad program participation
  FY09 – 19
  FY10 – 11
  FY11 – 8
- 147 Scholarships awarded (2011)
- Occupied Endowed Positions
  Chairs – 6
  Professorships – 3
  Career Development Professorships – 2
  Faculty Fellows – 13

STUDENT CREDIT HOURS (SCH) and WEIGHTED STUDENT CREDIT HOURS (WSCH)

<table>
<thead>
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<th></th>
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STUDENT DIVERSITY (College of Engineering)

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>5.2%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>1.5%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>8%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
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