USC Looks To Clean Up By Degrees

Engineering school's new master's programs come with 'green' tint.

The world has always needed engineers. But does it need the same kinds of engineers?

USC is convinced that the economy of today — and tomorrow — calls for expertise in such disciplines as "green" technology that were not taught much in the past. So it has come up with four new master's programs.

"We're responding to what we perceive are needs and demands," said Yannis Yortsos, dean of the Viterbi School of Engineering. "We offer an immediate way for engineers out there to specialize in these new areas of economic growth."

The diplomas will be in "clean and green" technology, health care technology, power technology and financial engineering — which is related to math and programming. They will be issued by a new division of the Viterbi School that is headed by Kelly Goulis, associate dean.

Engineers who specialize in these technologies will be in high demand, Yortsos believes, and will have the opportunity to contribute to the creation of a healthier, sustainable world.

Since there aren't enough engineers now with expertise in clean and green technologies, he said, companies aren't able to develop many green products and processes, which in turn keeps them from creating the jobs of tomorrow.

"Behind every successful economic enterprise is some kind of engineering concept which is driven by innovation," he said. "Innovation creates new companies. Particular areas - green, health care and so forth - are very important for the future."

— Sharareh Drury

Yortsos

Best Buys Into Abu Dhabi Through Reality TV

Culver City architect Richard Best always wanted to work in the Middle East. Now, he'll do so, but it won't be in architecture.

His adventure began when he saw a UCLA alumni e-mail for an audition to an "Apprentice"-style reality show in the United Arab Emirates. The

"Some people with a big, comfortable, or an ence room."

At Killefer, architect for co-public building projects. She helps clients create live/work spaces. At her home she designs apartments and urban Liljegren will discuss the topic of L.A.'s urban future on Wednesday at the

Putting Finger on Their Anger

Mobile video game lets players flatten Wall Street bankers.

Wall Street has crashed, bankers are fleeing en masse and a giant finger descends from the sky to squash them all.

These days that qualifies as a feel-good fantasy - and some people want to buy it.

It's the scenario of the new video game "Squash the Street," developed for the iPhone and iPod touch by Santa Monica-based Last Legion Games LLC. Retailing for just $9.99, the company is boasting that sales are "fantastic" since the game's July 4 release.

"We thought this was a sort of tongue-in-cheek take on what's happening now," said Last Legion Chief Executive Seth Gers. "Here's how.

Using the device, players flatten Wall Street, spookish blood, cash for squash and lose money who escapes of Squash the third game pro-Legion, a nasce studio that Gers says about a year ago took just two months to develop how fast iPhone can turn creative market-ready projects.

Room for Flexibility

Architect homes in on live/work spaces as L.A.'s urban future.

Karin Liljegren has firsthand experience in the challenges of creating a "live/work" environment. In addition to her full-time job as senior associate at Killefer Flammang Architects, she recently started her own design company from her downtown L.A. loft condo.

"It's really important that living spaces are extremely flexible," Liljegren said.