

Jason Keith

From: Sherre Denson
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2013 12:11 PM
To: Sherre Denson (sherre@che.msstate.edu)
Subject: Swalm School of Chemical Engineering: June / July 2013 Newsletter

Dave C. Swalm School of Chemical Engineering E-Newsletter
June / July 2013

Director's Report:

Once again, the summer has gone quickly and we will soon be beginning the fall 2013 semester in the Dave C. Swalm School of Chemical Engineering. We welcome a new Assistant Professor, Dr. Neeraj Rai, to the department, and also welcome Dr. Achille Messac who is our new Dean of Engineering. With the start of the school year, the promotion of Dr. Hossein Toghiani to the rank of Professor is effective. We say goodbye to Dr. Rafael Hernandez as he has begun a new job at the University of Louisiana Lafayette and to Dr. Rebecca Toghiani upon her retirement.

I had the opportunity to go on several trips this summer. I represented MSU during a visit to Berkeley Labs to talk about mutual research interests, in particular in the energy arena. I also attended the Southeast Regional Chemical Engineering Department Heads meeting. I always look forward to talking with my fellow department heads about the successes of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Finally, I was able to attend the American Society for Engineering Education annual meeting and learn about the latest teaching methods and techniques in chemical engineering.

Stay informed about news in the Swalm School of Chemical Engineering at our website at <http://www.che.msstate.edu>, the facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/msuswalmche>, and the director's twitter updates at http://twitter.com/msu_swalm_director.

If you have any comments or questions, or would like us to publish any of your accomplishments, feel free to call me at 662-325-2480 or send an email to keith@che.msstate.edu. Your updates and feedback are very important to us and also help us evaluate the success of our program.

Go Bulldogs!

Jason Keith
Professor and Director
Earnest W. Deavenport, Jr. Chair

Student and Alumni News Items:

- Incoming CHE graduate student Bo Portillo has been awarded a Bagley Engineering Graduate Fellowship for the 2013-2014, which was funded through private donations.
- CHE alumna Lauren Welch was recognized by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers as one of “30 under 30.” The story is available here: <http://www.sme.org/welch/>.
- Mr. and Mrs. Lee Meeks have established a gift to provide \$1,000 to the AIChE Student Chapter Endowment and also \$4,000 to the Bynum L. Meeks Endowed Scholarship in the College of Forest Resources. Mr. Meeks is a 1987 graduate of the Chemical Engineering program at Mississippi State University.
- During the 2012-2013 academic year, 75 undergraduate CHE students completed a total of 582 SACHE (Safety and Chemical Engineering) modules administered through the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. Generally, these students were in the senior design or chemical process safety courses.

School News Items

- CHE faculty received teaching evaluation scores of 4.4/5.0 for the spring 2013 semester.
- Dr. Rebecca Toghiani has been named Professor Emerita of Chemical Engineering.
- Dr. Mark Bricka has received \$130,000 from the USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture through the Sun Grant program for a project titled: “Biomass Gasification: Development and Evaluation of a Cost Effective Bimetallic Clay Catalyst for Woody Biomass Syngas Tar Destruction.”
- The Dave C. Swalm School of Chemical Engineering has received matching corporate gifts: BHP Billiton Petroleum – \$3,000; Entergy Corporation – \$1,960; Dow Chemical USA – \$1,000 - These gifts are for the Chemical Engineering Advancement Fund and used to support improvements in our educational programs.
- CHE faculty member Dr. Hossein Toghiani was profiled on the MSU website feature titled: People of “The People’s University.” The story is available here: <http://msstate.edu/web/people/detail.php?id=315>.
- Mississippi State has granted a commercialization license to a Jackson-based company to utilize a university developed and owned technology that extracts oil from microorganisms. Bio Energy Spectrum Solutions, LLC, received the exclusive right to commercialize MSU’s patented technology involving extracting biocrude from oleaginous microorganisms, which are found in wastewater treatment facilities. The microorganisms accumulate oil similar to vegetable oil or animal fat.
- Dr. Jason Keith has been named the 2013 recipient of the CAST David Himmelblau Award. This award recognizes new and novel contributions to computer aids for chemical engineering education and will be awarded at the American Institute of Chemical Engineers Annual Meeting.

Regards,

Jason

Jason M. Keith
Professor and Director
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