

Jason Keith

From: Sherre Denson
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To: Sherre Denson (sherre@che.msstate.edu)
Subject: Dave C. Swalm School of Chemical Engineering E-Newsletter - October / November 2011

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Director's Report:

We have had a great fall semester here at the Dave C. Swalm School of Chemical Engineering. A few big changes that my family and I have experienced in the last few months are the larger temperature swings during the course of the day (most recently from early morning lows in the 30s to afternoon highs in the 60s). This was the first Halloween in a decade where we haven't had to wear winter coats with the costumes!

Since many games were sold out before I received my job offer to come to MSU, I have only had the chance to go to two football games this year. Against Louisiana Tech, my 8 year old Andrew learned to "respect the bell" before the game and made sure his voice was as loud as the cowbell during the game. For the Homecoming game last weekend, my 3 year old Isabel also rang her pink cowbell and enjoyed seeing the band and everyone in Maroon and White.

At the end of September, I had the opportunity to go to the Career Fair at the Humphrey Coliseum. I was glad to see so many companies looking to hire chemical engineers from Mississippi State. I was able to introduce myself to many of the employers and alumni representing these companies. The common thread of their comments was that the Dave C. Swalm School of Chemical Engineering gave them all the technical and communication skills needed to be successful in the workplace. Furthermore, they wanted to hire MSU graduates because of these skills but also due to the combination of hands-on and practical knowledge of chemical engineering, as well as the ability to "hit the ground running."

This information was very helpful in my discussions with our ABET evaluator. These accreditation visits occur every 6 years and the Bagley College of Engineering just completed their reviews at the end of last week. We had a very positive review. Our faculty and staff worked tirelessly in preparation for this visit. Although we will not receive the official findings from this review until late August or early September 2012, the program evaluator was very complimentary of two strengths in the ChE program: the three undergraduate concentrations as well as the cooperative education program.

There are several ways for you to keep up with news in the Swalm School of Chemical Engineering. There is our new 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. Look for updated alumni and employer surveys in the near future – an important component of the feedback portion of our assessment program.

Go Bulldogs!

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

Student and Alumni News Items:

- The student chapter of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers has been recognized as one of 15 AIChE Outstanding Student Chapters nationally (out of more than 165 AIChE chapters). This marks the 11th consecutive year that Mississippi State University has won the award. The group is advised by Dr. Bill Elmore, Associate Director and Hunter Henry Chair. Way to go AIChE Bulldogs!
- The Chemical Engineering program is pleased to congratulate CHE student Mary Ann Murdock for being named co-op student of the year! Mary Ann did her co-ops with Ergon, Inc. During her acceptance speech, Mary Ann underscored the importance of cooperative education in her career. Also nominated for the award were CHE students Bonnie O’Neal and John Wright.
- A significant number of CHE students were recently honored at recognition events for scholarships: Barrier Scholarships (20 CHE students); Applewhite Scholarships (3 CHE students); and Henry Scholarships (16 CHE students).

School News Items:

- Look at the “This is OUR State” video which is played before home football games at <http://on.fb.me/pS4ila> - check out ChE bldg at 0:28 and biofuels lab at 0:38!
- The biofuels lab hosted 15 senior chemistry students from the Winston Academy in Louisville, MS. The students expressed their thanks to faculty and staff members Rafael Hernandez, Todd French, and Bill Holmes.
- Faculty members Mark Bricka, Todd French, Rafael Hernandez, and Keisha Walters were honored with State Pride awards.
- In early November, the Milliken Foundation gave a contribution of \$225,000 to be added to the endowment for the Earnest W. Deavenport, Jr. Chair. This gift will enable me to further promote the school’s efforts in maintaining the highest quality undergraduate program and improve the competitiveness of our graduate program.
- Since August, the School of Chemical Engineering has received many financial gifts from alumni and corporations. Significant gifts have been received from ExxonMobil, Chevron Corporation, Marathon Oil Corporation, Citgo, and Dow Chemical alumni. As we near the end of 2011, please note that the MSU Foundation has a website from which you can make donations and have them allocated to the Swalm School of Chemical Engineering. This website is: <https://ssl2.msstate.edu/msufoundation/makeagift/>
These gifts enable us to provide the highest quality education to our students. Your gift may be tax deductible and may also be eligible for gift matching from your employer.

Final Note:

We are beginning preparations on our annual newsletter. If you have any accomplishments you would like included, please email them to Sherre Denson at sherre@che.msstate.edu

Regards,

Jason

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

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