

Jason Keith

From: Jason Keith
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2011 12:19 PM
To: Jason Keith
Subject: Dave C. Swalm School of Chemical Engineering E-Newsletter - August/September 2011

Dave C. Swalm School of Chemical Engineering E-Newsletter
August / September 2011

Director's Report:

My name is Jason Keith and I'd like to introduce myself as the new director of the Dave C. Swalm School of Chemical Engineering. I grew up in Ohio and received my chemical engineering degree from The University of Akron in 1995. I then went on to complete my PhD from the University of Notre Dame in August of 2000, after which I began my faculty career at Michigan Technological University. My wife, Salvadora (Sal) and I have three children: Andrew (8), Maria (4), and Isabel (3), and a 9-year old chocolate Labrador Retriever named Pennant (she is already a fan of MSU baseball!).

You may find this hard to believe, but we consider Starkville a big town full of traffic! We're used to being 5 minutes away from everything, but we are now getting adjusted to being 10 or 15 minutes away instead. We sold our snowblower, but we still have our shovels, ice scrapers, boots, jackets, and snow sleds in case we need them.

During my interview, I was highly impressed by both the quality of the faculty and staff as well as the physical facilities available for teaching and research. In addition, I had the opportunity to meet the staff in the dean's and provost's office. I'm sure you're aware already, but I was pleased to see that there is a large sense of cooperation and support from the administration. We're glad to be part of the MSU family, and look forward to adding more Maroon to our wardrobes.

Along with this newsletter, I would like to announce the publication of our new website at <http://www.che.msstate.edu>. You will find a fresh look and updated content. We will be updating this site frequently with news items and events, so be sure to add us as a bookmark. Alternatively, you may want to like our facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/msuswalmche> or follow the director's twitter updates at http://twitter.com/msu_swalm_direct.

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.
Go Bulldogs!

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

Student and Alumni News Items:

- ChE and ISE students placed 4th on the 2011 Environmental Challenge International student team competition.
- Emmanuel Revellame, PhD ChE Student, was selected for the 2011 American Oil Chemists Society Industrial Oil Products Division Student Award.

- Adebola Coker, PhD ChE student, won 1st place at the 10th Annual Southern BioProducts and Renewable Energy Conference Student Poster Competition.
- Chandra Kothapalli (MS 2002) has accepted a tenure-track faculty position in the Department of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering at Cleveland State University starting this Fall.
- Two teams of MSU ChE students have been recognized by AIChE for their performance in the national student design contest. The team of Justin Williamson, Derek Needham, and James Wright has been selected for first place and the team of Erin Casey, Rebecca Atkinson, and Andrew Estess has been selected for third place.

Research and Grant Items:

- The project titled "Production of Sewage Derived Biofuels Applying Novel Biomolecular, Harvesting, and Conversion Techniques," was awarded \$600,000 by General Atomics to Rafael Hernandez and Todd French
- Mark Bricka received a Sun Grant for \$180,000 through the Department of Transportation titled "The Development and Evaluation of a Cost Effective Catalyst for the Treatment of Syngas Tars Produced from a Woody Biomass"
- Keisha Walters is part of a collaborative team (Mississippi State University, University of Southern Mississippi, and University of Mississippi Medical Center) that has received \$86,395 of funding from the National Science Foundation for a team project "In Vitro Inhalation and Deposition of Polymer-Stabilized Gold Nanoparticles for Validation of Computer Simulated Particulate Distributions in the Lung."
- Shreveport-based Harrelson & Associates, LLC licensed a novel catalyst technology developed at the CHE School and Sustainable Energy Research Center to convert gasified waste into hydrocarbons and other useful products. The technology was developed by post-doctoral associate Shetian Liu and professor emeritus Mark White.

Other news:

- The Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning approved the Promotion and tenure of both Keisha Walters and Todd French, who are now associate professors.
- Former Mississippi Governor Ray Mabus will give an address at the 2011 MSU Biofuels Conference (to be held October 6 and 7, 2011)
- Bill Holmes, Director of Advanced Instrumentation, has acquired two Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry instruments for upgrading the unit operations teaching laboratory. This will allow students exposure to advanced instrumentation used in industry and also better prepare those students seeking graduate school.
- Todd French was named to the Advisory Board of the Southeastern Sun Grant Center
- Rafael Hernandez was invited as an Editorial Board Member of Current Opinion in Chemical Engineering.
- Dr. Rafael Hernandez was selected for a \$10,000 Bagley College of Engineering Hearin Faculty Excellence Award.

Regards,

Jason

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

Dave C. Swalm School of Chemical Engineering
 Mississippi State University
 Mississippi State, MS 39762
 Ph: 662-325-2480; Fax: 662-325-2482; email: keith@che.msstate.edu