

Jason Keith

From: Sherre Denson
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2012 10:32 AM
To: Sherre Denson (sherre@che.msstate.edu)
Subject: Dave C. Swalm School of Chemical Engineering February-March Newsletter

Dave C. Swalm School of Chemical Engineering E-Newsletter
February / March 2012

Director's Report:

The spring semester is going by at a rapid pace. It seems like we just started, and now commencement is right around the corner. There have been a lot of exciting things that have occurred since our large fall newsletter, and I am glad to have the chance to share them with you.

The topic that keeps coming to mind is opportunity. I was recently invited to attend my first luncheon as part of the process to identify the 2012 MSU Distinguished Scholars. These students already have partial scholarships from the university, and were being interviewed for full four-year scholarships. The program featured graduating seniors talking about the all of the opportunities that a Mississippi State education had provided for them.

As I continue to work with our students, faculty, and staff, I see tremendous opportunities in the field of chemical engineering to train a future workforce for a global economy and in solving challenging problems in water, energy, and materials, to name a few. While still providing a core foundation of CHE fundamentals, our students are being exposed to case studies, projects, modules, electives, and research projects in emerging areas. We continue to prepare our students to hit the ground running when they enter the workforce.

These principles were underscored by Mr. Don Taylor, Vice President of Global Purchasing and Global Supply Chain for The Dow Chemical Company. Mr. Taylor came to campus to deliver the 2012 Hunter Henry Lectureship. During his speech, Mr. Taylor highlighted the challenges that await chemical engineers, and how they were prepared to face those challenges head on. The lecture was standing room only and you could hear a pin drop as he shared several stories of his career path.

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:

- Undergraduate students Lennon Martin and Glyn Freeman were awarded scholarships from the Mississippi Engineering Society
- Graduate student Adebola Coker has received a scholarship from the Southern Automotive Women's Forum
- Graduate student Jaclyn Hall successfully defended her PhD dissertation "Cultivation of Oleaginous Microorganism Consortium on Municipal Wastewater for the Production of Lipids." She is advised by Dr. Todd French and Dr. Rafael Hernandez.
- Graduate student Ashley Cornell successfully defended her MS thesis "Studies in Applied Materials Science: Drug-Biofluid Interactions and Light-Emitting Polymer Films." She is advised by Dr. Keisha Walters.

School News Items:

- Dr. Keisha Walters has received \$51,413 from KiOR through the Mississippi Development Authority for a project titled "Characterization of KiOR ReCrude Oils Produced from Pine Clear Wood, Bark, Clear Wood/Bark Mixtures, and Other Blend Feedstocks"
- Dr. Rafael Hernandez was awarded \$50,000 from KiOR through the Mississippi Development Authority for a project titled "Use of Biomass to Remove Organics from Waters Generated during Bio-Oil Production"
- Mr. Bill Holmes, Director of the Advanced Instrumentation and Mass Spectrometry Lab was named the 2012 Staff Research Award by the Bagley College of Engineering

Regards,

Jason

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

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