Please write to us!! We want to know where life has taken you since you left West Virginia University. Complete and return this form with your news and comments. Also, pass this newsletter on, or let us know any alumni who are not receiving The Major.

Send to:
Department of Chemical Engineering • West Virginia University
403 ESB, PO Box 6102 • Morgantown, WV 26506-6102

Or, email updates to linda.rogers@mail.wvu.edu.

Name: ____________________________________________
Degree(s): ____________________________________________ Year ________
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Business Phone ________________________________________
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Brief News of Professional and Family Activities for Future Newsletters:
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For more information, visit our Department web site at http://www.cemr.wvu.edu/~wwwche/
The moral of this message is: Lift Your Head.

It’s easy for any inhabitant of this office to succumb to the minutiae inherent in administering an educational institution, even one which is rapidly moving from one which is state-supported to one which is state-located. Today, for example, I answered emails on a list of faculty expertise due soon, a five-year review of a fellow chair in the college, and temporary storage of college computers during the winter break. There are minutiae involved even in exciting and novel thrusts such as the biomedical engineering certificate (of which more inside), and a potential initiative in energy research and education (of which more in a subsequent edition).

Every so often, though, I get smart and lift my head. When I lift my head literally, at this time of year, I get to see the reds and yellows of the trees and the blue of the sky, colors for which our state is justly famous. When I lift my head figuratively, I get to remember the reason we are in this business, and that is the students.

And what a semester it has been for students! Two of our undergraduates won major awards for achievements in academics, service to the Student Chapter, and interest in process engineering. These awards were presented at the AIChE Annual Meeting in early November. One of these awards is named after one of the icons of our profession, John J. McKetta, currently emeritus at the University of Texas at Austin. He was moved to write a very nice note to me (and another to our award winner) highlighting his ties to our area - see inside.

Another undergraduate won first place in a poster competition during that same meeting. Two graduate students and three undergraduates were selected to present research results at a statewide meeting, Science Technology and Research (StaR) 2007, sponsored by the WV Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). Of these, we came away with one honorable mention in the undergraduate division, second place in the undergraduate division, and first place in the graduate division. (Details on all of these are inside.) Add to that our students’ successes from the previous semester - a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, two inductees to the University’s Order of Augusta, the University’s Showalter Award, and an award at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference.

Yet, these students are not “all work and no play.” One of our students is the Mountaineer mascot alternate, and four students won President’s Awards for their volunteer work. So, alumni can rest assured that their successors are carrying on and building on their traditions of greatness.

I ask myself: what is the reason for these successes? Certainly the students themselves are self-starters. The PROMISE Scholarship Program has certainly elevated the quality of students throughout the College. But the faculty and the program itself are surely major contributors. At one time, I calculated that each of our undergraduates has made on average 12 presentations before graduation. The graduate students, too, make multiple presentations and are critiqued by their peers and the faculty. Both the undergraduate program and the graduate program emphasize the core of the profession. This allows undergraduate students to have the flexibility to concentrate (if they wish) on a specific area of interest, and graduate students to devote significant time.

cont on page 2...
Part of the WVU contingent at Salt Lake City: from left, standing - Zack Schwertfeger, Dr. Anderson, Jennifer Knipe, Dr. Klinke, Jeffrey Boyczuk, Elliot Roth, Dr. Dadyburjor, Fletcher Loder, Joshua Welshans; seated - Erica Trump, Jessica Castillo, Marissa Morphis.

**note from Professor McKetta**

Dear Dady: I was so pleased when I heard that your Jessica Castillo was the winner of the AIChE McKetta Award of $5,000. Especially so since, as a young boy, we lived in Pt. Marion, and Uniontown, PA. I graduated from high school in Repubulc Pa. and was so proud of your department for many years even though I did not attend there.

Will you please give the attached note to Jessica since I do not have her home address. Keep up the good work and please give my warmest wishes to all of your Chem faculty and to Dean Gene Cienito. Best regards to you.

H. Leo Mehl (BS ’59), Academy Class of 1995 was inducted into the Motor Sports Hall of Fame on August 15, 2007. Leo was instrumental in helping change the image of The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company from one of a highly-conservative corporation into one considered a top-flight technical firm. Leo was director of racing at Goodyear from 1974 until 1996. Shortly after retiring from Goodyear, following the Daytona 500 in 1996, Indianapolis Speedway President Tony George asked Leo to come to Indianapolis and run the newly-found Indianapolis Racing League. Leo agreed and eventually retired from the IRL in 2000.

For those who have sent contributions to the Department this past year, OUR MANY THANKS!! These funds are used to support many undergraduate and graduate activities, and to help enhance the overall academic and learning environments in the Department. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Please remember to designate your tax deductible gifts for use by the Department.

The best way for contributing to support of WVU Chemical Engineering is to write your check out to the WVU Foundation and designate it for use by Chemical Engineering on the memo line. Also, please check with your company - many will provide matching gifts.
Biomedical Engineering Initiative

The Department of Chemical Engineering is currently working on a biomedical engineering initiative as a certificate program. We are actively searching for a new faculty member in the area of Tissue Engineering. And, our first course (BMEN 201) will be taught in the Spring 2008 by Professor David Klinke. At the WVU Academy of Chemical Engineers annual meeting held in April 2007, many members pledged funds to help with the start-up of this initiative.

Emeritus Reception

On Friday, May 4, 2007, the College of Engineering and Mineral Resources (CEMR) held the Annual Emeritus Luncheon as part of the University Emeritus Weekend. The following Chemical Engineering alumni attended the lunch:

Kenneth R. Barker, B '49
Rev. Harold E. Bishop, Jr., B '50
Richard Hashinger, B '57
W. Roy Hasinger, B '43
Forrest Hoffmaster, B '39
John L. Plesa, B '41
D.W. Tuckwiller, B '43, M '48
Paul R. Westfall, B '50

Professors Dadyburjor and Zondlo were on hand to greet them. The lunch was held at the Pines Country Club. We look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Dow/Union Carbide Bannister Distinguished Lecture

On September 28, 2007, Mr. Lawrence A. Smith presented the Dow/Union Carbide Reaction Engineering and Catalysis Seminar honoring R. Richard Bannister. The seminar was entitled “COAlky Makes Sub 30 F Sulfuric Acid Catalyzed Alkylation Practical.”

Mr. Smith is currently the research director for CDTECH and vice president of research for CR&L. He received a BS degree in chemistry from the University of Maryland in 1968. He is one of the founders of CR&L in 1977 and was its first president. He has authored/co-authored over 70 US patents as well as numerous foreign patents, published patent applications and papers. He has played a leading role in the invention and development of multiphase reactors and processes employing them. Mr. Smith is one of the pioneers in liquid continuous distillation and its use.

Bayer Foundation Awards WVU Money for Graduate Fellowships

The Bayer Foundation has given a $380,000 grant to create the Bayer Scholars for Extrusion-Compounding program in the Department of Chemical Engineering. The program will allow for generous fellowships for three WVU graduate students pursuing Ph.D.s in chemical engineering over five years. A unique feature of this program is the ability to spend summers as an intern at a Bayer facility in this country or overseas.

We hope to have our first Bayer Scholar on board in Spring 2008. Professor Rakesh Gupta is the primary faculty member in charge of this initiative. If you know of a suitable candidate for this fellowship, please contact Professor Gupta at Rakesh.gupta@mail.wvu.edu.

ChE Industrial Visiting Committee

The departmental Industrial Visiting Committee met on October 3-4, 2007 for the Annual Meeting. The following members were present and provided valuable advice and counsel to the Department.

Mr. Steven Alford, Milliken and Company
Dr. Gary Allen, The FReMCo Group
Dr. Steven Auvil, Air Products and Chemicals Inc.
Dr. Gary Brown, New Carbon Inc.
Dr. Kevin DiGregorio, Chemical Alliance Zone & WV TBED
Dr. George Keller, MATRIC
Dr. Kenneth Miller, Mylan Inc.
Dr. Dushyant Shekhawat, U.S. Dept of Energy/NETL (for Dr. Geo Richards)
Ms. R. Ingrid Warren, Momentive Performance Materials

From left, Dean Cilento, Greg Babe, president of Bayer MaterialScience, and President Garrison commemorating the establishment of the Bayer Fellowships.
STUDENT NEWS

Recent Graduates

The Department had 55 undergraduate students enrolled for the Spring 2007 semester in the sophomore through senior years. This year, we graduated 14 students, and this fall we anticipate having 20-25 rising sophomores.

The BSChE graduates for 2006-2007 are shown below. Our congratulations and best wishes to all of them in their careers! Please keep in touch!

CLASS OF 2007

DECEMBER 2006
Stephen J. Gorrell
Tyler David Simmons

MAY 2007
John Curry
Robin Glebes*
Joseph Hanning
Thomas Harty**
Brian Holsclaw***
Reem Kayali
Jonathan McCrack
Aaron Miller
Tirzah Mills***
David Smith*
Justin Stover***
Christopher Thomas*

*Cum Laude
**Magna Cum Laude
***Summa Cum Laude

If your company is hiring, please let us know. We are always interested in providing more opportunities for our graduates.

In 2006-2007, the Department had 22 full-time graduate students enrolled, of whom 10 are in the PhD program. We graduated 7 M.S. students and 3 PhDs during this academic year. Their names, research topics, and research advisors are as follows:

AUGUST 2006
Gregory Hackett (MS)
Research Advisor: John W. Zondlo
“Evaluation of Carbon Materials for Use in a Direct Carbon Fuel Cell”

Mark Heavner (MS)
Research Advisor: John W. Zondlo
“Pitch Foam Production by Use of Physical Blowing Agents”

Yongxin Song (PhD)
Research Advisor: Richard Turton

Huifang Shao (PhD)
Research Advisors: Dady Dadyburjor and Edwin L. Kugler
“Bimetallic Carbides as Catalysts for Dry Reforming and Steam Reforming

Joseph Stoffa (MS)
Research Advisor: Alfred H. Stiller
“The Dissolution and Swelling of Bituminous Coal in N-Methyl-Pyrrolidone”

Yin-Han Wang (MS)
Research Advisor: Richard Turton
“Model and Software Development for Predicting Fish Growth in Trout Raceways”

James Wright (MS)
Research Advisors: Dady Dadyburjor and Edwin L. Kugler
“Potassium-promoted Molybdenum Catalysis: Higher Alcohols From Synthesis Gas Over MoC, MoC and MoO2”

DECEMBER 2006
Brooke A. Fridley (MSE)
Research Advisor: Ray Y.K. Yang
“Phytocerolmorphs of Silver and Gold Nanoparticles”

Yue Huang (PhD)
Research Advisor: Richard Turton
“Dynamic Model of a Circulating Fluidized Bed”

MAY 2007
Joshua Mounts (MS)
Research Advisor: Eung H. Cho
“Durability of Glass-Fiber-Reinforced Polymer Composites in an Alkaline Environment”

Scholarships Announced

In addition to the Academy scholarships which were identified in the Summer 2007 edition of The Chemical Engineering Major, the following scholarships were awarded for the 2007-2008 academic year.

Morgan Ames (’09), Dow Chemical Scholarship
Jeffrey M. Boyczuk (’08), William W. Hodge Chemical Engineering Scholarship
James Cooper, Jr. (’08), Georgia Nash Memorial Scholarship
Julia Demard (’08), B.G. McGuire Scholarship, George A. and Sylvia B. Crago Scholarship
Ronald Jacobs (’10), H.S. Muralidhara Scholarship
Charles Kling (’09), James Wimer Memorial Scholarship, William W. Hodge Chemical Engineering Scholarship
Jennifer Knipe (’10), Georgia Nash Memorial Scholarship
Cameron S. Kouns (’08), H.S. Muralidhara Scholarship
Fletcher P. Loder (’08), William W. Hodge Chemical Engineering Scholarship
Catherine A. Loikith (’08), Albert J. Monack Scholarship
John Maxim (’09), ChE Scholarship, William W. Hodge Chemical Engineering Scholarship
Bradley May (’09), Camden Coberly Memorial Scholarship
Logan May (’11), ChE Scholarship
Tristan McQuain (’09), Lester Kincaid Memorial Scholarship, George A. & Sylvia B. Crago Scholarship
Elliot Roth (’08), James Wimer Memorial Scholarship
Victor Shafer (’09), Dow Chemical Scholarship, Lester Kincaid Memorial Scholarship
Troy Shulter (’08), ChE Scholarship
Alexander Stanton (’09), Georgia Nash Memorial Scholarship
Bryan M. Surface (’11), Robert E. and Loraine R. Pyle Scholarship
Joseph Widmeyer (’10), W.J. Fitzgerald Chemical Engineering Scholarship

Greg Hackett during a poster presentation at the StaR Symposium in Morgantown.

Student News

If your company is hiring, please let us know. We are always interested in providing more opportunities for our graduates.
Other Student Awards and Accomplishments

Jessica (Weaver) Castillo is a national award winner of the John J. McKetta Scholarship. The award is $5,000 and was presented to Jessica at the Student Awards Brunch at the Annual Student Conference held in Salt Lake City, Utah in November 2007.

Jennifer M. Knipe (’10) won an Honorable Mention for her poster presented at the Science Technology and Research (STaR) symposium in Morgantown. Jennifer’s poster was entitled “Identifying the Differentiation Program in Dendritic Cells.” Jennifer is working on this project under the direction of Dr. David Klinke.

An updated version of this poster won Jennifer the First Place Award in a Food, Pharmaceutical and Biotechnology Division Undergraduate Research Poster Session at the AIChE Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah during November 2007.

David L. Statler, Jr. (PhD candidate) won first place in the poster session of the Science Technology and Research (STaR) symposium held on September 17-18 in Morgantown. As first place winner he received a check for $1500. Dave’s poster presentation was entitled “The Recyclability and Mechanistic Study of Polycarbonate Flame Retarded with Potassium Diphenylsulfone Sulfonate.” Dave’s research advisor is Dr. Rakesh Gupta.

Zack J. Schwertfeger (‘08) tied for second place in the undergraduate division of the poster session for STaR. His poster presentation was entitled “Modeling the Onset of Type I Diabetes.” Zack was working under the direction of Dr. David Klinke.

Erica Trump (’08) was a recipient of the AIChE Donald F. & Mildred Topp Othmer National scholarship Award for 2007-08.

UNIVERSITY NEWS

WVU Chemistry Department Appoints New Chair

Terry Gullion has been appointed as chair of the C. Eugene Bennett Department of Chemistry at WVU. Dr. Gullion is a native of Princeton and earned his doctorate from the College of William and Mary. He returned to WVU in 1997. Dr. Gullion takes over after Dr. Harry Finklea stepped down to return to teaching.

New Career Services Center Director Named

Dave Durham has been appointed as the new director of the WVU Career Services Center (CSC). Dave is a WVU alumnus and administrator whose University career spans 28 years. Dave comes to the WVU CSC from CEMR where he created and directed the Office of Corporate Relations and Career Assistance.
1950
Harry E. Cummings, Jr. (BS '50, MS '51) is retired from Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel and is self-employed as a tax consultant. He raised a family of five boys and three girls - two of his sons are blast fire foreman at Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel. Harry resides in Toronto, Ohio.

1955
Edgar N. Henry (BS) is retired from the West Virginia Water Development Authority and resides in Dunbar, West Virginia. Mr. Henry was a prisoner of war for 27 months during WWII and attended WVU on the GI Bill. Edgar was married and raised four children. While in college, he worked for Montgomery Ward and the US Bureau of Mines, amongst others. Edgar was head of West Virginia Water Resources and director of West Virginia Water Development Authority after a stint with Columbia Southern of PPG. He retired in 1988 and enjoys traveling. He has a grandson who has been to Baghdad and Afghanistan with the Naval Warfare Command. He also has a granddaughter who is currently in Baghdad with the Air National Guard.

1975
Richard J. Hoffman (BS) is employed by Sanyo Chemical Texas, Inc. and resides in Humble, Texas.

1983
Kevin DiGregorio (BS '83, MS '85, PhD '88) recently became the executive director of the West Virginia Coalition for Technology Based Economic Development (TBED), a new organization being formed out of the Vision Shared TBED group. He is also the incoming executive director of the Chemical Alliance Zone. Kevin is also keeping his own business active - IMPACT Professional Services. Kevin and family reside in Cross Lanes, West Virginia.

1988
James A. Price (BS) and wife, Cheri and their three children moved to Louisiana in November of 2006. In October 2006, Jim became the plant manager for Praxair, Inc.’s Geismar, Louisiana facility.

2000
Lizbeth Laureano-Perez (MS) is a chemical engineer for NIST in Gaithersburg, Maryland

Matthew Plants (BS '00, MS '01) is working for Charleston Radiation Therapy as a dosimetrist. Matt had returned to school last year at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center for a one-year medical dosimetry program. He works in the radiation oncology department to help develop treatment plans for cancer patients.

2002
Manish Bhole (MS) completed his PhD from Mumbai University in April 2007. He is currently a post doctoral fellow at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. Manish and wife also welcomed a son this year.

2003
Keith E. Ferris (BS) is employed with Saint-Gobain in Granville, New York as a process engineer. Saint-Gobain makes PVC and polyurethane foams for gasketing and tape applications. Keith indicates that he is enjoying his position and is thankful for all the hard work and the work ethic the department instilled in him during his four years here.

ENGINEERS ARE THE “CREATORS” OF OUR TOMORROWS
By Deborah Miller, Director of Planned Giving, WVU Foundation

Improvements in our everyday life are traceable, time and again, to the work of engineers. Those who want to assure that such improvements will continue in the future can choose one of a number of special ways to strengthen our educational program.

Including a gift provision in your will or revocable trust is an easy way to accomplish this all-important future support. The wording of “to the West Virginia University Foundation, Inc. for the benefit of the Department of Chemical Engineering” will do what’s necessary. You may also specify that the funds are to be used for department-wide purposes, for student support, for graduate students, for faculty development, or for the purchase of equipment. Those are the Department’s most important support priorities.

Other options are also viable. Creating a gift to pay income to the donor can provide a retirement supplement that will also benefit the Department sometime in the future. Making a testamentary gift of retirement assets or adding a “payable on death” designation on checking, savings or stock accounts can work very well. Donating a life insurance policy or donating real estate while retaining a lifetime interest are also good choices.

To learn more about matching your own special plans to help the Department of Chemical Engineering, contact Bob Bragg at (304) 293-4821, ext. 2240. As the director of development, he can help you “engineer” the best gift!
It’s that magical time of year… the Backyard Brawl is around the corner, and all that football fans want for Christmas is their two front-row seats for the Bowl Game. Especially when the Bowl Game this year could be what Coach Rod has been calling “That Other Thing,” the game for the national championship. (Note added in proof: *%!?)

That would be enough excitement for any year. But basketball season is also underway; Coach Huggins is well and truly in town, and the men’s basketball team contains a young player by the name of West. Young Jonnie helped with a team score of over 100 points in a recent game. The women’s basketball team is tearing up the court too, winning the URI Invitational. The women are currently ranked 15th in the AP Poll. The soccer season is winding down, and both men’s and women’s teams are in the thick of things. The men’s soccer team has advanced (to date) to the Sweet Sixteen of the NCAAs. The men most recently held Virginia goal-less for a record 14 shutouts during the season. The women won the Big East Tournament. The women’s soccer team is currently in the NCAA Elite Eight for the first time in school history.