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. 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 ________

Home Address: ____________________________________________
City_____________________________ State ____ Zip _______

Home Phone ________________________________________ __
Business Phone _______________________________________

E-mail:______________________________________________

Employer:_________________________________________ __
Position Title:_________________________________________

Employer Address: _____________________________________
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Brief News of Professional and Family Activities for Future Newsletters: _________________________________________

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Suggestions/Comments:_________________________________

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For more information, visit our Department web site at www.che.cemr.wvu.edu
The past six months have been a very busy time for the faculty. A search was conducted to hire a new faculty member in the area of either regenerative medicine or drug delivery. I am happy to report that the search was successful, and Dr. Yong Yang, currently a post-doctoral associate in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Duke University, will be joining us as an assistant professor for the fall semester of 2011. Dr. Yang obtained his bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering and master’s degree in polymer science and engineering from Zhejiang University in China. He then went onto earn his doctorate in chemical engineering from Ohio State University in 2005. At WVU, he will be developing a research program in the area of regenerative medicine. His teaching interests are in biomedical engineering, including biomedical nanotechnology and polymer nanoengineering.

We have also been allocated a new faculty position in the area of process and energy simulation and a search will be initiated soon. This new line is in support of the University’s commitment to research success in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) disciplines.

Our students have been busy as well. As has been the case since the inaugural event in 2004, chemical engineering students were well represented at the Undergraduate Research Day held at the Capitol in January. They displayed posters on their work and met students and faculty from colleges and universities across the state. Others presented posters at the student night organized by the Pittsburgh section of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) in February; Zach Mayes received the Professional Promise Award at this meeting. Several undergraduates participated in the 86th Annual Meeting of the West Virginia Academy of Science on the campus of WVU Tech in April, and Matthew Thompson walked off with the best undergraduate poster award. Matthew will be starting his doctoral studies at WVU this fall after having won the Arlen G. and Louise Stone Swiger Fellowship, which is designed to recruit highly competitive doctoral candidates to the University. Eight other students traveled to Penn State in mid-April to participate in the AIChE Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference and to compete in the ChemE car contest. Jason Ware and Surya Manivannan returned with awards, but due to unforeseen circumstances, the ChemE car team was not able to advance to the finals in Minneapolis, Minn. Competing at the AIChE national meeting remains a goal for 2012. This past semester, we had four sophomores studying abroad, the largest such group to travel overseas at the same time. Two students went to Australia, while one went to the United Kingdom and another to Italy. These students will get credit for the courses they took while away from WVU and will be able to graduate on schedule along with their classmates.

We have seen strong interest from chemical companies to recruit on campus this year. Virtually every chemical company located within driving distance of Morgantown has participated in career fairs and presented information sessions to our students. Offers of employment have been extended not just for work in local plants but for positions nationwide. We graduated 30 students with the bachelor of science degree this year, and, at the time of writing this newsletter, 11 had industrial offers and eight had been accepted to...
Chair’s message continued from page 1...

In the fall, there will be close to 40 students in the senior class and about 50 students in the junior class. It is still a little early to estimate the numbers in the sophomore class.

We have been trying to strengthen relations with industry. Milliken invited five members of our faculty to visit their facilities in Spartanburg, S.C., in March. Accompanying them was Dave Durham, WVU’s director of Career Services. The group came back with a better appreciation of the needs of Milliken and what we need to do to make our students even more successful in the future. Plant visits were arranged this semester for seniors and juniors who got to visit the Morgantown location of the National Energy Technology Laboratory and the South Charleston operations of Bayer MaterialScience. Elliot Roth, one of our doctoral students and a Bayer Scholar, spent the spring semester being a graduate student intern at Bayer MaterialScience in Pittsburgh, Pa.; he participated in research that was unrelated to his dissertation, and learned new skills and came into contact with new technologies. We would like to encourage more internships like this in the future.

One year ago, I wrote in this newsletter that we were planning to change our graduate curriculum to encourage the entry of non-traditional students. This process is now complete. We will offer the MSE degree to those students who enter the program without a ChE degree. They will be required to take three undergraduate chemical engineering courses—reaction engineering, thermodynamics, and transport. This will prolong their study by about one semester compared to those students who have an undergraduate chemical engineering degree. These students will be engaged in research during this time and will also receive some form of financial aid. I will provide more details on financial assistance in our next newsletter.

Last year, 53 of the nation’s most innovative engineering educators were chosen to take part in the National Academy of Engineering’s Second Frontiers of Education symposium that was held in Irvine, Calif., from December 13-16. Dr. Brian Anderson, assistant professor of chemical engineering at WVU, was invited to participate. According to Professor Edward Crowley of MIT, chair of the symposium planning committee, “by holding this event, we have recognized some of the finest young engineering educators in the nation, and will equip them to transform the educational process at their universities.” It is not surprising that Professor Anderson was named not just another outstanding teacher in the College, but Outstanding Teacher of the Year. Congratulations also go to Professor Cerasela Dinu, who joined our faculty in November 2009. She was named New Researcher of the Year for 2010-2011 for her work on nanobiotechnology.

We will be initiating a DuPont seminar in spring 2012 with support from the company. This seminar will be given by a distinguished lecturer and will focus on polymers and materials. Seminars of this kind are very important aspects of academic life, and we are thankful to DuPont for its support.

Rakesh Gupta, chair
WVU Department of Chemical Engineering

DEPARTMENT NEWS

DOW/UNION CARBIDE SEMINAR SERIES HONORING JEAN B. CROPLEY

On Friday, April 1, Dr. James C. Liao, chancellor’s professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering at UCLA, presented the Dow/Union Carvide-WVU Chemical Engineering Seminar Series Honoring Jean B. Cropley. The seminar was entitled, “Biological Synthesis of Fuels and Chemicals.”

Dr. Liao received his bachelor’s degree from National Taiwan University and his doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. After working as a research scientist at Eastman Kodak Company, he started his academic career at Texas A&M University in 1990 and moved to UCLA in 1997. Dr. Liao was elected a Fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including a National Science Foundation Young Investigator Award; Merck Award for Metabolic Engineering; Food, Pharmaceutical, and Bioengineering Division Award of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers; Charles Thorn Award of the Society for Industrial Microbiology; and Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award.

FACULTY NEWS

Two members of the chemical engineering faculty were honored at the College’s Honors Day Ceremony, held April 15, at the Erickson Alumni Center. Dr. Brian Anderson was recognized as the College’s Outstanding Teacher of the Year for 2010-2011. Dr. Cerasela Dinu was recognized as the New Researcher of the Year for 2010-2011.

Dr. David Klinke earned a National Science Foundation CAREER Award. The CAREER Program offers the NSF’s most prestigious awards in support of junior faculty who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars through outstanding research, excellent education, and the integration of education and research within the context of the mission of their organizations. Dr. Klinke plans to use this award to support fundamental research toward understanding how cancer cells resist targeted therapy. Dr. Klinke joined the Department of Chemical Engineering as an assistant professor in January 2006.
ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCED

The Academy of Chemical Engineers provided scholarships of $1,500 each to eight undergraduate students for the 2011-12 academic year. The recipients were:

Julian D. Bergstein, ‘12  Jason R. Miles, ‘13
Lauren V. Gioia, ‘12   Joshua C. Morgan, ‘13
Jonathan A. Mauiler, ‘12  Mason R. Smith, ‘13
Anna K. McClung, ‘13  Wesley J. Vassar, ‘13

The winners were recognized at the 2010-2011 Annual Academy Banquet, held on April 15.

STUDENT AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

Alan Campbell, ‘11, and Owen McGrath, ‘11, won the award for the best individual design project. Campbell and McGrath were presented with a leather briefcase on April 28, after their senior design presentation. The award is sponsored by Chemtura Chemicals.

Campbell also won first place in the SURE Program poster competition. His poster, “Stability and Activity Studies for BioNano Conjugates,” was based upon his research under the direction of Dr. Cerasela Dinu. He is also the recipient of a 2010-2011 National Consortium for Measurement and Signature Intelligence Research Award from the National Science Foundation.

Matthew Thompson, ‘11, and Jennifer Wiegand, ‘11, were named Outstanding Senior Scholars at WVU. The recipients were formally recognized during WVU’s commencement weekend on May 13 at the Creative Arts Center.

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Jennifer Wiegand

Amanda Thorp, a sophomore majoring in chemical engineering, is studying abroad at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Australia. You can read all about her travels on her blog: http://blogs.cemr.wvu.edu/studyabroad/amandathorp/.

STUDENT NEWS

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NEW WAYS TO CONNECT TO THE COLLEGE

The College of Engineering and Mineral Resources recently launched pages on Facebook www.facebook.com/wvucemr, Twitter www.twitter.com/wvucemr, and LinkedIn www.cemr.wvu.edu/linkedinwvucemr to help us stay in touch with our alumni and friends. Follow us to get information on student organizations, scholarships, student life, and the accomplishments of our students and graduates.

Jennifer Wiegand

Amanda Thorp, a sophomore majoring in chemical engineering, is studying abroad at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Australia. You can read all about her travels on her blog: http://blogs.cemr.wvu.edu/studyabroad/amandathorp/.

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STUDENT NEWS

Eight undergraduates attended the AIChE Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference held at Penn State University, on April 8-10. Surya Manivannan, ’13, came in third in the research poster competition with her poster, “The Synthesis and Characterization of Fuel Reforming Catalysts.” Jason Ware, ’12, won second place for his poster, “Identifying Biochemical Cues Secreted by Malignant Melanocytes that Escape from Immunoediting.” The students also participated in the ChemE Car competition placing sixth.

SENIOR DESIGN

With our increasing class size, we had two senior design groups this year with two different projects. Mountaineer Biotechnologies, Inc., with Chief Engineer Jennifer Wiegand, presented its project on April 26, at the National Research Center for Coal and Energy. Blue and Gold Engineering Solutions, with Chief Engineer Nathaniel Guy, presented its project on April 26, at the same location. A summary of each project follows.

MARS SPACE STATION DESIGN

Mountaineer Biotechnologies, Inc. was contacted by Capstone Chemical Corporation’s Life Sciences Division to design a Mars space station to accommodate 12 people. The design focused on systems that sustain life. It was determined that a food and biomass subsystem, a water subsystem, a solid waste subsystem, an air subsystem, and a thermal-management subsystem were required. The requirements for an 18-month resupply mission were determined for each subsystem. These requirements were optimized through design modifications to reduce payload, which directly reduced shipping costs. The optimization resulted in a decrease from $560 billion for the base case to $18 billion for the proposed case. In conjunction with the resupply missions, the Mars space station is a closed-loop, self-sufficient design.

CARBON CAPTURE USING AQUEOUS AMMONIA ABSORPTION

Blue and Gold Engineering Solutions was contacted by CCTek, Inc., to assist in developing, marketing, and selling designs for the capture of carbon dioxide from new and existing power plants. The primary objective was to complete a detailed design of a carbon capture process that minimizes the total cost of electricity and to determine the accuracy of the thermodynamic models used during simulations of the design. The completed design resulted in a cost of electricity of $0.1045/kWh. The primary parametric optimization variables included the weight percentage and flow rate of the aqueous ammonia stream, stripper and absorber conditions, and heat exchangers minimum approach temperature. Topological optimization included staged heat exchangers and other equipment arrangements. The optimized process is considered conservative because only 90 percent of the CO₂ from the flue gas must be removed, and the designed process extracts 98.5 percent of the CO₂. Further analysis would include optimization of the process based upon a lower capture rate of CO₂.

ACADEMY NEWS

ACADEMY MEETING AND INDUCTION CEREMONY

A meeting of the Academy of Chemical Engineers was held on campus on Friday, April 15. At the banquet and induction ceremony of the Academy, held that evening at the Erickson Alumni Center, three new members were inducted.

Steven W. Alford, B.S. ’87
Milliken & Company
LaGrange, Ga.

Steven Alford was born in Morgantown, W.Va., while his father, Darrell, was a senior at WVU. Following his father’s graduation, the family moved to the Boston area where many of Alford’s formative years were spent. The family returned to West Virginia when he was 14, and he graduated from Richwood High School in 1983 and enrolled in the College of Engineering at WVU. He graduated in 1987 with a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering and with memberships in Tau Beta Pi, Omega Chi Epsilon, and AIChE.

Milliken & Co., a South Carolina-based privately held textile and chemical manufacturing firm, hired Alford upon graduation. While working at Milliken, he has received numerous accolades including the prestigious Japan Institute of Plant Maintenance Excellence Award. In 1992, Alford earned an M.B.A. in international business from the University of South Carolina.

Alford’s career path has been dominated by positions of process improvement and production management. His reputation for operational excellence and as a turn-around expert has led to challenging assignments throughout the company including several at the international level. He is presently floorcovering director of manufacturing and company director of LEAN, promoting continuous improvement activities throughout Milliken.

He has been widely recognized for his community service, including being selected as American Red Cross volunteer of the year for a local chapter where he had distinguished himself on the disaster relief team. He has been logistics officer, Red Cross hero, and chairman of the board of directors. Alford’s additional volunteer activities included Special Olympics and Youth League Basketball Coach.

He and his wife, Mary, reside in LaGrange, Ga. They are the proud parents of Megan, a senior at Auburn University, and Steven, a freshman at WVU.
Louisa A. Nara, B.S. ’81
CCPS, AIChE
Cranberry Twp, Pa.

Louisa Augusta (Nolte) Nara was born in Charleston, W.Va., in 1958. Growing up in the Kanawha Valley, one time known as the “chemical center of the world,” Nara was inspired by chemistry and innovations. Nara attended Nitro High School where she had a dedicated and committed chemistry teacher with strong ties to Union Carbide. The exposure to Carbide’s scientists and engineers sparked her interest in chemical engineering. She attended West Virginia University from 1976 to 1981 and was a member of the WVU Marching Band, “The Pride of West Virginia.” She met her future husband at WVU, Geoff Nara, a landscape architecture (’79)/civil engineering (’81) student.

She began her career in Deer Park, Tex., as a process engineer for Diamond Shamrock and from there went to the PQ Corporation in Philadelphia, Pa. She attended Villanova University and obtained her master’s degree in environmental engineering. After graduation, she joined SMC Environmental Services Group, Inc., as the engineering manager of industrial services.

In 1991 Nara became the engineering manager of chemical process safety for Baker Environmental, Inc., in Pittsburgh, Pa. She started her own business, LakeRidge Technology Group Inc., as the engineering manager of industrial services.

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1951
Upon graduation, Roy H. Rogerson (B.S.) was employed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in research and development at Fort Belvoir, Va. He joined PPG in 1955 at its chemical R&D facilities in New Martinsville, W.Va., where he was involved in process development, process and project engineering, and engineering purchasing until 1984. He is co-holder of patents in the field of chlorination of ethylene compounds and titanium bearing ores. Rogerson transferred to the coatings and resins division in Pittsburgh, Pa., in 1984 and served as purchasing manager for R&D and as manager of purchasing for eastern U.S. manufacturing facilities until his retirement in 1991. Some of his volunteer activities included 4-H Club Leader, WVU Visiting Committee for Extension, and 10 years in the West Virginia Legislature representing Marshall County and the second senatorial district. Rogerson resides in Gibsonia, Pa.

1957

1978
Steven Marcus (B.S., M.S. ’80) is celebrating his 30th year of employment with Dow Chemical at West Virginia Operations. He is currently working in the ethylene oxide technical center licensing department. Marcus resides in Charleston, W.Va.

1987
Donal Hall (B.S.) recently accepted a position with Honeywell as safety leader/manager at their Hopewell Virginia Specialty Chemicals Plant. The facility manufactures caprolactam, cyclohexane, and cyclohexanone as well as anhydrous ammonia, oleum, and ammonium sulfate.

1988
Edward Lewis (B.S.) was recently promoted to the position of principal engineer with Canon Virginia, Inc., at its North American manufacturing facility in Newport News, Va. Lewis has been working for Canon for more than 16 years and spent the past several years working with engineers in Japan starting up a $750 million facility on the Virginia campus. Since joining Canon, he completed his master’s degree in materials science and engineering from the University of Virginia and a professional degree in engineering management from George Washington University. Lewis resides in Quinton, Va.

1994
Brent Mayfield (B.S.) is a sales manager for Compunix in Monroeville, Pa.

2000
Matthew Plants (B.S., M.S. ’01) is a dosimetrist at Charleston Radiation Therapy Consultants in Charleston, W.Va. Plants and his wife, Traci, have three daughters.

2001
Keith Tyo (B.S.) is an assistant professor at Northwestern University. After graduating from MIT, he did two-years of post doctoral study in Sweden at Chalmers University to learn yeast genetic engineering. Tyo and his family reside in Evanston, Ill.

2002
Raymond Chafin (B.S.) recently accepted a position with P&T Global Solutions Downstream at their Westhollow Technology Center in Houston, Tex.

2004
John Ramsey (B.S.) recently joined URS Corporation in Morgantown, W.Va. He is currently working with URS in support of the NETL SCC and mainly focusing on project management and project engineering-related support for ARRA funded projects.

2005
Adam Byrd (B.S.) has defended his dissertation and will shortly graduate from Auburn University. Byrd and Matt Kayatin (B.S.) recently won awards for being outstanding doctoral students at Auburn.

2006
Deanna (Alvare) Murlin (B.S.) is a product manager, downstream fuel additives for Lubrizol Corporation in Wickliffe, Ohio. Murlin resides in Avon, Ohio.

2008
Zachary Schwertfeger (B.S.) is a process engineer for Jacobs Engineering. He is currently working at offices in Houston, Tex., and Greenville, S.C.

IN MEMORIAM
Stanley Farr, B.S. ’47, passed away on March 2, 2011, in Pensacola, Fla. Farr served in World War II as a member of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He returned to Morgantown and earned a master’s degree in physics and began a long teaching career in the discipline at WVU. Farr also served two tenures as coach of the men’s tennis team at the University. He and his wife, Vonnie, opened the first indoor tennis facility in northern West Virginia.

Father William J. “Bill” Stenger, B.S. ’46, M.S. ’51, and Ph.D. ’53, passed away on February 8, 2011 in Wilmington, N.C. After graduation, Stenger joined DuPont in 1953 at Bumsida Laboratory at Carney’s Point, N.J. He took early retirement in March 1985, but continued to do consulting work for DuPont until he entered the seminary in 1990. He was ordained in 1994.

SPORTS
We are excited for the upcoming WVU football season to begin as Dana Holgersen takes over the reins as head coach and debuts a new offense. There are seven home games on this year’s schedule:

Sunday, Sept. 4 MARSHALL
Saturday, Sept. 10 NORFOLK STATE
Saturday, Sept. 17 @ Maryland
Saturday, Sept. 24 LSU
Saturday, Oct. 1 BOWLING GREEN (CEMR hospitality tent)
Saturday, Oct. 8 CONNECTICUT
Friday, Oct. 21 @ Syracuse
Saturday, Oct. 29 @ Rutgers
Saturday, Nov. 5 LOUISVILLE (CEMR hospitality tent)
Saturday, Nov. 12 @ Cincinnati
Friday, Nov. 25 PITTSBURGH
Thursday, Dec. 1 @ Univ. of South Florida
Scientists dream about doing great things. Engineers do them.

- James Michener (American author, 1907-1997)

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES THAT FOLLOW

And as chemical engineers know, a quality education is the key to doing great things.

Supporting the Department is a way to guarantee a quality education for coming generations of chemical engineers. Your help is definitely needed. Each gift accomplishes something that could not happen otherwise.

An easy way for anyone to provide such support is through a gift provision included in a will or revocable trust. The wording of “to the West Virginia University Foundation, Inc. to benefit the College of Engineering and Mineral Resources’ Department of Chemical Engineering” will provide such a gift. Undergraduate scholarships, research support for graduate students, and undergraduate conference/travel funds are high Department priorities.

Another gift option to consider is donating real estate. For those who transfer the after-death rights to their primary residence, vacation home, or farm to the Foundation, a federal income tax deduction is available. The donor retains the full use of the property for life but can also direct how the Department will benefit from the property after the lifetime interest ends. Two other gift methods are an outright gift of real estate to support the Department currently or a gift of real estate to a charitable trust managed by the Foundation that will pay income to the donor for life or a term of years (up to 20) and provide gift support later. Both methods provide federal charitable deductions also.

Knowing that a choice you make now will assure future generations of chemical engineers a quality education at WVU can be a truly satisfying thing to do.

For those who have sent contributions to the Department this past year, OUR MANY THANKS!! These funds are used to support 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 the Department of 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.

Dr. Rakesh Gupta
Department of Chemical Engineering
West Virginia University
PO Box 6102
Morgantown, WV 26506-6102

Please complete the "Alumni Update" side, cut, fold, tape and return with your news and comments or let us know of any alumni who are not receiving THE MAJOR WV.

Thank you.