ALUMNI UPDATE

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 ________

Home Address: __________________________________ ______
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Home Phone ________________________________________ __

Business Phone _______________________________________

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Employer:_________________________________________ __

Position Title:_________________________________________

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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.che.cemr.wvu.edu/
It has been four months since I became chair of the Department. During this time, I have met National Merit Scholars from high schools in the state; several of these students were interested in studying chemical engineering at WVU. I have assisted Professor Brian Anderson in making presentations about chemical engineering to freshman engineering students, and I have had dinner with engineering students in the honors dormitory. I have welcomed chemical engineering sophomores and new graduate students to the Department and met visiting alumni at football games. In addition, I have given a talk about my own research on wood/plastic composites to the student chapter of the AIChE. It has been a busy and exciting time!

In the middle of October, the College hosted an accreditation visit for all the different programs that we offer. Chemical engineering also went through a program review by ABET. The evaluator toured the undergraduate laboratories, examined our curriculum, met each faculty member, spoke with seniors and juniors, and had lunch with, among others, Visiting Committee members Kevin DiGregorio, George Keller, and Ken Miller. Kevin and Ken are also alumni, and George and Kevin drove from Charleston to participate in the ABET visit. The week prior to the ABET visit, we had a meeting of the Visiting Committee, and several of the committee members, led by Steve Alford, walked through the teaching laboratories and gave us valuable suggestions for improving housekeeping and safety. As a consequence of these collective efforts, the ChE evaluator found no deficiencies, weaknesses, or concerns. He talked about our strengths and mentioned that our students speak highly about the program. Thanks are due to everyone who contributed, but especially to Dr. Shaeiwitz, who shepherded the entire process from beginning to end.

We are now in the midst of change. Four new colleagues have joined us in the recent past. On the one hand, Professors Anderson and Klinke arrived in 2006, Professor Farmer came in 2008, and Professor Dinu started only a few days ago. On the other hand, Professor Kono retired in 2004, and additional retirements are imminent. The passing of Professor Galli brought this change home to us in a personally painful way. There is a change in research direction also, with a new emphasis on life sciences.

At the undergraduate level, our first class to earn a certificate in biomedical engineering will graduate at the end of spring next year. We are also looking to establish strong links with the WVU medical school, and Professor Klinke has been successful in initiating an NIH-funded program jointly with the WVU School of Medicine. Our other area of emphasis is energy, and I will be writing more about this topic in the next newsletter.

We soon leave for the annual meeting of the AIChE. This is being held in Nashville this year. As in prior years, we have both undergraduate and graduate students traveling to the meeting to present papers. In the past, our students have done well in terms of winning recognition for their work, and I am optimistic that this will continue in the future as well.

Finally, I thank Professor Dadyburjor for his many years of service as department chair, and I thank him personally for his help and advice during the period of transition.

I wish you all a very happy holiday season.

Rakesh Gupta, Chair
The departmental Industrial Visiting Committee met on October 7-8, 2009, for the Annual Meeting. The committee welcomed new members Dr. Sadhan Jana and Dr. Raymond Page. The following members were present and provided valuable advice and counsel to the Department.

Dr. Steven Alford, Milliken and Company
Dr. Steven Auvil, Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.
Dr. Kevin DiGregorio, Chemical Alliance Zone & WV TBED
Dr. Randy Gemmens, U.S. Dept of Energy/NETL (sitting in for Dr. George “Geo” Richards)
Dr. Sadhan Jana, University of Akron, Polymer Engineering
Dr. George Keller, MATRIC
Dr. Kenneth Miller, Mylan, Inc.
Dr. Raymond Page, Worceser Polytechnic Inst. and CellThera, Inc.
Dr. Valerie Patrick, Bayer Corporation
Mr. Vince Stricker, Dow Chemical Company
Ms. R. Ingrid Warren, Momentive Performance Materials

The Department of Chemical Engineering is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Rakesh Gupta as chair of the Department. Dr. Gupta took over the chair duties on July 1, 2009, as Dr. Dadyburjor returned to the trenches to devote more time to teaching and research (see related materials below).

Professor Gupta has been a member of the WVU faculty since 1991 and is an expert in polymer rheology, polymer processing, and polymer composites. He earned his B. Tech. degree from the Indian Institute of Technology in Kanpur, India, and his Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Delaware. Before joining the WVU chemical engineering faculty, Dr. Gupta taught at the State University of New York at Buffalo and worked for Monsanto and DuPont.

Dr. Cerasela Dinu joined the faculty of the department on November 1, 2009, as an assistant professor. Dr Dinu received her B.Sc. in physics and M.Sc. in biophysics from the University of Bucharest and her PhD in biology from Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics and TU Dresden, Germany, in 2006. Thereafter, she was a post-doctoral fellow at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Her research includes designing enzyme-based nanomaterials with high activity and stability. Dr. Dinu will be an integral part of our new Biomedical Engineering Certificate Program. Her teaching interests are bionanotechnology, synthetics and molecular biology, processing biomaterials, and introduction to biomaterials.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, Dr. Dadyburjor stepped down as chair of the department on June 30, 2009. Dr. Dadyburjor will spend more time in collaborative teaching and research efforts, including working at the Institute for Advanced Energy Studies at the National Energy Technology Laboratory in Morgantown, where he is a resident institute fellow. In honor of Dr. Dadyburjor’s ten-plus years of service to the Department as chair, the department held a reception on Monday, September 28, 2009, at the Forks of Cheat Winery for faculty, staff and guests.

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On September 25, 2009, Dr. Seth Snyder presented the Dow/Union Carbide Reaction Engineering and Catalysis Seminar honoring R. Richard Bannister. The seminar was entitled “Creating our Biobased Future.”

Dr. Snyder received a B.A. in chemistry and environmental studies from the University of Pennsylvania, and a M.S. in physical chemistry and Ph.D. in biophysics from the University of Virginia. Dr. Snyder joined Argonne National Laboratory where he is currently section leader of chemical and biological technology and process technology research. His team develops new process technologies ranging from tree growth through fermentation and product separations with a focus on energy efficiency, biofuels, catalysis, biobased products, CO2 capture, and water technologies.
**COLLEGE NEWS**

**WVU Civil Engineering Hires New Chair**

Dr. Radhey Sharma was appointed the chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering on June 30, 2009. Dr. Sharma came to WVU from Louisiana State University, where he was holder of Roy Paul Daniels Distinguished Professorship and coordinator of the Geotechnical and Geophysical Engineering Group. Dr. Sharma received his doctorate in geotechnical engineering from the University of Oxford. He also has a master’s degree in soil mechanics and environmental geotechnics from Imperial College in London, a master’s of technology degree in rock mechanics from the Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi, and a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering with first-class honors from AMU in Aligarh, India.

**Chris Atkinson Named Director of CAFEE**

Founded in 1989, the Center for Alternative Fuels, Engines, and Emissions (CAFEE) is one of WVU’s academic heavy hitters, conducting approximately $5 million per year in research in engines, emissions and alternative fuels. Dr. Atkinson was recently named the new director of CAFEE. Dr. Atkinson is originally from South Africa and a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. However, Dr. Atkinson is no stranger to West Virginia. He earned his master’s degree in mechanical engineering at WVU before going on to MIT for doctoral studies. Dr. Atkinson rejoined the WVU faculty in August as a professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering and CAFEE director.

**UNIVERSITY NEWS**

**WVU Names Michele Wheatly Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs**

Michele Wheatly was named provost and vice president for academic affairs at West Virginia University. Dr. Wheatly will begin her new role on January 1, 2010. Dr. Wheatly is currently dean of the College of Science and Mathematics at Wright State University. She was selected by WVU President James Clements following a national search which brought three finalists to campus. She earned both a bachelor’s degree (biological sciences) and a doctorate from Birmingham University, and held a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Calgary, before joining the University of Florida as a professor of zoology. After 10 years at UF, she joined Wright State as chair and professor of biological sciences before being appointed dean of the College of Science and Mathematics in 2002.

**University Registrar Satellite Office**

CEMR is the home of the Satellite Office of the WVU Registrar. The office is located in room 137 ESB and is open from 9am – 1pm daily. The office can provide all of the services currently handled in the downtown location, including printing transcripts and trouble-shooting registration issues.

**ACADEMY NEWS**

**Plans are underway for the next annual Academy of Chemical Engineers meeting and banquet to be held on April 30, 2010. Academy nomination of new members will be underway shortly. Potential members must have graduated at least fifteen years before they are considered eligible for election. If you know of alumni deserving of such recognition, please let us know. Your input is appreciated.**

**Verl Purdy Recipient of 2009 Outstanding Philanthropy Award**

The WVU Foundation announced the recipients of its 2009 Outstanding Philanthropy Awards and Verl Purdy was the recipient of the Outstanding Volunteer Philanthropist. The awards honor those donors who display exceptional generosity, commitment, leadership and proven records of outstanding civic and charitable devotion to the University. Verl is a 1964 graduate of WVU Chemical Engineering and is a member of the Academy of Distinguished Alumni and the West Virginia Business Hall of Fame.
STUDENT NEWS

Recent Graduates

The Department has 96 undergraduate students enrolled for the Fall 2009 semester in the sophomore through senior years. This past May, we graduated 13 students with a B.S. degree and this fall we have a record 51 sophomores. The BSChE graduates for 2008-2009 are shown below. Our congratulations and best wishes to all of you in your careers! Please keep in touch!

CLASS OF 2009

December 2008

Neena Kapoor

May 2009

Morgan F. Ames***
Paul M. Braswell***
Cassie A. Cunningham***
Jeremy S. Hardinger*
Nathan H. Hayes***
Michael J. Huff*
David B. Kahan
Charles W. Kling
Bradley W. May
Tristan J. McQuain
Jason T. Peluchette***
Rene A. Rosairo
Alexander R. Stanton*

* 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 2008-2009 the Department had 37 full-time graduate students enrolled, of whom 9 are in the doctoral program. We graduated 7 M.S. students and 2 Ph.D. students during this academic year. Their names, research topics, and research advisors are as follows:

August 2008

Wei-Ping Chang (MS)
Research Advisor: Rakesh K. Gupta
“Ultrasound-assisted Surface-modification of Wood Particulates for Improved Wood/Plastic Composites”

December 2008

Adam W. Finnis (MS)
Research Advisor: Rakesh K. Gupta
“A Parametric Study of Microcellular ABS Foam Production in the Injection Molding Process”

Manohar Gaddipati (MS)
Research Advisor: Brian J. Anderson
“Code Comparison of Methane Hydrate Reservoir Simulators Using CMG STARS”

Jason C. Hissam (MS)
Research Advisors: Dady Dadyburjor & Edwin Kugler
“Characterization of Nickel-Substituted Hexaaluminate Catalysts”

Tze-Wei Liu (PhD)
Research Advisor: Rakesh K. Gupta
“Flame Retardants for ABS and ABS-matrix Wood-Plastics Composites”

Chandar P. Palamadai Subramanian (MS)
Research Advisor: Charter D. Stinespring
“Optimization of Magnetic Force Microscopy for Retrieval of Data from an Erased or Altered Audiotape”

Tyler D. Simmons (MS)
Research Advisor: Richard Turton
“An Investigation into the Effects of Binder Viscosity, Shear Rate, Mixing Time, and Primary Particle Size on the Spreading of a Liquid in a Particle Bed”

Daoyun Song (PhD)
Research Advisor: Rakesh K. Gupta
“Phase Inversion in the Process for Making Tackifier Dispersions Used in Pressure Sensitive Adhesives”

May 2009

John K. Snodgrass (MS)
Research Advisor: Joseph A. Shaeiwitz
“A Kinetic Study of Decyl-Phosphite Stabilizers”

Scholarships Announced

In addition to the Academy scholarships which were identified in the Summer 2009 edition of The Chemical Engineering Major, the following scholarships were awarded for the 2009-2010 academic year:

Jamie Barr (’12), Lester Kincaid Memorial Scholarship
Jordan Beilhart (’11), W.J. Fitzgerald Chemical Engineering Scholarship
Sandra Bruce (’10), Williard W. Hodge Chemical Engineering Scholarship
Alan Campbell (’11), H.S. Muralidhara Scholarship
Kristen Carpenter (’11), Lester Kincaid Memorial Scholarship
Nathaniel Carr (’11), Williard W. Hodge Chemical Engineering Scholarship
Elizabeth DeFusco (’10), Lester Kincaid Memorial Scholarship
Andrew Gilbert (’12), Lester Kincaid Memorial Scholarship
Lauren Gioia (’12), W.J. Fitzgerald Chemical Engineering Scholarship
Michael Gramlich (’11), Lester Kincaid Memorial Scholarship
Kevin R. Gross (’11), John M. Summerfield Scholarship
James Haldeman (’12), Georgia Nash Memorial Scholarship

Kristen Kief (’11), Williard W. Hodge Chemical Engineering Scholarship
Eugene Lewis (’12), H.S. Muralidhara Scholarship
Garrett Maner (’11), ChE Scholarship and Dow Chemical Scholarship
John Maxim (’11), Williard W. Hodge Chemical Engineering Scholarship
Anna McClung (’12), Dow Chemical Scholarship
Adam Miller (’11), Albert J. Monack Scholarship
Erik Rasky (’12), John M. Summerfield Scholarship
Lincoln Schaefer (’12), B.G. McGuire Scholarship & Camden Coberly Memorial Scholarship
Patricia Sefton (’10), James Wimer Memorial Scholarship
Erica Sladky (’10), James Wimer Memorial Scholarship
Douglas Teter (’12), W.J. Fitzgerald Chemical Engineering Scholarship
Heat Transfer Class

John Maxim ('11) is currently on a co-op assignment with SABIC Innovative Plastics in Indiana. John wrote to Dr. John Zondlo, "I am working as part of a technology team who works site-wide assessing chemical plants and identifying creative ways to improve the processes. One of the things that I am currently working on is a heat integration project. I wanted to let you know that I ended up doing a heat exchanger design for a multi-component condenser using the notes and information you gave us in class (this ended up involving the two phase flow equations that you gave us!). Thanks for giving me the tools to be successful. The plan is to get an ASPEN model for the final calculations, but the initial calculations for feasibility were based off your notes. You can, also, tell your heat transfer class that the handouts that they get will end up being useful for things besides class and making your back tired while carrying them up the hill to Room 401."

ALUMNI CORNER

In May 2009, First Lieutenant Robin Glebes (BS 2007) published an article in the Hawaii Army Weekly entitled, "Engineers deny danger from below." The following is the article, which was published by First Lieutenant Robin Glebes, 26th Concrete Detachment, 84th Engineer Battalion (Construction Effects), 18th Engineer Brigade:

MOSUL, Iraq – “Water flows down hill; it’s a concept that is common across the world and prevalent in the design of any landscape.

Unfortunately, man often builds around this fact, and necessary steps have to be taken to control erosion and prevent damages to structures.

Look around next time you’re driving; you may spot a few of these preventative measures, like culverts underneath you.

Culverts come in an array of sizes and shapes; round, 3-feet culverts are the most prevalent and can be denied using Lapeer systems.

The 27th Concrete Detachment of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 84th Engineer Battalion (Construction Effects), can be sent out to any point within the Ninewa Province in northern Iraq to conduct operations. When not repairing craters, the 26th can be found out on the side of roads installing Lapeers.

The first step is to find the culvert. Depending on the terrain, this step can be harder than it sounds. The gunner and crew must look out over the side of the road and use the ditches to find the general area.

The Husky, a bomb interrogation vehicle is then sent in to explore and clear the culvert.

“All clear,” said driver Spc. Dustin Dove, signaling for work to begin.

Correct installation begins with removing any dirt and debris from the culvert and its entrance. A small bucket loader can be used for the entrance, but inside of the culvert requires some spelunking and hard work.

“There are layers from the years of build up. It’s like digging through time for dinosaurs,“ Spc. Richard Hill remarked.

Once the culvert is cleaned, it is as simple as placing the Lapeer in the culvert, pulling the Velcro strap to release the cam system and checking the fit. A correct fit is one in which the Lapeer will wiggle slightly, but not come out when pulled.

Denying access to culverts is a preventative step that Coalition Forces are taking to protect themselves from the hazards that exist in Iraq. The 26th Concrete Detachment will continue to make the battlefield as safe as possible for all Soldiers throughout Iraq.

Burdell Chapman ('65) is a native of Charleston, West Virginia. He transferred to WVU from West Virginia State in 1962 and graduated from WVU in 1965 along with a class of 25. He was the first Chapman to receive a college degree. While at WVU he was on the track team, which was Southern Conference champions in 1984. Burdell passed the Pennsylvania Professional Engineer Exam in 1970.

Burdell is married to Brenda Miner of Connellsville and they have two children and one granddaughter. Burdell’s daughter graduated from WVU and his son graduated from Louisville.

Presently Burdell is working part time for EPA Region 5 based in Chicago. He works with the 35 Indian tribes located in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, helping them solve solid waste problems, perform energy assessments and inspect underground storage tanks. In addition, he does OSHA, DOT, RCRA and Hazwoper contract training. He is also involved with safety training for the 4 plants run by International Steel Services (ISSI) located in Pittsburgh. When doing training at the ISSI plant operation in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, (next to Belle Vernon), Burdell tries to schedule the training sessions when there is a WVU football game.

Burdell served on the local school board for 10 years and is the chairperson of the Richton Park, Illinois, Fire and Police Commission.

Burdell also wrote, “Professor Galli was one of the best instructors I ever had and I am very sorry to hear about his passing.”

(Editor’s Note – Burdell Chapman visited and toured the Department on Friday, October 23, 2009.)
CLASS NOTES

1941

Allan Boston (BS) retired in 1980 from Rockwell. Activities since retiring include tennis, photography, RVing for travel within the U.S., Alaska, and Canada. Allan started his career with DuPont, then moved to GE in Richland, Washington, before working for Rockwell. Allan resides in Richland Washington.

1985

Terence Coutinho (BS) lives in San Antonio, Texas, with his wife and two children. Terence is employed by Southwest Engineers.

1986

George Phillips (BS, MS ’88) was recently in Morgantown attending the UCC/Dow Distinguished Lecture Series. George is employed by Dow Chemical as a technology associate/licensing project manager in South Charleston and resides in Scott Depot, West Virginia.

1990

William “Bill” Stewart (BS, MS ’92) recently took a new role in “headquarters” at E&J Gallo, where he will be leading the Lean Six Sigma and Operations Strategy organizations. Bill says, “I must still say making coal by-products was great, making plastic at GE was okay, too, but making wine... it’s just better for some reason.”

1999

Chris Sizemore (BS) recently assumed process safety responsibilities for Bayer MaterialScience in So. Charleston, West Virginia. Chris and family reside in Scott Depot, West Virginia.

2003

Timothy D. Hall (BS) is a principal scientist for Faraday Technology in Clayton, Ohio. Tim and family reside in Englewood, Ohio.

Sandepa Sandadi (MS) successfully defended her Ph.D. dissertation at Rutgers University. Congratulations!

2009


SPORTS

WVU Men’s Basketball

By the time you receive this newsletter, basketball season will be well underway. For the first time since 1963 the Mountaineer men are ranked in the preseason top 10. West Virginia is eighth in the Associated Press preseason poll and ninth in the USA today/ESPN Coaches’ Top 25 pool. The Mountaineers will open Big East play at Seton Hall on Saturday, December 26, which is scheduled to air on CBS at 3:30 p.m.

Once again, there will be several games on national television this year, including:

- Ole Miss (ESPNU2) on December 23
- Purdue (ESPN) on January 1
- Syracuse (ESPNU) on January 16
- Ohio State (CBS) on January 23
- Louisville (ESPN) on January 30
- Villanova (ESPNU) on February 8
- Seton Hall (ESPNU) on February 20
- Connecticut (ESPNU) on February 22
- Georgetown (ESPNU) on March 1
- Villanova (CBS) on March 6

Big East tournament play starts on March 9 and will be televised on either ESPN or ESPNU.

REMINDER

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.

You may also donate online at www.cemr.wvu.edu/contribute, and similarly designate your gift to the Department.
IN MEMORIAM

Alfred “Fred” Galli, a WVU alumnus and longtime faculty member in chemical engineering, passed away September 29, 2009, at the age of 88. Professor Galli earned his BSChE degree in 1944 and his MSChE in 1947 from West Virginia University. After his graduation from WVU, Fred went to work for Ashland Oil & Refining company as a process engineer. He returned to WVU and joined the Chemical Engineering faculty where he taught and mentored students for more than 40 years.

In 2004, the College of Engineering and Mineral Resources honored Prof. Galli by naming the Alfred F. Galli Laboratory in Chemical Engineering in his honor. Professor Galli was a charter member of the WVU Academy of Chemical Engineers. He was also a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, The Society for Glass Sciences & Practices, The Society of Sigma Xi, Tau Beta Pi, Omega Chi Epsilon, Phi Lambda Upsilon and Sigma Gamma Epsilon. He was married to the former Beatrice Canacari, and lived in Morgantown, West Virginia.

William Maxwell “Max” Harris, Jr. (B ’56) passed away in June 2008. Max was a native of Oak Hill, West Virginia. After graduation from WVU he was hired by Union Carbide Corporation at the Institute Plant, later moving to the Taft Plant in Louisiana. He retired in 1994 and is survived by his wife, Betty, son William Maxwell Harris, III and one grandson, Max.

This newsletter is published twice yearly to keep our alumni and friends informed of departmental news and ongoing activities. For additional information, visit our Home Page on the World Wide Web:

http://www.che.cemr.wvu.edu/

We continue to make it more informative and useful to our visitors. Let us know your thoughts and comments, and drop us a line.