

Jason Keith

From: Sherre Denson
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To: Sherre Denson (sherre@che.msstate.edu)
Subject: Dave C. Swalm School of Chemical Engineering E-Newsletter June / July 2012

Dave C. Swalm School of Chemical Engineering E-Newsletter
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Director's Report:

The faculty and staff of the Dave C. Swalm School of Chemical Engineering are getting ready for the start of the 2012-2013 school year! It was a very fast but productive summer. I had the opportunity to attend several business meetings including the AIChE Spring meeting, the Southeast Region Chemical Engineering Department Heads meeting, the CACHE trustees meeting, a visit to The University of Akron, and the Chemical Engineering Summer School. At many of these meetings the best practices in engineering education were discussed. I received a wealth of information that I will be sharing with the faculty. Many educational studies have shown that actively engaging students in the classroom is highly beneficial to their learning. The chemical engineering faculty at Mississippi State already utilize in-class problems, case studies, projects, oral and written reports, and active discussion in the classroom. In fact, I was proud to see the extremely high student evaluations of teaching from the spring 2012 semester.

This fall we look forward to providing one of the best chemical engineering undergraduate experiences in the nation – to over 300 undergraduates in our program. This is the first time we have been at that level since 1995 – back when Chemical Engineering was in Etheredge Hall!

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:

- 57 undergraduate students were named to the President's list for Spring 2012 (GPA of 3.8 or greater).
- 27 undergraduate students were named to the Dean's list for Spring 2012 (GPA between 3.5 and 3.8).
- Undergraduate student Alison Cuevas was awarded a national scholarship from the Buick Achievers Scholarship Program.

School News Items:

- Alumnus William Steen has made a pledge to endow a freshman scholarship - the first of which will be awarded this semester.
- Dr. Keisha Walters has been selected to serve as Mississippi State University's faculty representative in the Phase V Federal Demonstration Partnership (www.thefdp.org), comprised of 120 institutions with at least 10 federal agencies. The emphasis of Phase V of the FDP is to streamline the processes of research administration with the end goal being to allow the researcher to concentrate on their science and to be less burdened with administrative issues.
- Dr. Rafael Hernandez, Dr. Patrisha Pham, Dr. Andro Mondala, Dr. Emmanuel Revellame, and Mr. Bill Holmes helped organize two biofuels camps associated with the Southeast Biofuels and Renewable Energy Conference. The camps were funded in part by the National Science Foundation and Hearin funds. There were separate camps for 6-12 yr olds and teenagers.
- Both camps were educational, engaging, and fun. Participants were introduced to production of biodiesel and ethanol from soybean oil and corn, respectively. The attendees were informed about the problems associated with producing biofuels using food related feedstocks. They were shown other alternatives to producing biofuels, such as the integration of biomass, wastewater treatment facilities, and microorganisms. All of these educational materials were presented in the form of games, experiments, and videos.
- The MSU football schedule was released recently, with home games on Sept 1 (Jackson State), Sept 8 (Auburn), Sept 22 (South Alabama), Oct 13 (Tennessee), Oct 20 (Middle Tennessee), Nov 3 (Texas A&M), and Nov 17 (Arkansas). CHE tailgates will begin 3 hours prior to kickoff, to be held in the student lounge and Eastman Auditorium on the ground floor of the Swalm Chemical Engineering building.
- There is a new LinkedIn group, the Dave C. Swalm School of Chemical Engineering. Join today to keep up to date with CHE news!

Regards,

Jason

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Professor and Director
Earnest W. Deavenport, Jr. Chair

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