

Jason Keith

From: Sherre Denson
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2012 3:35 PM
To: Sherre Denson (sherre@che.msstate.edu)
Cc: Jason Keith
Subject: Dave C. Swalm School of Chemical Engineering E-Newsletter

Dave C. Swalm School of Chemical Engineering E-Newsletter
August / September 2012

Director's Report:

The past two months have been filled with exciting news for the students, faculty, and staff of the Dave C. Swalm School of Chemical Engineering. We have had a large number of student scholarships and faculty research awards. We have also hired a new professor, Dr. Neeraj Rai, to start next fall, and look forward to recruiting someone to hold the new Southern Ionics Chair. Finally, Dr. Hossein Toghiani has been awarded the Thomas B. Nusz Endowed Professorship. You can find out more news in the summary below.

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_direct.

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:

- PhD student Kamal Lamichhane was awarded 2nd place in the student poster session at the 2012 Southeast Biofuels and Renewable Energy Conference.
- 83 undergraduate students were named to Swalm Scholarships for Fall 2012
- 13 undergraduate students were awarded freshman scholarships (supported by Mr. and Mrs. William Steen, Citgo, and the Society for Petroleum Engineers) for Fall 2012

School News Items:

- Southern Ionics Incorporated has agreed to provide a gift of \$1,500,000 to fund the Southern Ionics Chair. The School of Chemical Engineering is thankful to SII for their support. We will begin a search for the chair holder next academic year.
- Dr. Hossein Toghiani has been named the Thomas B. Nusz Endowed Professor for excellence in teaching, research, and service to Mississippi State University. Dr. Toghiani's teaching excellence has led to his induction into the Bagley College of Engineering Academy of Distinguished Teachers in 2007. His research in materials and energy engineering has resulted in significant levels of external funding, graduate student supervision, and over 90 peer-reviewed publications. Dr. Toghiani is active in professional service as the advisor for the National Organization of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE) and in chairing sessions for the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE).
- After a national search, Dr. Neeraj Rai accepted an appointment in the Dave C. Swalm School of Chemical Engineering, effective August 2013. Dr. Rai is currently a postdoctoral scholar in the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at the University of Delaware.
- The Southeast Biofuels and Renewable Energy Conference was held in August in Jackson, MS. The conference was organized in part by Dr. Rafael Hernandez and Dr. Todd French of the chemical engineering program. At this meeting, academic researchers connected with private business and government to discuss issues of mutual interest.
- Three CHE faculty received funding from the U.S. Department of Energy for their efforts with the Sustainable Energy Research Center. These are: Dr. Rafael Hernandez (\$1,624,077 for biocrude research), Dr. Todd French (\$675,924 for microbial oil research), and Dr. Keisha Walters (\$115,157 for bio-oil research).
- Dr. Keisha Walters has received \$92,266 from the National Science Foundation for her role in the project titled "Multiscale Simulation of Biological Systems."
- Dr. Hossein Toghiani has received \$18,834 of support to work on a cooperative agreement between the U. S. Department of Energy and MSU's Institute for Clean Energy Technology.
- Dr. Santanu Kundu has received \$36,000 from the National Science Foundation for his role in the project titled "Mechanical Properties of Pulmonary Mucus."
- Dr. Bill Elmore has received support from the Bagley College of Engineering to attend the National Effective Teaching Institute II in Seattle, WA in 2012.
- Dr. Keisha Walters has joined the President's Commission on the Status of Women
- Dr. Rafael Hernandez was named a recipient of the 2012 Hearin Faculty Excellence Award
- Chevron donated \$6,000 to the Dave C. Swalm School of Chemical Engineering to support general academic programs
- 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

Jason M. Keith
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