

THE VIRGINIA TECH DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

CONNECTION

WINTER 2008

Greetings from the Department Head

Working through a most difficult year

Dear Friends and Alumni of the Virginia Tech Department of Chemical Engineering,

It is my pleasure to present to you this latest edition of our annual newsletter, *Connection*, and to tell you about some of the many things happening in our Department.

This past year was obviously one unlike any other at this University. Those of you who attended Virginia Tech understand that Virginia Tech and the town of Blacksburg are very close-knit communities. While this closeness is one of the things that makes this place so special, it also makes events like the tragedy of April 16 so painful.

As most of you know, one of our seniors, **Maxine Turner**, was killed during the shootings

while attending an elementary German class in Norris Hall. Maxine was from Vienna, Va. As a student, she helped establish the Alpha Omega Epsilon sorority at Virginia Tech for female engineering majors. She had worked as a co-op with Eastman Chemical Company and had accepted a permanent position with W.L. Gore and Associates in Maryland. She was a bright, enthusiastic, outgoing person who was liked by her classmates and the faculty. All of us here continue to send our sincere condolences to Maxine's family and friends. In honor of her memory, our Department is working to establish a Maxine Turner Memorial Scholarship for undergraduate chemical engineering majors.

In the days after April 16, our faculty and staff received hundreds of phone calls, letters, and e-mail messages from friends and alumni around the world expressing sympathy and condolences. Each of these was sincerely appreciated. There is one act in particular that I would like to share with you, as I feel this exemplifies the support we received. A few weeks after the shootings, I received a large envelope from the Department of Chemical Engineering at The University of Colorado. Inside were 12 checks from the faculty and staff in that department made payable to the Maxine Turner Memorial Scholarship Fund. These checks, some as large as \$1,000, totaled over \$3,200. See *Greetings*, page 2



Maxine Turner

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

Two new faculty join chemical engineering department in 2007



Achenie

In August 2007, **Luke Achenie** was appointed Professor of Chemical Engineering (ChE). Professor Achenie received a B.S. in ChE from MIT, a M.S. in engineering science from Northwestern, and a M.A.M. in applied mathematics and a Ph.D. in ChE from Carnegie Mellon. After receiving his Ph.D., he worked for three

years as an associate research engineer with Shell Development Company in Houston, Texas. In 1991, he joined the ChE Department at the University of Connecticut as an assistant professor, and was promoted to associate professor in 1997 and professor in 2004. His research interests are in the areas of process and product design, uncertainty analysis, bioinformatics and systems engineering. Professor Achenie also has extensive experience

teaching design and he will be a great help in our rigorous process design sequence. At UConn he received awards for both his teaching and research, including his election into the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering in 2007.

Padma Rajagopalan joined the Department of Chemical Engineering (ChE) as an assistant professor in January 2007. At Virginia Tech, she holds appointments in the School of Biomedical Engineering and Sciences (SBES), the Macromolecules and Interfaces Institute (MII), and the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine.

See *Faculty & Staff News*, page 2



Rajagopalan



VirginiaTech
Invent the Future

Greetings - from page 1

This was an incredible act of kindness that speaks to the closeness of the academic community.

While we will never forget those that were lost, to paraphrase football coach **Frank Beamer**, we refuse to let the acts of a single individual, no matter how horrific, define our University. It is with this spirit that we move on, and I would like to use the remainder of this letter to briefly mention some of the other happenings in our Department.

The Department of Chemical Engineering continues to be a place of great excitement. Two new faculty joined our program during 2007, Professors **Luke Achenie** and **Padma Rajagopalan**, bringing

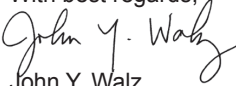
our total faculty size to 13. (You can read more about these new faculty on page one.) In addition, two more faculty will be joining us in 2008, however I will wait until the next newsletter to tell you about these new hires.

The job market remains extremely good (chemical engineering graduates continue to receive the highest starting salary offers among all B.S. graduates, both at Virginia Tech and nationwide), and as a result, our enrollment numbers are increasing rapidly. We have also developed a partnership with the Technical University of Denmark for our summer unit operations laboratory and in 2007, nearly 50 percent of our students elected to take this

course abroad.

One of the things that I particularly enjoy about this position is meeting and hearing from our alumni. As explained later in the newsletter, we have recently implemented a new online, web-based system that makes it easier than ever to keep us updated about your career and your life. I certainly hope that you will take a few moments to drop us a line. And if your travels bring you to the Blacksburg area, please feel free to stop by.

I wish each of you a wonderful 2008.

With best regards,

 John Y. Walz
 Professor and Head



Walz

Faculty & Staff News - from page 1

Prior to joining Virginia Tech she was the PC Rossin Endowed Assistant Professor in the ChE Department at Lehigh University. Professor Rajagopalan earned her bachelor's degree from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, India, and obtained her Ph.D. from Brown University. Prior to joining the faculty at Lehigh, she was a research associate at the Center for Engineering in Medicine, Harvard Medical School. In 2007, she was the Chair of the Women's Initiative Committee at the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, and she is currently a member of the Societal Impact Operating Council (AIChE). Professor Rajagopalan's research focuses on cell and tissue engineering and polymeric biomaterials, specifically on the development of model tissue constructs, functional tissue units and the study of cell-substratum interactions.

Liu winner of two awards

Professor **Y.A. Liu** received both the 2007 Dean's Award for Innovations in Teaching and the College of Engineering Sporn Award for Excellence in Teaching undergraduate engineering instruction. The Dean's Award winner is selected by the Engineering Honorifics Committee while the Sporn Award winner is selected by the Student Engineers' Council. This is the first time that an engineering faculty member at Virginia Tech has won both awards in the same year. This is also the second time Professor Liu received the Sporn Award (he also won in 1986) and the second year in a row the award went to a chemical engineering faculty (Adjunct Professor Preston



Liu

Durrill received the award in 2006). Professor Liu continues to devote a substantial amount of time developing industrial-university partnerships for design projects for our undergraduate students.

Wilkes featured in journal

A recent issue of the journal *Polymer Reviews* (volume 47, issue 4) contained a tribute to Professor Emeritus **Garth Wilkes**, complete with a photo

on the cover. Professor Wilkes continues to be an active researcher in our Department, and maintains a busy schedule teaching short courses on polymer science around the country.

Oyama honored

Professor **Ted Oyama** received three significant honors in 2007. First, he was named a Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Scholar. This is a fellowship award that allowed
See Faculty & Staff, page 3

CONNECTION

Virginia Tech Chemical Engineering Department

- John Y. Walz**.....Department Head
- Jane Price**.....Coordinator
- David Simpkins**.....Designer

The Virginia Tech Department of Chemical Engineering *Connection* is a publication for the alumni of the Chemical Engineering Department published by the Chemical Engineering Department, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg VA 24061.

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**Faculty & Staff
- from page 2**

him to carry out research at the top national laboratory in Japan, the National Institute for Advanced Industrial Science and Technology. Second, he received the Most Cited Author Award for 2002-2006 from Elsevier for a paper published in 2003 on novel catalysts. Finally, he was named Editor of the *Journal of Catalysis*. This is the top journal of its field, and the first-ranked among all 110 Chemical Engineering journals by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI). Being named editor is a recognition of authority in the field.

Baird elected to AIChE post

Professor **Don Baird** was elected First Vice President of the Materials Engineering and Science Division of AIChE, and will become division chair in 2009. He also gave invited lectures at conferences held in Asilomar, Ca.; Lake Vyrnwy, Wales; Portoroz, Slovenia; Sonoma, Ca.; and also at Florida State University.

Kiran celebrates anniversary

Professor Erdogan Kiran will be celebrating the 20-year anniversary of his founding of the *Journal of Supercritical Fluids*. He has also served as editor-in-chief of the journal throughout this period. Professor Kiran was invited to give lectures at technical conferences held in Segovia, Spain; Iguassu Falls, Brazil; and Seoul Korea.

HAPPENINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT

New Advisory Board member



Baduini

The Department was pleased to welcome **Paul Baduini** (B.S. 1972) to its External Advisory Board at its October 2007 meeting. After receiving his Virginia Tech degree, Baduini joined Rohm and Haas as a process engineer and group leader in Louisville, Ky. He served in many different capacities during his career with Rohm and Haas, including time as general manager in Mexico and Brazil. From 1999 until his retirement in 2003, he served as Rohm and Haas Company's Vice President and Director of Engineering. He is married with three children and currently resides in Moorestown, N.J.

Rising undergraduate enrollments

The popularity of chemical engineering is increasing rapidly. In 2006-07, 35 B.S. degrees were awarded. This is expected to increase to approximately 50 for 2007-08, over 60 for 2008-09, and possibly as many as 80 for 2009-10 (judging from our sophomore class size). Part of the increasing appeal could be the starting salaries being offered to our students, which continue to lead the University. For example, a winter 2007 survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) found that the average starting offer for chemical

engineering graduates (B.S. level) was \$60,054.

New Sophomore Seminar Course

Beginning in spring 2008, the Department has begun to offer a seminar course for sophomores to introduce them to career opportunities and current topics of interest in the chemical engineering profession. A wide range of topics are included, ranging from career paths for chemical engineers, to the future energy outlook for the US and the world, to different process technologies, and corporate safety culture. We have been pleased with the response from our industrial constituents and their willingness to provide speakers. For the first offering of the course, speakers have been included from several different industries: petroleum, chemicals, fibers, pharmaceuticals, semiconductor, and consulting.

Updates to Unit Operations Laboratory

The Department has begun making a series of significant improvements to its undergraduate Unit Operations Laboratory located in Hancock Hall. Over the past two years we have added new experiments in membrane separations, liquid/liquid extraction, gas absorption, and reaction kinetics. Upgrades to other existing experiments, such as heat transfer, fluidization and distillation, have either been done or are being planned. Virginia Tech is one of the few chemical engineering departments that continues to teach the unit operations laboratory course during the summer.



Chris Moore opening gifts at her retirement party.

Moore retires after 27 years of service

After more than 27 years of service to Virginia Tech (the last 14 in the Department of Chemical Engineering), **Ms. Chris Moore** decided to retire. Most recently, Chris served both as receptionist for the Department, plus handled much of the ordering. The faculty, staff and students will greatly miss Chris's smile and fantastic sense of humor and wish her a long, healthy, and happy retirement.



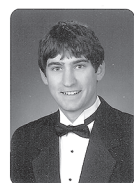
David W. Berg



Seth P. Brewer



Bessam H. Chouat



Darin G. Clark



Derrick S. Dingsu



Daniel A. Drazenovich



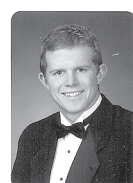
Lauren N. Eaton



Ali A. Fakhro



Bryan C. Fiala



Ryan M. Fischer



Cole T. Foor



Mihir R. Ghatalia

Chemical Engineering



Class of 2007



Jonathan M. Gillam



Matthew D. Green



Adam G. Harber



Robert K. Harber



Sean D. Harvey



Sarah M. Huffer



James W. Jones



Andrea M. Lance



Nicholas G. Linfante



Mary K. Mitchell



Nibras A. Nureldin



Katrina M. Ramsdell



Mark D. Roosz



Linmaris I. Santiago



Michael S. Singh



Jennifer E. Tabler



Maxine S. Turner

Stevens
 Photography, Inc.
 Christianburg, VA

35 B.S. degrees awarded

The Department awarded 35 B.S. degrees during the 2006-07 academic year. These students either continued with graduate studies in chemical engineering or found employment with an ever-broadening group of industrial employers.

Some of the companies

and universities hiring our graduates are: Celanese, Clemson University, Dow, Dupont, Eastman Chemical, ExxonMobil, International Paper, Marathon, Merck, Michelin, W.L. Gore, University of California Berkeley, and University of Michigan.

2007 American Chemical Society Award goes to top ChE senior

Each year, the Virginia Blue Ridge Section of the American Chemical Society recognizes outstanding achievements of college seniors with the James Lewis Howe Award. In recognition of the top senior in Chemical Engineering at Virginia Tech, this award was presented to Sarah M. Huffer, who received her B.S. degree in ChE in May 2007.

ChE scholarship winners

Donald M. Cox Scholarship: **Carrie Weaver, Sandra Hobson, Kevin Norfleet**

Ralph Bogle Scholarship: **Christopher Heitz, Scott Poorman, Julia Cushen, Gregory James**

Gerhard Beyer Scholarship: **Jason Goepel**

Gavin Starmer Scholarship: **Kimberly Wade, Yinhua Qi**

Andrew Britton Scholarship: **Lindsey MacQueen**

John & Bernice Brooks Scholarship: **Harold Metz**

Michael & Lisa Kender Scholarship: **John White**

William E. Poorbaugh Scholarship: **Allison Chambliss**

CITGO Scholarship: **Daniel Cook**

Felix Sebba Scholarship: **Steven Friday**

Warren Gentry Scholarship: **Abasha Lewis**

David Wallis Scholarship: **Tighe Marrone**

Eastman Award for Excellence in ChE: **Abasha Lewis**

STUDENT NEWS

Summer Unit Operations Laboratory

After 20 years at University College London, the 2007 summer unit operations laboratory abroad program switched to the Technical University of Denmark (DTU), located in Lyngby (a short train ride from Copenhagen). The program was an enormous success, as 24 of our students elected to take the program abroad (nearly 50 percent of the eligible students!).

The four-week program consisted of seven laboratory experiments plus a report and presentation on some aspect

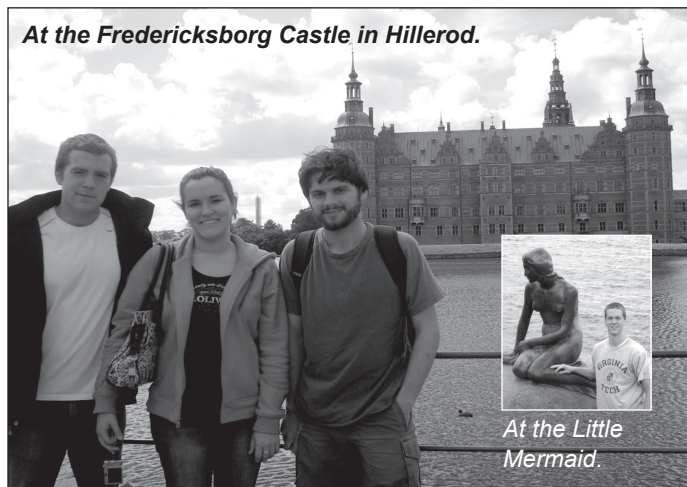
of Danish society. The students also took trips to a local power plant, a Danish pharmaceutical plant (Leo Pharma), and Novozymes, the world's largest producer of enzymes.

The laboratory facilities support at DTU were outstanding and, as can be seen in the photos below, the students greatly enjoyed being in Denmark.

Scholarships for the students were once again provided from a generous donation of \$15,000 from Milliken & Company.



VT chemical engineering students exploring downtown Copenhagen.



At the Fredericksborg Castle in Hillerod.

At the Little Mermaid.

AIChE chapter active

In addition to hosting a number of social events, AIChE also organized a Chemical Engineering Career Forum in September 2007. A representative from each of the 12 participating companies gave a short, 10-15 minute presentation to a room full of sophomore, junior and senior chemical engineering students. In addition, each company was allowed to setup a booth where they could interact with students individually. Dinner for the event was provided by Philip Morris.

The Virginia Tech student chapter of AIChE is selling maroon polo shirts embroidered with "Virginia Tech Chemical Engineering." The cost of each polo shirt is \$20. For pictures of the polos and ordering information, please visit the Virginia Tech AIChE website, www.aiche.org.vt.edu.

The current officers for AIChE are: President - **Kyle Vaughn**, Vice President - **Kevin Norfleet**, Treasurer - **Randy Brown**, Secretary - **Kate Dennie**, Social Chair - **Adam Jones**, Chem-E Car Chair - **Scott Poorman**, Banquet Chair - **Carrie Weaver**, SEC Representative - **Will Hix**, SGA Representative - **Will Hix**, Webmaster - **Jason Goepel**

M.S. and Ph.D. degrees awarded during 2006-07

The Department awarded the following M.S. and Ph.D. degrees during the 2006-07 academic year:

Anthony Gaglione, M.S.

Multiscale Modeling of an Industrial Nylon-6 Leacher
Advisor: Professor Y.A. Liu

Paul Eric Mullins, M.S.

Application of COSMO-SAC to Solid Solubility in Pure and Mixed Solvent Mixtures for Organic Pharmacological Compounds
Advisor: Professor Y. A. Liu

Vikas Berry, Ph.D.

Metal Nanoparticle Deposition on Biological and Physical Scaffolds to Develop a New Class of Electronic Devices
Advisors: Professor Ravi Saraf and Professor David Cox

Beth Caba, Ph.D. (MACR)

Solution and Adsorption Characterization of Novel Water-Soluble Ionic Block Copolymers for Stabilization of Magnetite Nanoparticles
Advisor: Professor Richey Davis

Brent Cunningham, Ph.D. (MACR)

The Development of Compression Moldable Polymer Composite Bipolar Plates for Fuel Cells
Advisor: Professor Donald Baird

Sangil Kim, Ph.D

High Permeability/High Diffusivity Mixed Matrix Membranes for Gas Separations
Advisor: Professor Eva Marand

See Degrees, page 6

STUDENT NEWS

Omega Chi Epsilon

This year Omega Chi Epsilon (the chemical engineering honor society) has taken on new challenges: renovating the chemical engineering student lounge, adopting a highway, visiting local plants, and planning weekend trips and activities for its members.

Its goal is to finish the first phase of the lounge renovation by the end of the semester so that students can work in a more comfortable environment. Thanks to a donation by Celanese, the carpet in the lounge was recently replaced. Celanese has also agreed to become the corporate sponsor of the society.

The current officers for Omega Chi Epsilon are: President – **Lindsey Miller**, Vice President – **Carrie Weaver**, Treasurer – **Mary Kate Dennie**, Secretary – **Allen Hughes**, Publicity – **Kristin Pfalzgraf**, SEC Rep – **Dan Cook**, SGA Rep – **Kate Laflin**



Professor John Walz, ChE Department Head, is flanked by Tom Long (left) and John McQuail from the Celanese Acetate plant in Narrows, Virginia. On the wall between Walz and McQuail is a photograph of the plant in Narrows.

Degrees - from page 5

Vivek Maheshwari, Ph.D. (MACR)

Large Area Electro-Optical Tactile Sensor: Characterization and Design of a Polymer, Nanoparticle Based Tunneling Device
Advisors: Professor Ravi Saraf and Professor David Cox

Brian Mather, Ph.D.

Non-Covalent Interactions in Block Copolymers Synthesized via Living Polymerization Techniques
Advisors: Professor Garth Wilkes and Professor Tim Long (Chemistry Dept.)

Mary Minton, Ph.D.

Reactions of Halogenated Ethylenes on the Cr₂O₃(10 $\bar{1}2$) Surface
Advisor: Professor David Cox

ALUMNI NEWS



D'Antoni

David D'Antoni (B.S. 1967) was elected into the College of Engineering's Academy of Excellence. Mem-

bership in the Academy is reserved for "...individuals holding an engineering degree from Virginia Tech's College of Engineering who have made sustained and meritorious engineering and/or leadership contributions during their careers. Initiates have reached the pinnacle of their professional achievements and will normally have been alumni for 40 or more years."

In 1988, D'Antoni was named Senior Vice President of Ashland Inc. and the President of Ashland Chemical Company, with annual revenues of \$3 billion. In 1999 Ashland named him its Senior Vice President and Group Officer and a member of its executive committee. From 2001 until his retirement in 2004, D'Antoni also headed Valvoline Oil with revenues exceeding \$1 billion annually and Ashland Paving and Construction Company, the largest highway paver in the U.S., with revenues at \$3 billion.

Dr. Kirk Schulz (B.S. 1986, Ph.D. 1991) was named Vice President for Research and Economic Development at Mississippi State University. With over 150 million dollars in externally sponsored research, Mississippi State is among the top 100 research universities nationally.

Dr. Lori Wagner (B.S. 1982, Ph.D. 1987) was named Engineer of the Year by the Richmond Joint Engineers Council. Dr. Wagner is currently

Manager of Advanced Fibers and Composites for Honeywell International. She is a founding member of the Department's Advisory Board, and is currently serving a four-year term on Virginia Tech's Board of Visitors.

Dr. Kent Carpenter (B.S. 1985) received the 2007 Otto Haas Award for Technical Excellence from Rohm and Haas Company. Carpenter is a senior engineer in the Special Materials Process Technology Division, providing research process engineering support for various business units. Recently, he was the lead engineer for a continuous steam-stripping process development and binder-odor study. Award recipients receive a \$5,000 grant that is donated to the University of their choice. Carpenter decided to have his award given to our department, where it will be used to provide scholarships for students attending the unit operations summer laboratory in Denmark.

Dr. Vikas Berry (Ph.D. 2006) has joined the Department of Chemical Engineering at Kansas State University as an assistant professor. In his Ph.D. work, Berry developed a humidity sensor based on nanoparticle-coated bacteria. This work has been highlighted in such prestigious journals as *Nature*, *Discover*, and *Science News*. Dr. Berry was advised by Professors Ravi Saraf and David Cox.

Jane Hunt Austin (B.S. 1982) was elected to a two-year term as chair of the Plastics Industry Trade Associate. The Society of the Plastics Industry represents one of the largest manufacturing industries in the U.S. Austin is the Global Business Director for DuPont Performance Elastomers' Chloroelastomers Business in Wilmington, Del.

CLASS NOTES

1938

Watson C. Warriner, Sr. recently went on a cruise through New England, Nova Scotia, and parts of Canada. He retired from Dupont Co. in 1981 where he worked in the Plastics Department, marketing plastic molding compounds to American industry. Warriner is a dedicated "railroad buff" and a member of the American Association of Railroad Car Owners (www.AAPRCO.com). His article, "The Journey to Destiny," commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of WWII, was published in *Trains Magazine* in 1995. He has also produced a DVD, entitled "WWII Conversation with Watson Warriner," which consists of a one-hour interview describing his role in the production of military explosives with Dupont, including the Manhattan Project in Hanford, Wa. The DVD is in the historical archives at the Manhattan Project Museum in Richland, Wa; the Atomic Heritage Foundation in Washington, DC; and the Dupont Hagley Museum.

He currently resides in a retirement community in Wilmington, Del., with several other Virginia Tech alums, including **E. Turner Darden** (class of 1942).



Four Virginia Tech alumni living at the Methodist Country House in Wilmington, Del. Photo was taken April 20, 2007. Left to right: **E. Turner Darden** (ChE 1942), **Watson C. Warriner, Sr.** (ChE 1938); **F. Hamilton Fish** (1943); **Macon G. Stroud** (1935)

1947

- **George H. Lewis** retired after a 40 year career with Exxon. He is currently residing in Stratford, Ct.
- **Melvin (Mel) Cohen** is retired and living in Palo Alto, Ca.

1951

- **Charles R. Poole, Jr.** is retired from a position of Senior Vice President of Mason & Hanger and is currently living in Lexington, Ky.

1956

- **Dale Rogers Gregory** (Ph.D. 1966) retired from Eastman Chemical Co. in 1999 and is living in Tarpon Springs, Fl.

1958

- **David W. Abbott** is retired and living in Mountain Home, Ar.

1959

- **James R. Fracker** passed away October 14, 2006 in Orlando, Fl. He is survived by his wife Peggy and his daughter Linda Freeman.

1967

- **Robert B. Fish** is retired and living in Parkersburg, W.Va.

1972

- **Vivien M. Smith** is an optometrist living in Lexington, Ky.

1980

- **Bernard F. Plantz** is Associate Patent Counsel with Johnson & Johnson in New Brunswick, N.J.
- **Timothy A. Wolk** is a Territory Sales Manager for Mine Safety Appliances and is living in Reston, Va.

1982

- **Martin A. Kazmierczak** was recently named Senior Project Manager with Gannett Fleming in Fairfax, Va.

1984

- **David D. Dunlap** is Vice President of Health, Environment, Safety and Security

with the Chlorine Institute in Arlington, Va.

1987

- **Kenneth W. Baity** is Manager, NSSS Systems Engineering, with AREVA NP Inc. in Lynchburg, Va.
- **Guido Paul Fetta** is Director of Kerry Bio-science and President/CEO of Cannae Consulting and is living in Doylestown, Pa.

1995

- **Dr. Jay Sayre** is a Senior Research Scientist with Battelle in Columbus, Ohio.

1996

- **Jill Samuels Abrams** is a Marketing Program Manager with Agilent Technologies in Santa Clara, Cal.
- **Dawn Kathryn Gibbs Garber** is an Engineer III with Dominion Resources Services, Inc. in Glen Allen, Va. Dawn writes that she married Kevin Garber in 2000 and has a

daughter, Katelyn Garber, born in 2004.

2002

- **Jason Petrey** is Specialties and Process Services Section Supervisor with ExxonMobil in Houston, Texas.

2003

- **Kendra Michelle Hardy** is Assistant District Engineer in Norfolk, Va.

2004

- **Jeremy Gustafson** is an Engineer II with Nuclear Steam Supply Systems and is living in Lynchburg, Va.

The information above was taken from the mail-in response cards that were received by the Department during the past year. For privacy reasons, we have omitted specific contact information (phone numbers, addresses, e-mail addresses, etc.)

Departmental Seminars

We were pleased to have the following seminars presented in the Chemical Engineering Department during the 2006-07 academic year.

Fall 2007 Seminars

- Professor Michael Wong**
Rice University
- Professor Luke Achenie**
University of Connecticut
- Professor John O'Connell**
University of Virginia
- Dr. Chau-Chyun Chen**
Aspen Technology, Inc.
- Professor Tim Lodge**
University of Minnesota
- Professor Alex Katz**
University of California, Berkeley
- Professor Todd Giorgio**
Vanderbilt University
- Brent Cunningham**
Ph.D. Candidate, Virginia Tech

Spring 2007 Seminars

- Professor Rich Noble**
University Of Colorado

- Sangil Kim**
Ph.D. Candidate, Virginia Tech
- Dr. Stephen Martin**
Mass. Institute of Technology
- Professor Martin Yarmush**
Harvard Medical School
- Brian Mather**
Ph.D. Candidate, Virginia Tech
- Professor William Ducker**
University of Melbourne
- Professor Orlin Velez**
North Carolina State University
- Benjamin Vaughn**
Ph.D. candidate, Virginia Tech
- Kun Liu**
Ph.D. candidate, Virginia Tech
- Professor Ralph Colby**
Pennsylvania State University
- Matt Wilding**
Ph.D. candidate, Virginia Tech
- Professor David Klinke**
West Virginia University
- Quang Nguyen**
Ph.D. candidate, Virginia Tech
- Beth Caba**
Ph.D. candidate, Virginia Tech

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Randolph Hall, the home of Chemical Engineering at Virginia Tech.

Giving to Chemical Engineering

As you can tell from this newsletter, this is an extremely exciting time for the Department. We're hiring outstanding new faculty, our enrollments are rapidly increasing, and the demand for our students has never been greater.

Not surprisingly, this growth has also placed substantial strain on our available resources. Support from our alumni is invaluable in helping us meet the needs of operating our program. We use this support for such things as equipping the laboratories and computer rooms of our new faculty, bringing researchers from other universities to Virginia Tech to interact with our faculty and students, and purchasing new experiments for our unit operations laboratory. I

can assure you that there is never a lack of needs.

Your support can help us make this Department one of the pre-eminent chemical engineering programs in the country.

To make it as easy for you as possible, we have added a link on our Department's homepage (www.che.vt.edu) that will direct you to a form for making a gift online. The link is entitled 'Giving to Chemical Engineering.' Under the section of the form entitled 'Gift Information,' you can designate exactly where your gift is to be directed. If you type in 'Department of Chemical Engineering' in the space entitled 'Other Designation,' you can be assured that your support will come directly to us and that it will be used wisely.

Online Alumni Information System

Keeping in touch with fellow chemical engineering alums is now easier than ever. In January 2008, the Department implemented an online, web-based system for our alums. The system can be accessed via the Department's homepage, www.che.vt.edu (click on 'Alumni Feedback'). On this form, you can specifically state what level of privacy we should use with your information. This information will be published in our *Connection* newsletter.

Of course, if you'd prefer to use paper and pen, we accept that also. Just complete the form below and mail back to us.

ALUMNI: WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The Chemical Engineering Department is always interested in hearing from its alumni. Please take a few minutes to complete the following. This information can also be submitted online at www.che.vt.edu (Click on "Alumni Feedback.")

Full Name: _____ Name at VT (if different): _____

Degree received at Virginia Tech / year: _____

Other Degrees / Institutions: _____

Home Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Business Name: _____

Current Position / Title: _____

Please feel free to use a separate sheet of paper to provide any additional information about yourself or your career:

The Department of Chemical Engineering would like to keep our alumni updated about the careers and lives of other alumni, either via the Web or the Department newsletter. However, we also respect each person's right to privacy. Thus, please indicate below the level of confidentiality that you wish us to maintain with regard to your information:

- Feel free to make all information provide on this form public.
- Feel free to publish my name, year of graduation, and contact information only (the additional information about yourself or career will be kept confidential).
- Feel free to publish my name, year of graduation, and the additional information about myself (your contact information will be kept confidential).
- Do not publish any information about me.
- Other, please explain below.

Please mail the completed form to:
Chemical Engineering Department
c/o Ms. Jane Price
133 Randolph Hall
Blacksburg, VA 24061
or by e-mail at:
jsprice@vt.edu