Chairman’s Corner

First of all, I want to share with you the great news that our Chemical Engineering Department has moved up from 25th in graduate program rank (last year) to 21st (this year) in *US News and World Report*. We are well on our way to the top 20 and higher! Congratulations also go to the Gator faculty in the Materials Science Department - which many of our ChE faculty interact with in their research. The graduate program in Materials Science moved up in rank to 6th nationally.

Our Chemical Engineering Department has consistently continued to move up in graduate program rank in the last ten years from the mid 30s to our current rank. As you know from our Fall 2005 Alumni Newsletter, we added four new top-notch faculty last year - bringing our faculty size up to 24. And, this spring, we have made offers to two additional faculty candidates - one of which has already agreed to join our faculty ranks in August 2006.

To accommodate our faculty and student growth and to achieve our vision of a top-ten chemical engineering program nationally, additional teaching and state-of-the-art research laboratories are needed. Such facilities will provide enhanced learning opportunities for our students and a significantly improved educational experience. Hence, we have embarked on a campaign for a chemical engineering building addition. The proposed building addition would be oriented perpendicular to the current Chemical Engineering Building and parallel to the New Engineering Building. It would be connected to the current building via a beautiful and welcoming atrium which would be visible from Center Drive. UF Facilities and Construction has estimated that, given a construction start date of 2008, the 44,000 sq. ft. addition will cost $23 million dollars. In order to make this much needed chemical engineering building addition a reality, we have initiated a development campaign to raise the necessary funds for construction by first contacting potential donors for significant gifts associated with naming opportunities in the new building addition.

All of the changes going on in our department and our department’s increase in rank is attracting the attention of our academic peers. Recently I received an e-mail from a chemical engineering department chair at another university noting that "no other chemical engineering department has risen (in rank) so far so fast" and asking "care to share the secret of your success?" Well...we’re the Gator champions - what more needs to be said?

GO GATORS!!

Jennifer Sinclair Curtis
Chair and Professor

Proposed Chemical Engineering Building Addition
Alumni Updates

1944
Dr. Harold L. Hull, BSChE
Employer: Dupont - Savannah River Plant - Retired in 1985
Title: Research Staff Engineer
Personal: Wife, Ursula Clara Hull, 3 children, 12 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren
Other Activities: Hunting, fishing, Fly-tying, Gideons. US Navy, Captain of J.R.Y. Blakely, DE 137

1958
Hugh W. Glenn, Jr., BSChE
Employer: Retired from USDOE at Argonne National Laboratory
Title: Patent Attorney
Professional Activities: I now have a part time position in periodicals and computers at my local library.
Personal: My wife died in 2002, but left me with two step-sons and two granddaughters which remain my family. My two sisters in Florida welcome my visits once or twice a year.
Other Activities: I enjoy tutoring English as a second language in my neighborhood and have participated in English language camps in the Czech Republic with other members of my church during the past two summers.

1961
Dr. Vasant Chapnerkar, PhD ChE
Vasant is President of SAI International, Inc. Vasant has been working with alkaline paper making since 1962. He holds several patents and published articles on alkaline papermaking and precipitated calcium carbonate. He has supplied his alkaline technology to over 48 plants all over the world. In the US and Europe, more than 95% of printing, writing and copy and other fine papers are manufactured today by the alkaline process. For the last nine years Vasant has been involved in the fitness business in India, forming a company named SAI Fitness. Today SAI Fitness is the largest and leading company to promote fitness clubs in India. Vasant has three children and a son-in-law and daughter-in-law who are all UF graduates.

1961
William B. Van Duyn, BSChE
Former Employer: International Flavors & Fragrances, Jacksonville, FL (retired 2002)
Title: Sr. Environmental Specialist
Personal: Married 43 years to Linda. 3 grown children. 9 grandchildren
Other Activities: Gator sports, church volunteer - teach 5th & 6th grade Sunday School, home building and repair, wheelchair ramp building for the needy, also fishing and woodworking.

1969
Dr. Arthur A. Camero, BSChE
Staff Engineer, Hydroprocessing Specialist, Shell Global Solutions (US), Inc.

1971
Dr. Bobbie Young, PhD ChE
Employer: Retired, St. Petersburg, FL
Personal Activities: Teach chemistry part-time at local colleges and universities.

1972
Dr. Julio C. Otazo, BSChE
Associate Professor, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School University, Medicine Dentistry, New Jersey as interventional radiologist - Cooper Hospital Camden, New Jersey in the vascular interventional laboratory.

1980
Rosemarie V. Marcek, BSChE
Employer: Mitsubishi Polyester Film, Greer, SC
Title: Director of Film Manufacturing
Professional Activities: MBA, Clemson University - 1991
Promoted to Director of Films Manufacturing, Jan. 2006.

1983
Steve K. Canova, MSChE
Employer: Carbo Ceramics, Inc., McIntyre, GA
Title: Global Quality Assurance Coordinator
Professional Activities: Promoted to Global QAC in 2005 from Technical Services/Development Engineer.
Responsible for 4 plants in North America, one in China, and in Russia. Previously Sr. Dev. Eng. with Olin Corp. in St. Marks, FL.
Personal: Married 17 years, 2 girls (14) and (11).
Other Activities: Enjoy hunting and water sports in Central Georgia. Took entire family to visit China this year. Trying to find time for golf.

1985
Wilton J. Crawford III, BSChE
Plant Manager, Michelin North America, Dothan, AL
I have been working for Michelin for 17 years, the last 4 years in Lexington, SC as Operations Manager of the passenger tire plant. Recently promoted to plant manager in the tire plant located in Dothan, Alabama.

Married to Selena (UF graduate 1984 - BAED & Sociology) for 23 years. We have three children - Alicia - 19; Katie - 14; and Wil - 10. Selena is a school teacher.

1987
Roger K. Johnson, Jr., BSChE
Employer: ISP Technologies, Texas City, TX
Title: Technical Manager - Manage the Process Engineering group at this specialty chemical plant.
Alumni Updates

Professional Activities: In September 2005 commissioned and start-up of a multi-million dollar unit to produce crosopovinone. Promoted to Technical Manager in October 2005.

Personal: Oldest son (Douglas) is in the Marine Corps. Thomas and Ashley attend Pearland High School. Wife (Ora) has become the area seamstress for school and church plays and musicals.

Other Activities: In 2005 entire family went on a week-long mission trip to Carboneras, Mexico to build a home, a school building, conduct vacation bible school and conduct sewing classes. All are looking forward to a return trip in 2006.

1990
Brian R. McCormick, Jr., BSChE
Employer: Dynea USA, Inc., Toledo, OH
Title: Plant Manager
Professional Activities: Began as Plant Manager at Toledo, OH facility beginning December 1, 2004.

Personal: Married 12 years to Melissa. Twin daughters, Brittany and Heather, 10 years old.

1991
Michelle L. Brewer, BSChE
Employer: Lake County School Board, Clermont, FL
Title: Teacher

1994
Daniel P. Tumarkin, BSChE
Professional Activities: Working with wife, Beth, to open child and adolescent Psychiatric Medical Practice in St. Petersburg, FL.


Other Activities: Stock & Options Investing; Economics; Cycling; Youth Soccer Coaching

1995
David A.T. Laursen, BSChE
Employer: Fluor Corporation, Greenville, SC
Title: Process Engineer IV
Professional Activities: Became P.E. in 2002. Recently returned from Biotech assignment in Puerto Rico. Currently working in chemicals group, developing project opportunities in the Middle East.

Personal: Married Cynthia in 2004. We are expecting our first child in June.

Other Activities: Officer in local AIChe chapter. Active in corporate community service projects. Learned to salsa dance while in Puerto Rico.

1999
Dr. Alexander Patist, PhD ChE
Employer: Cargill, Inc.
Title: Principal Engineer

1999
James R. Roberson, Jr., BSChE
Employer: ExxonMobil, Fairfax, VA
Title: Automotive Marketing Advisor-Americas
Professional Activities: Started as Sales Territory Manager in Atlanta, GA, promoted to Distributor Business Consultant in Salt Lake City, UT; then transferred to ExxonMobil L&S Downstream Headquarters in Fairfax, VA as Automotive Marketing Advisor-Americas.

Personal: Married to Monica McDill (BS ChE, Clemson Univ.). New daughter, Haley Maria Roberson, August 2005

2000
Dr. Joseph V. Nguyen, Jr., BSChE
Employer: Engelhard Corporation, Attapulgus, GA
Title: Process Development Engineer
Professional Activities: New hire
Other Activities: Recently finished PhD at Georgia Tech in February 2005 under Professor Chris Jones.

2000
Martin A. Megregian Jr., BSChE
Employer: VOP
Title: Hydroprocessing Specialist
Professional Activities: Received Role Model Recognition and Six Sigma Green Belt

Personal: Recently married to my wonderful wife, Donna

Other Activities: Planning to go to Australia/New Zealand in 2006. Enjoy skiing, scuba diving, softball and volleyball.

2003
Keith A. Harvey, BSChE
Employer: Home Diagnostics, Inc.
Title: Chemical Engineer I, R&D, Product Development

2004
Amy M. Beaird, BSChE
Personal: Married to Jason E. Beaird in July 2003.

2004
Carolina S Sodre, BSChE
Employer: Praxair Inc., Houston, TX
Title: Plant engineer - plant produces hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, argon
Professional Activities: Six Sigma Green Belt

Other Activities: Spend a lot of time traveling internationally. Hobby: dance tango and other latin

2005
Samara L. Krauss, BSChE
Employer: Noven Pharmaceuticals, Miami, FL
Title: Assistant Research Engineer, Formulator
Professional Activities: Promotion from intern to full time in September 2005

Personal: Engaged to Marc Hartman (B.A. in Criminology, Spring 2005);
Wedding: July 2, 2006 in Boca Raton, FL
More Accolades for Professor Tim Anderson

Tim Anderson has been named Fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) in recognition of his professional attainment and significant accomplishments in chemical engineering.

On November 11th, 2005, Tim delivered the 39th ConocoPhillips Lectureship at Oklahoma State University, entitled "Investing in Faculty: Rationale and Approach to Faculty Career Development". The ConocoPhillips Lectureship in Chemical Engineering Education, co-sponsored by ConocoPhillips and the School of Chemical Engineering at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma, is a prestigious, nationally-recognized annual event at which distinguished faculty give insightful presentations that share their perspectives on chemical engineering education.

Along with Matt Ohland, Guili Zhang, and Brian Thorndyke, Tim received the Benjamin J. Dasher Award for the Best Paper at the 2005 Frontiers in Education Conference. The paper was entitled "Grade-Point Average, Changes of Major, and Majors Selected by Students Leaving Engineering".

He also gave the 2005 Plenary Lecture at the 4th ASEE/AaeE Global Colloquium on Engineering Education, Sydney, Australia. The lecture was entitled "Experiences of a Multi-Institutional Coalition on Transformational Change in Undergraduate Engineering Education".

Tim delivered the 2005 Plenary Presentation at the Symposium on Engineering for the Americas. This paper, presented in Lima, Peru, was entitled "The Human Resource: Ensuring a Quality Engineering Workforce for the Americas".

Professor Tony Ladd to Chair 2006 APS Fluid Dynamics Annual Meeting

The 2006 APS Division of Fluid Dynamics 59th Annual Meeting (DFD06) will be held in Tampa Bay, Florida at the Marriott Waterside Hotel and Marina from November 19-21, 2006. The meeting will be hosted by the University of Florida.

Tony Ladd, along with colleagues in Chemical Engineering, Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering and Physics at the University of Florida, are organizing the meeting. The meeting program will cover a wide range of scientific and engineering problems associated with the flow of fluids.

Detailed information will be available both at the website http://dfd2006.mae.ufl.edu and at the APS Meeting’s website closer to the meeting date.

UF Chemical Engineering Courtesy Professor David Boger Wins Australian Prime Minister’s Prize for Science

The 2005 Australian Prime Minister's Prize for Science has been won by UF Chemical Engineering Courtesy Professor David Boger. The Prime Minister's Prize is the most highly regarded award for achievement and excellence in science in Australia. Professor Boger received the award at a ceremony at Parliament House in Canberra, Australia, on October 4th, 2005.

Professor Boger received this award for his research in the field of rheology, particularly non-Newtonian fluid mechanics. He is best known for his discovery of constant viscosity elastic liquids, now known as "Boger fluids".

Professor Boger is Laureate Professor of Chemical Engineering at the University of Melbourne and Courtesy Professor in the Chemical Engineering Department at the University of Florida. He served as Director of the Particulate Fluids Processing Centre at the University of Melbourne from 2000 to 2004. He is also a Fellow and Council Member of the Australian Academy of Science, as well as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering.
Update on GRACE
(GRaduate Association of Chemical Engineers)
Activities

The GRaduate Association of Chemical Engineers (GRACE) hosted their 7th Annual Spring Research Symposium on April 26th this year. This was the first year that graduating students could give their required seminar talk for their PhD at the symposium. Including the seven graduation talks there were ten research talks from graduate students and one research talk from an undergraduate student. The talks were divided into three sections: "Transport and Biological Processes", "Complex Fluids and Instabilities", and "Advanced Materials and Reaction Kinetics". This year's keynote speaker was Dr. James W. Dufty from the Physics Department at the University of Florida. He gave his talk after lunch and started the second session discussing "Granular Matter as a Complex Fluid". GRACE hosted Dr. John Bush from MIT's mathematics department in the same week. Dr. Bush was voted by the graduate students to visit our department and participate in the weekly departmental seminar series. His talk was titled "Walking on Water". After Dr Bush's speech, GRACE held the annual officer election for the coming fiscal year.

GRACE recently held a spring social at Gator's Dockside in March. There was a great turnout and for the second time GRACE gave out raffle prizes which included some Gator apparel and gift certificates to Publix and Wal-Mart. In other news, several graduate students are involved in intramural sports which include (team name): basketball (Shadowbirds), soccer (C Train), ultimate frisbee (Shadowbirds), and softball (Scared Hitless). Every team made it to playoffs and won a few games in the post season. As always there is more information at the GRACE website: http://grace.che.ufl.edu.

Want to Get Frequent Updates from the ChE Department and the AIChe Student Chapter?

Either...

1. Add your e-mail to the Alumni News Update Sheet (enclosed) and mail it in to us. Or,

2. Send an e-mail to chemical@che.ufl.edu.

We will add you to our electronic mailing list!

Want To Make Sure Your UF Donation Directly Impacts Chemical Engineering?

Don't forget to note in the memo line on your check "Chemical Engineering". This is the only way to ensure that your gifts are directed to the Chemical Engineering Department rather than to other university entities.
Chemical Engineering Alumni Open House
April 22, 2006

Everyone had a great time at the alumni open house held prior to the Orange and Blue Football game on April 22, 2006. A delicious lunch was served and chemical engineering students gave tours of the undergraduate Unit Operations Laboratory and the research laboratories.

We look forward to seeing you at the Next Chemical Engineering Alumni Open House on September 30th, 2006 prior to the Alabama Football Game. Have some food and enjoy the company of other Gator ChE alumni before the game!

Also, don't miss the Upcoming Chemical Engineering Alumni Reunion on July 15th, 2006. Fun, food and reminiscing……The day will culminate with a lovely dinner and entertainment at the Harn Museum of Art. Please call 352-392-0882 or e-mail chemical@che.ufl.edu to RSVP. This is another opportunity to see some of your old professors and reconnect with other Gator ChE alumni!

(above) Left to Right: Shirley Kelly, Dr. Spyros Svoronos and Debbie Sandoval

(above) Left to Right: Lynn Haycock and Phala Amey

(above) Left to Right: Dr. Vasant Capnerkar, Nicolas Alvarez, Colin Sturm and Kerem Uguz
Chemical Engineering Alumni Open House
April 22, 2006

(above) Left to Right: Blessing Oyeleye, Lynn Haycock, Phala Amey, Dayton Amey and Mike Haycock

(above) Left to Right: Joe Wills and Dr. Paul Mathias

(above) Left to Right: Dr. Spyros Svoronos, Bob Barnum and Rob Dotson

(above) Left to Right: Dennis Birdsall and Chris Birdsall