

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

November 7, 2000

Dear Fellow Spartan Chemical Engineers and Friends,

As the current chairwoman of the MSU Chemical Engineering Board of Visitors, I'd like to share with you some exciting news about MSU's Chemical Engineering students and faculty. The Board and I feel strongly that everyone associated with MSU and the Department of Chemical Engineering should know, and feel a sense of pride, about these outstanding achievements.

**Chemical Engineering
Board of Visitors**

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Honeywell

Alin Steele
MCN Energy Group Inc.

Michigan State University
2527 Engineering Bldg.
East Lansing, MI
48824-1026

- Two of our undergraduates, Jason Fuller in 1999 and Brian Ngo in 2000, won Goldwater Scholarships, the single most prestigious undergraduate award for science and engineering students in the country.
- In competition with about 150 other departments over a more than 30 year period, MSU senior chemical engineers have earned over 20% of all top places in the annual AIChE Student Design Contest Problem Competition.
- The Department's faculty have won more patents per person than any other department on campus. Thirteen of over 2000 faculty at MSU (less than 1%) received 7 of 44 (16%) patents granted during the last reporting cycle.
- In 1999, Dr. Christian Lastoskie won the National Science Foundation CAREER Award, the most prestigious research award for new faculty members.
- Dr. Carl Lira won one of two Amoco Teaching Excellence Awards for 1998 in competition with all other members of the University faculty, and Dr. Dennis Miller won this same award in 1994.
- MSU continues to be among the top five departments in the country in research dollars expended per faculty member.
- The Department has established undergraduate options in food science, biochemical engineering, and environmental engineering. Students get the normal chemical engineering degree plus a focus in one of these areas in preparation for graduate school or industry.
- Two faculty members, Dr. Mark Worden and Dr. Daina Briedis have created a unique interdisciplinary laboratory course, with National Science Foundation support, which uses teams of chemical engineers, microbiologists, and chemists to solve biotechnology-related problems.
- Eight start-up companies have been launched based on the Department's research work.

I'm sure you will join the Board and myself in extending our sincere congratulations to Professor Bruce Dale, his faculty colleagues, and each of the Department's graduate and undergraduate students. This is, indeed, an impressive list of achievements!

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In the opening of this letter I mentioned the Board of Visitors. The Board was formed in 1995 to advise the Department of Chemical Engineering on current trends and future directions in chemical engineering practice. We engage the Department in an ongoing discussion of its plans, programs, and challenges with interested persons in the world of chemical engineering practice. We also help the Department define its goals; and we support its efforts to continuously update and improve its teaching, research, and service programs in a manner sensitive to the needs to the State of Michigan and the nation, and consistent with modern chemical engineering concepts.

The Board of Visitors consists of chemical engineering graduates (most, but not all, are MSU alumni) who are serving staggered four-year terms. The members also serve on one of three standing subcommittees, which address issues of interest to the Department -- currently communications and marketing, development and stewardship, and curriculum and trends. More information about the Board of Visitors is available on the worldwide web at <http://www.egr.msu.edu/che/bov>.

This letter, in fact, is part of the work of our Communications and Marketing subcommittee. They are assisting Professor Dale and his staff to compile a list of "friends" of the Department of Chemical Engineering. Alumni were the first to be added to the list, but the list also includes high school guidance counselors and corporate recruiters. We are particularly interested in identifying more individuals who influence a student's college and career selection process, and similarly, those who impact an individual's employment opportunities. We will use the information you provide to distribute periodic reports (similar to those listed above) about the activities and accomplishments of MSU's ChE Department.

As you can imagine, a list of this type is never complete and never totally current. You can help, however, by sending us the names and addresses (mailing and Internet) of people you know that should be included. We'll eliminate the duplicates, but your contributions will help with completeness (to the extent that is possible!) and accuracy. Please send me any information you think would be helpful and I will ensure it is added to our mailing lists. Thank you very much.

I also will commit to providing you with occasional reports regarding our progress with this effort. The status and reputation of the Department, College, and University are concerns each of us shares. The Board and I are convinced that MSU's Department of Chemical Engineering deserves much more recognition than perhaps it currently receives. With the continued support of alumni and friends, we are confident that we can help Professor Dale communicate this important message throughout the chemical engineering community.

Very sincerely yours,

Alin Steele
alin.steele@mcnenergy.com

Friends of MSU Chemical Engineering Department

1. Please update your information, if necessary:

Name: _____
Company: _____
Title: _____
Business address: _____
Home address: _____
Phone: _____
e-mail: _____

I would prefer to receive MSU ChE information /___/ at home, or /___/ at the office.

2. Potential friend of the ChE Department:

Name: _____
Company: _____
Title: _____
Business address: _____
Home address: _____
Phone: _____
e-mail: _____

3. Potential friend of the ChE Department:

Name: _____
Company: _____
Title: _____
Business address: _____
Home address: _____
Phone: _____
e-mail: _____

Please return this form to the Board of Visitors by mailing to:

Board of Visitors – Communications and Marketing Committee
Department of Chemical Engineering
College of Engineering
Michigan State University
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