Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering

Innovations

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRANKLIN W. OLIN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

SPRING 2004
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PHILANTHROPY 101

Community Service Enables Engineering Students to Give Back, Broaden Horizons

THE IDEA OF GIVING BACK has a long tradition at Olin, despite the college's short history. In a sense, it stretches back to the late 1930's, when Franklin W. Olin established the F.W. Olin Foundation to provide funds for educational institutions serving the economically disadvantaged. The tradition continued when the Foundation established Olin College and began offering a full-tuition scholarship to every admitted student.

"I am not only helping the outside community, but also expressing myself and doing something I like to do. It helps me realize I'm part of a bigger community."

— Clara Cho ('06)

Olin's first two classes have enthusiastically embraced this tradition, giving their time for causes that are improving the quality of life in Needham and surrounding communities.

"Olin College is based on philanthropy," noted Ellen Cooney, assistant dean of student life. "Students are getting an education as a result of a philanthropic gesture, and we try to instill this spirit in our students."

The college has taken a number of steps to support community service. One afternoon a week is kept free of classes for students to devote time to projects. A student-run umbrella group called SERV—for Support, Encourage and Recognize Volunteerism—coordinates community service efforts and alocates funding for individual projects.

SERV estimates that up to 80 Olin students are involved in community service, with many serving in multiple projects. The projects run the gamut, from domestic abuse prevention to blood donations to collaborative educational projects with local schools. Eleven projects are officially recognized by SERV. (See sidebar on page 7.)

Olin students point to a number of benefits from community service. One is the psychic rewards that flow from helping others through such projects as the collaboration with Needham's Hillside Elementary School, where Olin freshmen and sophomores are working to excite young people about science and engineering through hands-on learning.

On one recent Friday afternoon, the project was building batteries out of lemons. Small groups of Hillside students huddled on the floor, connecting nail-studded lemon halves with wires and attempting to make a small diode light up. Olin freshman Christie Lee assisted Anna Cocuzzo, 9. As the tiny light finally glowed, the two exchanged a high five.

continued on page 7

Above: Christie Lee ('07), right, helps Anna Cocuzzo, 9, build a battery out of lemons at Needham's Hillside Elementary School.

Olin College will be featured in the next edition of Princeton Review's *Best 357 Colleges*.

PRINCETON REVIEW TO RECOGNIZE OLIN AS ONE OF *THE BEST 357 COLLEGES*

OLIN COLLEGE is one of the nation's best institutions for undergraduate education, according to the Princeton Review. The Princeton Review has selected Olin for inclusion in the forthcoming 2005 edition of its annual guidebook, *The Best 357 Colleges*.

In addition to a listing among *The Best 357 Colleges*, Olin will be featured as one of the eight schools receiving the Princeton Review's "Best" designation for the first time.

"We regard the schools in this book as 'the cream of the crop' institutions for undergraduate education," said Robert Franek, assistant vice president, Princeton Review. "Only about 10 percent of the colleges in America and only two Canadian colleges are in the book. Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering clearly fit the criteria we were looking for, and we are pleased to include Olin in our new edition."

The Princeton Review based its final recommendations on the information each school provided in a two-page resume and the opinion data derived from Olin students who responded to the publication's survey.

"It is remarkable that Olin was chosen for inclusion so early in its history, a fact that we believe is an indication of the growing reputation of our college," noted President Richard Miller.

The Princeton Review's profiles include candid comments from surveyed students at each school about their opinion of it. When each edition is published, The Princeton Review posts the book's ranking lists and information from the college profiles on its website, www.PrincetonReview.com.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

As usual, the late winter and early spring have been very busy at Olin College. The activities and accomplishments of this period provide new evidence that Olin is rapidly becoming an established institution.

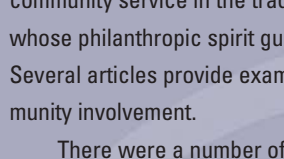
Take our growing interactions with the community, for example. We are putting down roots locally through community service in the tradition of Franklin W. Olin, whose philanthropic spirit guides our development. Several articles provide examples of our increasing community involvement.

There were a number of developments that have major implications for the long-term growth of the college. Olin has taken the first formal step in the regional accreditation process with the recent completion of a Self Study and a visit by a team of educators representing the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). The purpose of the visit and the Self Study was to examine the college's eligibility for candidacy status with NEASC.

The College recently revised its Strategic Plan to guide its growth from 2004-2006. The plan outlines three strategic goals and a "strategic imperative," and provides a revised mission statement.

As far as kudos go, Olin College was recently selected by the Princeton Review as one of the newest additions to its Best Colleges series. Olin will be featured as one of the eight schools receiving the Review's "Best" designation for the first time in its August 2004 edition. In another praiseworthy development, Professor Stephen Holt, who holds appointments at Olin and Babson, was recently elected to full membership in the International Academy of Astronautics, the most prestigious of all academies in the field of space studies. This recognition is indicative of the intellectual vitality that characterizes Olin College.

Although Olin is rapidly becoming established and recognized, it certainly isn't becoming complacent. We will never really finish inventing ourselves.



Richard K. Miller
President

"Big Conversations" Brings NASA Scientist and Boston Scientific Founder to Olin

NASA's Dr. Harley Thronson and Boston Scientific Corporation's John Abele recently added their names to the impressive list of speakers who have lent their voice and expertise to the Olin community as part of the Big Conversations speakers' series.

Big Conversations brings the community together for a discussion around the theme of "what's important" with a guest who has made an impact on the world through science and technology. Last semester, Dr. Thronson, director of Technology for NASA's Office of Space Science, was the Big Conversations speaker.

NASA's Dr. Harley Thronson closed with Robert Goddard's dictum that "the dream of yesterday is the hope of today and the reality of tomorrow."

Dr. Thronson's responsibilities include selection and development of advanced technologies that will significantly enhance future space science missions. In his talk, Dr. Thronson described efforts to find life in the cosmos through scientific exploration and defined NASA's mission as the attempt to "understand life in the universe." He also outlined NASA's plans for possible missions to Mars.

In closing, Dr. Thronson urged the community to join NASA in embracing rocket pioneer Robert Goddard's dictum that "the dream of yesterday is the hope of today and the reality of tomorrow."

This semester's Big Conversations speaker, John Abele, visited the campus on March 31. Mr. Abele is known worldwide as a pioneer in the field of less invasive medicine. He has published and lectured extensively on the technology of various medical devices as well as the technical, social and political trends affecting healthcare.

Mr. Abele's talk began with a series of questions that encouraged anonymous audience response through an EduCue device. The device, which is similar to the technology used on the popular game show *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*, allowed audience members to answer questions about politics, religion, career and respect issues. Audience response was immediately visible on a screen in the auditorium, enabling Mr. Abele to quickly evaluate how the audience felt about each topic.

Mr. John Abele of Boston Scientific urged the audience to continue discussions of ethics.

Speaking about "what's important" in the field of medicine, Mr. Abele stood atop a Segway human transporter while addressing the audience of Olin community members, Needham residents and invited students and alumni from area colleges.

Noting that bioethics has only recently established itself as a field, Mr. Abele predicted that "advances in technology in the next five years would exceed those in the previous 50."

According to Mr. Abele, technologies are beginning to advance more rapidly as a result of increased access to information, expertise and materials.

"Technology is being democratized," said Abele. "No longer can the 'powers that be' horde knowledge."

With increased access to information comes an abundance of innovation, especially in medicine where breakthroughs are enabling artificial sight, improving muscle development and re-growing brain cells.

Mr. Abele indicated that while these advances are aimed at aiding individuals who need medical assistance, they also pose a series of ethical dilemmas.

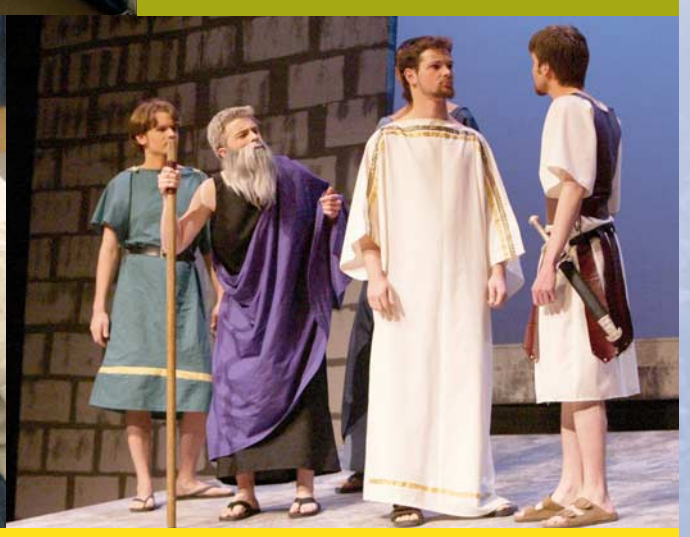
"Who should receive these new treatments and who shouldn't?" asked Mr. Abele. "Should these new technologies be used to cure ills or make healthy people better?"

In closing, Mr. Abele asked the audience to continue discussing ethics and encouraged people to "think not only about the things we can do, but also the things we should do." The discussions of ethics continued throughout the day in a series of "Small Conversations" around campus.

Above and Below: Candidates for the class of 2008 worked together in teams to build weight-supporting foam structures during Candidates' Weekend activities.

Below: Freshmen Lee Edwards, Matthew Brouillard, Mark Penner, Alex Epstein and sophomore Mike Curtis performed in "Tiger at the Gates."

Above: Mel Chua ('07) demonstrates a robot to visiting Girl Scouts.



Below Left: Students danced the night away amid Times Square props at their 2004 Valentine's Day Dance.

Above: Olin and Babson students, faculty and staff mark the opening of the new business hatchery.

CANDIDATES' WEEKENDS HIGHLIGHT RECENT CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

The end of the fall semester and beginning of the spring semester spawned many activities on campus, from Candidates' Weekends, to drama performances to the launch of a new business hatchery. Here are some of the highlights:

Girl Scout Visit, December 5: Twenty-three Girl Scouts from five Needham troops visited Olin College to fulfill requirements for technology merit badges. While at Olin, the sixth grade girls engaged in such activities as using a scanning electron microscope to view tiny objects and watching a demonstration of robots.

End of Semester Activities, December 8-19: Although there was no formal "Olin Expo" at the end of the fall semester, several courses took the opportunity to wrap up their studies with public presentations. Seeing and Hearing offered a **Gallery Talk** and photo exhibit, while the **Wired Ensemble,** put on a multi-media presentation in several campus locations. The three freshman Cohorts — **Mechanical Nature, Things That Go** and **High Impact** — gave end of semester presentations that showcased the processes involved in their final projects. Presentations highlighted the strengths, weaknesses and technical components of each team's project design.

Valentine's Day Dance, February 13: Olin's Student Activities Committee (SAC) hosted a Valentine's dance on campus with a New Year's Eve in Times Square theme. The event included a ball drop at midnight.

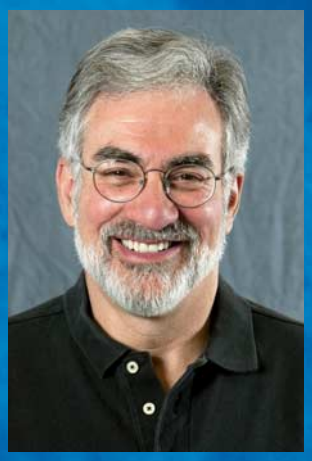
FWOP Performs, February 28-March 6: The Franklin W. Olin Players (FWOP) presented their second ever full stage production, "Tiger at the Gates." The performance was held at the Sorenson Center for the Arts during both Candidates' Weekends.

Candidates' Weekends, February 27-28 and March 5-6: During the two Candidates' Weekends, 155 Candidates for the class of 2008 were on campus. The Candidates included 72 women and 83 men, representing 38 states.

Business Hatchery Opening, March 3: Olin has opened its first business hatchery, known as the "Foundry@1795," at 1795 Great Plain Avenue. The frame house, which formerly housed faculty offices, will now provide space for entrepreneurially minded students to develop their business ideas under the tutelage of Olin and Babson faculty members.

THE NEW FRONTIER

DR. HOLT INDUCTED INTO ACADEMY OF ASTRONAUTICS



Recognized by Peers for Outstanding Service and Achievements

Dr. Stephen Holt was recently elected to full membership in the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA). The IAA, the most prestigious of all academies in the field of space, fosters the development of astronautics for peaceful purposes and recognizes individuals who have distinguished themselves in a related branch of science or technology. Dr. Holt is one of only 18 Americans, and only four American scientists, inducted into the IAA this year.

Election to the Academy is recognition of an individual's record of service and achievement. Members are leaders in space activities in their own countries. New members are elected by their peers in the Academy. Membership brings with it the commitment to work with fellow members for the betterment of mankind through the application of the art and science of astronautics.

Dr. Holt is a professor of physics at Olin College and the director of natural sciences in the Math/Science Division at Babson College. His primary research discipline is high-energy astrophysics.

Prior to joining Olin, Dr. Holt was the director of space sciences at the NASA-Goddard Space Flight Center, where he was a principal investigator and project scientist on eight NASA scientific spacecraft, including joint missions with Germany, Japan, Russia and the United Kingdom. Last year, Dr. Holt advised Olin students in a national competition sponsored by NASA to design a greenhouse for use in a possible Mars mission. The Olin team was recognized for its unusually creative outreach efforts.

In 2000, Dr. Holt received NASA's highest award, the Distinguished Service Medal. On two occasions he was awarded the NASA Medal for Exceptional Scientific Achievement and the NASA Medal for Outstanding Leadership. He has also received the John C. Lindsay Memorial Award for Outstanding Scientific Achievement.

Dr. Holt received a B.S. degree with honors in engineering physics and a Ph.D. in Physics from New York University.

Interim Report of Annual Giving, 2003-2004

(as of April 1, 2004)

Philanthropy and service to the community are among the core values and Founding Precepts of the Olin College. We are grateful for the support of the many friends who share our commitment to the college.

Our final report of Annual Giving for 2003-2004 will be published in the summer issue of *Innovations*, including all gifts received by June 30, 2004. If we have inadvertently omitted your name or listed it incorrectly, please accept our sincere apologies. We would appreciate your contacting our Advancement Office at 781-292-2290 or by e-mail at advancement@olin.edu with any corrections.

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Companies
Medtronic Foundation
Raytheon Company
(through Gregory Shelton)

NEW FACES AT OLIN

University of Southern Denmark Professor Joins Olin Faculty for a Semester

Chris Heape recently joined Olin as a visiting associate professor of Engineering. Since September 2002, Mr. Heape has been a senior researcher at the Mads Clausen Institute for Product Innovation at the University of Southern Denmark. He is a doctoral candidate at USD, where he is actively involved with design research, principally in the area of design learning. Mr. Heape has been very involved with the development and design of a user-centered undergraduate program for electrical engineers. He earned a B.A. in painting and art history from the Falmouth School of Art in the United Kingdom and an M.A. in industrial design from Design Skolen Kolding in Denmark.

New Laboratory Specialist Joins Olin

Dr. Timothy (Tim) Hemesath recently joined Olin as a laboratory specialist. Dr. Hemesath is assisting Olin's biology and chemistry faculty.

Before coming to Olin, Dr. Hemesath was living and working in Siena, Italy, where he was head of Proteomics for a start-up drug discovery company. Prior to that appointment, he was the director of Functional Genomics for deCODE Genetics in Reykjavik, Iceland. Dr. Hemesath earned his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. His research interests include immune regulation in health and disease, receptor function and transcriptional regulation and chromatin dynamics. Dr. Hemesath has been invited to speak at seminars worldwide on genetics and protein interactions.

Dr. Hemesath has an intimate understanding of the approach employed by diverse European healthcare systems to the treatment of bone fracture. Aside from his research interests, he enjoys cooking, running, reading and grappa.

New Member Joins the President's Council

Dr. Lilian Shiao-Yen Wu recently joined the President's Council. Dr. Wu is currently the director of university relations at IBM's corporate headquarters in New York, and a member of the President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology. Her major research interests are mathematical modeling and risk analysis in business, women in science and engineering, and energy and ecosystems.

Dr. Wu graduated from Cornell University with a Ph.D. in applied mathematics, having received her B.S. from the University of Maryland at College Park.

Honors/Awards/ Recognition

Kerns Quoted in Op-Ed

Sherra Kerns, vice president for Innovation and Research and incoming president of the American Society for Engineering Education, was quoted in a February 19 ExxonMobil op-ed that appeared in the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times* and other national publications. The piece pointed out the importance of engineering and the need to diversify the field by attracting more women and underrepresented groups.

Olin's CIO Named to Goddard Collaborative Post

Olin's Chief Information Officer, Joanne Kossuth, was recently elected to serve a three-year term as an officer of the Goddard Collaborative Community. The Goddard Collaborative is a group of regional institutions (colleges, museums, K-12 schools and nonprofit educational institutions) that are working together and within their communities to build a technology infrastructure to share knowledge and resources. The group was formed in 2002. Kossuth and the four other officers will be responsible for setting the tone and direction for the Collaborative.

Olin Librarian Receives Leadership Award

Olin Library/ Knowledge Lab Director Dee Magnoni has received the Factiva Leadership Award (previously Dow Jones). The award is presented annually to an individual member who exemplifies leadership as a special librarian through examples of personal and professional competencies. Magnoni and her co-authors won the award for writing, "Competencies for Information Professionals of the 21st Century" (Revised edition, June 2003).

IN BRIEF

Olin College Establishes First Parents' Advisory Board (PAB)

The purpose of the PAB is to provide counsel to the college through the vice president for external relations on issues of importance to the college. PAB serves at the pleasure of the vice president and is advisory in nature.

In keeping with the PAB charter, the college chose 10 parents to serve on the board. The selection was based on a number of criteria, including diversity of geographical location, relationship with Olin, year of graduation of their child, gender and career experience. Six parents were chosen to serve a two-year term to represent the Class of 2006. Four parents were chosen to represent the Class of 2007 for a three-year term.

The board members are: Russell Arnold (P'06), Ken Chua (P'07), Tom Connelly (P'06, Chair), Risa Dubin (P'07, Co-chair), Mary Gantz (P'06), Pat Hafford (P'07), Chris Kochem (P'06), Shelley McBride (P'07), Beth Munson (P'06) and Nancy Satwicz (P'06).

The first meeting will be held this spring. Items on the agenda include formation of committees, structure of the PAB and Family Weekend 2004 brainstorming.

Study Away Program

The Office of Student Life has developed three program models for study away. Direct Exchanges offer Olin students the opportunity to directly enroll in a school abroad with which Olin has negotiated an exchange agreement. Pre-Approved Programs are academically-focused study abroad programs sponsored by another American institution. Students typically take courses with other program participants; enroll in courses at the local institution in the host country; or do a combination of both. Student-Designed Programs allow Olin students to create their own away experience, such as taking part in an internship, doing research or studying at another institution in the U.S., or participating in a program that is not currently on Olin's pre-approved list but meets certain academic criteria. Students must gain permission from the Standing Committee on Study Away before participating in any of these program models.

Olin Takes the First Step in Regional Accreditation

Olin has taken the first formal step in the regional accreditation process with the recent completion of a Self Study and a visit by a team of educators representing the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). The purpose of the visit and the Self Study was to examine the college's eligibility for candidacy status with NEASC.

The visiting team was on campus from March 7-10 for an intensive three days of review. During this time, team members met with many individuals on campus and reviewed the college's operations closely. Olin was fortunate to have a team of extraordinary educators to conduct this review.

The visiting team's report and recommendation will be forwarded to NEASC, after an opportunity for review and comment by the college. Next fall the NEASC Commission on Institutions of Higher Education will review the report of the visiting team and any subsequent communication from Olin as they rule on whether to grant Candidacy status to Olin College.

Olin College on the Cutting Edge of Laundry Services

Using Mac-Gray's LaundryView technology, Olin students can now monitor the status of washers and dryers in the residence hall through their web browsers. In addition to presenting up-to-the-minute information about laundry machines, the technology enables students to be notified of changes through alerts to computers or cell phones. Each machine reports its status to LaundryView several times every minute, allowing students to see if the laundry room is busy. Students can also receive notifications from LaundryView when machines become available or reminders when their machine completes its cycle.

LaundryView is currently in operation at only two Massachusetts colleges – Olin and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Keoni Mahelona ('07) makes use of Olin's new LaundryView technology.

FOURTH GRADERS INSPIRE TOY DESIGN

WHEN OLIN freshmen in an electrical engineering course were given an assignment to design new toys, they turned to the experts: fourth graders from Needham's Hillside School.

"Batteries Not Included" is an integrated course block taught by Professors Mark Somerville and John Geddes, with assistance from Visiting Professor Chris Heape and Olin Partner Steve Schiffman. This project-based course focuses on toy design as a vehicle for learning about circuit components, electro-mechanical devices and simple circuit design.

The semester-long course kicked off with a visit from fourth grade students at Needham's Hillside School. The visit was an opportunity for Olin students to begin an ongoing interaction with potential end-users as a part of their toy design assignment.

"It's easy for college students to imagine toys that they find compelling." said Dr. Somerville. "The trick is to engage the imaginations of real users so that the concepts will be compelling to fourth graders."

Students enrolled in the Batteries Not Included course designed a series of hands-on exercises for the nine and ten year old visitors. Exercises such as word association games, life-size portrait drawing and prop building with household items were aimed at catching a glimpse of what is possible in a child's mind when real life is ignored in favor of a "what if anything was possible" mentality.

"Having the Olin and Hillside students work together is a great idea," said fourth grade teacher Amy Cicala. "It's nice for our students to come here and interact with college students. Talking about toys is speaking their language."

When asked about the success Olin students will have in the development of their toys, one fourth grader mused, "With our help they'll be really successful and someday build a big toy company like FAO Schwartz."

"It allowed us to get back in touch with how kids think. Watching them expand one word into a series of ideas and scenarios was amazing."

–Allison Schmidt ('07)

Over 30 fourth graders were on campus to assist in the imagination brainstorming session.

"The experience was helpful," said freshman Allison Schmidt. "It allowed us to get back in touch with how kids think. Watching them expand one word into a series of ideas and scenarios was amazing."

At the end of the day, Hillside students were given a homework assignment to complete. The students were asked to design an advertisement for a new kind of toy that included a name for the toy, a picture and a description of the toy's features. The assignment was later collected by Olin students who visited Hillside to discuss the results.

With the homework assignments collected, Olin students huddled around the fourth graders' work to begin developing their ideas. Once the ideas were finalized, Olin students created a series of posters detailing their toy design plans. The posters became part of a traveling "Idea Fair" that began at Olin and ended when the posters reached Hillside School.

After attending the Idea Fair, Woodie Flowers, distinguished Olin partner, was impressed. "The Olin students had obviously heard wonderful fanciful toy stories from the kids at Hillside. Now they must use their 'wisdom filters' to pick ideas, then use all their skills and knowledge to create new toys. Everyone wins when smart designers are informed by those they aim to serve."

Executives in the toy industry visited Olin to give advice to the budding toy designers. Early in the course, an iRobot executive used anecdotes to illustrate important aspects of toy design, ranging from price point to play value.

After the research and brainstorming phases are complete, teams of Olin students will develop their ideas for simple electro-mechanical toys. Results of their work will be displayed during the end-of-semester Olin Expo, which will be held May 4-6.

Olin freshmen and Needham fourth graders engage in a toy design exercise.

OLIN "SHOCK CORPS" TEACHES CPR, FIRST AID

"SHOCK CORPS," a group of 20 Olin College students, staff and faculty, is on a mission to train the community in first-aid, CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation) and AED (automated external defibrillators) techniques. The Shock Corps, which has already hosted a "First Aid for Engineers" clinic, successfully applied for a $15,000 grant from the Medtronic Foundation to train members of the Olin and Needham communities to use AED machines and become CPR certified. Additional funding from anonymous donors allowed the group to purchase five AED machines for the campus.

AED machines are small, lightweight devices that monitor a person's heart rhythm and recognize abnormalities such as ventricular fibrillation.

The Shock Corps determined that CPR and AED training was needed to complement their first-aid training day, as many Olin community members spend a large amount of time in the college machine shops, electrical labs and chemical laboratories. Since work in these facilities poses inherent safety risks, Shock Corps is hoping their CPR and AED training program will enable community members to provide a quick and accurate response in a medical emergency.

Once a corps of Olin students, staff and faculty become CPR/AED instructors, they will be responsible for leading American Heart Association CPR/AED courses for the Olin and Needham communities.

Each year, Olin's entering students will be trained in CPR/AED. This effort is designed to create a nationwide base of engineers who are trained in American Heart Association CPR/AED techniques.

Nick Zola ('06) practices bandaging a "wounded" Alex Dillon ('06).

WGBH-TV FILMS ENGINEERING GAME SHOW AT OLIN

Etosha Cave ('06) was an eager contestant on a test run of WGBH-TV's new engineering game show, *Lazybones*.

Boston's public broadcasting affiliate, WGBH-TV, recently chose Olin College as the location for filming a test-run of their engineering game show, *Lazybones*.

Eight contestants from high schools and colleges throughout Massachusetts came to Olin to compete in a day-long engineering challenge that pitted two teams against one another to design and create a scrambled egg cooker. Contestants were chosen from an applicant pool of over a hundred candidates who applied for a spot on the show after an open casting call. Olin sophomore Etosha Cave was one of the contestants.

The test-run episode will be added to the WBGH archives and used to further develop the *Lazybones* concept. *Lazybones* is funded by a planning grant provided by the National Science Foundation.

CAMPUS VOICES

Freshman Lauds Passion of Olin Community

The first thing that attracted me to Olin was a steam engine. I was touring the project labs of Olin on a crisp October Saturday when my tour guide and I encountered it in the hands of materials science professor Jon Stolk. He was excited as he told me how it worked, what it was made of and how it was built. His passion impressed me and I remember thinking, "This is where I want to be."

Olin is still the place where I want to be. Before coming to Olin, I studied for one year at a small liberal arts college and did a year of community service in the Americorps program City Year. My experiences have helped me appreciate Olin's interactive classes and the amazing people in the Olin community. What makes Olin special to me is that Olin students, faculty and staff are passionate about what they do, whether it is designing a solar car, directing a play or building a college.

Alex Dorsk ('07)

PHILANTHROPY 101

Community Service, continued from page 1

"It makes me feel good that I can help them see what an engineer is, and that it's not geeky," said Lee afterwards. "When I was that age, I didn't know what an engineer was."

Another advantage of such projects is that they enable notoriously hard working engineering students to get their noses out of books and stay balanced. "I've been doing community service since high school, and for me, it's part of my life," said Clara Cho ('06) who coordinates the SERV project leaders and volunteers with Habitat for Humanity. "I am not only helping the outside community, but also expressing myself and doing something I like to do. It helps me realize I'm part of a bigger community."

Many of the projects also provide valuable skills for budding engineers. Projects like Habitat for Humanity, Engineers without Frontiers (which targets third-world engineering challenges) and FIRST (which provides mentors for local high schoolers competing a national robotics contest) are both rewarding and interesting for engineering students. The Needham/Olin Technology Exchange (NOTE) gives students experience in rebuilding computers for low income residents.

Jill Crisman, faculty advisor to SERV, says students also learn many teamwork and leadership skills. "The fact that SERV is student-run is really important," said Crisman. "Students can initiate projects and get a group together to run it. That adds a lot to the experience." SERV is currently finalizing a charter that will spell out its mission and organizational structure.

In addition to providing engineering skills, the projects offer important perspectives for tomorrow's technology leaders. "The traditional engineer is seen as narrow and apart from society," said Cooney, who is staff advisor to SERV. "We're trying to develop socially responsible engineers who understand the larger world and their role in it."

Above: Alex Dorsk ('07), left, and Amanda Blackwood ('06) teach scientific principles to elementary school students. Below: From left: Sophomores Cheryl Inouye, Jerzy Wieczorek, Kim McCraw, Emma Goodman and Clara Cho lend a hand in a Habitat for Humanity project.

Olin's Community Service Projects

- Animal Rescue League
- Computing Opportunities for Disabled Adults (CODA)
- Domestic Violence Action Committee
- Engineers without Frontiers
- FIRST Robotics
- Friends to the Friends of the Needham Public Library
- Giving of Yourself (platelet donation)
- Habitat for Humanity
- Hillside Elementary Engineering Class
- Needham Public TV
- Needham Olin Technology Exchange (NOTE)

Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering

EAST HALL RISING

Construction of Olin's new residence hall, East Hall, began in early December with two feet of snow on the ground for the first day of work. Undeterred by the New England weather, the crew completed the footings and foundation of the building, including the application of waterproofing and insulation to the foundation. The elevator shaft and pit have been drilled and constructed. Installation of the structural steel began in February. Steel erection, floor decking, underground plumbing and floor slabs progressed through March and into April, with exterior wall construction beginning in late April. The expected completion date is January 2005.

The Hawaii Club, Student Activities Committee and Olin Dining Hall hosted a spring Luau dinner on March 26. Attendees enjoyed an evening of food, fun and aloha as the hosts presented leis, Hawaiian chants, hula dancers and lessons in popular Hawaiian phrases.

Innovations

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