THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRANKLIN W. OLIN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

ACADEMIC BENCHMARKING SURVEY PLACES OLIN NEAR TOP NATIONWIDE

Survey Measures Student Engagement

DLIN COLLEGE has surpassed nationwide benchmarks by wide margins in five key categories measuring effective educational practices linked to student learning and development on the undergraduate

"In a benchmarking survey such as NSSE's, which measures student engagement, it is no surprise that Olin ranked well above the national average"

-Richard Miller, President

level. This is according to the fifth annual report published by the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE).

The NSSE 2004 survey benchmarked data collected

from 163,000 students at 472 institutions and grouped the data into five broad categories – Level of Academic Challenge, Active and Collaborative Learning, Faculty Interaction, Educational Experience and Campus Environment.

NSSE compared survey data collected from first-year Olin students with responses from first-year students at other institutions across the country. The results indicate that Olin ranks significantly above the national average in all five categories.

In the NSSE categories of Active and Collaborative Learning and Enriching Educational Experiences, Olin was at the 100th percentile, meaning the college was among the best, if not the best in the nation in these benchmarks.

These two broad categories include activities such as working with other students on projects, discussing readings or classes with others and engaging in serious conversations with students of a different race, ethnicity or religion. Activities such as asking questions that spurred class discussion, participating in co-curricular activities, internships, community service, study abroad and independent study were also measured in this category

Olin was at the 90th percentile in the categories of Student/Faculty Interaction, Supportive Campus Environment, and Level of Academic Challenge. These broad categories measured things such as quality relationships with other students,

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The NSSE survey ranks Olin College well above the national average in many areas, including hands-on learning, interaction with faculty and level of academic challenge, among other things.

Olin College juniors Frances Haugen, Daniel Lindquist and Steven Krumholz (left to right) with their adviser, Associate Professor Burt Tilley (second from right).

OLIN STUDENTS WIN INTERNATIONAL MATH

OLIN COLLEGE JUNIORS Steven Krumholz, Frances Haugen and Daniel Lindquist were one of the three winning teams in this year's Interdisciplinary Contest in Modeling (ICM).

The ICM is an international competition for high school students and college undergraduates that develops interdisciplinary problem-solving skills and competence in written communication. Competing teams use advanced mathematical and problem-solving skills to analyze complex challenges. The ICM is sponsored by the Consortium for Mathematics and its Applications (COMAP).

This year's 7th annual ICM drew 164 teams from four countries. Teams from Olin College, East China University of Science and Technology and the Maggie Walker Governor's School were designated as "Outstanding" winners. The Olin team was also recognized as the "INFORMS winner," a distinction awarded to one team each year.

During the four-day contest teams researched a solution to an open-ended problem. This year teams selected a nonrenewable resource and modeled its depletion over time. The problem required analysis of economic, demographic, political, environmental and technological issues. The problem also contained compulsory elements, such as scientific and mathematical analysis, data analysis, creativity, approximation and precision.

The Olin team examined and modeled trends in water withdrawal throughout the world and developed plans to effectively prevent using water beyond its renewable capacity. In their paper they identified the three major components of water consumption and created a successful model that simulated a country's reaction to a water scarcity. The team also produced policies for effective water management and discussed how to protect water in a global environment.

"Steve, Frances and Dan presented a thoroughly researched description of the problems in maintaining a potable water supply," said the group's adviser, Burt Tilley, associate professor of mathematics. "They were able to synthesize all of the material to formulate an elegant mathematical model that corroborated suggested management solutions."

The three "Outstanding" solution papers will be published in the *UMAP Journal*.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



All of us here at Olin think this is a special institution. But we are perhaps biased, because we live. work and study here. Which is why it is particularly gratifying to receive some validation of our efforts from off campus.

Recently, we received several

pieces of good news regarding our learning program and the overall progress of the college.

Olin College has been granted "Candidate for Accreditation" status by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). While candidacy is not accreditation, it does indicate that Olin College has achieved initial recognition and is progressing toward accreditation.

In addition, according to a respected academic benchmarking survey, Olin ranks near the top nationwide in educational practices linked to effective student learning. This is welcome confirmation that we are on the right track.

Olin's CIO, Joanne Kossuth, has been recognized by Computerworld magazine as one of the Premier 100 IT Leaders in the country. The award honors executives who show exemplary technology leadership.

We recently learned that three Olin students had formed the winning team in an international math modeling contest in which they were up against stiff competition from established institutions. This is yet another indicator of the outstanding quality of our student body.

On another note, we received the resignations of two of our long time Board members: William Schmidt and William Horn, two of the founding trustees of Olin College. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their service, and for their visionary guidance.

All of this confirms my strong belief that what makes Olin College special is not its campus or even its curriculum—it is the people who study, teach and work here, and those who guide our efforts as trustees and President's Council members. I am deeply appreciative of all your efforts.

Richard K. Miller President

OLIN COLLEGE PROGRESSES TOWARD ACCREDITATION, GAINS CANDIDACY STATUS FROM NEASC

Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering has been granted "Candidate for Accreditation" status by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) through its Commission on Institutions of Higher Education. While candidacy is not accreditation, it does indicate that

> Olin College has achieved initial recognition and is progressing toward accreditation. Additionally, candidacy establishes a formal relationship between NEASC and Olin.

> > NEASC granted candidacy to Olin following a visit to the college by a team of educators in March

"Olin is committed to meeting and exceeding the criteria of educational quality set forth by NEASC," said President Richard Miller. "We view candidacy status as another step toward our goal of full accreditation at the earliest possible date."

Founded in 1885 U.S. institutions accredited by NEASC must possess appropriate purposes or mission, resources to accom-

plish their purposes or mission, an ability to demonstrate that it is accomplishing those purposes and evidence of likely ability to perform well in the future.

A full accreditation review cannot take place until after Olin's first has graduated in May 2006.

The mission of NEASC, the nation's oldest regional accrediting association, is the establishment and maintenance of high standards for all levels of education, from pre-K to the doctoral level.

OLIN NAMED "BEST VALUE COLLEGE" BY PRINCETON REVIEW

Olin College will be included in the forthcoming Princeton Review/Random House publication, America's Best Value Colleges, due out this April. Princeton Review selected only 80 colleges and universities for this publication, which represents the country's best values in college education.

According to the Princeton Review, colleges included in this publication "offer outstanding academics and enroll good students who are happy with the education they are receiving and—more importantly—do not have to mortgage their futures because their school is

charging them way too much." Princeton Review chooses the Best Value colleges based on institutional data and student opinion surveys collected from colleges and universities. In general, the factors considdata and student opinion surveys collected from col-

Princeton academics, costs, financial aid and admission policies. Cost considerations were tuition, room and board and required fees.

ered included undergraduate

The editors of America's

Best Value Colleges singled out Olin for special praise due to its innovative approach to engineering education, noting "Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering may well be the most dynamic undergraduate institution in the country."

Remarking on Olin's inclusion in the publication, President Richard Miller said, "Continued recognition of Olin's innovative approach to engineering education further solidifies our commitment to excellence in all areas, including the desire to continue offering every admitted student a full-tuition scholarship in perpetuity."

Sophomore Ali Badala (center) and junior Susan Fredholm (right) display their talents during BDE's performance of "Hot in Here."

Below left: The Olin Vocal Ensemble treated the Olin and Babson communities to many holiday favorites during their Christmas concert.

Below, right: Sophomore George Jemmott places a bid during SERV's service auction.

SEMESTER ACTIVITIES

Dance Ensemble Performs

December 2-4, the Babson Dance Ensemble (BDE) presented its fall show "Hot in Here" at the Sorenson Center. Several Olin students performed and choreographed routines for the performance. Participating students included, Jessica Anderson, Ali Badala, Susan Fredholm, Carmelle Tsai, Etosha Cave, Matthew Brouillard, Luis Diego Cabezas, James Krejcarek and Kevin Tostado.

Holiday Concerts

On December 7 the Babson-Olin Chamber Ensemble performed orchestral works by Schubert and Haydn and holiday favorites from the Nutcracker for the Olin and Babson communities. The Olin Vocal Ensemble also performed selections from the Liebeslieder waltzes of Brahms. The event included a singa-long of favorite Christmas carols.

Going Once, Going Twice.... Service Auction

Olin's first ever service auction was held December 10. SERV (Support, Encourage and Recognize Volunteerism) sponsored the auction to raise money for their various community service projects. Members of the commu-

> nity bid on a variety of services from babysitting and tutoring to homemade cookies and dinner party catering. SERV raised a total of \$1,356.50 as a result of the auction.

Snow Ball Dance

Complete with the famous Hollywood sign, the December 18 SAC-sponsored winter "Snow Ball" was themed "Hollywood: Naughty or Nice." Several students dressed as movie stars for the event.

Olin Exposition

December 21-22, the Olin Expo provided an opportunity for the Olin community, invited corporate guests and local high school students to discuss some of the projects Olin students worked on throughout the semester. All Olin students participated, showcasing their work through poster displays and presentations.

Candidates' Weekends

During the two Candidates' Weekends (February 25-26 and March 4-5), 166 prospective students visited the Olin campus. The event included interviews, a team design exercise, a mini Expo, faculty chats, information sessions and several opportunities for prospective students and parents to speak with Olin community members.

FWOP Performance

The Franklin W. Olin Players (FWOP) presented the Joseph Kesselring comedy, "Arsenic and Old Lace" during the Candidates' Weekends (February 25-March 5). The performance featured 29 Olin students and took place at Babson's Sorenson Center for the Arts.



Freshman Olek Lorenc (left) presents his team's software design project, "Real-Time Python Poll" to sophomore Molly McCormack and freshman Gui Cavalcanti during the Expo. The software allows professors to poll students and collect results in real-time.

Students danced the night away amongst the Hollywood décor during the winter "Snow Ball."



A team of Candidates stand with their foam structure during the Candidates' Weekend design exercise. All teams were asked to design and build structures that were less than five and a half feet tall and held no more than five pounds.



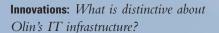
Sophomores Johannah Itescu, Laura Stupin and Steve Westwood (left to right) during FWOP's performance of "Arsenic and Olin Lace."

NEWSMAKER INTERVIEW

OLIN CIO HONORED FOR TECHNOLOGY LEADERSHIP

Joanne Kossuth, Olin's chief information officer, was recently named one of the country's Premier 100 IT Leaders by Computerworld magazine. The award honors executives who show exemplary technology leadership in resolving tough business problems.

In her five years with the college, Kossuth has directed the design and implementation of an advanced technology infrastructure from a clean slate. Olin's IT infrastructure is one of the first fully converged campus network infrastructures in the nation. Innovations recently caught up with Kossuth at her Olin office.



Kossuth: I think the thing that's really unique about our IT infrastructure stems from the fact that we were able to plan before we actually had a campus. Because of that, we were able to look at the big picture for the integration of all the systems ahead of time. We are one of the few campuses that has a fully converged network. That means that all our voice, our video, our data, our building control systems, our vending machines, our security systems—basically everything—all run on one network. This has saved us a lot of money, and it means that all these systems work well together and are easier to upgrade.

From a user standpoint, I have yet to see an institution where students use technology on a daily basis as consistently as ours do. They are always pushing the limits of technology and testing new technology, so there is a constant conversation about staying on the leading edge. We've built an infrastructure to support that. The challenge moving forward is how to use this energy and this infrastructure to integrate the technology more consistently in the classroom.



Joanne Kossuth

Innovations: What was the biggest challenge in setting up the infrastructure? Kossuth: Time. We believed we would have a number of months to get the network set up on campus, but because of construction delays we had five weeks to get

the network up and running. The second challenge was presenting to the trustees why we wanted to spend the money on the kind of things we did initially, and why that was important moving forward, as opposed to taking a less expensive way initially and then having to redo things over a very short time period.

Innovations: What was the biggest surprise?

Kossuth: One of the biggest surprises was how much work it was figuring what the right answers were. There are a lot of companies out there and it was a very volatile time in the market, so the challenge was really how to make an educated choice for something that needed to serve the college on a fairly long timetable.

Innovations: What does it feel like to be named one of the country's leading IT executives?

Kossuth: It feels really great personally—there's a high degree of satisfaction that goes along with it. But I really look at it as an award not just for me, but for the whole IT team. We've all been together for quite a while and accomplished a lot in building everything from scratch. I feel we have a lot here at Olin that we can teach other corporations and the vendors we work with. They're starting to figure out that they need to look to higher ed because our students are going to be their employees. Our students' expectations and the technologies they are using today are what they're going to be looking for in a company tomorrow.

OLIN COLLEGE RECEIVES OVER \$100,000 IN NEW GIFTS TO BENEFIT FINANCIAL AID

Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering recently received a boost to its financial aid fund. Year-end support for the college's aid fund totaling over \$100,000 was the result of gifts from CBT Inc. (Childs, Bertman, Tseckares), Fayez Sarofim & Company, Hanscomb Faithful & Gould, the Samuel and Rae Eckman Charitable Foundation, Western Asset, Williams Scotsman, Citizens Bank and VHB Inc.

These grants will be used to provide need-based aid to students. While every admitted student receives a full-tuition scholarship valued at \$130,000, this generous scholarship does not cover living expenses, student activity fees or the required computer purchase, among other things. The college offers need-based grant aid for all students who demonstrate eligibility.

"We consider these gifts to our need-based financial aid fund an excellent investment in our quality students and innovative academic program,"

"We consider these gifts

to our need-based finan-

academic program"

-Richard Miller, President

said Olin College President Richard Miller. "Support from these outside organizations lends increased momentum to the success of the col-

lege. cial aid fund an excellent The Samuel and Rae Eckman Charitable Foundation, which generously donated \$50,000 investment in our quality to support current financial aid needs, will have students and innovative the opportunity to name a new financial aid endowment fund for Olin College.

Two local companies working to build Olin's campus - CBT Inc. and Hanscomb Faithful & Gould – made donations to Olin's need-based aid fund. The architect for Olin's residence hall,

CBT lent support to Olin's general financial aid accounts, while Hanscomb Faithful & Gould, the construction manager for Olin's campus, offered a grant to support the Hanscomb Financial Aid Fund for 2005-06.

"It has been exceptionally rewarding for Hanscomb Faithful & Gould to be part of the team that is building Olin College," said Paul Male, regional vice president at Hanscomb Faithful & Gould. "Supporting the financial aid fund is a great opportunity to maintain our partnership with the college and reinforce our commitment to the educational experience of Olin's talented students."

Olin's need-based financial aid funding is important because of the impact it has on recruiting and retaining top students. Approximately 20 percent of the current freshman class qualified some form of need-based aid

"As a founding precept of the college, Olin endeavors to provided a leading-edge engineering education at a significantly reduced cost to students and their families," said Matthew Cottle, vice president for institutional advancement. "The college's level of financial support is rare among private colleges and is unique among those institutions focusing on undergraduate science and engineering education."

NEW FACES AT OLIN

Olin Welcomes Senior Partner for Legal Studies



Joni Moody has joined Olin College as a Senior Olin Partner for Legal Studies. Ms. Moody is a practicing lawyer at a Boston law firm that specializes in Chapter 11 bankruptcy, commercial litigation and criminal defense. She is admitted to practice in Massachusetts and before the United States District Court and the First Circuit.

Ms. Moody is a member of several professional organizations, including the American Immigration Lawyers Association and the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. She is graduate of Roger Williams

University Law School. Prior to attending law school she spent nearly ten years as a graduate student academic adviser. At Olin she advises students who are considering a career in law and assists them with the law school admission process.

Grant Hutchins ('06) had to keep the results of his appearance on Who Wants to Be a Millionaire a secret until the air date, February 4.

Students, faculty and staff filled the college's 300-seat auditorium February 4 and cheered with sports fan-like zeal as they watched junior Grant Hutchins sit in the "hot seat" and compete in the popular quiz show, Who Wants to Be a Millionaire.

Hutchins, 22, was chosen to be a contestant on the program after attending an audition this summer at ABC's New York City studios.

During his appearance on Millionaire, Hutchins answered several questions correctly and earned \$25,000, which he plans to spend on electronic music supplies. Hutchins lost his bid at the million dollars after incorrectly answering that the political term "gerrymander" originated in Virginia. Ironically, it originated in Massachusetts.

Olin's Student Activities Committee organized a community-wide viewing of the episode on the big projection screen in the auditorium. Kevin Tostado, chair of the Student Activities Committee noted, "The amount of electricity in the auditorium was unbelievable and although Grant did not win the million dollars, he did an amazing job of representing Olin."

MOVING UP

Dr. Somerville Promoted to **Associate Professor**



Provost David Kerns recently announced that Dr. Mark Somerville has been promoted to the rank of associate professor of **Electrical Engineering** and Physics. Dr. Somerville joined Olin in 2001 as an assistant professor. He is an active member of the Olin community, serving on the Academic

Recommendation Board, Competency Implementation Committee (chair) and the Strategic Advisory Committee (chair), among others. His promotion is retroactive to September 1, 2004.

IN BRIEF

Olin Team Enters 'Mini Baja' Competition

A group of more than 20 Olin students is designing and building an all-terrain racing vehicle as part of the Society of Automotive Engineers' Mini Baja collegiate design competition. Olin's team is entered in the Mini-Baja East, which culminates in a competition held at Rochester Institute of Technology in New York from

The competition provides the teams with experiences similar to those encountered when introducing a new product to the consumer industrial market. The teams are responsible not only for designing, building and racing the vehicle, but also for generating financial support for their project.

"We feel this will allow us to make an outstanding contribution to tomorrow's real-world accomplishments in engineering design," said project director Matthew Brouillard ('07).

The team is volunteer and entirely student-led, with Associate Professor David Barrett serving as faculty adviser. The students are raising money from local businesses to finance their project. For more information, visit http://minibaja.olin.edu.

Olin/Babson Students Place Second in Pricing Competition

The Olin and Babson College students in Professor Bourne and Schiffman's Real-Time Case Study course recently took second place in an international pricing competition. Last semester the students followed the high-tech start-up company, DAFCA, to examine the challenges and opportunities facing the new company. Each week the class was given a case study about DAFCA and asked to evaluate the real-time problem and present potential solutions. DAFCA also asked all of the participating colleges to determine a pricing structure for their product – a software tool that enables rapid debug and faster timeto-volume of complex System on a Chip (SoCs) circuits. In all there were 12 colleges in three countries participating in the real-time case study program, including many top-notch MBA programs. The Olin and Babson undergrad students placed second in the pricing competition and earned a \$500 prize, which they used to reward themselves with an end-of-semester dinner. The winning team was from Penn State's MBA program.

HP Visits Olin College

Nearly 30 members of Hewlett-Packard's University Relations group were on campus February 8-11 for their annual off-site meeting. While visiting the campus, HP staffers gained an in-depth understanding of the Olin College model of engineering education and explored opportunities for refining various elements of their University Relations program. Visitors toured the campus, spoke with members of the faculty and leadership teams and hosted a fireside chat for Olin students. University Relations manages several strategic technology initiatives for HP Labs and fosters HP relationships with approximately 75 leading universities around the world. Wayne Johnson is a member of the Olin College President's Council and the vice president of University Relations for Hewlett-Packard.

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Dr. Tracey Leger-Hornby of Brandeis, Cynthia Golden of Educause and Kathryn Hughes of Jenzabar (left to right) appeared on the Women and Technology panel.

IT Hosts Women and Technology Panel

On March 1, the Olin College Information Technology department hosted a panel discussion on "Women and Technology Professions" as part of the IT Tech Talk speaker series. The panel featured Cynthia Golden, executive director of professional development for Educause, Dr. Tracey Leger-Hornby, associate CIO at Brandeis University and Kathryn Hughes, vice president of marketing for Jenzabar, Inc. Olin community members, invited guests and residents of Needham attended the event. The panel is part of an ongoing series that has featured executives from Nortel Networks and MTS Corporation, among other organizations.

FACULTY FOCUS

OLIN PROFESSOR COORDINATES TSUNAMI RELIEF EFFORT

Caitrin Lynch, assistant professor of humanities and social sciences at Olin, is coordinating a multi-faceted Tsunami relief effort with a twist: all of the money she and her associates raise is going toward efforts to use solar power to rebuild devastated coastal areas of Sri Lanka.

Soon after the Tsunami struck on December 26, Lynch, who has longtime ties to Sri Lanka, called up a contact in the South Asian country to see how she could help. The contact, a business leader in the local garment industry named Ajita de Costa, is involved in a relief effort called the Rebuild Sri Lanka Trust, which provides aid to waterravaged villages. He told Lynch his priority was solar devices to generate power for lighting, refrigeration and water purification.

By chance, soon after the conversation with de Costa, Lynch heard an NPR interview with Bob Freling, head of a Washington, D.C.,-based nonprofit organization called the Solar Electric Light Fund (SELF). She contacted Freling about partnering with her and Rebuild Sri Lanka. As it turns out, SELF already had operations on the ground in Sri Lanka. Freling agreed, and the Rebuild Sri Lanka Solar Initiative was born.

While the initiative is striving to have an immediate impact by using solar power to help residents return to their communities, Lynch hopes the effort will have a longer-term effect.

"Solar energy is an integral part of Rebuild Sri Lanka's plan to rebuild sustainable villages where communities can flourish in the wake of the Tsunami," says Lynch.

Lynch's connection to Sri Lanka goes back to her undergraduate days, when she traveled to the island nation off the coast of India as part of a junior year abroad program. She returned to study the local garment industry while writing her Ph.D. disserta-

"I know many Sri
Lankans and have been
helped by many Sri
Lankans," says the Olin
anthropologist. "This is the
least I could do to try to
help." Lynch points out that
Sri Lanka lost the highest
percentage of its population
among the nations struck
by the killer wave, and had
70 percent of its coastline
destroyed.

Olin students have shown great enthusiasm for the project, giving presentations on solar power at local schools, volunteering their engineering design expertise and coordinating a corporate letter writing campaign, among other efforts. The initiative raised \$22,000 in its first month, on the way to a goal of raising \$1 million by the first anniversary



Olin Assistant Professor Caitrin Lynch (left) shows junior Will Clayton and freshman Liana Austin several Tsunami-ravaged areas on a map of Sri Lanka.

of the disaster.

"It's great to see Olin students putting into practice what they are learning here about how to think responsibly about technology," says Lynch.

For more details on the project, go to www.rebuildsrilankasolar.org. Donations may be made to SELF online at www.self.org. Checks may be

sent to: Solar Electric Light Fund, 1612K Street, NW, Suite 402, Washington, DC 20006. On the online donation form, select "Tsunami Relief in Sri Lanka" in the "I would like my donation used for" drop-down menu. On checks, indicate "Tsunami Relief in Sri Lanka" in the memo line.

OLIN STUDY LOOKS AT DIVERSIFYING SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

An Olin professor is teaming up with a Harvard researcher in a privately funded study of how one pedagogical innovation—project-based learning—might promote diversity in science and engineering fields if taught in introductory courses.

Olin Assistant Professor of Physics Yevgeniya V. Zastavker and Postdoctoral Fellow and Lecturer Maria Ong of the Harvard Graduate School of Education have received a \$40,000 grant from the Spencer Foundation for a 16-month pilot study based at Olin.

"Olin is the perfect place to undertake such a study," says Zastavker. "The college has made a conscious effort to create a unique environment by recruiting more women and minorities, and by committing to innovative pedagogies." The current male/female ratio at Olin is about 55 to 45 percent, which is unusually high for an engineering college; about 23 percent of the student body consists of students of color.

Traditional teaching methods—such as lecture-based learning—have been identified as

some of the key reasons for the high attrition from undergraduate science and engineering programs, particularly among women and minorities. Introductory, or "gateway" courses, seem to be especially big turnoffs for these students

However, according to Zastavker and Ong, there is currently no strong understanding of what types of alternative pedagogies may effectively replace traditional courses to increase gender and ethnic diversity and improve student training. They are focusing on one such alternative, project-based learning, a popular yet controversial pedagogical approach in undergraduate engineering education.

Olin's project-based curriculum is ideal for the study, because it encompasses other innovative techniques, such as collaborative group work, integrated courses, "learning by doing," real-world simulations and hands-on learning.

The goals of the pilot study are modest—the collection of preliminary data and the identification of the key factors affecting learning and

retention among women and minority engineering students in gateway courses. To gather more data, Zastavker and Ong are applying for larger grants to expand their research to other colleges and universities. Ultimately, they would like to help plug the "leaky pipeline" which reduces the flow of potential women and minority engineers to a trickle by graduate school.



Olin Assistant Professor Yevgeniya Zastavker (right) is teaming up with Harvard researcher Maria Ong to examine educational barriers to a more diverse engineering workforce.

OLIN RANKS HIGH IN NSSE SURVEY

continued from page 1

instructors and administrators, time spent preparing for class, coursework emphasizing application of theories or concepts to practical problems and the degree to which the campus environment supports the academic and personal success of students.

"In a benchmarking survey such as NSSE's, which measures student engagement, it is no surprise that Olin ranked well above the national average," said Olin College President Richard Miller. "Active learning, academic rigor and community involvement are integral parts of Olin's curriculum and campus life."

The survey was created to give colleges and universities more effective ways to gauge the quality of student learning than many traditional measurement tools. The NSSE data is intended to help schools examine information in different ways. The survey results will help Olin continue to improve the educational experience for students.

For more information regarding NSSE's fifth annual report, visit http://www.iub.edu/~nsse.

of Student Engagement

STUDY AWAY ATTRACTS 36 PERCENT OF JUNIORS

Thirty-six percent of the Class of 2006 will have an away experience by the end of this academic year. The following students are studying away from the Olin campus this semester:

- Benjamin Bloom University of Southern Denmark
- Luis Cabezas New York University
- Etosha Cave University of Belgrano, Argentina
- Alexander Dillon Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia
- Cheryl Inouye Institute of International Education, Kasugai, Japan
- James Krejcarek University of Southern Denmark
- Holly Mead Duke University
- Que Anh Nguyen Institute of International Education, Nantes, France
- Dylan Sanders-Garrett Robert Gordon University, Scotland
- Sarah Schwalbenberg University of Southern Denmark
- Polina Segalova University of Technology, Sydney, Australia
- Mary (Kate) Walsh American University Center of Provence, France

The Standing Committee on Study Away continues to work on expanding the number of direct exchange agreements and on fine-tuning the administrative procedures to encourage study away.

CAMPUS VOICE



Why Diversity in Engineering Leads to Innovation

That there is a lack of diversity in the engineering professions is an undeniable fact. Unlike other professions, engineering remains overwhelmingly male and white. Recently, it was suggested that an explanation for this fact, at least in the case of women in engineering, might be differences in innate ability.

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I don't know if this is true or not. My own experience and instinct tell me if there are ability differences between men and women, they are relatively small and not enough to explain the gap. It certainly does not explain why many clearly qualified women and minorities choose not to study engineering, or drop out of engineering early in their undergraduate studies. There is another possible explanation for

our demographics: engineering and science may operate as societies in which women and minorities are not welcomed. An assumption that these groups are inherently less capable of and qualified for making contributions in these fields can easily become a self-fulfilling prophecy. Here's why I think we MUST do a better job of identifying and cultivating these candidates.

There is evidence that women and men use their brains differently in approaching problems. *Vive la difference!* Opening our thinking and perspectives to a greater and more representative population will foster creativity, an essential component of our profession. Innovation and creativity are natural outcomes of work within a diverse community. Given the demands of a smaller world, with greater communication in all forms, engineers must learn to work with individuals unlike themselves. Understanding and welcoming diversity is an imperative for us and for those we mentor and educate.

America is the world's melting pot. We have accepted the world's "tired, poor, and huddled masses." These people have built us into a place uniquely adapted to listening to diverse perspectives. Whether by nature or nurture, people acquire individual identities and perspectives. The easiest way to "think out of the box" is to work with someone who has never known where the box is.

We, as a nation, are exceptionally well suited to incorporating these opinions and perspectives into a fusion cuisine of delightful products and services. Our niche is innovation born from pioneering spirit and diversity of perspective and opinion. By assuming that different points of view will expand our imagination and create enriched perspectives, we gain the simultaneous benefits of an inclusive, enlarged and representative engineering workforce and we become better, more creative and innovative engineers. We can celebrate our differences to the benefit of our futures.

Sherra Kerns

Vice President for Innovation and Research, Olin College President, American Society for Engineering Education

FOUNDING TRUSTEES RETIRE



William Schmidt



William Horn

Olin Trustees William Schmidt and William Horn have resigned from the board to enter retirement. The two were among the group of four trustees who participated in the founding of the college as members of the board of directors of the F. W. Olin Foundation, and then went on to serve on the college's board.

Mr. Horn joined the foundation board in the mid1970s, and served as vice president. He is the son of
the late Charles Horn, a Minneapolis business and
civic leader who was one of the original directors of
the foundation. Mr. Schmidt, a former officer of
Federal Cartridge Corporation, the first asset Mr. Olin
transferred to the foundation in 1938, joined the foundation's board in 1988. He served as treasurer. Mr.
Schmidt and Mr. Horn worked out of the foundation's
Minneapolis office.

"We are deeply appreciative of the service of Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Horn to Olin College," said college President Richard K. Miller. "Their vision, guidance and dedication have been invaluable to us."

INDIAN OCEAN



Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering

EAST HALL NEWS

Construction work on East Hall continues to progress at good pace. The masonry and furniture design work has been completed. Additionally, the crew is nearing completion on the following projects: the upper floors of the north wing, the roof, electrical and plumbing rough-in and the underground utilities. The contractor continues to work six days a week for trades on the critical path and is still projecting substantial completion this spring.



UPCOMING **ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS**

- APRIL 24-25 **Olin IT External Advisory Board Meeting**
- APRIL 26 Olin Seminar Series hosts Dr. Sally Merry, **Wellesley College**
- MAY 1 **National Candidates' Reply Deadline**
- E YAM• IT Tech Talk features Judith Pirani, Sheep Pond **Associates**
- •MAY 8-9 **President's Council Meeting**
- •MAY 10 **Board of Trustees Meeting**
- •MAY 18-20 Olin Exposition

Innovations

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A game of snow football at Olin

