

Innovations

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRANKLIN W. OLIN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

F. W. OLIN FOUNDATION MAKES FINAL GRANT TO OLIN COLLEGE \$35 Million Matching Gift Program to Encourage New Partnerships

The F.W. Olin Foundation has made a final grant to Olin College and signaled its intention to close its doors for good, ending a 66-year program of giving to higher education.

"Our latest endowment grant to Olin College is the last grant the foundation will ever make," said Lawrence W. Milas, president of the Foundation. "With this grant, for all practical purposes, we close the final chapter on the F.W. Olin Foundation."

The new grant, valued at about \$35 million, brings the Foundation's total giving to the college to \$460 million, making it one of the largest private gifts in the history of U.S. higher education.

"The foundation's directors have absolute confidence in the

dynamic direction the college has established in the seven short years since it was created," said Mr. Milas. "We believe that further strengthening Olin College's financial resources will be the best long-term use of these funds."

The new grant will be placed in the college's endowment and used for an unusual gift matching program aimed at encouraging new giving and partnerships with the college. Under the program, outside donors will be able to make gifts to the college and have their gifts matched by funds from the new grant. The goal is for the money to stimulate giving in areas such as scholarships and engineering pedagogy that are vital to the mission of the college.

"While we feel the college is on a firm financial footing, there will be challenges in the future to ensure that our innovative learning program can continue to grow and develop," said Olin College President Richard K. Miller. "This new gift and matching grant program will go a long way toward making sure that we will have the financial wherewithal to reach our full potential."

The grant brings to an end one of higher education's most prominent giving programs. The foundation was created in 1938 when business leader Franklin W. Olin established a private charitable organization with the wealth he gained as head of a wide-ranging industrial empire. Following Olin's death in 1951,

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Lawrence Milas, President of the F.W. Olin Foundation, announced the foundation's intent to close its books and make a final grant of \$35 million to Olin College.

Seahorse Power Company's plan for a solar-powered trash compactor engineered by juniors Jeff Satwicz (right) and Bret Richmond took third prize in Fortune's national competition.

OLIN/BABSON TEAM TAKES THIRD PLACE IN FORTUNE SMALL BUSINESS COMPETITION

When *Fortune Small Business* announced the three semifinalists for Student Showdown, its national business plan competition, Jeff Satwicz ('06), Bret Richmond ('06) and their Babson MBA colleagues James Poss and Alex Perera were thrilled their start-up venture, Seahorse Power Company, was on the short list of finalists.

When the results were in, the Olin/Babson team took third place and collected \$5,000 for its "BigBelly" solar-powered trash compactors.

"We were up against good competition," noted Satwicz. "We feel very proud to have made it that far in the *Fortune* competition. Being chosen as one of the top three business plans in the country is a great accomplishment, which speaks volumes about our team and idea."

As the chief engineering support for Seahorse Power's signature product, "BigBelly," Richmond and Satwicz worked with Perera (Babson MBA '04) and Poss (Babson MBA '03) to develop and market the compactor, which is ideal for remote and high-traffic areas such as ski resorts, beaches, parks and city sidewalks. The company has already shipped a BigBelly unit to Vail Resorts.

The competition took place in late September when the three finalists from Ohio State, Harvard

and Olin/Babson met and questioned each other about their business plans. Based on these sessions, a panel of judges determined the winners.

The first place team from Ohio State University's Fisher College of Business collected \$50,000 for their company, Vertebration, which designed a new implant system that relieves chronic back pain.

The Harvard Business School team placed second, collecting \$10,000 for their business venture, Extend Fertility, which helps women in their twenties and thirties freeze and store viable eggs.

To qualify for the competition, students had to earn top prize in their school's business plan competition. In March, Seahorse Power took top honors in the Douglass Business Plan Competition sponsored by Babson College.

"Continued recognition of the synergies between engineering and business adds increased validity to Olin's interdisciplinary approach to education," said President Richard Miller. "We are pleased Bret and Jeff have achieved success and national recognition so early in their educational endeavors. Together with their MBA teammates they are capable of making substantial contributions to new business ventures."



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



The fall has been marked by impressive accomplishments and new recognition for the college.

Olin has been included in the Princeton Review publication *The Best 357*

Colleges (2005 edition). Olin College is listed among the guide's top colleges in 14 categories, including Best Overall Academic Experience for Undergraduates, Professors Bring Material to Life and Happy Students. These are exactly the sort of qualities we would like to be noted for.

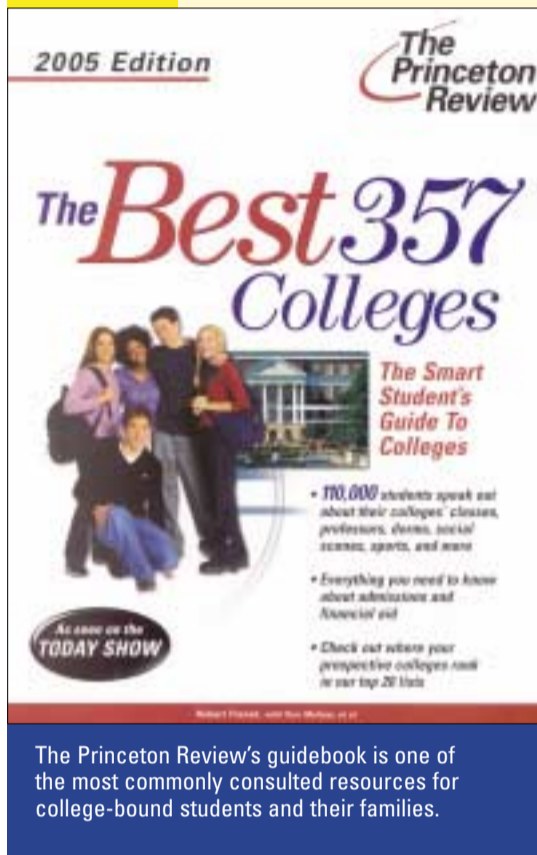
We learned this fall that the two Olin students who triumphed in the Douglass Business Plan Competition at Babson last spring have won further recognition. Bret Richmond and Jeff Satwicz, along with their Babson teammates, took third place in the *Fortune Small Business* competition. Kudos to these talented students, whose accomplishments are bringing us national recognition for our unusual blend of engineering and entrepreneurship study.

I would also like to call attention to a development with major implications for the future of the college. The F.W. Olin Foundation, whose visionary philanthropy created Olin College in 1997, has made an additional grant of about \$35 million to the college to help ensure our ability to continue our innovations in engineering education. We are deeply grateful for the Foundation's generosity and confidence in our institution.

We are appreciative as well of all the interest, advice and assistance we have received from people on campus and off as we pursue our unique mission to make Olin into a model for 21st Century engineering education. Thanks for your support.

Richard K. Miller
President

PRINCETON REVIEW CITES OLIN FOR QUALITY OF ACADEMICS, STUDENT LIFE, AND PROFESSORS



The Princeton Review's guidebook is one of the most commonly consulted resources for college-bound students and their families.

The Princeton Review has included Olin College in its recently published guidebook, *The Best 357 Colleges*, and listed Olin among the "top colleges" in 14 categories.

Olin ranks among the top 20 in categories such as Best Overall Academic Experience for Undergraduates, Professors Bring Material to Life, Professors Make Themselves Accessible, Dorms Like Palaces, Happy Students, and Town-Gown Relations Are Good.

The Princeton Review selects schools for the guidebook based on their research into the school, institutional data provided by each college, visits to the colleges, and the opinions of independent college counselors, students, and parents. The guidebook is one of the most widely consulted resources for college-bound students and their families.

The Best 357 Colleges has 64 ranking lists, each one identifying the top 20 colleges in a specific category. The categories cover a wide range of topics from academics and financial aid to residence

halls, food, and student body political leanings.

The guidebook's profile includes candid comments from students surveyed at each school.

"People here really understand and appreciate diversity and crazy and wild personalities," said one Olin student quoted in the guidebook.

Another student said, "The Olin population shares a commitment to build the school together."

Another student was quoted as saying, "Feedback is a huge and serious deal around here, resulting in hands-on projects, collaborative work, and creative problem solving."

In a feature article on Olin College in the August 30 issue of *EE Times*, an electrical engineering trade magazine, Robert Franek, vice president of guidebook publishing for Princeton Review, noted, "Olin is just as competitive as any of the top engineering schools, yet they've been able to harness their energies to produce a good quality of life and a great experience for the students."

President Richard Miller noted, "We are pleased the Princeton Review has recognized Olin for excellence in fourteen categories. Including Olin in categories such as academics, happy students, active learning, and accessible professors further solidifies our commitment to excellence in these areas. Additionally, Olin's inclusion in this widely-read publication will expand the college's growing reputation as one of the nation's top engineering colleges."

For more information on the Princeton Review and to read the profile on Olin College, visit www.princetonreview.com/.

Editor's note: At press time Olin College was being considered for the Princeton Review's "Best Value Colleges" publication as well as Fortune Magazine's list of "Most Wired Campuses."





Members of the new freshman class danced the night away during the Boston Harbor cruise as part of Orientation Week.



FALL SEMESTER WRAP-UP

Another busy fall promotes growth and community at Olin College. From the arrival of the class of 2008 to Family Weekend, Career Initiatives Day and a presidential debate watching party, the semester has been packed with activity.

Arrival and Orientation

On August 28, the class of 2008 joined the Olin community. The Office of Student Life organized an Orientation that included academic advising and course selection, a Boston Harbor cruise, several team building activities, as well as the honor code signing. A community BBQ welcomed all students.

Activities Fair

The annual Club, Service, and Activities Fair was held on September 10. Several organizations participated – educating the community about their mission and plans for the year ahead, while recruiting new members. Students from Babson, Wellesley, and Brandeis also attended.

Presidential Debate

On September 30, Jim Vanecko, former assistant secretary of education under President Carter, joined the Olin community to discuss the first presidential debate. Three debate-watching parties were hosted by Olin's Political Caucus, the library, and the Student Activities Committee.

Needham Harvest Fair

On October 1, the Needham Harvest Fair included a strong and lively Olin student presence. Students ladled up batches of Imperial Clam Chowder to enthusiastic soup tasters at the "Souperbowl" Competition. Other students shared the Olin story with many interested Needham residents who visited the college's booth.



Olin students ladled out soup to Needham residents during the Harvest Fair.



The Olin Political Caucus hosted a debate watching event during the presidential campaign (left).

Entrepreneur George N. Hatsopoulos, founder of Thermo Electron Corporation and member of Olin's President's Council, keyed Career Initiatives Day.

Career Initiatives Day

On October 7, the office of Corporate Relations hosted its annual Career Initiatives Day. George Hatsopoulos, Founder, Chairman and CEO of Pharos, LLC, and founder of Thermo Electron Corp., was the event's keynote speaker. The day included several workshops designed to help students choose a major, apply to graduate school, write a resume, and learn about internships, scholarships, fellowships, and research opportunities. A number of corporate guests spoke with students about the breadth of industry opportunities available.



During Family Weekend the Franklin W. Olin Players (FWOP) presented David Ives' *All in the Timing* – a series of seven contemporary one-act plays. Olin students directed and produced the unique performance.



During the Activities Fair, members of Olin's Habitat for Humanity chapter showed they are ready for action.

Family Weekend

Olin's Family Weekend, October 22-24, provided several opportunities for Olin community members and their families to relax and enjoy themselves, including a BBQ, an ice cream sundae social, family game night, and presentations from faculty members, President Miller, Dean Moody, Dean Crafts, and Leslie Larocca, Director of Post Graduate Planning.

Former Senior Advisor to Iraq's Ministry of Education Reflects on Successful Career

"You need fortitude, stamina, and courage to begin considering what's important," asserted Leslye Arsht, the former Senior Advisor to Iraq's Ministry of Education, speaking to Olin community members and invited guests as part of the Big Conversations speakers series November 3.



Leslye Arsht

For Arsht, her 30 years spent in communication and education policy seemed to be preparing her for one job – ten months working with the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq to restart the war-torn nation's school system.

"I realized my life started 'flowing' when I was contributing to something greater than myself," she said. "Throughout my life I've seen education empower and transform. After 35 years of oppression, I witnessed the Iraqi teachers we trained reawaken to their mission."

The day-long event brought together students, faculty and staff for a discussion around the theme of "what's important."

Arsht's career has included such roles as counselor to the U.S. Secretary of Education, deputy press secretary and deputy assistant to

President Ronald Reagan, associate vice chancellor at Vanderbilt University, and founder of StandardsWork, a non-profit education consulting firm that aids education reform efforts.

In her talk, Arsht detailed her successful career and elaborated on life lessons, noting everything that's happened in her career had not been planned, but with courage she's learned to take advantage of opportunities. She advised students to "know what they want and think critically about how to get there."

According to Arsht, recognition and monetary rewards will not bring authentic happiness.

"Momentary happiness comes from things like chocolate and flowers, but true gratification comes from knowing your personal strengths and using them to meet a challenge," said Arsht. "True gratification stays with you over the long-haul and your life is more rewarding when it's tougher going."

Witnessing the freedom and optimism of the Iraqis, Arsht mused, "They are working toward authentic happiness. American's don't see that on television."

Olin Administrators Attend International Educational Colloquia



Sherra Kerns

Sherra and David Kerns, senior administrators at Olin College, recently attended the Fourth International Colloquium on Engineering Education in Beijing, China, where they took part in an unprecedented meeting of educational leaders. Sherra Kerns presided over the meeting and led a delegation that met with the vice-premier of education for China and other Chinese officials.

In addition to the Kernses, the American delegation included the president of the UMass system, deans of engineering from several U.S. universities and officials from ABET and NSF. The group discussed the current directions of engineering education in their respective countries.



David Kerns

Sherra and David Kerns also recently attended an engineering education summit in Fribourg, Switzerland, co-sponsored by ASEE, IEEE, IGIP and SEFI. Sherra Kerns is president of ASEE (the American Society for Engineering Education) and David Kerns is president of IEEE Education Society, which focuses on electrical and computer engineering. IGIP and SEFI are engineering education organizations for Western and Eastern Europe.

Spence Receives NSF Grant



Sarah Spence

Sarah Spence, assistant professor of mathematics, has received a \$78,925 grant from the National Science Foundation for research into cryptography and coding theory. Spence and co-principal investigator Gordon Prichett of Babson will use the grant to develop a mathematics course that will be offered at Wellesley in fall 2005 and at Olin in spring 2006

NEW FACES AT OLIN



**Brian Bingham, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering**

Dr. Bingham will join the Olin College faculty in January 2005 after he completes his postdoctoral investigation in the Deep Submergence Laboratory at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. As

part of the Deep Submergence Laboratory, Dr. Bingham has been investigating autonomous underwater navigation and manipulation while supporting at-sea operations and remotely-operated vehicles. In addition to being a member of the IEEE and the Marine Technology Society, Dr. Bingham has authored several conference publications and spoken at many seminars and colloquia. He earned his Ph. D. and M.S. from MIT in mechanical engineering and a B.S. from the University of Missouri-Rolla.



**Aaron Boxer
Visiting Engineer**

Aaron Boxer has been appointed Visiting Engineer at Olin for the 2004-05 academic year. He is assisting Professors Stephen Schiffman and John Bourne in their joint Olin/Babson class, Real Time Case Study, a course about an

electronic design automation start up company. Mr. Boxer, a professional chip architect, currently evaluates electronic design tools for his company, Cimaron/AMCC of Andover, Mass. He earned a B.S. in mechanical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI).



**Paul DiMilla, Ph.D.
Visiting Professor of Bioengineering**

Dr. DiMilla, a native of Needham, received his S.B. and Ph.D. in chemical engineering from MIT and the University of Pennsylvania, respectively, followed by an NIH fellowship in chemistry at Harvard

University. He taught and conducted research in the Department of Chemical Engineering and Biomedical Engineering Program at Carnegie Mellon University, during which time he co-founded Automated Cell, Inc. Most recently, he has been consulting, teaching introductory chemistry for engineers and conducting research on cell/biomaterial interactions. He is the author of more than 20 publications and the inventor on six issued or pending U.S. patents.



Grant Hutchins ('06) cannot reveal the results of his television appearance until the show airs in January.

Olin Student to Become Millionaire?

On October 19, Olin College junior Grant Hutchins sat in the “hot seat” and competed in the popular syndicated quiz show, *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*.

“Being on the show is just as much fun as it looks on TV,” said Hutchins.

Hutchins, an Edmond, Oklahoma native, was chosen as one of the contestants vying for a chance to become a millionaire after attending an open audition this summer at ABC's New York City studios. During the audition he earned a passing score on the written test and interviewed with a representative of the show.

This fall Hutchins received word from ABC that he had been chosen as a contestant for the syndicated version of *Millionaire* hosted by Meredith Vieira.

The episode is expected to air on January 26, 2005. Hutchins is keeping the results of the show a secret until the air date.

Hutchins, an electrical and computer engineering major, is an active member of the Olin student body, serving as the vice president of communication for Olin's student government (CORE) and as president of the Olin Political Caucus.



Gillian Epstein, Ph.D. Consultant in Writing

Prior to joining Olin College, Dr. Epstein was a senior consultant and instructor for FreshPond Education, a professional development company. While at FreshPond Education, she developed and led team-

driven development programs. Prior to her position with FreshPond Education, Dr. Epstein was an instructor of composition and literature at the University of California, Berkeley, where she won a teaching award in 1999 and a Mellon research fellowship in 1999-2000. Dr. Epstein earned her Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, and her B.A. from Wesleyan University, both in English.

IN BRIEF

Olin Introduces ‘Competency Assessment’

The college has introduced a competency assessment system to track student progress in the development of a broad range of skills that cut across disciplines, including communication, teamwork and qualitative analysis. Under the system, faculty members assess each student's progress in competencies addressed in their courses. Students must maintain web-based portfolios of their work in courses, clubs, research and internships, and reflect in writing on the competencies demonstrated in their work. Faculty assessments are compiled in an internal “competency record” which, along with the portfolio, is used in a competency certification process required for graduation. Students must attain at least minimal proficiency in each of nine competencies to graduate.

Admission Open House

On Sunday, October 24, the Office of Admission hosted Olin's third annual Fall Open House. This was the largest admission open house ever held at Olin, with over 100 students from around the country on campus. The day included presentations on the curriculum, student life, and the admission process, as well as the opportunity for students to meet faculty one-on-one and for families to hear from a panel of current Olin parents. Tours of campus and musical performances by the Olin Conductorless Orchestra and the Wired Ensemble were also offered.

Leslie Larocca Named PostGrad Planning Director



Leslie Larocca

Leslie Larocca has been appointed Olin's first director of post graduate planning. In this position, she will be responsible for assisting students in obtaining summer internships and research experiences, providing programs for career exploration and job search skills, and helping students connect with professional and graduate school opportunities following graduation. She will also help develop programs for students pursuing merit-based post graduate scholarships and fellowships. Larocca served previously as assistant dean of admission and as director of corporate relations at Olin. “In addition to a deep understanding of the Olin community, Leslie has excellent networking skills and wonderful instincts,” said VP Duncan Murdoch. “Moreover, she is excited and committed to the success of our student body.”

Wellesley Reception Focuses on Cross-Registration, Partnerships

The Offices of the Provost and Dean of Faculty hosted a reception October 14 for Wellesley faculty members. The goal was to familiarize the faculty from the neighboring college with the facilities and programs of Olin College, with a view toward fostering academic exchanges and cross-registration. Fourteen faculty from Wellesley representing fields as varied as women's studies, math, and music attended the reception, which was held in Olin's Academic Center. Olin President Richard Miller spoke to the group, emphasizing Olin's interest in a closer academic partnership between the two institutions.



Dr. Sekuler (right) and Dr. Moore discuss Olin's summer reading.

Annual Convocation Attracts Crowd

On September 2, the Convocation for the summer reading assignment, *Phantoms in the Brain: Probing the Mysteries of the Human Mind*, by V. S. Ramachandran (co-authored by Sandra Blakeslee), attracted a crowd of 140 students, faculty and staff. The event, moderated by Alison Lee ('07), included presentations from Dr. Robert Sekuler, professor of Cognitive Neuroscience at Brandeis University, and Dr. Christopher Moore, assistant professor of Neuroscience in the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences at MIT.

The professors' presentations were followed by a thoughtful discussion of the book, its author, and the oddities of neurology.

“I was very pleased with the turnout for the Convocation and with the presentations by our panelists,” said Rod Crafts, dean of Student Life and chair of the Summer Book Program Advisory Committee. “There is a great deal of enthusiasm for the summer book program.”

OLIN STUDENT FINDS SUCCESS WITH 'MEDITATION CHAIR' VENTURE *Design based on grandfather's idea sells well in holiday catalogs*

OLIN JUNIOR Leighton Ige has a great desire to improve the world through entrepreneurship. The possibility of combining engineering and business study was one of the big reasons the talented Hawaii native decided to come to Olin in the first place. He ran a graphic design business in high school, got involved in a start-up during Olin's Partner Year, and became a leading advocate of entrepreneurial activities at Olin. But he never found just the right opportunity for his dream to take flight.

That is, until a trip home and a conversation with his grandfather gave him an idea for an unusual new venture. His grandfather, Charles Saiki, an inveterate tinkerer and 30-year meditation practitioner, showed Ige a prototype of a "meditation chair" that elevated him a few inches above the floor and made his

wrote back, calling the chair one of the most innovative products she'd seen in a long time. She said the company wanted to put the chair in its holiday catalog. There was only one problem: aside from the few samples in Ige's possession, there were no finished units to sell.

In true entrepreneurial fashion, Ige got to work. He formed a company, Salubrion, LLC, to manufacture and market the product. He located a manufacturer in South China that could do injection molding.

There were many bumps along the way. The first units came back warped. He had problems getting the seat cushion manufactured. There were shipping delays. With one thing and another, it was not until the middle of September that he had a usable product. His first shipment arrived a week after the catalogs started hitting mailboxes.

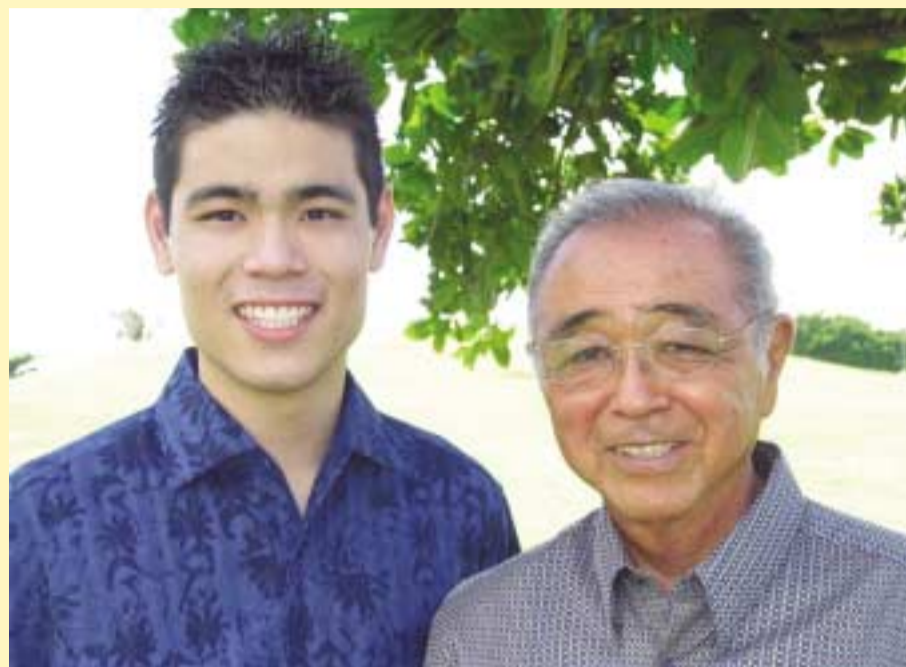
But then, the orders began rolling in. The company sold more than 200 chairs at \$50 each in the first three weeks. Ige predicts the product will break even by the holidays, the company by next year. "The demand for this chair is exceeding our, and our distributor's expectations," says Ige.

The early success of the chair has given the Olin junior some breathing space to reflect on the experience of starting a company. For one thing, he is full of praise for the preparation and help he received at Olin.

"I believe that my being here at Olin was essential to the success of this effort," he says, citing the mentoring and assistance he received from faculty and staff, help from classmates, and general supportiveness of the Olin community for entrepreneurial activities. Olin's learning environment was also a big factor, "especially the notion that there is more to learning than just classroom work."

Ige also speaks highly of the help he has received from Jay Gainsboro, an entrepreneur based in Framingham, Mass.

Even with the best advice and preparation, there were some surprises.



Leighton Ige with his grandfather, Charles Saiki, who has practiced meditation for 30 years.

"I believe that my being here at Olin was essential to the success of this effort ...Olin's learning environment was also a big factor, especially the notion that there is more to learning than just classroom work"

— Leighton Ige

my company work as a replacement for my classroom work," he says. "I need them both." The flexibility of his professors was a big help when travel and other company tasks took him off campus.

Ige calls the chair a "three-generation project," as both his father and his grandfather have provided guidance. His father, a banker, has offered tips on the financial side of the business, while his grandfather focuses on design issues. "He is very wise and always correct when we dispute about certain design interpretations," says Ige.

The experience of bringing the chair to market has helped Ige to realize what attracts him to entrepreneurship. It's not primarily about the money.

He proudly recounts the story of the call he received on the company's toll-free number—which is connected to his cell phone. It was from a woman in Georgia who had been injured in a car wreck. The chair allowed her to meditate comfortably with her yoga class for the first time since her accident.

"At this point, I was shaking holding the phone," says Ige. "She had the kindest of words about the design, and said she was sure it would do well."

For Ige, her comments made it all worthwhile. "Changing and improving people's lives is the ultimate reward," he says.

For more information, visit: www.salubrion.com

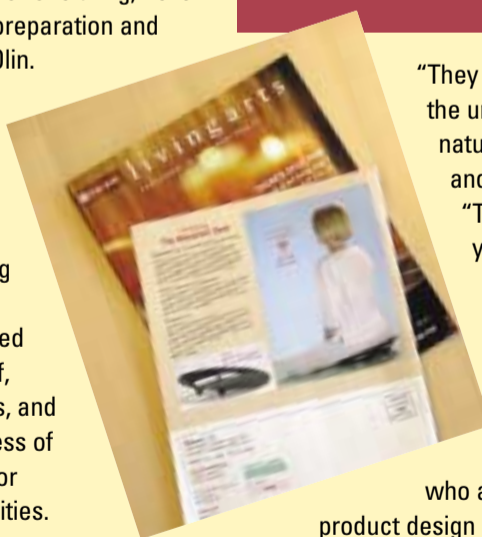


Olin junior Leighton Ige displays his meditation chair, which is being marketed in holiday catalogs (right) aimed at yoga and meditation practitioners.

ritual much more comfortable. The steel-and-wood framed model started wheels turning in Ige's head.

He did a CAD (computer-aided design) model. Friends at Olin helped him produce a wooden prototype. He found a Wisconsin company to make a silicon mold of the product, and began talking with potential customers and distributors around the country. By spring of 2004, he had several samples. He sent one of the samples to the largest supplier of Yoga equipment, Gaiam in Broomfield, Colo.

At first nothing happened. Then, a couple of months later, a buyer at Gaiam



"They don't teach you the unpredictable nature of business and life," notes Ige. "They don't teach you what to do when your chair comes back warped."

Ben Linder, an Olin faculty member who advised Ige on product design issues, says Ige's progress this far is promising. "He's genuinely passionate about what he's doing and finds it challenging and rewarding," says Linder. "In common with entrepreneurs and designers, he can't get enough of it."

Ige says his new venture takes a lot of his time, but he works hard to maintain a balance between his business and his school work. "By no means do I view

BABSON OFFERS NEW MS DEGREE PROGRAM TO OLIN STUDENTS

Babson College will soon begin offering a new master's-level degree created with Olin students in mind. The new MS in Management with a Concentration in Technological Entrepreneurship will enable Olin students to enroll in graduate courses at Babson during their final two years at Olin and complete the degree by the end of the fall semester following graduation. Students who complete the degree will be eligible to upgrade to an MBA with work experience and additional coursework.

According to Associate Professor Stephen Schiffman, the new degree is intended for Olin students who have a strong commitment to entrepreneurship, and who think they may be starting a technology based business within a few years of graduation. "This new program is a great way for Olin students to benefit from the enormous synergies that exist between engineering and entrepreneurship," said Schiffman.

Although the new program is aimed primarily at Olin students, it may eventually be offered to other engineering schools as well. Schiffman said that while many operational details are still to be worked out, he expected the program to be available beginning with Olin's current junior class.

GRANT TO SUPPORT OLIN/BABSON EFFORTS ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP CURRICULA

The National Science Foundation has given Babson College and Olin College a \$600,000 grant over three years to develop programs to teach engineering faculty how to instill an entrepreneurial mindset into the nation's engineering schools. Michael Feters, Babson's Provost, is principal

investigator for the program's first initiative, the Symposium for Engineering Entrepreneurship Educators, which will teach teams of engineering educators and entrepreneurs about the process and content of teaching entrepreneurial venture creation and management.

OLIN FOUNDATION MAKES FINAL GRANT

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the foundation focused on providing building grants to independent colleges and universities. In the nearly 67 years the foundation has been in operation, it has funded 78 buildings on 58 college campuses and made more than \$800 million in grants, according to Mr. Milas.

The grant establishing Olin College, announced in 1997, opened a new chapter in higher education philanthropy. The foundation decided to pledge most of its remaining assets to the creation of a new engineering college. The aim was to create an institution that could, by working from a clean slate, offer a new model for engineering education.

The college launched an innovative, interdisciplinary program of study with the arrival of its first freshman class in August 2002. This fall the college's enrollment reached 219, on its way to a total enrollment goal that may eventually get to 600. Student quality is on par with the nation's most elite institutions.

"The plans to establish the college included a decision to dissolve the foundation if the college was successful," said Mr. Milas. "The progress of the college has been so rapid and extraordinary that we have decided to hand over the remaining assets right away, rather than waiting any longer."

LETTER FROM ABROAD



Kia Ora,

Hard to believe my first final at the University of Auckland was today. Along with politics and sociology, I've been learning from two sustainability engineering professors. We toured a sustainable building this morning; one of my final exams is presenting ideas for sustainable city growth to the deputy mayor of Auckland.

An environmentalist may work to reduce waste; my professors here are trying to make waste obsolete. The starting point is the question: "could this process work for 1000 years?" From there not much is defined. Some argue that starting from scratch to create "path-breaking" technology is the only way to make industry sustainable. It's a fascinating puzzle with problems that cannot even be imagined yet. This is a field that must innovate and look carefully at where our needs come from. Throwing myself into masters courses with three years of Olin seems as good a preparation as any.

Jumping into my classes with both feet has been great. I think my idiotic grin is a sign that I love my work here. Call me a cowboy or just nuts, but I need the fire of building, inventing, or creating.

If the Away Program aims to help Oliners better understand the world, I think it's succeeding. I've been learning at tea, in the woods and in the pub from people who can tell me plenty about everything from politics to rugby and tramping. Even in an English-speaking country, I've been surrounded by different languages from French to Japanese to Maori. For me, this has been a different life. Classes are over, but I'm just warming up. Soon, I'll be off to climb some hills, ski down Mt. Doom and enjoy the summer I missed in July and August back home.

Keep the phoenix burning! Until January.

No Worries

— Adam

Adam Horton

Class of 2006

Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering

Studying July-Nov at University of Auckland

Aotearoa New Zealand



EAST HALL NEWS

During the months of September and October, several East Hall construction activities neared completion, including the exterior masonry, north wing roof, interior wall framing, and utility work. With those activities nearly finished, the crew began installing interior drywall, ceiling grids, door frames, vertical fan coil units, and ceramic tile. Additionally, work on the east and west wing roof is underway and furniture ordering has begun.

Since the remedial work on the structural steel was completed in August, the remaining exterior work has progressed at a rapid pace. The contractor will continue to work six day weeks to recover lost time. The current schedule calls for substantial completion in late March and project turnover in late April.



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Design:
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Phoenix pumpkins, Blues Brothers, Oompa-Loompas and other assorted disguises made Halloween at Olin a truly scary event.

