# Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering

OLIN SOPHOMORES WIN \$20,000 IN BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION Socially Responsible Entrepreneurial Venture Pays Off

**DLIN SOPHOMORES** Bret Richmond and Jeff Satwicz teamed up with two Babson College MBA students this spring to take the \$20,000 first prize in Babson College's Douglass Foundation Graduate Business Plan Competition. Their entrepreneurial venture, Seahorse Power Company, earned top honors for its plan for an innovative solar-powered trash compactor.

NEWSLETTER OF

THE

As the chief engineering support for Seahorse Power's signature product, "BigBelly," Richmond and Satwicz worked with Alexander Perera (Babson M'04) and James Poss (Babson M'03) to develop and market the compactor, which is ideal for remote and high-traffic areas such as ski areas, beaches and parks.

The company has already shipped its first BigBelly unit to Vail Resorts and is negotiating to sell more units to parks and other ski resorts – sites where operating a trash compactor in remote locations without power lines can save installation, maintenance and disposal costs.

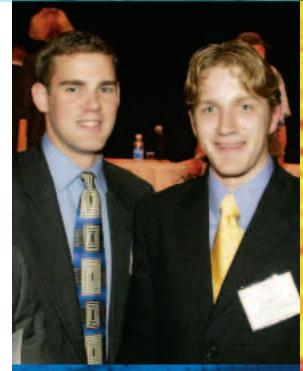
"Most of the environmentally sound products currently on the market force consumers who care about the environment to put their money where their mouth is," said Richmond. "We're designing products that make economic sense and help save the environment."

THE FRANKLIN W. OLIN COLLEGE

The Douglass Foundation Graduate Business Plan Competition was part of Babson College's Founder's Day activities. The competition drew nearly 20 business plan entries and featured three finalists. The three finalists made twenty-minute presentations to a panel of judges who chose Seahorse Power as the winner based on the plan's feasibility.

Satwicz has been impressed with the amount of support he and his teammates have received from the Olin Community, noting that it "has been one of the more rewarding aspects of this competition."

Expressing his pleasure with Richmond and Satwicz's success, President Richard Miller remarked, "The Olin College community is proud to congratulate Bret, Jeff and their Babson College teammates for their win in the Graduate Business Plan Competition. This award is proof that a partnership between business and engineering bears fruit for both sides."



ENGINEERING

Bret Richmond (left) and Jeff Satwicz after taking the first place prize in the Douglass Foundation Graduate Business Plan Competition.

A team of candidates brainstorms before the design exercise during Candidates' Weekend.

## OLIN FINALIZES CLASS OF 2008 New class is academically gifted, multi-talented

WHEN OLIN kicks off the fall 2004 semester, 71 new students (33 women and 38 men) will have joined the college community. Representing 27 states, the incoming freshmen bring with them a wealth of talent, experience and excitement.

"With backgrounds as impressive as the students in the classes of 2006 and 2007, the class of 2008 will continue the important work of refining the curriculum and shaping student life at Olin," said Melissa Trotta, assistant dean of Admission.

Thirty members of the new class have been recognized by the AP (Advanced Placement) Program, including nine who received the program's highest honor of AP Scholar with Distinction and six who have been designated AP Scholars with Honors. The class boasts 24 National Merit Scholarship Finalists, three National Achievement Scholars, two National Hispanic Scholars and 36 academic team members, 19 of whom were captains.

While academic achievement was an important criterion for admission, students' passions and involvement in activities outside the classroom also figured prominently into the admission decisions.

There are 34 high school athletes (seven captains) in the class of 2008, eight study martial arts, 40 are involved in community service, 31 are musicians, nine have participated in student government, 14 contributed to school publications (eight as editors), 11 have been involved in theater, seven have participated in FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), and 11 earned Girl Scout Gold Award, or Eagle Scout designations.

The class includes many students with unique accomplishments, including a nationally acclaimed synchronized swimmer, a U.S. patent holder, the 2003 Miss Teen Pacific Coast, as well as television and film directors.

Adding to the variety of perspectives, just over 20 percent identify themselves as students of color and over 46 percent of the class is female.

The incoming students will join Olin on August 28 for orientation activities. They will be welcomed by the classes of 2006 and 2007 on September 1.

"I met many of the incoming freshmen during Candidates" Weekends and am excited to see how they will contribute to the Olin community," said Dan Foran ('07).



#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



Olin recently wrapped up another academic year and, as usual, there were many yearend activities and developments. A few are particularly emblematic of what Olin is trying to do and significant for the future.

In April came the news that

two Olin students, Brett Richmond and Jeff Satwicz, had teamed up with two Babson MBA students to win the \$20,000 Douglass Foundation Business Plan Competition at Babson College. Their proposed business, built around an innovative solar trash compactor, is proof that the cross-pollination of engineering and entrepreneurship adds value to both institutions.

Seventy-one new students (33 women and 38 men) representing 27 states will join the student body this fall. They bring a wealth of talents, interests and perspectives to Olin, as well as impressive academic credentials. The class includes at least 24 National Merit Finalists, 15 AP scholars, three National Achievement Scholars, two National Hispanic Scholars and 36 academic team members (the numbers were still coming in at press time).

Olin faculty members continue to earn distinguished honors. Sherra Kerns became president of the American Society for Engineering Education in June, and Steve Holt will receive a prestigious medal recognizing his leadership in international scientific cooperation in July.

Many Olin students are spending their summer building their resumes. The list of internship sites includes Tokyo Institute of Technology, NASA, Raytheon, Los Alamos National Lab and IBM. Others are pursuing research opportunities at such academic powerhouses as Princeton, Northwestern, Texas Tech, Stanford, Boston University, MIT and Tufts. Forty-three percent of all Olin students are currently involved in either corporate internships or summer university research projects involving science and engineering.

This issue contains a list of fiscal year 2004 contributors to the college. It is certainly encouraging to see so many people supporting the college in the spirit of Franklin W. Olin, the industrialist whose acts of philanthropy led to the creation of this institution.

All in all, it's been another year of remarkable progress toward our goals. As we welcome the class of 2008 and terrific new faculty to the Olin community, next year looks bright with promise as well.

Richard K. Miller President

## Students Spend "Vacations" Working, Researching and Studying Abroad

IMMER VACAT

Tokyo Institute of Technology, NASA, Natick Soldier Center, MITRE Corporation, Raytheon, Los Alamos National Lab and IBM are just a few of the places Olin students are spending their summer vacations in lieu of other vacation hot spots. In addition to these corporate internships, Olin students are pursuing research opportunities at some of the nation's best known universities, including Princeton, Northwestern,

Texas Tech, Stanford, Boston University, MIT, Tufts and (of course) Olin College.

After completing only their freshman and sophomore years, an impressive 49 percent of the class of 2006 and 35 percent of the class of 2007 are engaged in summer research opportunities or working in corporate internships. A handful of Olin students are spending their summer abroad, participating in foreign research programs or beginning their study away in countries such as Mexico, New Zealand, Australia and Sweden.

"Most college students don't start thinking about summer internships or research until after the junior year," said Leslie Larocca, director of Corporate Relations. "That over 40 percent of Olin freshmen and sophomores explored these interests this summer speaks to an educational experience that gives them the confidence – and enthusiasm – to test their interests early on."

Drew Harry ('06) is spending his summer interning in IBM's Collaborative User Experience lab. Working with the lab's director, he is carving out a project for the summer and leaning toward work in the area of social networks and the visualization of collaborative communities.

"Olin's focus on teamwork, communication, problem solving, creativity and technical skills has prepared me well for this summer opportunity," said Harry, who noted that, as a sophomore, he still has some learning to do on the technical side. However, his technical limitations have been more than made up for by "the ability to be confident and comfortable in all the other areas."

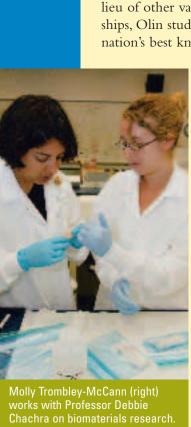
Olin professors Steve Holt and Gill Pratt are leading ten Olin students as they work with scientists and engineers from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland. In early June, the group traveled to Goddard to meet with the scientists and engineers, tour the facilities and begin their work with

Goddard's X-ray and infrared astrophysics programs. NASA research isn't the only exciting work being done on Olin's campus this summer. Erin McCusker ('06) and four classmates are working with Dr. Debbie Chachra, assistant professor of materials science, on biomaterials research. The group is studying bone and collagen.

"Summer research appeals to me because I get to work in a hands-on environment on a short-term and intensive project," noted McCusker. "It's great to be able to finish the summer with a sense of accomplishment."

Sylvie Boiteau ('07) is spending ten weeks at Texas Tech University researching the ethanol sensitivity of the receptors in various regions of the brain. Boiteau is working with a Texas Tech professor and medical students from other universities.

"The staff and faculty at Olin were helpful and supportive while I was trying to find a summer internship," said Boiteau. "Because of the fast paced and project-based courses that I took my first year at Olin, I was able to get an internship that is not usually offered to first-year students."



During their visit to NASA's Flight

Center Olin students toured the

clean room to examine micro

sensors

## SPRING EVENTS



Left: Dr. Robert Langer spoke to the Olin Community about biomaterials. Right: Freshman Zach Broch (left) and sophomore Janet Tsai (right) worked with machine shop staffer Jay Patten to build playhouses for Habitat for Humanity.



## END OF SEMESTER WRAP-UP

## Leader in the Field of Biomedical Engineering Shares Insights with Olin Community

On **April 15**, Dr. Robert Langer, a scientist known internationally for his work in biomedical technology and materials science, spoke to the Olin community about biomaterials and how they will change our lives. In his talk, Langer discussed new drug delivery technologies and elaborated on how these technologies promise to create new treatments for cancer, heart disease and other illnesses. Langer is the Kenneth J. Germeshausen Professor of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering at MIT. In 2001 *CNN* and *Time Magazine* named Langer one of the 100 most important people in America and one of the top 18 people in science or medicine.

## **Habitat Playhouses Built**

On April 24, Olin faculty, staff, students and their families turned out to build playhouses for Habitat for Humanity. The playhouses are being sold to raise money for the charity. Habitat for Humanity at Olin College sponsored the event. The Olin chapter, which is affiliated with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Boston, has sponsored several fundraising events on campus to raise money for the affiliate.

### **Student Activities Committee (SAC) Holds Field Day**

During the SAC Field Day on **April 30**, students had the chance to socialize, relax and have fun before final exams. The afternoon featured several amusements, including a bouncy castle, music, ice cream, a dunk tank and an inflatable jousting pit. Faculty, staff and students were nominated by their peers to sit in the dunk tank. Proceeds from the dunking benefited Needham Domestic Violence Action Committee.

## Olin Exposition (Expo)

May 4-6, Olin marked the end of the semester with the Olin Expo. During the Expo, student-created posters were displayed in the Academic Center that showcased the coursework, community service, Passionate Pursuits, independent study, research and cocurricular activities conducted throughout the semester. The Expo also served as an opportunity for formal community discussions and assessment.

### Express-0

On **May 6**, students showcased their talents during the Express-O open mic talent show that was held in conjunction with the Expo.

### President's Council Meeting

The **May 10** President's Council meeting focused on "Preparing for Success: Maximizing Opportunities for the Inaugural Graduating Class at Olin College." Council members, many Board of Trustees members and several distinguished guests from industry and academe were in attendance. Ш



Above: Team members (left to right) Char Laughlin ('07), Jon Pollack ('07), Ali Badala ('07), Kristen Dorsey ('07), Joles Arnold ('06) and Matt Broulliard ('07) demonstrated their research on the energy efficiency of mice at the poster display during the Expo.

Above: Laura Stupin ('07) capped her Passionate Pursuit, "A Study in Voice," by performing three songs for the Olin community.

Left: Hans Borchardt ('07) and Dan Foran ('07)

prepare for a roommate duel in the joust pit.



Above: Emma Goodman ('06) and several classmates who participated in the belly dancing co-curricular showcased their abilities during the talent show.



Above: Olin faculty, staff and students joined members of the President's Council and Board of Trustees for break-out sessions to discuss launching the class of 2006.



## Honors/Awards/Recognition

## Kerns Becomes President of ASEE



On June 23, 2004, Dr. Sherra E. Kerns, vice president for Innovation and Research at Olin College,

assumed the presidency of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE). ASEE is the nation's premier organization for the advancement of technical education. For the last year she had been serving as the president-elect.

Kerns is the organization's  $108^{th}$  president and only the second woman to serve in the role. In her speech at the annual ASEE conference, Kerns out-lined an ambitious agenda and promoted the idea that engineers should view themselves as "heroes" with unique qualifications for bettering society.

Kerns' career has been devoted to improving engineering education. Her involvement with ASEE includes serving as a member of the Board, as first vice president, and as vice president of professional interest councils. She has also been active with ABET, the engineering accrediting body, where

she served as member of the Committee on Engineering Accreditation Activities and as a member of the Engineering Accreditation Commission representing ASEE, among other posts.

#### Holt Receives Prestigious Award for International Scientific Leadership Dr. Stephen

S. Holt, a

member at

Babson col-

Olin and

leges, will

receive the

International

faculty



Cooperation Medal from the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) at COSPAR's 35<sup>th</sup> Scientific Assembly in Paris in July 2004.

The medal is awarded every two years to a scientist whose work has contributed significantly to the promotion of international scientific cooperation. Holt is the eleventh recipient of the medal since its initial award in 1984, and is the first American to be so honored.

Holt joined Olin and Babson in September 2000 after a 34-year career at NASA. During his last 10 years at NASA, he was the director of Space Sciences at the Goddard Space Flight Center. A specialist in high energy astrophysics, Holt was the project scientist for cooperative space missions with the UK, Germany, Japan and Russia.

An acclaimed researcher with numerous scholarly presentations and publications, Holt also received NASA's highest award, the Distinguished Service Medal, in 2000.

#### President's Council Member Honored



a member of Olin's President's Council, received the Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire Award in a ceremony in Seoul this past June. Rim is also head of the Korean Delegation to IMS, an international consortium on intelligent manufacturing, and was recently named to chair its International Steering Committee.

## Final Report of Annual Giving, 2

Olin College is grateful to the many supporters who have chosen to join us in building our outstanding institution -- parents who demonstrate their confidence in Olin's program; friends who are united in their appreciation for Olin's influence on their lives; faculty and staff who provide evidence of their enthusiasm for Olin College; and organizations who play essential roles in supporting the college's work. Through this report, we acknowledge and

Risa Dubin P'07

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## NEW FACES AT OLIN



#### David Barrett, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Design and Director of the Capstone Project Program Prior to joining Olin, Dr. Barrett was

vice president of engineering at iRobot Corporation, where he was responsible for identifying new

business opportunities and establishing strategic partnerships, among other duties. Before iRobot, Dr. Barrett founded and directed a division of the Walt Disney Imagineering Corporation. Dr. Barrett received his Ph.D. and M.S. in ocean engineering and M.S. in mechanical engineering from MIT. He received his B.S. in mechanical engineering (summa cum laude) from the University of Lowell. In addition to his many published articles, Dr. Barrett holds eight patents with previous colleagues on a variety of robotic systems.



#### Mark L. Chang, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering Dr. Chang received his Ph.D. in electrical engineering from the University of Washington. He received his M.S. and B.S. in electrical and computer engineering from Northwestern University and

his B.S. from Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Chang has earned numerous awards for his scholarly activities, including an Intel Foundation Graduate Fellowship. He received excellent reviews as a teaching assistant and instructor while at Northwestern and the University of Washington. His research interests include FPGA arithmetic and architecture, computer-aided design tools, reconfigurable computing and VLSI design.



#### Rebecca Christianson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Applied Physics

Dr. Christianson will be joining the Olin College faculty in January 2005 after completing her post-doctoral research at Harvard University. Her research interests include light scattering and microscopy studies of

self-assembly kinetics in two-component colloidal systems, anisotropic colloids and surfactant systems. Dr. Christianson recently received a teaching award from the Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning at Harvard University. Among published journals and reviews, she and her colleagues have recently submitted "Crystallization Kinetics of Binary Colloidal Alloys," which contains results from the Physics of Colloids in Space experiment which flew on the International Space Station in 2001. Dr. Christianson received her Ph.D. from MIT and her B.S. in physics and B.A. in music, both from Stanford University.

## CAMPUS NEWS

## **D03-2004** (as of June 30, 2004)

thank all who have donated to Olin College between July 1, 2003 and June 30, 2004.

We are committed to the grateful acknowledgement and accurate reporting of all gifts to the college. If we have inadvertently omitted your name or listed it incorrectly, please accept our sincere apologies. Notify our Advancement Office at 781-292-2290 or advancement@olin.edu so that we may update and correct our records.

Darek and Anna Wieczorek P'06 Stuart Zola P'06

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#### Other

Association for International Cancer Research National Collegiate Inventors Alliance Raymond Family Business Institute

## IN BRIEF

#### **IT Advisory Board Created**

The college, through the Office of Information Technology (IT), has created an External Technology Advisory Board (EXTAB) to provide counsel on technology issues. The board will meet at least twice a year on the Olin campus to advise the college on such topics as integrating technology into the curriculum, supporting research and developing possible corporate partnerships. The Board membership, which currently numbers 14, includes the head of university affairs at Hewlett-Packard, the director of north east systems engineering for Nortel Networks, a former senior executive vice president at Peoplesoft and Jenzebar, a vice president for Educause and a well known futurist. "We are very fortunate to have such a distinguished group of technology leaders to advise us," said Joanne Kossuth, Olin's Chief Information Officer.

#### **College Revises Curriculum**

In the first significant revision of the curriculum since it was launched in August 2002, Olin has announced improvements to its program of study that will take effect this fall. The revision preserves the basic structure and methodology of the college's hands-on, interdisciplinary curriculum, while fine-tuning such areas as scheduling, credit hours and project requirements. Specific changes include a switch from a five class load per semester to a four course load, with each course worth four credits. The revision also better defines the entrepreneurship stream and creates a distinctive role for design within the curriculum. "Overall, these improvements provide for more flexibility and student choice about

how and when to meet requirements," said Jill Crisman, a member of the Academic Recommendation Board, which worked throughout the year to come up with the suggested changes.

## Office of Admission to Hold Open House for Women

On July 25, the Office of Admission will host its second annual open house for women --"The Olin Experience: An Introduction for Women." The event will serve as an opportunity to welcome prospective female students to Olin. The day's agenda includes opening remarks by Vice President Sherra Kerns, campus tours and an interactive discussion on the topic of "Engineering, Then What" lead by Professor Rob Martello. There will also be presentations on the revised curriculum, admission and financial aid. The prospective students will have the opportunity to ask questions at a student drop-in center and during faculty chats.



Kate Cummings ('06) speaks to interested candidates and their families during last year's Open House for women.



#### Caitrin Lynch, Ph.D.,

Assistant Professor of Humanities and Social Sciences Dr. Lynch received her Ph.D. and M.A. in cultural anthropology from the University of Chicago and her B.A. in anthropology from Bates College. Prior to joining Olin, Dr.

Lynch was assistant professor of anthropology at Drew University. Additional professional experience includes several fellowships, amoung them a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship at Johns Hopkins University. Her research interests are gender, labor, nationalism and globalization; her area of focus is South Asia (specifically, postcolonial Sri Lanka) and the United States. She speaks Sinhala and Tamil.



Bradley A. Minch, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering Prior to joining the Olin College faculty, Dr. Minch was an assistant professor at Cornell University in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering. During his time at Cornell, he was the recipi-

ent of three teaching awards and one freshman advising award. In 2000, he received an Early CAREER Award from the National Science Foundation. Dr. Minch's research interests are in the areas of analog and mixed-signal integrated circuit design. Dr. Minch received his Ph.D. from the Computation and Neural Systems program at the California Institute of Technology, where he worked in the laboratory of Prof. Carver Mead. He received his B.S. in electrical engineering from Cornell University.



Jessica Townsend, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering Before joining Olin, Dr. Townsend was a research associate in the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics at MIT. Her doctoral work was also done at MIT in the Gas Turbine Laboratory where she

developed, tested and modeled evaporation-cooled turbine blades for advanced aircraft engines. Prior to returning to school for her doctorate, Dr. Townsend spent three years in industry at Hamilton Sundstrand Power Systems, a manufacturer of auxiliary power units for commercial and military aircraft. Her research interests include turbine blade cooling, nanofluids, and aviation noise and emissions mitigation. She received her M.S. in mechanical engineering from the University of California-Davis and B.S. in mechanical engineering from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

## CURRICULUM

## INNOVATIVE ENGINEERING COURSE FOCUSES ON DESIGN Budding Designers Look at Products from User's Point of View

INSPIRED by a new vision of engineering highlighting the role of design, two Olin faculty members collaborated last semester to lead an innovative course that asks students to consider something too often overlooked in the traditional product design process: the actual users of a product.

"The traditional product design approach often overemphasizes technology and features at the expense



Julie Connelly (left) and Steve Krumholz try out a model of their bar-coded bracelets for patients.





A proposed tablet PC for ER nurses.



A model, in foam, of an easy-to-buckle seatbelt designed with elders in mind.



Photos: Nicholas Zola and Chris Murphy

of understanding people," says Benjamin Linder, an assistant professor of mechanical engineering at Olin, who teamed up with visiting professor Chris Heape to offer "User-Oriented Collaborative Design" to Olin sophomores in spring 2004. "It's too common for engineers involved with the design of a product never to have talked to the users of that product."

In contrast, Linder, Heape and others are helping Olin produce engineers whose designs are informed by a detailed knowledge of the people who will be using their products—not only the end users, but also the many colleagues of those users.

Toward that end, they asked students to get to know the needs and habits of various "user groups" very well before they even thought about designing a product. Students met users in their homes and workplaces and talked with them at length about their activities and backgrounds.

Back in the classroom, students created depictions of their users pasted with notes about their characteristics. They wrote up "mood cards" describing their users and how they felt. They came up with a set of "design values" shared by the users and the student designers. The process of creating new product ideas was marked by extensive interaction, discussion, negotiation and reflection.

"Our goal was to identify with the users and design and model some sort of good or service that would help make their lives and work environment better," says Steven Krumholz, who was part of a three-person team that worked with emergency room nurses.

Krumholz and his teammates spoke to doctors, nurses, patients and administrators, in addition to visiting an ER, to get an idea of life in a hospital. Their product idea was a bar-code reader to be worn on the wrist that could be linked to the hospital's information system to ensure the patients received the proper medications. They also came up with "fast user switching" to



"You will not find many programs in the world where students are grappling with such advanced, user-oriented collaborative design issues."

- Professor Chris Heape

enable nurses to quickly log off and on computers at different locations while maintaining their data.

Nick Zola was part of a team that looked at the needs of the elderly residents of a local retirement home. Zola found himself fascinated by the lives of the retirees, who had lived through wars, depressions and boom times. "It was a fun and emotionally charged course because it was so people-oriented," says Zola. "It involved professors, users, your team members and others." His team proposed easy-to-buckle seatbelts and band-aid dispensing pens.

Students say the course fits in perfectly with Olin's hands-on educational approach. "Letting us get out there and try something was invaluable," says Krumholz "We learned from our mistakes and our successes, and gained a great deal of experience in the process. I wouldn't trade that for anything."

The course also fits well with the college's plans to elevate the role of design in the curriculum. The

Students created detailed depictions of their users, such as this one of a "typical" bartender.

college recently completed a major curricular revision which, among other things, solidified a "design stream" throughout Olin's four-year program. "Many elements of our curriculum, such as engineering, creativity and collaboration, come together in design," says Michael Moody, dean of faculty. "We hope design will become a hallmark of our program."

The course puts Olin on the leading edge of a movement to inject more design thinking into engineering. "This is an approach that intentionally emphasizes the human aspect of design early in the curriculum. It's an approach that's going to grow and expand," says Linder, who co-founded a software company focused on product development tools.

"What the sophomores are doing at Olin is unique," states Heape, a senior researcher in product innovation at the University of Southern Denmark. "You will not find many programs in the world where students are grappling with such advanced, user-oriented collaborative design issues. Their energy, motivation and resourcefulness enabled them to come up with an exceptionally broad range of truly innovative concepts."

## CLASS OF 2006 DECLARES MAJOR Members of the class of 2006 declared their majors this semester. Here are the results:

Major	Concentration	#
ECE		17
Engineering	Bioengineering	6
Engineering	Computing	3
Engineering	Material Science & Applied Chemistry	5
Engineering	Systems	11
Engineering		13
Mechanical Engineering		17
Total		72

## BON VOYAGE TO THE CLASS OF 2006

Olin's Standing Committee on Study Away has built strong partnerships with foreign institutions and identified excellent opportunities for Olin students to study away in the coming semesters. Next semester, nearly a fifth of the class of 2006 will study away. Some of the away experiences students will pursue include:

Will Clayton Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, Scotland

**Julie Connelly** Budapest Semesters in Mathematics, Hungary

Molly Trombley-McCann Budapest Semesters in Mathematics, Hungary

**Jerzy Wieczorek** Budapest Semesters in Mathematics, Hungary

**Kate Blazek** IES Vienna, Austria

**Adam Horton** University of Auckland, New Zealand

Ransom Byers National University of Singapore

Jay Gantz École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland Jon Chambers University of Sydney, Australia

**Miks Taylor** Universidad de las Americas, Puebla, Mexico

Joles Arnold Universidad de las Americas, Puebla, Mexico

Kim McCraw Universidad de las Americas, Puebla, Mexico

Emma Goodman National Theatre Institute, Connecticut College

Sarah Oliver Grupo Fenix, Nicaragua

Frances Haugen (summer) Uppsala Universitet, Sweden

To learn more about Away Programs visit, http://awayprograms.olin.edu.

## CAMPUS VOICES

## **Olin Parents Form 'Virtual Alumni'**

Olin College's Opening Day, August 23, 2001. The baseball theme of the program, "Always a Winner in Boston," was inspiring. Mr. Milas explained the vision of Franklin W. Olin, engineer, entrepreneur and professional baseball player. Our hearts swelled with pride to be a small part of the Olin excitement. It was clear that this extraordinary faculty and the dedicated staff were thrilled to see students finally populate the campus. The students were each more wonderful than the next.

And yet, we wondered. How could President Rick Miller possibly accept a listing on the Caltech Honor Roll of serving college presidents without experiencing the richly

textured, finely nuanced conversations other presidents were having with their alumni? We imagined President Miller attending reunions and comparing notes with his classmates: Football? Fund raising? Legacy admissions? Later that fall, I wrote Rick and offered to form a virtual alumni association for him. We would address the latest sports scandal, offer hyperbolic descriptions of "the good old days," and generally send random zingers to add a little excitement to his days.

President Miller, as always, responded seriously: "this guy has too much time on his hands." Three years later, our president decided he had recruited enough reasonable parents and formed the Olin Parents' Advisory Board (PAB). Over the summer, members of the PAB and other parent volunteers will be calling class of 2008 parents to answer questions from a parent perspective. The PAB hopes to offer constructive support to Olin and to our children by participating in a wide range of activities, on and off campus. We have seen Olin blossom and are committed to sharing the Olin excitement with new parents, prospective students and any communities of interest, large or small, which this special school will impact.

Tom Connelly, P'06 and Chair Parents' Advisory Board (PAB)

### 'Foundry' Offers Practice in Entrepreneurship

Last fall, with the approval of President Miller and Provost Kerns, John Bourne, Sherra Kerns and I worked with an interested group of students to develop a plan to use the former Edison House, 1795 Great Plain Avenue, as a "Foundry" for developing business ideas. The Foundry opened in March. Currently four student teams are resident.

According to its mission statement, the Foundry's purpose is to: "... permit students to practice starting an organization, either for-profit or not-for-profit. The purpose of starting an organization is primarily educational, although stu-



ing an organization is primarily educational, although students may choose to extend their organization outside our educational venue after leaving the Foundry. Students will spend time working through the entrepreneurial process and learning issues common to start-ups..."

Some specific goals of the Foundry are to:

- Be a focal point for technology entrepreneurship at Olin and Babson;
- Be open to all students on the two campuses through a competitive arrangement;
  Provide students the ability to apply for grants.

As the design-and-project-rich Olin curriculum continues to develop, more courses will come on line, giving students multiple opportunities to develop ideas for foundry projects. It is my hope that in several years we will find student teams "hatching" a wide variety of technology-based ventures, both for-profit and not-for-profit.

The collaboration between Olin and Babson Colleges is based on the idea that synergy results from sharing and complementing skills and knowledge. Babson has two "hatcheries" of its own, and Olin has already benefited from the advice of many members of the Babson community. My personal vision is that the hatcheries at both institutions could form nodes on a network. Clearly, Olin College would be the node for technology-based ventures. Eventually, perhaps other colleges could take part as well.

Stephen Schiffman, Ph.D. Senior Olin Partner

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## Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering

## EAST HALL NEWS

Despite some rainy conditions this spring, favorable progress was made on the construction of East Hall. The crew completed the structural steel erection, poured remaining floor slabs and began installing utility connections, including electric, emergency electric, tel/data and firewater services. The underground site drainage system is being installed and exterior wall framing, roofing and installation of stairways has commenced. In the next few months the crew is expected to complete these tasks and will begin the installation of the exterior masonry and the interior walls, ceilings and floors.





1 Could Be and Olin College again took top honors at the Needham Fourth of July Parade for its creative float, modeled after a county fair attraction and titled "Aiming for Excellence." Photo: Sergio Marino

## UPCOMING EVENTS (Save the Date!)

July 25 August 28 August 29-September 1 August 31 September 2

**October 7** October 22-24 October 24 **November 3** 

WOMEN'S ADMISSION OPEN HOUSE **ARRIVAL DAY FOR CLASS OF 2008** ORIENTATION **UPPERCLASS ARRIVAL CONVOCATION: A panel discussion of summer** reading assignment "Phantoms in the Brain" **CAREER INITIATIVES DAY** FAMILY WEEKEND 2004 **ADMISSION OPEN HOUSE BIG CONVERSATIONS** 



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## Innovations

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