

Innovations

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRANKLIN W. OLIN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

OLIN TO WELCOME CLASS OF 2009

Largest Class in Olin History "Completes" Student Body

WHEN OLIN COLLEGE welcomes the class of 2009 this fall, it will be a milestone five years in the making. For the first time since its inception, Olin College will be home to four complete classes – freshman, sophomores, juniors and seniors.

"It's amazing how far we've come in five years," said VP and Dean of Admission Duncan Murdoch. "The class of 2009 represents a big piece of what we've been working towards – a gifted and diverse student body."

In total 77 new students will join the college community this fall. Representing 27 states, the incoming freshmen bring with them a wealth of talent, experience and excitement.

"About 40 percent of the class of 2009 is women," remarked Murdoch. "As high as this percentage is for an engineering school, we'd like to be even closer to gender balance. The competition for students of this caliber is incredible, but is especially fierce for top women. We continue to work at recruiting the best students from around the country."

Olin College attracts a higher percentage of women each year than any other engineering college in the nation.

Nearly 65 percent of the new class has been recognized by the AP (Advanced Placement) Program, including 17 who received the program's highest honor of AP Scholar with Distinction and 15 who have been designated AP Scholars with Honors. Over 40 percent of the class are National Merit Scholarship Finalists. Nearly 40 percent captained an academic team.

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 (10 captains) in the class of 2009, nearly 60 percent are involved in community service, 51 are musicians, 22 have participated in student government, 14 contributed to school publications (10 as editors), 32 have been *(continued on page 8)*



During Candidates' Weekend student teams were asked to build a weight-bearing structure with few resources and little time. Here a team of Candidates proudly displays their foam tower.

"It's amazing how far we've come in five years. The class of 2009 represents a big piece of what we've been working towards—a gifted and diverse student body." –VP Duncan Murdoch

STUDENTS WIN BUSINESS PLAN CONTEST

Class Assignment Leads to Entrepreneurial Venture



"The support we've received from both the Olin and Babson communities has been wonderful." – Zachary Brock

Members of the winning team (left to right) Michael Banu, Tori Smyly, Nathaniel Smith, Sean McBride, Eric Gallimore, Zachary Brock and Brian Shih in front of Foundry@1795, Olin's business hatchery.

OLIN SOPHOMORES Nathaniel Smith and Zachary Brock earned top honors in the Babson College 2005 John H. Muller Jr. Undergraduate Business Plan Competition with their plan for Wildfire Inc., a company that makes meeting management software. The sophomores teamed with Babson undergraduates to write the business plan and claim the Muller Prize and \$5,000.

An independent panel of judges evaluated the three finalists in the undergraduate business plan competition and selected Wildfire as the winner based on the plan's feasibility and the students' written plan and oral presentation.

"The whole experience was fantastic," said Brock. "The support we've received from both the Olin and Babson communities has been wonderful."

Smith, Brock and their Babson teammates Michael Banu ('05), Kiara Barrett ('06) and Tori Smyly ('05) originally wrote the business plan for Wildfire during the 2004 fall semester.

"Last semester I enrolled in the Babson course 'New Venture Creation and the Business Plan' to learn how to put my entrepreneurial ideas into practice," said Smith. "The class gave me the opportunity to work with Babson students on my idea for a collaborative software tool."

While writing the Wildfire plan, Smith assembled a development team with Olin classmates Zachary Brock, Eric Gallimore, Sean McBride and Brian Shih. The company, which *(continued on page 8)*

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SPEAKER'S PASSION FOR SERVICE SPURS OLIN COMMUNITY INTO ACTION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



Another year of growth and progress at Olin has come to a close. The year wrapped up with a fantastic Olin Expo. The hallways and class-

rooms of Olin's Academic Center were once again a whirlwind of activity and excitement as students presented more than 200 projects that demonstrated the learning they had done during the semester.

Immediately following Expo, our students headed out for their summer experiences. An impressive 61 percent of the Olin student body is doing on or off-campus research, internships or related jobs this summer, including 45 percent of the freshman class. This bodes extremely well for the future employability of our students.

For the second year in a row, an Olin team has won one of Babson's prestigious business plan competitions. This accomplishment demonstrates once again the synergy between engineering and entrepreneurship that is one of the distinctive features of the Olin curriculum.

As we enjoy summer, we are already planning for the fall and the arrival of the new class. With the arrival of 77 new freshmen in late August, our largest class ever, we will for the first time have a "complete" student body, from freshmen to seniors. Yet another Olin milestone will have been reached.

Looking further out, we are beginning the planning process for that really big milestone, our first Commencement in May 2006. That will be quite an event, as we look back on how far we've come, and ahead to how far we can still rise.

Enjoy the summer!

Richard K. Miller
President

ON APRIL 6, OLIN'S campus was bustling with activity as nearly 200 students, faculty and staff worked side-by-side in over a dozen community service projects ranging from teaching computer skills to disabled adults to potting flowers for nursing home residents.

The impetus for this afternoon of service? A visit from Michael Brown, president and co-founder of City Year, a non-profit organization that engages young people in national service.

Brown spoke to the Olin community as part of the Big Conversations speaker series, which brings students, faculty and staff together for a discussion around the theme of "what's important" with a speaker who has made an impact on the world by living a value-driven life.

"Find and commit to your passion," advised Brown during his morning talk in Olin's 300-seat auditorium, which was packed to capacity.

During his talk, Brown discussed his successful career and ability to mix passion, energy and idealism to found City year with Harvard Law School roommate Alan Khazei.



"Find and commit to your passion"

—Michael Brown, president and co-founder of City Year

City Year unites a corps of 17 to 24 year-olds for a year of full-time, rigorous community service, leadership development and civic engagement.

Working with Khazei, Brown found his passion for voluntary national service, which he says touched his soul and changed his life forever.

Brown compared his work of founding City Year to Olin's mission of building an innovative engineering college.

He urged the audience

to "continue discussing your values with each other as you shape Olin College. As founders of the college you must commit to founding this institution right or you will be forever fixing it."

After Michael Brown's inspiring talk, members of the Olin community participated in several service projects. Below, a group plants flowers in decorated pots for residents of the Avery Manor Rehabilitation & Nursing Center in Needham. Below right, sophomore Dean Dieker (right) joined several classmates during the community service event to help disabled young adults learn computer skills and programs.



The SERV (Support, Encourage and Recognize Volunteerism) committee, which helped organize the day's events, challenged each Olin community member to commit time and energy to volunteering. Pictured here are Lilly Cho ('07), Chandra Little ('07), Matthew Tesch ('07), Alison Lee ('07) and Sarah Zwicker ('06).

Brown's passion prompted Olin's community service group SERV (Support, Encourage, Recognize Volunteerism) to join the Big Conversations planning committee in organizing an afternoon of community service projects. Thirteen service projects took place on campus, including knitting afghans for foster children, delivering donations to Needham's food pantry, building door and window frames for Habitat for Humanity and designing a solar-powered water fountain for an elementary school, among many other activities.

"It was great to see so many students, as well as staff and faculty, participating in community service together," said Sarah Zwicker ('06). "In total the Olin community completed over 308 hours of service."

Remarking on Olin's focus on philanthropy and service as founding precepts of the college, Brown urged students to realize that engineering is a powerful tool. "The skills you are learning now – rigor, analysis and problem-solving – can be put to work in any field you wish."





SEMESTER ACTIVITIES

First Annual Honor Code Values and Ethics Speaker

On April 20, Dr. Donald McCabe kicked off the first Annual Honor Code Values and Ethics Speaker Series with his talk on integrity and decision making. In his talk, Dr. McCabe discussed his fifteen years of research on cheating in college and offered tips for creating a strong, ethical environment. "Ethics get tougher in the real world," noted Dr. McCabe. "It is important to build a strong foundation of values in college."

Dr. McCabe helped students develop Olin's Honor Code and returned to see how it had evolved.

Earth Day

April 22, the Olin community observed Earth Day by engaging in round-table discussions and participating in various service activities, including trash pick-up and bike maintenance. The day concluded with a talk from Michael Gillenwater, director of verification at Environmental Resources Trust, and a picnic that featured organic food from local markets. The Greening Olin club sponsored the day's events.

Above: Honor Code speaker Dr. Donald McCabe (center) with Olin Honor Board members (from left to right) Michael Crayton ('06), Andrew Hollett ('07), Eric Munsing ('08), Alison Lee ('07), Sarah Zwicker ('06), Lilly Cho ('07), Steven Krumholz ('06) and Johannah Itescu ('07).

Below, right: To celebrate Earth Day, the Greening Olin club organized a tie-dyeing event. Keri O'Toole ('08) prepares to dye a t-shirt. (Photo credit: Keoni Mahelona)



Above: Olin juniors (left to right) Chris Murphy, Susan Fredholm, Joy Poisel and Nick Zola enjoy the Boston skyline during the Harbor Cruise formal.

Right: Madge Dodson ('07) rides the mechanical bull at Olin's end-of-year carnival, sponsored by the Student Activities Committee (SAC).



Harbor Cruise Formal

This year's end-of-year formal dance was held on May 6. SAC (Olin's Student Activities Committee) sponsored the Boston Harbor cruise, which featured an Italian dinner, music, dancing, scenic views of the Boston skyline and plenty of fun.



End-of-Semester Carnival

One of Olin's student traditions, the end-of-year carnival, took place on Friday, May 13 (after final exams were completed). This year's "Old School Field Day" themed carnival featured ice cream sundaes, a slip-and-slide, mechanical bull rides and plenty of traditional field games, including tug-of-war and a water balloon toss.

Expresso Talent Night

The evening of May 18, students shared their talents with the Olin community during Expresso. This year's special Expo edition featured belly dancing, poetry, a cappella rapping, martial arts demonstrations and the annual student-created slideshow, which featured a variety of student photos set to music.

End-of-Semester Celebration

To mark the end of another successful semester, the Olin community gathered in the Oval on May 20 to enjoy a barbecue, which featured traditional fare and plenty of reasons to relax and celebrate.



After the semester came to a close, Clara Cho ('06) and Dan Lindquist ('06) shared some laughs at community barbecue.



Above: Olin Vocal Ensemble members (left to right) Jeff DeCew ('08), Andrew Bouchard ('07) and Mark Penner ('07) perform an a cappella version of Usher's "Yeah" during Expresso. (Photo credit: Matt Colyer)

APRIL >>> MAY >>> JUNE >>> JULY >>>

KERNS COMPLETES YEAR AS ASEE PRESIDENT

In June, Olin VP **Sherra Kerns** completed a one-year term as president of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE), the world's largest organization encompassing all branches of engineering education. During her presidency, she traveled all over the globe, giving speeches and attending conferences and ASEE events. Her itinerary took her to ASEE's Third International Colloquium in Beijing, where she met with top Chinese education officials. She also visited Switzerland for a major summit with European engineering educators. She sat down with *Innovations* recently to discuss her thoughts following her busy year as ASEE president.

Innovations: What do you see as the biggest priority in advancing engineering education?

Kerns: The engineering degree confers an identity—an ethic and a set of responsibilities for how you will be in the world. It is becoming clear that this identity needs to expand as we go forward: to be not only the introverted engineer who deals with numbers and things very well, but also the sort of person who can deal with those things in the context of society—to see how our ideas and our products impact society. So we have to learn to deal with a wide range of what have been called “soft skills.” We tend to be left-brained, fact driven, analytical types. We will need to be “whole brained” people who can hear the voice of consumers. We have to learn to think more broadly.

A related question is: is this identity of an engineer an equally comfortable fit for people of all genders, races and nationalities? The answer is probably “no.” It will be necessary to expand this [identity] to take advantage of the talents of many kinds of people and to

make sure that in our representation of the identity of engineers we celebrate different ways of solving problems and different ways of thinking. Engineering is fundamentally a creative endeavor that uses science and math to solve the problems of societies. The challenge will be to figure out ways to benefit from a diversity of perspectives and ideas as we pursue this creative endeavor.

Innovations: Has the last year given you any new perspectives on Olin?

Kerns: Absolutely. It's been like drinking from a fire hose! I've been privileged to speak with amazing thinkers and people who have had tremendous impact, and hear a wide variety of ideas. I believe Olin is better suited than any educational institution on the planet right now to be bold and innovative in its definition of what engineering is and can be, and in the way that this education is provided—the transformative experience of an undergraduate program. My universe has really expanded, and I hope I can find even more ways to bring this benefit to the school.

“I believe Olin is better suited than any educational institution on the planet right now to be bold and innovative in its definition of what engineering is and can be.”

— Sherra Kerns



'EXPO' PUTS OLIN ON DISPLAY Highlights Inventiveness of Curriculum, Students



David Wurtz '07 (top photo) discusses his project, “Nanotechnology via Self-Assembly,” during the Expo poster session, while Kate Blazek '06 (inset) makes a presentation on alloys.

Olin students demonstrated their inventiveness May 16– 20 during the Olin Expo, with presentations and exhibits of the engineering projects they have been working on during the semester. On display in Olin's Academic Center were more than 200 projects the students had chosen as their best work—everything from a “disposable search and rescue robot” to new ideas for the alarm clock. More than 70 outside representatives were on hand to help assess the presentations.

The Expo highlights Olin's project-based curriculum and innovative blend of engineering and entrepreneurship. As part of Expo, students demonstrate they have mastered various key competencies considered essential to an engineer. The competencies include such abilities as qualitative and quantitative analysis, teamwork, and communication. The event is a critical component of a formal competency assessment system the college launched last semester.

Students chose projects from their courses, “Passionate Pursuits” and co-curricular activities. Many decided to present on advanced engineering subjects, while others opted to display their passions for topics as varied as electronic pipe organs and the inner workings of CDs. Students could present their projects as a poster session or as an oral presentation.

Expo also included musical performances, a demonstration of the “Mini-Baja” all-terrain vehicle a team of students worked on during the semester and a showing of “The Olin Experience,” a video about the college produced by two Olin juniors.

“The level of professionalism was very high,” said Associate Professor Mark Somerville, who was involved in planning the event.

The outside evaluators included more than 70 corporate and academic representatives from such organizations as IBM, Harvard Business School, IDEO, Microsoft, MIT and Raytheon. According to Somerville, their presence in such numbers, plus the learning that occurred as a result of last semester's Expo, combined to make this a very successful event.

“This time around I think we came a lot closer to the ideal of fast and meaningful feedback both to students and to Olin,” said Somerville.

RECENT GRANT ACTIVITY

- \$105,000 from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to support Sloan-C ALN summer workshop
- \$125,000 from NASA for various research projects conducted by Olin students in conjunction with NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, including a next-generation vacuum-tight X-ray calibration system and a temperature map of a cryogenically-cooled focal plane array of detectors

Professor Stein Elected Senior Member of IEEE



Dr. Lynn Andrea Stein, professor of computer and cognitive science at Olin College, was recently elected a Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). She is among a select few (less than

10 percent of the membership) to achieve this level of professional membership. IEEE is a non-profit, technical professional association of more than 360,000 individual members in approximately 175 countries. Through its members, the IEEE is a leading authority in technical areas ranging from computer engineering, biomedical technology and telecommunications, to electric power, aerospace and consumer electronics, among others.

Dr. Stein joined the Olin faculty in September, 2001. She has pioneered the development of a new approach to teaching computer science and developed innovative robotics laboratories for students to learn and demonstrate the power of her new approach. Dr. Stein earned a B.A. in computer science from Harvard and M.A. and Ph.D. in computer science from Brown University.

MOVING UP

Gibson Becomes Board Member



Mr. C. Scott Gibson, the CEO of venture capital firm Gibson Enterprises, recently became a member of the Olin College Board of Trustees. He had previously served on the President's Council. Prior to founding Gibson Enterprises,

Mr. Gibson spent 11 years as Chairman of Radisys Corporation and four other public companies as well as a director of several non-profit organizations. Mr. Gibson was also the co-founder and president of Sequent Computer Systems, which reached \$800 million in annual sales before being sold to IBM. Mr. Gibson received his M.B.A. in Finance and his B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Illinois. He was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from Oregon Entrepreneurs Forum in 2001 and was recognized as American Electronics Association's Oregon High Tech Executive of the Year in 1990.

IN BRIEF

HP/Olin Industry Forum Held

April 26-27, University Relations Managers from Hewlett-Packard, Microsoft, Intel, IBM, Raytheon, Northrop Grumman, Boeing and National Instruments were on campus to meet with faculty, staff and students. The event was coordinated by Wayne Johnson, vice president of worldwide university relations at Hewlett-Packard and member of Olin's President's Council, in an effort to deepen knowledge of Olin's innovative model for engineering education within industry. Visitors also discussed ways to support Olin's mission, and ways Olin can increase industry participation. While on campus the corporate guests participated in a fireside chat with students. During the chat they discussed innovation in industry.

Council Members and Trustees Discuss Competencies

May 8-9, the President's Council met on campus to hear an executive summary of Olin's progress from President Miller. A meeting of the Student Life Committee was also held. Council members attended break-out sessions with students, faculty, staff and invited guests from industry and academia to discuss Olin competencies and the associated assessment program. The competencies are a set of qualities that will distinguish Olin graduates. These sessions were designed to solicit feedback from attendees that can be used to plan improvements to Olin's curriculum and educational programs.

Olin to Participate in Forum for Excellence in Higher Education Study

Olin College was recently selected to participate in a multi-year study aimed at innovation and excellence in undergraduate education. The study group, which is led by Dr. Richard Light, Walter H. Gale Professor of Education at Harvard University, will be known as the Forum for Excellence in Higher Education. Participation in this group is by invitation only, and includes Amherst College, Bowdoin College, Davidson College, Duke University, Georgetown University, Haverford College, Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Macalester College, Middlebury College, University of California-Merced, Wellesley College, Williams College and Olin.



Microsoft's Jane Prey (left) speaks with President Miller and junior Mikell Taylor during the HP Industry Forum.

Funded by the Spencer Foundation, the study will enable Olin to obtain advice and counsel from some of the best educators in the country. It will also serve as an opportunity for the best of Olin's ideas to be reviewed and possibly adopted at other campuses, thereby potentially inspiring innovation in the larger context of higher education. This has been identified in the strategic plan as a long-term aspiration of the college.

Office of Admission to Hold Open House for Women

On Sunday, August 7, the Office of Admission will host its third annual open house for women. The event will serve as an opportunity to welcome high school women from around the country to Olin. The day's agenda will include a keynote talk by Dr. Sherra Kerns, Olin's vice president for innovation and research, as well as campus tours, interactive discussions with faculty members and sessions on the curriculum, admission process and financial aid. Prospective students will also have the opportunity to learn about Olin's academic programs and student life offerings from current students. "One of the additional benefits of this program is that the young women who attend have a chance to meet others who are equally bright and adventurous and who share a common interest in engineering. It is wonderful to watch them connect with each other," said Melissa Trotta, assistant dean of admission.

CAREER FOCUS

OFFICE OF POST GRAD PLANNING HELPS STUDENTS PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER OLIN

Focuses on Role of Passions in Career Development

IN ADVISING STUDENTS about their career choices, Leslie Larocca, Olin's new post graduate planning director, doesn't start with resume-writing tips and interview skills. Although she believes those practical skills are important, Larocca likes students to focus first on their dreams and passions as the starting point for a career that is an evolving, exciting journey.

"As I talk with students, I notice when they become animated," says Larocca, who became Olin's first post graduate planning director last fall. "It's not always about the internship or career path they think they should be taking. I try to move them away from 'shoulds' and give them permission to consider an area they may see as 'only' an avocation, or even a pipe-dream. My hope is that no one shuts down about what they could do, but that they are open to the excitement and challenge."

Larocca believes this approach is consistent with Olin's real-world orientation and lifelong learning philosophy, which attempt to erase the artificial barrier between school work and life's work.

"I try to place career development in the context of a student's whole life," says Larocca. "That parallels what's going on in the curriculum, where we're teaching students how to learn so they can always acquire new skills and knowledge. It's not exclusively about getting that first job or getting into graduate school."

Another "Olinesque" feature of the office is that its services are highly personalized. Larocca says her approach draws on a "coaching" model, and is based on a partnership with students.

"Students are not waiting for something to happen to them. They're taking initiative to

make contacts and follow up on leads, sometimes with relatively little intervention from me. I believe this will serve them well as they manage their careers over a lifetime."

The effects of Larocca's coaching and students' can-do attitudes are already showing up in the internship and research statistics. Larocca notes that 72 percent of the students now entering their senior year will have had a summer internship or research experience before they graduate. Seventy-five percent of the rising juniors will have had one of these experiences by the time they return this fall, and forty-five percent of next year's sophomores. Most internships or research have been in engineering, science, or technology areas, but non-profit management, education, marketing and other interests are also represented.

Larocca herself helped lay the groundwork for this success in her previous role as director of corporate relations at Olin. In that post, she visited many companies and helped bring corporate representatives to Olin to meet students and learn about the curriculum.

Parents, Olin's "virtual alumni," are proving to be important partners in introducing Olin students to the corporate world. Tim Redmond, father of Lindsay ('07), has been instrumental helping students find internships at IBM's microelectronics division in Burlington, Vt., where he is a senior engineer and manager, and at the Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights, N.Y.

"What I look for in new hires is a well-rounded individual," says Redmond. "Someone who possesses not just engineering skills, but also a focus on the arts, community service, entrepreneurship, and, last but not most important, a team environment. You find all that in Olin students."

Internship sponsor Doug Vincent of Design Mentor, an engineering consulting firm, says Olin students stand out for their maturity and ability to get things done. "Olin students reach out and are very engaged and proactive," he says. "They have a very strong bias for action."

Another outsider who has been impressed by what she sees at Olin is Alison McCarty, assistant director of admission at Harvard Business School. She has been working to interest students from non-business backgrounds in graduate

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– Leslie Larocca



Olin students Chris Murphy, Sean Munson and David Boy discuss new technology with Technology Evangelist Doug Phair (far right) and Principle Scientist Marc Vilain at an internship last summer at MITRE Corp.

management study. The Office of Post Graduate Planning helped her arrange a presentation at Olin with five HBS MBAs who followed unusual career paths to management, including via engineering.

"Leslie is open to conversations that are not necessarily traditional," says McCarty. "I think that will serve students well."

McCarty says Olin's unique curriculum and blend of engineering and entrepreneurship are producing students who could do well in HBS's intensive, case study-based environment, where much of the learning is peer to peer.

"The level of engagement of students at Olin is an order of magnitude greater than the typical program," says McCarty. "Olin students have invested in themselves and their education, taken risks and been more interactive than students in most programs. That is a good fit for HBS."

Of course, in its focus on the big picture, the Office of Post Graduate Planning doesn't overlook the basics. The office has put in place the infrastructure and processes to



Leslie Larocca (right), director of post graduate planning, with Michelle Knight, program assistant.

help students find that first post-graduate experience, which may be graduate school, employment at big and small companies, service programs or even taking a year off to explore.

This fall's career development schedule includes graduate school visits, corporate recruiting, job skills workshops, networking events and Career

Initiatives Day, which offers workshops and opportunities to meet corporate representatives. She has also been working with faculty on applications to graduate and professional schools, as well as prestigious programs like the Rhodes and Fulbright scholarships.

"For a small place, we've got a lot of things going," says Larocca.

For more information, visit the post graduate planning website at <http://careers.olin.edu>.

Summer '05 Internship and Research Experiences

- 61 percent of Olin student body engaged in internships or research this summer
- 72 percent of Class of 2006 will have internship or research experience by graduation
- 75 percent of Class of 2007 will have internship or research experience by junior year
- 45 percent of Class of 2008 will have internship or research experience by sophomore year

Sample internships/research

- Boeing
- Bauer Center at Harvard University
- Hewlett-Packard
- IBM
- iRobot
- Motorola, User Centered Solutions Lab
- NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory
- Novartis Institute for Biomedical Research
- UCLA, Department of Physics and Astronomy

EAST HALL OPENS TO RAVE REVIEWS

DURING THE APRIL 29 East Hall Open House, the Olin community finally got to see what's been going on behind the safety fencing since construction began on the new residence hall in December 2003.

"I was incredibly excited to finally set foot in this building, which we've watched go from concept to construction zone," said Thomas Kochem ('06).

The open house was the first public showing of the building, which features 19 suites with six single occupancy bedrooms and small living rooms, 32 double occupancy bedrooms similar to those in West Hall (Olin's first residence hall), a laundry room, two music practice rooms, an exercise room, a large bicycle storage room, a public safety office, central air, a student kitchenette, staff and faculty apartments, four central lounges and two group study rooms on each floor.

In addition to the architects, engineers, construction team, designers and landscapers who have worked to build East Hall, Olin students have been very involved in the construction project. More than a dozen students served

as building and furniture design consultants.

"I think the details like better lighting and additional shelf space that students requested will make a big difference," said Nicole Hori ('06). "Having suites is an especially important change from West Hall, and something almost all the students strongly favored."

From a technology standpoint, East Hall meets the needs of engineering students by offering unmatched computer connectivity – multiple power outlets, category six copper voice/data capabilities, fiber optic capabilities, a cable TV connection and full wireless access for each student.

"As the college's enrollment grows, it is essential that our facilities continue to support the technology-savvy students pursuing their engineering studies in Olin's interdisciplinary, hands-on program of study," said Stephen Hannabury, vice president of administration and finance. "The new residence hall offers the comforts of home while providing a leading-edge technology infrastructure."

Students will begin living in the residence hall at the start of the fall 2005 semester.

"I remember the 'town meeting' where the Office of Student Life asked us what we wanted the new residence hall to be like and here we are two years later walking into a building made to order."

– Thomas Kochem '06



A group of Olin students tests the capacity of a storage closet during the East Hall Open House. Students will move into the new residence hall this fall.

CAMPUS VOICE

SWE Supports Women Engineers

The Olin College Society of Women Engineers (SWE) had an incredible year filled with new beginnings, exciting events and many successes – including an official chartering by the national SWE organization.

SWE empowers women to advance their aspirations and be recognized for their life-changing contributions and achievements as engineers and leaders.

In the spring of 2004, Olin's pre-chartered SWE officers Cheryl Inouye ('06), Etosha Cave ('06), Kate Walsh ('06) and myself, Alison Lee ('07) applied for membership to the national organization and developed the focus for Olin's SWE group. In January of 2005, the leadership team changed due to study abroad experiences and new officers Charleen Laughlin ('07), Robin Maslowski ('07), Lara Clark ('07) and I finalized the chartering process.

Olin's SWE chapter became officially chartered in the spring of 2005.

Having a SWE chapter on campus presents an opportunity to enhance the discussion about why gender balance is so important. Olin strives to have gender-balance among the student body and faculty, a rarity in engineering schools.

Another benefit SWE provides is a network of support that allows us to share experiences and develop a large network of professional engineers who serve as mentors.

One of my favorite memories during a SWE event this year occurred at a Friday pizza lunch discussion that focused mainly on gender issues at Olin and the stereotypes that women face in the engineering field. At this event over 25 students and five female faculty members shared their experiences in a casual discussion. Both students and faculty learned from each others' experiences with gender bias in the classroom and find-



Olin's Society of Women Engineers chapter was officially chartered during a ceremony held on campus this May. Linda Tempelman (center), representing the Boston SWE chapter, was on hand to present the charter. Olin's SWE leadership team (from left to right) Robin Maslowski, Alison Lee, Lara Clark and Char Laughlin organized the event.

ing mentors. What stood out to me the most that day was a professor sharing that even she, a distinguished academic, still felt the Impostor's Syndrome, a feeling of inadequacy and self doubt in your abilities. I had felt that way before, but had kept it to myself, thinking I was alone. When I looked around the room, multiple students and faculty were nodding their heads in agreement. At that moment, I understood why SWE existed – because there are still inadequacies and bias in engineering.

SWE needs to exist to foster discussion and educate the entire community about stereotypes. Everyone may not experience bias, but if they do, hopefully because of SWE, they will know how to handle themselves. SWE brings value to Olin every time someone says "Wow, I thought I was the only one who felt that way" or "I am glad I am not alone."

SWE is looking forward to another incredible year as a fully functioning student section. Our goal is to reach out to every incoming female student on campus.

The author, Alison Lee, is an engineering major (bioengineering concentration) from Kirtland, OH

FOUNDING TRUSTEE PASSES AWAY

William J. Schmidt, 72, one of the founding trustees of Olin College, died June 22. Mr. Schmidt, who was one of four F.W. Olin Foundation directors who participated in the founding of Olin College in the 1990s, served as a trustee and treasurer of the college until his retirement last December. A former executive with Federal Cartridge Corporation, Mr. Schmidt joined the Foundation's board in 1988.



William Schmidt

"The Olin community is deeply saddened by the news of Mr. Schmidt's passing," said Olin College President Richard Miller. "His vision and guidance have been invaluable to the college, and we will miss him."



OLIN TO WELCOME CLASS OF 2009

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involved in theater and nine have participated in FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), a national robotics competition.

"I'm excited about getting to know the incoming freshman class," said Lilly Cho ('07). "They will be a huge asset to the college, bringing in fresh ideas and diverse interests."

The class includes many students with unique accomplishments, including a state bowling champion, an international debate competitor, a Chinese language

school graduate, the world Lego building champion, a Junior Olympic medalist in swimming, an ultralight flight instructor and a student who can fluently speak four languages.

"The class of 2009 will live through some exciting times as our great experiment produces its first graduates in May," acknowledged Jesus Fernandez ('06). "They have the opportunity to make their mark on Olin and I am looking forward to seeing how they contribute."

CLASS OF 2009 AT A GLANCE

Of the 77 new students comprising the class of 2009:

- 14 contributed to school publications
- 32 have been involved in theater
- 65 percent recognized by the AP (Advanced Placement) Program
- 17 AP Scholars with Distinction
- 15 AP Scholars with Honors
- Over 40 percent are National Merit Scholarship Finalists
- 40 percent captained an academic team
- 34 high school athletes (10 captains)
- 60 percent involved in community service
- 51 musicians
- 22 participated in student government
- 1 Junior Olympic Medalist

OLIN STUDENTS WIN BUSINESS PLAN CONTEST



Class assignment leads to entrepreneurial venture for sophomores Smith (left) and Brock.

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was spawned out of the Foundry@1795 (Olin's business hatchery), will create software products that integrate with Microsoft Outlook to streamline the meeting process and save medium-sized businesses time and money.

"This accomplishment confirms the value of joint efforts between engineering and business in developing viable strategies for entrepreneurial ventures," said Olin College President Richard Miller.

The Muller award was established by former Babson President William F. Glavin and his wife to honor the accomplishments of John H. Muller, founder and former chairman of General Housewares and chairman of the Babson College Board of Trustees from 1989 to 1997.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

- Aug. 7, 2005**
Women's Open House
- Aug. 27, 2005**
Arrival Day for Class of 2009
- Aug. 28-31, 2005**
Orientation (academic advising, team building and leadership skills)
- Aug. 30, 2005**
Arrival Day: Upperclass students begin arriving after 5:00 p.m.
- Sept. 1, 2005**
Convocation on "Mountains Beyond Mountains"
- Oct. 6, 2005**
Career Initiatives Day
- Oct. 21-23, 2005**
Family Weekend
- Oct. 23, 2005**
Admission Open House
- Nov. 2, 2005**
Big Conversations
- Nov. 21-25, 2005**
Thanksgiving Recess

Innovations

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