Renovating Olin Hall for the 21st Century
It’s been a remarkable year for Olin Hall, so let me tell you all about our highs and lows in 2008–09. The low has definitely been the budget situation. In March, Cornell borrowed $0.5 billion through a sale of taxable bonds to provide working capital. The $200 million annual shortfall to balance the budget resulted in permanent cuts to every department and to a reduction in endowment payout for each of the next three years. In CBE, we lost more than $400,000 and 1.5 staff. More cuts are likely next year, though the provost’s office is trying to make them more strategic with the luxury of somewhat less urgency. We are anxiously watching the stock market and praying for economic recovery.

Despite the gloom of the market, there have been bright spots. In President Skorton’s commencement address this year, he said that roughly 20 percent of the graduating seniors had already secured jobs. You will be pleased to know that more than 75 percent of B.S. chemical engineers had jobs by graduation, although this was helped by the larger than normal number who went to grad school. There were 15 unemployed grads in May, more than in recent years.

It has been heart-warming to see the response to my request to individual alumni to help place about 15 of our 87 graduates this year. All the alumni I asked offered to forward the resumes to the right people in their company and, encouragingly, most of the alumni said that their companies were hiring. As one alumnus told me: “I know that any graduate from Olin Hall has the technical strength we need.” If you have openings in your company, please let me know.

We are making good progress on our renovation of Olin Hall. We have recreated Olin as a model of 21st century infrastructure within the confines of a wonderful mid-20th-century building. This $15 million “green” renovation project is ahead of schedule and under budget! We expect a fall completion date to reoccupy the building. Please read my description of the renovation project (my Olin blog) in this issue. And indulge me for a shameless request for you to help us raise the remaining funds to pay for this project. It’s hard to raise funds for a bricks-and-mortar project, but it was essential for us to modernize the building to be competitive to attract the best undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty to Cornell. Our peers have not stood still and neither could we. As it was, our decision to seize the moment and take the university’s offer of roughly 50 percent funding of the renovation, despite the disruption it would cause to the current occupants, has proved to be the right decision. Such an opportunity would not exist in the current climate.

Professor Jeff Tester (B.S. Ch.E. ’65) moved from MIT and joined our faculty as the inaugural David Croll Chair of Sustainable Energy Systems. Jeff is a world-renowned expert on geothermal energy. Paul Steen’s pre-eminence in research was rewarded with the Maxwell Upson Chair of Engineering. And two bright young department stars, Abe Stroock and Matt Delisa, each received lifelong tenure and promotion to associate professor. The future of the school is in their creative hands.

Sadly, this will be my last letter as director of the school. After nearly eight years in this wonderful job, I will be returning to my research program and contributing to the teaching mission of the school. I have learned so much from my faculty colleagues, the graduate students I’ve been privileged to advise, and the undergraduate advisees whose careers I have watched blossom over these past years. I will also miss the depth of contacts with alumni with whom I have had the good fortune to interact these many years. Our alumni are so loyal to their school that it has been a treasure to discuss the past, present and future of the school with so many of you. And I must also thank you for your support, especially the donation of your time, talent and, of course, your continued financial support on which our programs depend.

With all good wishes that you are surviving the economic situation.

Paulette Clancy
Renovation

June 2008

In a flurry of packing, all of our 80-plus graduate students have moved out of their offices with all their files, books, and personal belongings and taken up residence in the East Wing labs. Even the computational students are huddled between fume hoods and lab benches. Half of the faculty have been moved lock, stock, and barrel to the gleaming white space of Weill Hall on Tower Road. The other half of the faculty, mainly those most closely aligned with the undergraduate program, have decided to remain in Olin, but they too are displaced from their offices to maximize the evacuated space in the building.

July 2008

Everything is eerily quiet in Olin. The third floor and most of the second floor is evacuated, but no work appears to have begun. But, on July 17, the contract is signed and the first hardhats appear; cameras in hand, to photograph the pre-existing conditions. Protecting the floors is a priority, and a large dumpster dominates the loading dock (where it remains). Almost immediately, there’s a problem. The energy-miser “chilled beam” mock-up system in room 246 has not been functioning properly. The control shop replaces the circulating pump and troubleshoots the condensation sensor.

August 2008

Our biggest scare of the project occurs: The construction team swabs a room for lead using a Kim Wipe and mistakenly extrapolates the amount of lead found on the 2D surface with that in a 3D volume. The workers “down tool,” fearing a lead hazard, while an external consulting firm repeats the test according to EPA rules. A collective sigh of relief occurs on August 29 as the lead in Olin Hall is found to be well below the OSHA-permissible exposure limit of 0.05 mg/m³. The highest result they found was 0.0003 mg/m³. Work resumes. Ductwork in the major arteries of the building is demolished.
Bringing Olin Hall into the 21st Century
By Paulette Clancy

September 2008

Classes are in session—and so it's a great time to use a jackhammer. Excavation for the large new emergency generator on the Sage side of Olin unexpectedly hits bedrock, and a hydraulic hammer is needed to demolish and remove several feet of rock and concrete. The hammer turns out to be extremely noisy and transmits vibrations throughout the building. The students in the classroom in 246 Olin receive the best view of the excavation and experience the greatest noise. Mike Duncan and the other ChE instructors in the room struggle to be heard over the intense hammering. When more rock removal is needed, hammering begins at 7 a.m. and ends at 9 a.m. (at least in principle).

We start to plan for a major power shutdown in early October. Computer batch queues are on phased shutdown and, of 159 jobs in the queues, 17 very long jobs may not finish in time. Ceiling demolition on most floors is completed, and basement ductwork removed. A new floor is put into the penthouse for the new mechanical space. A suggestion by the construction team to bury deeper the new emergency generator is nixed ($100,000 pricetag).

Lockers are set up for seniors outside the Rhodes Lounge in Olin, and the students take ownership of stewarding the use of the Rhodes Lounge as the senior lounge outside business hours and on weekends. The AIChE President, Jeremy Holzworth, and some responsible seniors, such as Noreen Rizvi, set up a schedule to be sure that, by 8 a.m. each morning, the Rhodes Lounge is clean and tidy after the previous evening’s occupation. (The seniors prove to be responsible tenants all year.)

October 2008

We prepare for a switchover to the temporary construction transformer on October 4. This is scheduled to require a 12-hour electrical outage for the whole building. It does not go as planned. We decommission the old transformer and place a temporary transformer on the exterior of the building. Unfortunately, the 1,200-amp breaker has been shipped to us with the wrong module for the breakers and the system “trips” at 25 percent of capacity. We are given the go ahead to bring up the servers and start OS upgrades in the computer room just as the load starts to build on the transformer. A few hours later, at about 250-amps load, the breaker trips, power goes out in the building, and all the machines crash heavily. Several machines need organ transplants of power supplies and disks. We have to wait for a replacement module. In the meantime, we don’t have enough power to run the freight elevator. A second building-wide power shutdown is scheduled to replace the module. We order spare fuses for the transformer!

Reheat and preheat systems are relocated to the fourth floor. Attention turns to the basement electrical room. The contractors install structural steel and create a new areaway opening to the exterior of the building. This work requires the use of demolition saws. Predictions that this work will “likely be somewhat disruptive with regard to noise levels” prove to be correct.
**November 2008**

We learn why the southeast corner of the basement is perennially damp. Excavation shows that the massive oak tree behind Olin cracked a storm drain, possibly decades ago. “Negotiations” begin about who is responsible to fix the problem. (I’ll let you know who wins the rock-paper-scissors contest to decide this.) We make a start installing new lights and chilled beams. The fourth floor is reconfigured as the mechanical room. Our newest noisemakers are demolition saws to create a new areaway into the building. Bad weather delays the placement of rebar. Footings for the external generator pad are poured. Complaints of “bathroom odors” prove to be justified: the result of an unintended disconnection of an exhaust. We start work on a “phasing plan” to stagger the moves of staff from the CBE business offices and all of Student Services from the first floor up to the second floor. Planning the invasion of a small country (hopefully warmer than Ithaca) would be easier. We start planning for the arrival of a very large crane (see December entry). We give thanks that we started the construction project before the freeze on building projects began.

**December 2008**

While most people are busy planning for the holiday season, we plan for the arrival of the generator and electrical gear on December 17. We also start planning for Commencement in May 2009—we need to accommodate 600+ graduates and their families for graduation, in the middle of a construction zone.

**January 2009**

What a good time to begin window installation in Ithaca. The window caulk contains asbestos and needs special handling. Replacement of the original steel windows by new double-glazed energy-efficient windows begins. Progress is measured by the march down the floors of the building and the appearance of plywood as temporary wind blocks. All we need is graffiti on the plywood to complete the look of 21st Century Grunge. Windowsill replacement is a concern: many of the existing sills and surrounds are crumbling, and several different materials (brick, hollow block) are exposed. We decide to pour mortar on each sill to make all the reveals uniform between the new Corian sills and the glass in the windows.

Our 18,000-lb air-handling unit arrives from Oklahoma on the back of a truck in a snow storm, with no protection against the snow and salt. All the exterior fittings on the AHU must be replaced. A Liebherr crane with a 180-ft reach, capable of lifting 163,000 lbs, sits in the parking lot behind Sage Hall. Despite Cornell Police warnings not to park there, someone just had to ignore this (see photo of tow truck). We watch in awe as the 9-ton AHU is lifted more than 75 feet in the air and swung from the parking lot to the top of Olin Hall. Stray thoughts of the momentum of this behemoth flying through the air towards the building are dismissed in a huge act of faith in the skill of the crane operator.
February 2009

Much of the activity focuses on the second floor with mechanicals, block infill, soffits, lighting, windowsills, trim, and painting. Mechanical, electrical, and plumbing work continues at all floors. A scheduled steam shut-down to facilitate the installation of a steam header arrangement—to support relief piping and new heat exchangers—means that the building gets cooler as the day goes on. Our GC takes credit for the fact that Ithaca has a heat wave that day, with temperatures approaching 50ºF, but we stock up on portable space heaters just in case.

March 2009

On the worker-laden second floor, intensive efforts continue in preparation for our first relocation of student services staff. We install the first shipment of chilled beams, start painting, replace ceiling tile, continue to install Corian sills and window trim. Our new roller shades arrive. Second floor North is now complete! Work begins on the first floor. Plans to renovate the bathrooms in Olin are suspended indefinitely, a victim of the budget crunch. The stock market hits its 2009 low.

April 2009

Sprinklers are installed in the large second-floor classroom, 255. The air-handling unit is tested and is running perfectly. The emergency generator passes its 4-hour commissioning test successfully. The registrar’s suite is completed and a different set of student services staff is moved to the second floor. Activity moves to the third floor for installation of chilled beams, sprinklers, and lights. Many of the HVAC systems come online: AHU, chilled beams, chilled water systems, and heat exchangers.

May 2009

Classes end. We test the windows with infrared imaging, and learn that plywood is a better energy insulator than the old windows. No one is surprised! Luckily, the new windows perform much better.

June 2009

A couple of lucky faculty return to their permanent offices, a presage of the future. We start planning for a scheduled power shutdown in July, but rats accelerate the schedule. On Reunion Weekend, these commando rodents chew through the main power intake to Olin and take out power to Olin, Sage, and Carpenter. They provide an unscheduled test of the new emergency generator. The scheduled shutdown a week later allows us to discover that the electrical feeder panels confuse North and South ends of the electrical circuits and take out power unexpectedly to the North end. This also shows that the CIT Ezranet routers are not on emergency power; in consequence, no one can access their computer files. Good news on the budget: We still have about two-thirds of our bare-bones 10-percent-contingency funds unspent, and we are ahead of schedule. With luck we will all be back in our rightful offices in the fall.

Keep reading: The final installment will be in next year’s Olin Hall News.

Enormous thanks are due to Brian Ford, Olin facilities manager, and a 30-year veteran of the Olin family; no one knows the building better. Thanks, too, to our Cornell staff: Patrick Conrad (our ever-cheerful construction manager), Brian Fish and John Keefe (project managers and Monty Python fans), Amy Ritter (College of Engineering’s creative facilities manager), our professional construction crews, and our wonderful Philadelphia-based design firm, Ballinger.
Reunion 2009

On June 6, alumni classes from years ending in 9 and 4 gathered on Cornell’s campus. Our tradition of welcoming alumni with a breakfast was not deterred by the construction in and around Olin Hall. We gathered in Willard Straight Hall instead, where approximately 100 alumni from classes ranging from 1949 to 2004 shared reminiscences of beloved faculty and fun times with classmates, and learned what’s new in the school.

Director Paulette Clancy welcomed and spoke to the school alumni. We were honored to have Julian Smith, former director of the school, and Peter Harriott, emeritus professor, at the breakfast. Several faculty were present to welcome our honored returnees, including Professors Al Center, Michael Duncan, Paul Steen, and Jeffrey Varner, as well as Professor Christopher Ober, interim dean of the College of Engineering.
Winston Jenks, B.S. Ch.E. '83, has provided the funds to purchase a new process control system and donated all the software necessary to run the heat exchanger experiment in the Unit Operations Lab in Olin Hall. Jenks's gift of a Rockwell system will be connected to an experiment so that students can gain practical experience with a modern process control system to add cascade control, feedforward action, etc. Winston has sponsored a summer internship, including living costs, for a Ch.E. undergraduate, Becci Weber, to work at his control software company in Houston to learn how to use the system and bring that expertise back to Cornell.

**Alumni Involvement in Teaching**

We are again fortunate to have a large cadre of alumni who returned to campus to help with our educational programs throughout the year. Alumni give the students the benefit of their experience and enrich our classes. Our thanks to all the alumni who contributed to our educational programs with the valuable gift of their time.

We are especially grateful to those alumni who donated their time as instructors and co-instructors. Bob Ganz, ExxonMobil (retired) redesigned and taught ChemE 5720, Managing New Business Development. Conoco-Phillips and Pfizer will sponsor the continuation of this course in fall 2009. Ganz also co-taught ChemE 5200, Chemical Processes, a new elective offered this past fall, with Charlie Shafran, Pfizer (retired), and帮助 to teach UO Lab, ChemE 4320. Ganz is also a major contributor to the fund to raise an endowment for a Ray Thorpe Chair in ChemE.

**ChemE 5720, Managing New Business Development.** Board Members included: Claudia Elkins, Akzo Nobel (retired), a Wells College alumna; Steven Elkins, Bank of New York (retired), an Arts and Sciences alumnus; Mike Gibson, ChemOrganics; Kent Göklken, GlaxoSmithKline; Charlie Shafran, Pfizer (retired); and Chris Wolcott, Mobil (retired). Terry Yamada, Alon, gave several lectures.

**ChemE 3100: Nonresident Lectures.** A number of Cornell Ch.E. alumni gave students the benefit of their advice regarding career development: Rachel Barton, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals; Rick Eno, Metabolix; Stephanie Glass, ExxonMobil; Charles Grimm, Shell; Taylor Milner, Stroud Consulting; David Pritchard, KaloBios Pharmaceutical Inc.; Sonya Sepahban, Northrop Grumman; Christina Shah, Procter & Gamble; Brock Tuczynski, Kraft Foods; Diane Wuest, Genentech; and Todd Zion, SmartCells Inc.

**ChemE 4320, Chemical Engineering Laboratory.** Lectures by Andy Irwin, Irwin Engineers Inc., and John Carberry, Dupont.

**ChemE 4620, Plant Design** benefited with help from alumni Andy Irwin, Irwin Engineers Inc.; Peter Harriott, Emeritus Professor; Kent Göklken, GlaxoSmithKline; and Jim Staid, ExxonMobil (retired), Fresh Eyes Review. Jim Staid also gave a lecture in ChemE 6640, Energy Economics, and Winston Jenks, Cape Software, gave a talk in ChemE 4700, Process Control Strategies.

Left to right: Alumni Kent Göklken, Claudia Elkins (Wells College alumna), Chris Wolcott, Steve Elkins, and Charlie Shafran, with Bob Ganz in the background, at a board meeting to evaluate student presentations for ChemE 5720: Managing New Business Development.
Eighty-four bachelor of science degrees in chemical engineering were awarded during our school’s diploma ceremony on Sunday, May 24. Approximately 630 undergraduate and graduate students, relatives, friends, and faculty, attended the ceremonies and luncheon, which were held following the university-wide commencement ceremony at Schoellkopf Field.

Families and guests of the graduates enjoyed a slide show of photos in the lecture halls as the graduates arrived. The faculty presenters—Professors Duncan, Joo, Varner, Center, Hunter, and Hanrath—announced each person and noted the project team’s contributions as the group posed for photos with their diplomas in hand. The senior capstone design course groups were then congratulated for their design project presentations in: Linear Alpha Olefin, Coker Naphtha Hydrotreating, Naphtha Isomerization, Isoprene from Biomass Feedstock, Propanediol from Biomass Feedstock, Cellulosic Ethanol Production Process, Trash-to-Biofuel Production Process, Ammonia, Synthesis Gas Clean Up, Methanol Synthesis, and Natural Gas Treating.

This year, 38 percent of the class accepted employment at 26 different companies. The largest employers were ExxonMobil (3), Procter and Gamble (3), Conoco Phillips (2), Schlumberger (2), and Shell (2). The average starting salary was $70,140. These recent graduates are employed in the following areas: chemicals (3), consulting/engineering (5), consumer products (3), design and...
construction (1), education (1), finance and investing (4), military (1), petroleum products (9), pharmaceuticals (2), U.S. government (2), and utilities (1). As of the first week of May, there were 15 students seeking jobs.

The Class of 2009 has 32 students who are continuing their studies in graduate school: eight have begun chemical engineering Ph.D. programs, two are pursuing other graduate degrees in the areas of biomedical engineering and toxicology, two have started medical school, one has begun a master of science in biomedical engineering, twelve have joined our M.Eng. program, four entered Cornell’s biomedical engineering M.Eng. program, and, through Cornell’s civil engineering, four are pursuing a master in engineering management, and two are pursuing a master in environmental engineering.

Student News

Eric First, B.S. Ch.E. ’09, was a member of the Cornell programming team, which finished second in the 2008 Association for Computing Machinery Regional Programming Contest and qualified for the World Finals competition in Sweden. Cornell Team 1—Eric First ’09, Vincent Chan ’09, and Hooyeon “Haden” Lee ’10—solved seven problems and held first place until just 12 minutes before the end of the contest, when a team from SUNY Stony Brook solved the eighth problem.

The “Cornell Red” trio traveled to Stockholm in April. They placed 8th out of the 25 North American teams and 49th overall, finishing with an honorable mention.

Excerpted from an April 9, 2009 article by Bill Steele in the ChronicleOnline, www.news.cornell.edu.

From left: Hooyeon “Haden” Lee ’10, Eric First ’09, and Vincent Chan ’09

Rebecca Bennett, B.S. Ch.E.’09, was one of a dozen or so seniors elected to the Sphinx Head Society, which is “the oldest senior honor society at Cornell.” She was president of the Cornell Naval ROTC Unit, a chemical engineering teaching assistant, and rush chair for Alpha Phi Omega, a community-service organization on campus. Pictured here at the ROTC ball February 20, 2009, she stopped dancing long enough to pose for a photo with Brad and Susan Anton.

ChemE Car Team Wins National Competition

With their shoebox-size car powered by a hydrogen fuel cell, the 18-member undergraduate ChemE Car Team placed first at the American Institute of Chemical Engineers student-car competition in Philadelphia in November 2008, beating out more than 30 other teams. The win propels them to the international competition in Montreal in August.

The Cornell team’s car—called “Bender,” after the character from the television show “Futurama”—made history by being the first ever to stop exactly at the target distance as outlined by competition rules.


Teacher Extraordinaire

Robert Ferguson takes his third sabbatical, this time from Chevron Kuwait, to co-teach ChemE 4620, Chemical Process Design, in the spring semester.
Profile:
Graduate Degree Class of 2009

Seventeen graduate students in the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering participated in the school’s graduate diploma ceremony on Sunday, May 24. Eight of these students received M.Eng. degrees, one received an M.S., and the remaining eight either already had completed their degree requirements or will receive Ph.D. degrees as they finish their programs this summer. In total, nearly 80 friends, family, and members of the faculty joined us for a well-deserved celebration of their accomplishments.

The ceremony opened with a welcoming speech by Professor Fernando Escobedo, director of graduate studies. The thesis focus and scientific accomplishments of each graduate were then described by each student’s faculty advisor. A reception for advanced-degree holders and their families followed the ceremony.

Our graduate students will be moving on to positions in industry and academia. Their destinations include:

- Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.
- Antares Group, Inc.
- BASF Polyurethane Center
- Cornell Medical School
- Corning, Inc.
- Envis Corporation
- Genentech, Inc.
- Intel Corporation
- Kraft Foods
- Navigant Consulting
- New York University Medical School
- Sutro Biopharma
- Singapore Armed Forces
- Wells College

Graduate Degree Recipients

(January, May, and August degrees)

Master of Science
- Heidi Jeeho Park (M.S.)
- Hitesh Arora (M.S. continuing on to Ph.D.)
- Prateek Gupta (M.S. continuing on to Ph.D.)
- Haibo Qi (M.S. continuing on to Ph.D.)
- Laura Olenick (M.S.)

Master of Engineering
(see photograph)

Doctor of Philosophy
- Jordan Atlas
- Hitesh Arora
- Ernesto Borrero
- Richard Chen
- Nak Won Choi
- John Dingee
- Geoffrey Genesky
- Iman El Gheriany
- Joseph Goose
- Keesha Hayes
- Vibha Kalra
- Eric Lee
- Deyan Luan
- Ritsdeliz Perez -Rodriguez
- Zhenyu Qian
- Jong “Jay” Sung
- Sara Yazdi
Corporate Gifts

We have been fortunate to receive four new awards. One, from Genentech, will support the continuation of the Graduate Women’s Group in CBE. This grant will assist all our wonderful women graduate students and professional women in creating activities that will spur the recruitment, retention and professional development of women researchers. We have Olin Hall alumna Ann Lee, Ph.D. Ch.E. ’83, to thank for this award.

The second grant is from Intel Corporation, continuing a long and almost unbroken record of donation of computing equipment to the school. Recently, the company donated enough equipment to treble the research computing resources of the school. This year, Intel will continue two previous years of funding of laptop donations to first-year graduate students, of which many of you are the beneficiaries.

We thank Martha Jones, Ph.D. Ch.E. ’97, and especially Kimberly Sills for their help in securing this award.

Proctor & Gamble has agreed to give us a gift of $25,000 for unrestricted support of our programs. The terms of this gift are particularly helpful: it is the company’s intention to give us a similar gift each year and its unrestricted terms allow us to place the funds toward our most urgent needs. We have enjoyed a long and productive relationship with P&G and it’s great to have their increased financial support.

We also received a $12,500 gift from ConocoPhillips. In addition to providing funds towards supporting three undergraduate CBE Scholarships ($4,500) and our student AIChE organization ($1,000), ConocoPhillips gave sufficient funds ($7,000) to ensure the continuation of ChemE 5720, Managing New Business Development, for the fall 2009 semester.

M.S./Ph.D Degree Recipients 2009

Row 1 (left to right): Haibo Qi, Iman El Gheriany, Keesha Hayes. Row 2 (left to right): Laura Olenick, Joseph Goose, Vibha Kalra, Ritsdeliz Perez-Rodriguez, Jordan Atlas, Deyan Luan.
2008-2009 Award Recipients

**American Institute of Chemical Engineers**

**Othmer Sophomore Academic Excellence Award**
This award was established by the AIChE to recognize undergraduate academic excellence.
Maxim Kashdan '09

**American Institute of Chemical Engineers**

**Twin Tiers Award**
This award was established by the AIChE to recognize outstanding scholarship and leadership in campus, community, and professional activities.
Matthew St. Cyr '09

**American Institute of Chemists**

**Baccalaureate Student Award**
This award was established by the AIC to recognize undergraduate ability, leadership, character, and scholastic achievement.
Brian Weitzner '09

**Constance E. Cook and Alice H. Cook Recognition Award**
This award is presented for dedication to female student issues.
Keesha Hayes

**Corning Foundation Fellowship**
This fellowship was established by the company to recognize the research progress of a student in the Ph.D. program.
Thomas Mansell

**Genentech–George F. Scheele Outstanding Junior Award**
This award was established by Genentech in memory of Professor George Scheele, former associate director of the school, to recognize academic excellence and achievement in campus and professional activities.
Maxim Kashdan '09

**Kessler Fellowship**
The program awards prizes to students who excel in the critical thinking of technological innovation and entrepreneurship.
Jeffrey Will '10

**Laspa U: Academic and Professional Programs for the Americas Fellowship**
This fellowship was established by the Universidad Antonio Nariño Faculty Training Program provides UAN faculty members with scholarships for master’s and doctoral study in any country in the world, and is designed to broaden the participants’ perspectives and enhance their capabilities and knowledge in their fields.
Juan Valderrama Rincon

**Merck Engineering and Technology Fellowship**
This fellowship was established by the company to recognize undergraduate scholastic and technical excellence.
Corey Broton '09
Parbir Grewal '10

**Merrill Presidential Scholarship**
This Cornell program honors outstanding seniors and their academic mentors from high school and university faculty who made important contributions to the students’ lives.
Michael Myers '09 (mentored by Levittown, Pennsylvania teacher Michael Hey, Neshaminy High School, and Cornell Professor T. Michael Duncan)

**National Science Foundation Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) Fellowship**
This program meets the challenges of educating U.S. Ph.D. scientists and engineers who are pursuing careers in research and education, and who, with interdisciplinary backgrounds, will become leaders and creative agents for change.
Ryan Tasseff
Rebecca Cantrell

**Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant of the Year Award**
The recipient of this award for outstanding teaching by a graduate teaching assistant is chosen by the school’s undergraduate students and faculty.
Henrik Van Lengerich (for assisting in ChemE 3240, Heat and Mass Transfer)
Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Assistant of the Year Award
This award recognizes outstanding teaching by an undergraduate assistant, chosen by their undergraduate peers and the faculty.
Simon Pang ’09 (for assisting in ChemE 3130, Chemical Engineering Thermodynamics, and ChemE 3320, Analysis of Separation Processes)

Award for Outstanding Service to the School
This award recognizes outstanding service to the undergraduate community.
Noreen Rizvi ’09

Presidential Life Sciences Fellowship
These select Cornell graduate students will bridge across disciplines and help form the new disciplines of life sciences, which are expected to grow in the next decade.
Christine Endicott

Procter & Gamble Technical Excellence Award
This award was established by the company to recognize undergraduate technical presentation skills.
Pawan Kodandapani ’09

Rohm and Haas–Ferdinand Rodriguez Outstanding Student Award in Polymers and Electronic Materials
This award was established by Rohm and Haas to honor Professor Rodriguez and recognize outstanding undergraduate- or master’s-level research in polymers or electronic materials.
Olivia Nnadi M.Eng. ’09

Semiconductor Research Corporation Fellowship
This fellowship was established to attract qualified underrepresented minority students to graduate study in the semiconductor industry. The program links students with industry advisors and provides opportunities for internships in SRC member companies.
Kevin Hughes
Edward Kish

Sloan–Sage Graduate Fellowship
This competitive fellowship is available to underrepresented American minorities and offers awardees financial support, mentoring, and guidance.
Anthony Diaz-Santana
Jeisa Pelet

Alumni-Sponsored Graduate Research
Charles Winding Scholarship
This scholarship was established by alumni in memory of Professor Charles Winding, former director of the school, to provide financial assistance to graduate students.
Deirdre Costello

Clyde Mason Award
This award was established by an alumnus as a tribute to Professor Clyde Mason, to provide financial assistance to graduate students.
Anthony Altieri
Rajesh Mallavajula

Fred H. Rhodes Scholarship
This scholarship was established by family and alumni in memory of Professor Fred Rhodes, founder of the school, to provide financial assistance to Ph.D. candidates.
Ernesto Borrero
Colman Carroll
John Dingee
Iman El Gheriany
Eric Lee
Laura Olenick
Brian Pasquini
Ritsdeliz Perez-Rodriguez
Sudhir Prabhu

Henry L. Mattin Scholarship
This scholarship was established by the Mattin family to provide scholarship funds for Ph.D. students.
John Dingee
Justin Greenly

John McMullen Scholarship
This scholarship recognizes graduate or undergraduate students with outstanding achievements in and beyond the classroom. Selection is reserved for students with potential for exceptional success in the field of engineering.
Kaifu Bian
Bradford Gates

Robert York Memorial
Ashley Macner

Edna and William C. Hooey Fellowship
These endowed scholarships allow us to recruit high-quality graduate students in chemical engineering.
Ju Ho Song
Sung Kim
Kasyap Vasudevan

Corporate-Sponsored Graduate Research
Dow Chemical Graduate Fellowship
This endowed scholarship allows us to recruit high-quality graduate students in chemical engineering.
Alexandra Corona

September 2009 • Olin Hall News 15
1960s

Eric Hoag, B.S. Ch.E. ’67, recently retired from Du Pont after more than 40 years service and is now providing process safety management consulting for the company. He is living in League City, TX.

David T. Allen, B.S. Ch.E. ’79, has been appointed to serve a three-year term on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Science Advisory Board. He is a professor in chemical engineering at the University of Texas at Austin and director of the university’s Center for Energy and Environmental Resources. Allen brings the agency 25 years of experience in air-quality management and alternative-energy development.

1970s

Scott Diamond, B.S. Ch.E. ’86, was the 2008–2009 recipient of the George H. Heilmeier Faculty Award for Excellence in Research in the School of Engineering and Applied Science at the University of Pennsylvania for discoveries and innovations in high-throughput screening and micro-array technology as having “revolutionized the field.” Diamond is the Arthur E. Humphrey Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at the University of Pennsylvania. Diamond was also elected as a fellow of the Biomedical Engineering Society during the society’s annual fall meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. Diamond is currently serving on the school’s Advisory Council.

1980s

Molly Tschang, B.S. Ch.E. ’85, managing director of international programs at Cisco, led a delegation to conduct an information and communication technologies workshop with women leaders of self-help groups in Warangal, India, on the use of computers and Internet services. Cisco, a giant in the IT sector, is working in collaboration with the Andhra Pradesh government to empower rural women through IT training.

Margot Vigeant, B.S. Ch.E. ’94, associate professor of chemical engineering at Bucknell University, was elected chair of the Chemical Engineering Division of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE). Margot has also been named the 2009 recipient of the ASEE Chemical Engineering Division Ray W. Fahien Award for her teaching excellence and contribution to chemical engineering education.

The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers, an ANSI member and accredited standards developer, announced that Debra K. Brunk, Ph.D. Ch.E. ’97, has been promoted to vice president of technical services. She will lead AHAM’s technical services department and oversee its participation in external standards organizations.

Ali Alemozafar, B.S. Ch.E. ’99, completed a Ph.D. at Stanford and a postdoctoral research fellowship at Harvard. While he enjoyed research, he wanted to try work that would allow him to apply his understanding of science and technology. He is attending law school and is interested in patent law. Alemozafar is currently working as a law clerk at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati.

Julie Goddard, B.S. Ch.E. ’99, has completed her Ph.D. in food science at Cornell. She and her husband have accepted appointments as assistant professors in food science at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Julie is presently a post-doctoral associate in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Cornell.

1990s

Charles Jerdonek, B.S. Ch.E. ’94, associate professor of chemical engineering at Bucknell University, was elected chair of the Chemical Engineering Division of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE). Margot has also been named the 2009 recipient of the ASEE Chemical Engineering Division Ray W. Fahien Award for her teaching excellence and contribution to chemical engineering education.

The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers, an ANSI member and accredited standards developer, announced that Debra K. Brunk, Ph.D. Ch.E. ’97, has been promoted to vice president of technical services. She will lead AHAM’s technical services department and oversee its participation in external standards organizations.

Ali Alemozafar, B.S. Ch.E. ’99, completed a Ph.D. at Stanford and a postdoctoral research fellowship at Harvard. While he enjoyed research, he wanted to try work that would allow him to apply his understanding of science and technology. He is attending law school and is interested in patent law. Alemozafar is currently working as a law clerk at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati.

Julie Goddard, B.S. Ch.E. ’99, has completed her Ph.D. in food science at Cornell. She and her husband have accepted appointments as assistant professors in food science at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Julie is presently a post-doctoral associate in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Cornell.

2000s

Benjamin Davis, B.S. Ch.E. ’02, will be a tenure-track assistant professor of chemical engineering at Cooper Union starting in the fall. In spring 2009 Davis graduated from UCLA with a Ph.D.

Charles Jerdonek, B.S. Ch.E. ’02, and Pearl Ann Hendrix, ILR ’02, currently live with their two-year-old son Zeb in Franklin Park, NJ. Zeb will soon have a little brother—they are expecting another boy on October 31. Charles is working as a market research manager at Cordis Corporation, a Johnson & Johnson Company. He runs a team that develops and runs custom research projects to inform strategic decision making in all areas of the business, including new product design and development, sales, marketing, and business development. Hendrix, who is an attorney, recently made a career change and now works as an administrative specialist with the New Jersey Judiciary.

Joe Sobota, B.S. Ch.E. ’03, works for Automation & Control Specialists and was recently transferred from Centocor to GSK Bio. He is working with several other Cornell ChemE grads and shares an office with Blake Walther ’06. His wife graduated from Pratt Institute in May 2009, and, long overdue for a vacation, they celebrated by taking a Caribbean cruise.

Robert Ferris, B.S. Ch.E. ’04, enrolled in a Ph.D. program in materials science engineering at Duke University’s Pratt School of Engineering in 2008. Rob is excited by the ability to pursue a concurrent M.B.A. degree at the Fuqua School of Business. Building upon his undergraduate research experiences at Cornell, his research focuses on nanolithographic techniques for localized chemical surface modification with applications in surface catalysis, SARS, and membrane coatings. He plans to combine his technical degree in engineering with Fuqua’s entrepreneurial concentration for developing new technology.
After graduation, Vikram Mathrani, B.S. Ch.E. '04, worked for a year at the FDA and then went to law school at Northwestern University. He finished law school last summer and now works at the law firm Ropes & Gray in New York as an associate in their patent litigation group.

Meredith Krazter, B.S. Ch.E. '05, is a Ph.D. candidate in chemical engineering at the University of Illinois, Urbana. She is a co-author of the book *Charged Semiconductor Defects*, published by Springer in 2009 as part of the Structure, Thermodynamics, and Diffusion Series: Engineering Materials and Processes.

In June 2008, Andrew Leugers, B.S. Ch.E. '05, transitioned from a process development engineering role at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals to become a consultant at Stroud Consulting. He joined many Cornell engineers at Stroud in Boston, including Namrata Kothari, B.S., Ch.E. '08. Leugers has spent the last year working on multiple projects both in the Alberta Oils Sands at a large petroleum company and in Minneapolis at a food and beverage plant. He is in the process of another transition—he is currently leaving Stroud consulting to look for work in Germany.

Matt McCord, B.S. Ch.E. '05, married Bertha Reagan Thabruté (Iowa State University '05 and Ursuline College '07) in September 2008. The occasion also served to motivate a reunion of McCord’s process design team.

Rich Davidson, B.S. Ch.E. ’05, M.Eng. Ch.E. ’06, is based in Miami, FL, working in research and development with Johnson & Johnson. His research and development team is developing the new drug-eluting stent, NEVO, which recently produced superior results in clinical trials.

Esther Park, B.S. Ch.E. ’06, has been accepted at the University of California, San Francisco Pharmacy School. She will begin her studies in fall 2009.

Jeanne (Panels) Visser, M.S. Ch.E. ’06, married and moved to West Springfield, MA, where her husband recently graduated from law school. She works for The Dennis Group in Springfield, an engineering firm that builds food-processing plants.
Diane Wuest, B.S. Ch.E. ’06, will be leaving Genentech to pursue a Ph.D. with a focus in biotechnology in the University of Delaware’s chemical engineering program.

Yang Lu, B.S. Ch.E. ’07, is currently working as a pre-sales consultant for Planisware USA, Inc., which is a small software company that specializes in enterprise project management, cost management, and resource management. Lu has been based in San Francisco but will be moving to Princeton, NJ, early next year.

Seun Smith, B.S. Ch.E. ’07, sends greetings from a very warm Nigeria, specifically from his vantage point about 100 km offshore! Smith is working on the Bonga FPSO (floating production storage and off-loading vessel) with Shell and reports that it’s great to be back home.

Christine Tuminello, B.S. Ch.E. ’07, transferred to an offshore role with Shell at their newest platform in the Gulf in 2008. She writes, “The work out here is really awesome; I find it so interesting.” Before moving offshore, she worked in the office for a year doing a process engineering job. During her time off, Tuminello travels the world.

Carly Anderson, B.S. Ch.E. ’08, is working for Dominion Engineering, Inc., which is developing some new plant-maintenance technologies and is doing very well despite the economy. She is mainly working on chemical process development and design for the nuclear industry, although she is also doing some materials reliability analyses and providing on-site support for chemical cleanings of steam generators.

Matt Dumouchel ’08 and Carly spent a week in Paris learning about pressurized water reactors, then spent three weeks at a PWR nuclear plant in Thionville, France, in April, providing corrosion monitoring support for a chemical cleaning. Carly returned to the plant for most of July and August to provide chemistry support for another unit. Matt has been mostly involved in materials reliability and water-coolant chemistry analysis.

Krysten Derhaag, B.S. Ch.E.’08, finished her first year of law school and is interning for the summer at a pharmaceutical company in NYC. Her internship in the intellectual property department is a great mix of her engineering and law education. Derhaag married Matt Dietly, B.S. AEP ’06 and M.Eng. ’07 in August 2009.

Insun Hwang, B.S. Ch.E. ’07, M. Eng. Ch.E. ’08, is working in an environmental consulting firm in California as an air-quality engineer. She estimates emissions of air pollutants, such as NOx, CO, PM, and ROG, and writes the air-quality portion of environmental impact assessments.

Rami Madadin, M.Eng. Ch.E. ’08, is working as a start-up manager for a project at P&G in Dammam, Saudi Arabia. He has been traveling in recent months for preparation. His work has taken him to the Czech Republic; Beijing, China; Germany; Cairo, Egypt; and Brussels, Belgium. Once the project is completed, he will be the operation manager.

Emily L. Reasor, B.S. Ch.E. ’08, is working for McKinsey in Chicago. She finds the job challenging and exciting due in part to the continual change in work. She has had the chance to work on both energy efficiency and climate change studies, related to the Eastside with all the light ends and polypropylene. She writes that it is “interesting to actually see how what we learned the past four years is actually used.”
In Memoriam

We are sad to note the passing of a number of alumni this past year. They live on in our memories.


William T. Bedenk, B. S. Ch. E. ’50. December 18, 2008, Newnan, Georgia


Gifford G. Briggs, B. S. Ch. E. ’50. January 20, 2009, Cincinnati, Ohio

O. Thomas Buffalow, Jr., B. S. Ch. E. ’45. March 27, 2009, San Mateo, California

Jeremiah R. Dineen, B. S. Ch.E. ’82. February 6, 2009, Yorktown Heights, New York

James Gillin, B.S. Ch.E. ’47; Ph.D. Ch.E. ’51. December 8, 2008, North Palm Beach, Florida

Walter L. Holmes, B. S. Ch. E. ’50. November 18, 2008, Sugar Land, Texas

Philip G. Horton, B. S. Ch. E. ’58. September 21, 2008, Tucson, Arizona

Ivar N. Hultman, Jr., B. S. Ch. E. ’51, January 7, 2009, Rochester, New York

Mark D. Inskeep, B. S. Ch. E. ’54, January 8, 2009, Wheaton, Illinois

Jay V. Jackson, M.S. Ch.E. ’71; Ph.D. Ch.E. ’74. April 8, 2009, Wilmette, Illinois

R. Edward Lodico, B. S. Ch.E. ’53, June 3, 2009, Findlay, Ohio

Stuart W. Knight, B. S. Ch. E. ’60, September 12, 2008, Tustin, California

Frederick W. Mader, M.S. Ch.E. ’51. December 12, 2008, West Grove, Pennsylvania

Robert A. Meier, B.S. Ch.E. ’85, November 26, 2008, Clinton, New York

Donald L. Michelsen, Ph.D. Ch.E. ’67, July 23, 2008, Blacksburg, Virginia


Robert P. Zabel, B. S. Ch. E. ’43, November 16, 2008, Webster, New York

The Board of Trustees reappointed Professor Lynden Archer to the Marjorie Hart Chair of Chemical Engineering. As featured in last year’s OHN, Lynden co-leads the $25M KAUST-Cornell Center for Energy and Sustainability that focuses on issues such as enhanced oil recovery, solar energy, carbon sequestration, and water desalination. Archer is an internationally recognized leader in the field of rheology, the study of flow and deformation of complex fluids. Despite his involvement with research and running a very large group of graduate students, he also found time to excel as an instructor. For his superb teaching of undergraduate Fluid Mechanics, Archer was awarded a College of Engineering teaching award in 2008.

Professor Paulette Clancy was the inaugural Advance Lecturer in the College of Engineering at Iowa State University in April.

Assistant Professor Susan Daniel won a 2009 Affinito-Stewart grant, sponsored by the President’s Council of Cornell Women, for her project on the effect of cell-membrane curvature on virus fusion. This spring, she was awarded a Cornell grant to bring new technologies to teaching the required sophomore course Mass and Energy Balances in fall 2009.

In May 2009, Matthew DeLisa was promoted to associate professor with indefinite tenure. His research focuses on understanding and controlling the molecular mechanisms underlying protein biogenesis in cells, including folding and assembly, membrane translocation, and post-translational modifications. His research accomplishments in the area of molecular biotechnology have been supported by excellence in teaching and considerable service to the school and to the broader biotechnology community. DeLisa was the 2009 Annual Allan Colburn Lecturer in Chemical Engineering at the University of Delaware. This prestigious lectureship recognizes “young faculty or engineers who best exemplify Allan Colburn’s scholarly abilities on pragmatic as well as theoretical problems and his interest in all humanity.”

Matthew DeLisa was also named as the winner of the Cornell Provost’s Award for Distinguished Scholarship, which recognizes outstanding research by young faculty. He was chosen for his contributions to “discovery, design, and manufacturing of human therapeutics and for his discovery of a major new biological pathway.” Assistant Professor Tobias Hanrath played the key role in demonstrating the first ever nanocrystal-based excitonic solar cells with a power conversion efficiency of 3.4 percent, ranking among the highest-performing nanocrystal-based solar cells reported to date. The encapsulation of these nanomaterials in an inorganic matrix effectively eliminates risks associated with leaching of the compound semiconductor materials and presents a route toward the environmentally benign use of compound semiconductor nanomaterials.

Professor William Olbricht will serve as acting chair of the Department of Biomedical Engineering while Mike Shuler is on sabbatical leave for the fall 2009 semester. This appointment is a measure of the high regard with which Olbricht is considered by the college and the faculty of BME.

Professor Paul Steen was named as the new holder of the prestigious Maxwell M. Upson Professor in Engineering, effective November 1, 2008, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to research as well as his talent as a teacher and mentor. His research in the area of fluid instabilities is characterized by a singular clarity of vision, a deep interest in understanding and shaping the natural world and capturing its essence through mathematical representation. “I get an incredible thrill from doing this work,” Steen says. “It’s still amazing to me that we have this way of connecting numbers to physical phenomena. The range of predicting and understanding instabilities is just a fundamental fascination for me. And underneath it all, I like the idea of taking a mathematical proof and seeing it connect with something we can all use.” His recent projects include an electrical switch made of water and a method for spin-casting metal in thin, continuous
sheets. He invented an electro-osmotic droplet switch, which drew its inspiration from nature, specifically from palm beetles capable of super-adhesive strength to surfaces (Spiderman capability).

Abraham D. Stroock was promoted to associate professor with indefinite tenure, effective November 1, 2008. His work in microfluidics, in advancing our understanding of vascular systems, in soft systems, even in creating artificial trees, has come to be renowned for its scholarship and creativity. Stroock has left an indelible mark on the teaching of Heat and Mass Transfer and in redesigning and teaching graduate kinetics and diffusion. For his teaching, he was awarded a College of Engineering teaching prize in 2006.

Stroock also has won a Camille Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award for 2009. Camille Dreyfus Teacher-Scholars are chosen as those who exemplify leadership in research and education with “compelling evidence of the advance of important knowledge in the chemical sciences and dedication and contributions to education in the chemical sciences, particularly with respect to undergraduates.” Stroock’s leadership in redesigning ChE 3240 and co-teaching ChE 7130—as well as the strength of the student evaluations of his teaching—were important in this regard, as were his achievements in scholarly research, his awards and honors, the caliber of his research publications, and the quality of his research proposal.

Assistant Professor Jeff Varner received a 2009 NSF CAREER award. CAREER funding represents NSF’s most prestigious award in support of the early career-development activities of teacher-scholars who “most effectively integrate research and education within the context of the mission of their organization.” Varner’s project centers on understanding the molecular basis of adult stem-cell proliferation and differentiation, one of the greatest unmet challenges facing molecular cell biology. His program will use both experimental and computational approaches to unravel the response of HL-60 (human myeloblastic leukemia) cells to agents such as vitamin A, as a model for the study of proliferation and differentiation.

Varner’s educational component and outreach program will improve awareness of the role of chemical engineering in emerging areas of molecular and cell biology, particularly stem-cell biology, introducing undergraduates and high-school students to a variety of experimental and computational tools to better understand the complexities of stem-cell and cancer biology. His program could result in advanced stem-cell therapies for the treatment of a spectrum of human cancers, spinal-cord injuries, and neurodegenerative disorders.

Announcement of New Provost

Cornell University President David Skorton has named our former dean, Kent Fuchs, as provost of the university. This is a well-deserved promotion given Fuchs’s leadership of the College of Engineering over the past six years. It will be reassuring to have him at the helm of the university. He will bring an analytical mind to our challenges and advance our indubitable research and educational strengths.

Christopher K. Ober, F. N. Bard Professor of Materials Engineering and a member of our graduate field, has been named interim dean of the college.
Bonnie Sisco retired on June 30, after 38 years of service to Cornell University. She worked first in the Chemical Engineering Library, then as a departmental secretary in CBE. Sisco served as an administrative assistant to Michael Shuler, Samuel B. Eckert Professor of Chemical Engineering and currently James M. and Marsha McCormick Chair of Biomedical Engineering, since he joined the faculty in 1974.

When Schuler started as an assistant professor there were no copiers, fax machines, or computers. Carbon paper was essential. Typing mistakes were painful; often a whole page would need to be retyped if there were a few errors. “Bonnie rarely made a mistake, which was a big plus for us,” Schuler recalls. “Additionally, Bonnie was fun.”

Schuler credits Sisco with much of his success. “Bonnie has always been eager to learn new technologies and to help make our work more efficient,” he explains. “Bonnie also developed great relationships with graduate students. They would often tell her things that they were reluctant to tell me. She would give me a nudge to do the right thing to help students and make the research group work well together.”

Sisco helped Schuler develop bioengineering on campus. At one time or another, she was coordinator for the undergraduate bioengineering concentration, accountant for bioengineering, graduate field secretary for biomedical engineering, and assistant to the chair. She was a one-person departmental staff!

Staff and faculty from the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering joined the Department of Biomedical Engineering for a retirement lunch in Sisco’s honor in Weill Hall, on June 26.

Mike Shuler spoke for all in saying: “Bonnie’s retirement is well deserved, and I wish her much happiness. I will certainly miss her professional help, and I will miss her as a person.”

Jim Marco, computer operations manager in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, is taking the slow route to retirement. He began phased retirement on July 1. Marco started at Cornell in 1999 in the Department of Soils, Crops, and Atmospheric Sciences and came to CBE in 2001. He provides IT support for approximately 400 desktop machines. That number includes machines for faculty, staff, grad students, undergrad students, and the server infrastructure. Marco will work part-time and enjoy having a lot more free time. He says that he will have to take some free time to think of what he is going to do with all his free time. “Likely build furniture, boats, and hike a bit.”

2009 Service Recognitions for Staff

10 Years
Shelby Clark-Shevalier
Jim Marco

20 Years
Colleen McClenahan

25 Years
Sally Carland
Your gifts are our lifeline. Help us to keep our competitive edge in recruiting the best undergraduate students and graduate students (just as we were able to recruit you) and to attract and retain the highest quality faculty.

Contribute to any of the projects listed here, or simply make an unrestricted gift to the school to allow the director the flexibility to put your gift toward our most urgent needs.

Please make checks payable to "Cornell University" and note in the memo section of the check if this is a special fund (unrestricted, Olin renovation, Ray Thorpe Chair, Industrial Practitioner Program) or write us an accompanying letter stating your intentions for the use of the funds.

Olin Hall Renovation Fund (Fund 0003240)
This is by far our single biggest expense. But the extensive renovation helps us recruit the best undergraduates, graduates, staff, and faculty, as we always have. This is our top priority for fund-raising.

Of the $15M project, we have several million dollars still to raise:
- Contribute to the Chemical Engineering Building Fund.
- Name a classroom, laboratory, or student space for you or your loved ones.
- Renovate and name a lab to start a new experimental program using adult (not fetal) stem cells to study cell differentiation as part of an innovative cancer treatment program in Professor Jeff Varner's lab.
- Renovate and name a lab to fabricate solar cells to leverage the record-setting performance achieved in 2009 by Professor Tobias Hanrath's group.

Ray Thorpe Chair Fund (Fund 0001901)
This endowed chair will provide one final honor to an inspirational teacher. We are so close to finishing this fund: We have approximately $1.4M of the $2M that is needed.

There is a generous 1:1 challenge in effect from Robert Smith. He will match up to $250,000 of donations of his '85 and '86 classmates to the fund.

Industrial Practitioner Program (Fund 251921)
Industrial Practitioners are seasoned industry veterans who lead the senior year experiences in the Unit Operations Laboratory and Process Design course. This program costs us more than $100,000 annually from our unrestricted gifts and is the school’s second biggest expense (after the renovation debt). It’s a wonderful program that puts the professional polish on our book-smart students.

As a bonus, this program supports the teaching of Energy Economics and Energy Engineering courses in our M. Eng. concentration in Sustainable Energy Systems [partially funded by Shell Oil Company for the last three years].

We want to endow two full-time positions. We have approximately $1.3M of the $2M we need for this great program.

Annual Unrestricted Gifts
Annual unrestricted gifts are a godsend to the director to fund educational initiatives. In these fiscally constrained times, your gift could not be more appreciated. Your annual gift of $1,000, for example, is equivalent to the income from a $25,000 endowment.

Thank you for your gift!

If you would like to make a donation or have any questions about giving, please contact the director at cbe_director@cornell.edu or call our alumni affairs and development officer, Hilary Diekow, at 607-220-4066.
Upcoming Events

Fall 2009

Homecoming
October 16–18
Big Red vs. Fordham
Join us for a warm “tailgate party” after the game.
Fred H. Rhodes Lounge, 128 Olin Hall

Raymond G. Thorpe Lecture
Monday, November 2
Speaker: Peter Wright, B.S. Ch. E. ’75, P.A.W. Partners
Details will be announced on our web site:
www.cheme.cornell.edu/cheme/news/lectures/index.cfm

Cornell AIChE Reception
November 10, 7–9 p.m.
Radisson Hotel at Opryland, McGavock Ballroom,
2401 Music Valley Drive, Nashville, TN

Spring 2010

Julian C. Smith Lecture
Details will be announced on our web site:
www.cheme.cornell.edu/cheme/news/lectures/index.cfm

Reunion Breakfast
Saturday, June 12, 8-11 a.m.
Olin Hall Tent on Ho Plaza
(Fred H. Rhodes Lounge, in case of rain)