



SPRING 2009

E n g i n e e r i n g

Published by the MSU College of Engineering for Alumni, Friends and Faculty

New housing option for women in engineering and science at MSU

adapted from an article by Michael Becker, MSU News Service

When incoming freshman Bonnie Snow picked up her housing application, her eye was immediately drawn to Montana State University's newest housing option.

That option is an academic themed residence hall floor for women studying science and engineering. Snow, a chemical engineering major, signed up. "I thought it would be great because it's a ready-made study group," said Snow, a native of Sandpoint, Idaho.

MSU's Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) floor is in all-female Hannon Hall. A total of 26 women, almost all studying science or engineering, live on the floor.

It resulted from a partnership between the College of Engineering and Residence Life. MSU's theme floors also include an engineering floor in MSU's all-male Langford Hall.

Jeff Bondy, associate director of residence life, said academic theme floors help students connect to others with similar classes and homework. "It's really an enrichment program for the residents," Bondy said. "This is the right thing for students."

WISE residents can access a tutoring program and study sessions held on the floor, said Heidi Sherick, COE's assistant dean for undergraduate programs and diversity.

WISE residents can also attend events that involve successful women in science and engineering, which help students find positive female role models, Sherick said.

Prospective female engineering students often ask if MSU has such theme floors. Now the answer is "yes," said Sherick, who noted that this semester has seen the largest number of women enter the COE in a decade.

WISE will help build a community, Sherick said, because science and engineering majors often take common classes during the first year. And students comfortable in their majors tend to stay at MSU longer and have a better chance of graduating, she said.

For Snow, the floor has made it easier to transition into life at college hundreds of miles from home. "There aren't many people I know in classes yet, so it's a really good place for me to get to know people and the university," she said.

COE plays a key role in alternative energy efforts

adapted from articles by Michael Becker, MSU News Service



Engineering student Cole Young (left) and Professor Robb Larson adjust wind turbine blades before raising the 50-foot-tall turbine into place. (MSU photo by Michael Becker)

CARBON SEQUESTRATION. In November the U.S. Department of Energy awarded \$66.9 million grant to the Big Sky Carbon Sequestration Partnership at Montana State University to inject a million tons of carbon dioxide beneath southwestern Wyoming.

The partnership will use the grant for its Phase III project, a commercial-scale, eight-year carbon sequestration study. They will spend two years building infrastructure and drilling an 11,000-foot well into the sandstone rock layer west of Big Piney, Wyo. During years three through five, the partnership will inject more than a million metric tons of CO₂ into the underground formation. Researchers expect the project to demonstrate that underground geologic formations can store large volumes of CO₂ economically, safely and permanently.

Almost three dozen faculty, staff and students at MSU will be involved in aspects of the project ranging from education to project management to geochemistry.

Founded in 2003, the partnership is one of seven regional partnerships the DOE supports. In addition to MSU, three national laboratories, half a dozen regional universities and numerous federal agencies, private companies and industrial partners comprise the partnership.

MICROBES. Microbiologist Matthew Fields tries to understand how interactions on a microscopic scale could change how we think of energy production, climate change and even soil contamination. Fields studies microbes, tiny organisms that have inhabited virtually every square inch of the earth's surface for the past 3.5 billion years.

Fields is particularly interested in how microbes can be harnessed for human use. Last year, he received a five-year \$1.65 million grant from the DOE to study how microbes living together interact. Microbes remain mysterious partly because of the way they have traditionally been studied in the lab, Fields said. Researchers usually grow cultures of single microbe species and then explore how those monocultures react to different stimuli.

The grant is part of the Virtual Institute for Microbial Stress and Survival, a project led by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Fields' work involves researchers at MSU and five other universities across the country, as well as scientists at three national laboratories.

WIND. In April, the DOE chose MSU as home for Montana's Wind Applications Center (WAC), which helps teach the public about wind energy and brings wind topics into engineering classes for MSU students. Montana is among the first six states to have a WAC.

On October 13, MSU also became home to a working wind turbine, thanks to a crew of students, faculty, staff and volunteers who hoisted the 50-foot-tall tower into place.

The turbine stands in a field just off Fifth Avenue on the southeast side of MSU. The crew worked through snow and cold weather for three days to install the

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Letter from the Dean

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Dean of the
College of Engineering
Robert Marley

Dear Friends of the COE,

In this new year we face exciting opportunities, despite inevitable fiscal challenges posed by the global economic downturn. Now more than ever, we are all bound together and face challenges that cannot be solved in isolation.

Fortunately, the COE is on track in preparing students to work with professionals in other disciplines. We also now offer more degree options and a Web Design course cross-listed in Computer Science and Art.

Our faculty members routinely collaborate beyond their departmental boundaries and even international borders. Students, whose lives are more globally connected than those of previous generations, need such role models. Students see firsthand that collaboration can supply synergy and more flexible, engaging roles for people working in teams.

Dynamic COE researchers also attract funds for world-class research labs, like the new Subzero Science and Engineering Research Facility. About \$2 million in grants from the National Science Foundation and the Murdock Charitable Trust covered many of the state-of-the-art instrumentation costs. Its capabilities caught the attention of New York Times reporter Jim Robbins and recently head-

lined on the prestigious Times' Science section.

MSU researchers can now securely store and use rare ice samples in a cold class 1000 clean room, exert precise experimental controls, simulate sunlight, test construction materials and calibrate scientific instruments in extremely cold conditions, as low as -60°C. Faculty and students can test full-scale bridge components in a lab with a strong floor, observe wetlands throughout freeze-thaw cycles, and study microbial life in ice. Ultimate goals include making it safer to traverse avalanche-prone areas, solving climate mysteries, and finding durable, environmentally safe building materials. Researchers' backgrounds encompass engineering disciplines, earth science and environmental sciences. An exercise physiologist is expected to use the facility soon. Subzero is just one example of maximizing impact.

I remain very pleased with the quality of our faculty and their positive impacts on students. Especially in these difficult times, your assistance is greatly appreciated. Those who generously donated to the COE this year are listed in this issue. Please go online (www.coe.montana.edu) to read the latest news. Contact me or visit us for details about how we are meeting challenges head-on.

Sincerely,

Robert Marley, Dean

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turbine, said Robb Larson, who heads MSU's WAC and was in charge of the installation.

The DOE expects wind to provide 20 percent of the country's electricity by 2030. The department estimates that by 2030 Montana's wind industry could increase its capacity from 166 to 10,000 megawatts -- enough to power about 2.5 million homes.

ALGAE. The DOE recently awarded Montana State University and Utah State University a three-year \$900,000 grant to study oil produced by algae, which could be a renewable source of biodiesel.

Brent Peyton, chemical and biological engineering, is the principal investigator. "I wanted to use natural organisms not just to break something down but to produce something," said Peyton, who earned his doctorate at MSU in 1992. "This work is an opportunity to use my bioprocessing skills to produce something of value to society."

Algae can produce more usable oil per acre than crops like canola or soybeans, Peyton said. Soybeans produce about 50 gallons of oil per acre per year; an acre of canola produces about 130 gallons per year. Algae, however, could produce at least 4,000 gallons of oil per acre in the same time.



Microbiology graduate students Kara DeLeon, left, and Kristen Brileya prepare soil samples in Matthew Fields' laboratory in the Center for Biofilm Engineering for transport to a research site. (MSU Photo by Kelly Gorham)

Honor Roll of Donors Fiscal Year 2007-2008 We would like to thank all those alumni, friends and corporations who generously donated to the College of Engineering during this fiscal year (July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008). Your support is vitally important to the college and enables us to provide our students with the very best skills to ensure their success. Your generosity has enabled us to provide scholarships, state-of-the-art equipment and excellent facilities for our students. Donors listed in italics contributed \$1,000 or more to the college, including matching gifts. The * denotes deceased. The † denotes annual gifts made all or in part to the Air Force and Army ROTC programs, which are departments of the College of Engineering. Your support and involvement continues to advance the tradition of excellence exemplified by Montana State University students in engineering, computer science, and ROTC. Thank you.

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PLEASE NOTE: We have a new reporting system for gifts that is being tested through a published honor roll of donors for the first time in the following pages. We have made every attempt to provide a complete and accurate list, but if you see errors, please let us know! phone: 406-994-1564; fax: 406-994-6665 or e-mail: ebrock@coe.montana.edu

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Mark Gordon
John & Linda Harris
DarLyn & James Harris
Col. Gerald & Patricia
Harvey
David & Shanna Henry
Stanley & Sharon Henson
Emmabell Herak

Marianne Hill
Helen I. Hoffman
Robert & Carolyn
Hoffman
Chief Master Sgt. Robert
& June Humphreys
Chris & Maureen Jenkins
Lillian Johnson*
Jerome Johnson
Margaret Johnson*
Max & Gloria Johnson
Homer & Jean Julian
Mary Kampschor*
Barbara Kennedy
Eleanor Kleinfelder*
Capt. Scott Lange
Col. George Ledbetter*
Anna Lehman
Dr. Robert & Lynn Maher
Dr. Robert Marley &
Margaret Maben '94
Dr. John & Sandra
Mandell
Col. Martha Maurer
Mary McCrodden
Elizabeth McGuire
Dr. Bruce McLeod
Myrna Metz
David Mezzacappa
Carol Migel
Jean Miller
Douglas & Allison Miller
Martha Missimer
Col. Daniel & Cheryl
Mumaugh
Alice Murphy
Dr. Hashem & Maryam
Nehrir
Susan Neugebauer
John & Janet Nord
Ronold & Debra Norton
Col. Mary Parker
Marvin & Carol Parmer
Donna Parry
James & Carol Patton
Olive Pearce
Lester & Linda Peters
William Quinn Jr.
Janice Rauker
Eugene & Kathryn
Raynaud
Col. Eric Redifer
James & Loretta Risner
Jean Robinson
Nancy Ross
Dr. Robert '65 & Edith
Sanks
Rebecca Sappington
Patricia Schmechel
Joseph & Margaret Shaw
Richard & Janice Simms
Dorothy Sparling
D. Michael & Debbie
Steuert
Martha Steven
S. Stubblebine
Doris Talcott
Robert Taylor
Karen Thomas
William & Eleonore
Thuemmel
Katherine Titus
Alan & Marilyn
Townsend
Harvey & Louise Urdahl
Frederick Valentine
Timothy & Amy Van
Splunder
Catherine Walsh
Bill & Carolyn
Wehrmacher
Theresa Weller
Theodore Williams
Charlotte Williamson
Dr. Richard Wolff & Janel
Carino
Linda & Dr. William
Wyckoff
Lt. Gen. Michael Zettler

CORPORATIONS & FOUNDATIONS

3M Company

Accenture Foundation,
Inc.
Agilent Technologies,
Inc.
Air Liquide America
Corporation
Alliant Techsystems
Allied Engineering
Services, Inc.
America's Charities
Amgen Foundation
Astronics Advanced
Electronic Systems
Corp.
Autodesk, Inc.
Ayers Farms
BAE Systems
BP Foundation, Inc.
BP Matching Fund
Program
BWC, Inc.
Ball Corporation
Bank of America
Corporate Affairs
Beavers Charitable Trust
Bechtel Foundation
Becton Dickinson & Co
Bennett Law Office, PC
Blankenship
Construction
Boeing Company
Boesh Engineering &
Testing
Bozeman Dental
Associates
Burlington Northern
Santa Fe Fdn.
C & H Engineering &
Surveying, Inc.
Capital Group
Companies
Cargill, Inc.
Castle Rock Geotechnical
Engineering
Caterpillar Foundation,
Inc.
Cephalon
ChevronTexaco
Corporation
Chi Epsilon
Cisco Systems Inc.
Clearwater Engineering
The Collision Shop, Inc.
ConAgra Foundation,
CC-305
ConocoPhillips
Construction
Management Services
Coyote Creek
Construction, Inc.
CTS Unlimited, LLC
D. J. Sievers Construction
DCP Midstream
Delta Air Lines
Foundation
Dow Chemical Company
Foundation
Eagle Butte Farm
Partnership
El Paso Corporation
Eli Lilly Foundation
Engineering, Inc.
Exxon Mobil Foundation
Fidelity Investments
Charitable Gift Fund
First Interstate
BancSystem
Foundation
The Fluor Foundation
GenCorp Company &
Foundation
General Construction Co.
General Electric
Company
Genie Industries, Inc.
Great West Engineering
Great Western Energy
Inc.
Green Diamond Resource
Co.
Halliburton Fdn
Heart & Soul Herbs, Inc.
Hein Accounting Services
Henry P. Kendall
Foundation
Hewlett-Packard Co.

Higgins Consulting
Engineers, LLC
HKM Engineering
Hoffman Trust
Hot Springs Telephone
Co
IBM
ITG
Ingram-Clevenger, Inc.
Intel Foundation
Irish American Tavern of
Montana, LLC
Isaacson & Associates,
Inc.
J.U.B. Engineers, Inc.
Jack H. McNulty PE, Inc.
Lakeside Industries
Lamer Engineering,
Inc.
Lexmark International,
Inc.
Lockheed Martin
Corporation
MDU Resources
Foundation
MM & O Management
LLC
M & K Farms, Inc.
McGuire Ranch
Medtronic Foundation
Micron Technology
Microsoft Corporation
Microsoft Giving
Campaign
Minerals Technologies,
Inc.
Missoula Concrete
Construction
Mobil Retirees
Montana Contractors
Association
Montana Contractors
Association
Montana Enterprises, Inc.
Montana Sec of ASME
Moonlight Basin Ranch
Mor-Berg, Inc.
Morrison Maierle, Inc.
Motiva Enterprises, LLC
Motorola Company
Munsinger, LLC
Myrna Associates, Inc.
National Fish and
Wildlife Foundation
Newmont Mining Corp
NIKE, Inc.
North Products, Inc.
Northrop Grumman
Space Technology
Old Main Gallery &
Framing
Pacific Gas & Electric
Pam Imports
Pennsylvania Power &
Light
Pfizer, Inc.
Plum Creek Foundation
Portland General Electric
Co.
Potlatch Corp.
ProLogis Foundation
Procter & Gamble
Company
QLogic Corporation
Qualcomm
Quantel USA
Quantum Financial
Planning Services, Inc.
Quest Civil Constructors,
Inc.
Qwest Foundation
Raytheon Company
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LLC
RightNow Technologies
Rio Tinto Energy America
Services Co.
Robert Peccia & Assoc
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SCS Engineers
Schwab Fund for
Charitable Giving
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 Telesoft Management Services, LLC
 Texas Instruments Foundation
 Thomas, Dean & Hoskins, Inc.
 Tow Haul
 Toyota USA Foundation
 Triplepoint Inc.
 Turner Construction Company
 Headquarters
 United Materials of Great Falls, Inc.
 Vaughan's Price Publishing Co. Inc.
 Vectren Corporation
 Vialand
 Washington Mutual Savings Bank
 Wells Fargo Matching Gift Program
 Western Engineering Constructors,
 Inc.

Westwater Construction Company
 Weyerhaeuser Co Fdn
 Wilburforce Foundation
 Wind River Pediatrics
 Windermere Real Estate/Whitefish
 Woodcock Foundation
 Zoot Enterprises

* Denotes deceased.

‡ Denotes gifts to Air Force or Army ROTC.

Italicized text denotes gifts of \$1,000 or more.

Memorial Gifts FY '07 - '08

The following people have been remembered through gifts made to the College of Engineering. We are grateful to those who pay tribute to their friends and loved ones in this meaningful way.

Dr. Lloyd Berg	Ormonde Jackson	Wilbur Carlton	Mark Andrew
Melvin Jack Burns	Earl Wilburn Johnson	McGuire	Robinson
Eugene Guy Conner	Marguerite Johnson*	Peggy McLeod	H. Albert Saner
Dr. Eldon Dodge	Robert Anthony	Lyndon Lee Meeks	Walter Titus
Kenneth Eugene Erhardt	Kennedy	John Haddow Morrison	Aaron Howard
Dr. Stanley Fistedis	Lauren John Krogstad	Rosalie Morrison	Townsend
Lauren Gerald Granmo	Col. George Ledbetter	Blake Walden Morstad	Warren Trask
Ora Griffith	Dr. Robert Edward	Theodore Murphy	John James Walsh
Helen Marie Hoffman	Lowney	Col. Arthur Willard	Dr. Sidney Whitt
Maxine Jackson	Everett McBride	Overturf	Albert Williamson
	Ladora McBride		

Honorary Gifts FY '07 - '08

The following people have been honored by gifts made in their names to the COE. We appreciate these tributes made by friends and loved ones to recognize highly esteemed individuals.

Wilbur John Bennington	David Swick Hoffman	Knox Walter Pilati
Richard Charles Clark	Mary Ann Pearce	Dr. Paul Schillings
Dr. David Gibson	Olive Pearce	William R. Taylor
David Gray Jr.	Donald Pierre	Theodore Williams

Thanks to all who contributed!

We want to ensure the accuracy of this list. If you feel we have made an error, please contact the office of the Dean of Engineering at 406-994-1564.



Meet new COE faculty



Paul Gannon

Paul Gannon has become an assistant professor in Chemical and Biological Engineering. Gannon's teaching and research interests include materials science and engineering for advanced energy technologies. While earning his doctorate degree, Gannon investigated solid oxide fuel cell interconnects, protective coatings and advanced physical vapor deposition technologies. Before accepting his current position, Gannon held various research and development positions with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and Arcomac Surface Engineering, LLC, and was a research assistant professor in ChBE for a short time. He manages a high-temperature corrosion laboratory and integrates student research and education related to energy systems and materials. Gannon earned his doctorate in engineering from MSU in 2007.



Alison Hamilton

Lt. Col. Alison D. Hamilton is the new commander of the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps at Montana State University. Hamilton is a meteorologist and atmospheric scientist. Prior to arriving at MSU, she had held weather-related positions with the U.S. Air Force at Langley Air Force Base, Va.; the Pentagon, serving the White House and the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.; Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany; and Asheville, N.C. As Chief of the Space Environment Division at the Aerospace Data Facility at Buckley Air Force Base, Colo., she was the first weather officer in the Center's 37-year history to be Mission Director. Hamilton earned a Master's of Science degree in Atmospheric Science at Colorado State University in 1996.



Jeffrey Heys

Jeffrey Heys has joined Chemical and Biological Engineering as an assistant professor. Heys uses advanced mathematics to analyze and describe various biological systems. He has studied eyes extensively, but he has also examined blood vessels, particles inhaled and deposited in human airways, drug delivery and fluid-hair interaction. Prior to joining MSU, Heys was a member of the chemical and materials engineering faculty at Arizona State University for four years. While at ASU, Heys was recognized for excellence in teaching by the Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering. Heys earned his master's and doctorate degrees in chemical engineering from the University of Colorado at Boulder. After earning his doctorate in 2001, Heys was a post doctoral fellow in the CU-Boulder Department of Applied Mathematics. Heys is a 1996 graduate of MSU.



Dan Miller

Former Air Force **Lt. Col. Dan Miller** joined Civil Engineering this fall. Before coming to MSU, Miller commanded the 718th Test Squadron at the Arnold Engineering Development Center in Tennessee, the country's largest flight simulation facility. Throughout his 20-plus-year career in the Air Force, Miller worked with space- and ground-based missiles, high-altitude rockets and spacecraft systems. He also taught for seven years at the Air Force Academy's Department of Astronautics as an instructor, lab director, division chief and deputy. Miller, a native of Libby, Mont., earned his doctorate in engineering and applied mechanics in 2002.

See FACULTY page 8

Retirements

Thank you and congratulations to **John Neuman**, Center for Biofilm Engineering's Technical Operations Manager, who retired at the end of 2008.

NOTE: We have begun naming newsletters for the semester when they are mailed. The previous issue was Spring 2008. Recent back issues are online at www.coe.montana.edu/newsletter.html

SPRING 2009 COE

Faculty from page 7

C. Lester Hogan, electronics pioneer, dies at 88

One of the most prominent alumni of Montana State University's College of Engineering passed in 2008. C. Lester Hogan, a brilliant scientist and businessman, was among the early pioneers who ushered in the world's semiconductor industry. He died on Aug. 12 at his home in Atherton, Calif. He was 88.

Hogan earned a chemical engineering degree from MSU in 1942, and MSU awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1967. He and his wife established the C. Lester and Audrey P. Hogan Scholarship in 1988. The Engineering and Physical Sciences building's atrium bears the couple's name in recognition of their support of constructing EPS.

After MSU, Hogan joined the U.S. Navy and worked on acoustic-targeting torpedoes. Fascinated by the work, Hogan earned a doctorate in physics from Lehigh University in 1950.

Hogan's brilliance and hard work in the Navy was recognized by Bell Laboratories, which had a job waiting for him after Lehigh. He distinguished himself at Bell within three months by inventing the microwave gyrator, which allowed electric devices to be smaller. He joined Harvard University in 1953 as an associate professor of applied physics. In 1957, Harvard honored him with the Gordon McKay Professorship of Applied Physics.

In 1958, he left Harvard to join Motorola. When he arrived, Motorola's semiconductor operation had about 300 people. When he left 10 years later as executive vice president, he had built the company into one of the world leaders in semiconductors, with 17,000 employees and sales in excess of \$200 million.

After Motorola, Hogan went on to a successful career as president and CEO of Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corp. He retired in 1985. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Audrey; his daughter, Cheryl Lea Hogan of San Francisco; and two grandsons.

— by Tracy Ellig, MSU News Service

John Sheppard has joined the COE's faculty as the first **RightNow Technologies** Distinguished Professor in Computer Science. He is also an Associate Research Professor in the Department of Computer Science at Johns Hopkins University. Sheppard began lecturing at Hopkins in 1994 and joined its faculty full time in 2005. Prior to this, he was a Fellow at ARINC Incorporated in Annapolis, Md., where he worked for almost 20 years. In 2007 he was elected as a Fellow of IEEE, a professional association for the advancement of technology. An active IEEE member, Sheppard has served in many roles, such as editor, reviewer and committee chair. Sheppard's interests include machine learning and artificial intelligence. He creates models that a computer can use to process uncertain information and handle data linked to the passage of time. Applying probabilistic information in this way can simulate learning in computers and can be used for complex tasks, such as predictive health management and robotic control. Sheppard earned his doctorate in computer science at Hopkins in 1997.

Laura Stanley has accepted a joint appointment as an assistant professor in mechanical and industrial engineering and as a research scientist at the Western Transportation Institute. Stanley attained her doctorate in Industrial Engineering from MSU. Prior to joining MSU, Stanley was an adjunct instructor in Virginia Tech's Industrial and Systems Engineering Department and a research associate at Virginia Tech's Transportation Institute. Stanley has spent the last seven years working on human factors and transportation safety issues, including through partnerships with automotive companies and federal agencies. Stanley is a registered professional ergonomist.



John Sheppard



Laura Stanley