Dear SOMM Academy Members,

Greetings from the Academy, and welcome to the first edition of the SOMM Academy Newsletter. The annual meeting on April 17th was productive and fun, and the Executive Committee felt all Academy members might want to know about the good news being shared at the meeting. In this Newsletter you will find updates from each of the departments highlighting the great things the students and faculty have achieved over the past year, and a copy of the minutes from the meeting. Overall our departments are alive and well, and I think we can all be proud of our alma mater. All indicators are growing, including enrollment, placement, scholarship support, and research funding.

Academy Scholars: This year the scholarship committee decided to award scholarships to one student from each of the seven SOMM disciplines. In past years only two were awarded. Considering the overwhelming response from the students and their families, the desired effect of gaining greater visibility with the students has been achieved.

The 2008 SOMM Academy Scholars: (from left) Kyle Rackers (MetE), Jeff Joggjerst (NucE), Kyle Te (GeoE), Julie Baumann (CoE), Kyle Byacki (GeoE), Matt Bowers (PetE) and Tanya Stephan (MinE).

The Academy has transformed into a group of alumni who are taking action to ensure the long term viability of our home departments. The question is, How can the Academy help ensure the future viability of the SOMM departments?

• Facilities: by providing resources for undergraduate equipment, laboratory/computer facilities, or seeking donations
• Recruiting: by providing endowed scholarships, and giving presentations at K-12 schools near you.
• Placement: by hiring permanent, coop and summer interns, or providing leads to employment opportunities
• Advising: by serving on departmental and university-wide advisory committees
• Inspiration: by your continued support of the Academy Scholars program, and speaking at seminars

Your help and involvement is needed in as many ways as possible, and the best way to learn about what is the best fit for you would be to come to the Academy meetings. The format has changed since last fall – department chairs now present not only what’s new and exciting, but also the key challenges the departments are facing in making sure student success remains a top priority. At the Fall meeting we will visit all three departments and look at their facilities and equipment. With this in mind we are interested in your ideas about what is meaningful to you, and how attendance at the Academy meetings can be improved. Please e-mail us at mmacadmymt@gmail.com.

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The SOMM Academy now has a new and permanent home in the Department of Mining and Nuclear Engineering. Judy Russell is the main contact for the Academy; however, as any miner knows, we work in teams! Shirley Hall and Barbara Robertson are helping when the need comes up. Barb is watching the financial side. Judy’s number is 573.341.7652 or you can reach her via email at jrussell@mst.edu. If you are on campus, stop by and meet the three Ladies!

SAVE THE DATE! The next SOMM Academy meeting will be held on October 17, 2008 - in conjunction with Homecoming.

WE WANT YOU - we need your help and are looking for volunteers. The Academy is changing and we can use all the help we can get! Please join us.

Dianna Tickner
### Materials Science and Engineering

**180 undergrad, 65 graduate students** (76% / 14% growth since 2004)

- **≈ $300K in endowed departmental scholarships** given out in AY07-08; **≈ $75K in competitive scholarships from professional organizations**
- **100% placement rate; ≈ $55K starting salary**

**FY 08 Research #s thru October** (most recent data available)
- **Proposals Awarded:** $4.34M (22.6% of campus total)
- **Expenditures:** $2.18M (19.3% of campus total) with 6.3% of the faculty on campus

### Research

**What’s New**
- **Advanced Steel Castings for Improved Weapons**
- **Improved Castings for Weapons**
- **Microtrac / Nanotrac installed in January ($45K)**

### What’s New

- **17 full time T/TT faculty** (Undergraduate student: faculty ratio = 10.6:1)
  - In 2007, the average MSE faculty member:
    - **Taught 9.2 hours & earned a 3.1 CET score**
    - **Generated $258K in research expenditures**
  - Over past four years, more "Outstanding Teaching Awards" than any department on campus.
  - **Generated $258K in research expenditures**
    - 1 st on campus. Over past four years, more Faculty Excellence Awards than any department on campus.

- **The SOMM Academy provided over $150K to obtain pieces of equipment critically needed for ABET accreditation:**
  - MoSi2 box furnace ($20K)
  - Two annealing furnaces ($5K)
  - TMA-retrofit unit ($5K)
  - MTS compression platens ($4K)

### What’s New

- **2007 Fellow of the American Ceramic Society**
  - Bill Fahrenholtz

- **AFS Award of Scientific Merit**
  - Von Richards

- **FY 08 Research #s thru March, 2008 (last nine months):**
  - **Proposals Awarded:** $1.88 M
    - **Proposal Submitted:** $6.91 M
  - **Geographic Information Systems**
  - **Mechanical Earth Modeling:** $1.70 M

### Research

- **The SOMM Academy provided over** $75 K **to obtain pieces of equipment critically needed for ABET accreditation:**
  - **Core Porosimeter**
  - **Fluid Surface Tensiometer**
  - **Falling Ball Viscometers**
  - **EDP Water Sampling System**
  - **Geophone Testing Equipment**
  - **Ground Penetrating Radar System**
  - **Microscope and photo adapter**
  - **Rock Fall Mapping System**
  - **Many more small items**

### Students

- **130 undergrads, 90 graduate students; 220 total.**
- **≈ $225 K in endowed departmental scholarships** given out in AY07-08;
- **Starting salaries:**
  - PE over $75,000
  - GE over $45,000
  - Geol/Geop averaging $82,000
  - 0-2 years in petroleum industry.

### What’s New

- **17 full time T/TT faculty**
  - Two new faculty in the fall. And searching for a senior level PE. Six adjunct faculty teaching regularly.
  - In 2007, the average GSE faculty member:
    - **Taught 12.0 hours (four lectures) & earned a 3.25 CET score.**
    - Most (3/4) also taught at least one lab each year.
    - **Generated $74 K in research expenditures**

### Students

- **Over past four years, more Faculty Excellence Awards than any department on campus.**
- **Over past four years, more Doctoral students than any department on campus.**
- **Over past four years, more Undergraduate student: faculty ratio = 10.6:1**

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