

Department of Chemical Engineering  
Brigham Young University  
350 Clyde Building  
Provo, UT 84602-4100

Address Service Requested

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 49  
Provo, UT 84602

# 50 YEARS OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

This past year marked the 50th anniversary of chemical engineering at Brigham Young University. In its first 50 years, the department has recorded 30 regular faculty, 1,213 B.S. students, 205 MS students and 81 PhD students. The department also celebrated the 50-Kyear anniversary by showcasing the 30 full-time faculty members in a permanent display outside the department office. Recently, L. Douglas Smoot has completed “A Half Century of Progress: The History of Chemical Engineering at BYU, 1952-2002.” The book relates the struggles and triumphs of the first 50 years of chemical engineering at BYU. The book is available on the department web page.

ChEn  
chemical engineering  
2003 newsletter

Brigham Young University

The Department of Chemical Engineering exists to support the mission of BYU by preparing students for lives of scholarship and continued learning, lives of service, and lives spent contributing to society.

### from the chair

*Greetings to all! We hope that 2003 finds you well. 2002 was an eventful year for our department. The visit from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, which occurred in late October, went very well. The final report will be issued later this year, but we recently received a copy of the very positive draft report. Among other things it says, students represent some of the most capable students enrolled at BYU, and they are committed to their future professional careers as chemical engineers. It also states, Esprit de corps between faculty members and students is exceptional. Faculty members are proud of the students, and the students are proud of the faculty. We have every reason to expect that the program will retain its accreditation.*

*After a long and distinguished career, Professor L. Douglas Smoot retired at the end of 2002. Professor Smoot served on the faculty from 1960 to 1963, and from 1967 to 2002. He served as department chair and as dean of the College of Engineering and Technology. He was also the director of ACERC. We express our gratitude to Professor Smoot for his life of service and his example of excellence in all that he does.*

*Dr. Dean R. Wheeler joined the faculty at the beginning of winter semester. Dr. Wheeler completed his bachelor's degree at BYU in 1996 and earned his PhD from UC Berkeley in 2002. Dr. Wheeler is an excellent addition to our faculty, and we are glad that he has joined the department.*

### Alumni Website

Recently, the BYU chemical engineering staff has updated the alumni website and added some new features. On the website you can update your personal and family information, locate old friends, and post announcements. The website is also a great place to help your company, fellow alumni, and graduating students by posting available jobs and opportunities. The address is [www.et.byu.edu/cheme/](http://www.et.byu.edu/cheme/).

### Largest Graduating ChEn class

The department is pleased to announce that the 2003 class is the largest ever to graduate from the Chemical Engineering Department. The 2003 class has over 80 students. The reason for the high number of graduates is due to the number of outstanding candidates who applied to the program. Needless to say, that is a lot of people in the UO Lab.

my most memorable experience as a CHEN undergraduate was attending the alche meeting in san francisco (1971) and running out of gas on the freeway. ~ bruce winegar, bs 1972



homecoming 2002

Friday, October 18, 2002 (Homecoming weekend) marked 50 years of chemical engineering at BYU. A ceremony took place in the step-down lounge of the Clyde Building, unveiling a 50-year memorial plaque. The plaque commemorates all 30 full-time faculty in chemical engineering since the department began at BYU in 1952. The plaque occupies the wall north of the department office. President Merrill Bateman, Vice President Alan Wilkins, and Dean Douglas Chabries were in attendance.

After the plaque unveiling, a special 50-year commemoration was held with the Homecoming dinner and program. Over 160 guests were in attendance for a very nice dinner and program. At the dinner, Professor L. Douglas Smoot was honored as the Chemical Engineering Outstanding Alumnus. He also presented a richly illustrated history of chemical engineering at BYU. It was both a nostalgic and an educational evening.

student awards

The following students were recently awarded scholarships from our industrial colleagues:

Adam Wehrmeister and Clark Miller (seniors) have recently been named Micron Scholars. They will receive two years of full tuition.

Ben Severson, Dave Dunaway, and Dave Moulton (seniors) recently received \$1,000 scholarships from Kennecott in recognition of their contributions to ACERC.

Shrinivas Lokare (graduate student) has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the John Zink Company for his contribution to ACERC.

nominees

In September, we mailed to all alumni (as many for whom we have mailing addresses) the bylaws for the new BYU Chemical Engineering Alumni Society. We also included a short form to indicate approval or disapproval of the bylaws and to nominate alumni (including themselves) to serve as officers or board members.

More than 50 alumni responded, and those responses provided unanimous approval of the bylaws. Further, over 60 alumni were nominated for officer/board positions. As a result, the department Alumni Committee prepared an abbreviated list based on criteria such as self-nominations (no permission needed) and multiple nominations of the same person. Our apologies if your favorite nominee was not included in the list this first time around. After this, the board of directors of the society will prepare the

nominations, and many other nominees can be considered.

The abbreviated list of nominees is-

joel anderson	vince memmott
aaron bujnowski	keith merkley
mark cluff	ken nichols
larry denyer	gary pocock
gary hall	jff rankin
merrill hansen	pat simiskey
stan harding	joseph smith
greggory kun	ron smith
michael lehman	nicole stewart
roger mccarty	clyde witham

There will be nine board members and two officers, but we ask that you vote for five (for simplicity, do not designate board members apart from officers).

i deeply enjoyed the friendships and associations that were part of my undergraduate experience. no single event stands out, but i have nothing but the fondest remembrance for that period of my schooling. ~ john bunting, bs 1968-1972



spotlights

bill pope, a former BYU faculty member, received the Governor's Medal for Science and Technology for outstanding contributions in the state of Utah. The official ceremony took place on May 23, 2002.

secretary of energy spencer abraham announced recently that the Department of Energy's 2002 Homer H. Lowry Award has been awarded to Professor L. Douglas Smoot, who will retire at the end of the year from being a full-time faculty member of BYU's Chemical Engineering Department. Dr. Smoot received the honor in Washington, D.C., on October 9, the highest honor given by the Energy Department for outstanding contributions to fossil energy and technology.

dr. richard l. rowley and his wife had the unique opportunity of attending The Yangtze Conference of Fluids and Interfaces in China in October. The conference was held on a ship as it traveled up the Yangtze River through the spectacular and famous Three Gorges. The conference was the last opportunity to see the Three Gorges in its natural state before the imminent and permanent flooding of the gorges caused by the completion of the largest dam in the world. Approximately 100 international experts in interfacial phenomena and fluid properties from around the world attended the weeklong conference.

professor thomas h. fletcher was recently awarded the Bill and Margaret Pope Professorship in Chemical Engineering. The Pope family set up this professorship in 1997 with a \$1 million endowment. The professorship is awarded for five years, and includes an increase in salary as well as about \$50,000 per year to be used for research, travel, and other education. In the first five years, the award was split between Professors Merrill Beckstead and Calvin Bartholomew. The award to Professor Fletcher started September 1, 2002. Dr. Fletcher also received the department Outstanding Faculty Award for the year 2002. Department students vote for the faculty member who has gone above and beyond the job description to help students.

dr. larry baxter received an award from the Utah Campus Compact for the Outstanding Service Learning Project at Brigham Young University. He organized a cooperative effort between his fluid dynamics class and local high schools to put on a series of fluid dynamics demonstrations.

the american institute of chemical engineers honored the Brigham Young University AIChE student chapter as the 2003 Outstanding AIChE Student Chapter. The award is in recognition of the membership and participation of the student's and faculty; the quality and quantity of meetings; and the chapter's involvement in local, regional, and national events. BYU has won this award the past eight years and 17 of the last 18 years.

Recently, AIChE carried out many activities. The chapter successfully raised thousands of dollars for needy families through a "Sub for Santa" program, it administered a career fair and resumé workshop for ChEn students, and is preparing for the AIChE Regional Conference to be held at BYU in March 2004. In fact, in preparation for the regional conference, industry sponsors are needed. If you want to help with the conference please contact Bill Hecker at (801) 422-6235 or heck-er@byu.edu.

