Provost’s News

Welcome to the first edition of the Academic Affairs Newsletter! Over the past six weeks, Associate Provost Boyd and I have had lunch with over 160 faculty members which has provided an opportunity for faculty members to directly communicate with the administration. Comments and concerns we heard range from local departmental issues to institutional concerns such as classroom availability and entering class size. Thank you to those faculty who attended the luncheons and voiced their concerns. We look forward to using the information from these sessions to cooperatively help us all build a better Mines. If you have additional input (or were unable to attend a lunch session) please contact me directly (tparker@mines.edu) or use the link at the bottom of this newsletter to contact Academic Affairs.

In nearly all of the lunch sessions, there was a common faculty theme of simply wanting more communication. This newsletter is a response to the communication request with the intent that it is short enough to quickly digest, has links to more information for those with greater interest, is published regularly so that faculty expect it (every other week on Wednesday), and that over time, will provide another opportunity for the faculty to remain informed about the campus beyond their normal area of activity. In addition to the newsletter, Academic Affairs has updated its website to be more of an information resource for faculty. In the coming editions of the newsletter, we will continue to provide information about the institution to the faculty.

We are nearing the end of the semester and the entire campus is busy with end of semester activity as well as pre-registration for the spring. Thanks to the faculty for their advising efforts associated with preregistration and finally, as always I want to thank the faculty and staff for all that you do for Mines.

Ted
Faculty Achievements

Associate Professor Jeff Andrews-Hanna (CP) research findings published in Nature. (For more information)

Assistant Professor Corinne Packard (MME) for being featured in Oct./Nov. 2014 American Ceramic Society Bulletin. (For more information)

Teaching Associate Professor Stephanie Claussen (EECS) for being selected for the National Academy of Engineering’s Frontiers of Engineering Education symposium. (For more information)

Mines by the Numbers

Since 2006, enrollment in doctoral degree programs has increased by over 90%. As a result, the number of doctoral degrees awarded has steadily increased, almost tripling from a low of 35 in 2007-2008.

What’s Happening

Research Orientation Workshops: Academic Affairs, in collaboration with Office of the Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer, is offering a year-long series of round-table discussions to support new faculty members’ research efforts. The purpose of the workshops is to engage new faculty in discussions (often led by senior faculty) related to developing a successful research program at Mines. Please contact Associate Provost Tom Boyd for additional information.

A few notes about the replacement of Meyer Hall: In late September of this year, we announced the historic gift from CoorsTek and the Coors family that includes funding for the new CoorsTek Center for Applied Science and Engineering. This facility will be built on the current site of Meyer Hall, is funded by a combination of private donations (from CoorsTek and the Coors family), the state ($14.6M), and Mines, and will house both the Department of Physics and highly collaborative partnerships within the College of Applied Science of Engineering.

Current plans are to decommission Meyer Hall in the fall of 2015. The Physics department will be located in the trailers that currently house the CSM Foundation and in a 13,000+ square foot building that will be built this spring next to the Earth Mechanics Institute building. This building will serve as temporary space for physics as the CoorsTek Center is constructed and then will serve as flexible research space for the entire campus once the construction is complete. As our plans for the CoorsTek Center evolve, and the associated moves to accommodate construction are refined, we will continue to keep the campus informed. While construction and relocation are disruptions to the faculty, students, and staff, we look forward to constructing another state-of-the-art facility on the Mines campus. (For more information)