The DEAN’S MESSAGE

Welcome to the latest edition of our alumni eNewsletter! As summer winds down and autumn begins, classes for our CPMS students kick off, and we couldn’t be more excited about what our fall semester has to offer.

Last year’s students set a high standard of excellence in not only class performance but also in hands-on research. But we are confident that this year’s students will exceed our expectations. We welcome our students’ return and hopefully yours as well for Homecoming activities coming up in October.

This fall, we have an array of distinguished lecturers coming to the college to speak. On September 6, the Department of Physics & Astronomy presented a public lecture by Dr. Steven Spangler, of the University of Iowa. Dr. Spangler spoke about the sun in its year of solar maximum, a topic that impacts all of us.

Two weeks later, the department will welcome another great speaker, David Grandy, from BYU’s Department of Philosophy, for the Summerhays Lecture which will take place September 21. The Summerhays Lecture annually brings together science and religion, exhibiting that although at times the two may seem incompatible, they actually complement one another beautifully.

The annual Izatt-Christensen Lecture in the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry will be presented by Dr. Adam Woolley, who specializes in analyzing the relationship between chemistry, engineering, and biology. We’re looking forward to these lectures so that our students and our alumni can both benefit from the insights of these intellectual giants.

We hope to see you at some of these lectures, so that you too may rub shoulders with our CPMS students, some of the greatest young minds in the country. We are grateful for the start of this new school year and for the generosity of you, our alumni. I know that if we expand our minds together, we will expand our world as well.

DEPT. NEWS

COMPUTER SCIENCE
Shedding Light on Religious Studies

PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY
West Mountain Gets NASA Stardom

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FRONTIERS MAGAZINE
Fall/Winter 2012 Issue & Videos

CPMS-TV VIDEO
Turning Waste into Energy

AUC HONORS CPMS FACULTY

Professors Paul Farnsworth, Eric Ringger, Thomas Sederberg, and Brian Woodfield were honored at the Annual University Conference. President Cecil O. Samuelson announced their awards during the joint AUC meeting held in the Marriott Center.

Dr. Paul Farnsworth

Born and raised a cougar with his dad on BYU's faculty, Paul Farnsworth completed his undergraduate degree at BYU and then received his PhD at University of Wisconsin. Farnsworth returned to his roots in January of 1983, when he joined the BYU faculty.

But Dr. Farnsworth isn't just any faculty member—he's an award-winning one. At the AUC, he was awarded the College Alumni Professorship Award for excellence, accompanied by a three-year stipend from the BYU Alumni Association.

“I’ve had awards outside the university, but being recognized here is particularly meaningful,” Farnsworth said. “It means that the people I’m working with respect what I'm doing. It’s a real honor.”

When Farnsworth teaches large classes, he takes time to get to know students on an individual basis through weekly labs. His main areas of research have been atomic spectroscopy, trace elemental analysis, organic mass spectrometry, and laser fluorosensors.

Dr. Eric Ringger

An associate professor in computer science, Ringger came to BYU from Microsoft Research in fall 2005. Since that time, his exemplary performance as a faculty member on campus merited him the Young Scholar Award, an award that acknowledges significant contributions by faculty in the early stages of their careers.

“The young scholar award is significant to me because it recognizes the work that my students, colleagues, and I have done together in the NLP Lab during the few years I have been at BYU. I am especially grateful to my hard-working and smart students who have trusted me and invested their time and effort into our joint work.”

Read more of this story.