Members, Alumni and Friends of the Foundation,

Winter term is underway. First year students have started to find their footings and the seniors are ready to enter the “real” world.

I would like to welcome Vertellus’ Elma, WA facility (www.vertellus.com) and Georgia-Pacific Toledo, OR as new members of the Foundation.

We had a very successful series of member info nights and recruiting sessions. Nine companies visited campus during Fall term to talk with students and all were very pleased with the quality and preparedness of our graduates and undergrads seeking employment and internships. We are seeing a trend to longer intern assignments. In the past we often thought of internships as summer jobs. Now companies are viewing internships as multi-month interviews and realize that if the internship is 6 months or longer, they will get real value from the student on real projects. A number of students will doing 12-month internships this year. In addition to providing a great experience they will earn significant money and not be out of sequence in their classes when they return to school. Our faculty has recognized the trend to longer internships and is working to craft online courses and a strategy to help students stay on track when they are at work for 6+ months. **If your company is planning on recruiting this year, please contact us as soon as possible to reserve time early in Winter term.**

Several high school and community college events were held during Fall term. The increasing emphasis on reaching students in our community colleges is beginning to look promising. The success of Washington’s Running Start program means that many of the students we once recruited at their high schools are now enrolled in their community colleges to get a start on math and chemistry. **If you know of a student who might be interested in our program, please contact us and we will make certain they have all of the information they need to consider BSE.** If a high school senior has applied to the UW and did not select BSE as his/her preferred major and may now want to consider BSE, it is not too late to contact admissions and change the selection of his/her preferred major. **The deadline for transfer student applications (to enroll at the UW in Fall 2016) is February 15, 2016, so time is critical for community college students who are considering the UW.**

We have initiated outreach to the Veterans Education Benefits Office on campus. Our experience is that veterans in the program contribute significantly to all students’ experience.

**Graduate job placement** remains good with students finding challenging opportunities close to home and outside of the Northwest. The program is becoming recognized by employers as developing great students who will accept the best opportunities regardless of their location.
The recent endowment matching program offered by the UW was a real success for the Foundation. Through the generosity of a number of member firms, alumni and friends of the program we will be able to add $150,000 plus a $75,000 match to our scholarship endowment.

The Paper & Bioresource Science Center is taking shape. Kurt is organizing our capabilities with a vengeance supported by a number of students. This quarter our senior students will be tackling the papermaking class. I know all of you papermakers out there always complain about the furnish you get from the pulp mill and the number of times you have to change grades but, consider this: Our students will be developing five specific furnishes and running five different grades of paper during a 10 week term. I think they will be ready for a process engineering position when they graduate. If you haven’t seen what we can do, we invite you to visit and talk with Kurt about how we may help with your project and overload work. You will continue to hear more about developments in the paper lab and the services we can offer.

We welcome your thoughts and comments on all things BSE and Foundation related. If you can visit us here on campus, you will be welcome.

Regards,

Mike