Members, Alumni and Friends of the Foundation,

Spring is upon us. Cherry blossoms have graced the quad and seniors are thinking seriously about their plans for after graduation. This has been a strong recruiting year for our program. Nearly all of the graduates are committed to a plan for work, graduate school or time to reflect on what they just went through.

We have five new students who have transferred into BSE from other UW departments and more than 40 potential first year students who selected BSE as their first or second priority major. As you may have read, the UW had the highest number ever of first year applicants – more than 40,000. This is making admission to the UW more competitive but also making us typically one of several universities to which top students will apply - all in all, competitive for both the student and the UW.

This has been a challenging year for membership. We are seeing very cautious spending by all of our member firms with some asking for a year’s leave while they sort out their futures. Maybe it’s just an election year, maybe their tea leaves aren’t lining up where they expected, maybe the improvement in business has slowed, but it’s a good time to think about how one can support the Foundation in ways other than through donations. An area where we could use help is finding students in your local high schools and community colleges who would be interested in our program. If you can identify those students, we will reach out to them.

This was the first session of the papermaking class with Kurt Haunreiter at the helm in the pilot lab. I would have to say it was an unqualified success. Kurt spent many hours getting the paper machine into reliable, reproducible running condition. The students were challenged to work with Kurt through the entire process and ended up being able to make great paper on demand. Something to think about: If you, your company or an organization to which you belong would like to use some unique paper for an event, e.g. an agenda, a table brochure, an invitation, talk with Kurt (haunrk@uw.edu) about having some paper made by UW students for your event. Add a nice touch to an event while supporting our work here.

This time of year always brings our signature event, the Annual Meeting, to be held on May 26. Registration is open: https://apps.sefs.uw.edu/wwpregister/. For the first time in a number of years, students will be running the paper machine for you to visit and to see the progress that has been made in the basement. We will, of course, continue to have a number of great student posters and their authors ready to answer questions about their work. Personally I am looking forward to the social hour at the UW Club (which starts at 5pm) to catch up with many of you I haven’t seen since last year.

Stay in touch with ideas and questions. I look forward to seeing you on May 26.

Regards,

Mike