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LaMeris joins electrical and computer engineering faculty

August 30, 2006 -- from MSU News Service

Bozeman - Brock J. LaMeris has joined the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department of Montana State University's College of Engineering as an assistant professor. Prior to coming to MSU, LaMeris designed electronic test equipment for Agilent Technologies in Colorado Springs, Colo., from 1999 to 2006. His interests are in the area of high-speed digital circuit design. LaMeris earned his master's and doctorate from the University of Colorado in 2001 and 2005 respectively and his bachelor's degree from MSU in 1998, all in electrical engineering. LaMeris is a registered professional engineer in Colorado and holds three U.S. patents related to electronic probing systems.

Contact: Elizabeth Brock, MSU College of Engineering, (406) 994-1564 or ebrook@coe.montana.edu

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Brock J. LaMeris

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FALL 2006

E ngineering

Published by the MSU College of Engineering for Alumni, Friends and Faculty

Two ME students take 2nd in NASA competition

adapted from an article by Tracy Ellig, MSU News Service

Despite asking faculty to do no more than sign an entry form, John Nelsen, a senior in mechanical engineering from Great Falls, and Isaiah Helm, an ME sophomore from Jordan, won second place in the Fundamental Aeronautics Program of NASA's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate.

Nelsen and Helm tied with two other teams: One made up of three doctorate students and one senior undergraduate from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta and one of 10 undergraduates from the University of Virginia at Charlottesville.

"It was an awesome surprise, because I'd seen the competition in the past," Nelsen said. "Getting second against such big teams made all the work worth it."

The pair designed a system to reduce commercial aircraft noise. By watching jets take off and land, they determined that landing is louder than taking off. They made the reverse thrusters smaller so they made less noise.

To compensate for weaker thrust, they developed a "speed brake" to help slow the aircraft during landing. Two large flaps rising at a slight angle over the passenger compartment during landing would create drag using the same principle as a parachute.

The pair understood that not calculating required structural changes to the frame to allow for the brakes was a significant generalization. But generalization was a given because entries were limited to 25 pages, short for any kind of significant engineering report.

Helm and Nelsen had not met prior to forming a team in August 2005. They worked on their submission until a few days before the entry deadline in April 2006.

"I tried not to think about how we would do," Helm said. "It was a lot of work, a lot of otherwise free time."



ME students John Nelsen (left) and Isaiah Helm took second place in a NASA design competition. (MSU photo by Jay Thane.)

CBE awarded \$2.9 million for chronic wound research

adapted from an article by Tracy Ellig, MSU News Service

The National Institutes of Health has awarded MSU's Center for Biofilm Engineering (CBE) a four-year grant for \$2.9 million to find new ways to heal chronic wounds.

Biofilms are colony-forming bacteria that secrete a protective slime, making them nearly invulnerable to antibiotics and disinfectants.

"Our hypothesis is that once a biofilm starts in a wound it interferes with the normal healing process and becomes very tough to eradicate," said Phil Stewart, CBE director. "Biofilms' involvement in chronic wounds is not widely accepted. This is new territory."

Tens of thousands of patients annually get bedsores that become chronic wounds. For diabetics, ulcerated foot sores contribute to a foot or lower-leg amputation rate 10 to 15 times higher than non-diabetics. A Finnish study found that 80 percent of diabetics whose chronic wounds resulted in amputation died within five years.

The CBE began chronic wound research two years ago after being contacted by Dr. Randy Wolcott of the Southwest Regional Wound Care Center in Lubbock, Texas.

Wolcott suspected biofilms might play a role in his patients' persistent wounds. The CBE's analysis revealed that 60 percent of tissue samples from the clinic contained biofilms, compared with a mere 6 percent in acute wounds, such as cuts.

Grant partners are Wolcott and the division of dermatology at the University of Washington's Department of Medicine, which has expertise in the biology of wound healing.

"It's a point to relish that much of the data gathered to make this grant successful was the result of undergraduate work," Stewart said.

Ellen Swogger, ChBE '06, and Pat Secor, now an MSU doctoral candidate, did that undergraduate research.

One of the center's strengths is its unique interdisciplinary team that includes researchers from engineering, the life sciences and medicine, according to Garth James, CBE's medical projects director.

"People from different disciplines can see the problem in different ways," James said.

"The ultimate goal is to heal people's wounds, save their limbs, and their lives."

Two professorships established with Long and Wood Estate gifts

The College of Engineering has established two professorships with recent gifts, one from Joel T. Long and the other from the Lysle A. Wood estate.

Brett Gunnink, Civil Engineering Department Head, is the inaugural holder of the Joel T. Long distinguished professorship in Civil Engineering. The College and department will use funds from the Long endowment for scholarships and to strengthen civil engineering programs, particularly in Construction Engineering Technology.

The Lysle A. Wood distinguished professorship in Mechanical Engineering, established with a \$500,000 gift from Wood's estate, has not yet been filled.

Wood grew up in Terry, Mont., and earned a mechanical engineering degree from Mon-

tana State University in 1925. After graduating, he joined The Boeing Company and spent 44 years as an aerospace pioneer.

Wood played key roles in many of the nation's most notable defense and space exploration projects.

Wood's contributions span from World War II era B-17 and B-29 bombers to anti-aircraft missiles, a booster for the Apollo spaceship and the moon-photographing Lunar Orbiter.

Wood was Boeing's first general manager of its Aerospace Division and retired in 1970 as a corporate vice president. He was a fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. Wood died in 1991 at age 87.

Related stories

- Long Endows (page 8)

Letter from the Dean

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Dear Friends of the COE,



*Dean of the
College of Engineering
Robert Marley*

Greetings from snowy Bozeman! The winter season was seemingly delayed this year, but it has finally returned in late November. Students are no-doubt sharpening their skis as they sharpen their pencils for final exams (I couldn't waste a good metaphor even though most are using mechanical pencils).

Nevertheless, it's hard to believe that another academic year is nearly half completed.

And what a year it has been so far. Fresh off MSU's ranking within the nation's top tier of universities by the Carnegie Foundation, we have once again recruited an outstanding class of new faculty. Our overall faculty achievement and awards as well as student achievements are at record levels. Several of these have been highlighted in this newsletter but, as always, I encourage you to check in regularly to the COE Web site for the latest news (www.coe.montana.edu). By the way, we have specifically designed this Web site to provide all of our important constituents with

useful and interesting information including back editions of this newsletter and annual reports. Please check it out and don't hesitate to provide us with feedback.

This newsletter is also dedicated to highlighting the private support from you and other friends and alumni of the College. Once again, your support has reached new levels, which has allowed us to leverage greater resources on behalf of faculty and student initiatives. While every gift is valuable, I am very pleased to point out two new professorships provided by loyal alumni—the Joel Long Professorship and the Lysle Wood Professorship. Both of these are featured elsewhere in the newsletter, but are more evidence of great things happening in the College. There are several other notable achievements that are in progress as I write and I can't wait to share these with you in the near future.

Best wishes during the upcoming Holiday season and if you're in the Bozeman area, please don't hesitate to stop in and say hello.

Sincerely,

Robert Marley, Dean

LEAP camp shows students the fun of engineering

Fun and remote-controlled LEGO robots made the strongest impression on 21 students entering seventh through ninth grades who attended the COE's Learning Engineering by Application (LEAP) camp from July 30-Aug. 4 at MSU's Bozeman campus.

The camp focused on engineering activities, including real-world applications of math and science.

Hands-on activities occupied most of the schedule and covered all of the COE's disciplines.

The students also designed LEGO robots. The week-long project culminated in a competition where students directed their robots through a tabletop course in which they earned points for completing various tasks.

Students slept and ate at MSU residence halls for a typical college student experience.

The group also toured West Paw Design's manu-

facturing facility in Bozeman and MSU's steam tunnels.

The camp was funded by the State of Montana's Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR-UP) and COE's EMPower (Engineering Minority Program).



Brett Towler, assistant professor in civil engineering, (center) laughs with LEAP camp students (left to right) Zac Bird-in-Ground, Rocky Fisher and Cynthia Desmond while teaching them how to use surveying equipment.

Honor Roll of Donors Fiscal Year 2005-2006 We would like to thank all those alumni, friends and corporations who generously donated to the College of Engineering during this fiscal year (July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006). Your support is vitally important to the college and enables us to provide our students with the very best skills to ensure their success. Your generosity has enabled us to provide scholarships, state-of-the-art equipment and excellent facilities for our students. Donors listed in italics contributed \$1,000 or more to the college, including matching gifts. The * denotes deceased. The ** denotes annual gifts made all or in part to the Air Force and Army ROTC programs, now departments of the College of Engineering. Your support and involvement continues to advance the tradition of excellence exemplified by Montana State University engineers. Thank you.

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 Robert & Judith Peters
 Charles & Patricia Peterson
 Terence & Jane Richmond
 Vernon & Paula '71 Roberts
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 Margaret Striebel
 Edward & Karen '72
 Tabacco

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 Jack & Kathy '74 Walton
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 Richard & Elsie '73 Wodnik
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 Blazek
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 Richard & Donna Hartman
 Danny & Danna Holmes
 Leland & Ruth Jensen
 Norbert Kniepp
 Stephan Kujawa
 Venkatachalam & Linda '73
 Lakshminar
Thomas Larson
 William & Patricia '72 Law
 Johnson & Rita Liao
 Kim & Debra Mills**
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 James & Shelley '73
 Rodenberg
 John Sand
William & Janice Saner
 Raymond & Carole
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 Vanderloos
 George & Celestine
 Wheatcroft
 Randy Williams
 Robert & Glynis Williams
 Chic Yang
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 Anderson
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 James & Karen '74 Clapper
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 John & Elizabeth Daly
 Robert & Lynne '72 Dillon
 Douglas & Becky Fischer
 Wayne Halverson
 Johnnie Hanson
 Russell & Margaret '74
 Hanson
 Thomas & Virginia Harn
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 Warbington**
 John & Terry '75 Hinman
 Steven & Deborah Itoh
 Don Jenni
 Steven Jergesen
 James Jovanovich & Lynn
 '91 St Sauve
 Thomas & Constance Keyes
 Patrick & Mary '75 Kimmel
 Douglas & Karen Lehnen
 Dennis Lund
 Larry Miller
 Kenneth & Cindy Munski
 Daniel Nefzger
 John Obermeier
 Thomas Odt
 Douglas & Sharon
 Oellermann
 Michael Penberthy
 Michael & Shelly Peris
 Michael & Barbara '74
 Phillips
 Theodore & Heather
 Reichelt
 Verlin & Patricia '74
 Reichelt
Del & Dena '74 Richter
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 David & Vicki '76
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 Robert & Marilyn '74
 Shepard
 David Sire

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 Douglas & Christine
 Zignego
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Johnson
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Erling & Elizabeth Tufte	James Hansen	Wade & Tassie '86 Irion	Larry Morris	Larry Matos	Class of 1991	Class of 1994
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<i>John Wiskoski</i>	George & Susan Hurley	Scott Keller & Marie '00 Nopper	<i>Daniel Rathman</i>	Frank Stewart	Sandra Anderson David	Pamela & Toby Beavis
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Sharon & Tobin '83 Alt	Scott & Merritt Larson	Lori Larson	<i>Nancy & Patrick Seleski</i>	Leslie & Andrew '88 White**	Derek & Simone Berger	Adam Deutsch**
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Steve Dennis	George & Rebecca '80 Murray	Kelly & Patricia Marcum	Michael & Dena Sorenson	Diane Amdor	Justin & Shari Eggart	David Kosmeri
Jeffrey & Mary Ebert	Daniel & Kelly Nebres	Michael & Karin '84 Maroney	Dennis & Joy Stiles	Patrick & Shelley Behm	Robert & Cathryn '86 Joyce	Craig Lawrence
Bradley & Christine '84 Frazee	Timothy & Mary '85 Nielsen	Mitchell Marvosh	Eric Sundberg	Nathan & Colleen Boeshans	Craig & Jill Gawreluk	Phillip & Lori Lee
Alfred Goetz III	Michael O'Leary	Kevin Mathson	Anthony & Paula '94 VanHoudt	Michael & Jeannie Brandt	Joseph & Lisa Haas	David & Meredith '94 Maehl
<i>Julia Goswick</i>	John & Lori Parker	James Maynard	Robert Wall & Jennifer '91 Ponnichow	Kelly & Christina Burnaby	Andrine Hall	Paul & Clarinda Marcoff Jr.
Wade Graham	Donna Peterson	Daniel & Lisa '85 McCauley	Rob Ward & Alix Day	Robert & Donna Church	Russell & Rebecca Herrin	Stephen Markovich
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Timothy Grove	Mark & Lori Reinsel	Jerome Mothershead & Janice Seelye	Brian Wetsteon	Wayne & Carrie Egan	Tom Marchwick	Tyler Nelson
Kevin & Martha Hintt	Perry & Julie Robbins	Andrew Myxter	William & Jane Wyatt II	Guy Erb	Travis & Kara Millhollin	Charles & Jennifer '92 Salois
Wade & Mary Hobbs	Sabrina Robinson	Gerald & Gretchen Nerlin	Class of 1987	Jennifer & Thomas Estep	James Nelstead	Michael Sanderson & Sara '96
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Jeff Larsen	Thomas & Christine Sayers	Patrick O'Connor & Crystal Haley	Ronald & Celeste '87 Askin	Wallace Gladstone	Michael & Deborah Sassano	Jeremy & Julie Siemens
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Michael & Dora Lindner	Michael Schneider	Brett & Rita Owens	Diane & Rick Bishop	Henry Hildreth & Teri '76 Cottle	Gregory & Nancy '91 Trangmoe	Eric & Shelly Smith
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Brien & Cynthia McCre	Stanley Smith	Donna Phillips	Peggy & Randy Caraway	Robert & Shanna '90 Kimball	Class of 1992	Marcee Allen
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Scott Mitchell & Barbara '76 Bryan	Mark & Jennifer Spinti	Mark & Veronica '04 Restad	Robert & Myrna '80 De Lay	Craig Northam	Laura & Arnold Cook	James Freyholtz
Myron & Karen '83 Moore	Melanie Swenson	John & Kay '71 Robertson Jr.	Denise & Thomas '87 DeLuca	Scott & Suzanne Owens	James Corrick	Christopher & Adrienna '96 Hines
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Mark & Terri Morse	James & Patricia Thomson	Becky & Walter Smith	Douglas Dunbar III	James & Tricia '91 Quitmeyer	Donald Graham	Lance Kind
Kenneth Mosdal	Martin & Jolie '84 Vigen Jr.	Denise Snyder	Craig & Deanna '85 Hostetler	Wallace Gladstone	Suzanne Kaminski	Ruowen Liu
Scott & Lisa '85 Murphy	William Wagener	Robert Stevenson	Neil & Angela Jensen	David Heil	Greg Louie	Leif Nelson
<i>Linda Nelson</i>	Craig Wagner	John & Sherry '85 Stewart	James Julig	Henry Hildreth & Teri '76 Cottle	Richard Maddock	Xiao Pu
Christian & Julia '84 Nygren	Michael & Jacqueline Weaver	David Swayne	Scott Kufeld	Brent Johnson	Paul & Patricia '88 McElroy	Jereen Rice
Daniel & Roberta Painter**	<i>Ronald Weeks & Irenna Garapetan</i>	Stephen & Laura Taylor	John & Stephanie '87 Lodman	Douglas Dunbar III	Jerrold Mitchell	Jonathan & Catherine '94 Roen
Chia-Ren & Wei Lee Pan	Steven & Mollie Wingert	John & Deborah Vandenberg	Joseph & Linda '87 Lucia	Craig & Kim '90 Korich	Rebekah Mollay	Kevin Scott
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Duane & Mercedes Schlicht	Charles Call	Eric Betts	Karen Shyne & Gary '88 Bolstad	Donald Graham	Kary Tonjum	Christopher & Adrienna '96 Hines
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Laurie Shammel	Charles & Lauri '84 Chilvicek	Lawrence & Michelle '88 Bigler	Glenn & Tamara '86 Stroud	Greg Louie	Travis Addington	Lance Kind
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<i>Darryl Thompson</i>	Daniel & Marta Conlon	Wade & Deborah '84 Cline	James & Carol '89 Tweet**	Brian & Tera Bos	Joseph & Jami '92 Earsley	Xiao Pu
Ronald & Linda Torchia	Kevin & Patricia '84 Cook	Gregory DeWeese	Thomas Villeneuve & Mary McKinnon	Darlene Davis	Shawn Fahrenbruch & Hong Zheng	Lance Kind
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Alyson Phillips
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Broadbent
Joseph Meier
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Daniel Douthi

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Susan Bower
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Honorary Gifts

Honorary Gifts FY '05 - '06

The following individuals have been honored through gifts made in their name to the College of Engineering. We appreciate these tributes made by friends and loved ones to recognize highly esteemed individuals.

Dr. Donald William Boyd
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Brooke, Kyle, & Colby
Thomas
Cathy & Jim Thomas

Memorial Gifts FY '05 - '06

The following individuals have been remembered through memorial gifts made to the College of Engineering. We are grateful to those who have chosen to give tribute to their friends and loved ones in this meaningful way.

Inis Lucine Adams
Benton Arms
James Arthur Moen
Aaron Sadler & Harriet Auvil
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Ralph Wheelchel

Memorial Gifts

Research Grants

- The **National Institutes of Health** has awarded the **CBE** a \$2.9 million grant to find new ways to heal chronic wounds. Phil Stewart, Director of the CBE, is the principal investigator. (see related story, pg. 1)
- The **NSF** has awarded a \$498,270 grant to a research team led by **Al Cunningham** at the **Center for Biofilm Engineering (CBE)** to develop a web-based undergraduate teaching and active-learning resource about biofilms. Co-PIs include **Rocky Ross**, computer science; **Phil Stewart**; and **Anne Camper**.
- The **Montana Manufacturing Extension Center** received the first grant from the **State of Montana's New Homestead Act (WIRED)** funds and will receive \$699,134 over three years. Grant recipients will help develop the bio-products industry in 32 Montana counties and six Indian reservations.
- **Brendan Mumey**, computer science, and **Richard Wolff**, Gilhousen Professor of electrical engineering, received a **National Science Foundation (NSF)** grant worth \$118,962 to study ways to increase the efficiency of networks.
- **Rafal Angryk** and **Anne DeFrance**, computer science, received an **NSF** grant of nearly \$75,000 for a project to identify effective methods for increasing the number of women who pursue careers in computer science or closely related fields.

New Faculty



Robin Gerlach



Patrick McGowen



Jian (Neil) Tang



Brock J. LaMeres



Keith Fisher

Faculty Highlights

Faculty Highlights

Chemical and Biological Engineering (ChBE) & Center for Biofilm Engineering

Robin Gerlach has joined the ChBE department as an associate professor. His research focuses on using biofilms to control and clean up contaminated soils and water. He continues his association with the Center for Biofilm Engineering (CBE) and the Thermal Biology Institute, where he conducts research related to biotechnology, bioremediation and biofilms in porous media. Gerlach joined the CBE in 1996 and earned his doctorate degree in environmental engineering from MSU in 2001. Gerlach had been an assistant research professor with the CBE since 2003.

Civil Engineering (CE) & Western Transportation Institute (WTI)

Patrick McGowen has accepted a joint appointment as an assistant professor for the CE department and WTI. McGowen has been a research engineer at WTI for the past six years. McGowen's research and teaching interests include transportation safety, highway-wildlife interactions, predicting traffic patterns through travel modeling, and technologies such as electronic warning signs and travel advisory systems. McGowen earned a doctorate in traffic systems engineering from the University of California, Irvine in 2006 and his master's and bachelor's of science degrees in civil engineering at MSU. McGowen is a registered professional engineer in Montana.

Computer Science (CS)

Jian (Neil) Tang has joined the CS department as an assistant professor. Tang's research interests include networking in the context of both traditional and wireless configurations. His research also addresses optimization, the task of increasing the efficiency of computer programs. Tang will teach courses in computer networks and advanced networks. He earned his doctorate degree in computer science from Arizona State University in 2006.

Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE)

Brock J. LaMeres has joined the ECE department as an assistant professor. LaMeres designed electronic test equipment for Agilent Technologies in Colorado Springs, Colo., from 1999 to 2006. His interests are in the area of high-speed digital circuit design. LaMeres earned his master's and doctorate from the University of Colorado in 2001 and 2005 respectively and his bachelor's degree from MSU in 1998, all in electrical engineering. LaMeres is a registered professional engineer in Colorado and holds three U.S. patents related to electronic probing systems.

Professor Emeritus status has been conferred upon **Fredrick M. Cady**. Cady earned his doctorate from the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand. He taught in New Zealand for 10 years before joining MSU's EE department in 1980.

Mechanical and Industrial Engineering (MIE)

Keith Fisher has joined the MIE department. Fisher, assistant professor in mechanical engineering technology, has more than 20 years of industrial experience. His design experience spans several industries and applications including agriculture, food processing, construction, transportation and material handling. Prior to joining MSU, Fisher was an assistant professor at the University of Maine. Fisher is a registered professional engineer in Maine and Idaho. He holds a master's degree in agricultural engineering from University of Idaho and is scheduled to receive his doctorate degree from the University of Idaho in 2007.

FALL 2006 **COE**

Long endows civil engineering professorship with \$1 million gift



College of Engineering representatives pose with Malcolm and Joel T. Long after Joel Long finalized his gift to establish the Joel T. Long Professorship of Civil Engineering on Aug. 7. (left to right: Robert J. Marley, dean; Malcolm Long; Linda Wyckoff, senior director of development; Joel T. Long; and Brett Gunnink, civil engineering department head.) Gunnink will serve as the COE's first Joel T. Long Professor.

*adapted from an article by
Tracy Ellig, MSU News Service*

Joel T. Long, '65 B.S. Phys., '67 M.S. CE, and '05 Hon. Doc. Eng., spent more than 30 years in engineering, built one of Montana's largest construction companies and made

himself into a multi-millionaire. A Billings native, Long earned an undergraduate degree in physics from MSU in 1965 and a master's in engineering in 1967.

On Aug. 7, Long finalized a \$1 million gift to Montana State University's civil engineering department to establish the Joel T. Long Professorship of Civil Engineering.

"I've always felt you should give what you can. This gift will give forever. It might help kids who wouldn't go into engineering otherwise," Long said.

After physics, Long earned a master's degree in engineering and joined ROTC. After his master's degree, he owed the Army

Corps of Engineers two years of service at Vicksburg, Miss. In 1969, he returned to Billings to work for his father's company, United Industry. After his father died, Long bought a portion of the family business and turned it into his own construction firm: JTL Group. In the next nine

years he tripled the number of employees and its annual revenues. He sold the company in 1999 to Montana-Dakota Utilities. The company still exists as JTL Group and Long's oldest son, Malcolm, is the current president. Long has three sons – Malcolm, Joel, and Ralph.

"The best advice I can give an engineer is to take an extra year and study the humanities," Long said. "Engineers are good at math and science, but we need more engineers engaged in the community, more engineers willing to enter politics. Some background in the liberal arts can help with that."

In his retirement, despite spending time with family and learning to ski and golf, Long has found time for significant acts of philanthropy. He and his wife Andrea have directed most of their support to health care and child and family services operating in and around Billings.

"If everyone gets a little involved," Long said. "We can hold our community together."

Related stories

- Two Professorships (*page 2*)