

May 14, 2008

[The following letter was sent to all students admitted to the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering.]

Congratulations on your admission to the chemical engineering program of the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT)! We are thrilled at the potential of helping you further your academic career at IIT, and look forward to welcoming you on your first day.

The chemical engineering profession has helped create a better life for humankind for over one hundred years, and our department has been at the forefront of this movement since the very beginning. Having celebrated our centennial in 2001 as the fourth oldest program in the nation, IIT's chemical engineering program in the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering (ChBE) is recognized as one of the most respected and prestigious programs in the world.

We now live in truly awe-inspiring times at the dawn of the new millennium when the frontiers of scientific research are rapidly expanding towards nanotechnology, miniaturization, smart materials, sustainable energy, and biotechnology.

Our department is committed to providing you with the best education possible and is focused on offering a curriculum that will prepare you for a successful future in the industry. For this reason, we have integrated biological engineering fundamentals into our core chemical engineering, undergraduate program to better enable you to adapt to changes in the field. We have also continued to strengthen our focus on energy and sustainability, an area that is on everyone's mind nowadays. ChBE is a leader in fuel cell and battery research, clean coal technology, sustainable water resource management, bio-derived fuels, hybrid transportation, and alternative energy solutions.

Additionally, the multiple opportunities for undergraduate research and interdisciplinary collaboration that we offer will equip you with invaluable skills that will undoubtedly serve you throughout your entire career. I am also very pleased to announce the recent inauguration of our newly renovated Oldshue Undergraduate Laboratories. Your class will be the first class to experience this state-of-the-art facility throughout their entire time at IIT. You can browse through pictures of the lab's renovations by visiting our Web site or checking the articles in the most recent issue of the ChBE's annual publication, *Crosslinks*, included in this package. This newsletter will also give you an overview of the activities of our department. For more information, including events, research, faculty profiles and course offerings, I encourage you to visit our Web site at www.chbe.iit.edu.

If you have any questions related to your upcoming studies, please feel free to contact me at teymour@iit.edu or Professor Satish Parulekar at parulekar@iit.edu.

Again, congratulations on your admission into IIT and the ChBE Department. We look forward to providing you with a rewarding educational experience at IIT and hope to one day count you as one of our most distinguished and successful alumni.

Best regards,

Fouad Teymour
Chairman
Chemical and Biological Engineering Department