Olin’s class of 2013 has arrived and they are every bit as creative, driven, entrepreneurial, athletic and well-rounded as their predecessors. Among them is a student who was invited to play at the National Symphony Orchestra’s Youth Orchestra Day; a United Nations Association–USA essay contest National Semifinalist; an entrepreneur who founded a community service organization; an Outstanding Scholar as named by the NASA Aerospace Scholars Program; an author of two novels for future publication; a martial artist who studied intensively for eight months in China; a crafter of “awesome and award-winning” homecoming floats; and an environmentalist who converted her car to run on vegetable oil. They represent six countries (Australia; Canada; India; Nicaragua; Singapore; South Korea) and 26 states. Of the 86 students, 75 have been involved in community service, 56 were members of academic teams (including 40 captains), 52 are musicians, 59 are athletes, 21 are researchers, 23 are theater buffs, 4 are entrepreneurs and 24 have a real passion for robotics. They’re a studious bunch: 29 are AP Scholars; two are US Presidential Scholars; 31 were National Merit Finalists; 1 was an Intel Finalist; one was a National Hispanic Scholar; 20 were valedictorians and 13 were salutatorians.
The Olin curriculum is a synthesis of creative ideas and best practices in engineering education. Its aim is to apply new ways to teach engineering and to graduate students who are prepared to lead technological innovation in the 21st Century.

The Olin curriculum is based on the Olin Triangle of rigorous science and engineering, entrepreneurship, and the liberal arts. Equally important is a dedication to lifelong learning, so students can continually update their skills to meet new technical challenges.

From the beginning students learn through team-based, hands-on projects and take open-ended problems, the kind that go far beyond the textbook and call for a considerable amount of creativity and initiative. The curriculum also emphasizes interdisciplinary learning, communication, and the role of design in engineering.

To produce the kind of well-rounded, creative students it envisions, Olin supports a “learning continuum” that extends from classroom work to research, independent study, personal passions and other areas which, taken together, make up Olin’s unique learning environment.