Message from Acting Dean Leo Kempel

The College of Engineering has experienced some major changes this year. As we settle into a new academic year, this gives me a chance to review some of them so far in 2013. Back in March, Satish Udpa, University Distinguished Professor of electrical and computer engineering and dean of the College of Engineering for the past seven years, was appointed Michigan State University's executive vice president for administrative services. Dr. Udpa left the college in a very good position. The momentum resulting from his passionate leadership and guidance over the past several years has carried us forward on a successful and exciting trajectory as his dreams and visions continue to come to fruition. Read more

Steve Price—better known as “Sprice” to America’s Got Talent viewers and Twitter followers—is an MSU mechanical engineering sophomore from Canton, Mich. The talented 4.0 student and creator of Rube Goldberg Machines made it through two rounds of auditions on the primetime NBC television show America’s Got Talent. He advanced to the quarterfinals at Radio City Music Hall in New York.
and Computer Engineering, was named acting dean. Karim Chatti, professor of civil and environmental engineering, was appointed acting associate dean for research. Satish Udpa, University Distinguished Professor of electrical and computer engineering and former dean of the college, became Michigan State University’s executive vice president for administrative services, effective March 18. “This is an institution in motion,” Kempel said. “The pace of change has accelerated. We are bolder by design, better informed and driven by a vision. It is our responsibility to take what we understand and translate it for the world.”

**MSU Bio Engineering Facility Breaks Ground**

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held June 19 for the Michigan State University Bio Engineering Facility. The new 130,000-square-foot building represents MSU’s commitment to research in the biomedical sciences and its impact on human health in areas such as nanotechnology, robotics, tissue engineering and imaging. It will house faculty from MSU’s Colleges of Engineering, Human Medicine, and Natural Science, and serve as a hub for interdisciplinary research that brings together researchers from various disciplines. Expected completion date is August 2015.

**MSU Launches Effort to Recruit More Women into Engineering and Computing Fields**

Michigan State University is partnering with the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) to recruit and retain more women in computer science, computer engineering, electrical engineering, and mechanical engineering—fields in which females remain underrepresented nationwide. The two-year effort will be distinguished by its focus on data analysis.

**Robotics-Themed Program Takes Aim at Science Teaching**

This summer, middle- and high-school science teachers from around Michigan gathered at MSU to take part in a robotics-themed program designed to refine their teaching skills and

**HAPPENINGS**

- **December 6**
  - Design Day
- **December 14**
  - Fall 2013 Commencement

**AWARDS & HONORS**

- **Bruce Dale and Fang Zheng Peng Named University Distinguished Professors**
  - Bruce E. Dale, professor of chemical engineering and materials science, and Fang Zheng Peng, professor of electrical and computer engineering, are among nine Michigan State University professors named University Distinguished Professors in recognition of their achievements in the classroom, laboratory, and community.

- **Phanikumar Mantha Elected Fellow of Geological Society of America**
  - Phanikumar Mantha, associate professor of civil and environmental engineering, has been elected a fellow of the Geological Society of America (GSA).
come up with more exciting ways of teaching the STEM disciplines—science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The program, titled Research Experiences for Teachers, is funded by a $500,000 grant from the National Science Foundation. The program will train 10 to 12 teachers every year for the next three years. Read more

Wiley Practice Prize Awarded to BEACON Multi-Criterion Decision Making Team

A sophisticated mathematical modeling, optimization, and decision-making system that is helping to preserve scenic Lake Rotorua in New Zealand earned international honors for the Multi-Criterion Decision Making Team at the BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action. The award was presented June 20 in Málaga, Spain. Read more

Ribbon Cutting Marks MSU and Bosch Collaboration

A ribbon cutting on Feb. 11 marked the opening of the Innovation and Creative Thinking Theme Floor in Wilson Hall sponsored by Bosch, a leading global supplier of technology and services in the areas of automotive technology, energy and building technology, industrial technology, and consumer goods. Robert Bosch LLC is partnering with the College of Engineering to cultivate innovation and creativity in the next generation of engineers. They join Consumers Energy/the Consumers Energy Foundation and GE Transportation as a CoRe (Cornerstone and Residential) Experience Theme Partner. Read more

STUDENT NEWS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CSE Seniors “Take It All in Stride” with Winning iPhone App

Phil Getzen, Adam Proschek, and Ryan Tempas, computer science and engineering seniors, helped develop a winning iPhone app for runners—and they are “taking it all in stride.” The fitness app, called TempoRun, took first place at the national Student Startup Madness tournament, which is an official event of South by Southwest (SXSW) Interactive—

Tim Whitehead Wins NSF CAREER Award

Tim Whitehead, assistant professor of chemical engineering and materials science and of biosystems and agricultural engineering, has received a National Science Foundation CAREER award.

Arun Ross Receives IAPR Young Biometric Investigator Award

Arun Ross, associate professor of computer science and engineering, has been awarded the first edition of the IAPR Young Biometric Investigator Award.

Laura Dillon Selected for UMASS Outstanding Achievement and Advocacy Award

Laura Dillon, professor of computer science and engineering, has been selected to receive an Outstanding Achievement and Advocacy Award in the area of Outstanding Achievement in Education by the faculty of the Department of Computer Science at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Guoming G. Zhu Named SAE International Fellow

Guoming G. Zhu, associate professor of mechanical engineering, was elected a 2012-2013 fellow of SAE International.
a set of film, interactive, and music festivals that takes place in Austin, Texas. Read more

**MSU Teams Place Well in 2013 Student Competitions**

At the American Society of Civil Engineers regional competition in April at Michigan Technological University, the concrete canoe team placed third, while the steel bridge team placed first and advanced to the national competition. At the Formula SAE Michigan competition held in May at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Mich., the MSU Formula Racing Team finished ninth overall out of 120 teams, and third in the endurance competition.

**Two Engineering Seniors Named to Homecoming Court**

Mairin Chesney and Audrey Mabiza have been named to the 2013-14 Homecoming Court. Chesney, of Brighton, Michigan, is double majoring in computer science and Chinese. Mabiza, of Harare, Zimbabwe, is a chemical engineering major. Both are members of the Honors College. Read more

**CEE Senior among 2013 New Faces of Civil Engineering**

Caroline Williams, a civil and environmental engineering senior, has been named one of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) 2013 New Faces of Civil Engineering – College Edition. She was selected based on academic and extracurricular achievements that demonstrate her promise as a future engineer and leader. Read more

**ALUMNI & DEVELOPMENT NEWS**

**Steve Noll Chairs Engineering Alumni Association Board**

Steve Noll (BS Elec Egr ’74), a partner in the Chicago firm of Schiff Hardin LLP, is the new chair of the College of Engineering Alumni Association Board. His two-year term ends Dec. 31, 2014. The outgoing board chair, Joseph F. Gentile (BS ’64, MS ’66 Chem Egr), had been

**Susan Masten Receives Lyman A. Ripperton Environmental Educator Award**

Susan Masten, professor of civil and environmental engineering, received the 2013 Lyman A. Ripperton Environmental Educator Award from the Air & Waste Management Association. She was also awarded the 2013 Chi Epsilon Excellence in Teaching Award—Great Lakes District.

**Charles Owen Wins AT&T Faculty Award for Best in the Technology Enhanced Category**

Charles Owen, associate professor of computer science and engineering, was selected by peer review as best in the technology enhanced category at MSU’s Libraries and Information Technology Services annual awards competition, funded by AT&T. The award was based on the course CSE 476: Selected Topics in Computer Science (Mobile Application Development).

**Venkatesh Kodur Elected Fellow of Structural Engineering Institute**

Venkatesh Kodur, professor of civil and environmental engineering and director of MSU’s Center for Structural Fire Engineering and Diagnostics, was elected fellow of the Structural Engineering Institute (SEI) of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).
a member of the board since 2004 and served as chair from 2009 to 2012.

See all board members

Tenth Annual Alumni Awards Banquet Honors Nine Individuals

The College of Engineering recently recognized an influential teacher and eight alumni, all of whom have brought honor to themselves and the college through their professional and philanthropic achievements. The group was honored at the Tenth Annual Alumni Awards Banquet at MSU’s Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center on May 4. Read more

Read about College of Engineering alumni accomplishments, awards, and updates.

MAKE A GIFT TO THE COLLEGE

To give to the College of Engineering, contact Stephen Bates, Senior Director of Development and Alumni Relations, at egr-devel@egr.msu.edu or (517) 355-8339.

CONNECT WITH US

College of Engineering | Michigan State University | 428 S. Shaw Lane, Room 3410, East Lansing, MI 48824-1228

Newsletter developed by DECS.

To subscribe to e-Currents, please click here.

You are currently subscribed as [EMAIL]. If you wish to unsubscribe, please click here.