Dear Friends,

As our spring semester draws to a close, we are once again reminded of the beauty of Lehigh's campus, and are looking forward to numerous celebrations with our graduating students, alumni, and families. Special congratulations to our graduating class of 2016, who give clear evidence that our tradition of excellence continues! The Electrical and Computer Engineering Spring 2016 Newsletter highlights a few of the outstanding achievements of our students and faculty, and invites you to join us as the ECE Department prepares to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of our first four-year graduating class. A series of events will occur throughout the year, culminating in a celebration banquet in the fall of 2017. We would love to hear from you, and welcome your thoughts and suggestions. Thank you so much for all your support throughout the academic year. We wish you a very enjoyable summer!

Warmest Regards,

[Signature]

Department News

Five ECE Faculty Win Prestigious Awards

Professor Rick Blum, a twenty-five year veteran of Lehigh’s ECE department, was awarded the Libsch Research Award, which recognizes excellence in research and scholarship and a record of distinguished research accomplishments. Assistant professor Chao Zhou was recognized for his scholarly achievements, receiving the Libsch Early Career Research Award.

Professor Shalinee Kishore was honored to receive the Ruth and Joel Spira Excellence in Teaching Award, made possible by a gift from the Spira family who founded the Lutron Electronics Company.

Assistant professor Wenxin Liu was awarded the P. C. Rossin Assistant Professorship, made possible by a gift from Peter and Ada Rossin to honor young faculty members demonstrating outstanding potential for academic excellence through the integration of teaching and research. Professor of practice Bill Best was recognized for his exceptional teaching by the senior student leaders in the PC Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science.

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Detecting disease, one white blood cell at a time.

When white blood cells encounter viruses or harmful bacteria, they secrete molecules to summon more white cells to the site. Xuanhong Cheng, associate professor of materials science and engineering, is working with Filbert Bartoli, professor of electrical and computer engineering, to monitor white blood cell function using a handheld nanoplasmonic sensor device.

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Professor Blum Graduates his 20th Ph.D. Student

Twenty years into his advising career, Professor Rick Blum celebrated a milestone in 2015. Jangfan Zhang and Anand Guruswamy successfully defended their dissertations in November and December, respectively, becoming Professor Blum’s 19th and 20th graduated Ph.D. students.

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Alumni News

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Help Us Plan Our Celebration!

125 Years of ECE at Lehigh

Oh how things have changed! Does this scene with Professor Fritchman and a student with a speech recognition device bring back memories? Share them with us!

Lehigh ECE will celebrate the 125th Anniversary of our first graduating class in 2017. We will have a series of events all year long, culminating in a banquet in Fall. We welcome your suggestions to plan a meaningful celebration!

Senior Design

This year's Senior Design Project Showcase was held on Friday May 6. The Judges award went to Andrew Shapiro (EE & Physics) and Dan Kisting (EE) for their Affordable Spectrum Analyzer (left). The Peer award went to Wilson Kong (EE) and Alex Huynh (CompE) for their VacanSee Population Data Analyzer (right).

Student Spotlight

Lehigh Hyperloop Team Reaches Final Round

Lehigh's Hyperloop team, including three electrical engineering majors in the leadership team, has advanced to the final round of the SpaceX Hyperloop Competition, tentatively scheduled for August. Out of an initial 1200 competition teams, Lehigh Hyperloop is just one of 31 teams to make it through the design round held January 29-30 at Texas A&M University.

Lehigh students take first and second at 2016 IEEE Morton Paper Contest

Two groups of Lehigh ECE students took first and second place at the 58th annual Walter B. Morton Prize Paper Contest, sponsored by the IEEE Lehigh Valley section. The event, which took place on April 21 at Wilkes University, awarded first place to senior students Charles Drazba and Nicholas Trevile for their paper entitled “Magnetic Monkey: Magnetic Surface Scaling Robot,” and second place to seniors Morgan Walker and Suzanne Schoenbach for their paper entitled “Wireless Speaker Using Visible Light Communication.”
Toward more vibrant LEDs

Chee-Keong Tan has not yet completed his Ph.D. in electrical engineering, but he has already made his mark in the field of solid state lighting and the light-emitting diodes (LEDs) that outperform fluorescent and incandescent lighting in energy efficiency. The materials with which Tan works—known as III-Nitride semiconductor materials—are well-understood. The next step—developing alternative III-Nitride materials—has not yet been widely undertaken. Tan, who is pioneering this development, has been working to advance the science behind alternative III-Nitride semiconductors.

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