

Dear alumni and friends:

Among our many accomplishments this past year, the Russ College also experienced challenges. Foremost for us now is a renewed commitment to academic honesty—as a basic, or “core,” value for Ohio University as a whole, and as a culture that we live and breathe here in the College.

You're likely aware that a number of cases of plagiarism were found in theses and dissertations in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Those cases are now being reviewed, and the University will release results as soon as we're able—perhaps before this third issue of *Ingenuity* even lands in your mailbox. You can watch our Web site, [www.ohio.edu/engineering](http://www.ohio.edu/engineering), for new developments.

We have been working diligently to address the situation and have deployed a number of initiatives that already are engaging our faculty, staff, and students. (For details, see “From the Board” on page 14.) Our new Student Academic Honesty Honor Council (see photo, bottom right) monitors the state of academic honesty in the Russ College and makes recommendations to me—quarterly or more often if needed—regarding steps we can take to promote a culture in which cheating is unacceptable. Faculty, staff, and students must be able to communicate openly and honestly in an environment of trust and support.



Dean Irwin with Dolores Russ and Connie Tobias, A.A.S. '77, B.G.S. '78, celebrating Fritz and Dolores' induction into the Wright-Dunbar Walk of Fame in Dayton, Ohio, this September.



Dean Dennis Irwin

I encourage you to stay tuned and watch our progress as we continue to transform this challenge into an opportunity. Already, we are looked to for advice from other institutions wrestling with these same issues. We will emerge with one of the finest, if not the finest, academic honesty programs in the nation.

Russ College students continue to accomplish great things, as you can tell by their achievements on pages 6–7. Our computer science students are ranked 34th in the world based on their competitions, and a couple of competition teams have again placed at the top of their contests. Individual students have soared, too—literally. You might recall from my column in the last issue of *Ingenuity* that I had taken part in a zero-gravity experiment for the European Space Agency. This past spring, several of our students were able to do the same as part of their senior design project. One of the participants, Mark Smearcheck, B.S.E.E. '06, tells his story on page 5. I'm very proud that our students have such remarkable opportunities.

Our new integrated learning and research facility will facilitate collaboration among students by providing flexible, interactive space. For example, competition hangars will expose the design work of more experienced students to those at an earlier stage in their studies. Outfitted with pneumatic tool capabilities, specialized

flooring, and an overhead crane, the hangars will be accessible through a glass garage door so large projects can be easily viewed and transported.

Shared with the College of Osteopathic Medicine, the building also will encourage interdisciplinary work between student and faculty engineers, researchers, and clinicians. For one, our new master's program in biomedical engineering will benefit from new lab space and collaboration with clinicians housed nearby who will be applying the results of engineering research. We plan to break ground on the building this spring. Details are on pages 12–13.

Last year, Russ College faculty received one of Ohio University's largest ever National Science Foundation grants. Perhaps the best part of the grant is that it will support regional middle school science education—see page 8.



Dropping by to cheer on Russ College faculty and staff, Rufus the Bobcat shares a hug with Administrative Coordinator Kelley Jolley.

# INGENUITY

I encourage you to keep the lines of communication open. Let us know how you are doing! Send us your updates for Class Notes and, as always, feel free to share your comments and concerns with me. Thank you again for your continued support! 🍷

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis Irwin".

Dennis Irwin, Ph.D., P.E.

*Dean and Moss Professor of Engineering Education*



Members of the Russ College Student Honor Council and Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies Angie Bukley (seated) surround Dean Irwin as he signs the council's charter in September.