

INGENUITY

engineer



Dean Dennis Irwin

Dear alumni and friends:

I'm saddened to share that one of our College's and Ohio University's greatest friends, Dolores Russ, passed away at the beginning of 2008. You may recall that Dolores' husband of 62 years, Fritz, preceded her in death in 2004.

I am fortunate to have known Dolores for the last 20 years. She and Fritz worked side by side toward their many achievements. She was intelligent, quick witted, and a pleasure to be around. She will be sorely missed. We have shared more about her inspiring life on page 4.

I'm pleased to share many exciting accomplishments and progress since our last issue. Construction on the new Academic & Research Center, the shared facility we're building with the College of Osteopathic Medicine, is just getting underway as *Ingenuity* lands in your mailboxes. The building should be completed in time for fall 2009, with occupation in winter 2010.

Designed for collaboration and interdisciplinary exchange, this dynamic facility will enable new ways of working for our students,

faculty, and staff, and will support programs such as our new master's in biomedical engineering, which began this fall. Don't miss *Ingenuity's* special spread on the new facility, on pages 18-19.

Another exciting new program will help our undergraduates learn how public policy is formed, and what role they, as future engineers and technologists, might play in creating or reforming policy in the workplace.

We live in a society becoming increasingly dominated by technology. Our elected officials, most of whom don't have technical training and expertise, are asked to set public policy for technology. Our country's infrastructure depends on these decisions. The engineers and technologists who are involved with the creation of new technologies—and the transfer or renovation of existing technologies—must participate in these legislative processes, and we are going to train our students to do just that with a series of senior-level courses that will apply toward graduation requirements.

In Russ College strategic planning news, our department chairs are leading working groups on issues such as accreditation, a workload policy for faculty, communications, departmental interdisciplinary issues, and other topics. The committees came out of our summer biennial dean's retreat of department chairs, center directors, and dean's leadership staff.

Their work, over the next year, will fuel the Russ College as we target newly defined academic quality indicators, or metrics. We're looking at areas ranging from prominence, to cost of instruction, to faculty and student statistics. These more quantitative measures of reporting our performance will immediately inform decisions about resource



BRUCE STRONG

Engineering Ambassador and electrical engineering major **Chris Tyo** and **Dean Irwin** try their hands at playing spoons at the Russ College's bluegrass barbeque in May.

allocation and, in the longer term, guide the direction of the College.

Russ College Board of Visitors Chair Mark Arnold, B.S.I.S.E. '86, discusses the project in detail in his column on page 16.

Russ College research grew last year, with external research expenditures increasing from \$14.1 million to \$14.7 million—about half of the College's revenue and about 51 percent of the University's total sponsored research. In addition to the Avionics Engineering Center's world-class research, our strategic research areas are bioengineering, energy and the environment, and civil infrastructure.

The Avionics Engineering Center accounted for almost half—\$6.8 million—of that overall research figure. Our funding in the other areas is evidence of our current success and future potential: Figures for 2006-2007 were almost \$3.2 million for energy and the environment, and \$1.3 million for civil infrastructure.

The Institute for Corrosion and Multiphase Technology—related to both energy and the environment, and smart civil infrastructure, because of its work in oil and gas pipeline corrosion mitigation—accounted for another \$1.6 million.

And since bioengineering became one of our strategic research areas, more than \$3.2 million in external funding has been secured for collaborative Ohio University projects. We celebrated another exciting project in late November, when



Russ Prize recipient **Yuan-Cheng "Bert" Fung** shares a smile with **Dean Irwin** during his campus visit in September.



Lionel Batty, director of research and development, GrafTech International Ltd.; Ohio University President **Roderick McDavis**; Congressman **Charlie Wilson**; **Don Majcher**, vice president of technology and innovation partnerships at the Ohio Aerospace Institute; Russ College Dean **Dennis Irwin**; Moss Professor **Khairul Alam**

we proudly hosted Congressman Charlie Wilson from Ohio's 6th district for a press conference announcing a \$1.6 million federal appropriation that we will share with the Ohio Aerospace Institute and GrafTech International.

The grant will enable Moss Professor of Mechanical Engineering Khairul Alam, and these groups, to continue his research with carbon foam in order to develop the next generation of heat exchangers for airplanes and spacecraft.

It's an exciting project that is well aligned with our strategic research areas—the heat exchangers have the potential to increase efficiency and decrease emissions in military planes because they are made from carbon foam and will weigh up to 40 percent less than the metallic ones now in use.

As always, please feel free to share your ideas, questions, and concerns—and don't forget to let us know what's new with you by submitting an update for Class Notes at www.ohio.edu/ingenuity. Thank you again for your continued support! 🙏

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