New Hires

Dean Bruckner, assistant director-technical, Avionics Engineering Center
Branden Buxman, research pilot, Avionics Engineering Center
Sunggyu “K.B.” Lee, Russ-Ohio Research Scholar in Coal Syngas Utilization, Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
Steve Riesbeck, grant writer, Dean’s Office

Moving Up

Shawn Ostermann, associate dean for research, graduate studies and planning; formerly chair, School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

Moving On

James M. Rankin, associate dean for research, graduate studies and planning, Dean’s Office, accepted the position of vice provost for research and economic development at the University of Arkansas.

Remembrances

Helmut Zwahlen, professor emeritus of industrial and systems engineering, died on Feb. 28 in Athens. He was 71.

Zwahlen was a research professor with the Ohio Research Institute for Transportation and the Environment. He joined the Russ College in 1971 as an assistant professor of industrial and systems engineering.

An Ohio University alumnus, Zwahlen received a master’s degree in industrial and systems engineering from the Russ College in 1968. He also earned a doctorate in industrial and systems engineering from Ohio State University and a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from the State of Berne Institute of Technology in Burgdorf, Switzerland.

Outside of his teaching duties, Zwahlen served as the principal investigator for numerous federal- and state-supported research projects. Many of the projects dealt with transportation, traffic safety, visibility, traffic signing, human factors, driver performance, driver eye scanning, and driver risk-taking topics.

Zwahlen was a fellow of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society and a past recipient of its A. R. Lauer Traffic Safety Award, which is given to a person for outstanding contributions to human factors aspects in the broad area of safety. During his distinguished career, he published more than 100 technical papers and reports and served on several committees of the Transportation Research Board.

Gary Conlan died April 15 after a long battle with cancer. Conlan earned his bachelor’s degree in commerce at Ohio University in 1958. He was executive vice president, chief operating officer, and corporate director at Neer Manufacturing from 1977 until his retirement in 1994. He was a member of the Russ College’s Department of Industrial Technology advisory board from 2000–2006.

Jim McKnight, 71, passed away March 18 in Nelsonville, Ohio. A skilled machinist, McKnight worked at Anchor Hocking in Lancaster, Ohio, before joining the engineering research faculty as a mechanical systems technician. He was awarded the 2003 Russ College Outstanding Employee Award (technical).