While the growth of our students inspires us, we’re also energized by the potential of our faculty. Our new Russ-Ohio Research Scholar in Coal-Syngas Utilization, Dr. Sunggyu “K.B.” Lee, has settled into his new 16,000 square-foot-lab nicely—after a whopping seven semi trucks delivered his equipment! But Dr. Lee didn’t just bring his groundbreaking alternative fuels technologies with him. He also brought eight graduate students to work in the lab, four of whom will become our alumni. His Sustainable Energy and Advanced Materials Laboratory is one of the finest labs in the nation specializing in process and product research and development in alternative fuels, functional materials, and high-pressure technology—particularly products that can be made using sequestered CO$_2$.

I’m also proud to highlight several junior faculty members. On pages 8-9, you can read about assistant professors who, early in their careers, have already received noteworthy grants from major federal organizations.
In a collaborative effort among three of our programs, other faculty shared their expertise with colleagues at Iraq’s Al-Anbar University by assessing its programs with a focus on the ABET accreditation process. Department Chair and Neil D. Thomas Professor Gayle Mitchell, Russ Professor Shad Sargand, Associate Professors Eric Steinberg and Ben Stuart, and Research Engineer Andrew Russ of Civil Engineering; Mechanical Engineering Chair Greg Kremer; and Associate Professor Costas Vassiliadis of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science collaborated with five visiting colleagues from Iraq.

As we look back on the past year, we also celebrate the accomplishments of our alumni, such as Retired Brigadier General and Russ College Board of Visitors member James Abraham, B.S.E.E. ’43, B.S.I.E. ’48. Jim was recognized in August by the City of Gahanna, which dedicated its city hall in his honor. You can read more in Class Notes—and be sure to see in that section how to send us your news so we can include you next time.

Finally, a biennial event that we are most grateful to share, one that grew from the hearts of our beloved friends Fritz, B.S.E.E. ’42, H.O.N. ’75, and Dolores Russ: the Russ Prize. In February, the sixth Russ Prize was bestowed on visionary cross-disciplinary scientist Leroy Hood, one of the pioneers of the Human Genome Project (see page 18). We’re honored to be the home of the world’s top prize in bioengineering—and we’ll be honored to welcome Dr. Hood to Ohio University in February for a visit during Engineers’ Week 2012.

It will be one of many events to look forward to hearing about in our next issue.

WRITE TO US!
We welcome letters from readers. We reserve the right to edit for space, collegiality, and grammar. Please include your contact information. E-mail to ingenuity@ohio.edu, or mail to Ingenuity magazine, Russ College of Engineering and Technology, Ohio University, Stocker Center 177, Athens, Ohio, 45701.