



Women in Engineering Graduate Steering Committee

October 2014

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sites.udel.edu/wie • (302) 831-2401

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Our Mission

Our goal is to promote, mentor, and enable the participation of women students and faculty in engineering studies and the workplace. WIE provides activities that bring together female and male engineering students, faculty, and administrators - as well as external representatives from industry, government agencies, and other academic institutions - with the goal of promoting a healthy institutional climate for all members of the engineering community at UD.

Upcoming Events

Meet your Faculty - Lunch

Dr. April Kloxin

Dr. April Kroxin is an assistant professor of the Chemical and Bio-molecular Engineering department and a 2013 Pew Scholar in Biomedical Sciences.

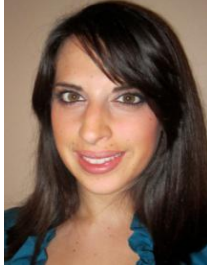
She is going to have a lunch with us on October 29th in DuPont 102 where she is going to answer graduate students' questions about work and life.

Please join us in DuPont 102 from 12:30 – 1:30 pm.



2014- 2015 Committee

Biomedical Engineering

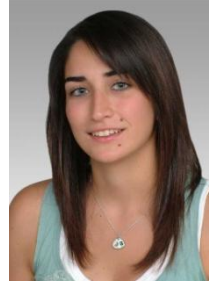


Jilian Melemed



Rachel Edelstein

Chemical and Bio-molecular Engineering



Bahar Ipek
(Chair)



Michelle
Calabrese

Civil and Environmental Engineering



Mengyin Yao



Keira Zhang

Computer Science



Irene Manotas

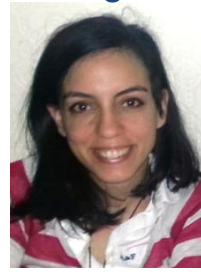


Vallary Singh

Electrical and Computer Engineering



Anagha Kulkarni



Elpiniki Apostolaki-
Iosifidou

Material Sciences and Engineering



Danning Zhang



Liang Gong

Mechanical Engineering



Anahid Ebrahimi



Diana Haidar

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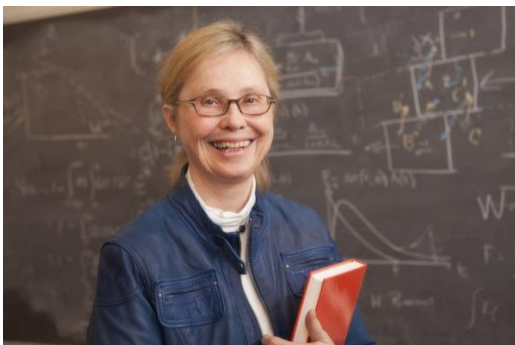


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WIE can! Nominations, achievements and awards.



Torch Award Winner!!

Pamela Cook-Ioannidis, Unidel Professor of Mathematical Sciences and associate dean of engineering, has been named this year's recipient of the Torch Award.

The University of Delaware Women's Caucus has chosen L. Pamela Cook, Unidel Professor of Mathematical Sciences and associate dean of Engineering, as this year's recipient of its Torch Award.

The award, presented annually, recognizes people who have "carried the torch for women's equality" at the University of Delaware. The torch recalls the lighting of a torch for the 1977 National Women's Conference, symbolically charting a course between the first Women's Rights Convention of 1848 and the modern movement for women's liberation. It was selected by the caucus to represent the past and present efforts to achieve equality and improve the quality of employment for women at UD.

Cook is being recognized for her unparalleled commitment to women, especially in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

As a co-principal investigator on UD's National Science Foundation ADVANCE PAID award, she has directed efforts to improve the recruitment and retention of women faculty in STEM departments. She leads UD's Women in Engineering program, which supports female graduate students and faculty through workshops, guest speakers, networking opportunities and mentoring.

Since she became associate dean of engineering in 2002, the College of Engineering's female faculty representation has increased from 4.5 percent to 16.6 percent. Under her leadership the College of Engineering received funds to establish two junior chaired professorships for women, the Mills Chair and the Clare Boothe Luce Assistant Professorship.

Cook served as chair of UD's Commission on the Status of Women for six years. She received the 2012 University Change Agent Award from the Women in Engineering ProActive Network (WEPAN) and the 2009 University of Delaware Trabant Award for Women's Equity for her efforts on behalf of women at UD.

The Torch Award will be presented during the Women's Caucus spring social gathering to be held on Thursday, May 1, from 4-6 p.m. at 44 Kent Way. All members of the University community are invited to attend.

This article was adapted from the UDaily announcement (Photos by Duane Perry) on March 26, 2014. For the full article please visit:<http://www.udel.edu/udaily/2014/mar/torch-award-032614.html>



NSF ADVANCE Grant

The University of Delaware has been awarded \$3.3 million from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to develop a program that will serve as a national model for diversifying and strengthening the academic workforce.

UD is one of only four universities in 2014 to receive NSF's prestigious ADVANCE Institutional Transformation (IT) grant. The five-year program at UD is research driven and aims to support University administrators as change agents, to improve transparency in policies and procedures, and especially to mentor women faculty to advance through the ranks and into senior leadership positions.

Of particular interest in the NSF-sponsored program is the increased recruitment, retention and advancement of women faculty and women faculty of color, with a special focus on women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Pamela Cook, Unidel Professor of Mathematical Sciences and associate dean of faculty in the College of Engineering, will lead the program. Her co-investigators include Robin Andreasen, project research director and associate professor of cognitive science and linguistics; Heather Doty, faculty associate to the provost and assistant professor of mechanical engineering; and John Sawyer, professor of management and associate provost for institutional research and effectiveness.

"Receiving this prestigious award from the National Science Foundation is an exciting opportunity for our campus and critical to establishing the diverse academic workforce of the future at UD," said Cook, who also is a faculty scholar in UD's Center for the Study of Diversity and was recognized nationally in 2012 as a University Change Agent.

Cook previously chaired the University's mathematical sciences department for nine years and the Commission on the Status of Women for six years. She is a fellow of both

the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) and is president-elect of SIAM.

“Research indicates that improving the climate for women faculty improves the climate for all faculty,” Cook said. “Becoming an ADVANCE institution raises UD’s prominence and will attract potential faculty hires.”

The NSF grant supports a research program on race and gender equity in the academy as well as a variety of faculty-led and faculty-focused information and awareness programs. Activities will include workshops, mentoring and networking opportunities for UD faculty, efforts to create enhanced family-friendly policies, and separate programs for administrators (department chairs, college deans, vice provosts) to enhance their awareness of faculty issues.

“The University of Delaware is committed to attracting and retaining a diverse faculty,” said Provost Domenico Grasso. “The UD ADVANCE program will contribute new research important to understanding faculty equity issues and help create a climate that will lead to their thriving careers.”

Faculty members from all departments who are interested in planning or participating in grant-related research and activities are encouraged to email ud-advance@udel.edu for more information.

This article was adapted from the UDaily announcement (Photos by Evan Krape) on March 26, 2014. For the full article please visit: <http://www.udel.edu/udaily/2015/sep/advance-091814.html>



2014 Laird Fellow

Sarah Geiger, a University of Delaware doctoral student in Materials Science and Engineering, has been awarded the 2014 Laird Fellowship.

This prestigious fellowship honors the memory of George W. Laird, a UD mechanical engineering graduate who died in an accident at the age of 35.

The award is given to candidates who exhibit character, creativity, imagination and perseverance and encourages recipients to engage in “broadening intellectual pursuits” that may or may not apply to the student's chosen field.

Geiger is a self-described “well-rounded student” who knows that it takes more than just laboratory experience to make a successful engineer.

To succeed, she noted, also requires integrity, concentration and perseverance – principles she has practiced since age 13 while studying Tang Soo Do martial arts.

While studying for her undergraduate degree at Millersville (Pennsylvania) University, Geiger said she applied the concentration and self-discipline of a martial artist to her studies, research and extracurricular activities, hoping to serve as a role model for future scientists as one of the only female physicists at the university.

During this time, she also built strong communication skills through dance. Because of the spontaneous nature of lindy hop and blues dancing, dancers rely less on memorization and instead focus on maintaining a strong connection between themselves and their partner.

“In many ways, a dance is like a conversation. Through following, I improved my listening skills and awareness of others, and by learning to lead, I learned to express myself clearly and creatively,” Geiger explained.

Today these skills enhance her research focused on improving cancer studies. Co-advised by Xinqiao Jia, associate professor of materials science and engineering, and Juejun Hu, assistant professor of materials science and engineering, Geiger is incorporating flexible photonic stress/strain sensors into three-dimensional artificial cell scaffolds made from biocompatible hydrogels.

Geiger's research will bridge the gap between physical and organic materials research by offering minimally invasive and highly sensitive stress/strain detection, as well as dynamic control of the scaffold properties, within a highly biocompatible hydrogel environment.

These new technologies can improve cancer research and treatments by helping researchers develop a better understanding of tumor behavior in artificial environments.

"With these sensor-integrated systems," Geiger noted, "we hope to strengthen the fight against cancer by providing a dynamically controllable and biocompatible platform for studying the mechanics of tumor growth."

Following graduation, Geiger plans to pursue a career in the research industry.

Geiger received her bachelor's degree in chemistry and physics with a minor in mathematics from Millersville University in 2013.

This article was adapted from the UDaily announcement (Photos by Ambre Alexander Payne and courtesy of Sarah Geiger) on March 26, 2014. For the full article please visit: <http://www.udel.edu/udaily/2014/may/geiger-laird-fellow-050214.html>



2014 NSF Graduate Research Fellow

Diana Haidar, a graduate student in the department of Mechanical Engineering has won an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship.

The NSF Graduate Research Fellowship is the oldest graduate fellowship of its kind. It is now in its 62nd year, the program has a strong track record of selecting recipients who achieve high levels of success in their future academic and professional careers. Past fellows include numerous Nobel Prize winners and other leading innovators and educators.

NSF Fellows benefit from a three-year annual stipend of \$32,000 along with a \$12,000 cost of education allowance for tuition and fees (paid to the institution), opportunities for international research and professional development, and the freedom to conduct their own research at any accredited U.S. institution of graduate education they choose.



2014 Travel Grants

Irene Manotas and Vallary Singh from the Department of Computer and Information Sciences, won the ACM SIGSOFT Travel Grant for the year 2014.

Irene also won the ACM-W Travel Grant for the year 2014.



