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Heritage Award

Anton T. Dahbura ’81, ’82 MSE, ’84 PhD is an emerging alumni leader. A native of El Salvador, he earned all three Whiting School of Engineering degrees in Electrical Engineering.

Dahbura has a long tradition of involvement with and support of Johns Hopkins. He played on the Hopkins varsity baseball team and continues to be very active with the team. Under his leadership as chair of the Society of Engineering Alumni (2000-02), SEA grew significantly in regional events, alumni involvement, and fostering alumni interaction with faculty and students. Dahbura now chairs the Computer Science Advisory Board. Recently, he joined the Whiting School’s National Advisory Council.

Recently, Dahbura and his company, Hub Labels, Inc., supported the Whiting School’s Mechanical Engineering Senior Design Project, in which student teams collaborate with companies on specific problems. He also served on the 20th reunion gift committee for the Class of 1981. As part of the Johns Hopkins Initiative, Dahbura established the Jan Minkowski Scholarship Fund in memory of his favorite professor. Dahbura has proven time and again his dedication to his alma mater. He and his wife, Maria, reside in Hagerstown, Maryland.

Heritage Award

Edward Wenk, Jr. ’40, ’50 PhD (’89 Hon.) is considered a foremost authority on submarine engineering technology, as well as a defense technology innovator, author, national scientific adviser, and protector of the nation’s natural resources.

After earning two Whiting School of Engineering degrees in Civil Engineering, Wenk entered government service in the U.S. Navy. He designed many of the Navy submarines that are used today, such as the U.S.S. Nautilus (the first nuclear-powered submarine) and the Aluminaut (at the time, the world’s deepest diving sub). His contributions earned him the nickname “father of the deep-diving submarine prototypes.”

In 1959, Congress appointed Wenk as its first science and technology adviser. He formulated the concept of technology assessment and helped create the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy selected Wenk as assistant to the science adviser. In addition, Wenk was instrumental in establishing the Office of Science and Technology. He also served presidents Lyndon B. Johnson and Richard M. Nixon as executive secretary of the Federal Council on Research and Technology.

Four Departments
Welcome New Chairs

Applied
Mathematics
and Statistics
(AM&S): Daniel
Naiman, who
joined the faculty
in 1982, became chair of the
department last August. In 1997,
he was elected a Fellow of the
Institute for Mathematical Statistics,
honoring his "consistently deep
and seminal contributions in the
interface of statistics, geometry
and combinatorics, and for develop-
ment of and synthesis of
fundamental approaches using
geometry." More recently,
Naiman has become involved
in applications of statistics, particu-
larly to genetics and microbiology.
The courses Naiman has devel-
opged include Bioinformatics and
Statistical Genetics. His goal for
the department is "to continue
where my predecessors left off in
developing the very best program
of its kind."

Civil Engineering:
J. Hugh Ellis in
September began
a three-year term
as chair. Ellis
joined the
Department of Geography and
Environmental Engineering
(DoGEE) at Hopkins in 1984. He
subsequently was awarded a joint
appointment in Civil Engineering
and has collaborated over the
years with faculty from both
departments. Ellis chaired DoGEE
from 1995 to 2000. He will con-
tinue to be actively involved in
teaching and research, where his
interest is in environmental sys-
tems analysis, including air quality
simulation
and meterologic modeling, along
with optimization of bridge inspec-
tion and maintenance policies and
parameter identification for
ambient vibration studies.

Geography and Environmental
Engineering (DoGEE): Charles R.
O'Melia in August began a three-
year term as chair. The Whiting
School's Abel Wolman Professor
of Environmental Engineering,
O'Melia joined the faculty in 1980.
He also chaired DoGEE from
1990 through 1995. He will
continue with his research and
teaching activities in the field
of water treatment. A member
of the National Academy of
Engineering, he has played a
major role in developing the
department into a top-five ranked
graduate program since the re-
establishment of the Engineering
school in 1979 (see also Faculty
Honors at right)

Mechanical
Engineering:
Gregory Chirikjian
'88 BA/BS/MSE
last September
began a three-year term as chair.
A faculty member since 1992,
Chirikjian is the liaison for the
newly developed undergraduate
concentration in Biomechanics for
Scenes from the SEA Picnic: Hot dogs, burgers, salads, and second helpings were the order of the day at the Society of Engineering Alumni (SEA) picnic on October 22. Under a food tent and at tables set up on the Engineering quad at the Homewood campus, 250 Whiting School of Engineering students and more than 60 alumni gathered on the Friday before Alumni Leadership Weekend to enjoy picnic fare and conversation. Among the alumni guests were members of the SEA Council, the Johns Hopkins Board of Trustees, and the National Alumni Council.
The following are among the many awards Whiting School of Engineering faculty have received recently.

- For his dedication to the field of nondestructive evaluation and his commitment to educating students, Robert E. Green Jr. was honored with the 2004 NDE Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Society for Optical Engineering (SPIE). Green is the Theophilus Halley Smoot Professor in Engineering. He founded and served as director for 17 years (until 2001) of the Whiting School’s Center for Nondestructive Evaluation and is a member of the principal professional staff at the Applied Physics Laboratory. Green received the award in March 2004 at the annual symposium of Nondestructive Evaluation for Health Monitoring and Diagnostics, held in San Diego.

- The Maryland Association for Higher Education presented its 2004 Outstanding Educator Award (administrator category) to Gerald M. Masson, professor of Computer Science. He was honored for originating the concept, designing and developing, and now directing the Johns Hopkins Information Security Institute, along with the Master of Science in Security Informatics program.

- The American Chemical Society hosted a three-day seminar in Philadelphia last August to pay tribute to a Whiting School faculty member considered to be one of the world’s leading water treatment researchers. Titled “Particles and Interfaces in Aquatic Systems: A Symposium in Honor of Professor Charles R. O’Melia,” it featured 44 oral presentations, a poster session and a tribute dinner attended by 100 well-wishers. O’Melia chairs the Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering. Many of the presentations will appear in a special edition of the ACS journal, Environmental Science and Technology. Among the symposium’s organizers were two of O’Melia’s former doctoral students—John Tobiason ’87 PhD, professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and Menachem Elimelech ’89 PhD, the Llewellyn West Jones Professor of Environmental Engineering and professor of chemical engineering at Yale University.

Engineering Mechanics. With secondary appointments in Computer Science, Applied Mathematics and Statistics, and Electrical and Computer Engineering, Chirikjian pursues diverse research interests that include robotics, medical image registration, and computational structural biology. His goal as chair is to guide “the very best science-oriented ME department of comparable size in the world.”

New Name, Same Mission: Excellence in Professional Studies

In October, Part-Time Programs in Engineering and Applied Science gained a new name: the Engineering and Applied Science Programs for Professionals, or EPP for short. The name change is being made to emphasize the program’s professional status rather than its part-time status, better reflecting the needs of students and its overall mission. The programs themselves will not change. EPP will offer 16 graduate-level programs at locations throughout the Baltimore/Washington region.

EPP hosts several open houses each semester to enable prospective students to learn more about the graduate programs, meet with academic advisers, apply, and register. These informal events do not require reservations. For more information on EPP, visit www.epp.jhu.edu.

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