As the semester winds down, students are making one last push into finals week and looking forward to a well-deserved break. Others are anticipating their upcoming graduation later this month – this is when all of the studying and hard work pay off!

As we launch a new set of tomorrow’s leaders, some are wondering how to anticipate and adapt to the economic changes affecting our nation and the globe. The true measure of a person is in how they deal with change and overcome challenges. I like to think of challenges as new opportunities that can be turned to our advantage, if we simply have the right attitude and the right skills.

We believe Purdue graduates are up to the challenge, because a Purdue education has equipped them with the attitudes, skills, and tools they need to push through to great achievements, no matter where their career path leads.

Just recently I had dinner in Beijing with a Purdue science alumnus who is involved in leading the Chinese division of a major U.S. automaker. Given the well publicized challenges of major U.S. automakers, one might have thought he would be somewhat glum, but his enthusiasm for new approaches to take advantage of the opportunities created by the desire for low cost, sustainable transportation was infectious.

With just a couple of weeks left until the close of 2008, it is a good time to recognize and reflect on our many opportunities and blessings this year. On behalf of the College of Science, I wish you all a peaceful festive season and hope for a prosperous new year.

Happy holidays!

Jon Harbor, Interim Dean

spotlight on new faculty

Yulia Pushkar
Yulia Pushkar joins the Department of Physics as an assistant professor. Her research interests are in biophysics and energy and use experimental techniques with x-ray spectroscopy and electron paramagnetic resonance.

Peter Waddell

Peter Waddell joins the Department of Biological Sciences as an assistant professor. An important aspect of his research is to use experimental results combined with theory, to address key questions in evolutionary biology, bioinformatics, and gene expression.

Science People

Associate dean receives Mortar Board award Full story

Jean Chmielewski, the Alice Watson Kramer Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and associate dean for graduate education and international programs, was among six faculty members recognized by Purdue's chapter of Mortar Board, a national senior honor society, at its Women of Purdue reception Dec. 4.

The purpose of the program is to honor Purdue women faculty who have recently been hired or promoted into prestigious positions on campus.

Six mathematics graduate assistants receive teaching award Full story

Six Department of Mathematics graduate assistants have received a 2008-2009 Excellence in Teaching Award.

- Robert Bridges
- Sarah Bryant
- Kuan-Hua Chen
- Jia Li
- Prahlad Vaidyanathan
- Nicholas Wegman

Computer science professor to receive Abacus Award Full story

Eugene Spafford, professor of computer science, will receive the 2009 Abacus Award from Upsilon Pi Epsilon, Honor Society for the Computing and Information Disciplines.

Professors featured in Distinguished Database Profiles

Elisa Bertino, professor of computer science, and Jeffrey S. Vitter, adjunct professor of computer science and Related Searches: Mathematics Textbooks | Mathematics
Interest Group on Management of Data (SIGMOD), in their Distinguished Profiles in Databases.

View interview with Elisa Bertino

View interview with Jeffrey S. Vitter

Return to top

Science News

I spy Full Story

Researchers from Stony Brook and Purdue universities, including Michael Rossmann, the Hanley Distinguished Professor of Biological Sciences, have determined the precise atom-in-scale structure of the poliovirus attached to key receptor molecules in human host cells.

Stopping SARS Web site

Arun Ghosh, professor of chemistry, has created a compound that prevents replication of the virus that causes SARS and could lead to a treatment for the disease.

Climate change could increase pest population Full Story

According to a new study being conducted by researchers at Purdue University, including Noah Diffenbaugh, associate professor of earth and atmospheric sciences, shows that climate change could provide the warmer weather pests prefer, leading to an increase in populations that feed on corn and other crops.

I feel the earth move Full Story

An international research team led by Eric Calais, professor of geophysics, was able to measure ground displacements as two tectonic plates in Africa moved apart and molten rock pushed its way toward the surface during the first so-called "dyking event" ever recorded within the planet's continental crust.

Related Searches:  Mathematics Textbooks  |  Mathemat  

3 of 6 3/12/2013 3:00 PM
Research conducted by Ernie Agee and Noah Diffenbaugh, professors of earth and atmospheric sciences, was aired on WISH-TV8 out of Indianapolis, as a special segment on climate change and extreme weather.

**science students**

Computer science students headed to Stockholm competition [Full Story]

Three computer science students are going to Stockholm, Sweden to compete in the 2009 Association for Computing Machinery Intercollegiate Computing Programming Contest World Finals ([ACM ICPC](#)).

**Purdue News**

Purdue degree ranks among nation's best buys [Full Story]

Winter commencement to be shown live [Full Story]

Focus Award nominations for disability efforts invited [Full Story]

[Return to top](#)

**Science Events Calendar**

Dec. 21, 9:30 a.m.: College of Science Spring Commencement Ceremony, Elliott Hall of Music. [More information]

Dec. 21, 11:30 a.m.: College of Science Graduation Reception, Lawson Commons.

Related Searches:  Mathematics Textbooks  |  Mathemat
For more information, contact Janelle Musch, director of special events and alumni relations: jmusch@purdue.edu, 765-494-0586.

January 15: **Meet the Dean, Dallas, TX**

For more information, contact Janelle Musch, director of special events and alumni relations: jmusch@purdue.edu, 765-494-0586.

January 16: **Meet the Dean, Houston, TX**

For more information, contact Janelle Musch, director of special events and alumni relations: jmusch@purdue.edu, 765-494-0586.

January 30: **Meet the Dean, Atlanta, GA**

For more information, contact Janelle Musch, director of special events and alumni relations: jmusch@purdue.edu, 765-494-0586.

February 4, 12:00–2:00 p.m: **Faculty and Staff Awards Luncheon, Purdue Memorial Union East/West Faculty Lounges**

For more information, contact Janelle Musch, director of special events and alumni relations: jmusch@purdue.edu, 765-494-0586.

**Share your memories**! If you have a favorite story or memory from your College of Science experience, we'd like to share it with others.

Are you interested in leaving a lasting legacy for future students or faculty at Purdue? If so, please visit our **planned giving home page**.

**Science Seminar Calendar**

**Alumni and Friends**

**Purdue Events**

**SARS PEST EARTH STUDENTS**

**In this issue**

- **Spotlight on New Faculty**
- **Science People**

Related Searches:  **Mathematics Textbooks** |  **Mathemat**

5 of 6 3/12/2013 3:00 PM
Science Alumni

We want to hear from you! Share your professional news and your personal and family milestones.

Are you interested in leaving a lasting legacy for future students or faculty at Purdue? If so, please visit our planned giving home page.

- Contact us
- Science@Purdue, past issues
- Insights, the College of Science Magazine
- Scientific Notation, a publication by Purdue Science Student Council
- College of Science Home
- Alumni and Friends
- Purdue News
- Purdue University

Copyright(C) 2008 Purdue University. All Rights Reserved
Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907 USA, 765-494-4600
An equal access/equal opportunity university