This is a wonderful time of year. Students are back and there is a new energy pulsing through the heart of campus. Rich with tradition, fall at Purdue provides no lack of things to do. There are many opportunities to reconnect with professors, friends, and classmates, not to mention taking in some great football!

It won’t be long before the cool weather is here. As the seasons are changing so are changes taking place in the College of Science. Earlier this summer Dean Jeff Vitter left the University — after five years and an impressive list of accomplishments — to serve as provost at Texas A&M University.

Last month, I took a leave of absence from my position as associate vice president for research to serve as interim dean during the search for our next dean. I’m very excited to have this opportunity to help the college. The college is in great shape and is well positioned to continue change and growth that will benefit all of our stakeholders — students, alumni, external partners, faculty, and staff — and we are close to finalizing an exciting new strategic plan that will guide this change and growth.

As the College of Science begins the journey into its second century, it is strengthened by its essential core values, which include a positive “can-do” outlook, continual striving for excellence, and a commitment to an inclusive and diverse culture that empowers people. We create a vibrant environment that helps foster students to be lifelong learners, transform innovative ideas into reality, and impact the world around us.

These are exciting times on Purdue’s campus. The University announced a new $300 million campaign called Access & Success to ensure that students are well prepared to enter Purdue and that we have support and programs available that provide the best possible environment for their success — success both at Purdue and in their careers.

Student success is dependent on many resources, including faculty. The College of Science is dedicated to recruiting and retaining exceptional faculty. This fall, we welcomed 28 new faculty to the college, bringing total for the college to 327!

This month we honored nine outstanding alumni in the departments of Computer Science, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Statistics, and Mathematics, and the program of actuarial science. Friends and families gathered together as we acknowledged this group that has gone on to be leaders in the scientific and business communities of today.

In October, we will honor outstanding alumni from the departments of Biological Sciences, Chemistry, and Physics. Without question, all of these individuals are excellent role models for all of us.
spotlight on new faculty

Julia Kirshner

Julia Kirshner joins the Department of Biological Sciences as assistant professor. Kirshner's research studies the cancer stem cells properties using two model systems: multiple myeloma, a cancer of the bone marrow, and breast cancer representing hematological and solid malignancies, respectively.

Charles Killian

Charles Killian joins the Department of Computer Science as assistant professor. Killian's research interests are distributed systems, model checking, programming languages, overlay networks, P2P networks, operating systems, network security, resource management, discrete math, Venn diagrams, and Gray codes.

Science People

Mary Ellen Bock, professor and head of the Department of Statistics, has been selected to serve on the board of trustees for the National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS).

Physics professor appointed to National Science Foundation advisory committee

Daniela Bortoletto, professor of physics, has been appointed to serve on the advisory committee for the NSF Directorate of Math & Physical Sciences.

Book of Great Teachers inducts five College of Science faculty

The names of five College of Science professors will be added to Purdue's Book of Great Teachers, which honors outstanding faculty who have demonstrated sustained excellence in the classroom.

Steven R. Bell
Greg N. Frederickson
Casper Goffman (posthumously)

Related Searches: Mathematical Statistics | Degree In
Stephen Konieczny

Chemistry professor elected as officer for the American Society of Mass Spectrometry [Full Story]

Scott A. McLuckey, John A. Leighty Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, has been elected vice president for programs and president-elect of the American Society of Mass Spectrometry.

Cyber security expert discusses electronic voting [Full Story]

Eugene H. Spafford, professor of computer science and the executive director of Purdue's CERIAS, discussed the reliability and security of electronic voting.

Physics professor takes group to Greenland [Full Story]

Ephraim Fischbach, professor of physics, led a research team to Greenland to research the solar eclipse on August 1st.

Science alumna newest Fulbright Scholar [Full Story]

Shruthi Rajashekara, a science alumna who earned a bachelor's degree in biology in May, has received the U.S. Student Fulbright Scholarship Award.

Rajashekara will spend her time as a Fulbright scholar studying tuberculosis and HIV co-infection rates in residents of Zambia.

Science News

Fingerprints provide more than just identity [Full Story]

R. Graham Cooks, the Henry Bohn Hass Distinguished Professor of Analytical Chemistry, led a team that created a tool to read and provide an image of a fingerprint's chemical signature.

Search committee named to find next dean of science [Full Story]

A search committee has been formed to begin a national candidate search for the dean's position in the College of Science.

As particles collide [Full Story]
Professors Virgil Barnes, Daniela Bortoletto, Arthur Garfinkel, Laszlo Gutay, Matthew Jones, David Miller, Norbert Neumeister, and Ian Shipsey, the Julian Schwinger Distinguished Professor of Physics, are part of a team of researchers from three Indiana universities, that helped build the world's largest particle collider.

Professor and research team find climate change hotspots Full Story

A research team, led by Noah Diffenbaugh, associate professor of earth and atmospheric sciences, developed a modeling system designed to identify climate change hot spots.

Structure captures toxin peptide Full Story

A team of scientists led by W. A. Cramer, the Henry Koffler Distinguished Professor of Biological Sciences, has obtained a crystal structure of a major pore protein in the outer membrane of the E.coli bacterium.

Where do the drugs go? Full Story

A research team led by R. Graham Cooks, the Henry Bohn Hass Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, has developed a new analysis tool that can provide a map of the distribution of a drug within the body.

CS Outreach Awarded NCWIT Seed Funds Full Story

The Computer Science Outreach Are you Smarter than Your Fifth Grader? program was awarded a third round Academic Alliance Seed Fund.

Spotlight on New Staff

Janelle Musch, director of special events and alumni relations

Janelle Musch was appointed the director of special events and alumni relations in the College of Science.

Musch was most recently an event planner with University Development. Prior to joining the development team, she was the CYFAR (Children Youth and Families at Risk) Program State Coordinator for the Department of Youth Development and Agricultural Education.

Musch brings a strong sense of Purdue pride and is a third generation Boilermaker. She earned her Bachelor of Science in consumer and family sciences from Purdue University.

Spotlight on Alumni

Nine honored as outstanding science alumni Full Story

The College of Science honored nine during its Outstanding Alumni Awards ceremony on September 5. Honorees were from the departments of Computer Science, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Mathematics, and Statistics, and the actuarial science program.
Purdue News

Purdue Green Week poster competition open to students, faculty, the community Full Story
Robert McMains named associate vice president for facilities Full Story
Education — Testing, diversity, educating rural students for high-tech future Full Story
Purdue sets records for academic quality, diversity, graduate school and overall enrollment Full Story

Science Events Calendar

Sept. 13, 3:30 p.m.: Football, Purdue vs. Oregon, West Lafayette, IN
Sept. 15–16, 4:00–5:00 p.m.: Department of Biological Sciences, Beach Lecture, Dean's Auditorium (PFEN)

Tom Kunkle, National Institute of Environmental Services. More information.

Sept. 15–19: Green Week

Green Week is being organized by the College of Engineering, including its Division of Environmental and Ecological Engineering, Global Engineering Program, as well as the School of Mechanical Engineering, the Center for the Environment, Energy Center, Office of the Provost and the Purdue Climate Change Research Center.

Sept. 19, 9:00 p.m.: Department of Biological Sciences Alumni Advisory Committee Fall Session, Lilly 1-117.

For more information, contact Sandy Howarth, director of development for the Department of Biological Sciences: showarth@purdue.edu, 765-496-7512.

Sept. 20, noon: Football, Purdue vs. Central Michigan, West Lafayette, IN
Sept. 23, 4:30–5:30 p.m.: Department of Mathematics Colloquium, MATH 175

Professor Michael Holst, UCSD. More information.

Oct. 16–17: Dean's Leadership Council Fall Meeting

Events begin at 8:00 a.m. in Lawson 3102A. For more information, contact Cheryl Spencer: spencerc@purdue.edu, 765-496-2025.

Oct. 31, 9:00 a.m.: Outstanding Alumni Breakfast.

This event honors outstanding alumni selected by the departments of Biological Sciences, Chemistry, and Physics and celebrates the accomplishments of the named and distinguished professors in the College of Science. For more information, contact Cheryl Spencer: spencerc@purdue.edu, 765-496-2025.

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Science Seminar Calendar

Alumni and Friends

Purdue Events

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In this issue

- Spotlight on New Faculty
- Science People
- Science News
- Spotlight on New Staff
- Spotlight on Alumni
- Purdue News
- Science Events Calendar
- Science Seminar Calendar

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.

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