

# The Circuit

News from the halls of academic engineering & technology

November 2019

## Headlines



**Indiana University alumnus Fred Luddy is the founder of cloud giant ServiceNow, which *Forbes* recently labeled "the world's most innovative company."**

### Indiana gets \$60 million for AI initiative

Indiana University alumnus and tech pioneer Fred Luddy has given his alma mater \$60 million to establish a multidisciplinary initiative in artificial intelligence. The gift, the second-largest in IU's history, will fund the construction of a building to house the program. It also will support the creation of six endowed chairs, six endowed professorships, and six endowed faculty fellowships, as well as numerous graduate and undergraduate scholarships — all within what will henceforth be known as the Luddy School of Informatics, Computing and Engineering. Luddy, who attended IU in the 1970s, is the founder of ServiceNow, a Silicon Valley company that offers automated IT help-desk services. ServiceNow, which employs 3,500 people and boasts a market value of more than \$15 billion, was recently described by *Forbes* as "the world's most innovative company." "I believe in the importance of people," Luddy said. "It is the imagination and determination of people that drives technology that makes an impact in real lives." [READ MORE](#)

# Stanford maintains No. 1 spot in Reuters' annual innovation ranking

For the fifth straight year, Stanford University topped Reuters' list of the World's Most Innovative Universities, which seeks to identify the institutions that are doing the most to advance science and technology. "Stanford holds onto its top spot year after year because it produces a steady stream of innovations that are cited by other researchers in academia and private industry," Reuters said. The ranking, which the international news organization compiled in partnership with Clarivate Analytics, is based on proprietary data and factors such as patent filings and research citations. Rounding out the top five were MIT, No. 2; Harvard University, No. 3; the University of Pennsylvania, No. 4; and the University of Washington, No. 5. The highest-ranked university outside the United States was Belgium's 600-year-old KU Leuven at No. 7. The top-scoring institution in Asia was Pohang University of Science & Technology at No. 12. [READ MORE](#)



USC's Viterbi School of Engineering

**Yannis C. Yortsos, dean of USC's Viterbi School of Engineering, says the program is committed to "changing the conversation about engineering, what engineering is, who we are, and what engineers look like."**

## USC touts gender parity among first-year engineering students

The University of Southern California is celebrating a milestone: This fall, women accounted for 50 percent of undergraduates entering USC's Viterbi School of Engineering, a record for the school. Viterbi's accomplishment isn't without precedent — Cornell University's College of Engineering achieved the feat last year — but it's still an attention-grabber in an academic discipline long dominated by men. According to the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE), women received fewer than 22 percent of the bachelor's degrees that U.S. engineering programs awarded last year. Viterbi Dean Yannis C. Yortsos, a former chair of the Diversity Committee of the Engineering Deans Council, said the gender parity in his school's freshman class is "worth cherishing and celebrating." He credited a welcoming environment, an emphasis on hands-on education, and a commitment to "changing the conversation about engineering, what engineering is, who we are, and what engineers look like." [READ MORE](#)

## Game on: Ohio State prepares to launch 'esports' degree next fall

Ohio State University's quest for supremacy in the world of competitive computer gaming — or “esports” — isn't just for fun. It's a calculated, bottom-line-driven attempt to lure bright, tech-savvy matriculants from across the globe and arm them with the skills needed to excel in one of the planet's fast-growing industries. OSU boasts four competitive video-gaming teams, an 80-seat esports “arena,” and, according to *Inside Higher Ed*, a detailed game plan for becoming the first state university in the country to offer a formal degree program in esports. Starting next fall, students in OSU's College of Arts and Sciences will be able to pursue bachelor's degrees in several tracks, including esports game creation, esports management, and game applications. *Inside Higher Ed* reports that some academicians question the value of such coursework. The university, however, is unapologetic. “Ohio State is always in the business of inventing the future, and our esports curriculum will train students who do just that — invent applications that we have not even imagined,” Provost Bruce A. McPherson said. “Whether they go on to become leaders in the e-gaming industry or to unlock the potential of the human brain, Ohio State students will be at the forefront of inventing the future.” [READ MORE](#)



Buckeye Gaming Collective

**Ohio State University's recently unveiled esports arena contains 80 gaming computers, consoles, and virtual-reality systems, as well as a room for competitive gaming with peer institutions and a broadcast booth.**

## Backlash greets paper claiming men are inherently better at physics



The peer-reviewed academic journal *Quantitative Science Studies* is under fire for agreeing to publish an article claiming that women in academic physics don't face gender-based barriers to career advancement. The author, Italian physicist Alessandro Strumia, who posted the article on his website, examined 1.3 million fundamental physics papers published over the past five decades in an attempt to explain why newly minted male PhDs are, by his calculation, four times more likely than newly minted female PhDs to be published and/or cited in research. His highly

contested conclusion — that men are inherently better suited to careers in the field — has sparked outrage among a wide range of researchers, including a member of the journal's editorial board, who told *Science* magazine that Strumia's argument is undercut by methodological flaws and unsubstantiated claims. Ludo Waltman, editor-in-chief of the journal, published by MIT Press and the International Society for Scientometrics and Informetrics, said Strumia's article would be presented alongside critiques flagging “possible weaknesses” in the study. “As journal editor,” Waltman told *Science*, “I often decide to publish papers that have weaknesses or that contain analyses or statements that a reviewer doesn't like — or that I don't like myself.” [READ MORE](#)

## Purdue offers low-cost online engineering degrees through edX

Purdue University's College of Engineering, with support from Kaplan Higher Education, is introducing a series of affordable graduate degrees through edX, the massive online course platform that MIT and Harvard University created in 2012. "This powerful offering will provide the highest-quality online master's degrees for working professionals in engineering — at the highest value," said Mung Chiang, Purdue's John A. Edwardson Dean of the College of Engineering. The initial offering, a master's degree in electrical and computer engineering, will debut in January. Two additional master's degrees — in civil engineering and mechanical engineering, respectively — will be rolled out next year. According to Purdue, the degrees will be the "first comprehensive engineering postgraduate curricula provided online at less than \$25,000" — \$22,500, to be precise. The online engineering degrees currently offered by the university cost close to \$40,000. Although the new program will bring in less money per student, Purdue is banking on economies of scale. Projections call for as many as 600 students to be enrolled in three years. [READ MORE](#)



**Mung Chiang**



*Gulf News*

**Sultan Al Jaber (center), PhD, UAE's minister of state, joins Andrew Chi-Chih Yao, PhD, and Sir Michael Brady, PhD, at an event announcing the opening of what's described as the "world's first AI university." Mohamed Bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence will welcome its first class next September.**

## 'World's first AI university' begins accepting applications

Mohamed Bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI) — billed as the "world's first AI university" — received 3,200 applications in the week following its establishment in October, according to *Gulf News*. Located in the United Arab Emirates, in Abu Dhabi's Masdar City, the school will offer two-year master's degrees and four-year doctorates to local and international graduate students across three areas of specialization: machine learning, computer vision, and natural language processing. The majority of the first-week applications came from the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Egypt, India, and China. Every matriculant will receive a full scholarship, a monthly allowance, health insurance, and accommodations. Classes are set to begin next September. "The world has entered a new era of technological advancement and rapid innovation, all driven and underpinned by AI," said Sultan Al Jaber, PhD, UAE's minister of state and chairman of the university's board of trustees. "This new era will pave the way for unprecedented opportunities." [READ MORE](#)

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**Michael D. Lairmore, DVM, PhD**

Dean of the University of California-Davis  
School of Veterinary Medicine



## RECENT INNOVATORS PODCASTS

- “Attracting International Students to U.S. Engineering Program,” featuring Leo Kempel, PhD, dean of the College of Engineering at Michigan State University [LISTEN](#)
- “Improving the Student Experience,” featuring M. Brian Blake, PhD, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at Drexel University [LISTEN](#)
- “The Importance of Partnerships in Academia and Healthcare,” featuring Charles Taylor, PharmD, provost and executive vice president of academic affairs at the University of North Texas [LISTEN](#)
- “The Power of Leadership in Healthcare,” featuring Dave Appino and Joe Mazzenga of NuBrick Partners [LISTEN](#)
- “How Technology Can Impact the Doctor/Patient Experience,” featuring King Li, MD, MBA, dean and chief academic officer at the Carle Illinois College of Medicine [LISTEN](#)
- “Artificial Intelligence and Precision Medicine,” featuring Douglas Miller, MD, MBA, founder and CEO of Cognitive Diagnosis [LISTEN](#)
- “The Critical Role of Biomedical Informatics,” featuring Philip Payne, PhD, director of the Institute for Informatics at Washington University in St. Louis [LISTEN](#)

# In Transition



**Stephanie G. Adams, PhD**, has begun her tenure as dean of the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Texas at Dallas. Adams previously headed the Frank Batten College of Engineering & Technology at Old Dominion University. Last year, Adams received the Harriet Tubman Award for Advancing Women of Color in Academic Engineering.



**Bernard Arulanandam, PhD**, has been named vice president for research, economic development, and knowledge enterprise at the University of Texas at San Antonio (USTA). Arulanandam, the Jane and Roland Blumberg Professor in Biology at UTSA, was serving in the research role on an interim basis. He was elected to the National Academy of Inventors in 2018.



**Stacy Atkinson, PhD**, has been named chancellor of Ivy Tech Community College's Richmond, Indiana, campus. Atkinson, a onetime avionics technician with the U.S. Marine Corps, succeeds Chad Bolser, who in July assumed another role in the Ivy Tech system. Since joining Ivy Tech in 2015, Atkinson has held various positions, including executive director of strategic initiatives.



**M. Brian Blake, PhD**, becomes provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at George Washington University this month. Blake most recently served as provost at Drexel University. An electrical and software engineer by training, Blake also has held administrative posts at Georgetown University, the University of Notre Dame, and the University of Miami.



**Mark Bodenschatz, MS**, interim director of the Penn State Facilities Engineering Institute since November 2018, has been selected to fill the role on a permanent basis. Reporting to the senior associate dean of Penn State's College of Engineering, Bodenschatz, a licensed mechanical engineer, will focus on energy, education, engineering services, and facility condition assessments.



**Bobby Braun, PhD**, dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Science at the University of Colorado Boulder, is stepping down in January to join the executive leadership team at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, operated by the California Institute of Technology. "The coming year is the right time for me to get back into my first true passion: aerospace," Braun said in a letter to colleagues.



**Suresh Garimella, PhD**, has been officially inaugurated as the University of Vermont's 27th president. Before assuming the presidency in July, Garimella served in a variety of leadership roles at Purdue University, most recently as executive vice president for research and partnerships. He also was Purdue's Goodson Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering.



**Miguel A. Gonzalez, PhD**, has begun his tenure as dean of the College of Science and Engineering at the University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL), part of the University of Houston System. Gonzalez, the first Hispanic dean in UHCL's 45-year history, earned his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in industrial engineering from the University of Houston.



**Robert Gordon, PhD**, has been formally installed as president and vice-chancellor of the University of Windsor in Ontario, Canada. Gordon, who joined the institution in September, previously was provost at Wilfrid Laurier University. A recognized authority on agricultural and environmental engineering, Gordon also served as dean of research at Nova Scotia Agricultural College.



**Tim Green, MS**, has retired from the deanship of technical education and workforce development at Alabama's Gadsden State Community College, a position he had held since 2003. Green had been a fixture at Gadsden since 1975 — initially as a student and then as an instructor, division chair, and dean. Before entering the academy, he worked with a civil engineering consulting firm.



**Jaromy Kuhl, PhD**, has been appointed dean of the Hal Marcus College of Science and Engineering at the University of West Florida (UWF) in Pensacola. A professor of mathematics and statistics, Kuhl joined UWF as a faculty member in 2005 and became the college's interim dean in April 2018. Under his leadership, the college added five graduate degree programs.



**Patricia Hammer, PhD**, has been named assistant dean for administration and analytics at the Virginia Tech College of Science. Hammer came to Virginia Tech from Hollins University in Roanoke, Virginia. In nearly three decades at Hollins, she held many positions, including vice president for academic affairs, dean of academic services, and chair of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.



**Eric A. Heiser, PhD**, dean of the School of Applied Technology and Technical Specialties at Salt Lake Community College, will become provost of Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) on January 2. At COTC, Heiser will serve as chief academic and enrollment officer, providing leadership for academics, student affairs, and enrollment management.



**Charles Isbell, PhD**, is several months into his tenure as dean and John P. Imlay Jr. Chair of the College of Computing at Georgia Tech. Isbell, who earned a bachelor's degree in information and computer science from the Atlanta institution, returned to the school as a faculty member in 2002. An expert in artificial intelligence, he beat out three other finalists for the deanship.



**Kevin James, PhD**, has been named founding director of Clemson University's new School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences, part of the university's College of Science. The appointment took effect November 1. James, a member of Clemson's faculty since 2000, has been serving as interim director of the school since January.



**Keith Molenaar, PhD**, has been named interim dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Science at the University of Colorado Boulder, effective in January. Molenaar, currently the college's associate dean for research, will succeed Bobby Braun, who recently announced plans to leave the university for a leadership post at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California.



**Mohamad Mustafa, PhD**, interim dean of the College of Sciences and Technology at Georgia's Savannah State University, has been selected to fill the position on a permanent basis. Mustafa joined Savannah State in 1994 as an assistant professor in the civil engineering technology program. He later chaired the university's Department of Engineering Technology.



**James Pritchett, PhD**, executive associate dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences at Colorado State University at Fort Collins, has been named interim dean of the college. Pritchett, who joined Colorado State's faculty in 2001, succeeds Ajay Menon, who became president and CEO of the CSU Research Foundation. A national search for a permanent dean will begin shortly.



**William H. Sanders, PhD**, the Herman M. Dieckamp Chair in Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, has been named dean of the College of Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), effective January 1. Jonathan Cagan, interim dean since former Dean James H. Garrett Jr. became CMU's provost last January, will continue to lead the college until Sanders arrives.



**Eunice E. Santos, PhD**, is the new dean at the School of Information Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, also known as the "iSchool." Before arriving at the University of Illinois this fall, Santos was the Ron Hochsprung Endowed Chair and professor at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. She also chaired that school's computer science department.



**Cheryl B. Schrader, PhD**, president of Ohio's Wright State University, plans to relinquish the post on December 31. Schrader was named Wright State's president in July 2017, following a nine-month national search, and given a five-year contract. Schrader, an engineer by training, says she intends to return to teaching in the university's College of Engineering and Computer Science.



**Shobi Sivadasan, MS**, has been named vice provost of enrollment management at the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla. She formerly served as senior associate vice president for graduate and international admissions at the University of New Haven and as dean of graduate admissions and enrollment management at Stevens Institute of Technology.



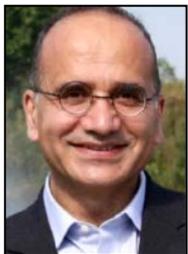
**Adrienne Y. Smith, EdD**, is interim dean of science, technology, engineering, and math at Holyoke Community College in Springfield, Massachusetts. Previously, Smith spent 14 years as dean of the School of Engineering, Technologies, and Mathematics at Springfield Technical Community College. Before that, she was on the faculty at Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester, Massachusetts.



**Winston Oluwole Soboyejo, PhD**, has been named provost and senior vice president at Massachusetts' Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI). The new role is a promotion for Soboyejo, who joined WPI in September 2016 as the Bernard M. Gordon Dean of Engineering. Soboyejo came to WPI from Princeton University, where he was a professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering.



**Rick Stamper, PhD**, is now provost and vice president for academic affairs at Indiana's Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. Before assuming the role in July, the Rose-Hulman alumnus held a number of posts at the school, including professor of mechanical engineering, head of the Engineering Management Department, and dean of the faculty.



**Houssam Toutanji, PhD**, is the new dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science at California State University Northridge. Before assuming the role in August, Toutanji spent four years as dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences at Western Michigan University, where he launched new programs and led the effort to develop a strategic plan for the college.



**Matthew Turk, PhD**, recently became president of Toyota Technological Institute at Chicago. Before assuming his new responsibilities in July, Turk was a professor and chair of computer science at the University of California-Santa Barbara. He also had affiliate appointments in electrical and computer engineering and in the university's Dynamical Neuroscience Program.



**Doug Wachob, PhD**, senior lecturer and director of academic programs in the University of Wyoming's Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources, will serve as the school's interim dean, beginning January 1. Wachob will succeed Dean Melinda Harm Benson, who recently announced her intention to resign from the Haub deanship at the end of the fall semester.



**Kim Wingo, MS**, has been appointed director of research project planning and support at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM). She began her new role October 1. Since joining the staff of USM in 2003, Wingo, an alumna of the university, has held various positions in the School of Polymer Science and Engineering, most related to education and outreach.



**Cameron Wright, PhD**, professor of electrical and computer engineering at the University of Wyoming, has been named interim dean of the university's College of Engineering and Applied Science. Wright, who spent 30 years in the U.S. military before retiring from the Air Force in 2003, succeeds Michael Pishko, who stepped down September 30 for health reasons.



**Satish Udpa, PhD**, Michigan State University's vice president for administration since 2013 and a former dean of the university's College of Engineering, has resigned from his administrative role and returned to lab and research work. Earlier this year, following the resignation of Interim President John Engler, Udpa served as Michigan State's acting president.



**Robert Winn, MD**, has been named director of Virginia Commonwealth University's Massey Cancer Center, effective December 2. The pulmonologist is currently director of the University of Illinois Cancer Center and associate vice chancellor of health affairs at the University of Illinois Hospital and Health Science System. Before that, he spent 13 years at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.

## Last word



**The principles are really the same. One is regenerative medicine; the other is *degenerative* medicine."**

— **Canadian biomedical engineer Jochen Fahr, PhD**, a speaker at last month's Alberta Biomedical Engineering Conference, explaining his decision to leave stem-cell research to start a brewery specializing in German-style beers



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