

# HOTLINE NEWSLETTER

FIRE PROTECTION ENGINEERING  
A. JAMES CLARK SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING  
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Summer 2019

## CHAIR'S MESSAGE

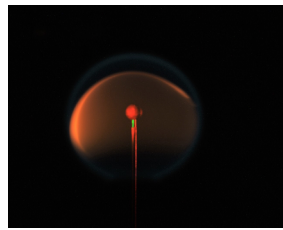
In the past year, Department activities increased again. The May 2019 cohort was the largest in our history with 35 graduates. Including the May cohort, FPE faculty have advised a total of 40 Ph.D. graduates. Still, undergraduate program recruitment remains a priority. The number of graduating seniors in May exceeded the number entering in the fall, putting our enrollment at roughly 125.

To that end, we transitioned from two part-time graduate assistants, to one full time staff member to help with recruitment and retention. Help from all alumni in their local area is greatly appreciated. The quality of our academic programs, recruitment initiatives and student support via scholarships are only possible with strong corporate and alumni backing.

Our externally funded research continues to rise. We've recently formed a consortium with four other institutions - Lund University, U. of Edinburgh, U. of Queensland and U. of Melbourne - to pursue a research activity of global impact. Another new initiative is to offer an array of webinars and short courses. Ken Isman is leading one, *Fire Alarms and the Codes*, to begin in early August. For more info, follow this link: <http://go.umd.edu/FPE-alarms-codes>

## SPACE RESEARCH

FPE researchers ignited their first experiment, Burning Rate Emulator,



aboard the International Space Station this past spring. The tests are expected to reveal insight about how materials such as paper and plastic burn in microgravity environments. Flame experiments in space could lead to soot-free fire. Peter Sunderland and James Quintiere lead the effort. To read more, visit: [go.umd.edu/ISS-FPE-experiments](http://go.umd.edu/ISS-FPE-experiments)

## THINK TANK COURSE

On May 16, FPE undergrads presented their designs for a fire protection industry product to a panel of judges at Jensen Hughes. Julia Roh (pictured below) took first place for her project, "WareSafe" - a self-contained device that incorporates detection and suppression with robotics. To read more: [go.umd.edu/2019-think-tank](http://go.umd.edu/2019-think-tank)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**October 16: AFSA VA Burn Survivors 26th Annual Golf Tournament -**

Hosted by the Williamsburg National Golf Club, this event benefits the Central Virginia Burn Camp and the Old Dominion Firefighters Burn Foundation. The deadline for entry is

September 13. Visit [www.AFSAVirginia.com](http://www.AFSAVirginia.com) to learn more.

**A. James Clark School 125th Anniversary Celebration**

Reconnect with professors and friends alike - check the FPE website for upcoming events!

## ALUMNI PROFILE: JACK MEDOVICH

From a very early age, all Jack Medovich (B.S. '83) wanted to be was a firefighter. Raised in upstate New York, Jack recalls riding his bike around the neighborhood, up the street and past the firehouse where his dad served as a firefighter, eagerly awaiting the day he could sign up.

"My dad, however, had other plans for me," said Medovich. "He told me absolutely not - I would go to school and seek out better opportunities for helping people that didn't involve becoming a firefighter."

In high school, while serving as volunteer firefighter, Medovich was mulling over the vast array of career possibilities. School advisors encouraged him to major in computer science, or programming, but none of their suggestions interested Jack.

"One day I was sitting at the kitchen table in the firehouse talking to my dad about what the school advisors suggested, the lead training instructor for, Ogden Clark, walks into grab a cup of coffee," Medovich recalls. "He heard us talking and suggested I look into the FPE curriculum at UMD, and gave me Dr. Bryan's number. After a brief phone call with 'Prof,' my dad and I headed to Maryland to check things out, and that pretty much clinched my life's direction."

Like many other FPE students, Medovich lived in a local firehouse during his tenure at UMD; specifically, PG County Station #34 located on Riggs Road in Adelphi. Jack enjoyed the next several years on campus, but not all of his experiences were favorable.

"I took the ME thermodynamics course with Dr. Marcinkowski because it fit my schedule, yet people in the firehouse kept telling me to drop it because he was known for failing everyone," Medovich said. "I figured it couldn't be that bad, and stayed the course.... sure enough, Dr. M ended up failing literally everyone in the course that semester!"

To continue reading, follow this link: <https://go.umd.edu/FPE-Jack-Med>

## RECENT GRADS: WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE THEY NOW?

Many of our recent graduates have taken positions not only across the U.S., but abroad, too! Selena Chin (M.S. '19) traveled the furthest, and has been working as a fire engineer with Holmes Fire in Sydney, Australia, for the last six months; Patrick Wicker (B.S. '19) landed a gig as a fire protection engineer with the Los Angeles branch of Coffman Engineers; Kevin Woodeshick (B.S. '19) is now an associate fire protection systems engineer with Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL.; Favour



Odilatu (B.S. '19) took a job as an associate project consultant with CCI in New York City (NYC); Theresa Weyant (B.S. '19) is with Michael Baker International in the Pittsburgh, Pa. metro area, and Chris Lee (M.S. '18) and Jessica Doermann both signed on with ARUP, in Washington D.C. and NYC, respectively.

## 2019 NFPA CONFERENCE AND FPE ALUMNI DINNER

This year's NFPA conference was held mid-June in San Antonio, Tx. Concurrently, the FPE Alumni Club held its annual dinner on June 18th at Casa Rio Restaurant. Roughly 120 alumni were in attendance and each decade of graduating class was represented, the most recent being Nick Zielinski (B.S. '18), currently an associate fire protection engineer at Savannah River Nuclear Solutions in South Carolina. The most recent Distinguished Alumni, Jack Watts and Jack Medovich (pictured right w/ FPE Chair Jim Milke), were recognized, whilst the Alumni Club made a \$15k donation to the Department. For more



information, or to join the FPE Alumni Club, visit [www.terpfpe.com](http://www.terpfpe.com).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### New Staff Member:

### Sebastian Arthur Chai-Onn

Sebastian, our new *Coordinator for Recruitment, Retention and Outreach*, started with the Department on July 10. He is a graduate of Centre College in Danville, Ky., with a bachelor's

degree in economics and finance. Over the last year, Sebastian served as a Financial Aid Counselor in the Undergraduate Admissions Office, where he gained valuable experience helping to recruit new students to UMD. Welcome to FPE, Sebastian!