



A. JAMES CLARK SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE PROTECTION ENGINEERING

Dear Friends,

The big news in recent months is that two new faculty members, Drs. Shuna Ni and Fernando Raffan-Montoya, will be joining us this summer! Both will add to our teaching and research capabilities in the areas of structural fire protection and experimental methods in material flammability, fire suppression and fire toxicity – read the corresponding article below for further information.

As the new Dean of the A. James Clark School of Engineering, Samuel Graham, has a particular interest in multi-disciplinary research, we've been much more engaged in collaborating with faculty in other UMD departments, or at other universities. Our activities with the International Fire Safety Consortium are a good example of such a collaboration. In addition, the department is leading the planning of a multi-disciplinary symposium to be held on September 28 and 29, 2022, at The Hotel in College Park. This symposium, focused on the exploration of the fire and life safety ecosystem developed by the NFPA, will be an initiating event for a potential area of activity for the department, providing educational programs and conduct research on multi-disciplinary aspects of the fire safety field. We hope to have individuals from many departments at UMD attend this event (in and outside of engineering) as well as a broad cross-section of individuals from the public and private sector. Please see the corresponding announcement below. As a result of the symposium, I'm hopeful that an outcome will be to provide momentum to the development of a fire research focus group on campus and pursue a public-private-university partnership to address challenges of applying the Fire and Life Safety Ecosystem.

I, again, want to thank everyone who has made contributions to the department to create new opportunities for our students, who are highly appreciative of the support we can provide to them!

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Be well,
Jim Milke, Ph.D., P.E.
FPE Professor & Chair

ANNOUNCEMENTS



FPE Wins 2022 Alumni Cup Competition: On February 25, the eight engineering departments competed in the Rube Goldberg-inspired competition to devise a highly complex machine designed to pop a balloon. [Learn more...](#)

UL FSRI Fellowship Recipients: Grayson Bellamy, Thomas DiPietro and Rebekah Schrader are the 2022/2023 recipients of UL's Fire Safety Research Institute Fellowship. The trio will contribute to research at UL FSRI, while pursuing their degrees at the University of Maryland. [Learn more...](#)





John L. Bryan GRA Recipient: Thomas Roche, currently an FPE undergrad who will start his graduate program in the fall, is the 2022/23 recipient of the John L. Bryan GRA Award. The Bryan Chair Endowment supports up to two GRAs each year via tuition credits, health benefits and a generous stipend. Contact Prof. Arnaud Trouvé with any questions. [Learn more...](#)



FPE DEI Committee Update: On March 7, the [FPE Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#) (DEI) Committee hosted Alwin Kelly who discussed, *Take A Seat at the Table: The Need and Opportunity for Diverse Leaders in Fire Protection* - look out for similar events in the near future. The department has planned a celebration of the queer community, *Queer & Ally Mixer*, the afternoon of April 15 - contact [Nicole Hollywood](mailto:nlholly@umd.edu) (nlholly@umd.edu) for more information.

The **Women in FPE** and **Voices in FPE** series continued this year with two events this past fall/winter. *Mi Camino, My Journey* was a panel event moderated by Fernando Raffan Montoya and attended by three Hispanic and Latino/a alumni. The Women in FPE event was a virtual panel focused on themes chosen by those who identify as women in the department. Students enjoyed the conversations that occurred in both events, deemed a success. Lastly, the committee administered a climate survey to FPE students, faculty and staff in early 2022, which received a 46% response rate – the committee is preparing a report for the Chair to consider based on the results.

CURRENT RESEARCH



IFSC/UL Collaborate on Wildfire-Fire Modeling Study: The International Fire Safety Consortium (IFSC) and UL will collaborate on two new worldwide research initiatives designed to create new knowledge and understanding of wildfires and fire modeling. The first study, led by [Stanislav Stoliarov](#), will improve understanding of the ignition of wildfire fuels by firebrands. The second study, led by [Arnaud Trouvé](#), will improve models for compartment fires, which are fires in a room (or “compartment”) within a building. [Learn more...](#)

WELCOME OUR NEW FACULTY!

Department Welcomes Two New Faculty Members: We are pleased to announce the arrival of two new assistant professors who will start in August, 2022. Shuna Ni comes to us from Utah State University, while Fernando Raffan-Montoya moves up from his current FPE Faculty Specialist and Lab Manager position. [Learn more...](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS: JOIN US!



SAVE THE DATE!

The 2022 FPE Alumni Dinner will take place [June 7 in Boston, MA](#).

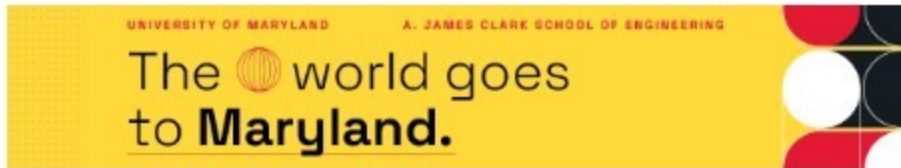
Additional details are forthcoming!

[Follow this link](#) to join the FPE Alumni Club, or send an email to Kyle Zeller (kzeller@umd.edu).

SAVE THE DATE!

September 28 - 29, 2022: Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem Symposium

The first of its kind, this symposium - hosted by FPE and NFPA - brings together a multi-disciplinary group of participants to learn about the Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem and explore its ability to address contemporary fire safety challenges. This event will be held at [The Hotel](#), College Park, MD. Additional details are forthcoming. For more information, [follow this link](#).



Department of Fire Protection Engineering

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