



A. JAMES CLARK SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE PROTECTION ENGINEERING

Dear Friends,

It's been a year since UMD pivoted to remote-learning. During the fall 2020 and spring 2021 semesters, FPE had a small number of courses, which had at least some in-person meetings. These included a senior course (fire dynamics), a small graduate course, lab classes (one senior and one graduate) and the first year course that involved a hands-on activity.

The experience with the remote delivery of courses has been largely positive, though both faculty and students miss in-person classes. That said, most students adapted to the new style reasonably well. Faculty have shifted their instruction, assignments and exams, and developed some unique presentation techniques. We look forward to the return to in-person classes in the fall, though likely with some recorded material, too. This could free up some class time and reduce some of the one-way lectures to enable more interaction.

I want to express my appreciation for the support that has been received over the last few months for scholarships coming from our alumni, corporate partners and friends. As a result of decreased internship opportunities and reduction in family income/parental support during the pandemic, student financial needs have increased. One new scholarship from Code Consultants, Inc. is particularly noteworthy. The focus of this scholarship is on diversity and inclusion, embodying the needed acknowledgement that with diverse minds, cultures, beliefs, and backgrounds, the Fire Protection Engineering Community is enhanced.

Finally, while we're sorry to see Professor Andre Marshall depart from the department this summer, we wish him well in his upcoming role as Vice President for Research at George Mason University. The department is initiating a search for a new faculty member soon, so please encourage anyone interested in that position to contact me about the opportunity.

Be well,

Jim Milke
FPE Professor and Chair

Code Consultants Inc. Establishes New Scholarship: FPE and Code Consultants, Inc. (CCI) have established the *Diversity and Inclusion Scholarship in Fire Protection Engineering*, which goes into effect in the fall of 2021 with the goal of bolstering diversity in the program. [Learn more...](#)



Marshall Appointed VPR of George Mason University: Andre Marshall, an FPE Associate Professor and director of FireTEC, will become George Mason University's new Vice President for Research, Innovation and Economic Development, and President of the George Mason University Research Foundation, effective July 1. [Learn more....](#)

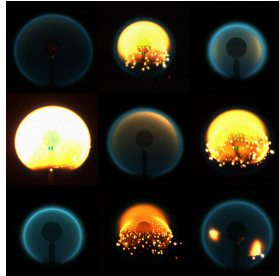
Sunderland Named Fellow of The Combustion Institute: On February 17, the CI announced the [2021 Fellows Class](#), which included [Peter Sunderland](#), who was honored for his outstanding contributions to the field of combustion. Recently his micro-gravity research has made headlines. [Read more...](#)



Ryan Chaffer is the 2020/2021 Outstanding GRA: An FPE Graduate Student, Chaffer is in the process of developing his thesis entitled, "A Redesign of the Fire Propagation Apparatus to Simplify Manufacturing and Increase Measuring Capabilities," while assisting Drs. Stoliarov and Raffon-Montoya with FireTEC. [Read more...](#)

Hamburger ('13) Named 2021 NSPE Federal Engineer of the

at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. [Follow this link to read more...](#)



Unlocking the Mysteries of Fire, in Space:
FPE Professor Peter Sunderland discusses his research in micro-gravity environments. Currently, he has three experiments aboard the ISS, the data of which will hopefully deter fire-related tragedies in space. [Read more...](#)

Do you have a story idea you'd like to pitch?
Send an email to Katie Holland (khollan3@umd.edu).

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