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EQuad News
Winter 2021
Volume 33, Number 1

A large, bold, black letter 'E' that is partially obscured by a colorful, 3D, segmented robotic arm structure on the right side of the page. The arm is composed of various colored segments (blue, yellow, orange, grey) and is positioned as if it is reaching towards or interacting with the 'E'.

PRINCETON

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The word "ROBOTICS" in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter 'O' is partially obscured by the same colorful, 3D, segmented robotic arm structure seen in the 'E' graphic above.

GRADUATE STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING TEACHING

In May 2021, the Graduate School presented 34 graduate students with its annual Teaching Awards in recognition of their outstanding abilities as teachers.

Given the significant contributions made by many graduate student assistants in instruction (AIs) as the University transitioned to remote education, additional prizes were awarded.

The selection committee recognized a student from each of the four divisions with a special commendation.

Nick Caggiano, the awardee from the engineering division, is a Ph.D. student in chemical and biological engineering. He has been an AI twice for “Design, Synthesis, and Optimization of Chemical Processes.”

Caggiano “was single-handedly responsible for the success of the course in achieving its educational objectives,” said Athanassios Panagiotopoulos, the Susan Dod Brown Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering and department chair. Panagiotopoulos cited Caggiano’s “enthusiasm, love of learning, and willingness to listen carefully and address all issues at the appropriate level of detail.”



Nick Caggiano. Photo by Frank Wojciechowski

Students praised Caggiano for being available at odd hours to answer questions. “Nick provided amazing support to his students beyond what is expected of a typical AI,” said one student, who found Caggiano was “always patient and approachable.”

Other graduate students in engineering and computer science who were honored included:

Ameet Deshpande

Department of Computer Science

Moriah Hughes

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Sadhika Surya Malladi

Department of Computer Science

Matthew Myers

Department of Computer Science

Andrew Shapiro

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Christopher Ushay

Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering

Zhi Jiang (Tony) Ye

Department of Operations Research and Financial Engineering

Hongtao Zhong

Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

Chengjie Zhu

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

—by Jennifer Altmann

ALUMNI NAMED TO LEADERSHIP ROLES



Mark Baumgartner

Mark Baumgartner *97 joined Carnegie Corp. of New York as its chief investment officer. Previously he was chief investment officer at the Institute for Advanced Study, and before that he was at the Ford Foundation.

Baumgartner’s undergraduate degree is in aerospace engineering from the University of Florida. He received a Ph.D. in mechanical and aerospace engineering from Princeton in 1997.

Christine Feng ’04, who earned a B.S.E. in electrical engineering from Princeton in 2004 and an M.B.A. from Harvard in 2010, is the new senior managing director at Blackstone, a global investment business. She was formerly a senior executive at Amazon, focusing on



Christine Feng

mergers and acquisitions. Before that, she was a senior member of the corporate development team at Microsoft. At Blackstone, she will direct her attention to technology investing and work with its credit investing platform.



Robert Hampshire

Robert Hampshire *07 was designated the Department of Transportation’s chief science officer by Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. Hampshire will advise the secretary on science and technology issues with a

focus on climate change. It has been 40 years since the position was last filled. Hampshire, who earned a Ph.D. from Princeton in operations research and financial engineering in 2007 and a B.S. from the University of Cincinnati, moves from the position of associate professor at the University of Michigan’s Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy.

Rebecca R. Jones, S.E., P.E., LEED BD+C *06 joined the Hatfield Group, a New York-based engineering firm, as principal. She is experienced in designing complex and high-performance structural systems: 10 Hudson Yards in New York City is one notable example. Previously she was the senior project manager at Simpson, Gumpertz & Heger Inc. and senior associate at Thornton Tomasetti. A dedicated mentor, Jones cofounded



Rebecca R. Jones

The Knitting Club to foster the advancement of women engineers and created the National Women Advancement Committee of Women@Thornton Tomasetti. Her B.S. from Iowa State University was followed by an M.S.E. in civil and environmental engineering from Princeton in 2006.

Eron Kelly ’94 was named corporate president of Inovalon, a provider of cloud-based platforms that empower data-driven healthcare. Prior to his new position, Kelly was the general manager of worldwide product marketing for Amazon Web Services and before that was general manager and worldwide sales leader at Microsoft. Kelly served as an officer in the United States Air Force as a program manager, materials directorate, at the Air Force Research Laboratory in Dayton, Ohio. He received his B.S.E. from Princeton in 1994 and a master’s in business administration from Harvard Business School.

Montgomery McNair ’06 was hired as the chief of basketball operations for the Sacramento Kings. He was formerly the assistant general manager for the Houston Rockets. Before that he was employed at STATS Inc., a provider of sports information and statistics. In 2006 McNair received an A.B. in computer science from Princeton, where he was also a letter winner for football. ▶