

September 2023



## OU Engineering Continues Impressive Growth

OU Engineering has welcomed 14 new faculty members for the 2023-24 academic year. This marks a milestone in the college's growth journey, with faculty numbers increasing from just over 100 in 2017 to 175 in 2023. OU Engineering is committed to expanding its faculty ranks, aiming for over 200 faculty members by the 2025-26 academic year, says OU Engineering Dean John Klier. To achieve this goal, the college has initiated more than 20 faculty searches.

The State of Oklahoma continues to acknowledge the need for more engineers. They recently responded to OU Engineering's request for additional recurring funding. The funding will play a crucial role in offering undergraduate student tuition waivers, supporting graduate students and helping recruit new faculty and staff. These positions will be phased in over the next three years. "OU Engineering extends its gratitude for the ongoing support from the State of Oklahoma as it continues to address the growing demand for engineers," Klier said.

[Learn more about our newest faculty members:](#)



Mansoor Abdulhak



Christopher Billings



Tommy Bounds



Maya Denton



Kendra Dresback



Alex Frickenstein



Lori Han



Soheil Hemmati



P.K. Imbrie



Yijie Jiang



Marmar Moussa



Sanjana Mudduluru



Moses Olayemi



Farid Talebnia

## NIH Awards for OU Engineering Faculty: \$1.87M for Research

Three OU Engineering faculty members have been granted [Maximizing Investigators' Research Awards](#) from the National Institutes of Health. Vivek Bajpai, John Clegg and Stefan Wilhelm, have received the award, totaling \$1,866,485 over a five-year period.



Vivek Bajpai



John Clegg



Stefan Wilhelm

## OU Secures \$3.4M for Materials Research; 2 OU Engineering Faculty Among Awardees

OU faculty have secured nearly \$3.4 million in grants to acquire three technologies that will advance the ability of OU researchers to conduct state-of-the-art materials research. Among the recipients are Iman Ghamarian from

the School of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering and P. Scott Harvey from the School of Civil Engineering and Environmental Science, along with several co-principal investigators from OU Engineering. [Learn more.](#)



**Iman Ghamarian**



**P. Scott Harvey**

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## **OU Computer Scientist Advocates for NSF AI Institute on Capitol Hill**

Amy McGovern, Schools of Computer Science and Meteorology, represented the NSF AI Institute for Research on Trustworthy AI in Weather, Climate, and Coastal Oceanography at "AI on the Hill," an event where all 25 NSF-funded AI institutes presented their work in September to Congress. [Learn more.](#)



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## **OU Engineering 1 of 28 Teams Nationwide Receive DEPSCoR Grant; Fondazi to Lead Effort**

Reza Foudazi, School of Sustainable Chemical, Biological and Materials Engineering, has been selected to receive a \$600,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Defense under the Defense Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, or DEPSCoR. The highly competitive grant was awarded to only 28 academic teams nationwide. His research centers on the exploration of electrochemical energy storage systems that incorporate multivalent ions. [Learn more.](#)



## History Pages

# 1958

In 1954, the United States commissioned the first nuclear powered submarine, and in 1958, the shippingport reactor was activated. In October 1958, the University announced that a training nuclear reactor along with a reactor simulator would be purchased and installed in the old journalism building. Dr. Robert Howard, Professor of Physics, was in charge of the project. The reactor was purchased from Aerojet General Nucleonics for a price of \$96,950. It was a swimming pool type reactor with the fuel rods and moderator control rods immersed in an open top tank of water five feet by three feet wide and eight feet deep. The power was licensed at 15 watts. The installation was completed in February 1959.

*Source: OU College of Engineering: A 70-Year History. By Tom J. Love Jr., George Lynn Cross Professor Emeritus, OU School of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering.*

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