



## Department of Engineering Physics

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

news for alumni • spring 2020

### From our chair

Another academic year is coming to a close. This spring semester has been anything but ordinary, though, amid the uncertainty of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Nearly all of us are now carrying out our research, teaching and other work remotely, which is why we are connecting with you electronically, too.



While our top priority has been supporting our students, faculty and staff during this time of upheaval, we're also doing what we can as a college and a department to use our expertise to help our state, country and world combat the COVID-19 pandemic. I hope you and your loved ones are well, and thank you for your support of our department.

On, Wisconsin!

Paul Wilson,

*Department Chair and Grainger Professor of Nuclear Engineering*

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### Gaining traction

Assistant Professor Jacob Notbohm made a discovery that sheds new light on how cells move.

[Read more](#)

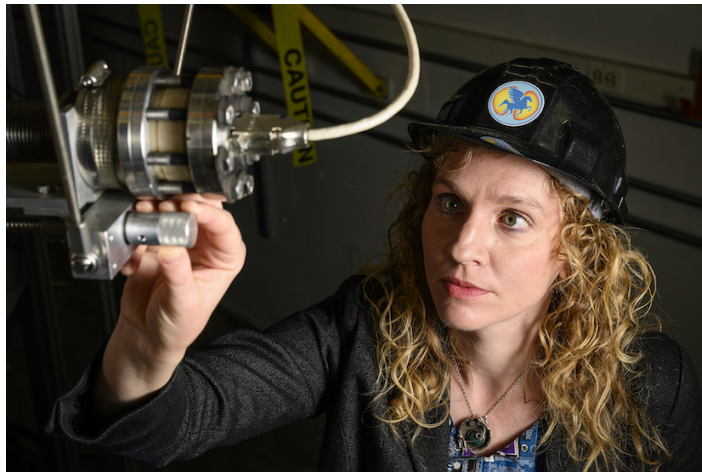


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## Silencing doubters

As an undergrad, Steffi Diem's boyfriend told her she "wasn't smart enough to get an engineering degree." Now an assistant professor, she outsmarted the doubters.

[Read more](#)

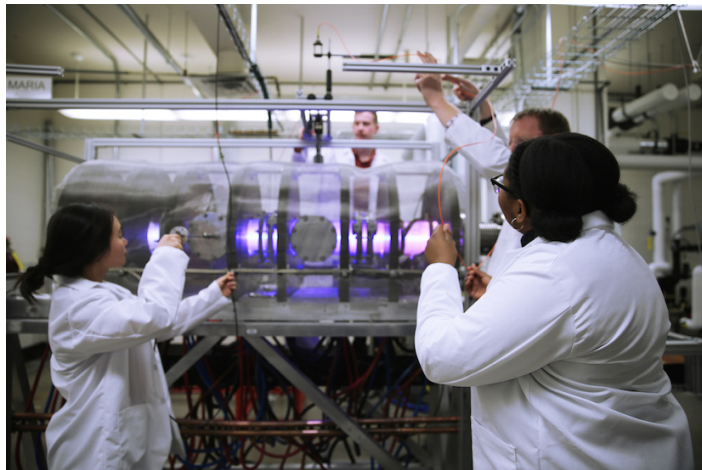


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## Fusion innovation

We're playing a key role in a new international fusion project that will drive innovation in stellarator research.

[Read more](#)



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## More headlines

- [New faculty member Yongfeng Zhang](#) studies how materials degrade when exposed to the extreme conditions in nuclear reactors.
- Engineering mechanics undergraduate Mitchell Wall continues to garner prestigious national honors, recently receiving a [Goldwater Scholarship](#) and an [Astronaut Scholarship](#).
- Undergraduate Chumani Mokoena wants to use his nuclear engineering education to [help expand nuclear energy](#) in his home country of South Africa.
- Irving Langmuir Professor Emeritus Noah Hershkowitz has received the [inaugural IEEE Transactions on Plasma Science Best Paper Award](#).
- Alumnus Moo Hwan Kim (PhDNE '86) has been [appointed as the eighth president](#) of Pohang University of Science and Technology, a private research university in South Korea.



2020 UW Forward under 40 Award recipients [Mehrdad Arjmand](#) and [Aaron Olson](#) are bringing efficient, clean energy to rural villages in the Democratic Republic of Congo.



2020 UW Forward under 40 Award recipient [Jayeesh Bakshi](#) has invented a radiation shield that protects patients and workers.

Help UW-Madison engineers respond to COVID-19

