

## **New dean of engineering excited by opportunities Windsor offers**

Provost Leo Groarke announced last week the appointment of Mehrdad Saif as Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, effective July 1. He will succeed acting dean Robert Gaspar, whose term ends June 30.

Dr. Saif is currently professor and Director of the School of Engineering Science at Simon Fraser University. He earned bachelor's (1982), master's (1984), and doctoral (1987) degrees in electrical engineering from Cleveland State University and joined the Simon Fraser faculty in 1987.

He says he is excited by the opportunities offered by his new position.

"We have expanded engineering at SFU quite aggressively over the past nine years and so I was looking for new challenges," says Saif. "I know the University of Windsor and the region and believe we can contribute a great deal to the economic development of the surrounding area."



*Mehrdad Saif*

He says the faculty is well-known for its work with automotive industries and hopes to identify new opportunities in aerospace and other related areas. Another draw is the Centre for Engineering Innovation, currently nearing completion of its first phase.

"The new building is definitely impressive and offers many exciting opportunities—the students can learn both in it and from it," he says. "My hope is the building will be not just an engineering building, but an environment that will promote cross-pollination between our discipline and business, sciences, human kinetics, the arts as well as the community and local industry. Working at the boundaries we can develop exciting programs at the intersections between disciplines."

Dr. Groarke said he is delighted with Saif's appointment.

"He brings all sorts of significant experience to us," he said. "I look forward to his leadership, especially as our faculty enters the new era heralded by the Centre for Engineering Innovation."

At Simon Fraser, Saif was active in program and curriculum development and oversaw a major expansion of the engineering program.

"Of particular note are interdisciplinary programs with other departments and faculties, and the mechatronic systems engineering program, which has become one of the cornerstones of the new campus of SFU," established in Surrey, B.C. Groarke said.

Saif's research interests lie in systems and control theory; model-based fault detection and diagnostics; linear and nonlinear controller and observer design; large scale systems; and optimal and intelligent control. Working with a number of industries and government organizations, he has applied the results of his research in automotive, power systems, autonomous systems and other areas.