Christine Kelly  
**Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs**

**TIMELINE**

- **1989**: BS, Chemical Engineering, University of Arizona
- **1997**: PhD, Chemical Engineering, University of Tennessee
- **1998–2004**: Assistant Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y.
- **2000**: Research Scientist, Kodak, Rochester, N.Y.
- **2004–present**: Associate Professor, School of Chemical, Biological and Environmental Engineering, Oregon State University

**Engineering student success**

*By Gregg Kleiner*

Christine Kelly’s first job as a process chemical engineer in industry was to help design a $36 million crystalline fructose manufacturing plant in rural Tennessee. As the College of Engineering’s new associate dean for academic and student affairs, Kelly will put her process design expertise to work, but instead of dealing with sugars and stainless steel tanks, she’ll be helping students by supporting faculty to produce top-notch, well-rounded engineers.

At the heart of her vision for the college is innovating a better overall learning experience by helping faculty acquire new teaching tools to educate a rapidly growing number of engineering students.

“The whole point of this new position is to help faculty and staff improve the learning experience for our students,” said Kelly, who knew she wanted to be an engineer by the third grade. “As our enrollment grows, we must maintain the high quality of teaching we’re known for and build on that excellence.”

Her priorities? Increase students’ experiential learning opportunities through service and overseas experiences, expand students’ global awareness, boost student retention rates, build a more diverse student population, foster deeper connections with industry to expand internship opportunities, advance student success in national competitions and increase the number of students qualifying for the professional school.

“As far as the quality of engineering instruction, Oregon State is one of the top schools — the teaching here is second to none. I firmly believe this, because I’ve seen other programs. We will continue to build on that excellence.”

— Christine Kelly

**Irem Tumer**  
**Associate Dean for Research and Economic Development**

**TIMELINE**

- **1991**: BS, Mechanical Engineering, University of Texas at Austin
- **1996**: MSE, Mechanical Engineering, University of Texas at Austin
- **1998**: PhD, Mechanical Engineering, University of Texas at Austin
- **2006–present**: Associate Professor, Design/Manufacturing, Oregon State University
- **2006–present**: Director, Complex Engineered Systems Design Laboratory, School of Mechanical, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, Oregon State University

**Ambassador. Matchmaker. Bridge builder.**

*By Gregg Kleiner*

Irem Tumer’s enthusiasm for her new job as associate dean for research and economic development is palpable as she ticks off a list of goals behind her vision: double the number of doctoral students, build new bridges to industry and alumni, help faculty find funding opportunities, boost the college’s reputation for research and grow industry funding.

“That’s a lot of moving parts, but as a professor of complex systems design, Tumer seems ideally suited to succeed.

“This position gives me the opportunity to do all the things I love about academia, but on a much larger scale,” said Tumer, the daughter of engineering parents who was born in the U.S. and grew up in Europe. “I’m very passionate about research and graduate students, and I like to promote other people’s work and develop relationships with industry.”

Having logged nearly a decade at NASA Ames Research Center, Tumer is intimately familiar with managing multiple research projects and she knows how to pitch research expertise to industry investors.

“In this new role, I see myself as an ambassador, a matchmaker of sorts,” she said with a smile. “This includes not only connecting faculty teams with funding opportunities and matching industry needs with Oregon State expertise, but also assembling teams that can build new programs ranging from humanitarian engineering to sustainable manufacturing.

“Personal Holy Grail? A National Science Foundation-funded engineering research center at Oregon State’s College of Engineering.

“The best part of this job is talking with faculty to better understand what they do and then helping put together teams to go after what’s really the future of research funding: large, collaborative, interdisciplinary projects.”

— Irem Tumer