

3-D printers, robotics, and laser processing.

“Wherever possible, things are going to be put on wheels,” says Gerald Fine, EPIC director and an ENG professor of the practice in the mechanical engineering department. “We’ll continually be looking to update and replace old equipment over the course of the life of the center.”

And while EPIC will be one of many learning spaces for engineering students, its opening signals a sea change for the college’s undergraduates. Starting with a small pilot program next spring, all sophomores will be able to take an engineering design course, and all students will have access to EPIC’s labs. Students will be trained in and use PTC Creo®, the company’s award-winning CAD software, and PTC Windchill® product life-cycle management software, which will integrate real-world processes, data, and business systems into the classroom.

“When I first heard from Dean Lutchen about the idea of EPIC, I was thrilled,” says Michael Campbell (ENG’94), executive vice president of PTC’s CAD segment, who will serve on EPIC’s advisory board. “I always felt that my engineering education lacked that real-world perspective, that real-world exposure to the challenges, processes, and complexities of collaboration and the sophistication of tools. Now we have a chance to share all of that with students.” LF

A Superhero Gesture

A Scottish soldier raises funds for Marathon bombing victims

ON MAY 19, A SCOTTISH reservist deployed in Afghanistan donned a muscled Batman suit and ran 16.2 miles through the 100-degree heat of Helmand Province, all for a very good reason: to raise money for the victims of the April 15 Boston Marathon bomb attacks—including \$314 for the scholarship fund established by the University to honor BU graduate student Lu Lingzi (GRS’13), who was killed in the bombings.

Staff Sergeant John Castle, 45, who ran alongside US Marines at Camp Leatherneck, admits that the full-body costume “got a wee bit hot around the chest area,” but he still came in well ahead of the main field, with a time of 2 hours and 16 minutes.

Castle, who is serving a six-month tour, is the squadron quartermaster sergeant for the small contingent of British servicemen attached to the US Marine Corps headquarters, responsible for their accommodation, food, vehicles, and equipment.

The Scottish sergeant from Dundee requested special permission to run in costume—outlandish clothing is usually prohibited—to pique the interest of sponsors. “I thought it would be a great idea to raise funds, and the dafter the better,” he says. “The Batman suit was sent out by my wife, who thinks I have lost the plot and did not ask why.”

He is one of more than 1,200 donors from 28 countries who have collectively contributed over \$900,000 to the Lu Lingzi Scholarship Fund. Lu was one of 3 people who lost their lives in the Marathon blasts, which injured more than 260. Originally from Shenyang, China, she studied international trade



Staff Sergeant John Castle (right), a Scottish reservist deployed in Afghanistan, battles temperatures reaching nearly 100 degrees as he runs a race to raise money for victims of the Boston Marathon bombings.

at the Beijing Institute of Technology and was pursuing statistics at BU, where she excelled in her classes.

“The outpouring of generosity around this scholarship has been incredible and humbling,” says Scott Nichols, BU’s senior vice president for development and alumni relations. “Talk about going the extra mile. This gentleman went the extra 16 miles—in the desert, wearing what amounts to long johns, a mask, and a cape—to honor Lingzi’s memory by helping us provide aid for future students in her name. We smile at the means of the gift, but we’re also touched and grateful.”

Castle plans to put his super suit back on to run the 2014 London Marathon next April. He was “chuffed to bits” that he was able to contribute to the recovery of the Marathon bombing victims and their families. “It’s easy for me—I just had to keep running,” he says. “It won’t be that easy for them.” ■