

New Associate Director of Cleanrooms Joins UCF

By Eddy Duryea '13 | Oct. 30, 2024

In his new role, Basil Chew will help maintain important semiconductor research and fabrication labs at UCF.



Basil Chew recently joined the Office of Research as the Associate Director of Cleanrooms. Chew provides oversight of the Nanofabrication Cleanroom Facilities, consisting of three centralized cleanrooms in the College of Optics and Photonics (CREOL), the College of Engineering and Computer Science, and the College of Sciences. He also works closely with a faculty advisory committee representing the three colleges.

Get to know Chew (and his good humor) below and feel free to say “hi” if you see him around!

1. Please tell us a little bit about your professional background.

I spent the last 15 years at King Abdullah University of Science & Technology in Saudi Arabia. The university was just being built so I had the opportunity to start up the cleanroom and help centralize the operation of the shared facilities. Prior to that I worked for Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, Micron and Infineon in their wafer fabrication facilities.

2. Why did you decide to come to UCF? What opportunities drew you here?

The chance to streamline the cleanroom operations, good weather, the vibrant campus, and it's not in the desert.

3. What does your role with UCF's clean rooms entail?

My wife thinks I'm a janitor cleaning the rooms at UCF. I'm actually going to manage the shared cleanroom facilities. This will include making them more accessible, standardizing their policies and procedures, centralizing the business processes, working with faculty, students and external users to address their research needs, facilitating trainings and partnerships, planning for the expansion of tools and resources, and ensuring that the labs run smoothly.

4. How do you see the development and implementation of semiconductors evolving and how can we better prepare students to grow with them?

Chips are everywhere now and many fabrication facilities are being built. There is a huge demand for skilled workers and the cleanrooms in UCF give our students the opportunity to gain valuable experience in semiconductor design, fabrication and testing. The technology changes rapidly and we need to prepare our students to be able to adapt and learn continuously.

5. What are some of your interests and hobbies?

I'm into windsurfing, where's a good spot?

6. Is there anything else you'd like to add?

When I was young, I was a poor golfer. But after years of play and practice, I am no longer young.