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Electro-optics Researcher Appointed to Mann Chair

01.26.2010 | Faculty, Science Physics professor Peter Powers will begin his four-year appointment on Aug. 16, 2010, as the third holder of the Brother Leonard A. Mann, S.M., Chair in the Sciences. A formal ceremony is scheduled for the 2010-11 academic year.

"Professor Powers is highly respected for his intellectual facility and knowledge, as well as for his readiness to collaborate with faculty members and students," said College of Arts and Sciences Dean Paul Benson. "As the next Mann Chair, he will do much to foster increased research capacity, interdisciplinary collaboration, and visibility across the natural sciences division and in

concert with other scientific research centers on- and off-campus."

Powers has received notable recognition for his research in electro-optics, through scholarly papers in more than 40 publications, five patents, conference presentations and external funding as well as major faculty awards for scholarship at both the college and the university levels.

The Mann Chair is currently held by physics professor Bob Brecha, who will complete his term this spring. During his tenure, Brecha led the University's sustainability, energy and environment initiative (SEE) which included the creation a SEE learning-living community and a new SEE minor announced this semester.

The Brother Leonard A. Mann, S.M., Chair in the Sciences recognizes outstanding accomplishments in and contributions to scholarship in the sciences. The position is named in honor of Brother Leonard A. Mann, S.M., former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of physics. Mann followed the Marianist tradition of servant-leadership in his service to the church, his order, his colleagues and his students. At the time of his death in 1995, Mann had served as a Marianist brother for 61 years.

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