research projects, broadening researchers' understanding and potentially leading to new technologies in areas such as molecular-level control algorithms, microbial feedback control systems, self-powered hybrid systems that combine living and engineered parts and advanced robotic systems that can heal and evolve.

The NRT award is one of just 22 the NSF granted this year. The program encompasses a wide range of experts from departments and centers across BU, including not only researchers but also participants from the Newbury Center, the Professional Development and Postdoctoral Affairs office and STEM Pathways. Other ENG faculty involved include Professor Calin Belta (ME, SE, ECE), Professor Douglas Densmore (ECE, BME, MSE), Assistant Professor Andrew Sabelhaus (ME, SE), Assistant Professor Emma Lejeune (ME), Assistant Professor Sheila Russo (ME, MSE),

"BU ENG's focus on convergence," says Morgan, "makes us uniquely positioned to bring the field of biological control from an emerging area to a mature discipline."

Assistant Professor Tommaso Ranzani (ME, MSE, BME), Assistant Professor Michael Albro (ME, MSE, BME), Assistant Professor Brianne Connizzo (BME) and Assistant Professor Jeroen Eyckmans (BME). Other BU faculty collaborators include LaDora Thompson (physical therapy), the Travis M. Roy Professor at the Sargent College of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, as well as Assistant Professor Joe Larkin (biology), Assistant Professor Maria Kamenetska (physics) and Associate Professor Zeba Wunderlich (biology) from the College of Arts & Sciences.

"BU ENG's focus on convergence—bringing people from many disciplines together to work on societal challenges—makes us uniquely positioned to bring the field of biological control from an emerging area to a mature discipline," says Morgan, who is also the Maysarah K. Sukkar Professor of Engineering Design and Innovation, and former director of the Center for Multiscale & Translational Mechanobiology, where the project will be headquartered. "We look forward to educating tomorrow's leaders in this area and creating a training program that can be replicated at other universities too."

— PATRICK L. KENNEDY

More Honors for Zhang

Distinguished Professor of Engineering Xin Zhang (ME, ECE, BME, MSE) has garnered an epic string of illustrious honors in the past year. Most recently, she was elected a member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts (EASA), a learned society of 2,000 members, including more than 30 Nobel Prize laureates. Members are elected for outstanding achievements in science, arts and governance, and their exceptional standing in society as a result of their scientific work, publications or leadership. Zhang was elected to the academy's technical and environmental sciences class. She was officially inducted as a member of the EASA this spring at the organization's annual inauguration ceremony in Salzburg, Austria.

Zhang is a pioneer in metamaterials—materials with properties not found in nature. Among her most noteworthy accomplishments, Zhang has invented a metamaterial that markedly boosts the signal-to-noise ratio of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and thus significantly improves the performance of MRI; and a metamaterial that can curtail noise without blocking airflow, addressing long-standing noise issues in a wide range of mechanical systems, in which highly efficient air-permeable sound silencers are required.

In the fall, Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Honor Society, bestowed on Zhang its prestigious Walston Chubb Award for Innovation. Zhang received the honor and delivered the Walston Chubb Award Lecture at Sigma Xi's annual International Forum on Research Excellence, held in Long Beach, California.

Remarkably, the Chubb was Zhang's second high-profile award in the space of a week. She received the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Per Brüel Gold Medal for Noise Control and Acoustics just days earlier in New Orleans at the International Mechanical Engineering Congress and Exposition.

— PATRICK L. KENNEDY

Xin Zhang (ME, ECE, BME, MSE)

PHOTO BY CYDNEY SCOTT

Left to right, ENG Dean ad interim Elise Morgan (ME, MSE, BME), Louvere Walker-Hannon (ENG'00), Tye Brady (ENG'90) and Manuel Mendez (ENG'91).

DANA J. QUIGLEY PHOTOGRAPHY

College Honors Distinguished Alumni

The College of Engineering and Dean ad interim Elise Morgan conferred the Distinguished Alumni Award on three alumni last fall, recognizing their impact on their professions and communities as well as their outstanding service to the BU Engineering community.

Recipients exemplify the core values of the Societal Engineer and demonstrate an enduring commitment to the College of Engineering and Boston University.

TYE BRADY (ENG'90)

Brady received a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering from BU in 1990 and, subsequently, a master's in aeronautics and astronautics engineering from MIT. He was instrumental in creating ENG's Master of Science in Robotics & Autonomous Systems degree program.

As chief technologist at Amazon Robotics, Brady heads advanced technology and research efforts. Prior to Amazon Robotics, he spent 15 years with Draper, advancing robotics and spacecraft engineering. In 2009, he was honored by NASA with the Exceptional Public Service Medal.

During his time at Amazon, Brady helped shape the inaugural Robotics Day One Fellowship, which supports uniquely talented students from multicultural backgrounds who are pursuing master's degrees in technology-related fields at several universities, including BU.

MANUEL MENDEZ (ENG'91)

Mendez earned a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering from BU in 1991 and received his MBA from Northwestern University. He is chief executive officer of Quotient, the world's leading provider of diagnostic information services.

In 2020, he spearheaded a COVID-19 testing partnership between BU and Quest, which was integral to keeping BU operational during a critical time.

Dedicated to equity, Mendez was involved in the creation of Quest for Health Equity, partnering with Choose for Healthy Life in addressing the health disparities within communities of color in major cities across the United States.

LOUVERE WALKER-HANNON (ENG'00)

Walker-Hannon received a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering from BU in 2000 and a master's degree in geographic information technology from Northeastern University. She has a long history of serving as a STEM advocate and mentor, especially to underrepresented groups. She is a member of Black Girls CODE, the Society of Women Engineers, the National Society of Black Engineers, the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, and Women in Data Science.

As an application engineering senior lead at MathWorks, Walker-Hannon provides technical guidance and strategic direction on the implementation of AI and data science workflows for various applications. She has worked in three different engineering roles throughout her more than 20-year career at MathWorks.

— ISABELLA BACHMAN