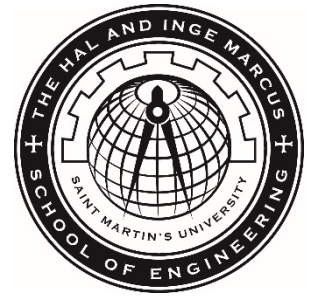




Saint Martin's  
UNIVERSITY



# CORNERSTONE

The Hal and Inge Marcus School of Engineering

Spring 2024- Jan/Feb



## SPRING = ENGINEERING FOCUS

It's the season for worse weather and the inevitable illnesses. Stay warm, dry, and healthy! It's also the season for renewal and revelry!

February 18-24, 2024 is Engineering Week with these events:

### Engineering Awareness Day | Wednesday, February 21, 2024 | 8AM-12PM | Cebula Hall/Panowicz Foundry

Over 100 local high school students rotate through five stations to learn about civil and mechanical engineering and computer science and technology. It's a great event to recruit students to HIMSE programs and promote the engineering profession!

### Engineering Banquet | Friday, February 23, 2024 | 530-830PM | Norman Worthington Conf Ctr

The 72nd Annual Engineering Banquet is set and everything's ready for you to get your tickets!



Chester Werts

The event starts with socializing and a delicious dinner, followed by the formal program. Our keynote address will be "Legacy of Olympia Bridge Engineering", co-presented by **Chester Werts**, NW Major Bridge Lead, and **Michael Lamont**, Major Bridges Technical Director, of HDR, Inc. Both have decades of experience each in bridge design-build regionally, nationally, and in Canada. As always,



Michael Lamont

we offer our guests the opportunity to Sponsor-A-Student by buying tickets for those students who want to attend this premier event, but aren't able to purchase a ticket at \$30 each. These students appreciate your generous sponsorship and so do we! Tickets for students/faculty are \$30 and all others are \$50. We are excited about this year's event and hope to see you there!

For more info and to buy your tickets, please click: [\*\*72nd Annual Engineering Banquet 2024\*\*](#)



## CONTEST – WIN A PRIZE!

This question was asked in the November newsletter: Who is known as both the Mother of Computer Science and the first Computer Programmer? **The answer was Ada Lovelace.**

Oddly enough, the correct answer was sent in to us by Civil Engineering student, **David Stride** (shown at left). David graduated in December 2023 with his BSCE. He did an internship with the Army Corps of Engineers many years ago and has worked there ever since, while continuing to work on his degree. Now he's all theirs. Lucky Corps of Engineers! He got a Pocket

Engineer (metal wallet-size card inscribed with engineering reference info/formulas that also serves as a ruler, protractor, and angle-drawing tool. Made for a lifetime of use! Here's the next question for some astute newsletter reader. Again, send all answers to [engineering@stmartin.edu](mailto:engineering@stmartin.edu). First correct one wins something different, but equally useful!

**Question: What is the longest bridge in the world? (not of any specific type-just the longest)     **Good luck!****

## PARTNERS DONATE GENEROUSLY TO WAV2T

Recently, our WAV2T partners from Brooksource and the Eight Eleven Group generously donated \$5,000 to our WAV2T program. As part of the Eight Eleven Group's Eleven Days of Giving, our WAV2T program was one they highlighted. Pictured at left are (l to r) **Michael Scott** (Director of Sales & Recruitment at Brooksource), **Jessica Olson** (Program Coordinator & Professional Recruiter at Brooksource), **Dr. David Olwell** (Dean, HIMSE), and **Adam Takata** (Director, WAV2T). Per the Eight Eleven Group, "At Eight Eleven, we take great pride in collaborating with impactful organizations like Washington Vets 2 Tech as we continue our unwavering dedication to supporting the veteran community." **LEARN MORE**



## WIT GUEST SPEAKER

**Zabrina McIntyre**, Advisory Director at KPMG, spoke to 15 eager students in late November. She is a cybersecurity consultant with over 15 years of diverse industry experience helping companies meet their goals. She is also the President of WiCyS Western Washington and the VP of ISSA-Puget Sound. Ms. McIntyre provided her contact information to students for future assistance and networking. Thank you for your support! **READ MORE**



## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL HOLIDAY PARTY

HIMSE staff, faculty, and EAB members enjoyed another great Holiday Party in early December. This year's theme was gingerbread. Tam decorated



appropriately and even scented the room with the theme signature. This

year we went potluck on the refreshments and had an amazing assortment! We had our annual teams relay race, table activities, door prize ticket raffles, and bingo games for some great gift cards prizes. Many thanks to **Adam Takata** for donating all of the prizes! Everyone had a great time!



## THREE HIMSE STUDENTS AWARDED KPFF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SPRING 2024

Prior to the holidays KPFF Consulting Engineers, with offices both regional and national, reviewed scholarship applications and conducted interviews. **Blake Lord**, PE, KPFF Associate sent the announcement in early January that they had awarded \$2,000 scholarships to three HIMSE Civil Engineering students for Spring 2024: **Eli Eldridge**, **Peyton Prom**, and **Zoe Djafarian**. CE Chair **Dr. Liza Bornasal** said, "All three are really strong students and good representatives of the university and HIMSE." **Dean David Olwell** added, "I appreciate this strong and continuing relationship between KPFF and SMU!" Congratulations to all three amazing student scholarship recipients!

## DEAN'S LIST FROM FALL 2023

We're proud to recognize the outstanding students who made the Dean's List from Fall 2023 eligibility. Undergraduate students with a GPA of at least 3.5, who took a full-time class load and did not drop any classes, are placed on the Dean's List. Students in **red** earned a 4.0 GPA for the semester. We are proud of all of our HIMSE students and their accomplishments and encourage you all to keep up the good work and put in your best effort on all you do! Congratulation from the Dean, faculty, and staff of The Hal and Inge Marcus School of Engineering!

### **Nada Alattar**

Diego Alvarez-Contreras

### **Austin Anderson**

Hunter Anderson  
Arturo Avila  
Macy Ball

### **Marisol Bergstrom**

### **Jonathan Blais**

Vanessa Bledsoe  
Andrew Boyd  
Mary Brownell  
Ester Cabotage  
Kevin Cabrera

Donald Choe

Andy Choi

Matthew Cooper

### **Micah Dally**

Connor Daniels

Clifford Diffendaffer

Brogan Doyle

Lillian Eddy

Eli Eldridge

Drann Emery

### **Hollie Filyaw**

Juan Fonseca

Brendan Foster

### **Beth Gallatin**

### **Miguel Gomez**

Michael Grubb

### **Benjamin Hicklin**

Kyal Huntley

Laurel Jacinto Argote

### **Josiah Jessup**

Hayden Jones

Justus Konwent

Sarah Lamet

Hayden Lamfers

Immanuall Lee

Nathan Lee

Lia Lopez

Keanu Lyons

Zachery Martin

Amber Mattoni

Evynn Moore

Octavio Moran, Jr.

Ethan Myers

### **Sierra Nees**

Stephen Norby

Garrett Orwig

### **Brooke Peltzer**

Riley Phelps

Victor Phillips

### **Kaeli Ploettner**

Peyton Prom

Krizia Ragotero

Connie Rodriguez

Karis Sanders

### **Cory Schramm**

Andrew Schulz

Hayden Simmons

Claire Skaggs

Karla Soto

David Stride

### **Omkumar Tada**

Kaylah Tibbits

Erick Tornquist

### **Joseph Wentz**

Joe Yang

Gregory Yeager

## WAV2T GRADUATES ITS 1,000TH STUDENT

Our certificate program, providing technology training and certification to veterans and service members transitioning into the civilian workforce celebrated a milestone achievement on December 15th, graduating its 1,000th student in 10 years of operation (includes students from our MSSA program too).



**Adam Takata**, WAV2T Director, credited the continued program success to the dedication of local elected officials, JBLM leaders and corporate partners, who have worked together, partnering with SMU leaders and faculty to build the program into what it is now. “Today, we stand on the shoulders of a decade of hard work and dedication,” Takata said.

In the photo at left, **Adam Takata** looks on as **Spc. Damien Thomas**, an information technology specialist with the Special Forces Group at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, signs his certificate moments before becoming the 1,000th graduate of the Washington Vets to Tech program at St. Martin’s University. (Photo Credit: **Pamela Sleezer**, Joint Base Lewis-McChord Public Affairs)

**Colonel Kent Park**, JBLM commander, served as keynote speaker at the graduation and encouraged graduates to carry with them their drive and passion for serving. “Service is in your DNA, and it is why you first raised your right hand,” Park said. “Carry that sense of duty forward, and channel your passion into continued service to our nation and our communities. Therein lies the true legacy of your military journey: a commitment to a lifetime of meaningful contributions beyond the uniform.”

Congratulations to all 54 graduates of this very special WAV2T cohort! [\*\*MORE PHOTOS-READ MORE\*\*](#)

## MILITARY ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD CEREMONY HONOR TWO FROM SMU

JBLM conducted the Military Academic Achievement Award Ceremony on January 19, 2024. Participating schools were asked to select one faculty and one student to be recognized.

Saint Martin’s 2024 Military Academic Achievement Award recipient is **Sgt. First Class David Peppard**. Receiving the 2024 Commander’s Certificate for Distinguished Faculty is **Farzin Bahadori**, Ph.D. Candidate. Congratulations to both of these fine representatives of SMU excellence!



Arnold Norem, JBLM Education Services Officer (far left) and Col. Brandon Sokora, JBLM Deputy Commander (ctr left), look on as Adam Takata (far rt) congratulates David Peppard on his award.



Col. Brandon Sokora (left) congratulates Farzin Bahadori (ctr) on his award, while Adam Takata (rt) stands by.

## GETTING TO KNOW THE FACULTY

**Dr. Md Mahbub Alam**, Adjunct Lecturer, Environmental Engineering, has a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering with an environmental emphasis from Washington State University. He has master's degrees in environmental engineering (WSU) and Water Resource Engineering (Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology). He is a licensed Professional Engineer in the state of Washington. He currently works at the WA State Department of Ecology as a Senior Environmental Engineer and has worked for this department for over 19 years.



**Ms. Melissa Hegney** MSCS '21, Adjunct Lecturer, Computer Science, received her master's in Computer Science from SMU and her bachelor's degree in Computer Science with an emphasis in Cybersecurity and Application Development from Bellevue University in 2019. Melissa currently works as a Software Developer III for Harbor Foods. She is proficient in front/backend software and mobile app development. She teaches in our Washington Vets to Tech program.

**Mr. Robert Thompson**, MSCS '21, Adjunct Lecturer, Computer Science, received his master's in Computer Science from SMU in 2021. Prior to teaching at SMU, he taught and currently teaches at South Puget Sound Community College and was selected to teach in their new CS bachelor's degree program, which starts in Fall 2024. Robert is an accomplished retired US Army Lieutenant Colonel, with 21 years of service. He spearheaded the NATO SATCOM Post-2000 satellite space program. He also established and led a highly successful consultancy firm, C4I Consulting LLC, specializing in telecommunications, cybersecurity, computer networking, and IT program management.



**Mr. Peter Truax**, Adjunct Lecturer, Computer Science, is an SMU MSCS graduate, with his degree conferred in December 2023. With his experience and current employment as the Saint Martin's University Network Administrator, he has been lecturing in our Computer Science department while completing his degree. Peter has over 22 years' experience in systems analysis, network infrastructure management, and engineering. He is also a certified Palo Alto Instructor and is certified in both Cisco CCNA and A+. He teaches our CS/IT and WAV2T students. He is also the faculty advisor for our Cybersecurity Club. **Congratulations on getting your MSCS degree, Peter!**

## FACULTY NOTES – NOTED FACULTY

**Dr. Dintie Mahamah** was asked to participate on an AAUW (American Association of University Women) Award review panel. AAUW offers graduate fellowships, as well as grad degree grants, with primary consideration given to women of color and those pursuing their first advanced degree in nontraditional fields at an accredited college or university. Though the deadline for this year has passed, funding opportunities open August 1 every year. Congratulations on this honor, Dr. Mahamah. [\*\*READ MORE\*\*](#)



**Dr. Shahlaa Al Wakeel** recently attended the Seattle Alumni Network event as a former student of the CU Boulder College of Engineering & Applied Science. The event was organized by the Office of Alumni Engagement to bring together alumni from the Seattle area. Shahlaa noted, "It was a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new connections with fellow engineering Buffs." She is circled in the photo below.



**Dr. Shawn Duan** co-wrote two technical papers accepted by the ASME IMECE 2023 proceedings after rigorous blind peer review.

- Butler, F., Duan, S. Z. (2023) "Parameter Analysis Of Spherical Pulsation Damper Using Ansys Fluid-solid Interaction" ASME 2023 IMECE Proceedings, Paper # IMECE2023-116319, pp. 1-15.
- Song, Y. X., Duan, S. Z., (2023) "Design Improvement And Field Testing For Biogas Power Generation System" ASME 2023 IMECE Proceedings, Paper # IMECE2023- 111642, pp. 1-7.

He and **Finnley Butler** MSME '23, presented these papers at the ASME IMECE 2023 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Finnley presented the first paper listed above, with Dr. Duan presenting the second listed. In photo at left, Finnley Butler is on the left and Dr. Duan is on the right. Congratulations to them both for representing SMU's Mechanical Engineering!

**Dr. Tapas Das** presented a paper at the AIChE Annual Meeting held in Orlando, FL. The title was “Advancing Environmental Sustainability through Green Chemistry and Engineering Principles and Matrices. [READ MORE](#)

**Dr. Das** also served as an editor on a newly published book “Remediation of Plastics and Microplastic Waste. Congratulations on both achievements, Tapas! [READ MORE](#)



## OUR ALUMNI AND WHAT THEY'RE UP TO

**Chayse Zehner-Novak BSME '18** recently started a new position as a Mechanical Engineer and Machinist at Hangar One Avionics, Inc. Congrats, Chayse!

**Nick Mayfield, PE BSCE '19** has a new position as Senior Project Engineer at AHB Inc.

**Chalese Smartt, PE MCE '20** started a new position as Regional Structural Engineer at GSA. Great going, Chalese!

**Parker Pontarolo MSCS '23** was just hired by the University of Puget Sound as a Technology Support Analyst. Congratulations, Parker!

**Finnley Butler, MSME '23** is working as a Change Engineer for Exyte in Boise, Idaho. Great, Finnley!

**Nabina Khadka MSCS '23** is working as a Software Engineer at LTIMindtree in Tampa, Florida. Happy for you, Nabina!

## CONTINUE THE COMMUNITY WITH LINKEDIN

Don't forget to join our LinkedIn groups to continue to keep the community vibe alive – network with each other, mentor our students, and share information about scholarships, internships, and job opportunities.

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE ENGINEERING GROUP](#) (civil and mechanical engineering)

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE COMPUTER SCIENCE GROUP](#) (computer science and information technology)



## CALENDAR AND EVENTS

- ❖ Feb 5 Midterm grades due for Spr 08/10 terms
- ❖ Feb 16 Last day for Withdrawal for Spr 08/10 terms
- ❖ Feb 19 HOLIDAY – Presidents Day (campus closed)
- ❖ Feb 21 Engineering Awareness Day (8A-noon)
- ❖ Feb 23 Engineering Banquet (530-830P)
- ❖ Feb 26-Mar 1 Mid Term Exams for Spring Main-00
- ❖ Mar 2 Last day of classes for Spr 08/10 terms
- ❖ Mar 4 Mid-term grades due for Spring Main-00
- ❖ Mar 4-8 Mid-semester Break (no classes)
- ❖ Mar 5 Final grades due for Spr 08/10 terms
- ❖ Mar 11 Classes begin for Spr 09/11 terms
- ❖ Mar 18 Add/drop deadline for Spr 09/11 terms
- ❖ Mar 20 Advising Day (no LACEY courses meet)
- ❖ Mar 21 HOLIDAY Saint Benedict's Day
- ❖ March 29 HOLIDAY Good Friday
- ❖ April 1 HOLIDAY Easter Monday
- ❖ April 2 Priority Registration starts for Sum/Fall '24
- ❖ April 5 Last day for withdrawal for Spring Main-00
- ❖ April 8 Mid term grades due for Spr 09/11 terms
- ❖ April 19 Last day for withdrawal for Spr 09/11 terms
- ❖ April 22-25 Study Week
- ❖ April 23 Scholars Day and Honors Convocation
- ❖ April 25 Senior Commencement Fair
- ❖ April 26 Saint Thomas Aquinas Study Day (no LACEY courses meet)
- ❖ Apr 29-May 3 Final exams for Spring Main-00
- ❖ May 3 WAV2T Graduation (11A-1P)  
HIMSE Awards/Order of the Engineer/Pledge of the Computing Professional (1-2P)  
Chancellor's Baccalaureate Mass & Hooding Ceremony
- ❖ May 4 Commencement (Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Summer 2024 candidates)
- ❖ May 6 Summer 08 term begins
- ❖ May 7 Final grades due for Spring Main-00 and 09/11 terms
- ❖ May 13 Summer 2024 Main-00, 01, 05, 07 begins  
Add/drop deadline for Summer 08 term
- ❖ May 14 Add/drop deadline for Summer 01
- ❖ May 20 Add/drop deadline for Summer Main-00, 05, 07
- ❖ May 27 HOLIDAY – Memorial Day (campus closed)



## CONTACT US – PLEASE!

If you are one of our alumni and have anything to share (position/company changes, professional achievements, or personal life accomplishments–wedding, children, anniversaries, etc.) please send your input to [engineering@stmartin.edu](mailto:engineering@stmartin.edu).





## DEAN'S CORNER

The Office of Admissions for the university offers campus tours for prospective students, and these tours run very frequently. A popular stop is Cebula Hall, with its innovative architecture and inviting spaces.

Today, as I was returning from teaching a class on the Benedictine values to the current CAD cohort of the Vets to Tech program, I saw one of our student ambassadors in the foyer with two prospective students. One had her parents with her; a second was by himself. I introduced myself, as I often do, and we had a short conversation. I'd like to share some of that with you, because I believe it gets to the heart of what we are doing as a university.

One of the students was from the Wilsonville area in Oregon and was interested in our business programs. The second was a recent Army retiree from Dupont, interested in a communications degree.

The Oregon student is a women's soccer recruit. We talked about the excellent relationship between sports and academics at SMU, the commitment to whole-person development, and the success of our teams. (I did mention that, as of today, the Men's Basketball team is ranked #1 in the Nation for Division II! Go Saints!). The veteran candidate and I chatted about our commitment to the support of veterans, and why so many veterans are comfortable on our campus.

For both, I tried to convey what our aspirations are – across all majors -- as a school based on the liberal arts. I stressed that, unlike the state schools, we aim to challenge students to examine the great questions of life during their collegiate years: Who am I? What am I called to do with my life? Who is calling me, and why? I explained that our core curriculum is designed to give students a wide introduction to history, economics, art, philosophy, ethics, language, and religion, with seminars as a junior that synthesize this coursework. They were excited to learn that we were a values-based institution that challenged students to examine their personal values without imposing a fixed set upon them.

I share this because it is important that we not lose sight of what we at Saint Martin's can do better than anyone in the state. We transform students not just intellectually for economic mobility. We transform students for a deeper understanding of themselves and the culture in which they live, with abundant offerings to support their spiritual growth as they are open to it. As I saw again today, this resonates with candidates. We should be proud of our mission to transform and share it unashamedly. It is one of our major points, if not the major point, that distinguishes us in the academic marketplace.

Thank you for your support as together we continue to transform students into Saints.

**David H. Olwell, Ph.D., Professor and Dean**  
**Hal & Inge Marcus School of Engineering**



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