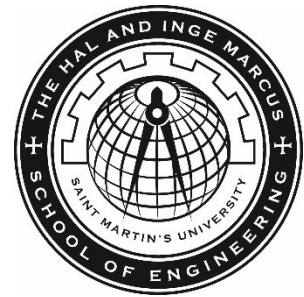




Saint Martin's
UNIVERSITY



CORNERSTONE

The Hal and Inge Marcus School of Engineering

Spring – January 2025



ENGINEERING BANQUET!

As promised in previous issues, our premier annual event is upon us! The 73rd Annual 2025 Engineering Banquet will be on **Friday, February 21st, 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Norman Worthington Conference Center**. The event starts with socializing/appetizers/drinks at 5:30, followed by dinner at 6:15, and formal program at 7:15. We have a great dinner lined up: Chicken or Cauliflower Cacciatore (V) with salad, orzo, vegetable, roll/butter and a fruit crisp dessert.

Our keynote speaker will be Mr. Omev Nandyal speaking on: "The One Person Unicorn: Can that be you?" He has over 35 years of experience managing, mentoring, and guiding technology teams. His company, Knowtal, Inc. runs both The Compass-360 Association and Radical Blue Gaming. He is also the founding partner and lead facilitator of the Entrepreneur Academy at SPSCC. He and his wife, Tammy, are co-founders of The Anonymously Yours Foundation, performing anonymous acts of kindness throughout the community.

Tickets continue to be \$30 for staff, faculty, and students and \$50 for public guests. We also have the option of funding a student ticket(s), so we can have as many students attend as possible. You can purchase tickets and get information at: **[ENGINEERING BANQUET REGISTRATION](#)**.

If you have any questions, please contact Tam Léger: tleger@stmartin.edu or 360-688-2731.
We hope you will be able to join us at this event!

CONTEST – WIN A PRIZE!

The question from the Nov-Dec newsletter was-- **What “magician of iron” engineer designed the skeletal framework for the Statue of Liberty?** The answer was **Gustav Eiffel**. The correct answer was sent in by **Hannah Montgomery**, Program Coordinator at the Center for Career and Calling. Her prize was a handknit hat in Saint Martin's red to keep her warm! Congratulations, Hannah!

The question for this issue is: **What is the farthest man-made object from Earth?**

First correct answer wins a prize! Remember to send your answer to engineering@stmartin.edu

Good luck – answer in the next edition of Cornerstone!

DEAN'S CORNER



One of the joys of being Dean is celebrating student success! All month, students have been coming by to receive their Dean's List congratulatory letter and have their picture taken. It is one of the ways we celebrate the hard work that underlies their academic success.

You will see a slide show of these pictures at the Engineering Banquet on 2 February (details elsewhere in the newsletter). I hope to see you at this celebration of the community that is the engineering students, faculty, staff, and alumni. This will be the 73rd time we have gathered. This year, we will have a computer science emphasis with our guest speaker describing the opportunities that still exist in technology for students and entrepreneurs. If you can attend, please do so. And remember that your support to help students attend is very important so that students can take advantage of this premier

networking opportunity.

Along with the joys, there are sorrows in the life of the engineering school. Members of the computer science faculty, staff, and students gathered to remember the life of **Laurel J. Jacinto Argote**, who passed away unexpectedly over Christmas break. Fr. Peter Tynan led the short and poignant service at the Marian Grove. We continue to pray for her and her family.

The HIMSE faculty and Engineering Advisory Board continue to meet as they consider their visions for the next five years. Both groups have identified recruitment of students and retention of students as primary strands in the next strategic plan. These visions will be useful in the search and onboarding for the next Dean.

I would like to publicly thank, again, **Dr. Floraliza Bornasal** for her generous service as associate dean while I am doing double duty as Dean for both HIMSE and the College of Arts and Sciences. She and **Ms. Tam Leger** are carrying increased burdens to help the university through these times of transition. I am very grateful to them.



Best wishes,

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

A GREAT LOSS

Laurel J. Jacinto Argote, a senior Computer Science student at Saint Martin's, passed away unexpectedly on December 28, 2024. Laurel came to us in Fall 2023, having previously taken classes toward a BS in Homeland Security at Wichita State University. She was a U.S. Army veteran, serving most recently at JBLM as a Combat Engineer. Laurel was on the Dean's List for all three of her semesters of attendance in her rigorous major!

Dr. Radana Dvorak, Laurel's professor and academic advisor, shared: "Laurel was an extraordinary student in the Computer Science Department and a remarkable individual who was admired and respected by both her peers and faculty alike. A U.S. Veteran, she exemplified selflessness, consistently putting others before herself.



Laurel had a passion for learning and an unwavering commitment to excellence. As an A-student, her hard work and dedication were evident in everything she undertook, earning her the rare distinction of an A+ in one of my courses—a testament to the exceptional quality of her work. She was an active member of the Women in Technology Club and had ambitious plans to complete the 4+1 program to earn her Master's in Computer Science.

Laurel loved spending time in the Panowicz Foundry, where she not only pursued her studies, but also supported and inspired her fellow students. Her interactions with faculty and peers were marked by kindness and a genuine enthusiasm for the field. As her academic advisor and professor, I, along with my colleagues, will deeply feel the loss of her presence in our department. Laurel's legacy of excellence, service, and compassion will be cherished and remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing her." Rest in peace, dear Laurel.

TONGJI PROGRAM VISIT

Partners in our joint Saint Martin's / Zhejiang Tongji Vocational College of Science and Technology academic program visited us in early December. We have SMU faculty teach for their institution each summer and they send us transfer students to finish their CE or ME bachelor's degrees. Some start with ESL courses, while others jump right into their engineering courses. This program is a great collaboration!

Pictured left to right: Back row: Zhi Jie Luo, Tongji Faculty; Fei Fei Lie, Tongji Faculty; Xi Rong Cao, Director of Intl Exchange Center;



Dr. Rong Wei Zheng, Dean of Academic Affairs; Dr. David Olwell, SMU HIMSE Dean; Dr. Wei Jiang, VP of Zhejiang Tongji Vocational College of Science & Technology; Dr. Roger Douglas, SMU Dean for OIPD; Dr. Floraliza Bornasal, HIMSE Associate Dean and CE Chair; Jessica Cheng, OIPD Director of International Development. Front row: Program students Han Yu and Yue Yu.

DEAN'S LIST FOR FALL 2024

These are the outstanding students who made the Dean's List from Fall 2024 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! Congratulations from the Dean, faculty, and staff of your School of Engineering!

Ryan Aipa

Nada Alattar

Diego Alvarez-Contreras
Peter Arellano-Brousseau

Macy Ball

Taylor Beigh

Marisol Bergstrom

George Caballero
Ester Cabotage
Zachary Camirand
Manuel Castro

Donald Choe

Alexandra Colocho
Matthew Cooper
Treyton Corpuz
Micah Dally
Connor Daniels
Katheryn Delaplane
Zhuo Ding

Brogan Doyle

Brayana Elmore
Andres Flores Bravo
Eleanore Gariepy

Miguel Gomez

Benjamin Gress
Michael Grubb
Justin Harder
Benjamin Hicklin
Kyal Huntley

Laurel Jacinto Argote

Josiah Jessup

Miles Jimenez

Hayden Jones

Sirena Jove

Cole Kartchner
Christopher Keating

Aiden Kelly

Nancy Kubilima

Hayden Lamfers

Justin Lulay

Darran Lum
Keanu Lyons
Luis Madora
Thanthwe Mambulu
Zachery Martin
Kristopher Molinar
Ethan Myers

Nicholas Ngeno

Anh Nguyen
Logan Peach
Juliana Perry

Dominic Quatrini

Xavier Quismondo
Jorge Rivera
Matias Rivera
Brandon Robinson
Connie Rodriguez

Mariela Rodriguez

Graham Rowland

Karis Sanders

John Scotto Rodriguez
Rodolfomiguel Seaton
Jonathan Shimabukuro
Hayden Simmons

Claire Skaggs

Charlotte Smith
Grace Spencer
Kyle Stackpole
Zen Staszko

Joseph Steele

Bronson Stone
Justin Stratford
Cole Tinsley

Erick Tornquist

Peter Truax, Jr.

Christopher Ulrich
Bailey Urasaki
Juan Urbaneja Gomez
Ethan Villa

Joseph Wentz

Lemmar Wilson

Taryn Wochnick
Blaze Wong
Tobi Yamaguchi
Joe Yang
Bodhi Yost

MILITARY ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Dr. Radana Dvorak recently received a Military Academic Achievement Award from Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM). The award was presented to her by Arnie Norem (JBLM Education Services Officer), Colonel Brandon Sokora (Deputy Joint Base Commander), and Adam Takata (SMU Assoc. Dean-JBLM). Dr. Dvorak said, "I want to express my deepest gratitude to Saint Martin's University, Dean Olwell, the amazing faculty, and the dedicated students for their ongoing commitment to support military education program development and our community." Congratulations, Dr. Dvorak!



(left to right) Colonel Brandon Sokora, Dr. Radana Dvorak, Adam Takata

MECHATRONICS MENTORS

Article submitted by Jared McGrew, ME student

Last semester, Dr. Rico Picone led the Mechatronics class through a project to design, build and operate a First Tech Challenge (FTC) robot. This was done in collaboration with an Olympia High School robotics group, the Oly Bots. The 2024-2025 challenge for FTC robotics was “Into the Deep”. Robots were built to simulate an underwater sample recovery mission. Samples were placed in the center of an activity field in an aluminum structure. These specimens had to be collected by the robot and either delivered to a basket or taken to an observation zone. Samples taken to observation zones would be turned into specimens by a team member by attaching them to a clip. These would be recollected and hung on the aluminum structure by the robot. Points were awarded for the number of samples and specimens collected respectively. The team earning the most points within the time allotted wins the competition. For this course project, the Mechatronics class was divided into several teams: Mentor (aid/advise OlyBots group), Strategy (devise optimal strategy for approaching the challenge), Build and Operate (build and operations of robot), Program and Control (write the code and constraints needed for electrical and automated robot operations), and Design and Integration (design robot and integrate Strategy input; relay finished design to Build and Program teams). Team members were as follows:

Mentor	Sirena Jove, Christopher Keating, Joel Rodriguez, and Jared McGrew.
Strategy	Macy Ball, Claire Skaggs, Christopher Christope, Karis Sanders
Build and Operate	John Scotto Rodriguez, Noe Ortega, Joel Rodriguez, Benjamin Hicklin, Mallory Patzer
Design and Integration	Stewart Campbell, Sarah McKnight, Christopher Keating, Jared McGrew, Connor Daniels and Charlotte Smith
Program and Control	Miles Jiminez, Joseph Wentz, Charles Ganu

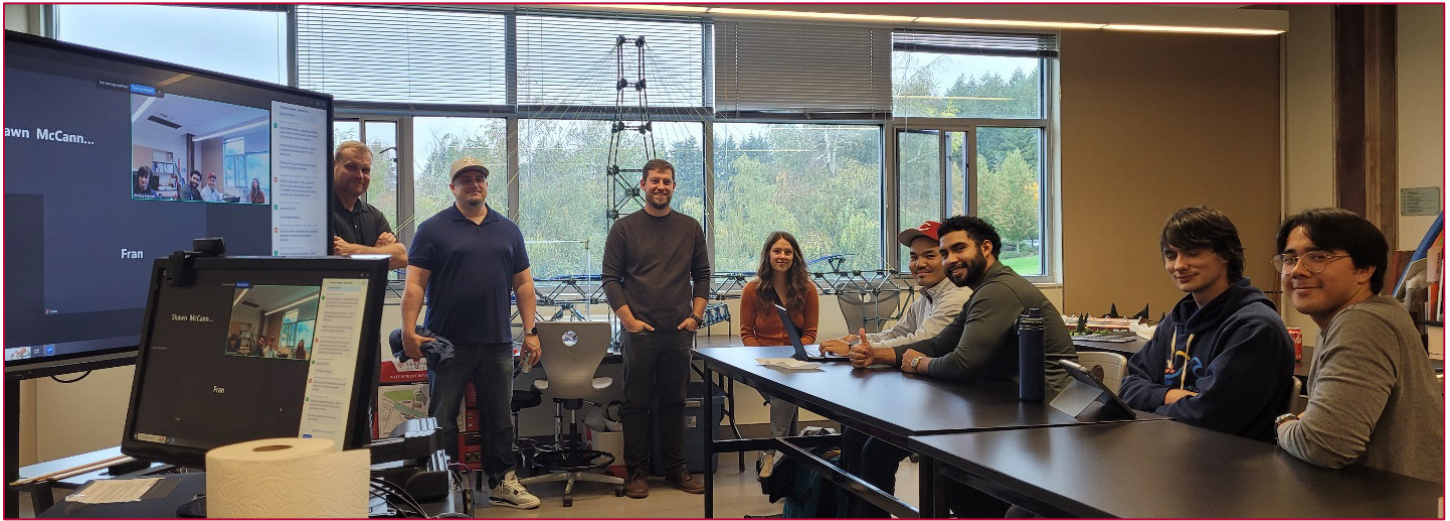


SMU Mechatronics students with their course-built robot. (l to r) Benjamin Hicklin, Jared McGrew, John Scotto Rodriguez, Stewart Campbell, and Joseph Wentz

The project began with Strategy team analyzing builds and plans from other teams-- former and current. They came back to the class with a game plan. The Design and Integration team got to work on a robot that could fulfill that strategy. After hours of CAD designing and testing, they relayed the design to the Build and Program teams. The chassis was constructed first and the Program team began providing the code for the wheel motors ensuring they functioned as required. The Build team began working on a telescoping arm, assembling and fabricating sections which collapsed into one another. Later after the claw, telescoping arm and chassis were constructed and assembled, the Program team finished coding the electrical components of the robot to get it ready for operation. This was a rewarding and educational experience for all of the students involved! [**FOR MORE PHOTOS-VIDEOS**](#)

CIVIL ENGINEERING SENIOR DESIGN MENTOR DAY

Civil Engineering hosted a Senior Design Mentor Day where students designing their capstone projects present their plans to project clients and civil engineering mentors, most of which are SMU alumni. Valuable feedback is offered by these field professionals to the senior design teams to ensure they finish their academic journeys strong!



HDR-Sponsored Team. L to R: Erik Martin (HDR), Cameron French (HDR, '10), Sam Dunn (SCJ Alliance, '16), Rikki Martinez (SCJ Alliance, '19), and seniors Jonny Shimabukuro, Luis Madora, Bodhi Yost, and Justin Stratford. On Zoom: Shawn McCann (WSDOT, '21), Fran Eide ('83), Logan Sousa (HDR, '22). Mentors not pictured: Brad Shea (HDR, '98)



KPFF-Sponsored Team. L to R: Jessica Martin (KPFF, '20), Joseph Akada (Parametrix, '22); seniors Zach Camirand, Manuel (Kupa'a) Castro, Hunter Sasaki; KJ Kaminanga (KPFF, '23), Charlie Severs (JSA Civil, '10). On Zoom: Mallory Dobbs (Ardurra, '16). Mentors not pictured: Blake Lord (KPFF, '16), Eli Eldridge (KPFF, '24)



Thurston County Public Works-Sponsored Team. L to R: Joseph Brascher Jr. (Clear Creek Solutions, '20); seniors Danielle Miller. Hayden Lamfers, George Caballero, Zack Martin; Mark Mead (Mead Engineering, '79), Jim Ayers (Ayers & Associates, '86), Sam Rowswell (SCJ Alliance, '17). Mentors not pictured: Fred Neal (Kennedy Jenks Consultant, '69), Joseph Perez (WSDOT, '98), Jim Farley (MC-Squared, '06), Luis Camacho-Plascencia (Fickett Inc., Class of '19), Doug Howie (Dept. of Ecology)

DISCOVERY DAYS (contributed by Dr. Floraliza Bornasal)



It's all hands-on deck for students, faculty, and alumni of HIMSE to engage students during Discover Days at St. Martin's! Discovery Days, which are facilitated and managed by Admissions, provides opportunities for our faculty and students to engage prospective students via in-class activities. Several students have volunteered for these events throughout the year including seniors Taylor Beigh (ME), Ester Cabotage (ME), Luis Madora (CE), and Justin Stratford (CE).

ASCE member students Luis Madora (left) and Justin Stratford (right) present at a recent Discovery Day

CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE

Dr. Radana Dvorak, Chair of Computer Science at Saint Martin's University, recently served as a judge for the 2024 Congressional App Challenge, a prestigious competition recognizing student innovation in coding and app development.

Dr. Dvorak commended the creativity and technical expertise demonstrated by all participants, stating, "AI can't solve problems it doesn't know exist-- it's human creativity and ingenuity that bring these ideas to life and help make the world a better place."

[READ MORE ABOUT COMPETITION](#)

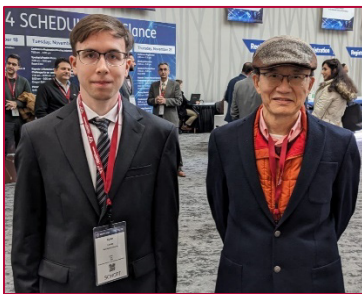
[READ MORE ABOUT 2024 CHALLENGE](#)

FACULTY NOTES – NOTED FACULTY

Recently **Dr. Radana Dvorak** (CS Chair/Assoc. Professor) and **Mr. Farzin Bahadori** (CS Instructor) presented at the Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges, Northwestern Conference (CCSC-NW) 2024 at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. The title of their tutorial presentation was “Bridging the Quantum Computing Skills Gap: Integrating Quantum Education into Computer Science Curricula”, which they presented in both theoretical and workshop scenarios to guide professors and students. They also provided a hands-on experience, equipping attendees with resources and methods to effectively introduce quantum computing into their curricula. Many thanks to you both, Dr. Dvorak and Mr. Bahadori.



Dr. Shahlaa Al Wakeel (front row to left of banner) attended the Colorado University Engineering Seattle Network event where she was able to network and reconnect with CU engineering alumni. Looks like a fun and rewarding event, Dr. Al Wakeel.



Dr. Shawn Duan (on right in photo) and **Kyle Limata**, MSME (on left in photo), presented two technical papers at the ASME International Mechanical Engineering Congress & Exposition (IMECE) in Portland, OR. Papers presented were (1) “Analysis and Simulation of Two-dimensional Dual-arm Manipulator for Baseball Training”; Limata, K., Hu, Q. F., Duan, S. Z. (2024) ASME Proceedings Paper #IMECE2024-141597, pp. 1-9 and (2) “Wave Energy Converter for Off-Grid Applications”; Anunobi, F., Spitler, Q., McGarrah, P., Duan, S.Z. (2024) ASME 2024 IMECE Proceedings Paper #IMECE2024-137732, pp. 1-11. Congrats, Dr. Duan!

Dr. Frank Washko was recently made an Associate Editor of the Journal of Innovation and Entrepreneurship. This journal, offered via Springer Open, “is dedicated to exchanging the latest academic research and practical findings on all aspects of innovation and entrepreneurship in spatial context and over time.” Congratulations, Dr. Washko!

Ms. Shelbie Wickett (pictured at right) attended and had a paper published for The Photovoltaics Specialist Conference and was nominated for Best Student Presentation (she is pursuing her PhD) for the paper’s research. The paper is “Simulating Snow Loss at Utility PV Installations in Michigan: An Annual and Hourly Analysis; S. Wickett and A. Dyreson, June 2024, pp. 332-337; doi: 10.1109/PVSC57443.2024.10749210. Great work, Ms. Wickett!



On December 6, 2024, several faculty members were recognized for their years of service to Saint Martin’s University:

40 years	Dr. Dintie Mahamah	Professor
10 years	Dr. Shawn Daun	Professor
10 years	Dr. Rico Picone	Associate Professor
10 years	Dr. Frank Washko	Associate Professor
5 years	Dr. Shahlaa Al Wakeel	Assistant Professor
5 years	Mr. Jonathan Wiebersch	Instructor

Thank you for your continued service and community support!



Dr. Shawn Duan received a scholarly travel award from the CCEP program of ACCESS-CI organization funded by NSF to support his paper presentation at the 10th IAFOR International Conference on Education in Honolulu on January 5, 2025. He presented “Comparative Study of Online and Classroom Teaching of an Engineering Course Using Active Learning Pedagogy”; Duan, S. Z. (2025) paper #IICE2025-89469, pp. 1-9. Congratulations, Dr. Duan!

OUR ALUMNI AND WHAT THEY'RE UP TO

Mohammed Alhamdah, BSME '20, recently started a new position as a Mechanical Engineer at Zeeco Middle East Ltd. in Dammam, Saudi Arabia. Great news, Mohammed!

Alex Lupulyak, BSME '20, who started his own company just out of Saint Martin's – Heritage Reward Consulting in Auburn, WA (specializing in residential site development, storm drainage design, utility design, grading, permitting, etc.) just announced that they have expanded and are licensed in North Carolina now. Congrats, Alex!

John Rambo, BSME '22 is now a Cost Engineer for the US Army Corps of Engineers. Congratulations, John!

Kyal Huntley, BSCS '24 just started as a Junior Software Engineer at Talkoot! That's great news, Kyal!

CONTACT US – PLEASE!

If you are one of our alumni and have anything to share, please email us at engineering@stmartin.edu. To unsubscribe from this list or to update your contact information, please use the same email address.

CALENDAR AND EVENTS

- Jan 20 HOLIDAY – Martin Luther King Day (campus closed – no classes)
- Feb 3-7 Midterm exams for 08/10
- Feb 10 Midterm grades due for 08/10
- Feb 17 HOLIDAY – President's Day (campus closed – no classes)
- Feb 21 Last day for withdrawal 08/10
- Mar 3-7 Midterms for Main-00, Finals for Terms 08/10
- Mar 8 Last day of classes 08/10
- Mar 10 Midterm grades due for Main
- Mar 10-14 Spring Break (no classes, University Offices open)
- Mar 11 Final grades due for 08/10
- Mar 17 Classes begin for 09/11 terms
- Mar 21 Saint Benedict's Day (no classes- Lacey campus)
- Mar 24 Add/drop deadline for 09/11 terms
- Mar 26 Advising Day (no classes- Lacey campus)

CONTINUE THE COMMUNITY WITH LINKEDIN

Join our LinkedIn groups to continue to keep the community vibe alive. All SMU staff, faculty, students, monastic members, alumni, and community supporters are welcome to join these groups.

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

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

