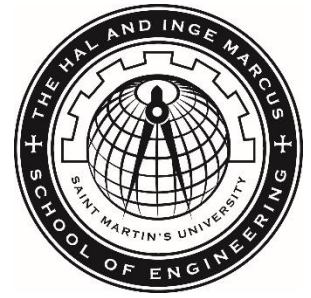




Saint Martin's
UNIVERSITY



CORNERSTONE

The Hal and Inge Marcus School of Engineering

Summer 2024-July



LAST NEWSLETTER FOR ME

Though it's not clear at publication whether I will be staying at Saint Martin's University or leaving, it is with some sadness that this will be my (Tam Léger's) last *Cornerstone* newsletter.

I have really loved creating the newsletter for the past six years (28 issues). It was a joy ensuring you all got a chance to read about our amazing programs, fun events, faculty and staff work, and alumni news. Thank you for your support of me over the years and the Hal & Inge Marcus School of Engineering. Best to everyone now and always! Once a Saint – always a Saint! -- Tam

SAINT MARTIN'S UNIVERSITY WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT

Dr. William "Bill" Brownsberger was unanimously selected as the 12th president of Saint Martin's University following a competitive nationwide search by the University Board of Trustees. Dr. Brownsberger most recently served as the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Workforce Solutions at Mountain Empire Community College in Virginia. He assumed the presidency on July 1.

Dr. Brownsberger brings 23 years of higher education experience to the role, rising through the faculty ranks and into administration at several Catholic institutions in the U.S. and Italy.

The Hal and Inge Marcus School of Engineering welcomes you to the Saint Martin's University community, Dr. Brownsberger!

[READ MORE](#)



CONTEST – WIN A PRIZE!

This question was asked in the Spring-May newsletter: What 363-mile traverse was opened in 1825 and was mocked during construction as a "big ditch" or "folly", but ended up dramatically transforming the transportation network in the United States? **The answer was: The Erie Canal**

The first correct answer was sent in by **Jim Ayres**, P.E. (SMC class of '86), principal and owner of Ayres & Associates, a highly successful professional civil engineering design, construction, and drone data service in Olympia, Washington. Jim received an outdoor summer tool --multi-function rescue card. Enjoy your prize and congratulations on all accounts, Jim! Here's the next question for all you brilliant newsletter readers.

Question: The Tacoma Narrows bridge, which collapsed four months after its opening on July 1, 1940, is known by what alliterative nickname? (The bridge collapse was captured on film and the remains of the bridge have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.)

Remember --email all answers to engineering@stmartin.edu. First correct answer emailed to this address wins an amazing and useful prize! **Good luck – answer in September's newsletter!**

DEAN'S LIST FROM SPRING 2024

Here are the outstanding students who made the Dean's List from Spring 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!

Nada Alattar

Diego Alvarez-Contreras

Austin Anderson

Hunter Anderson

Arturo Avila

Macy Ball

Marisol Bergstrom

Thomas Brawders

George Caballero

Ester Cabotage

Zachary Camirand

Manuel Castro

Donald Choe

Andy Choi

Matthew Cooper

Micah Dally

Connor Daniels

Brogan Doyle

Eli Eldridge

Brayana Elmore

Shane Fay

Hollie Filyaw

Beth Gallatin

Miguel Gomez

Michael Grubb

Alei Henderson

Everest Hong

Kyal Huntley

Marcus Hurley

Laurel Jacinto

Argote

Josiah Jessupo

Hayden Jones

Cole Kartchner

Justus Konwent

Hayden Lamfers

Immanuall Lee

Nathan Lee

Lia Lopez

Darran Lum

Keanu Lyons

Luis Madora

Zachery Martin

Amber Mattoni

Anthony Merolla

Anthony Milholland

Octavio Moran, Jr.

Ethan Myers

Ryder Newland

Anh Nguyen

Riley O'Connell

Garrett Orwig

Jackson Philbrook

Victor Phillips

Kaeli Ploettner

Peyton Prom

Krizia Ragotero

Brandon Robinson

Connie Rodriguez

Karis Sanders

Hunter Sasaki

Cory Schramm

Andrew Schulz

Hayden Simmons

Claire Skaggs

Kolby Skolrood

Karla Soto

Grace Spencer

Kyle Stackpole

Jhaydn Steplight

Omkumar Tada

Tia Taitingfong

Cole Tinsley

Erick Tornquist

Juan Urbaneja

Gomez

Joseph Wentz

Hang Wiggins

Joe Yang

Bodhi Yost

Yue Yu

CAST IN STEEL COMPETITION 2024

Once again Saint Martin's participated in the annual Cast in Steel competition. This year it was held in Milwaukee, WI, where we competed with 40 other national teams and 2 international teams. **Ms. Shelbie Wickett** mentored them through the design/production/pre-test phase here at SMU, and **Dr. Corrie Walton-Macaulay** chaperoned the trip with the team. This year's challenge was a Halligan Bar, a multi-purpose fire rescue tool used by firefighters.

Here's an excerpt from Corrie's report: "Prior to the start of the competition the Halligan bar from each team were displayed on tables. This allowed us to see the competitors' designs and see what we were up against. In doing so, we noticed a vast number of differences in features between teams. One team chose an all titanium-based design, which was the first of its kind in this competition. Another team incorporated a hex-shaped wrench into the forks, allowing firefighters to operate a fire hydrant without the need for additional tools. After the viewing, the first round of the competition began with teams being called up to demonstrate their tool in two ways:

- (1) Open an outward opening door that was braced with rectangular wooden bars. There was a 2-minute max time allowance for this. If the door was not open within two minutes, that team would be disqualified. Two local firefighters from the Milwaukee Fire Dept. demonstrated the proper technique.
- (2) Immediately after opening the door, we were to use the other end of the Halligan bar (spike, adze, and hammer) and hit a 2x4 board with each implement in an attempt to break it in half.

For those who made it past the first round, the next round of trials was used to determine the winners of the competition. The final challenges were to:

- (1) open an inward opening door. The local firefighters opened the inward opening door for each team as it is much more difficult and time consuming to do.
- (2) attack a ¼-inch steel plate with the spike 4 different times
- (3) apply an increasing bending moment (torque) onto the fork end of the Halligan while the spike end is anchored down. Another team's bar failed during this final round.

The SMU team had a great time meeting other teams and speaking with industry leaders during our time in Milwaukee. During the first round of trials, we successfully opened the outward opening door on the second try. The 2x4 was split lengthwise on the first hit but was (mostly) broken into two after the final 3rd hit. Three teams were eliminated in the first round due to various failures, including a bent adze, a broken spike, and a brittle failure at the head-handle meeting spot. Another team's bar failed during the second-round while having a bending moment applied."

Although SMU did not win the competition, a lot was learned from this trip and team members did a lot of valuable networking and relationship-building. We look forward to next year's challenge – whatever it may be!



Cast in Steel team members (l to r): **Macy Ball, Qinfu Hu, Taylor Beigh, and Claire Skaggs.**

HIMSE ATHLETES NAMED TO GNAC ALL-ACADEMIC TEAMS

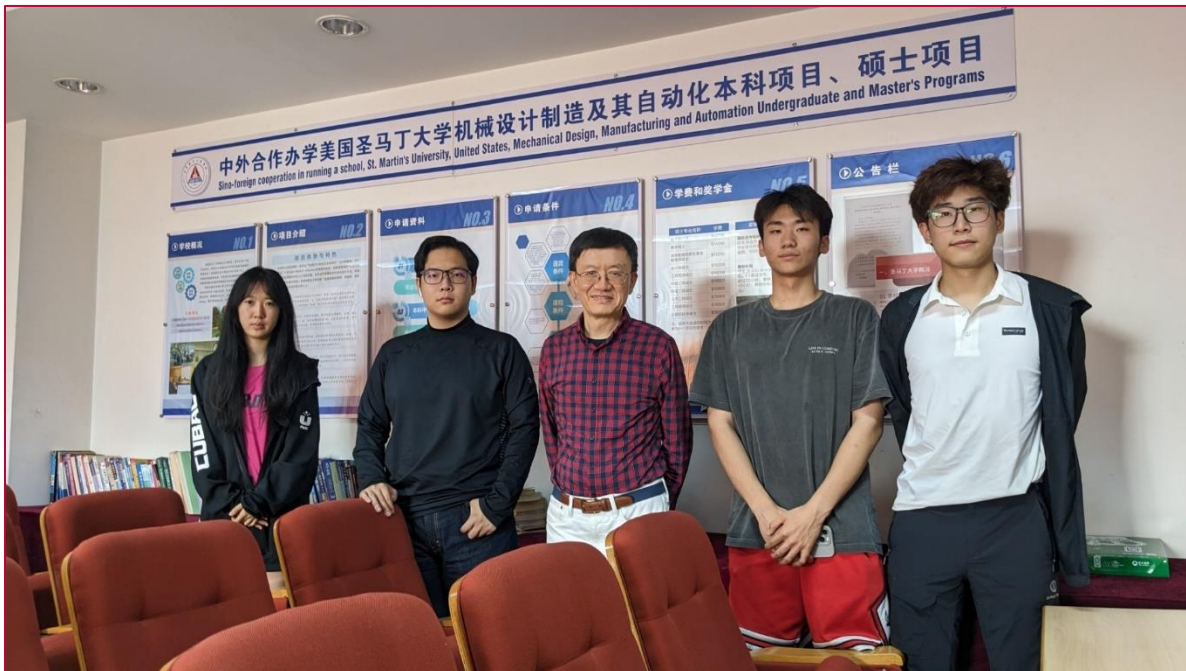


To qualify for the GNAC All-Academic Teams, presented by Barnes & Noble College, nominees must be of sophomore eligibility or greater, have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.20 or greater, be a letter-winner on their team and must be in their second year at the nominating institution. **We have only listed the HIMSE student-athletes**, but we congratulate all Saint Martin's scholars who made the All-Academic Teams for this academic year!

- **Baseball** – **Anthony Alohi Arecchi** (IT) 2-year recipient 23-24 and **Zen Staszkow** (CE)
- **Men's Basketball** – **Marcus Lenker** (MEM) rare 4-year recipient 21-22-23-24 and **Cory Schramm** (ME) top grade point average in the conference with a perfect 4.00 mark!
- **Women's Basketball** – **Sarah Lamet** (CE)
- **Men's Soccer** – **Zack Martin** (CE)
- **Women's Soccer** – **Sierra Nees** (CE) and **Kaeli Ploettner** (ME) 2-year recipient 22-23
- **Men's Track and Field** – **Landon Armstrong** (CS) 4-year recipient 21-22-23-24, **Andrew Boyd** (CE) 3-year recipient 22-23-24, and **Andrew Schulz** (CS) 4-year recipient 21-22-23-24.
- **Women's Track and Field** – **Claire Skaggs** (ME) 2-year recipient 23-24.
- **Volleyball** – **Karla Soto** (CS)

RECRUITING STUDENTS IN CHINA

Dr. Shawn Duan talked with these four students in the joint SMU-NCIAE ME program summer 2024 per request from **Ms. Jessica Cheng** of SMU OIPD while teaching there this summer. These four students now plan to join our ME program in Fall 2024 as exchange students. We'll be here to welcome them with open arms! Great job, Shawn!



Pictured left to right:
Yiting Wang,
Xianqi Meng,
Dr. Shawn Duan,
Zheng Liu, and
Yumo Yang.

INTERNAL SURVEY STILL NEEDS YOUR RESPONSE!

The Civil Engineering Department at St. Martin's University is in the process of reviewing its Program Educational Objectives and working on ways to improve its program to meet student and alumni needs. As part of this process, we've developed a short questionnaire/survey, which can be accessed here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R85V25N>

We will use information and feedback from the survey to (1) assess whether we are on target with our current program educational objectives, (2) support our ABET-accreditation process, (3) examine impact of our programming, and (4) develop strategies to better meet the needs of our students and graduates.

Noting this, as alumni of Saint Martin's in an engineering (CE and ME) or computer science (info technology too) major, we'd appreciate your feedback. If you've already responded, we sincerely appreciate your time and effort in taking the survey. Additionally, if you know of other Saint Martin's alumni who may be interested in providing feedback, please feel free to forward the link and info. The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

We'll report updates on program changes and improvements (along with other updates on programs and student activities) through the HIMSE newsletter, so stay tuned! Thank you in advance for providing your valuable insight!

OUR ALUMNI AND WHAT THEY'RE UP TO

Joel Rogers BSCE '19 just announced that he's officially a licensed Professional Engineer! Congratulations, Joel!

Krizia Ragotero BSIT '24 is starting a new position in Technical Sales/Marketing at Ovation Technology in Olympia. Awesome news, Krizia!

Tim Teipel BSME '18 just started as Regional Sales Manager -Medical, Consumer, Pharmaceutical West Region with MULTIVAC USA. That's great, Tim!

Aiden Hunter BSME '19, MSME '21 announced his new position as a mechanical engineer at McLaughlin Research Corporation headquartered in Middletown, RI. Congratulations, Aiden!

Congratulations to **Nathan Lee** BSIT '24 on being hired as the Mail Service Coordinator at Saint Martin's University! Happy that we can keep your talents here!

Ibrahim Alibrahim BSME '20 just announced his new position as a Senior Design Lead at Taurus HCD. Congrats, Ibrahim!

Christopher Hatakenaka-Gibbs BSME '23, MEM '24 just shared that he's started a new position as a Structures Design Engineer at Boeing! Great news, Chris!

Fahad (Fahad Al Qahtani) Al Wahas BSME '20 just started a new position as a Production Engineer at Lightweight Construction Company – LCC Siporex. Congratulations, Fahad!

Work-iversaries—Congratulations to you all!

1 year—

Jay Bang BSCS '21, System Administrator, Washington State University

Varun Kalyanam MSCE '16, Civil Engineer, AECOM

2 years—

Seth Carl BSME '21, MSME '22, Manufacturing Engineer, Boeing

Justin Le BSCS '22, Application Developer, WA Dept of Social & Health Services

Alex Blakley BSME '22, Design Engineer, Toyota Material Handling

3 years—

Trevin Baker BSME '15, Project Design Engineer, Meta

Joe Phinazee BSCS '20, Operations Manager III, Amazon

5 years—

Griffin Small BSME '19, Project Manager, McKinstry

Chase Goetz BSME '20, Project Manager/Estimator, Firstline Systems, Inc.

6 years—

Clarinda Marion BSCE '17, Bridge Engineer, WA State Dept of Transportation

CONTINUE THE COMMUNITY WITH LINKEDIN

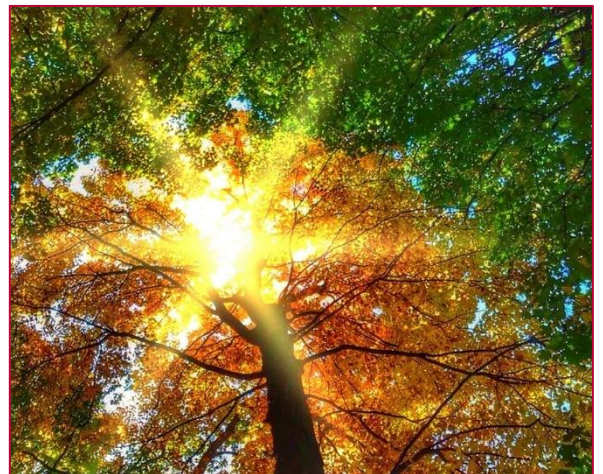
Don't forget to join our LinkedIn groups to continue to keep the community vibe alive – network with each other, mentor our students, and share information about scholarships, internships, and job opportunities. All SMU staff, faculty, students, monastic members, alumni, and community supporters are welcome to join these groups and participate in the community!

[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

- ❖ July 12 Last day for withdrawal for Summer Main
- ❖ Aug 3 Summer Main, 02 sessions end
- ❖ Aug 6 Final grades due for Summer Main
- ❖ Aug 9 Last day for withdrawal for Summer 09
- ❖ Aug 13 Final grades due for Summer 02
- ❖ Aug 16 WAV2T summer cohort graduation at 11AM in Worthington Conf Ctr
- ❖ Aug 17 Summer session 09 ends; Summer graduation conferral
- ❖ Aug 20 Final grades due for Summer 09
- ❖ Aug 22 University Faculty & Staff Convocation
- ❖ Aug 23 Student Convocation & Blessing; Residence Halls open for 1st years
- ❖ Aug 24-25 Residence Halls open for upper class students
- ❖ Aug 26 Fall semester Lacey campus classes begin (Main-00, 01, 08, 10)
- ❖ Aug 30 Add deadline for Fall Main-00
- ❖ Sep 2 Labor Day HOLIDAY (all campuses closed)
- ❖ Sep 3 Add/drop deadline for terms 01, 08, 10
- ❖ Sep 5 Mass of Holy Spirit (Lacey campus – no classes 11A-1P)
- ❖ Sep 6 Drop Deadline for Fall Main-00
- ❖ Sep 23 Midterm grades due for Fall 01, 08, 10



DEAN'S CORNER



This is a summer of major transition here at in the Hal and Inge Marcus School of Engineering and across Saint Martin's University.

Ms. Tam Léger has announced her intention to leave HIMSE as of early September. She has been the HIMSE executive assistant for six years. Previously she worked at JBLM and in Old Main. It is no exaggeration to say she has improved every organization on campus with her focus on process improvement. She has been a great friend to faculty, staff, and students, and my strong right hand. She leaves impossibly large shoes to fill. I will miss her greatly.

Dr. Corrie Walton-Macaulay has accepted a position at Pacific University in Oregon to be closer to his family. Corrie also leaves huge shoes to fill. He has been a leader on campus and in the engineering school. Pacific's gain is our great loss.

Dr. Cameron Devine's appointment as a visiting professor has come to an end. He has accepted a position at the Allen Institute. Cameron was a HIMSE ME student when I first arrived, and under **Dr. Rico Picone's** encouragement went on to get a Masters and Ph.D. at the UW. He has been an outstanding mission fit for HIMSE and we wish him well as he advances his career.

Elsewhere on campus, our outstanding Dean of Students, **Ms. Melanie Richardson**, has also announced her retirement this summer. Melanie has been with the university for 34 years. I count her as a personal friend and a major ally for HIMSE students. She has been a rock of stability over the last turbulent years. Ms. Ann Adams, the talented director of our career center, will be her interim replacement.

Our new president, **Dr. Bill Brownsberger**, has arrived and is getting oriented. I am greatly encouraged by his commitment to mission and by his willingness to consult as he learns more about Saint Martin's. He is arriving at a difficult time, and we need his leadership to direct us through the challenges of this year. He has our full support.

Our interim CFO is **Dr. Tim Madeley**. This is great news for Saint Martin's. Tim knows the school and has the correct disposition for a CFO. He is entrepreneurial, but not a gambler. He has been asking hard questions this month, gathering data and insights to help us make the best use of resources this year. I trust him completely.

Just as we are seeing transitions at Saint Martin's, the Archdiocese is seeing change as Partners in the Gospel is implemented. Our local parishes have seen consolidation and reassignment of priests. While I have not met the new pastor at Sacred Heart, **Fr. Bryan Ochs**, I have met **Fr. Chad Hill**, the new vicar at Saint Michael's. We trust in the Holy Spirit to sustain the local Church during these changes.

Change is hard. We are blessed by the stability that the Abbey provides for the University and the community. The careful stewardship by the monastic community of its apostolate is helping us immensely as (to use a naval analogy) we right the ship and chart our new course.

While people change, the mission continues. We have strong classes of students entering this fall. Our faculty is seasoned and committed. We continue to explore new revenue streams. I expect the announcement of the ABET accreditation of the computer science and informational technology programs in August. We will shortly launch a new cyber security degree program.

HIMSE will continue to get better. We will continue to graduate students who are competent in their discipline, prepared for the difference, and who go forth to make a difference in the world. You can see from the alumni notes how our graduates are inspired to service and leadership.

Thank you for your enduring support. It is critically important to us. We appreciate it greatly!

Best wishes,

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



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