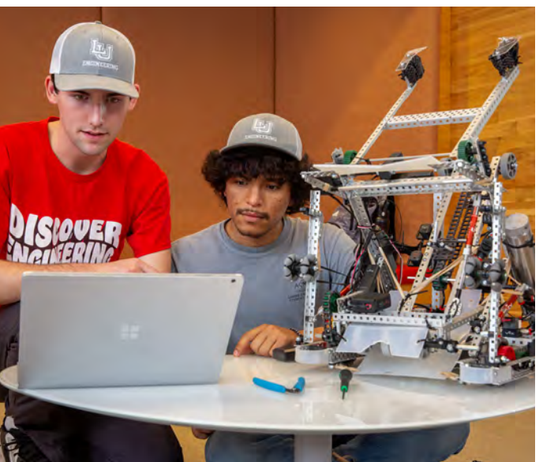
ENGINEERING

ENGI-NEWS

FALL 2025



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

What's in an engineer?

That's a question that has as many decimal digits as Pi. I had a professor once describe a chemical engineer as being a part-time mathematician, a part-time chemist, and a part-time mechanic. Looking back, I'd say he was pretty accurate. We wear different hats (and have different levels of expertise), depending on the needs of the moment. While engineers are accomplished at mathematics, economics, statistics, health & safety, and many others, I'd like to take a moment and tell you about other things engineers can do.

I've seen engineers who are accomplished chefs, divers, musicians, and mountaineers. Oftentimes, we do these as hobbies. But we always do them through the lenses of math, chemistry, and physics (i.e., the basics). I, myself, like triathlons. Yep. Believe or not, I like those long grueling hours of swimming, biking, and running. I keep this internal monologue: How many calories am I burning? What was the quality of last night's sleep? Do I have enough electrolytes and carbs to put in an extra hour today?

While these thoughts may seem trivial, they are what keep me on track for my next race. It is the training to become an engineer that has conditioned me to being consistent at triathlon training. I've switched from waking up thinking about distillation or chemical reactors to prepping for a workout. My time management skills have definitely improved. I juggle the various workouts (and recovery days) in between work, friends & family, and weather. There's a decision tree: sunny on Wednesday (cycling day), thunderstorm on Thursday (pool swim day), birthday party on Saturday (maybe a short run or maybe a recovery day). There's also that pop up shower that turns a bike day into a run day. Just like responding to engineering problems, agility is key!

The most endearing quality for being a triathlete or an engineer is TEAMWORK! You may think it odd that teamwork is essential for either, but let me explain. My triathlon team includes fellow cyclists and runners to motivate me and to help me reach my goals as well as friends and family for dog sitting or to be a sherpa on race day. Likewise, engineers also need a team for identifying the problem, collecting and analyzing data, brainstorming solutions, and determining the best solution.

Our students develop good teamwork habits throughout their time at LU. From working homework problems and projects together to designing and building rockets, robots, or cars for competition, they are learning active listening skills and using their team members for support. With these teamwork skills, our students have the opportunity to travel for competitions, to engage with future employers, and to build lasting relationships with their fellow classmates and professors.

So, the next time someone asks you what's in an engineer, you can say

TEAMWORK!

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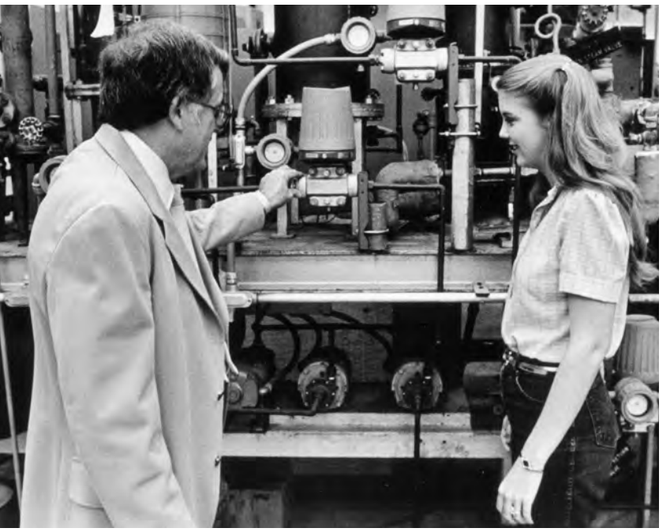


Undergraduate Students By Program

Chemical and Biomolecular	250
Civil and Environmental	146
Electrical	279
Computer	42
Industrial and Systems	94
Mechanical	378

Graduate Students By Program

Chemical and Biomolecular	25
Civil and Environmental	57
Electrical	78
Industrial and Systems	190
Mechanical	27

LU ENGINEERING 2025 Statistics

322 First Time College Students Enrolled

169 Transfer Students Enrolled

80% Freshman Student Retention

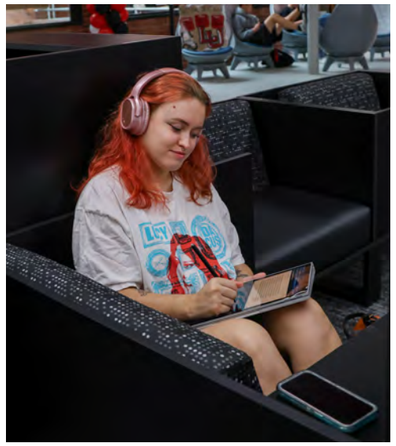
150 Students Attended First-Year Engineering Math Bootcamp

ALL 5 Departments Re-Accredited by ABET

3 Updated Study Areas in Cherry Engineering

454 College of Engineering Graduates

In September 2023, Lamar University received a transformational $5 million gift from alumna Carloyn J. Keating to establish the new Keating Center and renovate Cherry Engineering. A proud member of the Class of 1967 with a Bachelors of Arts in English, Carloyn shares this legacy with her late husband, Thomas J. Keating, who also graduated in 1967 with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering. Their deep connection to Lamar University continues through this landmark endowment, and has allowed students to flourish through the creation of student spaces.



"For the last couple of years, I didn't really have a place to study except for the Science and Technology building, which is always full. This student lounge is way more comfortable and there are places that are private that make it a lot easier to study. It's really nice and comfortable to be in here; I could stay in here all day. This is my favorite part of Lamar now."

- Gwendalyn Henning, Mechanical Engineering Junior

Student Engineering Council

The College of Engineering hosts 18 active student organizations across all five departments. The Student Engineering Council (SEC) serves as the governing body for these students organizations, bringing together student organizations for a common purpose. The SEC also hosts numerous events throughout the year, such as the Engineering Career Fair, Discover Engineering, Homecoming Tailgate, and many student organization social events. Our SEC Officers put in incredible work to make these events happen, from planning, to coordinating, and even doing the heavy lifting of setting out tables and chairs. Our SEC officers hold the highest student positions in the College of Engineering, as they work with every student group on campus and stand as the representative for all students to the engineering faculty and staff.

Franky Alegria

Student Engineering Council President
Mechanical Engineering Senior

A part of my job as president is to help bridge the gap between the College of Engineering staff and the student body. One of the things I enjoy most is helping prepare a tailgate event during football season. Having current students, alumni, and industry partners intermingle at these events is a great accomplishment for the student body, and allows us to have fun in the middle of the fall semester between our other responsibilities.

Phuong Khuu

Student Engineering Council Vice President
Mechanical Engineering Senior

My favorite social event last year was the gingerbread house decorating event for our December social. For this event, we had three student organizations that usually don't partner, work together to make this event happen. The festive spirit filled the room as everyone gathered together to relax and have fun before finals. It was a great way for everyone to collaborate and show off their creativity through unique gingerbread house designs.

VIEW THE STUDENT ENGINEERING COUNCIL INSTAGRAM PAGE
OR FIND MORE AT *INSTAGRAM.COM/LAMAR_SEC*

Dylan Lynch

Student Engineering Council Treasurer
Mechanical Engineering Sophomore

Events like Discover Engineering are what encouraged me to be an engineer. Being a part of the Student Engineering Council, giving back and working the other side of that table - and showing engineering to kids - it means a lot to me. I personally helped plan this event, reaching out to companies, and helping it go smoothly as we met with over 400 families that day. Discover Engineering is about bringing companies and kids together to draw attention to what it means to be an engineer, and all of its many opportunities, and I am beyond glad I was able to be a part of making it happen this year.

Hannah Cherry

Student Engineering Council Event Coordinator
Chemical Engineering Sophomore

Discover Engineering has always been my favorite event hosted by the Student Engineering Council. I love how it brings kids into the world of engineering in such a fun and hands-on way. It's amazing to see their excitement as they explore different disciplines. For me, it's also a powerful reflection of Lamar University's dedication to its community. It's not just about showcasing what our university offers academically, but about inspiring the next generation and showing them that they belong here too.

Madison Bundick

Student Engineering Council Social Media Coordinator
Chemical Engineering Sophomore

Being part of SEC events like the Career Fair has been such a rewarding experience. I love seeing students connect directly with industry professionals and discover opportunities they might not have known about otherwise. It feels great knowing our work helps open doors for other engineering students.

ENGINEERING STUDENTS SHOWCASE INNOVATION AND PRACTICAL SKILLS AT SENIOR DESIGN SHOWCASE

By April Thompson

Lamar University senior engineering students capped off their college careers by presenting innovative, real-world projects at the annual Senior Design Showcase, a two-semester capstone event that brings classroom learning to life and connects students directly with industry professionals.

Often referred to as a "Capstone," the course challenges students to solve complex engineering problems through team-based design, research, and prototyping. Projects span across Lamar's five engineering disciplines, chemical, civil, electrical, industrial, and mechanical, with interdisciplinary collaborations also represented.

"Senior Design is the culmination of four-plus years of hard work and dedication by our students," Interim Dean of the College of Engineering Dr. Tracy Benson said. "They come in as freshmen taking their calculus and physics courses, and by the time they mature through the process, they're engineers. Senior design is that capstone that really brings it all together. It's perfect."

The College of Engineering offered up to $1,500 per team in funding with others relying on external sponsors such as Powell, TotalEnergies, H-E-B, Scallon Controls, Future Metals, TMAC, Cheniere Energy, Motiva, and Valero. Valero also sponsored the Senior Design Event.

Local industry professionals, many of whom are Lamar alumni, returned to campus to serve as judges, offering students direct feedback and networking opportunities.

Eli Clark, site manager at a Linde facility in Jurupa Valley, California, and a Lamar graduate, served as one of the judges.

"The thing I like about the Senior Design Showcase is that it's a culmination of everything the students have learned," Clark said. "It brings everything together, and it really tests their mental capacity to create a final product they can be proud of. It's also a great representation of what they'll be tasked with in the real world."

Clark added that the sophistication of the projects far exceeded what he experienced as a student. "When I graduated over 20 years ago, the level of complexity of these projects is just so much more advanced," he said. "It's impressive to see how far the student body has come."

One of the standout projects, which won first place overall, was an autonomous firefighting robot.

"Our project is to build and construct a firefighting robot that can autonomously search and navigate through a room, find the source of a fire, and then extinguish it," team member Ryan Shugart said. "If combined with an alarm system, the robot could activate in response to a signal and handle the fire before it becomes out of control, saving both property and life."

Shugart's team was funded entirely by the College of Engineering and completed the project for under $500.

He said the most rewarding part was learning how to approach complex problems from the ground up.

"TAKING THE PROBLEM, DISSECTING IT, UNDERSTANDING EXACTLY WHAT YOU WANT TO ATTACK, AND THEN DESIGNING A CUSTOM SOLUTION — MAYBE SOMETHING PEOPLE HAVE DONE BEFORE, BUT IN A DIFFERENT WAY — THAT CAN'T BE UNDERSTATED," HE SAID.

Another innovative project came from a team of engineering students who developed a low-cost, environmentally conscious coffee bean roaster.

"We wanted to reduce single-use coffee pods, cups, and bags from going into the environment. With our design, users can roast up to 25 pounds of beans from one plastic bag of green beans, eliminating the need for daily single-use products," electrical engineering student Brynn Baker said.

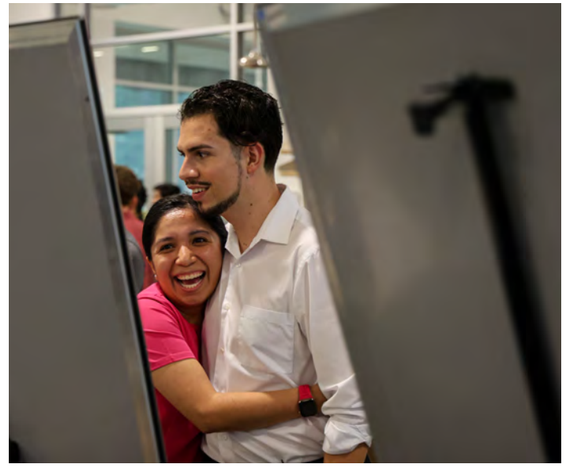
What set their project apart is affordability. "It only cost us about $1,000," Baker said. "Comparable roasters on the market can run between $7,000 and $10,000, so we really wanted to make something accessible for home use."

The team was supported by Coffee Crafters, whose founder printed the custom stickers, and a local welding shop owner who provided access to welding equipment and materials.

Baker emphasized the importance of teamwork in bringing the project to life. "Senior design is a lot of team bonding," she said. "We were together every weekend, wiring, building, communicating. You start with a far-fetched idea, and even when your professors question whether it's realistic, you keep your eye on the goal. Accomplishing that just feels amazing."

In addition to departmental awards in each major, honors were given for the top interdisciplinary project and for overall first, second, and third place.

The showcase continues to serve as a critical bridge between academia and industry, preparing Lamar University students not only to enter the workforce, but to lead in it.

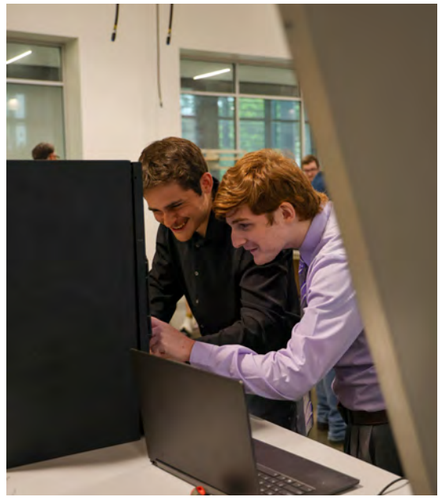


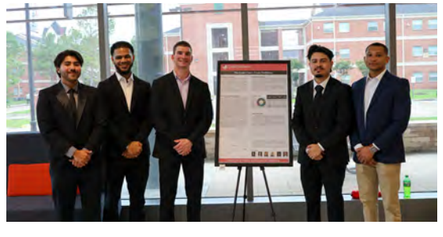
Got A Problem?

OUR ENGINEERING STUDENTS CAN SOLVE IT!

We would love to partner with your company for our students' Senior Design Projects.

Our students are excited to work on real industry projects, which your company can provide. Students in all 5 disciplines, and combinations of disciplines, are at your disposal for any project, problem, or partnership you need.





Have an idea? Share it with us here:

Looking for ideas? Check out our Senior Design Webpage:

or visit lamar.edu/engineeringdesign

Need something more specific? Contact us at engineering@lamar.edu

FIVE INTERNSHIPS, ONE FUTURE: ENGINEERING SENIOR BUILDS EXPERIENCE

Jacqueline Salmeron is a fifth-year chemical engineering student who has taken the time to capitalize on the opportunities given to her by Lamar University, both inside and outside of the classroom.

Salmeron's interest in chemical engineering started with her AP Chemistry class at Hastings High School in Houston, TX with her teacher, Ms. Santos.

"She guided me into maybe pursuing chemical engineering, and then I looked more into it, and I ended up really liking the different opportunities that chemical engineering had to offer," Salmeron said.

Five years into her life at Lamar, Salmeron has received internships from three different companies: ExxonMobil, Smurfit Westrock, and Veolia. This summer, Jacqueline is interning for ExxonMobil for the third time.

"I was blessed to start interning and getting experience really early on. I had only taken Physics and Intro to Chemical Engineering when I got my first offer, and the following semester I began to intern full-time for a whole year," she said. "While working, I was being exposed to all these different industry terms, equipment, and processes, and it was just so new and fun for me."

Salmeron had many mentors that have helped guide her through her time at ExxonMobil. She feels grateful for the opportunities she was able to receive, and the hands-on experience she has gained before graduation.

"Opportunities such as the ones Jacqueline has been able to take advantage of through ExxonMobil's proximity to Lamar University are invaluable experiences for students pursuing STEM career fields in Beaumont," Megan Feazell, ExxonMobil Beaumont Complex technical manager said. "We're proud to be a part of her chemical engineering journey and hope that her time at our facility has been foundational to her future career."

With so many opportunities available at Lamar, Salmeron knows that chemical engineering was the right fit for her.

"Chemical engineering is versatile, so you can really go into any industry. I've done paper, I've done chemicals, I'm doing oil and gas right now."

Salmeron is looking forward to her fifth and final year at Lamar University; and with five internships under her belt, finally getting into a full-time career.

"CHEMICAL ENGINEERING IS VERSATILE, SO YOU CAN REALLY GO INTO ANY INDUSTRY. I'VE DONE PAPER, I'VE DONE CHEMICALS, I'M DOING OIL AND GAS RIGHT NOW."

READ MORE STUDENTS STORIES
FIND MORE AT
LAMAR.EDU/ENGINEERINGNEWS

"THAT'S WHY I WANT TO WORK IN AEROSPACE SO BAD, BECAUSE I VIEW IT AS THE FUTURE OF ENGINEERING. SO IT'S A REALLY NOBLE GOAL, I FEEL, TO WORK ON THAT."

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING SENIOR STRIVES FOR AEROSPACE CAREER

Landon Paulino is a senior electrical engineering student who wants to advance human civilization to the stars.

Paulino originally started his journey as a mechanical engineer, following in the footsteps of his older brother, Alex.

"I didn't really understand electricity at all, I didn't know the difference between voltage or currents," Paulino shares. "So I thought it was too scary for me."

However, Landon fell in love with electrical engineering through projects he worked on in student organizations, such as EWB's (Engineers Without Borders) Thor's Hammer and Cherry Haunted House.

"I realized the things I was really interested in learning about, like nuclear energy, or how a nuclear power plant works, or how a robot works, or how a missile tracks things – that's all electrical."

Though Paulino enjoys these projects, his heart lies with aerospace. Paulino recalls seeing the first inkling of aerospace at Lamar University, with a student who built a rocket for his senior design project, which later became the basis for the Lamar University Association of Rocketry (LUNAR) team. Joining LUNAR and the AIAA (American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics) club was an important part of his journey.

"I've always wanted to work at NASA." Paulino said, "I've always been interested in space, so I got into [AIAA]."

Paulino recently made strides towards his future career, interning at Northrop Grumman where they manufacture circuit cards for missiles.

"I'm not allowed to say which program I worked on," Landon said, "but I did electrical board testing on one of those programs."

This internship was very impactful to him, as he was able to work on troubleshooting processes and figuring out why circuit boards failed, and how to make them successful.

"That was really rewarding, because I was able to shadow people, and they would ask me what I think went wrong and I was able to provide my input." Landon stated. "It was exactly like an actual engineering job.

In the future, Paulino is excited to put all the different things he has learned in his classes into practice in the real world and work on interesting projects within aerospace.

"Hopefully I will be advancing human civilization to the stars. I'll be putting us on the moon."

VALERO SUPPORTS RED ROBOTICS WITH LARGE DONATION

By April Thompson

Texas Academy's Red Robotics team recently received a $12,000 donation from Valero last week, funding that will allow the high school program housed at Lamar University to expand, upgrade equipment and compete at more events.

The contribution comes after Red Robotics, made up of Texas Academy students, reached the VEX Robotics World Championship last year despite limited resources.

"We heard last year that they really didn't have a sponsor for their program, and they were doing such a great job that they really needed an investor to help them buy the supplies and the materials they needed. We're just excited to see what the kids will be able to do now that they have the funding," Carol Hebert, public affairs manager at Valero said.

Coach and engineering senior Reese Rogers said the investment will make a significant impact on the team's ability to grow.

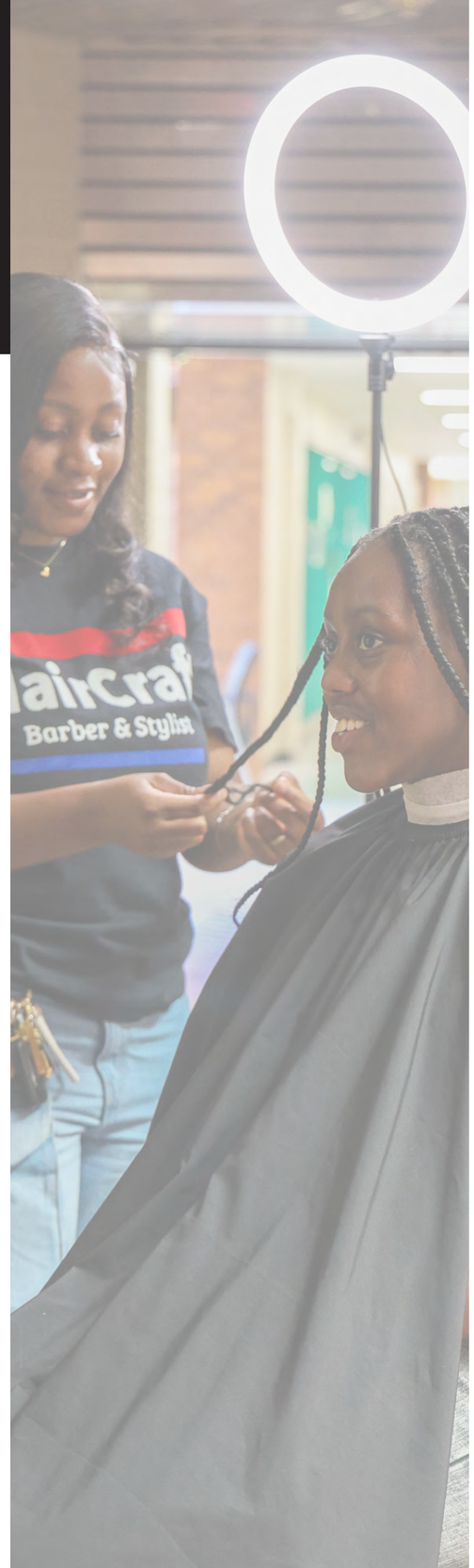
"It's a great way for this team to be expanded, to include more people and include more teams," Rogers said. "Last year, we only had two teams, and we were very much struggling with parts. But now this year, with this donation, we're able to have an extra team with even more people, allowing more juniors to join. I am very proud of what they were able to accomplish last year with the resources they had, and I'm excited to see how far they can go this year."

Team president Ovez Bheraiya said the funds will help open more opportunities for students.

"We had two teams last year, so we'd like to expand into three teams, giving more people opportunity to join and learn about VEX," Bheraiya said. "We'd also like to expand, go to more competitions, and just allocate money to the teams to give them more opportunity to achieve better things this season."

For Texas Academy senior Kayla Anderson, treasurer of Red Robotics, the gift is about building a lasting legacy.

"I know that this donation is going to help us build a stronger team and grow our organization to just be better every year," Anderson said. "As seniors, we want the upcoming years to be awesome, and we want to leave it better than we found it."



NSBE Career Fair Haircuts & Styling

Lamar University's chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) hosted an incredible event to prepare students for the Career Fair. All of our students want to look sharp and styled when they attend the biggest event of the year, so NSBE decided to take this matter into their own hands.

The event occurred on Tuesday, September 9, 2025. Students were asked to show proof of their Career Fair registration in order to get in line for their haircut or style. HairCraft Barber & Stylist from Beaumont, Texas gave our students the fresh haircuts and sharp styles, allowing our student to feel confident before the Career Fair.

The College of Engineering commends the NSBE organization for their spectacular planning and execution of this great event. This event sparks a new life into the student life of the college, and better prepares our students for the Career Fair, bringing a service that can help students succeed.

VIEW THE NSBE INSTAGRAM PAGE

OR FIND MORE AT *INSTAGRAM.COM/LAMAR_NSBE*

ENGINEERING SUMMER CAMPS

Seventh and eighth graders from across Southeast Texas spent a week of June on the campus of Lamar University participating in L.I.T.E. Camp, a free, week-long engineering camp designed to introduce middle school students to the principles and possibilities of careers in STEM.

L.I.T.E., which stands for Lamar Intro to Engineering, offers hands-on activities, team projects, and lessons across a range of engineering disciplines. Campers work alongside LU faculty, engineering students, and industry professionals to better understand what engineering is, how it applies to real-world problems, and what it takes to succeed in the field.

“This camp introduces middle school children to engineering, and we take them through each discipline each day,” chemical engineering student volunteer Habi Duraippandian said. “It really opens your eyes to what’s possible in the future.”

Each day is dedicated to a specific branch of engineering, including chemical, civil, mechanical, and electrical, and includes guided experiments, problem-solving challenges, and open Q&A sessions. For many campers, it’s the first time they’ve encountered these concepts.

“We started with chemical engineering on Monday,” Duraippandian said. “We asked them if they’d heard of it, explained the basics, and then did a series of chemical reaction demonstrations. They asked great questions, and it was amazing to watch them absorb the information and immediately start thinking critically.”

The enthusiasm of the students was matched by their college mentors, many of whom participated in similar camps as children.

“I did camps like this when I was a kid,” mechanical engineering student Tristin Bell said. “It wasn’t this exact program, but the experience was foundational. It helped me figure out what I was interested in and gave me a direction early on. That kind of exposure is crucial.”

Bell added, “It’s always a great time helping out the kids and watching them grow and learn these engineering and STEM techniques and technologies.”

L.I.T.E. Camp is offered at no cost to participants thanks to the generous support of sponsors ExxonMobil, Motiva, BASF, and TotalEnergies.

Southeast Texas high school juniors and seniors got a hands-on introduction to chemical engineering during Lamar University’s annual ChemE Camp, a week-long day camp designed to inspire the next generation of engineers through industry tours, lab activities and the fan-favorite ChemE Car competition.

The camp, which introduces students to chemical engineering principles and careers, was supported this year by sponsors ASL, Valero, and AICG.

“We love putting on ChemE Camp, and we couldn’t do it without our amazing sponsors,” Dr. Benson, interim dean of the college of engineering said. “This year, we had support from ASL, Valero, and AICG for the ChemE Car. We’re also incredibly grateful to all the staff, especially Gina Decuir, and all the camp counselors who make this possible. We truly couldn’t do it without them.”

SEE ALL OF OUR ENGINEERING SUMMER CAMPS

FIND MORE AT ***LAMAR.EDU/FUTUREENGINEER***

Led by Lamar University faculty, staff and student mentors, campers explored the basics of chemical engineering through team-based challenges, guided experiments, and site visits to local industry facilities.

“My favorite part of ChemE Camp was probably when we visited BASF, and I really got a chance to understand why they do outreach,” Kolbi Coleman, a second-year counselor and camp leader said. “Seeing the smiles on kids’ faces, hearing their questions, and watching them grow more curious about chemical engineering. It was really fun. I think that’s the best part: seeing other kids be inspired by the people around them.”

Counselor Maddie Nortman said the ChemE Car was a key tool in showing students just how broad the field can be.

“For me, it was important to feel like I could inspire the kids to consider chemical engineering, not just assume that mechanical is the only path for them,” Nortman said. “With ChemE Car, they got to see how many different aspects there are to chemical engineering, like coding, wiring, chemical reactions, and building. It showed them that there’s something for everyone and hopefully helped them find what they enjoy in chemical engineering or any other engineering field they might pursue in the future.”

ChemE Camp is open to high school students entering their junior or senior year who have successfully completed Chemistry and Algebra II.

The camp is made possible through the combined efforts of Lamar University’s faculty, student leaders, generous sponsors, and industry partners who are committed to shaping the future of engineering.

High school students from across Southeast Texas spent a week immersed in the world of robotics, problem-solving, and real-world engineering this July as part of Project Engineer, a collaborative STEM camp hosted by Lamar University and powered by support from ExxonMobil, Motiva, and Chevron Phillips Chemical.

Held July 21 to 25 on the LU campus, the free day camp welcomed rising ninth through 12th graders for hands-on experiences in coding, robotics design, and team-based engineering challenges. Throughout the week, students toured engineering labs, interacted with LU faculty, and worked alongside current LU engineering students and guest engineers from local industry.

“Project Engineer is about more than just STEM skills, it’s about sparking curiosity and confidence,” Maria Peredo, a process engineer with Motiva said. “What I enjoy most is the energy and enthusiasm the campers bring. Their excitement reminds me why I love sharing my passion for chemical engineering.”

Senior mechanical engineering student Courtland Carmouche said being part of the camp gave him the chance to offer students something he didn’t have at their age.

“I didn’t know engineering was a path for me until much later,” Carmouche said. “Now I get to challenge these kids in ways I wasn’t challenged, by encouraging them to think critically, without giving them the answers. That little push is often all they need.”

The camp’s final robotics showdown showcased student designs enhanced with custom features, sensors, and autonomous elements, many the result of trial, error, and peer collaboration.

“Through this partnership with Lamar University, we aim to create real opportunities for young minds to explore STEM in meaningful ways,” Rose Thomas, principal process control engineer at ExxonMobil said. “Seeing students bring their ideas to life confirms the value of programs like this.”

Chevron Phillips Chemical served as the lead sponsor, helping to make the camp free of charge for participants. The initiative reflects a growing commitment from local industry leaders to support STEM education and workforce development in Southeast Texas.

FIRST YEAR ENGINEERING MATH BOOTCAMP
LAMAR UNIVERSITY

The College of Engineering has been hosting their First-Year Engineering Math Bootcamp for over 10 years. This year, the College had 150 students attend, between incoming freshman, transfer, and Texas Academy students.

During this Bootcamp, incoming students are able to get refreshed on their math courses before the Fall semester begins. This allows students to be prepared for their upcoming classes, and emphasizes the College's desire for their students to succeed - as early as a week before school starts.

"Engineering Bootcamp was the best thing I could have done as an intro to college. I got a free refresher of everything I learned in high school and was given a glimpse into what was to come for my freshman year. I would recommend the bootcamp to any incoming engineering student."

- Matthew Brandenburg, Freshman Mechanical Engineering Student

Bootcamp also included great activities, such as Escape the COE, where student organizations and Chevron Phillips Chemical created puzzles for the Bootcamp students to complete in groups.

Industry partners also joined for fun activities - such as Freshman Design hosted by Motiva, where students created a marble roller coaster that met certain design specifications.

"My favorite experience at bootcamp was getting to meet so many wonderful people and some of my closest friends. Not only did it help me prepare for the upcoming year by showing us all of the resources Lamar has to offer, but I made connections with so many people including upperclassmen, staff, and many of the department heads."

- Hannah Anderson, Freshman Chemical Engineering Student

Bootcamp students were also able to learn about a multitude of student services through daily panels with Lamar University resources. These resources included STARS tutoring services, the Lamar University Health Center, the Career & Testing Center, Neches Federal Credit Union, and College of Engineering Ambassadors.

"The Student Health Center offers many things that I, as a freshman, was unaware of. It is important to share these resources with students because some might not know all of the different services we offer at the Student Health Center, or how we can help them. The more they know, the more they can utilize our services and be more proactive in their health and wellness journeys. We are here for students and their well being. The most important thing we can impart to students is that we are here for them when they need us or a helping hand."

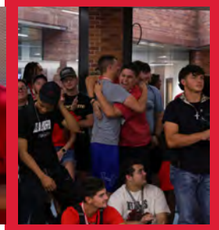
- Jayna Bonnette, Assistant Director of Health Education

"I've really enjoyed Bootcamp - ever since I attended as a freshman. Now as a senior, having stayed involved the past few years, Bootcamp has given me the opportunity to connect with underclassmen and help recruit for organizations. It's been rewarding to come full circle and give back to the same program that helped me start my journey."

- Jewell Capps, Senior Civil Engineering Student

"The Engineering Bootcamp gave me the chance to connect with new friends right at the start of college, which made the transition feel a lot easier. I met them on the first day, but got to know them a lot better when we did the escape rooms. It taught me a lot about each person and their problem solving abilities. We could use these skills to help each other throughout college, and we plan to."

- Wilson Bell, Freshman Civil Engineering Student



Graduate Student Spotlights

Amirmohammad Naddaf Shargh

Doctor of Engineering
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Mashhad, Iran

My experience at LU has been stimulating and incredibly enriching. I've worked on innovative projects, collaborated with talented peers, used state-of-the-art equipment, and pushed my research limits. The supportive faculty and resources helped me develop technical and leadership skills.

Dr. Hassan Zargarzadeh has been a pivotal part of my academic journey. His insightful guidance, combined with his rich background in academia and strong industry connections, has not only sharpened my technical skills but also inspired me to think critically and pursue excellence. Working in his state-of-the-art Robotics and Intelligent Control Systems (RICS) Lab has provided invaluable hands-on experience and pushed my limits as a researcher.

Sushant Poudel

Master of Engineering
Civil Engineering

Jhapa, Nepal

My experience at Lamar has been incredibly rewarding. I've had the chance to work on cutting-edge research, publish in peer-reviewed journals, and collaborate with faculty and peers on projects that aim to make infrastructure more sustainable. The supportive environment and diverse campus community have enriched both my academic and personal growth.

I have had the privilege of being mentored by Dr. Liv Haselbach, Dr. Venkatesh Uddameri and Dr. Yong Je Kim. Dr. Haselbach guided my research in sustainable environment, particularly the use of waste glass as cement replacement. Dr. Venkatesh Uddameri not only introduced me to GIS and machine learning applications in civil engineering but also helped me reflect on my long-term goals and how technology and research can be integrated to make meaningful contributions in our field. Dr. Yong Je Kim, who taught my geotechnical engineering class, consistently demonstrated humility and a positive attitude that created a motivating learning environment. His encouragement and support left a lasting impression on me. Their mentorship has played a crucial role in shaping both my academic and personal growth.

Arif Ibrahim Uyanik

Industrial Engineering
Doctor of Engineering

Adana/ TÜRKİYE

I chose Lamar University because, with a legacy of more than 100 years, it combines tradition with innovation by integrating the latest technologies into its engineering programs. The university's strong partnerships with leading companies provide students not only with excellent job opportunities but also with the chance to participate in meaningful research and apply it in real-world settings before graduation. For me, the College of Engineering represents more than just an education, it is a true launchpad for building a successful and impactful career in engineering.

I am working with Dr. Berna Eren Tokgoz, who has consistently emphasized the importance of approaching problems from a broader perspective and fully understanding them before attempting to solve them. Dr. Wenhao Yang also plays a key role in my journey. He consistently offers forward-looking feedback in developing digital twins within a virtual environment, which helps me anticipate and address potential problems before they arise.

I am developing a digital twin model focused on preventive maintenance across multiple infrastructures, aiming to mitigate structural damage during natural disasters and shorten recovery time. In this work, I draw heavily on the skills I gained at Lamar University, including image detection, augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), Kanban card creation, and advanced statistical calculations.

The opportunity to put into practice the fundamental engineering knowledge I gained in the classroom has given me the confidence and technical skills necessary to enter the industry well prepared. At Lamar University's College of Engineering, the faculty members are always supportive and accessible, creating an environment where students are encouraged to grow both academically and professionally. What I find especially valuable is that the program goes beyond the boundaries of traditional engineering, it promotes collaboration with other disciplines, which allows me to look at engineering problems from multiple perspectives and develop more comprehensive solutions. This combination of practical experience, strong mentorship, and interdisciplinary exposure has not only strengthened my foundation but also shaped the way I think as an engineer.

Roseline Itunuoluwa Sogbuyi

Master of Engineering
Civil Engineering

Lagos, Nigeria

Lamar University chose me. To be more specific, Dr. Liv chose me. She saw hidden potential in me and sparked up talents I never knew I had. Lamar University seemed like an untapped gold mine with virtue for a great Civil Engineering program. I saw the opportunity, and I jumped at it not knowing what to expect.

I'm glad I came to LU despite my fears of being far away from home. The staff have been very friendly and responsive. Faculty members have been amazing, always ready to help. I've made great colleagues and friends from all tribes, and my favorite part is the unique classroom experience and teaching method.

Cardinal Energy Club Visits Cheniere

On September 10th, 17 students from Cardinal Energy Club received a plant tour of the Cheniere facility at Sabine Pass. These students not only received a look at the day-to-day operations, but also got to participate in mock-interviews from the employees on-site.

"We believe that a vital part of a student's education takes place beyond the classroom walls. Site visits offer students the invaluable opportunity to explore real-world applications of their studies and gain exposure to a variety of careers within the field of engineering. ***We are incredibly grateful to companies like Cheniere for opening their doors and hosting our students****. Experiences like these inspire curiosity, broaden perspectives, and help shape the future engineers of tomorrow"*

- Haylee Burke, Director of Industrial Partnerships and Cooperative Education College of Engineering, Lamar University

"I learned not only about the scale of their work, but also the importance of being strong community partners. ***Their impact goes beyond energy production, reaching into the communities around them.*** *This experience gave me a better perspective on the energy industry that I can carry into my future career."*

- Antonio Lopez Maldonado, Vice President of Cardinal Energy Club

"During the Cheniere Tour, we drove through the entire plant and saw all the units and trains involved in the process of receiving and shipping clean LNG. I got to see how the process moves throughout the plant, and how all the different units and systems work together. It also gave me an even better idea of the environment I will be working in once I graduate."

- Will Matlock Mechanical Engineering Junior

"Being able to tour the Cheniere Plant was both ***exciting, and educational.*** *I learned how classroom concepts translate into safe, reliable operations in the energy industry, and* ***it gave me a clearer picture of career paths available.*** *Seeing the team's professionalism and commitment to safety inspires me, and I know the knowledge I gained will benefit me as I move forward in my engineering studies and career. I am truly grateful for this experience and the chance to learn directly from such an outstanding team."*

- Ashley Jimenez, President of Cardinal Energy Club

"It was great to welcome students on site and provide them with a firsthand look at the scale and impact of our operations. Connecting what they're learning in the classroom to real-world operations is always special. Seeing their curiosity and excitement makes me confident and excited about the next generation of energy leaders!"

- Jack Holden, Cheniere Director of Operations and LU Alumni

"We really enjoyed hosting the students and giving them a closer look at the work that keeps our site operating safely and reliably. They asked thoughtful questions and were very engaged throughout the tour. It is exciting to see students so interested in learning about our industry and the wide range of careers it offers right here at home."

- Donny Wyble, Sabine Pass Liquefaction Maintenance Manager and LU Alumni

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING PROFESSOR HONORED WITH NASA ARTEMIS STUDENT LAUNCH EDUACTOR AWARD

By April Thompson

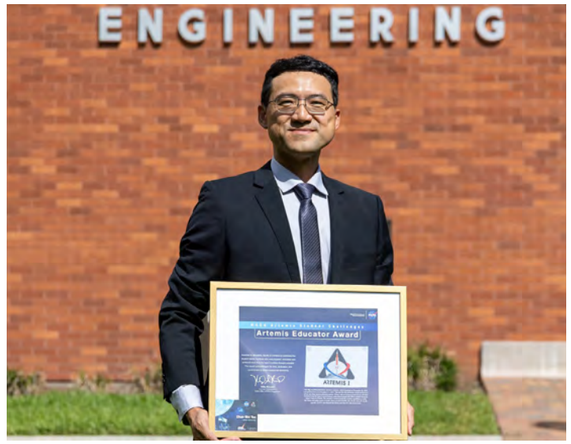
Lamar University Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering Dr. Chun-Wei Yao has been named the recipient of the Artemis Student Challenge Educator Award from the NASA Student Launch Competition.

Yao, who joined Lamar University in 2015, was recognized for his work mentoring student teams participating in the national rocket launch competition. The award highlights his efforts to integrate hands-on learning into Lamar's mechanical engineering curriculum and to support students pursuing careers in aerospace and STEM fields.

"I'm honored to receive the NASA Artemis Student Challenge Educator Award, an inspiring recognition that underscores the importance of mentorship and student-centered education in STEM," Yao said.

Yao said he has worked to balance the demands of research with a focus on teaching and student development. "The true impact of academia lies not only in research output but in how we shape the next generation of innovators. This award affirms that belief," he said.

Under Yao's guidance, Lamar's 2025 rocket launch team, in only its second year of competition, placed 16th nationally out of 52 universities. The project is integrated into the university's senior capstone engineering courses and provides students with practical experience in applying theory, developing technical skills, and building confidence.



"Beyond the numbers, what stands out most is the growth I've witnessed in our students—their leadership, resilience, and passion for aerospace," Yao said.

Yao holds a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Texas A&M University and a master's degree in engineering science from National Taiwan University.

He expressed appreciation to Lamar University leadership for their support and said he remains committed to advancing both research and teaching at the university.

Want to hear more about Dr. Yao? Listen to LU Moment (Season 8, Episode 23)

NEW ENGINEERING AMBASSADORS

DISCOVER ALL THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AMBASSADORS

OR FIND MORE AT *LAMAR.EDU/ENGINEERING*

Madison Bundick

Chemical Engineering
Sophomore

Parker Demoss

Chemical Engineering
Junior

Ethan Dunman

Civil Engineering
Sophomore

Habi Duraippandian

Chemical Engineering
Sophomore

Bryce Feldhausen

Mechanical Engineering
Junior

Jacob Garcia

Mechanical Engineering
Junior

Kennedi Gordi

Mechanical Engineering
Junior

Anthony Oliver

Mechanical Engineering
Sophomore

Reese Rodgers

Chemical Engineering
Junior

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Nicholas Brake

Department Chair, Professor
Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering

B.S. Civil Engineering (2005) Michigan State University
M.S. Civil Engineering (2008) Michigan State University
Ph.D. Civil Engineering (2012) Michigan State University

My passion for civil engineering comes from its incredible impact on society—designing and maintaining the infrastructure that keeps communities moving and thriving. Growing up, I was inspired by my father's work in the construction industry and fascinated by large-scale projects—bridges, industrial facilities, and high-rise structures. Combined with my love for physics and mathematics, these experiences made civil engineering the perfect fit for me.

I chose academia because it offers the best of both worlds: the chance to lead in the field through cutting-edge research and the privilege of shaping the next generation of engineers. I'm driven by the opportunity to work on projects that make a real difference while creating innovative learning experiences for students. My goal is to inspire them to think boldly, embrace challenges, and graduate ready to become leaders and innovators in their own right.

I began my journey at Lamar University in 2012. From the start, I expected a strong academic environment with a healthy balance between teaching and research—and Lamar delivered on that and more. I anticipated working with students who were eager to learn, ambitious, and passionate about their communities and the infrastructure that supports them. What I discovered exceeded my expectations.

"Lamar truly reflects the community spirit of Southeast Texas—a region where people look out for one another and rally together in times of need. Our students embody that same mindset. Many work full-time or nearly full-time in engineering firms while pursuing their degrees, which gives them a unique, real-world perspective early in their academic careers. I was impressed by how engaged they were in the profession, their ability to tackle complex problems, and their success competing in events like ASCE's Steel Bridge and Concrete Canoe competitions."

My overarching goal is to position our department as a leader in research, education, and community impact. For myself, I aim to advance research in sustainable construction materials, wireless sensor network asset management, and resilient infrastructure—areas that address critical challenges in our region and beyond.

For our students, my vision is to provide transformative, hands-on learning experiences that build technical expertise, confidence, and leadership skills. I want them to graduate not only career-ready but also equipped to become innovators and lifelong learners. A key part of this is expanding engagement in professional organizations like the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), where students can develop essential networking and soft skills that accelerate their growth from junior engineers to industry leaders.

For our faculty and staff, my goal is to foster a collaborative, supportive culture that rewards innovation, professional growth, and impactful research. I want every faculty member to have the resources and opportunities to build independent research programs, secure funding, and involve both graduate and undergraduate students in meaningful, community-driven projects.

Another major priority is ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Southeast Texas Regional Flood Sensor Network—a system that currently spans 6,000 square miles and provides critical data for flood preparedness and modeling. While it is currently supported by grants from the Department of Energy and the Texas General Land Office, I am working to establish permanent funding through legislative initiatives and community partnerships to ensure this vital resource continues to protect lives and property for decades to come.

Finally, I envision a department that is forward-thinking, and aligned with the evolving needs of industry and society. This means creating flexible academic pathways, expanding access for working professionals and online learners, and tailoring our curriculum to regional and national priorities. Ultimately, I want Lamar's Civil and Environmental Engineering program to be a place where students and faculty alike feel inspired, empowered, and proud of the impact they make.

"The one thing I love most about Lamar University is its people and the strong sense of community they create. Our students are hardworking, ambitious, and deeply connected to real-world practice—many complete multiple internships and often secure job offers before graduation. This, combined with the close-knit, small-school feel where faculty and students know each other by name, fosters an environment of personal connection and collaboration that elevates the entire educational experience. I also value the incredible teamwork among faculty and the unwavering support from our alumni, who remain actively engaged in mentoring and advancing our program. That spirit of collaboration—across students, faculty, and alumni—truly makes Lamar a special place to teach, research, and lead."

The one thing I'm most excited about as chair is building a culture of excellence and support—where students feel empowered, faculty feel valued, and our department becomes a model for innovation and collaboration. This means creating an environment where students have flexible, impactful learning opportunities, faculty have the resources to thrive in research and teaching, and our programs stay deeply connected to industry and community needs. I look forward to leading initiatives that strengthen partnerships, enrich experiential learning, and position Lamar's Civil and Environmental Engineering Department as a leader in education, research, and service.

Cherry Construction Spotlight

Phil Arroyas

Assistant Director of Planning and Design at Lamar University

Phil Arroyas has been in the architectural profession for almost 40 years, with the last 11 years working for Lamar University. With a bachelor's degree in Architecture and Interior Architecture, he spent many years working in large architectural offices in the Mid-West.

He landed his job at Lamar University by chance, after reviewing upcoming projects - which have now all been completed under his supervision - including the Reaud building, CICE building, and the Setzer Center renovations.

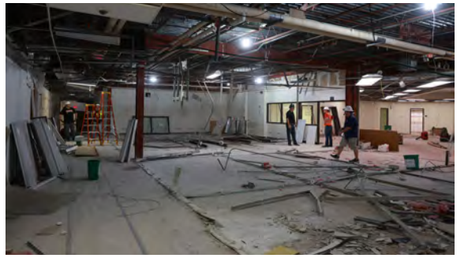
Of all the buildings on campus, there isn't a single one that he hasn't worked on.

Lamar is unique. The campus benefits from a generally compact layout with good access to staff and professors, but what has been missing is the ability to provide updated surroundings to match our ever-changing complex world. With the generosity of Ms. Keating, we have been able to make these updates happen in the Cherry Engineering building.

The Cherry Renovation Project was developed by keeping a student-first mindset. Through this project, we were able to give the students updated, comfortable spaces to work and collaborate. Not only that, but we also created spaces where professors would cross paths with students as they walked through the hallways, and engage with students in smaller informal settings. These renovated areas include the new student lounge, study lounge, Dean's suite, Welcome suite, and multiple professor offices. Furniture, artwork, layout, and lighting for all of these spaces were chosen with students in mind.

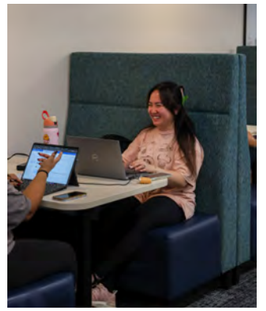
Through this project, we were able to apply an idea that has previously only been a theory. We were able to fundamentally change the interior of an old building while still occupied, update certain systems, and make it look new again without adding to the footprint. By reconstructing the space, we are able to use the building to its fullest capacity and bring students, faculty, staff, industry partners, and more into the space.

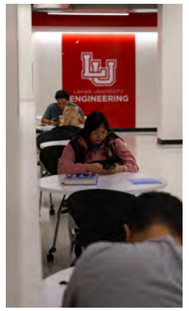
This project has not only created a space for students, but also brought them a feeling of belonging and rejuvenated their school spirit.

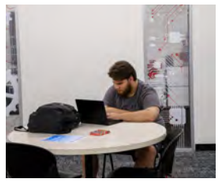


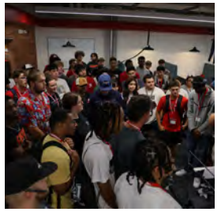
"None of this could have happened without a great team and the generosity of Ms. Keating. Everyone in engineering is part of that team. We all rose up and worked together because we love what we do.

Lamar is a special place with special people. I'm just a facilitator to connect great people together to do great things."









Research Excellence

Dr. Robert Kelly Bradley

Assistant Professor of Industrial Engineering

In 2023, Industrial Engineering professor Dr. Robert K. Bradley attended the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES) annual research conference, where a group of researchers must come together and pitch a new research idea to a group of judges for a chance to win grant money. In his group, the SHIELD team, Dr. Bradley and his fellow researchers - from Texas A&M and West Texas University - came up with an idea for a stretchable, elastic skin which would protect a robot's joints, metal, and wires.

"At that time, Boston Dynamics was big with their Atlas robot dogs, so you are constantly seeing in media pictures of robots, but they didn't have any covering. They have all of these joints just exposed." Bradley said. "They're really going to have to do something about that, because if there's post-hurricane relief around a chemical plant and you are going to send robots in, they are going to be exposed to all kinds of corrosives. If you are going to have the robot working in the desert, its going to get sand all over the place. If you are going to have the robot working on the space station, it's going to be exposed to radiation. If it's going to be on Mars, it's gonna have martian regolith. There seemed to be a need for a smart solution to cladding robots.

The SHIELD team, named after the Marvel's Agents of SHIELD, won the $10,000 seed grant funding as the first place team. With this grant money, the team has now created a silicone prototype cladding, which they tested on a small oscillating robot designed by Dr. Bradley.

At the same time they were designing this robot, the team went to the kickoff event of the Texas Space Commission (TSC) and got connected with Aegis Aerospace, who had recently taken over the MISSE (Multi-purpose International Space Station Experiment) program from NASA. The MISSE program allows materials to be tested on an external platform located on the international space station, where they are exposed to space for months at a time.

"The cost of shipping sample is subsidized by NASA. For less than $5,000, you can send a sample up to the international space station. So, we were at the point in the project where we had a little bit of money left over from the seed grant - about $5,000," Bradley shares. "We can actually send our elastomer smart skin samples to the space station. So, the second year, we pivoted and made space the primary focus."

The SHIELD team's material samples will be included in the upcoming MISSE-22 mission, launching in October of 2025 on the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency flight. The samples will be exposed to space for 6 months, and then returned to Earth through a SpaceX flight. For Dr. Bradley, this means the work is not yet done.

Upon the sample's return, testing will begin on the silicone skin's tinsel strength and radiation exposure. Radiation will be tested with three avenues: Aegis's radiation sensor, radiation film, and fluorinated single-wall carbon nanotubes.

"We have a set of samples we made at the exact same time. Half of them will go to space, half will stay here. We are going to test both of those so we have a comparison" Bradley states.

The team has four different types of materials they will be testing, including a pure silicone formation and a silicone formation of the same formula, but with bismuth nanoparticles. The bismuth nanoparticles may shield some of the radiation."

"There's a lot that we can potentially learn from this one relatively low-cost experiment," Bradley shares. "The hope is with the film and the nanotubes, we will actually be able to see how much radiation penetrates through each layer of the sample. Hopefully we will see that sheets that are surrounded by a higher concentration of bismuth maybe gets less exposed than the one just surrounded by pure silicone."

Looking into the future, Bradley knows this is just the beginning of this research project. With connections from Aegis, the SHIELD team will look into optimizing the formulation of their robot cladding.

"The goal is to create a research program where we develop the expertise to do this," Bradley said.

"The amazing thing is it results in this rich collaboration with this very strong team. The collaboration has allowed us to leverage opportunities, build off each other's strengths, and support one another," Bradley said.

$10,000
In seed grant funding

Collaboration across 3 Texas Universities

6 months on the International Space Station

Launch Date: October 25

VEX Robotics

The College of Engineering is proud to host both the Robotic Cardinals and their VEX Robotics competition team: CARDS. These students put in a lot of hard work, late nights, and immense dedication to represent the College of Engineering at state competitions, along with the international VEX Worlds Competition. Along with the CARDS team, the Robotic Cardinals are active in the community, bringing robotics to local high school and middle school students for fun, and in preparation for the annual Spindletop Showdown Competition.

VIEW THE ROBOTIC CARDINAL INSTAGRAM PAGE

OR FIND MORE AT *INSTAGRAM.COM/ROBOTIC_CARDINALS*

Bryce Feldhausen

Robotic Cardinals President and VEX Captain
Mechanical Engineering Junior

We work on first CAD-ing out our bots, and we are moving to using a lot of Solid-Works, and we've used Fusion 360 in the past. We are looking to manufacturing more custom parts for our bots, and also going to more competitions this year. Last year, we only went to two competitions and we would like to go to more next year. These competitions are far out, so there are a lot of travel costs involved. At these competitions, we compete against other university's for the chance to go to VEX Worlds. We've been lucky enough to have the VEX Worlds Competition in our home state of Texas for the last few years meaning travel expenses - while still expensive- were significantly less expensive. This will not be the case in the coming years, as the Worlds competition will be in St. Louis, Missouri. This will require flights, which will increase our travel costs.

Klein Davis

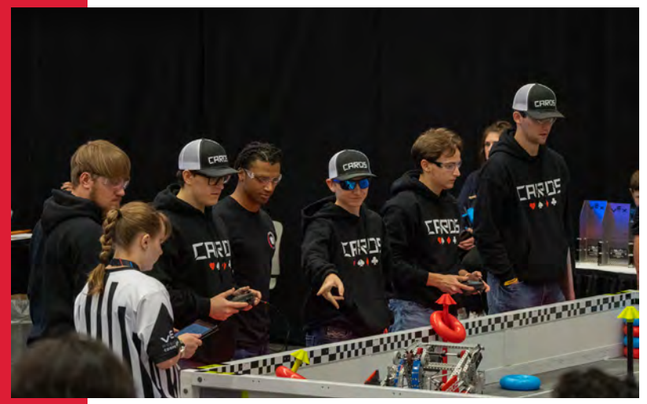
Robotic Cardinals Vice President and Head Programmer
Electrical Engineering Junior

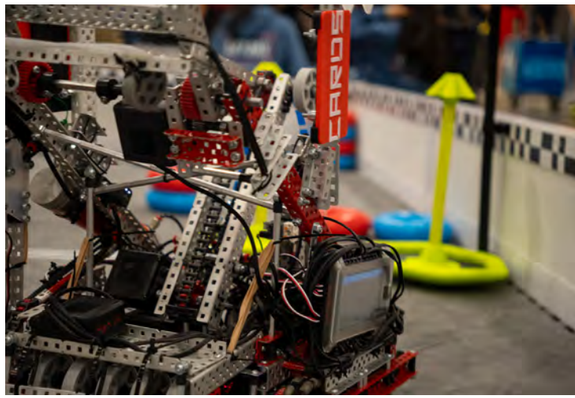
This past year I worked on various systems to help aid program the different robots that we have here. I created some custom libraries to handle different drive train styles, allowing us to autonomously control the movement of the robots during a competition. I engineered several PID systems to create smooth motion for the different actions that the robot has to perform, as well as incorporating algorithmic training methods to automatically tune the parameters. This year, we are looking into more complex tracking systems using laser tracking odometry as well as LiDAR positioning systems to improve our performance at the competitions we attend. We hope to convey the knowledge that we are learning while incorporating the systems to the freshman to make our team better in the future.

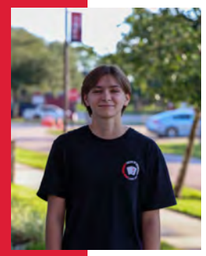
Reese Rodgers

VEX Team Co-Founder
Chemical Engineering Junior

I did VEX Robotics in High School, and I loved it so much that I wanted to continue it whenever I got into college. My roommate and I, we love the CAD-ing, the building, the late nights. I'm a chemical engineering student, so this doesn't push my career as far as other majors, but I just enjoy it so much and I enjoy the process a lot.







Sam Dykes

Robotic Cardinals Secretary
Electrical Engineering Sophomore

Last year was my first ever doing robotics, and to help me get into robotics I went to a lot of volunteering events. Our club has a lot of volunteering and community outreach events we do, especially with local high schools. We go to these high schools and help mentor their robotics teams, getting them ready for competitions such as Spindletop Showdown.

Peyton Ricks

VEX Builder and Head Driver
Mechanical Engineering Sophomore

CARDS has accomplished a lot in the world of VEX robotics in our two years of being a team. VEX is a very expensive thing to do. Not only are the official VEX parts very expensive, but in VEXU - with less regulation on building and more freedom to custom fabricate our own parts - the materials for this, such as metal, polymer, plexi, can be pricey. Not having the resources to do this puts us at a default disadvantage against other teams.

Carlos Viloria

VEX Head Notebooker
Mechanical Engineering Junior

Robotic Cardinals hosts an annual robotics competition called Spindletop Showdown for both high school and middle school students. I think its a great learning experience for everyone, honestly. Even as a judge I learn a lot of things when the competitors bring in their bots and explain why they build it in a certain way. Since I've been the head judge for most of these events, I've been able to see how much time these students put into their bots, which is really inspiring to look at. It's great to see how passionate these students are about their bots, and how they perform on the field. As a judge, you aren't allowed to have favorites, but you see which teams have immense dedication, and you really root for them. It's awesome to support STEM and give back to the community. Along with that, its amazing to spend time with all the eager volunteers that join us from Lamar University. We have lots of opportunities within volunteering, as so much goes on behind the scenes at these competitions.

Lamar University Association of Rocketry

The College of Engineering is proud to host our Lamar University Association of Rocketry (LUNAR) team for its third year on campus. This year, they are reaching for even higher goals as they shoot for higher scores and more learning opportunities.

Kirby King

LUNAR Team Lead - Control Systems
Mechanical Engineering Senior

I've had the privilege of witnessing LUNAR's incredible growth and development since 2023. What started as a small team of just 8 members has expanded to 44 active members this semester. Through this growth, the team has provided countless students with the opportunity to compete at the national level alongside some of the most prestigious universities. Our members have graduated and pursued careers both in the local industries as well as in large space companies. Personally, I've gained so much from these experiences, and I'm excited to continue growing while helping pave the way for future members to thrive.

Grace Huckaby

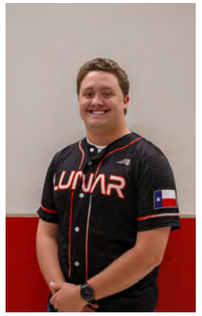
LUNAR Team Lead - Vehicle
Mechanical Engineering Senior

I believe any rocket is only as strong as the team building it. Every challenge we face in rocketry is a chance to learn, get better, and grow as both a team and individuals. Personally, I don't just want to build rockets; I want to really understand them and find ways to improve them. It's truly my passion in life. To me, failure is just data I can use to better the rocket and continue learning. When something goes wrong with the rocket, our team is strong enough to find new solutions, continue learning, and continuing on the path to our Competition.

Ronnie Mouser

LUNAR Team Lead - Payload
Mechanical Engineering Senior

When I transferred to Lamar, I did not know anyone in the area. After I joined LUNAR, I was able to make friends and get involved on campus. LUNAR also gave me the opportunity to gain real project experience and hone many different hard and soft skills that I will utilize throughout my engineering career. In LUNAR, I learned how to apply concepts that I learned in my coursework to an engineering project, all the way from the brainstorming phase to the analysis after the competition launch.
In the NASA USLI competition, universities from across the nation compete to launch a high-powered rocket between 4,000 and 6,000 feet in the air. The teams are scored based on their documentation, their payload mission, STEM engagement activities, how close they can get to a specific altitude, and some other flight metrics. Last year the 2024-2025 competition, LUNAR placed 16 out of 53 universities. This year, we are shooting for a top score in our competition.



Ryan Bell

LUNAR Team Lead - Flight Computers
Electrical Engineering Senior

As a team, LUNAR has really grown in experience and manpower. Last year, I was the only electrical engineer to participate in the competition with LUNAR, but this year we have grown to 11 electrical engineers. I am very happy to see the interest in the club grow - not only with the mechanical engineering department, but within the electrical engineering department as well. Many have said that this project is a very niche field which will limit the experience gained, but after working with so many engineers of different specialties I can confidently say that this organization has provided some of the most comprehensive and good learning experiences. The skills I have gained within this organization have been extremely valuable and have helped me grow not only as an engineer but as a person.

Elick Verdulla

Manufacturing Manager
Mechanical Engineering Senior

LUNAR is dedicated to inspiring local K-12th grade students in hands-on learning experiences and educational topics centered around rocketry and aerospace. Our team believes that exposure to STEM at an early age can spark curiosity and open doors to future opportunities in engineering and science. Throughout the fall and spring semesters, we will participate in outreach events such as BISD STEM Night, Discover Engineering, and classroom visits at local high schools to connect with students of all ages. By sharing our passion for rocketry, we hope to not only encourage students to pursue STEM fields but also to show them that innovation and exploration are within their reach.

John Rice

Safety Manager
Mechanical Engineering Senior

Last year, I realized that I, along with other members of the team, were sometimes overlooking safety in ways that seemed minor at the time, but could have had some serious consequences. Over the summer, I was lucky enough to have an internship experience as a safety engineer. This experience showed me how important it is to slow down, pay attention, and put safety first in every step of a project. That perspective completely changed how I approach challenges with my team. For me, safety now isn't just a box to check; its what makes real success possible.

VIEW THE LUNAR INSTAGRAM PAGE

OR FIND MORE AT *INSTAGRAM.COM/LAMAR.LUNAR*

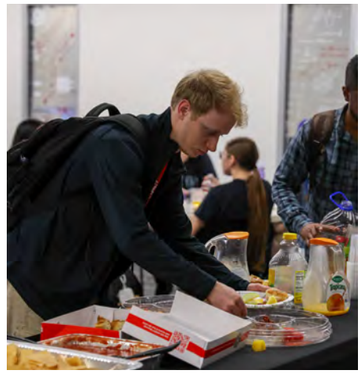
Lamar University Week of Welcome

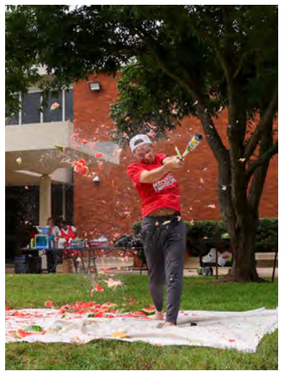
During Lamar University's Week of Welcome, the College of Engineering hosted several events to welcome students back to campus. First-time, transfer, and returning students all attended the different happenings hosted throughout Cherry Engineering, Lucas Engineering, and the Cherry Lawn. The events included Breakfast with Benson, Slice and Dice, College Open House, and Fruit Smash Friday.

Breakfast with Benson allowed students to start their first day of school with a good meal and conversation with the Interim Dean, Dr. Tracy Benson. The meal included donuts, breakfast burritos from Carmela's, and fruit trays. Students were also able to take first day of school pictures, with a banner painted by Created-ByKatieBanners.

During Slice and Dice, students were able to eat pizza from Buckstin Brewing Company and play board games in the Cherry Student Lounge. During the College Open House, students had Raising Cane's, played Kahoot, and went on a scavenger hunt around Cherry and Lucas Engineering.

Fruit Smash Friday was the best hit of all, with fruit baseball being the main sport of the evening. Watermelon, cantaloupes, apples, bananas, pineapples, and cherries were all smashed during this fun event. Students, faculty, and staff all joined at the Cherry Engineering lawn to get excited for the upcoming year.



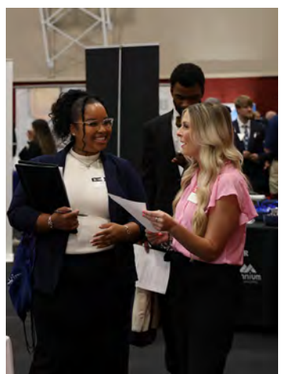


FALL 2025 CAREER FAIR

The Fall 2025 College of Engineering Career Fair was a tremendous success for both our students and industry partners. Students had the opportunity to connect with representatives from companies across all engineering disciplines, fostering meaningful conversations and opening doors to future opportunities. For industry, the career fair offers a valuable event to engage with talented and motived students eager to take the next step in their engineering careers.

REGISTRATION FOR THE SPRING 2026 CAREER FAIR IS NOW OPEN

JOIN US ON FEBRUARY 12. FIND MORE AT *LAMAR.EDU/ENGCAREERFAIR*

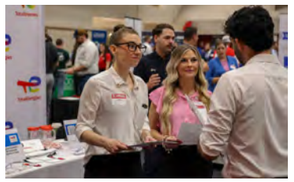


"This past Career Fair, I had the opportunity to see it from a new perspective, as a senior and as the president of a student organization. Helping underclassmen prepare through resume workshops and info sessions showed me just how intimidating the Career Fair can seem at first. But the truth is, it's so much more than just an event with fancy suits and recruiters. It's a chance to grow. The resume critiques, info sessions, and volunteer opportunities all contribute to a valuable and enjoyable experience. Even if you don't walk away with a job offer, you're building connections, gaining confidence, and surrounding yourself with peers who are striving toward the same goals. I'd absolutely encourage every student to take full advantage of the Engineering Career Fair, it's an experience that pays off in more ways than one."

- Micah Hampton, President of the Institute of Electrical Engineers and Senior Electrical Engineering student

"The Career Fair, to me, is the highlight of each semester here at Lamar university. Not only does it prepare you for professional conversations with employers; it also is the best way to obtain engineering experience through co-op and internship opportunities."

- Alex Paulino, Senior Mechanical Engineering student



UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

LAMAR UNIVERSITY
ENGINEERING EXPERIENCE

Weekly Following the Daily Campus Tour

Know someone interested in Engineering? Have them visit Lamar University and the College of Engineering in our special add-on to the daily campus tour.

Led by one of our engineering ambassadors, these tours will continue when we return from the holiday season.

ENGINEERING EDUCATORS CONFERENCE

Thursday, January 22 | 8AM - 4PM

Previously known as the STEM Teacher workshop, this professional development opportunity is available to all local teachers looking for more information on how to best prepare their students to become engineers. Hands-on activities, instructional materials, and information about Lamar University will be available to all who attend.

SPINDLETOP SHOWDOWN
VEX Robotics Competition

Saturday, February 7 | 8AM - AWARDS

Join us for this high school robotics competition hosted by the College of Engineering. Our Engineering students will be judging teams' engineering design process, collaboration, innovation, and performance.

ENGINEERING CAREER FAIR
ELEVATE, EMPOWER, EXCELLENCE IN ENGINEERING

Thursday, February 12 | 12PM - 4PM

Want to hire Lamar Engineering students for an internship, co-op, part-time, or full-time position? Join us at the Engineering Career Fair.

CARDINAL VIEW
LAMAR UNIVERSITY

Saturday, February 28 | 9AM - 1PM

Join us for Cardinal View, Lamar University's biggest open house event. You and your family are invited to campus to learn about academic majors, financial aid, scholarship opportunities, student organizations, campus resources, and what life looks like at LU.

DISCOVER ENGINEERING
LAMAR UNIVERSITY

Saturday, April 11 | 10AM - 2PM

Discover Engineering is a free community event that provides fun, engaging activities to get kids excited about engineering and other STEM careers. Local companies and current engineering students will be hosting experiments.

LAMAR UNIVERSITY
SENIOR DESIGN *Symposium*

Friday, May 1 | 3PM - 5PM

Senior Design or "Capstone" projects are vital for our students going into the engineering field. These projects showcase our students' skills in innovation, problem solving, communication, and teamwork.

L·I·T·E
LAMAR INTRO TO ENGINEERING
SUMMER PROGRAM

July 13-17, 2026

Rising 7th & 8th graders are invited for a week-long day camp where they will participate in hands-on activities and lessons intended to introduce them to the concepts of engineering and the various disciplines of the field. Campers will work with faculty members and LU engineering students, as well as guest engineers from industry, throughout the week.

Applications Open February 1st

LAMAR UNIVERSITY CHEM•E CAMP

2026 Summer Camps Dates Coming Soon

Rising high school junior and senior students are invited to campus for a week-long day camp focused on chemical engineering in a team-based environment. The camp will introduce students to some of the various roles available to chemical engineers and common equipment used within petrochemical and pharmaceutical/food manufacturing industries. Hands-on activities will be intertwined with industry plant tours to keep the camp engaging and interesting.

PROJECT ENGINEER
LAMAR UNIVERSITY

July 20-24, 2026

Rising 9th-12th graders are invited to campus for a week-long day camp where they will participate in hands-on activities and lessons intended to introduce them to the concepts of engineering and the various disciplines of the field. Activities include robotics design, coding, application of physics through potential and kinetic energy, along with meeting faculty and industry partners.

Applications Open February 1st

Interested in giving to the College of Engineering?
Check out the Engineering Giving Store and donate to EN6000.

Or for Check Donations,

LAMAR UNIVERSITY
PO BOX 10011
BEAUMONT, TX 77710
(PLEASE INCLUDE A NOTE OR MEMO SPECIFYING THE DESIGNATION—E.G., STUDENT ORG, SENIOR DESIGN TEAM, ETC.)

ENGINEERING

4400 MLK BLVD.

P.O. BOX 10057

BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77710

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LAMAR UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

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ENGI-NEWS

FALL 2025