



ENGINEERING

ENGI-NEWS

**FALL
2024**

FALL 2024
ISSUE NO. 1

SUMMER CAMPS

LAMAR INTRODUCTION TO
ENGINEERING, CHEM-E
CAMP, AND PROJECT
ENGINEER

MEET THE AMBASSADORS

YOUR 2024 COLLEGE
OF ENGINEERING
AMBASSADORS

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

SEE WHERE OUR
RECENT LAMAR
GRADUATES ARE
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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

What is curiosity? The dictionary defines curiosity as “a strong desire to know or learn something.” As a five-year old boy, my hometown veterinarian hoisted me onto a stool and had me peer through a microscope to see a parasite that had infested my dog’s fur. That vet, perhaps unknowingly, created a burning desire of curiosity within me. A curiosity that I have carried throughout my whole life. Do you have that curiosity? Do you have a desire to learn how science moves from an idea to the energy or products that we use in our everyday lives? If so, you are already on the path to becoming an engineer.

At Lamar University, you can continue along your engineering path by joining any of our College of Engineering outreach programs. We host engineering summer camps for junior high and high school students, robotics competitions for 3rd – 5th graders, and a Discover Engineering event every spring. These opportunities will fuel your curiosity!

Student life in the College of Engineering at Lamar University offers more than just going to class and homework. Through our various student organizations, students develop leadership skills, compete at competitions, and network with our local industry representatives. Students also have the opportunity to perform research alongside our faculty and present their research at scientific and engineering conferences. In addition, student support includes a Math Bootcamp (the week before the fall semester begins), an entire student success team (that includes tutoring), and an outstanding co-op program!

Your curiosity will continue to grow at Lamar University, and I look forward to seeing you at our College of Engineering events. Who knows? You may become the next NASA engineer, designing the next Curiosity Mars rover. Come See for Yourself!

With Cardinal Pride,

Tracy Benson, Ph.D.
Interim Dean, College of
Engineering
Jack Gill Endowed Chair

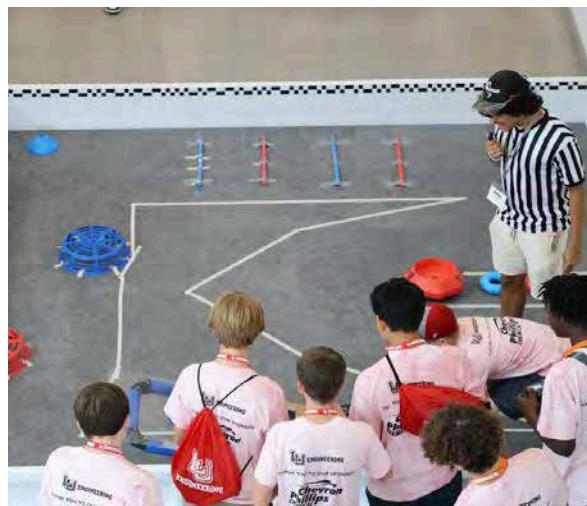


DR. TRACY BENSON
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, INTERIM DEAN

COE HOSTS FREE SUMMER CAMPS TO FOSTER FUTURE STEM LEADERS

Throughout the summer, Lamar University's College of Engineering held four annual summer camps geared towards engaging sixth grade - 12th grade students.

Lamar Introduction to Engineering (LITE) camp allowed middle school students from surrounding areas to be introduced to different engineering disciplines over a week.



"The camp was helpful to kids because it introduced them to different engineering professions, and how each profession works," Reece Rodgers, sophomore chemical engineering major said. **"One of the things they learned is how chemical reactions work. For example, how vinegar reacts to baking soda to create foam. And how they can manipulate it to make it more explosive or less explosive."**

At Project Engineer camp, high school students were able to build robots and attempt different challenges such as sled pulls, robot tug-of-war, and relay races.



“TEAMWORK, COMMUNICATION SKILLS, AND THE ABILITY TO QUICKLY ADAPT IN SITUATIONS ARE ALL SKILLS THE STUDENTS WERE ABLE TO DISPLAY,” SENIOR CHEMICAL ENGINEERING MAJOR ISABEL MARTINEZ SAID. “AS STUDENTS ADVANCE IN THEIR DEGREE, THESE ARE THE KEY SKILLS THEY NEED TO BECOME CAREER READY PROFESSIONALS.”



Students were also able to work with industry partners, such as Motiva, BASF TotalEnergies Petrochemicals LLC, ExxonMobil, and Chevron Phillips Chemical. These industry partners make this camp possible through their sponsorships. These sponsorships support the various College of Engineering summer camps, allowing for all students to attend free of charge.

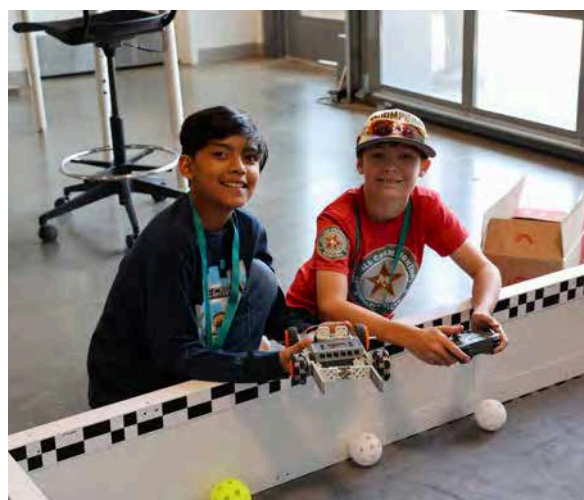
“The camps give our community members the opportunity to learn future engineering skills and build workplace capabilities that may not be taught in engineering courses,” Motiva engineer Kennedy Kieschnick said. **“By supporting and investing in this program, we are fostering the next generation of engineers and developing the minds of our future workforce.”**



Students who went to LITE camp were also able to attend a trip to NASA to learn how engineers use their knowledge and skills to perform daily tasks to help the space center operate.

“NASA was so much fun,” Bryce Feldhausen, sophomore mechanical engineer said. **“I enjoyed getting to experience the magic of space through the camper’s eyes.”**

Inspiring students to join STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) careers is the basis on which these Engineering camps are held. Encouraging and educating local middle school and high school students to grow in their learning over the summer allows them to see more possibilities of what their future can hold.



**“EDUCATION IS ONE OF
MOTIVA’S CORPORATE
CITIZENSHIP PILLARS”**
KIESCHNICK SAID, **“SO WE
UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE
OF PROVIDING LOCAL YOUTH
WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR
HANDS-ON ENGAGEMENT THAT
WILL INSPIRE THEM TO
PURSUE A CAREER IN THE
STEM FIELD.”**

The College of Engineering looks forward to growing these camps and allowing more students to attend in the upcoming years.

“Each year we are able to expand our reach, allowing for more campers to experience engineering concepts and gain insights into STEM careers,” Bayleigh Smith, associate director of marketing and recruitment at the College of Engineering, said. **“My hope is that we can continue to grow and inspire future generations to explore the exciting world of engineering.”**



STUDENT ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHTS



SHPE - SOCIETY OF HISPANIC PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING CELEBRATED NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH WITH OUR SHPE STUDENT ORGANIZATION. CHECK OUT THEIR SPOTLIGHT ON OUR YOUTUBE PAGE!

SASE- SOCIETY OF ASIAN SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS

CONGRATULATIONS ON WINNING THE 2024 SASE INSPIRE AWARD HONORABLE MENTION FOR MOST IMPROVED CHAPTER. READ MORE ON PAGE TWENTY-FOUR!



EWB -ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS

JUST COMPLETED ANOTHER AMAZING YEAR OF THEIR CHERRY HAUNTED HOUSE! THANK YOU SO MUCH TO THIS AMAZING STUDENT ORGANIZATION FOR MAKING THIS INCREDIBLE EVENT HAPPEN!

CHERRY HAUNTED HOUSE

HOSTED BY EWB

OUR STUDENT ORGANIZATION **ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS (EWB)** HAD ANOTHER AMAZING YEAR DOING THEIR ANNUAL HAUNTED HOUSE. HELD ON OCTOBER 20TH, 2024 FROM 6-10PM, THIS EVENT TURNED THE CHERRY ENGINEERING BUILDING FROM A PLACE OF LEARNING TO A PLACE OF TERROR! JOINED BY THE **AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS (ASME)**, THE **INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS (IEEE)**, AND THE **AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS (ASCE)**, THIS HAUNTED HOUSE SPOOKED ALL OF THEIR GUESTS!



LU STUDENT GAINS HANDS-ON AEROSPACE EXPERIENCE AT FUTURE METALS LLC



Junior industrial engineering major Rami Zaidan is interning this summer at **Future Metals LLC**, where he works in the aerospace industry.

Future Metals, a Berkshire Hathaway Company, specializes in aluminum, stainless steel, titanium, and even more metals that are used in airlines and aviation. Zaidan worked in the warehouse, making improvements to the management systems.



“Future Metals is an outstanding workplace with a high-energy, go-get-it culture. With 50 years of experience and 11 locations, Future Metals supplies quality metals to the global aerospace market.” Jimmy McKee, division manager at Future Metals’ Texas Division said. **“Our products are used in various aircraft systems, from jet engines to cabin interiors. Our customers can rely on us to deliver products when and where they need them to smooth out the supply chain turbulence. Our parent company, Marmon Holding Inc. (Under Berkshire Hathaway), has over 120 autonomous operating and manufacturing locations internationally that service industries ranging from Medical, Transportation, Plumbing and Refrigeration, Crane and Rail.”**

Zaidan's experience at Future Metals allowed him to witness firsthand how a dynamic, globally connected company operates within the aerospace sector.

"I have a love for aviation and aerospace, and having this hands-on experience was incredibly rewarding," Zaidan said. "The practical exposure to industry challenges and the opportunity to contribute to meaningful projects have inspired me."

DURING THIS INTERNSHIP, ZAIDAN HAS BEEN A PART OF REAL-WORLD PROJECTS AND GAINED FUNDAMENTAL EXPERIENCE.

"My specific role within the project team was to optimize the workflow and material space in the warehouse," Zaidan said. "This involved assessing the current inventory management system, identifying areas for improvement, and implementing strategies to enhance efficiency. Additionally, I collaborated with another division on RFID inventory management, working to integrate this technology into our processes."

His responsibilities included: conducting data analysis, preparing reports, and presenting findings to the team to ensure that the improvements were effectively communicated and implemented.

"The most valuable takeaway from my internship experience is the importance of attention to detail and the impact of thorough quality control processes," Zaidan said. "I also learned that effective communication is vital for successful project implementation and collaboration across different teams."


Zaidan is being mentored by Jimmy McKee, who is a former student of Lamar University's President Jaime Taylor.




JIMMY IS A GREAT LEADER AND MENTOR. HIS EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY AND DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF QUALITY CONTROL WERE INVALUABLE," SAID ZAIDAN. "HE PROVIDED GUIDANCE ON BEST PRACTICES, OFFERED INSIGHTS INTO INDUSTRY STANDARDS, AND HELPED ME NAVIGATE COMPLEX CHALLENGES. HIS SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN MY GROWTH AND SUCCESS DURING THE INTERNSHIP."



During the internship, Zaidan was challenged by the rigorous standards required for aerospace materials, but collaborative company culture allowed him to overcome this challenge.



“RAMI HAS BEEN A MASSIVE ASSET TO OUR TEAM AT FUTURE METALS - TEXAS THIS SUMMER. HE CAME IN EAGER TO LEARN, ASKED MANY QUESTIONS, AND TOOK INITIATIVE ON THE HIGH-IMPACT PROJECTS HE EXECUTED. WE COULDN'T ASK FOR A BETTER ATTITUDE FROM A TEAM MEMBER.” MCKEE SAID. “YOU DON'T EXPECT AN ENGINEERING INTERN TO COME IN AND POSITIVELY IMPACT A CULTURE WITHIN THREE MONTHS. RAMI PROVED IT IS POSSIBLE BY NOT JUST WORKING HARD ON DATA ANALYSIS, BUT ALSO BY PHYSICALLY WORKING IN THE PLANT, SHOWING US WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A TEAM PLAYER.”



“Overcoming this challenge helped me develop a keen attention to detail and problem-solving skills,” he said.

This accomplishment laid the groundwork for further hands-on experiences that solidified Zaidan's commitment to engineering.

“This internship reinforced my passion for engineering by providing me with tangible examples of how engineering principles can be applied to solve complex problems and improve processes,” he said. **“Working on a project that had a direct impact on the company's operations was incredibly rewarding and confirmed my desire to pursue a career in this field. The experience of collaborating with skilled professionals and seeing the practical applications of my academic knowledge has motivated me to continue learning and growing as an engineer.”**

Motivated by this experience, Zaidan is eager to expand his knowledge and pursue leadership roles in the engineering industry.

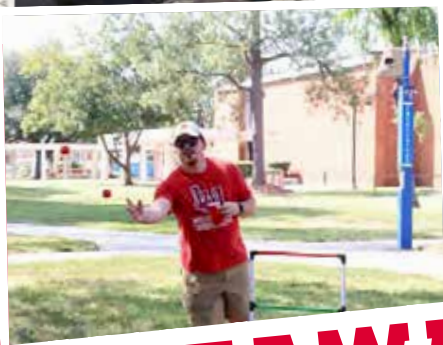
“I plan to pursue further certifications and advanced degrees to deepen my knowledge and stay abreast of the latest industry advancements. Ultimately, I aspire to take on leadership roles where I can drive continuous improvement initiatives and contribute to the advancement of aerospace technology and processes.”

Rami Zaidan transferred to Lamar and has taken most of his courses online. Lamar University is the only university in Texas with online undergraduate engineering programs. According to Texas Crews, Lamar University's Industrial Engineering ranks first in first-year income of all Texas public Universities with the lowest burden among all Texas Universities.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING TAILGATING EVENTS

THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING HOSTED TWO TAILGATING EVENTS FOR THEIR STUDENTS DURING THIS FOOTBALL SEASON. THE COLLEGE HOSTED THESE TO IMPROVE STUDENT MORALE AS A STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVE. THE FIRST TAILGATE WAS SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7TH FOR THEIR ACADEMIC TAILGATE. THE SECOND TAILGATE WAS ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH FOR THE LAMAR HOMECOMING CELEBRATIONS.

YARD GAMES



FOOD



GIVEAWAYS





FRIENDS!

LOTS OF FUN!

GO BIG RED!

#PECKEM



MEET THE AMBASSADORS



Tiolu Akinwunmi
Electrical Engineering
Senior

Tiolu is a part of student organizations such as the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), and the Society of Women Engineers (SWE). Her favorite place to study on campus is the Cherry Engineering Building.



Franky Alegria
Mechanical Engineering
Junior

Franky is the President of the Student Engineering Council, along with being a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE). His advice to incoming students would be to get involved and volunteer as much as you can.



Trey Ames
Mechanical Engineering
Sophomore

Trey is the President of Engineers Without Borders (EWB), the treasurer for Cardinal Additive Manufacturing (CAM), and the Event Coordinator for the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). His favorite place to eat on campus is Chick-fil-A!



Brynn Baker
Electrical Engineering
Sophomore

Brynn is a part of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), and Robotic Cardinals. Her advice for future engineering students would be to find your study groups and begin networking early.



Bobby Barton
Computer Engineering
Senior

Bobby is Vice President of Robotic Cardinals, involved in the Baptist Student Ministry, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). His favorite experience as a College of Engineering student at Lamar was getting the opportunity to travel to VEX U Worlds and compete in the world's largest robotics competition with his friends.



Jack Boyko
Electrical Engineering
Senior

Jack is involved in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). Jack's favorite experience was at our annual community event geared towards kids, Discover Engineering, where he got to introduce the next generation to the world of electronics.



Jewell Capps
Civil Engineering
Junior

Jewell is a part of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Chi Epsilon, and Chi Alpha President. Her favorite place on campus is the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center, due to the community there and being able to be physically active.



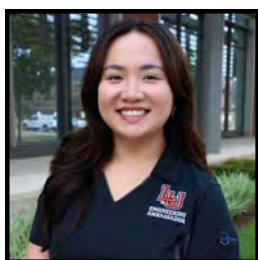
Mariah Garcia
Chemical Engineering
Sophomore

Mariah is a part of the Rotaract Club, Helping Hands Club, Engineers Without Borders (EWB), and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE). Her favorite experience is meeting her friends who have helped guide her during her time at Lamar.



Rafael Gutierrez
Mechanical Engineering
Senior

Rafael is a part of the Society of Automotive Engineers, the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). He believes that his involvement in these organizations prepared him for his internship and co-ops.



Phuong Khuu
Mechanical Engineering
Junior

Phuong is involved in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), Student Engineering Council (SEC), Engineers Without Borders (EWB), Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers (SASE), and Society of Women Engineers (SWE). Her favorite experience as a student was being a LITE camp counselor.



Kirby King
Mechanical Engineering
Junior

Kirby is involved with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA). His favorite experience in the College of Engineering is volunteering for events such as the Career Fair and VEX Robotics Competitions.



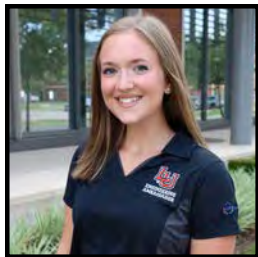
Austin Knowles
Electrical Engineering
Junior

Austin is involved with student organizations Cardinal Energy Club and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). His favorite experience as a College of Engineering student has been participating in student organizations within the college.



Payton Larkin
Civil Engineering
Sophomore

Payton is involved with the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and Engineers Without Borders (EWB). His advice for incoming engineering students is to get to know both your classmates and your professors because they can help with classes and future job opportunities.

**Peyton Lee**

Chemical Engineering
Sophomore

Peyton is the public relations officer for the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), a Reaud Fellow of the Reaud Leadership Institute, an active member in the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), Cardinal Energy Club, and the Honor's Student Association (HSA). Her favorite place on campus is the Dean's Suite, where she can study or mingle with friends!

**Ryan Liu**

Mechanical Engineering
Junior

Ryan is a part of Engineering Without Borders, the American Society of Mechanical Engineering, and the Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers. His favorite place on campus is the Science and Technology Building because it's a great place to study.

**Christie Luong**

Industrial Engineering
Junior

Christie is a part of several student organizations, both within and outside of the College of Engineering. These organizations include the Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers (SASE), the Student Government Association (SGA), the Cardinal Energy Club, the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), Women in STEM, the Vietnamese Student Association (VSA), LU Green Club, and Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK).

**Ana Morfin**

Mechanical Engineering
Senior

Ana is involved with the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) and the Society of Women Engineers (SWE). Her favorite experience as a College of Engineering student was participating in the 2024 NASA Student Launch competition and preparing for the 2025 competition.

**Kathy Nguyen**

Electrical Engineering
Junior

Kathy is a part of the Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers (SASE), Honors Student Association (HSA), and Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). Her most memorable experience was attending the Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Tori Nguyen**

Industrial Engineering
Junior

Tori is a part of student organizations such as the Industrial Engineering Advisory Council, Cardinal Energy Club, Society of Asian Scientists & Engineers (SASE), and the Asian Business Student Association. Her favorite place on campus is the Setzer Student Center, because there's an environment for any of your needs, whether it's studying, eating, socializing, or even going about on your own.

**Kevwe Onakpoya**

Chemical Engineering
Senior

Kevwe is a part of student organizations Society of Women Engineers (SWE), the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE). Her favorite experience as a College of Engineering student is the Engineering Career Fairs!



Alex Paulino
Mechanical Engineering
Junior

Alex is a part of student organizations Engineers Without Borders (EWB) and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). His favorite experience as a College of Engineering student has been interning in different industries.



Landon Paulino
Electrical Engineering
Junior

Landon is a part of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), and Engineers Without Borders (EWB). His favorite experience as a College of Engineering student is working on the Cherry Haunted House.



Jackie Salmeron
Chemical Engineering
Junior

Jackie is involved in student organizations American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), and Engineers Without Borders (EWB). Her favorite part of campus is the second or fourth floor of the library, as they are perfect for studying.



Trey Tolar
Electrical Engineering
Junior

Trey is president of Cardinal Additive Manufacturing (CAM) and is highly involved with Engineers Without Borders (EWB) and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). His favorite spot on campus is the COE Dean's Suite because it gives all the students a place to meet up to study and hang out between classes.



Dennis Tran
Chemical Engineering
Junior

Dennis is Vice President of the Student Engineering Council (SEC), and is involved with the Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers (SASE) and the Asian Business Student Association. His advice for incoming students is to get involved as early as you can!



Carlos Vilorio
Mechanical Engineering
Sophomore

Carlos is involved in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), Engineers Without Borders (EWB), and Robotic Cardinals. His advice to incoming students is to put yourself out there, meet new people, and get involved!



Kearstan Zabel
Chemical Engineering
Junior

Kearstan is involved in the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) and Engineers Without Borders (EWB). Her favorite experience as a College of Engineering student is getting opportunities to actively participate in student outreach camps, visits, and community events.

RECENT ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS



DAKOTA EMERSON '24

NOW WORKS AS A PROCESS ENGINEER AT INDORAMA VENTURES IN PORT NECHES. HE RECENTLY JOINED US AT THE CAREER FAIR TO SPEAK TO CURRENT STUDENTS AND RECRUIT FOR INDORAMA.

ISAIAH MEDINA '24

IS AN ELECTRO-MECHANICAL ENGINEER AT LOCKHEED MARTIN MISSILE FIRE CONTROLS. HE SAYS THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY WITHOUT LAMAR'S AIAA CHAPTER'S EFFORTS IN LAST YEAR'S NASA USLI COMPETITION, AS IT HELPED HIM GAIN RELEVANT EXPERIENCE FOR THIS CAREER.



KIM HANG '24

AFTER AN INTERNSHIP WITH TESLA IN BOTH MINNESOTA AND NEVADA, SHE NOW WORKS AT SPACEX AS A STARLINK ENGINEER (AUTOMATION AND CONTROLS ENGINEER, CONSUMER HARDWARE).

MELODY YOUWAKIM '24

IS NOW A PROCESS ENGINEER AT MOTIVA WORKING IN THE WASTE WATER UNIT. HER ADVICE TO STUDENTS IS TO NETWORK!



KELVIN ELGAR '24

IS A PROCESS ENGINEER AT CHEVRON IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH. HIS ADVICE TO STUDENT IS: "TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY. TRY TO HAVE AT LEAST ONE ACTIVITY THAT ISN'T RELATED TO SCHOOL OR WORK. IT WILL PAY DIVIDENDS IN THE LONG RUN!"

JENNIFER ARREDONDO '24

IS CURRENTLY WORKING AT USG IN NEW YORK AS A PROJECT ENGINEER. SHE PLANS, COORDINATES, AND OVERSEES VARIOUS PROJECTS THROUGHOUT DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS!



COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING HOSTS BOOTCAMP TO PREPARE INCOMING STUDENTS

Lamar University College of Engineering hosted their annual First Year Engineering Math Bootcamp from Aug. 11 - 16.

This camp allows students to refresh their math courses before the fall semester begins. Incoming students are also able to socialize amongst themselves, meet student organizations, and introduce themselves to faculty, staff, and industry partners.

“It was great to meet the new people coming to Lamar. It’s a social environment where people meet each other, like not many people sat alone at lunch because they were all talking to each other,” sophomore mechanical engineering major Carlos Vilorio said.

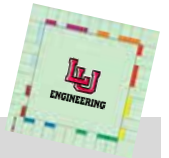
First Year Engineering Math Bootcamp is sponsored by Motiva Enterprises, Dow Chemical, Chevron Phillips Chemical, and ExxonMobil. Each of these sponsors made this camp possible through their generous donations, and their activities within the camp.



Incoming students were able to participate in activities where they could learn about student life, hear from alumni, receive professional development, and show off their skills at Freshman Design.

"Our students were able to compete with different prototype slingshot launchers on who could build the most efficient one and launch a tinfoil projectile the furthest," sophomore mechanical engineering major Trey Ames said. **"As a volunteer, I was able to guide students, help them brainstorm ideas, and test prototypes."**

Bootcamp students were also able to enjoy social activities, including popsicle afternoon, game night, and bootcamp barbeque.



GAME NIGHT WAS A GOOD WAY TO GET TO KNOW THE FRESHMEN IN A LESS FORMAL SETTING," LAILA ROYSTER, JUNIOR MECHANICAL ENGINEERING STUDENT SAID. **"WE PLAYED A VERY TENSE UNO GAME, AND THERE WAS ALSO A NINTENDO SWITCH, MONOPOLY, AND OTHER GAMES."**



At the end of the event, the College of Engineering gives three scholarships away based on a raffle. The top prize is \$1,000, the second prize receives \$750, and the third prize receives \$500 to go toward their school tuition. Students are able to gain tickets for each bootcamp event they participate in.

"[Bootcamp] was really insightful, and I enjoyed getting to know people," top prize scholarship winner Natalia Hochstrasser said. **"I am ecstatic about receiving this award, and it will really help with my studies."**

The College of Engineering is looking forward to this new year with their incoming students, and welcoming their current students back to campus.

"I am glad to [feel] so welcome and see how active I can be on campus aside from my degree," freshman mechanical engineer major Dylan Lynch said.

RECRUITMENT EVENTS WE'VE ATTENDED



**HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FALL TRANSFER FAIR
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**



**WEST BROOK HIGH SCHOOL
LUNCH & LEARN
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2**



**STRAKE JESUIT PREPARATORY
COLLEGE NIGHT
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2**



**EXXONMOBIL
FAMILY FUN FEST
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5TH**



**VIDOR HIGH SCHOOL
CLASSROOM PRESENTATION
MONDAY, OCTOBER 7**



**GALVESTON COLLEGE
PRESENTATION
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18**

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING HIGHLIGHTS



COMPUTER ENGINEERING ADDED

COMPUTER ENGINEERING HAS OFFICIALLY BEEN ADDED AND CLASSES HAVE BEGUN! WE ARE SO EXCITED TO ADD THIS TO OUR OFFERINGS OF DEGREES!



RECORD BREAKING CAREER FAIR

WE HAD 85 COMPANIES ATTEND OUR FALL ENGINEERING CAREER FAIR, BREAKING OUR RECORD FROM LAST YEAR!



NEW FACES AT THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

INTRODUCING:

- ANNA PRICE AS THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SUCCESS
- CINDY LUTE AS UG ACADEMIC ADVISOR SR.
- JULIO DELGADO AS UG ACADEMIC ADVISOR
- KRISTEN BAKER AS THE MARKETING COORDINATOR

LU SASE CHAPTER EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION WITH 2024 INSPIRE AWARD

WRITTEN BY APRIL THOMPSON

The Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers (SASE) chapter at Lamar University has been honored with the 2024 SASE Inspire Award Honorable Mention for Most Improved Chapter, a distinction that recognizes exceptional growth and achievements among more than 90 SASE chapters across the United States and Canada. The Lamar chapter's leadership and members celebrated the recognition as a major milestone in the group's development.

“This award means so much to our chapter and the amount of work each officer put in to achieve this goal,” Alex Tran, president of Lamar SASE said. **“There are over 90 SASE chapters competing for this award, and we were able to get noticed nationally despite being a relatively smaller school.”**

Founded in 2015, Lamar's SASE chapter has seen rapid growth in recent years, driven by its commitment to professionalism, community, and cultural awareness, the organization's three core pillars. Over the past year, the chapter hosted more than 40 events, offering students opportunities to network, develop leadership skills, and engage with their peers. These activities ranged from professional development workshops to community service events, such as their collaboration with the University of Houston SASE chapter for a beach clean-up at Crystal Beach and a Lunar New Year Celebration open to all students.



“Our events are open to all, and we truly believe SASE has something to offer to anyone, regardless of major or cultural background,” Tran said. “These previous years really showed exponential growth in our chapter in terms of membership, professional development, cultural awareness, and other areas.”



One of the standout events of the year was the NASA Info Session held in March 2024, which drew more than 70 students from across the university to learn from NASA interns. The session was hailed as one of the largest professional turnouts in the chapter’s history and served as a key indicator of the chapter’s growing influence on campus.



“WE INVITED NASA RIGHT TO OUR FRONT DOOR,” KATHY NGUYEN, VICE PRESIDENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS, SAID. “THIS EVENT, WHICH BROUGHT TOGETHER STUDENTS FROM DIFFERENT DISCIPLINES, WAS A MOMENTOUS DAY FOR SASE AT LAMAR. IT REALLY MARKED A TURNING POINT FOR US IN TERMS OF OUR PROFESSIONAL OUTREACH AND THE ENGAGEMENT OF OUR MEMBERS. OUR HARD WORK PAID OFF.”



The Lamar chapter’s success in engaging students and fostering professional growth is reflected in its improved attendance at career-related events, as well as its increased visibility on campus through strategic partnerships with other student organizations and professional entities. These efforts have helped the chapter grow its membership, expand its community involvement, and attract corporate sponsorships to support future initiatives.

“For our chapter members, they have realized how successful our chapter has become in the past year and seize any opportunity presented to them,” Tran said. “Being able to compete with schools nationally for recognition shows the impact of our tight-knit community and chapter at Lamar University. Members are motivated to seek higher leadership positions with SASE and leave their own mark on our chapter. The future of SASE is brighter than ever.”

The chapter has also invested in its online presence, recently launching a fully developed website, lamarsase.org, which offers information about the chapter’s mission, events, and leadership team. Their Instagram account has seen a significant increase in engagement as well, further expanding their outreach.

The chapter’s next major event, the Water Lantern Festival, will be held on Thursday, Sept. 19, 2024. Open to all students, the event will feature free boba and treats and will offer participants a chance to create and release water lanterns at sunset, symbolizing hope and new beginnings. The festival is a highlight in the chapter’s cultural programming, reflecting SASE’s mission to foster a deeper appreciation for Asian heritage and traditions within the campus community.

Former SASE President Dennis Tran emphasized the importance of collaboration and teamwork in the chapter’s growth, crediting his fellow officers and chapter members for their dedication and passion throughout the year.

“I’d like to recognize the effort from each and every one of the officers from the 2023-2024 year,” he said. “None of this would have been possible without the commitment of our team. We’ve laid a strong foundation for the future, and I’m excited to see how this new leadership will continue building on that legacy.”

As Lamar University’s SASE chapter looks ahead to the coming academic year, they remain focused on their mission of promoting professionalism, fostering community, and celebrating culture, with plans to continue expanding their reach both on and off campus.



“OUR GOAL IS TO CREATE A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT WHERE STUDENTS CAN GROW PROFESSIONALLY, CONNECT WITH OTHERS, AND LEARN ABOUT DIFFERENT CULTURES,” TRAN SAID. “WE’RE LOOKING FORWARD TO CONTINUING THAT JOURNEY AND MAKING AN EVEN BIGGER IMPACT IN THE YEARS TO COME.”





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