



## Bits & BYTES

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### SECS Students Compete in International Programming Competition

February 24, Dr. Omwenga and 4 students traveled to University of Tennessee-Martin to compete in the International Collegiate Programming Contest. The International Collegiate Programming Contest is an algorithmic programming contest for college students. Teams of three, representing their university, work to solve the most real-world problems, fostering collaboration, creativity, innovation, and the ability to perform under pressure. Through training and competition, teams challenge each other to raise the bar on the possible. Quite simply, it is the oldest, largest, and most prestigious programming contest in the world.

The students formed two teams. One team consisted of a single programmer:

Alejandro Malla, Junior Computer Science/Math major

The second team consisted of three programmers:

Wyatt Hardin, Junior Computer Engineering major

Muhammad Abdullah Ali, Freshman Computer Science major

Kaelan Wilson, Freshman Computer Science major

UE took the first place in the University of Tennessee-Martin site and position 19 regionally.

Congratulations to Alejandro Malla, Wyatt Hardin, Kaelan Wilson, and Muhammad Abdullah Ali. You represented UE & SECS very well.



Dr. Omwenga with the UE contingent at UT-Martin site for ICPC, February 24, 2024



Alejandro Malla accepting prize for completing 1st.

### Accepted SECS Students receive letters from Alumni

Each spring, a group of Alumni agree to send letters to high school students who have been accepted into one of our six programs for the upcoming Fall Semester. This year we sent 411 letters. We want to thank the Alumni who took part in this recruiting activity. Jill Snyder, EE sent letter to our Electrical Engineering, Computer Science, and Computer Engineering admits. Matt Gentry, CE sent letters to our Civil Engineering and Construction Management admits. Jessie Schneider, ME sent letters to our Mechanical Engineering admits. *Thank you!*

If you are an alumni interested in being a part of this recruiting effort, please send an e-mail to [engineering@evansville.edu](mailto:engineering@evansville.edu)

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## Associate Dean's Corner



Dear Members of the School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS) Community,

Welcome to the March Edition of our Newsletter! We had a busy and productive month in February. Our faculty and students have been busy with advising, pre-registration, and registration activities for the upcoming summer and fall semesters. Our students actively participated in the Engineering, Computer Science and Construction Management Career Forum, and the Engineer's Week guest lecture.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Maxwell Omwenga and the group of students who competed at the International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC). Dr. Omwenga has been accompanying our students to this competition at various venues for the past three years. Thank you Dr. Omwenga!

In this edition, you will find interesting stories, updates and reminders. I encourage you to explore this newsletter, and celebrate the progress and achievement of your peers. As we are getting ready for Pep and Vim, UE's day of giving (April 12), I would like to thank all our donors, supporters, and well-wishers for your continuous support and contributions.

Here's to a month filled with inspiration, progress, and success!

Sincerely,

Suresh Immanuel, Ph.D., P.E.

Associate Dean and Professor

School of Engineering and Computer Science

## UEclipse: 2024 Solar Eclipse

As we approach the highly anticipated solar eclipse on Monday, April 8, we want to ensure that everyone is well-prepared for this significant event. The partial phase of the eclipse will begin at 12:45 p.m. with totality beginning at 2:02 p.m. The partial phase of the eclipse will end at 3:20 p.m. It's expected to attract many people to our area and region.

Here's an overview of the activities planned for the day, with most events kicking off around 11:00 a.m.:

- The UE Pep Band will be performing on the Ridgway Center East Terrace, with sets beginning at 11:00 a.m.
- Enjoy a presentation by the UE Theatre at 11:20 a.m., also at the Ridgway Center East Terrace.
- Join the UE Dance Company for line dancing and Moonwalk sessions.
- Game Zone for game players will be in Ridgway – first floor starting at 11:00 a.m.
- Corn Hole Boards available from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. before the eclipse begins.
- Additionally, sand volleyball and the basketball courts at Hale Hall will be open from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for those interested.

Dr. Jeffrey Braun and Dr. Maria Weber will provide narration on what to expect as totality approaches at the Ridgway Center East Terrace and the Soccer Stadium. Seating will be available at the soccer stadium; all other locations will require your own seating.

Food will be available at the Soccer Stadium Concessions and various other locations from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., with specific details to be determined.

Watch for additional activities at [evansville.edu/ueclipse](https://evansville.edu/ueclipse) as they are scheduled.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### March

**2-10** Spring Break

**11** Late-start Classes Begin

**15** Midterm Grades Due

**16** Purple Visit Day

**21** Speed Networking Event

**28-31** Easter Break (No Classes)

**26** Registration begins (for Fall & Summer)

### April

**1** Classes resume

**5** Last Day to Withdraw with a "W"

**8** UEclipse

**12** Pep & Vim

Attention  
Engineering  
Alumni

The School of Engineering and Computer Science is seeking Alumni to assist in various areas in support of the school:

- Guest Lectures
- Recruitment
- Adjunct Professors
- Serve on Advisory Councils

If you are interested in supporting SECS in any of the areas listed, please contact Dr. Suresh Immanuel via e-mail ([ss476@evansville.edu](mailto:ss476@evansville.edu)).

# 2023-24 Senior Design Projects

## CE 495 SENIOR DESIGN TEAM

The UE senior civil engineering design team continues their work with the owner and contractors that will build the senior design project later this year. This has provided the team with real world and hands-on experiences that will benefit us as we enter the working environment.

The team is very near the end of the design phase and we can't wait to see the contractors break ground and start the construction phase.

## UE RACING TEAM

The UE SAE Baja team has been working meticulously to easily meet the targeted goal of having a completed vehicle by March 25th. In the next couple of weeks, we will be looking for someplace to test the vehicle

Again, we'd like to thank our sponsors: Wright Steel, NIX Companies, EBN, and Schmitt Metalworks. Please follow for any updates as the team continues to forge ahead.

## THERMOSIPHON TEAM

The Thermosiphon team is working to complete the final research this month. Afterwards, the system will be drained and the water will be replaced, and other modifications will be made to the data collection system.

The team will present the research and represent the University and the Mechanical Engineering Program at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in Long Beach, California in April.

## DEAN OF COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ENGINEERING SEARCH UPDATE

The College of Business and Engineering spent the last week of February meeting with the four final candidates for the Schroeder Family Dean of Business and Engineering. Each day from Tuesday, February 26 through Friday March 1, students, faculty, staff, and members of our Engineering Advisory Committees (MEAC/CEAC) met with each of the candidates. All candidates have experience in higher education, including a leadership role at their respective institution. We hope to announce the new dean's name by the end of the month. The new dean will start this summer.

## Student Organizations



Fourteen students and two faculty are registered to attend the annual ASCE student symposium at Purdue University Northwest April 11-13, 2024. Our student chapter is registered to compete in the ASCE UESI Surveying Competition and several smaller competitions including a concrete disc, a CAD competition, a transportation competition and a concrete cornhole board.

ASCE participated in the student activity fair during Roadtrip the weekend of February 24. We handed out materials and talked to prospective students about Civil Engineering and Construction Management at UE.



UE ASME hosted Alumni Soli Solaiman, Transforming Engineering for Berry Global, Inc on February 27. The meeting was well attended with at least 15 students in attendance. We will continue to seek out Mechanical Engineering Alumni to speak at our meetings.



During National Engineers' Week, SWE hosted a school-wide game: The Spikeball Challenge. Four students, three faculty, and one staff member participated. Senior, Samantha Elkins won the game, being the last player standing & the player with the most hits (3).

### Congratulations Sam!

We also would like to thank everyone who participated.



ACM continues their efforts to re-establish a student chapter here at UE. Any Computer Science major/minor or Computer Engineering major is welcome to join. Students interested in being a part of ACM should speak to Dr. Mabis.



We were not able to garner enough interest in our ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air-Conditioning Engineers) chapter this year. We will continue to measure student interest to reboot the chapter in the near future..

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



### Emily Wiebe

*Civil Engineering, Class of 2024*  
Hometown: Mequon, WI

**Why I Chose UE:** *I chose UE because I loved how small the class sizes were so that I could have 1 on 1 discussions with my professors if I needed help. I also loved that I would be able to get to know my classmates and people around campus easier because the school itself is so small. I was also recruited to play soccer which is another reason I came.*

**Clubs or Organizations Involved in At UE:** SAAC, ASCE, SWE.

**Internships or Co-op Experience:** *Construction Inspection at raSmith the summer going into my Junior year in roadway reconstructions and neighborhood reconstructions. Wastewater/Water design and planning at Donohue & Associates the summer going into my Senior year, and I am currently working part-time for them too the last semester of my senior year.*

**Favorite UE memory:** *I will always remember the amazing friends and professors I have met in my major, and all the opportunities I was given during my time at UE to become a better engineer and person.*

### Where do you go from here?

*I am currently interviewing for jobs in North Carolina in fields like Geotech, hydraulics, and environmental. I hope to get a good career foundation that will help me get into PhD program, so one day I can become a professor and inspire younger people to make a difference in the engineering world.*





## SECS HOSTED MATHCOUNTS

On February 10, The School of Engineering and Computer Science hosted the Southwestern Indiana Regional MATHCOUNTS Competition, where sixth, seventh, and eighth grade "mathletes" from southwestern Indiana schools competed. The competition was held at the University of Evansville in its Ridgeway Center.

The competition, which was sponsored by UE School of Engineering and Computer Science, The Koch Foundation, Berry, CountryMark, and the Indiana Society of Professional Engineers Educational Foundation, started with three rounds of challenging written questions. Based on the scores from these rounds, winners were as follows:

### Team Winners:

1st Perry Heights Middle School, Evansville—Team members: Alta Kuhn, Taran Sheth, Emi Wilbourne, and Jack Wilbourne

2nd St. John the Baptist Catholic School, Newburgh—Team members: Alex Folz, Nathan Hardesty, Liam Ragan, and Avery Slade

### Individual Winners:

1st Taran Sheth, Perry Heights Middle School, Evansville

2nd Abigail Bullington, Evansville Christian School, Evansville

3rd Naren Raghaven, Castle North Middle School, Newburgh

4th Jonathan Davis, Castle North Middle School, Newburgh

In addition to the written competition, the mathletes received a tour of the University of Evansville campus, ate lunch in the campus food court, and received t-shirts commemorating the event. The top 8 mathletes participated in a Jeopardy-like oral competition for fun and prizes. It was a fun way to challenge the kids and motivate them to continue with their math education.

Abigail, Naren, and the four members of the Perry Heights team qualified to compete in the state competition at Rose Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute on March 9th.



Perry Heights Team

St. John the Baptist Team



Top Four Individuals

## TIPS FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS

### Apply Now for Harlaxton/Study Abroad Options

Harlaxton provides the setting, skills and experiences for people to become their own extraordinary. With over thirty partner institutions and dozens of custom programs each year, Harlaxton Manor opens its doors to students from all over the United States. Students are drawn to Harlaxton because it is the perfect place to dive into the culture, creativity, and communities of Britain with real life learning beyond the walls of a classroom.

### 5 Benefits of Studying Abroad:

1. **Expanded Cultural Awareness:** *Studying abroad is a chance to immerse yourself in a foreign culture. Experiencing a different way of life broadens your horizons and helps you appreciate diversity. Learning about different customs, traditions, and beliefs provides you with a better understanding of the world around you and helps you develop cross-cultural communication skills.*

2. **Enhanced Academic Experience:** *Studying abroad enables you to explore new academic interests while earning credits that are applicable to your major or general education course requirements. Additionally, you may be able to participate in course offerings that are typically not available at your campus back home.*

3. **Career Advancement:** *Employers are increasingly looking for candidates with international experience and language skills, who can think critically and solve problems independently. Studying abroad can help you develop these skills, along with resilience and creativity, making you a more valuable asset to any organization. Studying abroad demonstrates that you are adaptable, independent, and able to work in a global environment.*

4. **Additional Travel Opportunities:** *One of the most obvious benefits of studying abroad is the opportunity to travel and explore new places. From weekend trips to nearby cities to longer excursions during extended breaks, studying abroad allows you to see the world in a way that is simply not possible as a tourist.*

5. **Enhanced Personal Growth:** *Studying abroad allows you to explore new cultures, languages, and academic opportunities. It forces you out of your comfort zone and challenges you to adapt to new situations, which builds resilience and self-confidence and helps you become more self-sufficient. Living in a foreign country can also help you develop a greater sense of empathy and understanding for others.*

Whether you're interested in spending time at Harlaxton in Grantham, England; going on one of our faculty-led programs in places like China, Israel, or Trinidad; or embarking on a service-related project overseas, UE will help you find the right match for your interests.

Contact the [Office of Study Abroad](#) to start learning which of our challenging, structured, affordable, and unforgettable programs can be part of your University of Evansville experience.

## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

### NSPE STEINMAN SCHOLARSHIP

The NSPE Steinman Scholarship is awarded annually to undergraduates entering or continuing their junior year in a four-year ABET-accredited engineering program by the National Society of Professional Engineers. The award is for \$5000.

#### Eligibility Requirements:

Applicants must be students who:

- Are currently enrolled in good standing in a four-year ABET accredited engineering program;
- Will be entering or continuing their junior year in the fall;
- Are U.S. citizens

#### Evaluation Criteria:

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- Grade point average;
- Internship/co-op experience and involvement in other activities;
- Two faculty recommendation(s);
- Ethics essay.

#### Required Application Materials

Applications must include the following:

- A completed application;
- A resume or summary of internship/co-op experience(s) and involvement in other activities (recommendations from supervisors may also be submitted for additional consideration);
- Recommendations from two faculty members who have taught the applicant;
- A 500-word (maximum) essay on "The Importance of Ethics in the Practice of Engineering;"
- Official transcript from the current academic program.

#### Other

- Application deadline is April 1, 2024;
- All applicants will be notified of the final selection by May 31;
- The scholarship award will be disbursed to the recipient's school in one installment at the beginning of the fall semester of the junior year;
- Upon completion of the degree, the winner will be asked to submit to the NSPE Education Foundation Trustees a report on the value of the NSPE support and their objectives regarding professional development, ethical practice, and licensure;
- An NSPE Education Foundation Steinman Scholarship winner will forfeit receipt of the scholarship award if the recipient does not complete the year as agreed.

[SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION](#)

The awarding of all NSPE Education Foundation scholarships is dependent on NSPE Education Foundation funds being available in the annual cycle in which the NSPE Education Foundation scholarship is awarded. If you have specific questions, please email [students@nspe.org](mailto:students@nspe.org)