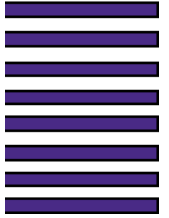




# SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE



## Bits & BYTES

ISSUE 4 | JANUARY 2024 | VOLUME 1

### Welcome Home!!

In the early morning hours of December 16, our UE Harlaxton cohort left the Manor and headed to Heathrow Airport for their return flight to the United States and their families for the Winter Holiday. Among those travelers were 8 SECS students and our Associate Dean, Dr. Suresh Immanuel.

**WELCOME HOME!** We hope you had an enjoyable Winter Holiday Break. We are excited to have you back on campus and look forward to having you share your Harlaxton stories with us.



Cade Winiger (CS), Patrick Albright (ME), Barak Hall (ME), Kayla Simon (CE), Derek Fudge (CM), Grace Vandenburg, (ME) Keziah Long (CE), Dr. Suresh Immanuel. **Not Pictured:** Connor Young (CE)

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### INTRODUCING DR. HECTOR WILL

The School of Engineering and Computer Science welcomes a new Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering to our team, Dr. Hector Will. Dr. Will earned his PhD in at Purdue University in August 2022, where he worked as a Graduate Research Assistant until accepting a teaching position at Oakland City University as Assistant Professor for the School of Arts and Science and the School of Business.

Dr. Will's research interests include: Physics Education, Engineering Education, Electrical Engineering, Embedded Systems, Web Development, Machine Learning, Curriculum Design, Robotics, Quantum Computation. His outreach is focused on student learning and success. A significant facet of his career has been dedicated to research in educational methodologies—extensively exploring how students improve their conceptual models in subjects such as mechanics, statics, and electromagnetism through visuo-haptic simulations.

He has been recognized in prestigious journals such as Computer Applications in Engineering Education (CAEE), American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE), and Frontiers in Education (FIE), among others He is deeply committed to extending educational opportunities beyond the university setting—not only fostering early STEM interest among young learners but also providing engineering students the opportunity to develop teaching and mentorship skills.

We are excited to have Dr. Will join our SECS team!

Dr. Will is teaching Circuits II (EE-215), Electronics II (EE-342) and Applied Engineering Mathematics (ENGR-390) this semester.





## Associate Dean's Corner

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

It is my pleasure to extend a heartfelt welcome to each of you in the New Year's January edition of our newsletter. I hope that you enjoy this newsletter and catch up on the latest news from the School of Engineering and Computer Science.

Eight of our students, my family and I returned from Harlaxton after spending the fall semester there. It is not an exaggeration to say that we had an amazing time. Dr. Megan Voss-Warner will be teaching at Harlaxton in the fall and if you are a freshman in any of our six programs and thinking about attending Harlaxton in the fall, my advice is to sign up as early as possible to spend the fall semester there. It is so worth it. If you are not able to go during the fall semester, you also have opportunities to attend Harlaxton during the summer.

The new semester started on Monday with plenty of excitement and enthusiasm. At this time, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest addition to the School of Engineering and Computer Science faculty, Dr. Hector Will. Dr. Will started his tenure as the Assistant Professor and Program Director of Electrical Engineering. He is very passionate about teaching, and I am excited to see the many positive changes and possibilities in the Electrical Engineering program in the coming days.

May this year be a period of academic and intellectual growth, and the realization of your aspirations. Here's to a prosperous and blessed New Year, characterized by continued success in your professional and personal life.

Sincerely,

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

Associate Dean and Professor  
School of Engineering and Computer Science

## Filling the Gap

The School of Engineering and Computer Science Faculty are top-notch educators in their field. However, there are times when they can't cover every course offered, or the course requires someone with a little more expertise than they have. Sometimes, as we saw this past semester, a professor needs to take time off and leaves a vacancy we need to fill. In these cases, we hire adjunct professors to fill the need.

Adjunct professors are working professionals who work part-time to teach a course, often in their area of expertise. These professionals are valuable assets to our program. They not only fill a need, they also bring industry experience into the classroom.

We want to take this time to thank our adjunct professors for being available and willing to teach when we need them. We also want to thank their employers for allowing them to take time during their workday to teach. **Mr. David Albright (EE), Mr. Jeff Cron (EE), Mr. Michael Feltz (CE), Mr. Brent Schmitt (CE), and Mr. JD Sloan (CE)** have been invaluable to our department over the past few years. We look forward to continuing to work with these engineers as we continue to grow our programs.

We are continuously looking for field experts to serve as adjunct professors. If you are interested in becoming an adjunct professor for the School of Engineering and Computer Science, please send a detailed cover letter and your current resume via e-mail to Dr. Suresh Immanuel (ss476@evansville.edu).

## 2023-24 Senior Design Projects

Due to Winter Break, the Senior Design Teams do not have anything to share this month. Watch for updates next month.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### January

- 8** First Day of Classes
- 12** Last day to add classes
- 13** MLK Day of service starts at 9:00 am
- 15** MLK Day celebration (No Classes)

### February

- 12** Wellness Day - No Classes
- 19** Advising for Fall 2024 begins
- 26** Registration for Summer & Fall 2024 begins

Proud Host of

Southwestern Indiana  
Regional



**MATHCOUNTS Competition**

**February 10, 2024**

# Degrees in 3

In September 2023, The University of Evansville announce the **Degrees in 3** program, which allows students in some majors an opportunity to complete their bachelor’s degree in three years. The degree plans vary by major and may require students to bring in college or AP credit, to take summer courses, and/or to take full course loads each semester. The program allows students to earn a degree sooner without compromising the quality of education and experiential opportunities for which UE is known.

The School of Engineering and Computer Science is excited to announce that we are taking part in the **Degrees in 3** program. Beginning with Civil and Mechanical Engineering students currently being admitted to UE, the option for students to complete their degrees in 3 years is available. We will continue to look at our other programs and see how they can be adapted to provide the same opportunity to those students.

## Freshman 101 Design Projects

### CE 101 Balsa Wood Bridge Competition

CE 101 students concluded the Fall Semester with a Balsa Wood Bridge Competition. The class was divided into 6 groups. The groups were given design specifications and a budget to work with. Each team designed, built, and tested their bridges to see which design was the strongest. Students were graded on their overall design, their weight test, and their strength to cost ratio.

Gavin Wheeler and Mitchell Thomas (photo A) built one of the winning bridges. It maxed out our testing setup at 138 lb but probably would have held more. It won the strongest bridge category with 138 lb and the best strength to cost ratio category with 9.25lb/\$.

Astrid Miranda, Ashlyn Koutsos, and Jillian Tretter (Photo B) won the aesthetics competition and the strength prediction competition.



Photo A: Gavin Wheeler and Mitchell Thomas



Photo B: Astrid Miranda, Ashlyn Koutsos, and Jillian Tretter

### ME 101 Tennis Ball Launcher

Every Fall Semester, the ME-101 students are given a group project that they must complete as part of the course. For the past several years, they have been designing, building, and testing tennis ball launchers. After performing design calculations and building a working prototype, the teams tested launcher performance against theoretical results.

This year, the freshman ME-101 students were divided into four groups. From the photos you can see the four unique designs the teams came up with for their launchers.



## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

### Wes Fleischmann

Civil Engineering, Class of 2023

Hometown: Chrisney, IN

**Why I Chose UE:** *I chose UE .because I liked the personal connection I felt with the professors when I visited. I felt like the professors really cared about my future success. It felt like home.*

**Clubs or Organizations Involved in At UE:** *ASCE Student Chapter, Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity*

**Internships or Co-op Experience:** *I interned with Morley & Associates*

**Favorite UE memory:** *My favorite UE memory is hanging out with my friends and meeting new people*

**Where do you go from here?** *I have accepted a full-time job offer from Morley as a Site-Design Engineer*



## Student Organizations



Our Student Organizations did not meet during the month of December due to Winter Break. Watch for updates on their activities next month.

# IS THE LEAD FORWARD PROGRAM FOR YOU?

LEAD Forward is a year-long executive leadership skills training fellowship program whose distinguished members have developed a passion for leadership, demonstrated personal growth, and desire to leave a leadership legacy at the University of Evansville.

## LEAD Forward Fellows have the opportunity to:

- ◆ Engage business leaders and receive unparalleled access to real business leadership issues.
- ◆ Build your core leadership skills.
- ◆ Participate in leadership retreats, receive special access to executives and community leaders and meet new friends through your LEAD Forward cohort.
- ◆ Receive individualized mentorship with the LEAD Forward director.
- ◆ Full coverage of program expenses.
- ◆ Grow relationships with your cohort that will last a lifetime!

## Key Fellowship Elements:

- Leadership Speaker Series: Engage regional & national business leaders who provide you a unique perspective on leadership, life, and business.
- Leadership Modules: Engage with cohort while learning about key topics throughout your year as a fellow.
- Leadership Retreat: Fellows will be stretched out of their comfort zones as they participate in an intensive weekend retreat, prior to the start of classes in August. Held at the New Harmony Inn & Conference Center, participate in group dynamics lessons, analyze your personalized strengths profile, establish individual leadership goals and group objectives, and much more!
- Students of all majors are strongly encouraged to apply. Be on the lookout for application information in February!
- Contact LEAD Forward Director Megan Conapinski with any questions at [mt263@evansville.edu](mailto:mt263@evansville.edu).



## TIPS FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS

**Verify your meal plan**—Now is the time to take a look at your meal plan and make any changes. January 12 is the last day to make any changes.

**Check your class schedule**—If you were on a waitlist for any of your classes, you will need to go back into Self-Service and register for any that have any open space. Check to see any other changes that may have been made to your schedule. If you need to add a class, do so now. January 12 is the last day to add a class to your schedule.

**Get prepared**—Set up your calendar with your class schedule, upcoming events, and don't forget to schedule some time for friends and fun.

**Look into Harlaxton**—Freshman in the School of Engineering and Computer Science should apply this semester for Harlaxton in Fall 2024. Harlaxton is the University of Evansville's study abroad center based in a Victorian manor house in Grantham, England, about an hour north of London by train. Students have the option to spend a semester or summer at Harlaxton!

Feel free to contact the Harlaxton office at 812-488-3232 or [harlaxton@evansville.edu](mailto:harlaxton@evansville.edu) with any questions.

**Research and apply for Scholarships**—No one wants to graduate with a lot of debt. A good way to avoid debt is through scholarships. There are a variety of scholarships available to college students. Look for scholarship opportunities that may fit your needs and apply for as many of them as you can.

**Start thinking about Summer Internships**—Get your resume updated. Watch for job fairs coming up this semester both on-and off campus. Scour websites for job opportunities and start the application process. Many internship programs make their hiring decisions for summer interns as early as February. Don't miss your opportunity by putting it off until later in the semester.

## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

### 2023-24 ACEC Indiana Scholarship

Deadline to apply is Friday, February 2, 2024

Last year, ACEC Indiana awarded \$19,500 to collegiate engineering students in Indiana. ACEC Indiana is an association that serves as a unified voice for the business interests of engineering consulting firms. ACEC Indiana is committed to attracting talent for the consulting engineering industry and offers scholarships each year to students interested in working in the civil engineering industry.

Over the years, this program has awarded over \$355,000 in scholarships to Hoosier college students who uphold the value of engineering for a better quality of life for future generations.

Undergraduate students applying for the [2023-2024 ACEC Indiana Scholarship](#) Must be a full-time Indiana resident of at least Junior standing pursuing a bachelor's degree in civil, environmental, mechanical, electrical, or structural engineering or Land Surveying at an ABET accredited Engineering school in Indiana.

There are multiple recipients. ACEC Indiana will award no less than \$1,500 to each winning student and no less than \$5,000 for the top applicant. Scholarship checks are written directly to the student for his/her personal use in school expenses.

**ACEC Indiana Diversity Scholarship** – Applicants who self-identify as a group who has been traditionally underrepresented in the field of engineering may qualify for the Diversity Scholarship. Students of color, women, people with disabilities, veterans and LGBTQ+ persons may submit an additional essay to be considered. There is one recipient each year at \$3,000.

ACEC has partnered with the ACEC Research Institute to streamline the application process. Applicants will automatically be considered for the ACEC Research Institute General Scholarship and the ACEC Indiana Scholarship.

Create an Award/Spring Account to Apply!

