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Message from the Chair

Dear Alumni and Friends:

I am pleased to share with you our fall 2018 semester newsletter. As before, this includes a combination of student and faculty accomplishments, in addition to some alumni highlights. We had a good semester; our enrollment has been steady at about 800 UG and 70 graduate students. This fall, the department recruited Andy Pardue, PhD, to teach our Capstone Design course for the department. Andy brings over 25 years of industrial and consulting experience to the department. In addition, we welcomed Sally Pardue, PhD, back to her home department to ME after her stint as the Director of Oakley STEM center for about ten years.

We had a very engaging and productive external advisory board meeting in November. We are getting ready to host the SAE Baja event in April 2019. We are planning to launch the new Vehicle Engineering concentration at the undergraduate level starting fall 2019. This is a one-of-a-kind concentration program in the country, within ME and ECE, which is focused on educating a new pool of engineers with an interdisciplinary background in the emerging technologies in mobility including autonomous and hybrid vehicles. The renovation of the old gymnasium in Foundation Hall into a new 8000 square feet interdisciplinary capstone design center for ME and ECE students is coming along well; it should be completed by February 2019. We are still looking for potential sponsors and donors for the naming different parts of the center. Please let me know if you are interested in helping be part of this new facility.

The mechanical engineering department at Tennessee Tech is proud of its loyal and hard-working alumni, and we count on your increased support to update our facilities equipment and laboratories. Your generous contributions will help us achieve our goal of making Tennessee Tech Mechanical Engineering one of the top quality programs not only in the State of Tennessee, but also put us on the national map. Please select Mechanical Engineering under the drop down menu when you pledge your support at <https://www.tntech.edu/engineering/departments/me/support-me>.

I invite you to explore the "ME Department News" section on our website and current posts on social media. The Mechanical Engineering Department wishes you a very joyous holiday season and Merry Christmas!

Mohan Rao, Chair
Mechanical Engineering

Vahid Motevalli, Ph.D. elected as ASME Fellow



(L-R: Mohan Rao, Ph.D. and Vahid Motevalli, Ph.D.)

Congratulations to Vahid Motevalli, PhD., PE on his recent appointment as an ASME Fellow. Dr. Motevalli is a Professor of Mechanical Engineering and the Associate Dean for Research and Innovation in the College of Engineering. This honor is reserved for those who have had at least 10 years of corporate membership in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and who have shown outstanding achievements throughout their career. Dr. Motevalli's Leadership in the Engineering Profession and accomplishments in Research and Development were evaluated by the selection committee. Motevalli had also been selected as the ASME Congressional Fellow in 1995-96 and served on the US House of Representative, Committee on Science.

#ME Proud



Industrial Assessment Center Receives Award

Congratulations to Glenn Cunningham, center director and Ethan Languri, assistant director of the Tennessee Tech Industrial Assessment Center (IAC) for being recognized as the 2018 Center of Excellence by the Department of Energy!

[Read more >](#)

ME Student Life

Macy Grissom

Macy Grissom, junior mechanical engineering student, has been elected to serve on the first ASME E-Fest Student Advisory Panel, which is comprised of nine members from across the United States. The student panel members gather at conferences to discuss and offer suggestions on how to improve conference experiences and how best to reconnect student chapters to the overall goals of ASME. She shared, "Being a part of Tech's ME program has pushed me to grow in ways I honestly didn't think possible and to push boundaries I didn't even know I had. It's given me countless lifelong friends, knowledge to carry with me, and a self confidence that can't be torn down." Macy has also served in the TTU ASME student chapter as the ASME Chair, ASME Social Chair, ASME EJC Representative, and as a College of Engineering Student Ambassador. After she graduates she hopes to continue her education and attend law school to be an Intellectual Property Attorney.



Divya Jaladi



PhD student, Divya Jaladi, was selected to present at the Academic Research Colloquium in Dayton, Ohio on October 9.

The Academic Research Colloquium (ARC) is organized by the University of Dayton. They welcome applications from all over the United States and select 20 participants to be fully funded for the event. Presentations are mainly based on a student's research and how their research impacts the common good of society.

Divya presented her research findings for *Sustainable Distillation Method Using Evaporation in Porous Media* and won the Academic Research Colloquium 2018 award. In addition, Divya has

been participating in an NSF I-Corps funded project as the Entrepreneurial Lead.

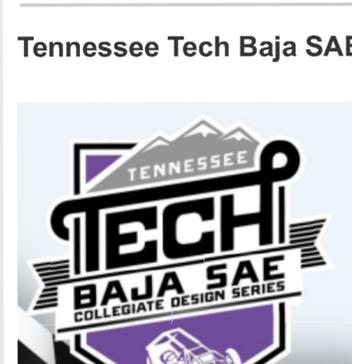
Meet the Co-captains of Baja

Did you participate in the Baja SAE program at Tennessee Tech? Take a trip down memory lane while meeting this year's Co-captains Craig Bowen and Max Lamantia, as they describe what a Baja Team Members' normal semester looks like!



[Read more >](#)

Tennessee Tech Baja SAE returns in April, 2019



Save the Date! Mark your calendar for April 11-14, 2019 for the Tennessee Tech Baja SAE competition at Hyder-Burks Agricultural Pavilion. Over 1300 students from 100 teams around the world will compete in several dynamic events throughout the weekend with a four hour endurance race on Sunday, April 14. We encourage Alumni to return to campus and enjoy this event! Volunteers are needed and spectators are welcome!

[Register now >](#)

Meet our Student Leaders

Do you know a student interested in Mechanical Engineering at Tennessee Tech? Enjoy meeting the student organization officers within Mechanical Engineering and learn what activities in which they are involved in our new video!

[Read more >](#)

Donor Spotlight



Thank you DENSO!

Anyone who is familiar with Tennessee Tech's Department of Mechanical Engineering is familiar with the name DENSO! We are very grateful for the support and contributions DENSO makes to our department and student organizations, such as Baja SAE.

[Read more >](#)

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