MinerBear News
MSU/S&T COOPERATIVE ENGINEERING

May 2024 Grads and Faculty at the Spring Senior Lunch

Summer 2024
Dr. Odun-Ayo’s goals for the Engineering Department:

- Collaborate with other faculty & staff to direct program activities through shaping, advancing and upholding academic excellence.
- Develop partnerships with individuals, engineering firms & organizations in and around Springfield to assist the program in achieving its goals.
- Increase recruitment & retention by promoting and engaging in outreach programs that help build a sustainable pipeline for the program.
- Seek funding opportunities for engineering education initiatives with potential for college-wide & community impact.
- Maintain up-to-date lab facilities & support for experiential and innovative learning experiences for students.

Engineering Director, Dr. Theresa Odun-Ayo, recently spoke with “Medium” Magazine about how to increase girls' participation in engineering and robotics. Here is an excerpt:

This might be intuitive to you but I think it will be helpful to spell this out. Can you share a few reasons why more women should enter the Engineering and Robotics fields?

1. Workforce development — There’s a gap between available engineering roles and the number of new engineers entering the market each year. Data shows that the demand for new engineers continue to increase with not enough manpower to fill those roles. Companies can benefit from more innovation and access a larger talent pool by actively recruiting and promoting women engineers.
2. Economic impact — Retaining women in engineering fuels economic growth, taps into a diverse skill pool and drives progress in addressing global challenges.
3. More role models in the profession — Engineering students face many difficulties as they work their way through school. The female engineering student is likely to face more obstacles than her male counterparts. Having interactions with mentors and role models who look like her, will go a long way to motivate and encourage the female engineer and improve retention in the field.
Award-Winning Students!

Electrical engineering students, Justin Fausto and Ben Cuebas, won first place in the circuit design competition at the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) in April, taking home $500!

“Competitions like IEEE offer students invaluable opportunities to build confidence, network with industry professionals, and gain recognition for their academic achievements,” Director Theresa Odun-Ayo said.

From Dr. Sanjay Tewari:

Congratulations to the ASCE Student Chapter for their hard work at the 2024 ASCE Mid-America Symposium! The MSU Chapter Surveying team took 3rd place. The Steel Bridge team made a good showing; the bridge withstood the maximum load with very little deflection.
Civil Engineering student and recent president of the ASCE student organization, Erik Netzer, was awarded the Citizen Scholar Award at MSU this year.

Missouri State’s Board of Governors awarded six deserving students with the Citizen Scholar award. The award honors students who exemplify academic success and the university’s public affairs mission. The Citizen Scholar Award was created in 2007 as a special Board of Governors program to recognize outstanding citizen scholars at MSU. The university’s faculty and staff members submit nominations each fall.

Erik Netzer is majoring in civil engineering. During his time at Missouri State, he has served on the SGA, and helped with middle school STEM activities, Science Olympiad and more.

Nathaniel Van Devender was awarded the prestigious Grainger Power Engineering Award in May from S&T and received the title of “electrical Engineering Honors Scholar.” This goes to high achieving undergraduate and graduate students who have exhibited excellence in power engineering through course selection, research projects, or senior design projects.

Citizen Scholars (from left to right): Sarah McCord, Triona Leach, Susan Hardy, Erik Netzer, Tyler Crane, Heather Day.
Our program awarded S&T diplomas to 38 graduates in May 2024. Pictured here are just some of those spring graduates in the black S&T gowns at MSU’s ceremony.
Faculty Awards

In April, Dr. Tayo Obafemi-Ajayi won the Atwood Teaching/Research Award and Dr. Daniel Moreno won the Faculty Excellence in Teaching award at the CNAS faculty and staff awards event.

Upcoming Events

Monday August 19th .............. Classes begin
September 2nd ..................... Labor Day Holiday (No classes/Offices closed)
September 17th .................... Last day to apply for Graduation for December 2024
September 24th .................... S&T Fall Career Fair
October 10th-11th ................. Fall Break for MSU & S&T (No classes/Offices closed)
November 23rd-December 1 ... Thanksgiving Holiday (No classes/Offices closed)
December 5th ....................... Last Class Day for MSU
December 6th ....................... Last Class Day for S&T
December 7th –12th ............... Final Exam Period for MSU
December 9th –13th ............... Final Exam Period for S&T
December 13th ..................... Fall Commencement for MSU
December 14th ..................... Fall Commencement for S&T
December 23rd—January 3 ...... Winter Break (No classes/Offices closed)