2014-2015
SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITION LUNCHEON
APRIL 3, 2015
Welcome from Dean Hsu

My warmest welcome and heartiest congratulations to all of the scholarship recipients! We at the Charles W. Davidson College of Engineering are extremely proud you have been awarded these prestigious scholarships and by your decisions to pursue your academic explorations at the Davidson College of Engineering at San José State University. I would also like to extend my heart-felt appreciation to our individual and company donors for supporting the dreams and aspirations of these inspiring students.

By choosing SJSU to pursue your higher education, you will have ample opportunity to work with many of the nation’s best educators while acquiring real world experience with Silicon Valley industries. You have chosen a college that is among the top U.S. institutions providing bachelors and masters level engineering education, and just this year, U.S. News & World Report named SJSU’s Computer Engineering program as the best in the nation. Additionally, several other media and industry publications puts SJSU on the top of a short but prestigious list of the most desirable universities from which new engineers are hired by Silicon Valley industries.

Once again, I offer my congratulations and welcome you to our college.

Andrew Hsu
Don Beall Dean, Charles W. Davidson College of Engineering
Arnold Wong

“I want to help those who are not necessarily “A” students but still want to learn and improve their lives” — Harry Wong

Dana C. Ditmore has more than 25 years of distinguished senior management experience in high technology environments, including roles in general management, engineering, quality, procurement and human resources, and global responsibility for operations in North American and around the world. Throughout his career, Ditmore has provided vision and leadership in helping companies focus on opportunities to grow and develop profitable, well-managed business units, while managing the balance between a strong customer focus and responsible financial performance. He and his wife are sponsors of the Ditmore Family Scholarship at the SJSU Davidson College of Engineering.

Paul L. Hickman obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from San Jose State University in 1985. In addition to his BSEE, he holds an AB degree in Psychology from Stanford University, an M.A. in Entrepreneurship & Innovation from Cogswell Polytechnical College and a J.D. from Santa Clara University School of Law. Mr. Hickman practices patent, trademark, copyright and entertainment law at the TIPS Group law firm, which maintains offices in Palo Alto and Santa Monica, California to serve its technology and entertainment law clients. His avocations include entrepreneurship, innovation and TV/film production. One of Mr. Hickman’s current projects is the Got Startup TV talk-show (www.gotstartupshow.com), which is available to Public TV stations nationwide.

Rebecca Hickman is an Executive Officer and member of the Board of Trustees for Silicon ValleyCreates, a non-profit organization that ignites investment in the arts in Santa Clara County. For the last five years, Rebecca has been an advocate for SVC’s art programs for youth-at-risk which includes a digital media partnership program with Adobe Youth Voices that teach teens how to create documentaries, music videos, digital story telling, audio production, and animations.

Robin Ching (SJSU ’77 Chemical Engineering) and her husband Stephen Ching have had a family tradition of contributing to SJSU for a number of years. It all started while Robin was a student here herself. She recalls her Chemical Engineering professors emphasizing the importance of staying connected with each other and their university during some of her final classes on campus. Following graduation, Robin spent her professional career working as an R&D Project Manager for Hewlett-Packard. Stephen, a ceramic engineering graduate of the University of Washington, also worked for Hewlett-Packard, then General Instruments and later founded his own company, Isolink which produces components used in technology all over the world. Robin and Stephen are now enjoying retirement. Among their numerous interests, Robin and Stephen believe in the power of education and helping and encouraging students by supporting student scholarships at both of their alma maters as well as Stephen’s high school.

SPEAKERS
2014 – 2015 SCHOLARS

Applied Materials Scholars
Juliana Dinora Camargo, CmpE
San José State University
Charles W. Davidson College of Engineering

AMT-WIE Scholar
Kiersten Miller, CE

Walter C. Benzing Scholar
Brian Todd Dowdle, MatE
Erin Ashley Takami, BioMed

Cadence/EE Silicon Valley Scholar
Magdalena Cusak, EE

California Homebuilding Foundation-Babbitt Scholar
Ronald Short, CE

Ching Family Scholar
Alyssa Walker, CE

Charles W. Davidson Scholars
Jared Cochucio, CE
Yvette Valdez-Carranza, CE

Constantino-Roelandts Scholars
Jo-Anne Marie Reyes, CmpE
San José State University
Charles W. Davidson College of Engineering

Lockheed Martin Scholar
Tyler Sanders, AE

Dana and Elaine Ditmore/Gordon Family Scholar
Onur Oltmen, Tech

Flextronics Scholar
Moath Othman, MatE

Hickman Family Scholar
Ashwarya Borkar, SE

Jabil Scholar
Katyann Melenbaker, ME

KLA-Tencor Scholars
Katie Burrows, CmpE
Matthew Ignao, ME
Bradley Keyer, GE

Lam Research Scholars
Alex Shen, CheE

Emma Legg Scholar
Nadia Zaka, CE

Harry Wong Scholars
Jared Cochucio, CE
Michael Souza, ME

JSU Alumni Association
Joshua Cruz, CmpE
Jose Roberto Montenegro, CheE

National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering
Corayma Duarte, MatE
Jennifer Gamboa, CE
Khalif Moore-Stevenson, CmpE

National Science Foundation Engineering Leadership Pathway Scholars
Braden Andersen, MatE
Leron Vincent Baltazar, AE
Anthony Bowie, ME
Jonathan Carlson, ME
Travis Carmichael, BioMed
Jacqueline Chee, EE
Kareem Darkazani, ME
Ronny Elor, BioMed
German Espinal, ME
James Fok, CE
Quynh Ho, BioMed
Carolyn Jaring, BioMed
Christopher Leon, CE

Thomas Nguyen, ME
Melissa Ortiz, CmpE
Christian Ruiz, CE
Kelli Sum, ISE
Kyle Thompson, CheE
Tai Tran, EE
Yvette Valdez-Carranza, CE
Michael Walker, MatE

National Science Foundation Engineering Leadership Pathway Faculty Mentors
Thalia Anagnos, GE
Richard Chung, ME
Robert Morelos, EE
Nicole Okamoto, ME
Laura Sullivan-Green, CE
Jacob Tsao, ISE
SCHOLARSHIP Awardees

APPLIED MATERIALS SCHOLARS

Juliana Camargo | Computer Engineering
“In five years, I see myself with a Biomedical Engineering degree from SJSU with a job in either the Silicon Valley or Southern California. As of right now, I am more interested in the designing and building of medical devices and prosthetics instead of the theory.”

Jordan Helledy | Biomedical Engineering
“In five years, I see myself with a Biomedical Engineering degree from SJSU with a job in either the Silicon Valley or Southern California. As of right now, I am more interested in the designing and building of medical devices and prosthetics instead of the theory.”

Michael EJ Lee | Computer Engineering
“I’m most proud of the expansion of the company I started. We have grown massively and expanded further than I could have dreamed.”

AMT-WIE SCHOLAR

Kiersten Miller | Civil Engineering
“I am a member in Engineers without Borders, Society of Women Engineers, Tau Beta Pi and the treasurer of the SJSU UNICEF club. I enjoy the people, projects and laughter these clubs bring to me during the semester.”

WALTER C. BENZING SCHOLAR

Brian Todd Dowdle | Materials Engineering
“I have always looked up to engineers as people who have the knowledge and ability to tackle the world’s toughest challenges, so naturally I wanted to be one.”

Eri Ashley Takam | Biomedical Engineering
“My research project is probably my biggest source of pride. It is something that I took the initiative to make it my own. To me, my research reflects my hunger for knowledge and eagerness to enrich myself.”

CHING FAMILY SCHOLAR

Alyssa Walker | General Engineering
“I am currently on the Women’s soccer team. I love soccer and it has always been a part of my life and I’m glad I can still play. It is challenging juggling my classes and soccer but I really enjoy it.”

Ronald Short
Civil Engineering
“I am most proud of serving as the Vice President of Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society while simultaneously successfully chartering SJSU’s newest social fraternity Pi Kappa Phi as the Chartering President.”

CALIFORNIA HOMEBUILDING FOUNDATION – BABBITT SCHOLAR

Juliana Camargo | Computer Engineering
“Before I graduate I am looking forward to new memories, new friends, and new opportunities.”

Kiersten Miller | Civil Engineering

Eri Ashley Takam | Biomedical Engineering

Alyssa Walker | General Engineering

San José State University | Charles W. Davidson College of Engineering
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

CHARLES W. DAVIDSON SCHOLARS

Jared Gochuico | Civil Engineering
“I see myself going abroad and using my civil engineering skillset to aid underserved communities.”

Yvette Valdez-Carranza | Materials Engineering
“I’m involved with ACI, ASCE, and MEP. Each one connects me to other students that share similar interests. These groups are fun because they provide an opportunity for exposure to industry or real-life engineering.”

FLEXTRONICS SCHOLAR

Moath Othman | Materials Engineering
“I am involved with the Materials Advantage club, which is closely associated with the American Society of Materials. The most exciting part of being a member of MA was the ability to attend professional society meetings and meet industry professionals working on various projects relating to Materials Engineering.”

DANA AND ELAINE DITMORE/ GORDON FAMILY SCHOLAR

Onur Olmez
Industrial Technology
“My biggest challenge was working on a project to be entered into competition for my student club on campus. I remember that we had a tight deadline with only 10 weeks to create, build, test, and finalize our project which was to create an entire mini factory to mass produce a smartphone docking system. We sacrificed almost all of our time during our winter break to be able to complete the project on time.”

HICKMAN FAMILY SCHOLAR

Aishwarya Borkar | Software Engineering
“I chose software engineering because any knowledge of programming, be it the basic fundamentals or complex development skills, can empower an individual to contribute to society in the most creative and unimaginable ways.”

Yvette Valdez-Carranza | Materials Engineering
“I am involved with the Materials Advantage club, which is closely associated with the American Society of Materials. The most exciting part of being a member of MA was the ability to attend professional society meetings and meet industry professionals working on various projects relating to Materials Engineering.”

KATYANN MELENBACKER | Mechanical Engineering
“I’m most proud of the independence and time management skills that I have developed. I have been able to support myself and keep an extremely busy schedule on my own.”

KLA-TENCOR SCHOLARS

Matthew Ignao
Mechanical Engineering
“I have been most proud of maintaining my scholarship so far. The engineering major is a difficult course load to maintain, so I am grateful for working hard in classes getting the desired grades to pass the courses.”

KLA-TENCOR SCHOLARS

Katie Burrows | Computer Engineering
“I am most proud of seeing how much I have changed. Before SJSU I was someone that would blend into the background. Being at SJSU for one semester has changed that, now I am much more confident. I can approach someone first and strike up a wonderful conversation.”

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SCHOLARSHIP Awardees

KLA-TENCOR SCHOLARS

Bradley Keyer | General Engineering
“The thing I will miss most once I graduate will be the convenience of living on campus. Everything from food to health care is within steps of the campus village. The less I have to drive my car, the better.”

LAM RESEARCH SCHOLAR

Alex Shen | Chemical Engineering
“I chose Engineering after taking an Environmental Science course. What really opened my eyes was the immense amount of fossil fuels that we use every day to provide electricity to cities around the world. I hope that by going the engineering path, I can change that.”

LOCKHEED MARTIN SCHOLAR

Tyler Sanders | Aerospace Engineering
“I am proud of getting a job with Lockheed Martin through a recruiter that came to SJSU.”

EMMA LEGG SCHOLAR

Nadia Zaka | Civil Engineering
“One of the most fun projects I have worked on is recently in my CE 20 AutoCad and Programming lab. Learning the ins and outs of this program every week is such an interesting experience. AutoCad is a whole virtual world where you can recreate anything you’ve ever thought of and bring it to life on a computer.”

MEP-CISCO SCHOLARS

Andres Arreola | Mechanical Engineering
“The transition to college and a big city from a small town is never easy. I was tested emotionally and intellectually due to the rigor of college. To surpass the setback I felt, I self-evaluated and that led me to discover what I want to truly study.”

Jose Ruiz | Mechanical Engineering
“I worked on a system cooling project last semester with two close friends that I met at SJSU. We got to apply a lot of theory in order to effectively cool an LED light. I am proud of it just because I got to apply what I learned from several classes and it showed in our project.”

Jo-Anne Marie Reyes | Computer Engineering
“I am most proud of continuing the path of becoming an engineer. Someone shared this quote with me “Without struggle, there is no progress.” and since then I have realized that no matter how hard I am struggling, I am still growing and progressing.”

Eulises Valdovinos | Industrial & Systems Engineering
“Before I graduate, I look forward to learning a ton of new material that will not only help me in my career, but also help me in my personal life.”

CONSTANTINO-ROELANDTS SCHOLAR

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2014–2015 Scholarship Recognition Luncheon

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

San José State University | Charles W. Davidson College of Engineering

Viviana Tacussis: My first time brazing for my senior project rocket engine

Community event where we volunteered to teach middle school students STEM programs to motivate kids to become the scientists of the future

BMES dinner and the BMES Summit that brought together Biomedical Societies from SJSU, UC Davis and UC Berkeley

Fieldtrip to the new Bay Bridge construction site

German Espinal: My son's school that I volunteer at every Friday

Bay Area Science Festival at AT&T Park in San Francisco

Leadership Breakfast event

Cisco field trip

BMES dinner and the BMES Summit that brought together Biomedical Societies from SJSU, UC Davis and UC Berkeley
SCHOLARSHIP Awardees

MESA ENGINEERING PROGRAM SCHOLARS

Abraham Ghebreimeskel | Electrical Engineering
“"When I graduate I will miss the Engineering building a lot, specially the MEP and IEEE community. It is where I spend most of my time, and it already is part of my everyday life.”

Jose Roberto Montenegro | Chemical Engineering
“As a DREAMER I don’t have many options to support my education, so help like this scholarship makes a difference for many students who work hard as me for a better future for myself and my family. Being the head of the household is not easy and puts a lot of stress on my shoulders since I have to take care of the monthly expenses as house, food, bills, etc. This scholarship is a blessing not only in my life, but in my family’s life.”

Viviana Tacussis | Aerospace Engineering
“My most memorable class has been my flight mechanics class AE 165 because it was taught by a female professor who has a lot of experience in the aerospace industry. Being a pilot, she encouraged us all to get experience in piloting aircraft, and she compelled me to try it. That class made me fall in love with aircraft.”

DOUG MUNSON SCHOLARS

Nicole Deleon | Industrial & Systems Engineering
“I am looking forward to partaking in the Global Technology Initiative (GTI) this summer. I can’t wait to meet new people, explore Taiwan, and ultimately gain a global perspective on technology.”

Tom George | Industrial & Systems Engineering
“I found Computer Science to be a strange language but one that was essential to learn. I am currently pursuing a minor in CS and the classes have shown me how relevant and important it is to be CS literate. Programming knowledge is required for everything today and the minor has given me a deeper understanding of the interplay between hardware and software.”

PARISI FAMILY SCHOLARS

Brandon Arias | Aerospace Engineering
“This scholarship has played a huge role in allowing me to study in college because without it, it would be very difficult for me to attend college. I have also met many people through this scholarship.”

Alyssa Ruiz | Mechanical Engineering
“I have learned and grown so much as a student and person since being here. I am extremely proud of my ability to push through the difficult times and rise up to the top.”

DOUG MUNSON SCHOLARS

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SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

HARRY WONG SCHOLARS

Jared Gochuico | Civil Engineering
“I see myself going abroad and using my civil engineering skillset to aid underserved communities.”

Michael Souza | Mechanical Engineering
“My scholarship has made a tremendous impact on my life. I put myself through college and currently have 2 part time jobs. Without this scholarship I would have not enjoyed the same academic success and had the time to take part in so many leadership opportunities.

SJSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Jose Roberto Montenegro | Chemical Engineering
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Jennifer Gamboa | General Engineering
“With my ME degree I want to work in an area that combines my love for animals and my love for design to create habitats or structures that will help animals. Whether they are in zoos, kennels, or even game reserves, I would like to use my skills as an engineer to help those that don’t have a voice.”

Joshua Cruz | Computer Engineering
“The most memorable class for me was Object-Oriented Concepts and Methodologies (CMPE 50) with Professor Frank Lin. I believe that this class was probably the turning point for me really feeling validated about my choice of major.”

Corayma Duarte | Materials Engineering
“Up until graduation, I am looking forward to further expanding my network, gaining more knowledge from my professors, and working with my peers.”

Jennifer Gamboa | General Engineering

Khalif Moore-Stevenson | Computer Engineering
“I am proud to be able to give back to the community by working in the MEP office as an advisor for the CELL Program.”

NATIONAL ACTION COUNCIL FOR MINORITIES IN ENGINEERING

Khalif Moore-Stevenson | Computer Engineering
“I am proud to be able to give back to the community by working in the MEP office as an advisor for the CELL Program.”

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION ENGINEERING LEADERSHIP PATHWAY SCHOLARS

Branden Andersen | Mechanical Engineering
“I am going to miss late nights in the IEEE room, making jokes and complaining about my courses with other students when I graduate. Once I graduate from SJSU, it will probably feel like I am leaving my family.”
NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION ENGINEERING LEADERSHIP PATHWAY SCHOLARS

Leroi Vincent Baltazar | Aerospace Engineering
“Once I graduate I will miss the adventure of meeting and working with different students and professors. Overcoming each day is a satisfying endeavor.”

Anthony Bowe | Mechanical Engineering
“My biggest challenge was as an infant. According to medical doctors, I was supposed to have a severe learning disability because I was an adopted drug-addicted baby. However through hard work and the love of my family, I have proved that anything is possible.”

Jonathan Carlson | Mechanical Engineering
“I am looking forward to completing my senior project and working with clubs on campus in engineering competitions.”

Travis Carmichael | Biomedical Engineering
“My biggest challenge was quitting my full time job in construction to come back to school. It was a struggle working long and unsteady hours while going to community college. However, I have been lucky enough to focus on school and pursue my dream of obtaining a Ph.D/M.D.”

Jacqueline Chee | Electrical Engineering
“I am proud of many big achievements I made at SJSU. These include being recognized as a Dean’s Scholar for two years, receiving ELPS scholarship, being selected to participate in Global Technology Initiative.”

Kareem Darkazanli | Mechanical Engineering
“My biggest challenge was working 30 hours a week in 2 different jobs while remaining a full time student and maintaining my GPA. I overcame this challenge when receiving the ELPS scholarship as well as one from West Valley which has helped financially support me and allow me to focus solely on my courses.”

Ronny Elor | Biomedical Engineering
“I’m proud of the teamwork and people skills I developed while at SJSU due to numerous group project/assignments in classes. I will be especially proud of my senior project once it is complete.”

German Espinal | Mechanical Engineering
“I chose Engineering because of my passion for finding solutions to problems. I believe in Engineering as a powerful resource for making changes in our planet and society for good.”

SCHOLARSHIP Awardees
San José State University | Charles W. Davidson College of Engineering

2014–2015 Scholarship Recognition Luncheon

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION ENGINEERING LEADERSHIP PATHWAY SCHOLARS

Quynh Ho | Biomedical Engineering
“I chose engineering because my dad had a bypass surgery, and I realized the benefit of technologies to the human health. Growing up in a poor country where these technologies are luxury we couldn’t afford, I really appreciate what engineering have done for human life.”

James Fok | Civil Engineering
“Currently, I work for Santa Clara County: Roads and Airport Department for the Traffic Division. The most memorable thing about my internship is my supervisor. He is a great teacher, friend, and boss.”

Carolyn Jaring | Biomedical Engineering
“Because of this scholarship I am able to pursue my studies without having to worry about the financial burden.”

Christian Ruiz | Civil Engineering
“CE 162 Structural Concrete Design has to be the most memorable class I have taken. No other class have I spent as many long nights preparing or studying for the material. The semester project taught me so much about the process and feasibility of the construction process of a concrete structure, information that will carry on throughout my professional career.”

Christopher Leon | Civil Engineering
“One of the biggest challenges (and blessings) I have had in my life thus far has been trying to balance school and work, alongside being a father and husband. My family is absolutely the focus of my life, and while it has been a lot to handle, it is a challenge that I am most definitely suited for, and grateful to have.”

Thomas Nguyen | Mechanical Engineering
“It was challenging for me to break out of the shell was definitely hard, but I overcame it through club activities and just being more involved, which helped me explore new things.”

Melissa Ortiz | Computer Engineering
“My father owned his own engineering company and every day after school or on the weekends he would take me to his shop and show me around. I was always curious as to what he was doing. As I got older, I learned more and began to help him with projects. He made it fun and “cool”, it never seemed like we were actually working. After I graduated high school, I knew I wanted to become an engineer just like him.”

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SCHOLARSHIP Awardees

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION ENGINEERING LEADERSHIP PATHWAY SCHOLARS

Kelli Sum | Industrial & Systems Engineering
“In 5 years, I would like to either finish graduate school or be working full-time as an engineer. I hope to be in a leadership role and form solid relationships with my teammates to create innovative solutions to engineering problems.”

Michael Walker | Materials Engineering
“Until I graduate, I look forward to doing all sorts of cool experiments in my classes along with doing a project that will have an impact (hopefully) on society.”

Tai Tran | Electrical Engineering
“I am involved in a lot of activities of ELPS, MESA Engineering Programs, IEEE, and Tau Beta Pi. Sometimes it’s challenging to keep the balance between clubs activities and school works.”

Yvette Valdez-Carranza | Civil Engineering
“I’m involved with ACI, ASCE, and MEP. Each one connects me to other students that share similar interests. These groups are fun because they provide an opportunity for exposure to industry or real-life engineering.”

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION ENGINEERING LEADERSHIP PATHWAY FACULTY MENTORS

Thalia Anagnos | General Engineering
Richard Chung | Biomedical, Chemical & Materials Engineering
Robert Morelos | Electrical Engineering

Nicole Okamoto | Mechanical Engineering
Laura Sullivan-Green | Civil Engineering
Jacob Tsao | Industrial & Systems Engineering

San José State University | Charles W. Davidson College of Engineering
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

San José State University  |  Charles W. Davidson College of Engineering

SPECIAL THANKS

AMT-WiE
Applied Materials
Cadence
California Building Industry Foundation – Lee A. Babbit
Charles W. Davidson Endowment
Ching Family
Dana and Elaine Ditmore Endowment
David A. Brown Endowment
Doug Munson
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Maria and Wim Roelandts
MEP
National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering
National Science Foundation
Parisi Family
SJSU Alumni Association
Walter C. Benzing Endowment
Use one word to describe your experience as an engineering student at SJSU:

Fortunate

Use one word to describe what you think of engineering as a career:

Incredible