2026 UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND COLLEGE PARK

A. JAMES CLARK SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

Undergraduate **Honors and Awards** Ceremony

THE A. JAMES CLARK SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

2026 UNDERGRADUATE HONORS AND AWARDS CEREMONY

Program

Welcome and Opening Remarks
Samuel Graham, *Dean and Nariman Farvardin Professor*

Presentation of Awards

AEROSPACE ENGINEERING
Alison Flatau, *Professor and Chair*

BIOENGINEERING
Kimberly Stroka, *Associate Professor & Director of Undergraduate Studies*

CHEMICAL AND BIOMOLECULAR ENGINEERING
Peter Kofinas, *Professor and Chair*

CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING
Nii Attoh-Okine, *Professor and Chair*

ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING
Donald Yeung, *Professor and Associate Chair*

FIRE PROTECTION ENGINEERING
Arnaud Trouvé, *Professor, Chair & Director of Graduate Studies*

MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
Ichiro Takeuchi, *Professor and Chair*

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
Patrick McCluskey, *Professor and Interim Chair*

ENGINEERING CAREER SERVICES
Veronica Perrigan, *Director*

WOMEN IN ENGINEERING
Paige Smith, *Director*

CENTER FOR MINORITIES IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
Rosemary Parker, *Director*

MARYLAND TECHNOLOGY ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE
Joseph Naft, *Director, Maryland Industrial Partnerships*

A. JAMES CLARK SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
Samuel Graham, *Dean and Nariman Farvardin Professor*

Kenneth Kiger, *Professor and Associate Dean of Undergraduate Programs*

Closing Remarks

AEROSPACE ENGINEERING

2026 HONORS AND AWARDS

The **Department of Aerospace Junior Merit Award** is presented to juniors in the department who have attained the highest overall academic average.

Awarded to **Ryan Brown**, **Isabella Schroeder**, *and* **Jack Szyprowski**

The **Joseph Guthrie Scholarship Award** is presented to a junior in the department who has attained the highest overall academic average.

Awarded to **Mia Mikowski**

The **Alfred Gessow Scholarship Award** is presented to those seniors in the department who have attained the highest overall academic average.

Awarded to **Joseph Hauerstein**, **Robert Latyak**, *and* **Bence Szego**

The **American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Outstanding Achievement Award** is presented to the student who has made the most outstanding contribution through scholarship and service to the student branch and the department.

Awarded to **Samuel Heintz**

The **Women in Aeronautics and Astronautics Award** is presented to those students who have made the most outstanding contribution through scholarship and service to the organization and the department.

Awarded to **Marissa Potts** *and* **Amelia Skeers**

The **Department of Aerospace Engineering Chair's Award** is presented to those students who have made the most outstanding contributions through excellence in academics and outstanding service and leadership to the department.

Awarded to **Matthew Chou**, **Samuel Heintz**, **Marissa Potts, Amelia Skeers**, *and* **Akemi Takeuchi**

ABOUT THE AWARDEES

Matthew Chou is a senior aerospace engineering student. He currently serves as president of the Terrapin Rocket Team, Maryland's rocketry club, which placed first in their world's competition in 2024. He previously served as president of Sigma Gamma Tau, the aerospace honors society. For the past two years, he has conducted research with Dr. Cadou on magnetohydrodynamic generators for alternative spacecraft power systems and has mentored two freshman research groups. He previously interned at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory as a modeling engineer and will continue this work at Astrion.

Joseph Hauerstein is a senior majoring in aerospace engineering with a 4.0 GPA. He has completed the University Honors (UH) Citation and the UH Student Fellowship. Since his freshman year, he has been a member of the Terrapin Rocket Team, where he now leads the development of the live video, telemetry, and ground station subsystems. Joseph has interned twice at Goddard Space Flight Center in the Navigation and Mission Design Branch, where he worked to improve branch trajectory optimization tools. Last summer, he began research at the University of Maryland as part of the combined BS/MS program and has been accepted to graduate school to pursue his master's degree.

Samuel Heintz is a junior aerospace engineering student and current president of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. Samuel currently performs research with the Radiation Facilities, working closely with their particle accelerator group to simulate radiation in space. He has served as a mentor for students in ENAE100 and continues to aid student projects through the Balloon Payload Program. Samuel plans to pursue a PhD in aerospace engineering after graduation.

Robert "Chase" Latyak is a senior aerospace engineering student with a 4.0 GPA. He has completed the University Honors program and is currently in the aerospace engineering honors program, which includes undergraduate research with the High-Speed Aerodynamics and Propulsion Laboratory. He is an active member of Engineers Without Borders, serving as a travel team member for the Uganda and Senegal projects. He has also studied abroad with the Clark-in-Madrid program and is a member of club tennis. After graduation, he plans to work in the aerospace field at ATA Engineering.

Mia Mikowski is a junior aerospace engineering student with a 4.0 GPA. She is a member of the aerospace honors program, where she conducts research for the MIRAGE Lab. Her research is focused on defect tolerance and advanced metrology of additively manufactured lattice structures. Mia also serves as president of the UMD Triathlon team and sits on the board of directors at UMD Hillel.

Marissa Potts is an aerospace engineering major and currently holds the position of co-chair for Women in Aeronautics and Astronautics. Marissa strives to bring inclusivity in the aerospace engineering field, and is concurrently involved in many other campus organizations. She has been president of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics UMD chapter, a committed member of the Society of Women Engineers, and is in the professional sorority Alpha Omega Epsilon.

Isabella Schroeder is a junior aerospace engineering major with a minor in robotics and autonomous systems. She serves as the undergraduate liaison for Women in Aeronautics and Astronautics (WIAA), where she enjoys planning events and building a community within WIAA. Isabella is also a member of the airbrake subteam on the Terrapin Rocket Team, and she conducts research on dual engine propulsion systems in the Advanced Propulsion Research Laboratory. In addition, she is a member of honor societies Sigma Gamma Tau and Tau Beta Pi, and assists in the care of the horse herd at the campus' farm.

Amelia "Mia" Skeers is a senior aerospace engineering student. She currently serves as the co-chair of Women in Aeronautics and Astronautics and has previously served as their communications officer. She is an alumna of the Flexus Living and Learning Program and a member of the aerospace honors program. Mia is the secretary of Tau Beta Pi and has served as a ClarkLeader for the ClarkLEAD program for the past three years. She conducts research in automated asteroid detection in the Strategic Space Sensing Lab. After graduation, Mia will pursue her PhD at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Bence Szego is a senior in the aerospace engineering honors program with a 4.0 GPA and an alum of the Honors Global Challenges and Solutions living and learning program. He currently serves as the president of Sigma Gamma Tau and is also a member of Tau Beta Pi. Bence is conducting research with the Space Systems Lan to be published with the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics regional student conference. Bence has accepted an offer to begin working professionally after graduation.

Jack Szyprowski is a junior aerospace engineering student and completed the College Park Scholars Public Leadership Program. Jack is also in the aerospace honors program, pursuing research on 3D printed structured fabrics in the Composites Research Lab. He is the vice president of the UMD chapter of the Society for the Advancement of Material and Process Engineering. Jack completed an internship at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Goddard Space Flight Center, designing low-cost magnetometers for space weather research. After graduation, he hopes to contribute to the peaceful exploration and discovery of space.

Akemi Takeuchi is a senior aerospace engineering student with a minor in planetary science. She is a board member of the Nearspace Balloon Payload Program, where she launches weather balloons and mentors students. She is also helping to plan the 2026 American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Region 1 Student Conference. Akemi is formerly a NASA intern and has conducted research at Brown University and the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory to better understand the Moon, Europa, and Comet 67P. After she graduates, she looks forward to pursuing a PhD in planetary science.

BIOENGINEERING

2026 HONORS AND AWARDS

The **Fischell Department of Bioengineering Outstanding Junior Award** is presented on the basis of outstanding academic achievement and contributions to the profession and the department by a junior.

Awarded to **Joel Thomas**

The **Fischell Department of Bioengineering Outstanding Senior Award** is presented on the basis of outstanding academic achievement and contributions to the profession and the department by a senior.

Awarded to **Emilee Yuan**

The **Fischell Department of Bioengineering Outstanding Research Award** is presented on the basis of significant contributions to research, the department, and the field of bioengineering.

Awarded to **Alejandra Bogusch**

The **Fischell Department of Bioengineering Outstanding Leadership Award** is presented to excellent students who have shown exemplary leadership within the community, department, university, and profession.

Awarded to **Mia Jocić** *and* **Pantea Vafaei**

The **Fischell Department of Bioengineering Outstanding Service Award** is presented to an excellent student who has contributed significantly to the community, department, university, and profession.

Awarded to **Maria Chen**

ABOUT THE AWARDEES

Alejandra "Alie" Bogusch is a senior bioengineering major and will be graduating Spring 2026. She has contributed to research in the field of molecular diagnostics in Professor Ian White's lab through her work on biomarker purification and enrichment, which was published in Analytical Chemistry. She is also a member of the Bioengineering Honors Program and will be defending her thesis in April. After graduation, Alie is planning to pursue a PhD to continue her research journey.

Maria Chen is a sophomore bioengineering student with an economics minor, on the pre-med track. She is a member of the Integrated Life Sciences (ILS) Honors Program and serves as a peer mentor for freshmen. On campus, Maria is involved in research at the Maisel Lab, helping to develop enhanced nanoparticles for lymph node targeting. Her other involvements include being a child life volunteer at the Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital and a volunteer tutor for a wide range of subjects. Maria is looking forward to studying abroad in Singapore this fall and hopes to continue her efforts toward medical school.

Mia Jocic is a first-generation bioengineering student with a minor in Science, Technology, Ethics, and Policy. She first became involved with the WIE Program as a mentee and went on to serve as a mentor, tutor, and mentor coordinator. Formerly on the UMaryland iGEM team, Mia represented the Clark School in Paris at the 2024 International Genetically Engineered Machine Competition. She has previously worked at MilliporeSigma and Clasp Therapeutics, and is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa. Mia is interested in pursuing translational, health equity, and therapeutic engineering opportunities after graduation.

Joel Thomas is a junior majoring in biocomputational engineering with a 3.75 GPA. He conducts computational lung cancer research as an undergraduate researcher with SUNY Upstate Medical University, where his work applying machine learning to medical imaging has been accepted for presentation at the American Association for Cancer Research. He is also an artificial intelligence engineer intern at Rise Therapeutics developing computational artificial intelligence tools for clinical research. Joel supports the biocomputational engineering program through student outreach and research engagement.

Pantea Vafaei is a senior bioengineering student and member of the Alpha Eta Mu Beta Honor Society. She serves as the president of the Biomedical Engineering Society, first violinist in the University Orchestra, and a ClarkLEADER. She leads a research project in the Duncan Lab and co-leads a collaboration with the Molinari Lab. Pantea has received numerous fellowships and scholarships, won the Excellence in Research Award, and was a UC Berkeley Amgen Scholar and National Science Foundation Scholar at the National Institute of Standards and Technology. She will pursue a PhD after graduation.

Emilee Yuan is a senior bioengineering student and an Integrated Life Sciences (ILS) Honors College scholar. She serves as president of the American Physician Scientist Association, Biomedical Engineering Honors Society webmaster, and ILS senior advisor and events coordinator. Emilee guides others as a peer mentor, supports students as a departmental teaching fellow for multiple courses, and conducts research in the department of bioengineering and through the Food and Drug Administration. After graduation, Emilee intends on attending medical school to pursue a career as a physician, applying engineering concepts to solve clinical problems.

CHEMICAL AND BIOMOLECULAR ENGINEERING

2026 HONORS AND AWARDS

The **David Arthur Berman Memorial Award** is presented to the student majoring in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering with the highest cumulative scholastic average at the end of the first semester of their junior year, and who has been elected to (or has been contacted by and is pursuing election to) Tau Beta Pi.

Awarded to **Hamna Ali**

The **Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Outstanding Junior Award** is presented to a department junior for academic excellence.

Awarded to **Lilya Fraigui**

The **Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Outstanding Senior Award** is presented to graduating seniors for scholarship, leadership, and service to the department.

Awarded to **Benjamin Tabor**

The **Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Student Service Award** is presented for outstanding service to the department.

Awarded to **Anthony Boscolo**

The **Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Chair's Award** is presented for excellence in academics, outstanding service to the department, or leadership in the department.

Awarded to **Sofia Jackson**

ABOUT THE AWARDEES

Hamna Ali is a junior chemical engineering student with a minor in computer science. She conducts undergraduate research in the Zierden Lab, studying the role of bacterial extracellular vesicles in microbe-host communication within the female reproductive tract. In addition to her research, Hamna is a teaching fellow and tutors high school students in math and science at the local mosque. Hamna is a member of the Tau Beta Pi engineering honor society and plans to pursue graduate studies in nanoparticle drug delivery.

Anthony "Tony" Boscolo is a senior chemical engineering student with a 3.80 GPA and an alum of the University Honors program. He led the ChemE Car battery team for two years before becoming president. He also participated in the chemical engineering team which won the 2026 Alumni Cup. For the past three semesters, Tony has served as a teaching fellow for the chemical engineering department. He interned as a production engineer for Saft and as an engineer in an x-ray diffraction lab for WR Grace. After graduating, he will begin work as an environmental engineer at Trinity Consultants.

Lilya Fraigui is a junior chemical and biomolecular engineering student with a 4.0 GPA. As a researcher in Dr. Al-Sheikhly's Laboratory for Radiation and Polymer Science, Lilya studies how radiation and sterilization affect the performance of polymers used in medical devices. She has also previously interned at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, where she worked on the characterization of zeolites. She was an active member of the Sigma Xi Research Honor Society Chapter, participating in research talks and supporting chapter activities. Lilya plans to pursue her PhD and continue her work with polymers.

Sofia Jackson is a sophomore chemical and biomolecular engineering student. She is a member of the University Honors Program. Sofia is a research assistant in Dr. Peter Kofinas' Functional Macromolecular Laboratory. She serves as an executive board member in the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the Terrapin Tap Troupe. As program assistant for the Bridge Program for Scientists and Engineers, she performs administrative duties and offers tutoring in first-year engineering courses. Sofia is also a Clark School Ambassador.

Benjamin Tabor is a chemical and biomolecular engineering student who founded the Chemical Engineering Peer Mentor Program, serves on the Dean's Student Advisory Council, and helped lead his department's 2026 Alumni Cup-winning team. He has completed internships with Saft and ExxonMobil, served as a teaching fellow in Thermodynamics and Fluid Mechanics, and conducted battery and membrane research. Following graduation, Benjamin will be working at ExxonMobil in Houston, TX.

CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

2026 HONORS AND AWARDS

The **Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering Outstanding Junior Award** is presented to a department junior who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement.

Awarded to **Alexander Campbell**

The **Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering Outstanding Senior Award** is presented to a department senior for outstanding scholastic achievement.

Awarded to **Katelyn Herberholz**

The **Chi Epsilon Outstanding Senior Award** is presented to a department student for demonstrated leadership and service to the student engineering community.

Awarded to **Leanne Laohoo**

The **American Society of Civil Engineers Outstanding Senior Award** is presented to a senior member for outstanding scholastic achievement and for significant service to the chapter.

Awarded to **David Ologe**

The **CEE DEI Service Award** is presented to a department student for demonstrated service and activism in the areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion to the student engineering community.

Awarded to **Glory Ogwu**

The **Robert L. Morris Award in Environmental Leadership** is given to a department junior or student who has demonstrated through extracurricular activities a commitment to environmental stewardship, ethical engineering practice, or sustainable technology.

Awarded to **Zoe Barbour**

The **Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering Chair's Award** is presented to a department student for the most significant contribution to the department.

Awarded to **Avanti Prabakaran**

ABOUT THE AWARDEES

Zoe Barbour is a senior civil engineering major on the environmental track, with a minor in science, technology, ethics, and policy and a University Honors citation. She is a member of the Tau Beta Pi, Chi Epsilon, and Omicron Delta Kappa honor societies. Since freshman year, she has played Club Ultimate Frisbee, managed a rain garden restoration, and given campus tours. She has worked for five semesters as an engineering ethics teaching fellow and hopes to continue blending her passion for science and public engagement after graduation by working for a park service or department of natural resources.

Alexander Campbell is a junior civil engineering student with a 4.0 GPA. He is a member of a Gemstone Honors College research team, building a system to remotely access and control power electronics equipment at UMD. Alex is also currently researching e-scooter safety on campus, and is an avid transportation and land use advocate, having served as the president of Terps4bikelanes.

Katelyn Herberholz is a senior civil engineering student with a 3.98 GPA. She is a member of the Chi Epsilon Civil Engineering Honor Society and graduated from the Science, Technology and Society Scholars Program. Katelyn serves as a Clark School Ambassador and as Aesthetics Lead for the university's Concrete Canoe team. She also spent three years in the Athletic Marketing Internship Program supporting game-day operations. Katelyn will begin her career at KPMG this fall, working in infrastructure and renewable energy in New York City.

Leanne Laohoo is a senior civil engineering student on the environmental and water resources track. Leanne is a member of Chi Epsilon (the civil engineering honor society), the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Water Works Association, American Ecological Engineering Society, and Tau Beta Pi. With the American Ecological Engineering Society, Leanne leads the smart stormwater sensor project. As the current president, and former vice president of Chi Epsilon, Leanne has helped organize and run the 2024 and 2025 Civil Engineering Career Fairs.

Glory Ogwu is a senior civil engineering student. She serves as a Clark School Ambassador, supporting outreach and engagement with prospective students. Glory also works with Terrapin Works, the university's student innovation and prototyping space, where she contributes to additive manufacturing projects. Through internships and coursework, she has developed experience in engineering analysis and infrastructure systems. After graduation, she will join Amazon as an Operations Engineer.

David Ologe is a civil engineering student who has served as president and vice president of the American Society of Civil Engineers, secretary of Chi Epsilon Engineering Honor Society, and as a Clark School Ambassador. He has also been a student consultant through the QUEST Honors Program and a community assistant through UMD's Department of Resident Life and Capstone On-Campus Management. David is also a member of the Black Engineers Society, College Success Scholars program through the Office of Multi-Ethnic Student Education, and the Benjamin A. Gilman Scholars Program.

Avanti Prabakaran is a junior civil engineering student. She is a member of the Engineering Honors Program and the QUEST Honors program. In Engineers Without Borders, she served as the president for the 2025-2026 academic year and previously was an events chair and sub-team lead for the Uganda project. She is an undergraduate research assistant in the Environmental Engineering Laboratory and is the editor for UMD's chapter of Chi Epsilon, the National Civil Engineering Honor Society. Avanti will be continuing her engineering career as a consulting intern this summer.

ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING

2026 HONORS AND AWARDS

The **Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Outstanding Academic Performance Award** is presented to a junior for academic excellence.

Awarded to **Christopher Parker** *for electrical engineering*

Awarded to **Frederick Zheng** *for computer engineering*

The **Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Chair's Award** is presented to seniors for outstanding academic performance.

Awarded to **Prithwish Dasgupta**, **Jameson Lau**, *and* **Jonathan Moses** *for electrical engineering*

Awarded to **Quinn Renaghan**, **Samantha Rodriguez**, *and* **Susan Shollenberger** *for computer engineering*

The **Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Service Award** is presented to graduating seniors who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and service to both their fellow students and the department.

Awarded to **Friedrich Alvarez** *for electrical engineering*

Awarded to **Carsten Portner** *for computer engineering*

ABOUT THE AWARDEES

Friedrich Alvarez is a senior electrical engineering student minoring in robotics and autonomous systems. He serves as president of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) student branch, which he helped revitalize in 2024. Friedrich is a Clark Ambassador and has mentored within the Center for Minorities in Science and Engineering and WIE Program. He conducts robotics research in the Motion and Teaming Lab and has conducted microelectromechanical research at the Army Research Laboratory (ARL). This summer, he will intern at Army Research Laboratory in robotics research.

Prithwish Dasgupta is a senior electrical engineering student at the University of Maryland with a minor in robotics. He is a recipient of the UMD Presidential Scholarship and a member of the Engineering Honors Program. Prithwish is active in research and leadership in sensing systems and biomedical electronics through the IBIS Lab and the VIPs Program. He serves as an undergraduate teaching fellow for ENEE205 and is a peer mentor for engineering students. After graduation, Prithwish plans to pursue a PhD in electrical engineering.

Jameson Lau is a senior electrical engineering student with a 4.0 GPA, completing his undergraduate degree in three years. For two semesters, he was an undergraduate teaching fellow for ENEE205. This past summer, he interned at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, working to develop cryoelectronic reflow soldering. After graduation, he plans on pursuing a career in controls or energy.

Jonathan Moses is a senior electrical engineering student and a Banneker/Key scholar. He has served as an electrical and computer engineering peer mentor for first-year undergraduate students. As an officer of the Amateur Radio Association, he has helped dozens of students succeed in obtaining their amateur radio licenses and has helped improve the radio communication capabilities of the University of Maryland community. For several summers, he has interned at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory. After graduation, Jonathan will be attending graduate school.

Christopher Parker is a junior in electrical engineering with a minor in robotics and autonomous systems. He is part of the Clark Scholars Program and is an ECE peer mentor. Chris has served as an undergraduate teaching fellow for ENEE150 for two semesters and has worked as an intern for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association at National Weather Service Headquarters in Maryland since 2023. This summer, he will intern at MITRE in the Advanced Maritime and Acoustic Technologies department.

Carsten Portner is a senior computer engineering student pursuing a combined bachelor's and master's degree. Under the guidance of Professor Cunxi Yu, he conducts research in electronic design automation with a focus on Boolean satisfiability solving. He is a recipient of the prestigious Banneker/Key Scholarship and serves as an undergraduate teaching fellow for ENEE150, an intermediate course in Linux and C programming. Carsten also serves as the initiation chair for Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society.

Quinn Renaghan is a senior in computer engineering with a minor in sustainability and has earned a 4.0 GPA. He is a member of the QUEST Honors program. He served as an undergraduate teaching fellow for CMSC216 and ENEE244 and conducted data analysis research with a UMD climate sociology researcher. This fall, Quinn will begin his career as a Software Engineer at Uber in New York City.

Samantha Rodriguez is a senior computer engineering student and an Honors Humanities alumnus. Samantha is an undergraduate teaching fellow for the ENEE101, and she is on the leadership team for the electrical and computer engineering peer mentor program. She has studied abroad in Madrid and New Zealand, and was a research assistant working with drones to demonstrate swarming capabilities. Over the summer, she interned at John Hopkin's Applied Physics Laboratory, where she will continue after graduation.

Susan "Susie" Shollenberger is a senior computer engineering student with a 4.0 GPA. She is a University Honors student fellow working to crochet and donate blankets to Johns Hopkins Hospital. In the QUEST Honors Program, her team won Best Capstone while working with ST Engineering, a leading airplane nacelle manufacturer, to design a customized platform to enhance communication on the warehouse floor. Susie is a Keystone tutor for Calculus III and an electrical and computer engineering peer mentor. She will begin work at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in the fall.

Frederick Zheng is a junior studying computer engineering and mathematics. He also received an honors citation from the Design Cultures & Creativity Honors Program. He has served as a teaching fellow for ENEE244 for the past year. Having worked on wireless communications software as an intern at the Army Research Lab, Frederick hopes to pursue a career in signal processing.

FIRE PROTECTION ENGINEERING

2026 HONORS AND AWARDS

The Salamander Honor Society presents the **Robert J. Taylor Academic Achievement Award** to the department junior with the highest GPA.

Awarded to **Owen Davies**

The **Society of Fire Protection Engineers Outstanding Senior Award**, sponsored by the society's Chesapeake Chapter, is presented to the department senior with the highest GPA.

Awarded to **Ryan Vacek**

The **NFPA Ambassador Award**, sponsored by the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) acknowledges students who have served as exemplar FPE Ambassadors, going above and beyond to promote the major.

Awarded to **Mary Kate Comegna**

The **Department of Fire Protection Engineering Chair's Award** is presented to the department student or students who exemplify academic excellence and make a significant contribution to the Department mission through their service during the year.

Awarded to **Adam Brodsky**, **Asa Silver**, *and* **Ryan Vacek**

ABOUT THE AWARDEES

Adam Brodsky is a senior fire protection engineering student. He is the president of the Salamander Fire Protection Engineering Honorary Society and a member of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers. He currently serves as an undergraduate teaching fellow for the Water Based Fire Protection course, and has worked in the Advanced Fabrication Lab for the past three years. He has been involved in research related to computational modeling of wildfires, and will be continuing these studies next year in the master of science program at the University of Maryland.

Mary Kate Comegna is a senior fire protection engineering student, serving as a student ambassador for the department of fire Protection engineering and as secretary of the Society of Women Engineers. She has supported the work of Women in Engineering through her involvement in FLEXUS, peer mentoring, and summer engineering camps. Mary Kate has gained industry experience through internships at Jacobs in fire protection and life safety design. She is also the public affairs manager for the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and a member of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers.

Owen Davies is a junior fire protection engineering student, and a member of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers and the Salamander Honorary Society. Additionally, he is a graduate of the Virtus living-learning program and he is an undergraduate teaching fellow in the department of fire protection engineering. This semester he has joined the combined bachelor of science and master of science program. He is also the proud founder and co-president of the Maryland Squirrel Watchers club on campus. He is interested in sustainability, the environment, and engineering overseas.

Asa Silver is a senior fire protection engineering student with a 3.73 GPA. He is a co-social chair of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers Student Chapter, and the vice president of the Salamander Fire Protection Engineering Honorary Society. Asa has worked for Terrapin Works, specifically at the woodshop, for two years. He has helped facilitate a space for people to create, including students in several engineering courses. Asa plans to pursue a master of science in fire protection engineering starting in the fall.

Ryan Vacek is a senior fire protection engineer. He is treasurer of both the Society of Fire Protection Engineers and the Salamander Honorary Society, and is co-president of a book club on campus. He serves as a teaching fellow for Introduction to Engineering Design within the Keystone Program, as well as Advanced Life Safety within the fire protection engineering (FPE) department. Ryan has participated in various research projects with the FPE department, and is looking forward to working on a new project next year as he pursues his masters of science at UMD in fire protection engineering.

2026 HONORS AND AWARDS

The **Department of Materials Science and Engineering Chairman's Outstanding Senior Award** is presented to graduating seniors for scholarship, leadership and service to the department.

Awarded to **Alessandra Crippa** *and* **Conrad Decressin**

The **Department of Materials Science and Engineering Outstanding Materials Student Service Award** is presented to graduating seniors for outstanding service to the department, to the student chapter of the Materials Engineering Society, and exceptional advocacy for the students in the department.

Awarded to **Alessandra Contreras**

The **Department of Materials Science and Engineering Student Research Award** is presented to undergraduates who have demonstrated creativity and scholarship in research.

Awarded to **Isabelle LaManna** *and* **Alyssa Taylor**

ABOUT THE AWARDEES

Alessandra Crippa is a senior in materials science and engineering with an Honors College citation. For three years, she has conducted research in structural materials and metallography, focusing on material properties for advanced manufacturing. She has completed internships at Westlake Global Compounds in Italy and at Northrop Grumman, and she is leading a sponsored capstone project. She serves as vice president of the Materials Science and Engineering Society, actively volunteers within the department, and has been a part of the Alumni Cup team. Alessandra is a member of the international professional honor society, Alpha Sigma Mu, and has been awarded a Clark Doctoral Fellowship to support her PhD

Conrad Decressin is a senior materials science and engineering student and team lead for his capstone project. As a member of the University Honors College, he has conducted research on ALD alumina coatings for historical preservation and simulated semiconducting microheating devices. While interning at Framatome, he developed python scripts to calculate nuclear pressure-vessel temperature limits. Conrad served as co-president of the UMD Club Tennis team and on the MSE Student Panel. He aims to apply his skills to help design innovative solutions for materials in demanding environments.

Alessandra Contreras is a senior materials science and engineering student with a minor in global engineering leadership. She is a member of the fifth cohort of the Clark Scholars Program. Alessandra has been president of the Materials Engineering Society since her junior year, where she has helped organize events focused on professional development and community building. She has also served as a Clark School Ambassador, a ClarkLEADER, and a summer program leader for the Clark Scholars Program. Alessandra was previously involved with undergraduate research, and has interned with Scalable Asymmetric Lifecycle Engagement and the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division.

Isabelle LaManna is a senior materials science engineering student with a 3.5 GPA. She is an undergraduate researcher in the Valentino research group, investigating the processing-structure-property relationship in metals for high-temperature applications. Outside of engineering, Isabelle is the president of the all-female a cappella group on campus, the Treblemakers, and is a student leader for Reformed University Fellowship. She has been accepted to the University of Maryland for graduate school, and will begin studying towards her PhD in the fall.

Alyssa Taylor is a senior materials science and engineering student and a graduate of the Science and Global Change Scholars program. Alyssa was previously a teaching fellow in the Science, Technology, and Society program and performs research focused on liquid electronics. Alyssa gives lab tours in the materials science and engineering department for prospective students.

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

2026 HONORS AND AWARDS

The **Academic Achievement Award** is presented to juniors in Mechanical Engineering who have excelled academically to obtain a cumulative grade point average of 4.0.

Awarded to **Samuel Bentz**, **Nandini Bhattaram**, **Elliot Gerig**, **Daniel Gregory**, **Jordan Record**, **Ilan Shapsay**, **Brody Stup**, *and* **William Trasatti**

The **Chairman's Award** is presented to graduating Mechanical Engineering seniors for excellence in academics, outstanding service to the department, or outstanding leadership in the department.

Awarded to **Gabriella Anthony**, **Samir Elsalawi**, **Jacob Kaplan-Davis**, **Samuel Kashima**, **Steven Kuo**, **Michael O'Neill**, **Alan Romack Jr**, **Cory Tran**, *and* **Owen Zodet**

ABOUT THE AWARDEES

Gabriella Anthony is a senior mechanical engineering student. She serves as the president of the Mechanical Contractors Association Student Chapter, where she leads initiatives that connect engineering students with industry professionals and promote community outreach. Gabriella is also a Clark School Ambassador, representing the A. James Clark School of Engineering to prospective students and their families. After graduation, she plans to pursue a career in the mechanical construction industry.

Samuel Bentz is a junior mechanical engineering student with a 4.0 GPA. He is minoring in robotics and autonomous systems, along with nanoscale science and technology. For the past two summers, he has conducted research at the National Institute of Standards and Technology on ceramic 3D printing. Samuel has also served as a teaching fellow for Introduction to Engineering Design. After graduation, Samuel plans to work in the semiconductor industry.

Nandini Bhattaram is a junior, double majoring in mechanical engineering and materials science and engineering. She has been a teaching fellow for the past two semesters in the mechanical engineering department and in the Keystone Program. This year, Nandini is a teaching fellow for Dynamics and is also in the Engineering Honors Program. She is a Clark School Ambassador and the inaugural secretary for the Society of Manufacturing Terps, a student chapter of the professional society, SME. After graduation, she is looking to pursue a PhD.

Samir Elsalawi is a senior mechanical engineering student. He has gained industry experience through internships and organizations in the construction sector, where he has worked on large-scale building projects and developed an interest in mechanical and building systems. Through involvement in hands-on engineering projects, Samir has applied sensors and mechanical design to practical problems. He plans to pursue a career in the engineering and construction industry.

Elliot Gerig is a junior mechanical engineering student and Banneker/Key Scholar with a 4.0 GPA. He is a chassis subteam lead with Terps Racing Formula Internal Combustion and a representative on the Undergraduate Provost Student Advisory Council. He has also served on the Clark School of Engineering Senate, Engineering Dean's Student Advisory Council, and Student Council for the Design Cultures and Creativity Honors Program. Elliot was a teaching fellow for ENES102 and ENES221, and plans to return for an aerospace and mechanical engineering internship with Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab.

Daniel Gregory is a junior mechanical engineering student with a 4.0 GPA and a minor in computer engineering. He is currently developing a bio-inspired catfish platform in the Robotics Realization Lab and, following his completion of a hybrid charge controller data collection system, serves as an advisor for the University of Maryland Sustainability Project. As part of Robotics at Maryland, he developed underwater communication methods for inter-vehicle communication. Daniel intends to pursue a master of science in precision agriculture systems.

Jacob Kaplan-Davis is a graduating mechanical engineering major, where he is also minoring in Piano Performance. A student with a 4.0 grade point average, Jacob recently completed a year-long hardware product design internship with Apple in Austin, Texas. He has accepted a return offer to join the company full-time this September.

Samuel Kashima is a senior mechanical engineering student with a 3.8 GPA. Samuel is the current president of Terps Racing Formula Internal Combustion, where he oversees the entire team, setting goals, budgets, and timelines to facilitate a real world engineering experience for his peers. Samuel is excited to graduate and enter the workforce following his time in the A. James Clark School.

Steven Kuo is a senior mechanical engineering student. He is the president of the Leatherbacks Combat Robotics Team, which competes in the National Havoc Robot League. He is also a lead on the Autonomous Micro Air Vehicle Team that competes in the Design-Build-Vertical Flight Competition. After graduation, Steven will be entering a career in manufacturing for space applications.

Michael "Mike" O'Neill is a mechanical engineering student, a Clark Scholar, study abroad alumnus, and NASA intern. He has participated in the Clark in Madrid program, an engineering leadership program in Australia, and the Fulbright Scholarly Exchange Program in Taiwan. Mike serves as an undergraduate teaching fellow in the Keystone Program and has served as a technical supervisor at Terrapin Works. He has also served the Clark School as a ClarkLEADER, Clark School Ambassador, and member of the Dean's Student Advisory Council. Mike is pursuing minors in global engineering leadership and general business and is part of the BS/MS program with a focus on advanced manufacturing.

Jordan Record is a junior mechanical engineering student with a 4.0 GPA. He is pursuing a concentration in design and manufacturing. Jordan is a member of Engineers Without Borders, where he works with a team of engineers serving a community near Cotacachi, Imbabura Province in Ecuador. His current focus is identifying viable ways to protect the community's access to clean water, by stabilizing the local water treatment infrastructure. Jordan is an initiate of Pi Tau Sigma and Tau Beta Pi.

Alan Romack Jr is a senior mechanical engineering student. He is the president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and previously served for three years on the board. He has completed one semester abroad in Madrid, at the Universidad Pontificia Comillas. Alan has participated twice in the Clark School of Engineering Alumni Cup Competition, with one year as a team lead, and recently completed an internship at RMF Engineering.

Ilan Shapsay is a junior mechanical engineering student with a 4.0 GPA. He is a member of the QUEST Honors Program and will earn his citation in fall 2026. Outside the classroom, he works as a research assistant in the Manufacturing Intelligence Research & Advanced Geometry Evaluation (MIRAGE) Lab and is a co-founder of the University of Maryland's physics and philosophy club, Olympia Academy. This summer, he will be conducting research at the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Brody Stup is a junior mechanical engineering student with a 4.0 GPA, and minoring in robotics and autonomous systems. He is currently interning at dss+, where he works on transportation safety consulting projects. Through his minor, Brody is expanding his experience in mechatronics and programming.

Cory Tran is a senior mechanical engineering student, and is a member of the Honors College and the Honors Humanities program. In the Mechanical Contractors Association of Metropolitan Washington, he serves as scheduling lead and graphic designer for a student-led construction bid proposal. He also serves as a research assistant, developing an Arduino ultrasonic radar system, and has contributed to off-road chassis design for the Baja SAE Terps Racing team. Following his internship experience as a Construction Project Manager Intern at Harris Company, he is eager to join as a full-time Project Manager upon graduation.

William Trasatti is a junior mechanical and electrical engineering student. He currently serves as mechanical officer for Robotics at Maryland, with the goal of building an underwater autonomous vehicle (Qubo) to compete in the annual international RoboSub competition. In this role, he oversees mechanical developments on Qubo, including redesign of end effectors, pneumatics systems, buoyancy, and framing. This semester, he will begin work on a new follower robot, Twobo. William also works as a lab assistant at the Robotics and Autonomy Laboratory. His responsibilities include designing 3D printed attachments for the robotic arms and repairing lab equipment.

Owen Zodet is a junior mechanical engineering student with a 4.0 GPA. He is the president of the Terps Racing Baja team and a member of Theta Tau. In Terps Racing, he is currently directing the progress in manufacturing and design of the TR26 vehicle to compete in Palmyra, NY in June. He was previously a teaching fellow for Electronics, and was awarded the Best Undergraduate Teaching Fellow Award in spring 2025. He plans to pursue a master's degree in automotive engineering after graduation.

2026 HONORS AND AWARDS

The **Outstanding Engineering Co-op/Intern Award** is presented to selected students who have demonstrated exceptional work performance, strong academic achievement, and remarkable potential for a successful career while participating in a cooperative education or internship opportunity.

Awarded to **Irene Ghosh** *and* **Ana Kanazir**

ABOUT THE AWARDEES

FROM THEIR NOMINATORS

Irene Ghosh is a senior mechanical engineering student and is a member of Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity. She has worked as a Control Engineer Intern at M.C. Dean for the past two years, supporting commissioning and troubleshooting of electrical and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition systems. In this role, she collaborates across multidisciplinary teams, mentors new hires during commissioning activities, and is developing an artificial intelligence assisted tool to improve internal workflow efficiency. After graduation, she will return to M.C. Dean as a Control Engineer.

From Irene's Nominator:
Irene Ghosh is a mechanical engineering student that joined MC Dean in the summer of 2024 and 2025, and part-time during the academic year. Irene consistently demonstrated maturity and dependability beyond typical intern expectations. She excelled in preparation, organization, and learning new systems quickly. Her initiative, clear communication, and ability to manage complex tasks with minimal oversight made her an exceptional contributor. Irene supported technical systems and customer-facing environments, maintaining precise documentation standards. These tasks required attention to detail and the ability to interpret complex information. She navigated this environment with professionalism, adapting quickly and confidently. She advanced important initiatives, enhancing documentation quality, testing consistency, and field record accuracy. Her contributions reduced rework and improved team coordination. Additionally, she developed an AI-based tool that saved approximately four hours of manual work weekly, creating lasting value. Her ownership of complex workflows demonstrated initiative and professionalism. Irene is a highly motivated, thoughtful, and reliable contributor, elevating the quality of any work she touches.

Ana Kanazir is a senior bioengineering student. She completed two internships with AstraZeneca's Bioprocess Technologies & Engineering group where she worked on purification process optimization for monoclonal and bispecific antibodies. At Maryland, she conducts research in the Maisel Lab studying lymphatic endothelial permeability. Ana also serves as a new member educator for Theta Tau Professional Engineering Fraternity, and is an active member of Biomedical Engineering Society and Society of Women Engineers. After graduation, she plans to pursue a career in the biopharmaceutical industry.

From Ana's Nominator:
Ana is a bioengineering student that worked at AstraZeneca in the summers of 2024 and 2025. Among undergraduates, Ana stood out as one of the best. She is incredibly hardworking, eager to learn, and not afraid of challenges. Ana quickly adapted to industry demands, often working longer hours than expected. She earned their complete trust, working independently after just four weeks. Ana mastered new concepts beyond her coursework, allowing them to increase her responsibilities in 2025. Her meticulous data capture influenced multi-million-dollar decisions on chromatography resins. In 2025, her work verified the robustness of new unit operations, impacting the final commercial design of AZ manufacturing plants. Her contributions will lead to a publication and have enabled her supervisor to be a guest speaker at a conference. Ana thrived in a fast-paced environment, consistently asking questions and acknowledging areas for growth. Her self-confidence and willingness to seek help are invaluable traits. Ana is destined to succeed wherever she goes, and any biotech company would be fortunate to have her.

WOMEN IN ENGINEERING

2026 HONORS AND AWARDS

The **Women in Engineering Service Award** is presented to engineering students who have demonstrated outstanding service to the Women in Engineering Program.

Awarded to **Grace Herron** *and* **Kara Kaste**

The **Women in Engineering Leadership Award** is presented to the engineering student who has demonstrated leadership, engagement, and impact to Women in Engineering Program initiatives and student organizations.

Awarded to **Arlene Schindler**

The **Women in Engineering Advancement Award** is presented to engineering students who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to social change, advocacy, and community service on behalf of the Women in Engineering Program (WIE). This award recognizes the students' lasting contributions which advance and expand the reach of the WIE Program to support all students within the A. James Clark School of Engineering.

Awarded to **Raifah Alam**

The **Women in Engineering Mentorship Award** is presented to the engineering student who has gone above and beyond to encourage, motivate, and guide their peers and increase student engagement in Women in Engineering (WIE) and other engineering programs and organizations while upholding the values of the WIE Program.

Awarded to **Saanchi Desai** *and* **August van Geertruyden**

ABOUT THE AWARDEES

Raifah Alam is a senior bioengineering student who has been involved with Women in Engineering (WIE) since her freshman year. She is a member of Honors Global Communities and the Global Fellows program. Raifah is an undergraduate research assistant in the Kjellerup Lab, where she investigates biofilm dynamics and environmental biodegradation. She also serves as co-chair of the WIE student advisory board and is an undergraduate teaching assistant for multiple courses. Raifah has held leadership and service roles as service chair of Theta Tau and as a volunteer with Terps for Change, and has presented her research at multiple conferences and co-authoring a paper in the Journal of Controlled Release. She plans to pursue graduate studies toward a PhD in bioengineering.

Saanchi Desai is a graduating senior studying aerospace engineering. She is a staff member, coordinator, and mentor in the Women in Engineering program, where she leads mentorship and community initiatives supporting engineering students. Saanchi is also a launch director, board member, and mentor in the Balloon Payload Program, leading high-altitude balloon missions and mentoring student teams. She has served as a teaching assistant for several aerospace engineering courses and regularly participates in STEM outreach at local libraries. She also conducts rotorcraft research analyzing the acoustic and performance characteristics of Leonardo da Vinci's aerial screw, and is preparing to present her research at the AIAA (American Institute of Aerospace and Aeronautics) Aviation Forum in California.

Grace Herron is a senior bioengineering student supporting infectious disease research in two on-campus laboratories: the Respiratory Nano Bioengineering Lab and the Public Health Aerobiology Lab. Grace serves as an undergraduate teaching fellow for bioengineering courses, a Women in Engineering intern, and a Clark School Ambassador. She studied abroad at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore and is a member of the Denmark Green Challenge Competition Team. After graduation, Grace will join Abbott as a clinical associate in the Cardiac Electrophysiology Program.

Kara Kaste is a senior civil and environmental engineering student, with a minor in sustainability studies. She is an active member of Women in Engineering (WIE), where she currently serves as a WIE intern and as WIE student advisory board co-chair. Kara has worked with WIE as a peer mentor, peer mentor coordinator, tutor, and summer intern. She is also an active member of Theta Tau Professional Engineering Fraternity and has studied abroad in Costa Rica and in Madrid. Kara has recently accepted a water resources engineer position at Dewberry in Baltimore, MD.

Arlene Schindler is a senior chemical and biomolecular engineering student. She is the Society of Women Engineers president, was a peer mentor for the Women in Engineering program for three years, and is a mentor coordinator for the chemical engineering peer mentor program. After graduation, Arlene will be working with Bechtel Corporation as a process engineer.

August van Geertruyden is a junior computer engineering major with a minor in science, technology, ethics, and policy. He is a graduate of Virtus and a past member of its programming board. He is currently the navigation team lead on the Testugo Vertically Integrated Projects team and was a teaching fellow for ENEE101. August is the treasurer for the UMD student branch of the Institute for Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) and is the technical coordinator of the Terrapin Works woodshop. This past summer, August worked with Tech Ops.

CENTER FOR MINORITIES IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

2026 HONORS AND AWARDS

The **Center for Minorities in Science and Engineering Service Award** presented in recognition of dedicated service to the Center for Minorities in Science and Engineering through commitment to promoting diversity in engineering in the college, the university community, and through the Center's recruitment, outreach, and retention programs.

Awarded to **Tyler Belen**, **Valentina Cruz**, *and* **Sofia Jackson**

The **Center for Minorities in Science and Engineering Director's Award** is presented for excellence in academics, outstanding service to the Center for Minorities in Science and Engineering and a strong commitment to promoting diversity in engineering and representing the Center.

Awarded to **Santiago Lorenzi**

The **Center for Minorities in Science and Engineering Leadership Award** is presented to undergraduate students who, through service and leadership, provide outstanding support to the initiatives and programming of the Center.

Awarded to **Chinazam Nwosu**, **Kelsey Afoakwa**, *and* **Jolicia Taylor**

ABOUT THE AWARDEES

Kelsey Afoakwa is a senior bioengineering student with a 3.7 GPA. She has conducted undergraduate research in women's health and completed two engineering internships in the pharmaceutical industry. She contributed to two international engineering design competition projects, including for Engineering World Health. Kelsey is a Banneker/Key Scholar and member of more than four honors programs. She serves as the vice president of LSAMP STEM, where she supports the professional development of STEM students at UMD.

Tyler Belen is a junior civil engineering student with a minor in project management. He conducts research with Dr. Wei on 3D printed seawater ultra-high performance concrete for coastal infrastructure. Tyler interned with Monarc Construction and will join Clark Construction this summer, where he will complete a team based capstone project. He serves as liaison coordinator for the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation, where he supports science and engineering outreach and student engagement. Tyler is also an active member of the National Society of Black Engineers.

Valentina Cruz is a junior aerospace engineering student. She works in the Center for Minorities in Science and Engineering office tutoring third through fifth grade students. Valentina is a member of Hermandad of Sigma Iota Alpha Inc. where she has served as both treasurer and vice president. She is also a member of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and serves as its vice president of finance.

Sofia Jackson is a sophomore chemical and biomolecular engineering student. She is a member of the University Honors Program and a Clark School Ambassador. Sofia is an undergraduate research assistant in the Functional Macromolecular Laboratory under Dr. Peter Kofinas. She serves as an executive board member in the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) and the Terrapin Tap Troupe. Sofia also serves as the program assistant for the Bridge Program for Scientists and Engineers where she performs administrative duties and offers tutoring in first-year engineering courses.

Santiago Lorenzi is a junior mechanical engineering student with a 3.97 GPA. He is a member of the LSAMP Summer Bridge Program and the Technical & Leadership Preparedness Program. Santiago currently serves as a teaching fellow for Electronics I and works as a calculus and Mechanics I tutor for the Center for Minorities in Science and Engineering. He also mentored students in the LSAMP Summer Bridge Cohort, helping prepare incoming freshmen for their first chemistry courses. In addition, Santiago conducts research in the Dodson Lab, where he studies the kinetics of astro chemically relevant radiative association reactions. Santiago is also actively involved in volunteer work supporting the Center for Minorities in Science and Engineering and its affiliated student organizations.

Chinazam "Zam" Nwosu is a senior computer engineering major. She serves as president of the Black Engineers Society and previously held roles as programs chair and academic excellence chair. Zam also served as the student representative on the electrical and computer engineering department's DEI Committee and mentored students as a Girls Who Code teaching assistant. She served as a mentor/tutor with the Latino Student Fund and Higher Achievement programs, served on the National Scholarships Office Student Advisory Council, is a member of the QUEST Honors Program, and works as an additive technician at Terrapin Works.

Jolicia Taylor is a senior aerospace engineering student with a minor in robotics and autonomous systems. She is the treasurer of the Black Engineers Society, UMD's chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers, and has studied abroad as part of the Clark-in-Madrid Program in Spain. She has been an intern at L3Harris Technologies the last two years, working in both the Space and Mission Systems segment, as well as the Communications and Spectrum Dominance segment. Jolicia has also been a tutor for the College Prep Excellence Roadmap Academy for high school students. She has accepted an offer with L3Harris Technologies and hopes to pursue a master's and PhD in the future.

MARYLAND TECHNOLOGY ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE AWARDS

2026 HONORS AND AWARDS

The **Outstanding ASPIRE Student Research Award** is presented by the Maryland Technology Enterprise Institute to the undergraduate students with the most outstanding performance on a semester-long ASPIRE engineering research project during the past year.

Awarded to **Srijani Chakraborty**, **Ryan Jerome**, *and* **Jacob Zipp**

ABOUT THE AWARDEES

Srijani Chakraborty is a sophomore bioengineering student. She is a Global Public Health scholar and serves as a peer mentor, supporting fellow students in the program. Since her freshman year, she has been an undergraduate researcher with the Jewell Lab. Srijani is a senior editor for Grey Matters Journal and an opinion editor for The Diamondback. As a Terrapin Think Tank fellow, she is developing a white paper aimed at improving Alzheimer's disease outcomes in Prince George's County. Srijani plans to pursue a career in biomechanics and biomedical device development.

Ryan Jerome is a first-generation college student who will graduate this spring with a bachelor's of science in bioengineering. He is also a member of the University of Maryland Optics Biotechnology Laboratory, where he conducts research furthering the advancement of Brillouin microscopy, with the hopes of improving early identification of eye diseases. After graduating, he plans to continue his research while pursuing a master's of science in bioengineering here at the University of Maryland.

Jacob Zipp is a sophomore chemical engineering student pursuing a minor in computer science with a 3.96 GPA. He conducts research in the Functional Macromolecular Laboratory on additive manufacturing of advanced materials, developing aerosol jet-printable inks using polymer matrices, and titanium dioxide nanoparticles. His work explores materials for printed electronics and energy technologies. Jacob has served as an undergraduate teaching fellow for CHBE101 and will work this summer as a manufacturing engineering intern at Procter & Gamble.

DEAN'S AWARDS

2026 HONORS AND AWARDS

The **Dinah Berman Memorial Award** is presented to a third-year engineering student who has combined academic excellence with demonstrated leadership or service to the Clark School.

Awarded to **Emily Ho**

The **A. James Clark School of Engineering Global Leadership Award** is presented to a student who through their leadership or service has promoted the global engineering leadership experience on behalf of the Clark School and has demonstrated significant involvement in global engineering activities.

Awarded to **Francisco da Rosa**

The **Khosa Resiliency Award** is presented to an undergraduate student in the Clark School of Engineering who has overcome obstacles and persisted in realizing their academic, personal, and professional accomplishments.

Awarded to **Valery Huachara Minaya**

The **A. James Clark School of Engineering Leadership Award** is presented to a student who has demonstrated outstanding leadership to the Clark School in activities that impact all engineering majors.

Awarded to **Mia Jocić**

The **Kim Borsavage and Pamela J. Stone Student Award for Outstanding Service** is presented to a student who has demonstrated outstanding dedication and service to the Clark School and is a truly unique individual whose contributions to the school exemplify a high level of dedication and service.

Awarded to **Michael O'Neill**

The **A. James Clark School of Engineering Dean's Award** is presented to a senior for scholastic excellence and who has demonstrated outstanding service and leadership to the Clark School of Engineering in activities that impact students in all engineering majors.

Awarded to **Friedrich Alvarez**

ABOUT THE AWARDEES

Friedrich Alvarez is a senior electrical engineering student minoring in robotics and autonomous systems. He serves as president of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) student branch, which he helped revitalize in 2024. Friedrich is a Clark Ambassador and has mentored within the Center for Minorities in Science and Engineering and WIE Program. He conducts robotics research in the Motion and Teaming Lab and has conducted microelectromechanical research at the Army Research Laboratory (ARL). This summer, he will intern at Army Research Laboratory in robotics research.

Francisco "Clark" da Rosa is a junior civil engineering student and a member of Engineers Without Borders (EWB). He serves as a project lead for EWB, helping lead the design and implementation of sanitation infrastructure for a school in Nakifuma, Uganda. He has also supported a community assessment trip in Guatemala and has presented at multiple EWB conferences. Clark studied abroad at Universidad Pontificia Comillas in Madrid and participated in an Iceland sustainable energy class. After graduation, he plans to pursue a career in civil engineering focused on sustainable infrastructure.

Emily Ho is currently the secretary of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE), and is involved with prospective student outreach through the Clark Ambassador program. She is also a student in the Engineering Honors Program and a member of the Maryland Cheerleading Team, cheering for the football, basketball, and volleyball programs while preparing for National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) College Nationals. Emily plans to begin a research apprenticeship with a fire protection engineering faculty member and continue this work through the combined BS/MS program.

Valery Huachara Minaya is a senior aerospace engineering student and a Clark Opportunity Transfer Scholar. She has participated in undergraduate research in satellite navigation and is currently part of a capstone project on Lunar Surface Infrastructure aligned with National Aeronautics and Space Administration initiatives. Valery has also worked as a math tutor supporting English language learners and first-generation students pursuing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics pathways.

Mia Jocic is a first-generation bioengineering student with a minor in Science, Technology, Ethics, and Policy. She first became involved with the WIE Program as a mentee and went on to serve as a mentor, tutor, and mentor coordinator. Formerly on the UMaryland iGEM team, Mia represented the Clark School in Paris at the 2024 International Genetically Engineered Machine Competition. She has previously worked at MilliporeSigma and Clasp Therapeutics, and is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa. Mia is interested in pursuing translational, health equity, and therapeutic engineering opportunities after graduation.

Michael "Mike" O'Neill is a mechanical engineering student, a Clark Scholar, study abroad alumnus, and NASA intern. He has participated in the Clark in Madrid program, an engineering leadership program in Australia, and the Fulbright Scholarly Exchange Program in Taiwan. Mike serves as an undergraduate teaching fellow in the Keystone Program and has served as a technical supervisor at Terrapin Works. He has also served the Clark School as a ClarkLEADER, Clark School Ambassador, and member of the Dean's Student Advisory Council. Mike is pursuing minors in global engineering leadership and general business, and is part of the BS/MS program with a focus on advanced manufacturing.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

2026 HONORS AND AWARDS

Congratulations to all the students being recognized for their contributions to the Clark School, the University of Maryland, and the larger campus community. We also thank the family and friends of the awardees for joining us in recognizing these outstanding students.

The Clark School wishes to thank the following individuals and units for their assistance in the planning and facilitation of this event:

Mary Bell, *Engineering Academic Services*
Lili Boa, *Department of Aerospace Engineering*
Christopher Boyle, *Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering*
Aishah Briscoe, *Undergraduate Recruitment and Scholarship Programs*
Shannon Hayes Buenaflor, *Engineering Academic Services*
Tabatha Cuadra Rodriguez, *WIE Program*
Damien Franze, *Clark Foundation Scholarship Programs*
Michael Galczynski, *Keystone Program*
Aileen Hentz, *Department of Aerospace Engineering*
Nicole Hollywood, *Department of Fire Protection Engineering*
Ramsey Jabaji, *Engineering Student Affairs*
Kerri Poppler James, *Department of Mechanical Engineering*
Menghsi Li, *Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering*
Sam Murillo, *WIE Program*
Liana Ordorff, *Department of Fire Protection Engineering*
Chelsea Powell, *Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering*
Michael Robinson, *Clark Foundation Scholarship Programs*
Nicole Roop, *Engineering Student Affairs*
Paige Smith, *WIE Program*
Hollin Van Buren, *Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering*
Kathryn Weiland, *Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering*
Nelpe Wachsman, *Keystone Program*
Erin Wessell, *Undergraduate Recruitment and Scholarship Programs*
Christina Yang, *Science, Technology and Society Program*

Dean's Office, *Clark School of Engineering*
Event & Guest Services, *Stamp Student Union, Center for Student Life*
Good Tidings Catering, *UMD Division of Student Affairs*
Office of Communications, *Clark School of Engineering*

Front cover photo: Michael Galczynski

A. James Clark
School of Engineering

1126 GLENN L. MARTIN HALL
4298 CAMPUS DRIVE
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
COLLEGE PARK, MD 20742