

# DESIGN DAYS 2022



# PROJECT CATALOG

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# Preface

**O**n behalf of the School of Engineering, we would like to share some more details about the over 100 engineering design projects for 2021-2022. During this academic year, we will have three design expositions to highlight our many projects across the VUSE disciplines. At the end of fall term, 25 computer science projects were presented in an Immersion Showcase. Computer science will again hold an Immersion Showcase at the end of this spring term—they will show off 30 of more than 50 students projects from this spring in Featheringill Hall. You can see the list of the 2021-2022 CS projects and student teams on pages 30-31.

The final engineering exposition with host 47 engineering design projects from the departments of Biomedical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Engineering Science, and Mechanical Engineering will be featured in Featheringill Hall. These projects were completed in partnership with a multitude of sponsors including Nissan North America, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Permobil, Mars Petcare, Sterling Ranch Development Company, Booz Allen Hamilton, Gresham Smith, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, NeXTMed, and many more.

For all the projects, we thank our project sponsors, advisers, mentors, staff and faculty for their support of our design teams and the entire program.


Design courses provide students with experience working on real-world projects that involve design constraints, budgets, reviews and deadlines. Students learned about professionalism, teamwork, entrepreneurship, and resilience. As their projects take form, student teams interact with their industry and faculty advisers, hold meetings (perhaps more remotely), write formal documentation and present their work. By the end of the academic year, the teams produce design processes, systems, prototypes, simulations, or virtual demonstrations.

This catalog is one of the tangible representations of these Design Days, which has always been a celebration of all the lessons learned during their engineering educations. As you read this catalog, know that those lessons were learned and demonstrated throughout all these projects.

We recognize the value of projects mentored and supported by external advisers—industry representatives, entrepreneurs, nonprofit mentors, as well as research and clinical faculty. This experience allows you to work with Vanderbilt engineering seniors and discover what makes our students stand out among other applicants when it comes to employment and postgraduate study. If you or your colleagues are interested in mentoring or sponsoring a project or to learn more, please contact me.

Be resilient, persevere, and work hard to make each other's world a little better each day. We are grateful for your support and guidance of our next generation of engineers and scientists.

With gratitude,



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Jason Mitchell, Assistant Professor of the Practice of Mechanical Engineering

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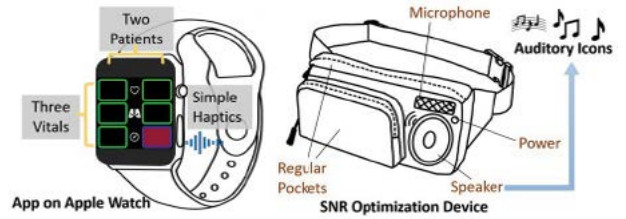
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## Alarmed: A novel auditory, visual, and haptic hospital alarm system

Sensory overload in the intensive care unit (ICU), or “alarm fatigue,” is a serious problem affecting health care practitioners. Current alarms do not provide information about what is causing the alarm to go off nor how severe the change is. The goal is to reduce alarm fatigue in health care providers by differentiating between alarms, reducing alarm noise, and allowing mobile alarms. A novel blood pressure sound can encode information about the direction and severity in blood pressure change. Based on a previous stationary design, we created a portable signal-to-noise ratio optimization device to be worn around the waist that can modify the sound level of the alarm depending on environmental noise. An Apple watch app allows nurses to quickly see patient data without returning to the monitor, while providing haptic feedback. These three components allow alarms to provide more information to ICU staff while also reducing the total number of alarms.



Providers will receive information about their patients via visual, auditory, and tactile modalities. Vitals are displayed on an Apple Watch app that provides haptic alerts. Simultaneously, our novel alarms will play from the SNR-modulating device within the fanny pack.

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## Synthetic dermal backing for an advanced wound healing patch

To develop a removable and supportive backing for a biodegradable dermal patch, our design team developed an elastic material that can be pressed into a thin film while still retaining necessary mechanical properties that help maintain the shape of the wound bed. These properties include tensile strength to reduce tearing, flexibility to promote safe movement, and oxygen permeability to facilitate the advanced wound healing capabilities provided by the biodegradable dermal matrix. The material is biocompatible and does not degenerate throughout a three- to four-week healing process. Through research of existing solutions and discussion, our team determined that such diverse properties could be achieved by developing thermoplastic polyurethane, a highly tunable class of synthetic polymers. Trial manufacturing led the team to choose PEG, HDIt, and bismuth neodecanoate as the polyurethane components. This formulation allows the backing to have similar properties to competitors without restricting the superior healing advantages associated with the novel dermal matrix. The fabrication method used to produce the desired backing is currently being optimized for increased scalability and replicability.



The bilayer wound treatment product consists of a biodegradable matrix developed by the Duvall Advanced Therapeutics Laboratory. This layer is depicted as a yellow, spongy matrix. The transparent dermal backing is adhered to the spongy matrix. The dermal backing has a polyurethane composition and is approximately 100 microns thick, compared to two millimeters for the spongy matrix. The patch is used by suturing it into the wound bed.



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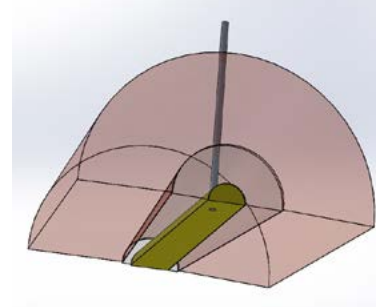
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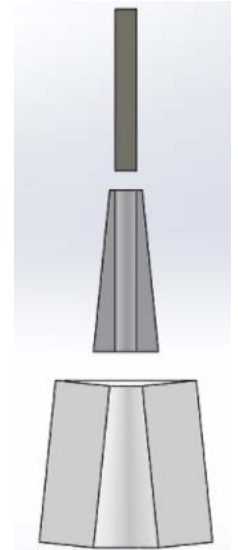
**BIOMEDICAL  
ENGINEERING****BME-3**

## Bone biopsy phantom

Every year, medical students learn necessary surgical skills in the classroom through the use of training devices before they ever interact with a patient. That is, until they perform a bone biopsy. Drill in hand, many of them will approach this task for the first time on a live human patient. As the first experience of drilling into hard, smooth, slippery bone is performed on a patient, a single mistake can have disastrous results. To enable medical practitioners to learn bone biopsy skills in a low-risk environment, our team designed an easy to construct bone biopsy phantom kit. The inexpensive kit can be shipped to medical practitioners anywhere, allowing them to quickly assemble a bone biopsy phantom. The training phantom mimics some of the most complex scenarios confronted by a new radiology resident or even an experienced surgeon. It provides a life-like biopsy experience—passing through soft tissue to various thicknesses of cortical bone, including mimicking bone lesions, and even provides a removable medullary core that simulates the removal of the medullary bone sample.



The three-layer design mimics medullary bone, cortical bone, and soft tissues (from the center of the design outward). Left, a biopsy needle through the three layers and, right, an expanded view of the three main components of the training aid.



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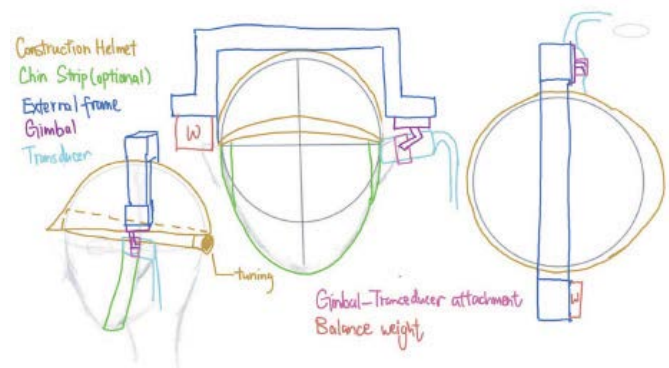
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**BIOMEDICAL  
ENGINEERING****BME-4**

## Ultrasound compatible helmet system for brain imaging

Neurodegenerative diseases affect millions of Americans, resulting in a significant economic impact on health systems. Our team is assisting Professor Brett Byram, director of the Biomedical Elasticity and Acoustic Measurement Laboratory, in designing a low-cost, portable structure that can facilitate the ultrasound imaging of the brain. We are using a rigid helmet with an adjustable sizing strap, external scaffolding, and a gimbal gyroscope to house the required ultrasound transducer. We acquired all the main design components, evaluated them individually, and merged them to create the first prototype. Utilizing ultrasound imaging to image the brain requires virtually complete stability of the ultrasound sensors. This motion fixation is achieved by the gyroscope attached to the helmet scaffolding and holds the ultrasound sensor. We expect to confirm that the helmet allows Professor Byram's ultrasound system to analyze any patient's acoustic window with sufficient image clarity.



The solution is built on a construction helmet and allows a commercial transducer to be fixed in an acoustic window. A gimbal-based system with various original components is used ensure stability.

School of Engineering

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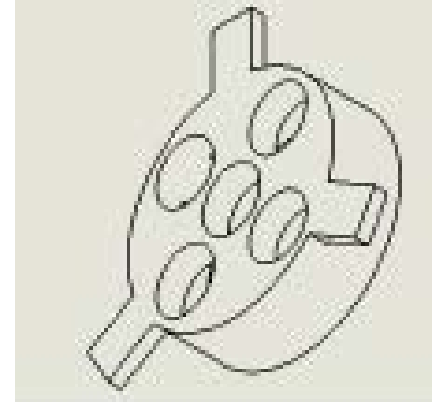
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## Optimization of organoid culture process on transwell plates

Transwell plates are a fundamental part of clinical research in its many forms. These items serve as a nearly inelastic demand base for the limited manufacturing capabilities of the companies that provide them. Corning Inc., the main supplier for the specific plates that are used in the Woodard Lab for kidney organoid culture, for example, are in short supply due to the ongoing strains the COVID pandemic has placed on the domestic supply chain. Our team has designed an adapter that fits into a 24-well plate. The adapter is composed of a center piece containing five holes. The four outer holes are used to house 96-well inserts while the center hole is used to access media. Our design helps mitigate the supply bottleneck of discardable transwell plates in research labs such as the Woodard Lab by developing an adapter that is both reusable and autoclavable. This is a cost-efficient solution that would allow researchers to resume normal practices and avert the challenge of a dwindling supply of transwell plates.



Adapter to house 96-well inserts in a 24-well plate. The adapter contains four holes for placement of inserts and a fifth center hole for access to media for periodic replacement.

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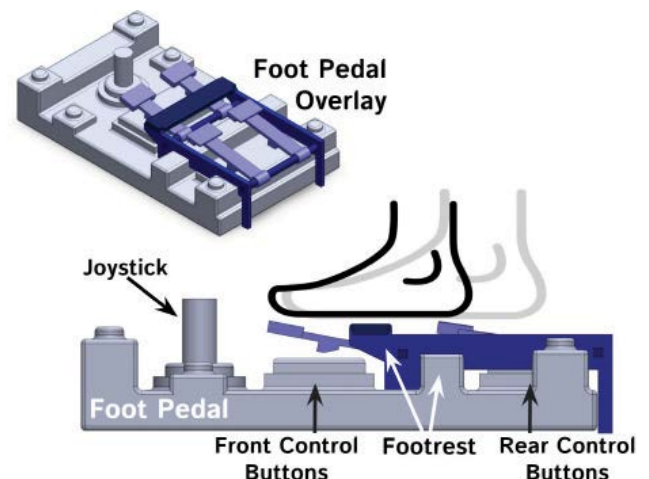
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## Ergonomic overlay for Zeiss surgical microscope foot pedal

In recent years, there has been an increase in females entering the field of surgical ophthalmology. Ophthalmologic surgery is facilitated using a freestanding microscope system with a foot pedal attachment that allows for the visualization of ocular anatomy. The foot pedal controls different functions of the microscope, such as zooming in and out and translating left and right. However, female surgeons with smaller feet have a disadvantage in navigating the buttons on the existing foot pedal. The need for constant readjustment on the pedal can cause frustration, loss of focus, and increased operation time. Using 3D printed and laser cut designs, the team aims to solve this problem with an entirely mechanical, low-profile, and removable prototype attachment for the current Zeiss Surgical Microscope foot pedal. This overlay attachment will allow surgeons with smaller feet to better navigate the original foot pedal by shifting the front and rear control buttons forward toward the joystick, reducing the need for excessive foot movement or readjustment during a procedure.



The foot pedal overlay attachment shifts the smaller foot forward on the existing foot pedal, allowing for ergonomic navigation of the front and back control buttons and joystick. The entirely mechanical system translates the force needed to depress the buttons using 3D-printed lever components rotating about bolts.



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**BIOMEDICAL  
ENGINEERING****BME-7**

## Tourniquet for use in arterial perfusion assessment

Peripheral artery disease (PAD) is a serious condition affecting 1 in 20 Americans over of 50. The disease is typically associated with severe leg pain and weakness. When left untreated, it may lead to gangrene, heart attack and stroke. Current assessment methods of PAD are often ineffective. One issue with testing that we identified is the necessity for treadmill exercise that can be painful or dangerous for patients and may often result in the inability to perform the diagnostic test. Our goal is to eliminate the need for exercise during diagnostic testing in a reproducible manner that also could be used during trials of a novel PAD testing system led by Dr. John Curci. We propose an alternative method of inducing ischemia in the muscles using a tourniquet and a photoplethysmography (PPG) sensor to monitor blood flow. This system would allow a patient to remain seated throughout the entire test, while standardizing the amount of time the muscles are starved of oxygen to remove variability in experimental results.

Components of the system include a blood pressure cuff used as a tourniquet, as well as the rechargeable pulse oximetry timing device.



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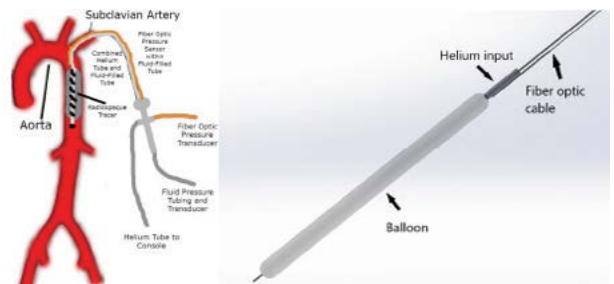
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**BIOMEDICAL  
ENGINEERING****BME-8**

## Solutions for subclavian insertion of intra-aortic balloon pumps

Cardiogenic shock is a condition in which the heart is unable to pump enough blood to the rest of the body, usually occurring after some form of cardiac failure. For treatment, intra-aortic balloon pump (IABP) devices are used to mechanically augment cardiac output. However, these devices are usually placed via the femoral artery near the groin, causing a patient to be bedridden for days to weeks. The lack of mobility results in further patient complications. Our novel IABP is intended to replace existing solutions, improving on current methods of placing the IABP through an insertion point in the left subclavian artery. We have modified the existing design of IABPs to address issues that arise with pressure measurements, positioning and visualization when current models of the IABP are inserted via the subclavian artery. Our design changes the location of the fiber-optic cable sensor for accurate pressure readings, increases the length and changes the shape of the radiopaque marker to better visualize positioning of the balloon, and optimizes the device wire stiffness to reduce the risk of movement.



The IABP is modified to improve the visualization of the device, placement of the balloon, and accuracy of the pressure measurements when inserted via the subclavian artery. This device consists of a helium inflatable balloon, a radiopaque tracer and fiber optic pressure sensor.

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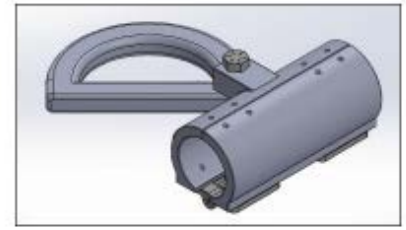
Gaila Fosbinder, ITF Wheelchair Tennis Tour Competitor

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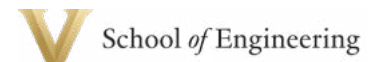
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## Adaptive sports racket handle

To make sports more accessible and comfortable for people with muscular degenerative diseases, particularly those with abnormal structural fixation, we have developed an adaptive sports handle that can transfer between equipment and withstand the stresses of the game. This project focuses on tennis handles but our design process should be easily replicable between sports and athletes. Our final design will incorporate an attachment piece fitted to the shape of the racket's handle, and a hinge will allow it to open and close around the handle. Connected to the attachment piece through a nut and bolt mechanism will be a handle piece. The handle piece will protrude from the handle across a range of angles, allowing a user to customize the device to match the user's joint's fixation angle. The device will be 3D-printed using ABS plastic. We hope the design allows for transfer between equipment, shows resistance to environmental conditions, and improves accessibility for athletes with muscular disorders.



Assembly of the attachment piece, handle piece, and the hinges that connect the attachment piece to the grip of the sports equipment.



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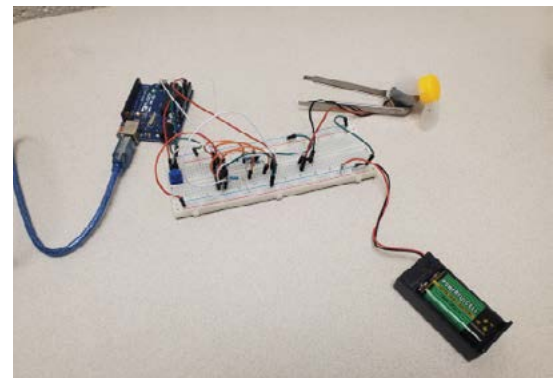
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## Portable device to support extracorporeal membrane oxygenation

Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) is the gold standard for treating patients with pulmonary hypertension, which is effective in extending a patient's life while waiting for heart or lung transplantation. Yet, a patient's quality of life is drastically reduced as they are not able to perform basic daily activities and require continued management by intensive care staff. Therefore, there is a need to improve patient comfort and mobility for individuals receiving ECMO support. To implement a miniaturized and portable ECMO machine, the team designed a novel motor driver and controller circuit programmed with Arduino to automatically adjust blood flow through the pump to compensate for physiological changes that occur during sitting, standing up and walking. The device takes an input voltage from a variable source to stimulate venous oxygen saturation (SVO<sub>2</sub>) sensor. It compares this value to a reference SVO<sub>2</sub> percentage and adjusts the motor speed to drive the pump accordingly.



The current motor driver design. A potentiometer is used as a stand-in for an SVO<sub>2</sub> sensor, while the propeller is a testing substitute for a prototype blood pump. The circuit allows for precise motor speed control by changing the position of the potentiometer.

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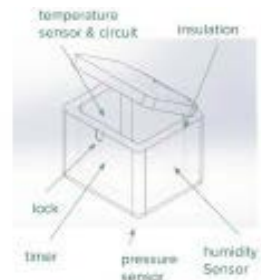
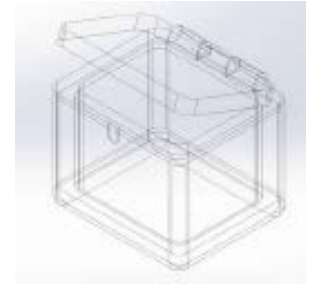
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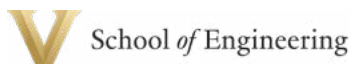
**BIOMEDICAL  
ENGINEERING****BME-11**

## Temperature-controlled biosample lockbox to maintain sample viability

Current solutions of biological sample storage have high cost or low performance in maintaining a suitable environment. Degradation of sample quality results in preanalytical testing errors that can lead to incorrect diagnosis or repeated tests, additional cost and time, and puts the patient's health at risk. The goal is to design an insulated courier lockbox that prevents sample degradation from harsh outside conditions, and that can monitor temperature and sample presence in real time. High impact polystyrene was chosen for the outer casing with high-density polystyrene foam as insulation. A circuit will be implemented to monitor the temperature and humidity, control heating and cooling elements—a heater resistor and a peltier heatsink and fan module, respectively—and to alert users when the samples are no longer viable. Compared with other solutions on the market, this novel design is the first to use electronic components with effective insulating materials while maintaining affordability and durability.



The lockbox includes several elements to insulate the box from the environment, keep the samples locked safely, and alert when the samples are no longer viable.



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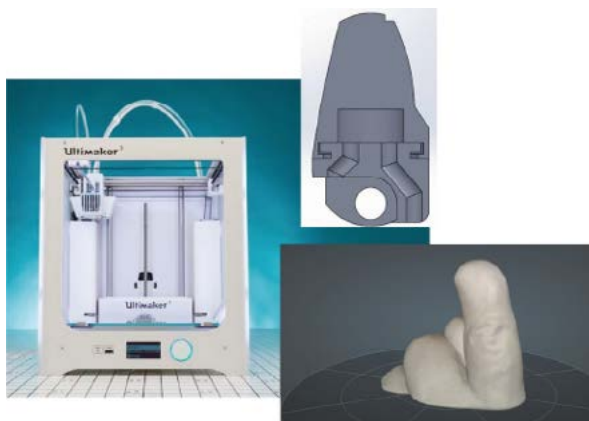
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## Articulating prosthetic finger for amputee's dominant hand using fused filament fabrication technology

Our team set out to design and produce a Fused Filament Fabrication (FFF) 3D printed prosthetic finger attachment for amputees who have lost a portion of their finger. The goal is to create an attachment with mechanisms capable of performing full finger movements, be compatible with Apple touch screens through the use of conductive materials and be comfortable for the wearer. With the guidance and testing of Professor Russell Dunn, who lost about a third of his right index finger in his youth, the team developed an appropriate prosthetic for his daily use, which includes aiding his ability to perform activities such as typing on touchscreen devices and playing the piano. Computer-aided design (CAD) software was used to design and produce multiple prototypes for testing and evaluation to identify the optimal design. In addition, we used molding techniques and 3D scanner technologies throughout the design process to ensure that the design not only was a custom fit for Prof. Dunn, but also could be adjusted to fit other patients with amputated portions of a single finger or multiple fingers.



Example of the FFF 3D printer, CAD model and 3D scanning model used for the creation of prosthetic finger portions for an amputee



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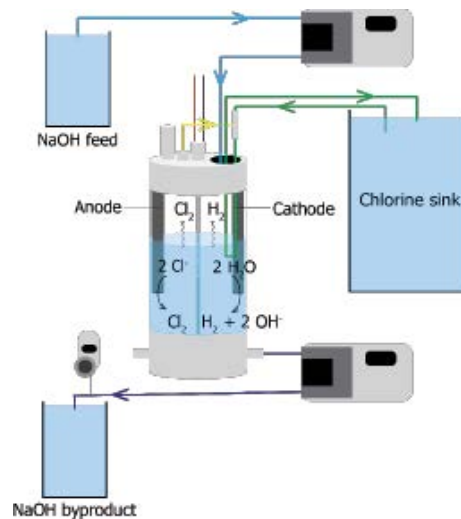
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Polymer and Chemical Technologies, LLC

## Design of a continuous lab-scale chlor-alkali electrolysis process

An important industrial process, chlor-alkali, involves converting a brine solution to chlorine and sodium hydroxide through an electrochemical membrane-based reaction. Due to the significant use of the chlor-alkali process in the chemical industry, there is a need for chemical engineers to be exposed to electrochemical engineering concepts during their undergraduate education. We converted a lab-scale chlor-alkali batch reactor into a continuous reactor and developed a lab module that uses the modified unit to teach chemical engineering undergraduates about fundamental concepts in electrochemistry and reaction engineering. Our team assembled a WaterStep M-100 Chlorine Generator system with a variable DC power supply, water inputs and outputs, and a pH meter to measure caustic product and provided the means for students to develop an understanding of chlor-alkali chemistry and the effects of various process parameters on unit performance. This lab module improves upon previous designs by eliminating batch operation of the unit, emphasizing the effect of ionic concentration, lessening emphasis on variable flow rates, and focusing on galvanostatic operation, allowing for exploration of voltage as a parameter.

The chlor-alkali unit is modified to be operable by undergraduate students as a continuous electrolysis membrane reactor producing chlorine, hydrogen, and sodium hydroxide.



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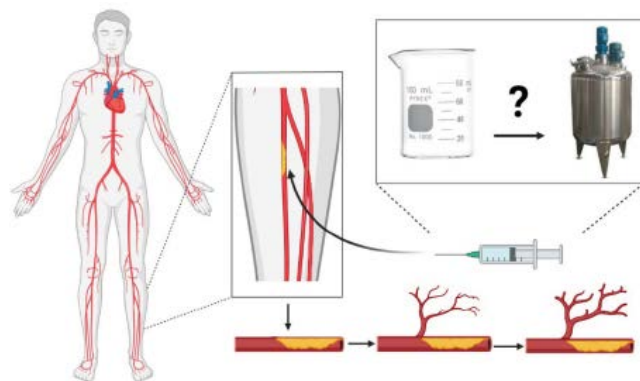
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**CHEMICAL AND BIOMOLECULAR ENGINEERING****ChBE-3**

## Design of a regenerative medicine manufacturing facility

Lower extremity peripheral arterial disease (PAD) affects approximately 10% of the American population. In severe cases, PAD can result in critical limb ischemia (CLI). Each year, nearly 12,000 people die and 150,000 people require amputation because of CLI. The Lippmann Lab created a hydrogel that has successfully promoted vascularization that can combat CLI. This project optimized the hydrogel manufacturing process, designed a manufacturing facility that met the demand for a vascularizing hydrogel, and estimated the costs of this facility. Current lab-scale production capacity is one dose every six days; thus, the desired production capacity for this facility is 300 doses per day based on an estimated annual demand of 100,000 doses. The team examined current lab scale procedures and equipment to identify areas for improvement by identifying shortcomings in the current production process, namely the use of dangerous solvents and inefficient drying methods. The team also selected new equipment to be used to meet the desired production capacity and identified the Food and Drug Administration requirements for production to allow the design a Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) production facility.



Using the hydrogel to treat arterial blockages in the lower body requires substantial scaling of the production process to meet projected demand.

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**CHEMICAL AND BIOMOLECULAR ENGINEERING****ChBE-4**

## Microbrewery plant design for multi-product manufacturing

Craft brewing has skyrocketed in popularity over the past decade with a total of 9000 craft brewers contributing \$62.1 billion to the U.S. economy in 2021. Our team determined the profitability and feasibility of building and operating a moderately sized microbrewery in comparison to outsourced production. When running at full capacity, the microbrewery was designed to brew 5 popular year-round varieties and 7 seasonal varieties with a total target production rate of 100,000 barrels of beer per year. Capital investment, operating cost, and financial return were assessed to determine the economic feasibility of the project. The brewery maximized utilization of equipment and reduced the environmental impact of wastewater and carbon dioxide emissions associated with the brewing process and this resulted in higher overall efficiency and sustainability.



Craft beer brewhouse fermenter tanks



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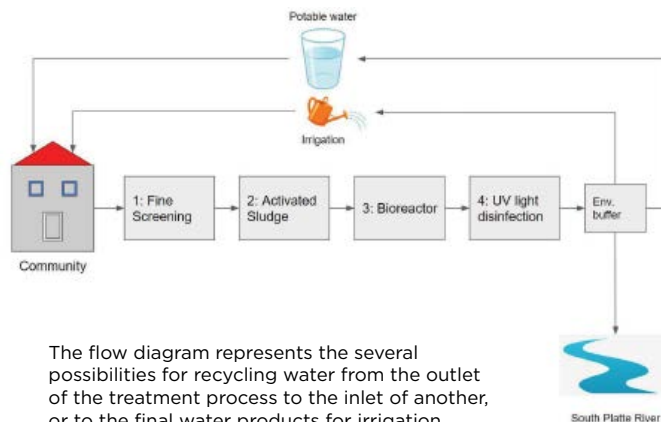
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Sterling Ranch  
Dominion Water and Sanitation District

## Design and optimization of a water treatment network for Sterling Ranch

Sterling Ranch is a community near Denver, Colorado developed to produce a minimal environmental impact while implementing leading edge of sustainability. To achieve their sustainability goals, innovative strategies to recycle water throughout the treatment process, reduce load on treatment technologies, and minimize ultimate water waste are necessary. As such, contaminant regulations for potable water, irrigation water, and river discharge must be considered as well as the water needs of the community. Also, the effluent contaminant concentrations from each treatment technology were estimated based on influent concentration from the community and industry standards for the treatment capabilities of each technology. Our solution reduces load of the treatment plant by implementing bypass streams. This method for designing a water treatment network is superior to industry standards that treat the entire influent stream through each step of the process as the recycling method avoids “overtreatment” of water that requires larger and more expensive and energy-intensive technologies.



The flow diagram represents the several possibilities for recycling water from the outlet of the treatment process to the inlet of another, or to the final water products for irrigation, potable water, or river discharge.



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Polymer and Chemical Technologies, LLC

## Optimizing utility usage for chlor-alkali and vinyl chloride monomer plants

In response to the global demand for chemical materials and high costs of energy, chemical companies have pushed to reduce their plants' energy consumption. One way to achieve major energy savings is the implementation of Heat Exchanger Networks (HENs). HENs take advantage of the possible heat integration between existing hot and cold streams flowing in the plant to reduce utility costs associated with cooling and heating these streams. Our feasibility study investigated the energy savings of a chlor-alkali plant and a vinyl chloride monomer (VCM) plant using the HEN technique. The team integrated a new heat exchanger in an existing chlor-alkali plant and developed an automated Excel spreadsheet. It solves all mass and energy balances with upstream property change inputs and outputs annual utility savings for the plant. For the existing VCM plant, our strategy was to utilize streams from distillation columns, with assistance from compressors, to minimize the annual process utility usage by rerouting selected streams through reboilers. These process design changes are expected to outperform the existing plants in terms of energy conservation and plant expenses.



A heat exchanger integrated into the chemical plant heat exchanger network allows for seven figure savings annually on utility usage.



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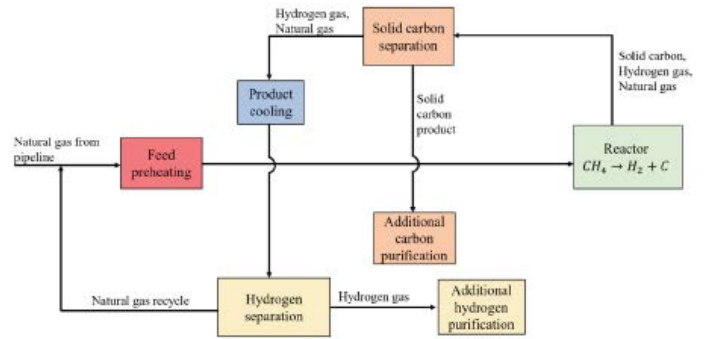
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**CHEMICAL AND  
BIOMOLECULAR  
ENGINEERING****ChBE-7**

## Decarbonization of natural gas from flare gas

The project identified a process is to convert 3 million standard cubic feet of gas per day (MMSCFD) of flared natural gas to either carbon products or liquid petrochemicals with a product price that can provide a high internal rate of return. To design this process, the team broke down the concepts of flaring and decarbonization to conduct preliminary research on methods that could reduce flared gas, and researched the technologies of steam methane reforming, catalytic methane pyrolysis, gas to liquid, and multifunctional catalysts in depth through enthalpy balances, financial computations, and usability of byproducts, in order to optimize the decarbonization process. Catalytic methane pyrolysis was identified as the best choice, so catalyst types were explored for more finite values of temperature, pressure, and activity for a precise optimization. We created a simple scale-up for the process and began calculations to reach the desired values for conversion of natural gas. We also developed the heat exchange network for the scale-up, and then optimized the process for a high specified rate of return.



Proposed process schematic for the conversion of natural gas to carbon products and hydrogen gas via catalytic methane pyrolysis.

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**SPONSOR**

Sterling Ranch  
 Development  
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**CIVIL AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
ENGINEERING  
CEE-1**

## Site design of a Sterling Ranch neighborhood

Sterling Ranch, a master planned community southwest of Denver, will soon be home to 40,000 people. Our team used AutoCAD Civil 3D to develop detailed layout, grading, and utility site plans for a 4-acre village. The layout plan designates 17 lots for single family homes, and denotes lot dimensions and areas, road widths and radii, total sidewalk area, and tract designations. The grading plan describes elevation changes across the site through labeled contour lines and the incorporation of specific elevations of points of interest. Utility plans are separated into water, sewer, and stormwater drawings. Each plan depicts the location of required manholes and inlets, as well as the pipe networks designed to collect and transport the water, sewage, or stormwater from the site. Profiles of each utility system are included to illustrate the location and slopes of each underground pipe network. Other important elements include a detention pond for on-site stormwater management, ADA accessible ramps at outer road connections, and fire hydrants for adequate fire safety precautions. The results of this design are intended to help Sterling Ranch Development Company provide a safe, sustainable, and feasible village to support the continued expansion of their larger community.



Sterling Ranch site layout plan including tracts, lot dimensions, and square footage.



STERLING RANCH  
 COLORADO

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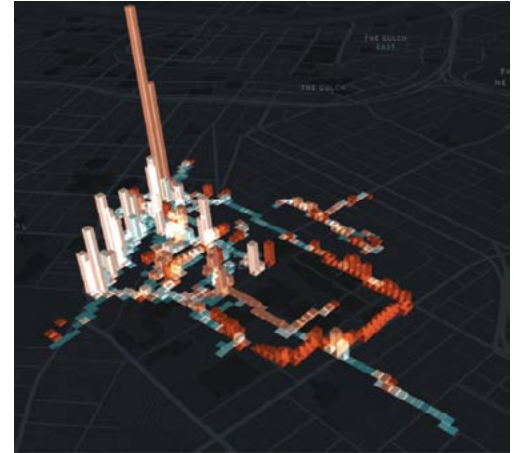
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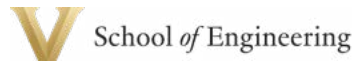
Gresham Smith  
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Vanderbilt University Medical Center

## Empathic data collection for transportation infrastructure redesign

Members of the Vanderbilt community experience hazardous road conditions as they use pedestrian infrastructure surrounding the campus. The team partnered with Gresham Smith and VUMC to pilot a new method of informing roadway redesign. Heart rate and campus location data from smart watches was collected into an aggregated, anonymized data set to determine pedestrian stress levels. Areas with high stress levels are identified as locations for pedestrian safety redesign. Current roadway safety decisions are reactive; multiple fatalities and other serious injuries can occur in a location before any mitigative action is taken. This new methodology provides a quantitative basis of perceived danger, thereby proactively addressing dangerous pedestrian infrastructure. Informed by the stress data, traditional transportation safety information (e.g., accident records), and the expertise of transportation planners and engineers, this team is redesigning high-stress locations along West End Avenue and 21st Avenue to make them safer and more comfortable for pedestrians.



Stress measurements map to help inform pedestrian redesigns for the Vanderbilt University campus.



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**SPONSORS**

Vanderbilt University Civil and Environmental Engineering Department  
Vanderbilt University American Society of Civil Engineers Student Chapter

## ASCE Concrete Canoe Competition

The 2022 Vanderbilt Concrete Canoe team researched, designed, and constructed a canoe for the American Society of Civil Engineers® (ASCE) Concrete Canoe Competition. The team designed a buoyant, strong canoe with a streamlined shape that can be raced in the 2022 Mid-South ASCE Student Conference. The annual competition is designed to mimic the construction bid process and includes a multitude of technical requirements based on industry standards. The team designed, mixed, and tested 40 concrete test mixes. To create the mold for the canoe, a wooden replica of the canoe's outside dimensions was made to construct a female mold of Rockite and burlap covering the exterior. The female mold was then removed from the wooden replica and used to lay concrete inside and build the canoe. After curing for 28 days, the canoe was removed from the female mold, sanded to a smooth finish, and sealed to waterproof the concrete. Throughout the project, the team collected information and lessons learned to be passed on to next year's team.



Vanderbilt Concrete Canoe team applies specially colored concrete to the mold to create the concrete canoe with the aesthetic design of *Charon's Ferry*.





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**ELECTRICAL  
AND COMPUTER  
ENGINEERING  
ECE-1**

## Lantern dating application

Millennials spend an average of 82 minutes per day on dating apps. About 45% of users report feeling frustrated with these apps. The goal of the Lantern dating application is to provide a new way to find and meet other people in a specific area by allowing users to indicate precise times they are available. The application differentiates itself from the rest of the mobile dating application landscape in that users will spend less time on the application finding dates by introducing the Lantern Candle feature. A user's lantern is visible only to other users with a lit lantern. Only when two users have illuminated their candles can they message each other. This feature is visible as the app still utilizes familiar layouts and user interfaces found in other similar apps. The project integrates mobile application design and backend software development practices to create an innovative user experience.



The app control flow starting from the boot screen and login page.



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Intelligence

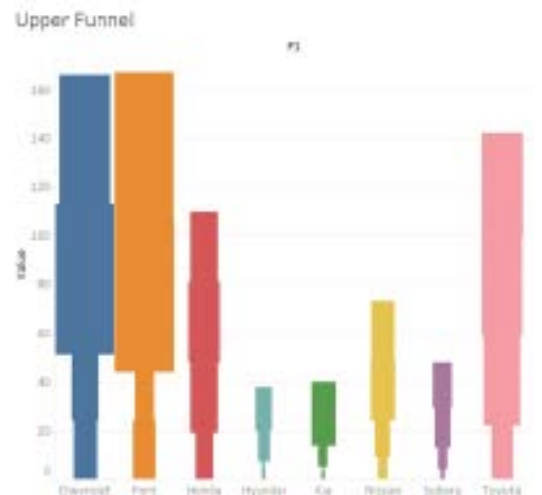
**ELECTRICAL  
AND COMPUTER  
ENGINEERING**

**ECE-2**

## Nissan market research digitization and analytics

Nissan Market Intelligence stores and utilizes large amounts of data, often all being pulled from different locations to study their customers through quantitative and qualitative market research. There is a good deal of effort put into formatting the data into a usable and presentable format. The purpose of this project is to find efficiencies with the current data through the development of backend applications and dashboards to enable efficient analysis. The team is utilizing Tableau to create a dashboard system to convey various spreadsheets of data into a readable format. The final product has fully automated backend data sorting, color coding to distinguish between Nissan and its major competitors, and an intuitive frontend system.

Quarterly brand upper funnel visualization of Nissan and its major competitors.



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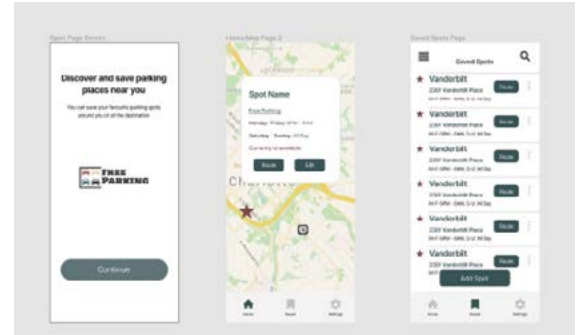
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Twin Sun, LLC

## Free Parking application

Finding parking in any city can be extremely challenging. Large cities have complex street parking systems that can be confusing to navigate on one's own. Commuters often are unaware that they've parked their cars or motorcycles in a restricted area, only to find their vehicle ticketed or towed away when they return. The Free Parking application makes the task of finding parking easier and less time consuming. The team's application allows users to document their favorite parking spots, both physical location and time availability, to fulfill future parking needs. Users also have the option to take a picture of the parking sign and the application will automatically record all pertinent information based on the GPS data and the text on the parking sign.



The welcome page, map page, and saved spots page of the application.



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**SPONSOR**

Permobil

## Autonomous features for Permobil power wheelchairs

Many users of power wheelchairs experience significant mobility issues beyond an inability to walk. Various levels of paralysis may prevent users from being able to fully observe their surroundings from the wheelchair. As a result, users have the tendency to accidentally run their wheelchairs into obstacles, resulting in damage to the wheelchair or the users. The team is working to implement autonomous features in Permobil's power wheelchair system. These features include the ability to analyze the surrounding areas, avoid obstacles, and dock into place without user intervention. Permobil's mission is to enable wheelchair users to achieve day-to-day tasks with as much ease as possible. With the addition of object detection and avoidance functionality to the wheelchairs, this design improves upon previous and current power wheelchairs by adding autonomy to docking operations. Four depth cameras on the corners of the chassis base, as well as two depth cameras on the arm rests, enable environmental awareness within a 16-meter radius, and a microprocessor on-board calculates if motion should be stopped to prevent collision. A simple switch flip enables autonomous docking, using the depth cameras to guide motion. Utilizing Unreal Engine 4 and ROS, the group intends to simulate and validate the depth camera design in preparation for hardware implementation.



Permobil simulation software within the Unreal Engine 4 framework in which the group is designing the autonomous wheelchair additions and validating their project design. Depth cameras are placed strategically on the wheelchair to enable environmental awareness, and the ROS framework is used to process the depth camera data.



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Permobil

**ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING**

ECE-5

## Motion planning of a 7 degrees of freedom arm

Many powered wheelchair users also have limited upper-body mobility, causing them to rely on others for tasks like opening a door or pouring water. With the decreasing cost of robotic arm technologies, assistive robotic arms are a viable solution to help these users interact more comfortably with their environment. Our team has designed an assistive robotic arm attached to a wheelchair to aid users who have limited mobility. The smart assistive robotic arm ultimately will be developed to offer features such as automatic object avoidance, input rejection, and grasp assistance. Our team's goal is to design a testing platform that integrates a manipulator, sensors, and other input devices to assess the design of smart assistive robotic arm software and hardware.

Hardware additions include a 3D-printed camera mount, a Realsense 435i camera, and the UFACTORY xArm gripper.



permobil

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NASA

**ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING**

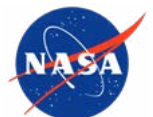
ECE-6

## Modular payload system for autonomous vehicle location tracking

Interplanetary exploration requires operating in environments absent of existing location-tracking systems such as GPS. The Payload team of the Vanderbilt Aerospace Design Lab (VADL) aims to remove the dependency on existing terrestrial-based location systems by designing a modular and autonomous payload capable of using several redundant locating methods to track a launch vehicle's landing location. Our modular tracking system uses several different sensors, such as cameras and Inertial Measurement Units (IMUs), to allow the onboard Raspberry Pi 4Bs to interface with their surrounding environment, whether on Earth or elsewhere. The primary novelty of the payload, the inherent modularity of the design, allows for several different tracking methods to work simultaneously and redundantly. The flight path reconstruction is performed using the real-time IMU data while location tracking via image processing is based off the Scale Invariant Feature Transform algorithm. Continuously detecting key points rather than searching for pre-determined features allows the payload to overcome issues with existing tracking solutions, such as the reliance on known or prominent features in the operating environment.



The payload assembled on the full-scale VADL rocket at the launch field.



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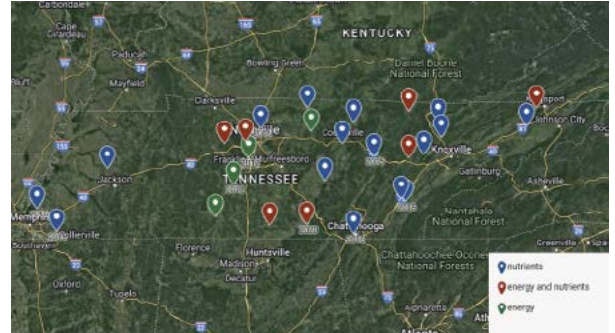
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Tennessee Department of  
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## TDEC plant optimization program

The Division of Water Resources (DWR) in the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) runs a voluntary Plant Optimization Program (POP) to assist wastewater utilities in achieving energy efficiency and nutrient optimization. Some of the benefits of the program include reduced nutrients in effluent, which eliminates the need for nutrient limits in permits and reduced expenses for operating the facility since the rate of nutrient removal would be increased. This latter benefit also will reduce the carbon footprint of these facilities by saving energy. Nevertheless, facilities are hesitant to participate in the program despite the potential benefits. Our team designed a survey to determine why facilities have been hesitant to participate in the optimization program. Our team is using the results of the survey to provide the DWR with recommendations on how to increase participation in the program. Our survey encompasses both Likert-scale and short-answer questions and is expected to accurately capture facility concerns about participation in the optimization program.



The survey is targeted to Tennessee Plant Optimization sites and non-participating Tennessee facilities.



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## Mergers & acquisitions model

The project client is in the process of expanding their presence in Huntsville, Alabama. As the Defense Industrial Base Industry is highly competitive in Huntsville, the client is researching current small to mid-size players in the Huntsville market related to teaming, merging, and acquisitions strategies that strengthen their market position. The capstone team was tasked with creating a mergers and acquisitions model to quickly identify small to mid-size companies in the locale that possess unique capabilities in the cyber, digital, engineering, and analytics spaces. Their final deliverable is a top ten list of potential candidates with a one-page description on each. After narrowing the market based on the client's specifications, companies were indexed based on a weighted average of their current and historical market performance, unique capabilities relative to their competitors, and desirable characteristics regarding the business's reputation and employee benefits.



The mergers and acquisitions model uses a combination of quantitative and qualitative metrics in a weighted average grading scale to determine the top acquisition targets in the current Huntsville market. Some of these metrics include revenue per employee, existence of unique capabilities, years of relevant experience, and ownership type.

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 Mitch Lampley, Director of Engineering and  
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**SPONSOR**

Vanderbilt University  
 Facilities Department

**ENGINEERING  
SCIENCE****ES-3**

## Vanderbilt campus lighting

The goal of our project was to meet the lighting needs and improve the lighting experience of Vanderbilt University staff, faculty, and residents while maximizing energy savings. We implemented several lighting strategies in order to test their results against the established goals. The strategies our team chose to implement include changing the time lights remain on before automatically turning off during various times of day, establishing partial lighting in large buildings such as campus libraries, reducing nighttime lighting in hallways and shorter timers on occupancy sensors, and establishing daylight tuning in various buildings. These strategies aim to reduce energy usage while also serving to establish better living and working conditions for the campus community.



The team's strategies were implemented using the Lutron Electric's Company online database for Vanderbilt University.

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 Erin Phillips, Mars Petcare  
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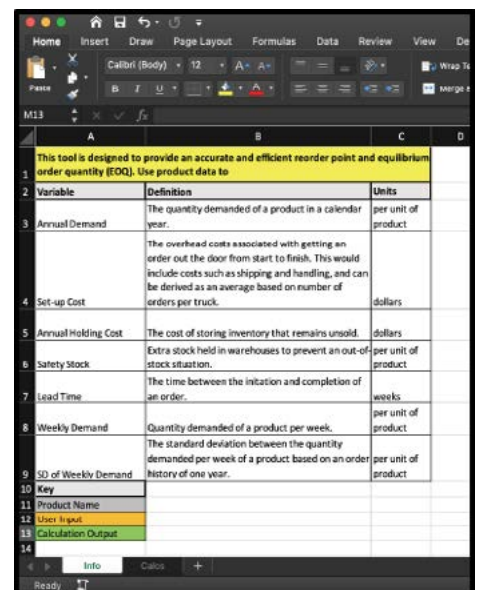
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Mars Petcare

**ENGINEERING  
SCIENCE****ES-4**

## Mars Petcare supply chain optimization

The Petcare division of Mars, Incorporated, needs to optimize and automate supply chain processes surrounding plant orders and project runouts. The goal of the team is to create solutions that will minimize manual work and time involved in business analysis. The team is creating two Excel tools to accomplish this. One tool is a template to streamline EOQ and reorder point calculations, and another tool is a macro to automate runout date and write off quantity data parsing. The finished products will produce faster results, require less human involvement, and include a simpler and more standardized process for employees to use. The supply chain is expected to benefit from simpler standardized tools and processes that enable better analysis, accurate decision making, and time savings across multiple teams.



The Excel tool template calculates EOQ for a product based on variable inputs provided by the plants.



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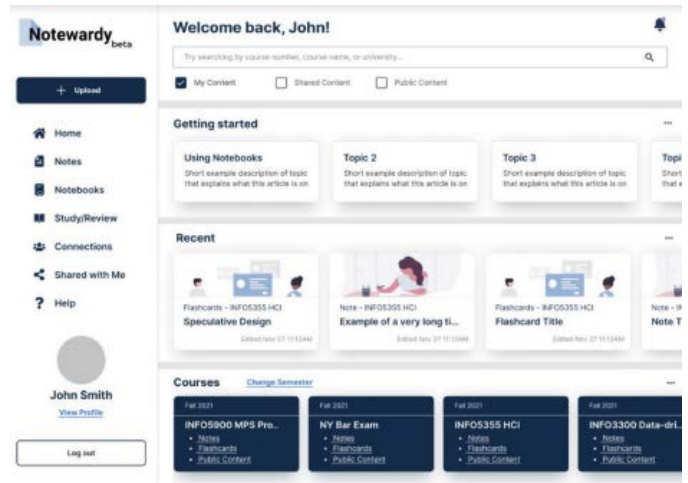
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SPONSOR

Notewardy

## Marketing and expansion of the Notewardy EdTech application

Notewardy is a startup working on developing an EdTech study app. The app is designed to revolutionize the way students study by increasing efficiency and improving test scores while maximizing learning backed by neuroscience and the science of learning. The company is currently facing many of the same challenges most startups face, such as product development, increasing the number of users, and identifying areas of improvement. The goal of this project is to increase the number of users in order to gather feedback for further app improvements. The feedback has already brought forward new and innovative ideas that will enhance the features of the app and improve the user experience.



The dashboard design includes proposed changes based on feedback through customer research.



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NeXTMed, LLC

## Smart pill bottle for tracking patient adherence

Patient adherence to their medications is a major issue worldwide. In the U.S., the lack of patient adherence is leading to more than 100,000 deaths annually. It also is detrimental to the health care system, costing billions of dollars annually. The project's goal is to circumvent this issue by creating a proof of concept for a "smart" pill bottle that can track a patient's adherence to their medications. The design comprises of a load scale that would be able to weigh the amount of pills in the bottle, a biometric lock that controls a patient's access to their medication, and a mechanical counter. The bottle could connect to an app so a patient would be able to tell how many pills are left as well as serve as a reminder for a patient to take the medication. The design's goal is to be able to avoid some of the common non-adherence reasons such as forgetfulness and modifying the dose regimen without a doctor's approval.



The components of the bottle would include a counter, a biometric lock, and a load scale connected to an Arduino.



NeXTMed

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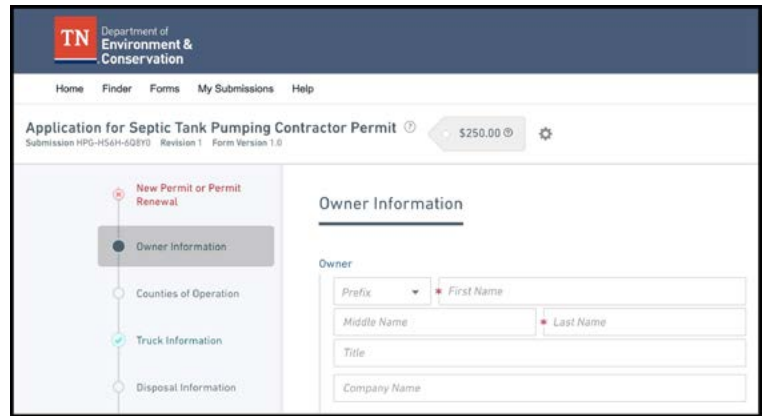
Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation—Division of Water Resources

**ENGINEERING SCIENCE**

**ES-7**

## Electronic conversion of MyTDEC forms

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation—Division of Water Resources (TDEC-DWR) is responsible for managing, protecting, and enhancing the quality of the state's water resources through voluntary, regulatory, and educational programs. In Tennessee, numerous properties are served by subsurface sewage disposal systems (SSDS), commonly referred to as septic systems. These systems must be installed and serviced by licensed professionals in the state. TDEC-DWR is responsible for providing these professionals with the appropriate applications to install and pump septic systems. The project objective is to convert the TDEC SSDS Installer Permit and TDEC Septic Tank Pumping Contract into electronic forms to be completed, submitted, and reviewed on the TDEC webpage. These forms will be accessible to applicants within their personal TDEC profiles. The forms allow applicants to complete the required permits online with the assistance of help text and clarification of necessary information to streamline the process of approval. The online forms will allow the TDEC internal team to request additional information or approve the permit on a faster timeline than paper forms.



The online form collects information about the form's owner, business entity, operational logistics, and legal requirements in a curated progression with text-help and requirements noted.



**TEAM**

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Sarah Mutombo, ES

**ADVISERS**

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David Phillips, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services  
Kelvin Winrow, Jr., Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services  
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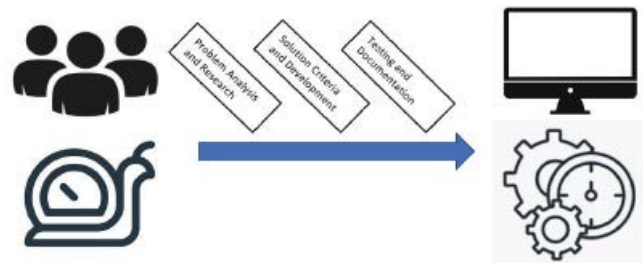
Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

**ENGINEERING SCIENCE**

**ES-8**

## Data management dashboard

The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services wants to leverage data as an asset to improve services and delivery. The Data Warehouse project was initiated to serve as a repository for federal reporting, and the project was extended to produce the Commissioner's Dashboard. This system will automate the manual effort of gathering and aggregating data from multiple sources. The system will also automate the presentation of the data by creating standardized reports based on pre-existing templates. By documenting this process, this system can be replicated to produce evidence-based decisions and business needs. Students have collaborated with stakeholders to understand and map multiple business processes. The intended result is a systems engineering report that can be adopted by other agencies and organizations seeking data management support through the creation of a dashboard.



Thorough analysis of the current manual, human-dependent processes allow for the development of an automated and efficient data management system.



TEAM

Shun Ahmed, ES  
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Wally Vargas-Ríos, ES

ADVISER

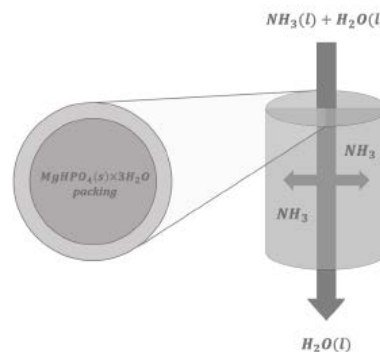
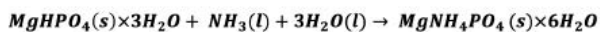
Professor Yiorgos Kostoulas, GE

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NASA  
Technology2University  
Program

## NASA Technology2University Portfolio start-up for the ammonia wastewater recovery system

This project takes the Technology2University portfolio program from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and turns one included technology into a built-out business model. The team focused on the Ammonia Wastewater Recovery System due to a spotlight on sustainability and environmental consciousness within multiple fields today. The team chose to fine tune a market and its attached scope through consumer interview and market research to then evolve into a business plan and an organizational outline for the product. The markets we considered are farming or industrial applications. We intend to determine what alterations the technology needs to go through to be able to put it onto the market—ranging from but not limited to legal considerations, physical infrastructure, application and installation for the consumer, and even smaller factors like geographical locations to address issues such as demand. Our goal is to meld this technology into one that could become a strong competitor in the field of wastewater treatment nationally.



The ammonia recovery system features columns of magnesium phosphate packing material that react with ammonia in wastewater to form crystallized magnesium ammonia phosphate that can be removed by heat or low pressure.



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VT3 Enterprises LLC

## Subscription mobile app development

VT3 Enterprises wants an app that allows its customers to create/edit profiles, select/modify/cancel subscription plans, and add/change/cancel billing methods and options. The customers currently do not have an efficient way to subscribe and manage subscriptions on their mobile devices. The team is tasked with designing an iOS application that will enable customers to create and edit a profile and manage their subscription plan. The team is using Swift and other various development tools. The goal of the app is to extend brand reach and create an easily accessible interface for existing customers. In addition to the features mentioned above, it is our goal to work towards incorporating a payment API for direct payments in-app.

Through a tab bar navigation style, the iOS application will include features for registering and logging into the user's account, subscribing, managing subscription options, and making purchases.





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 Levent Cinar, ME

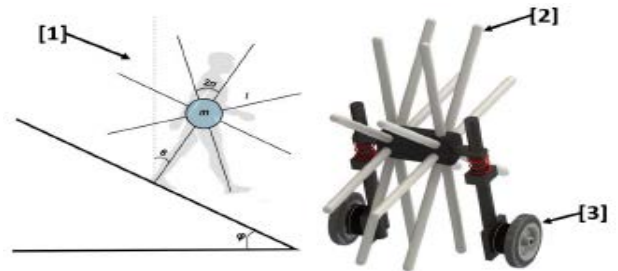
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Advanced  
 Robotics &  
 Control Lab

**MECHANICAL  
 ENGINEERING  
 ME-1**

## Helper robot to understand fundamental controls of robotic walking

Bipedal robots that mimic walking can assist humans in carrying out difficult tasks and eliminate the risk of injury or casualty. Maintaining a stable walking gait is a common point of failure since slight environmental changes can cause a robot to fall. Failure of satisfying the minimal necessary level of performance for walking results in an uncontrolled fall in which the bipedal robot is unable to recover. Our project addresses this problem by introducing a learning-helping robot model to enable the learning bipedal robot to use repetitive physical experimentation to improve its walking ability. The team designed a helping robot that acts as a set of robotic training wheel to support the bipedal robot. This system aims to support the bipedal robot as it attains a steady limit cycle and gait. The team utilized a rimless wheel approach to model human walking and to use as a testbed for the helping robot. This design will provide constant and stable locomotion in different scenarios and provide data into how learning-helping robotic systems can be improved.



(1) Comparison of human walking to a rimless wheel model. (2) Model of rimless wheel prototype attached to (3) wheeled helper robot.

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 Sarah Habeck, Department of Earth and  
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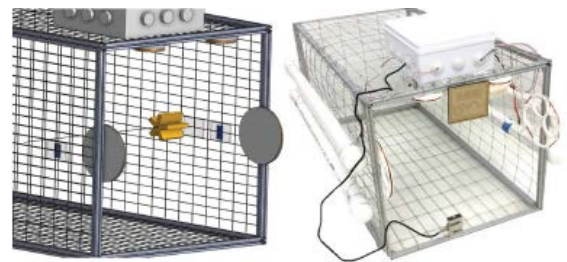
Cumberland River  
 Compact

**MECHANICAL  
 ENGINEERING**

**ME-2**

## Stream litter collector implementation and upgrades

Litter collection devices are used to make waterways cleaner while minimizing impact to water flow and wildlife. The Cumberland River Compact needs a sensor package for their litter collector, the Bandalong Bandit, to gain information about litter in Nashville waterways and the effects that significant rainfall events have on the presence of litter in streams. Currently, the only way to determine if litter collecting devices are full is by visual observation. The team's goal is to implement a sensor package to determine the amount of litter collected, what type of litter is collected, and to automatically notify the CRC when the collector device is full. The project design consists of three major subsystems of sensors. Flowrate and tension sensors, photocell sensors, and inductance sensors mounted on the litter collection device detect the presence and consistency of incoming litter. The goal is to provide the CRC with real-time data and insights on when a litter collection device is full, how quickly the device fills up based on the amount of rainfall the waterway receives, and the amount of organic versus inorganic material present in the collector.



Test litter collection device with prototype sensor system. CAD model (left) shows the placement of flowrate, inductance, and photocell sensors. The prototype (right) also shows the tension sensor at the entrance of the collection device and displays the upgrades made for the waterproofed system.



**MECHANICAL  
ENGINEERING  
ME-3**

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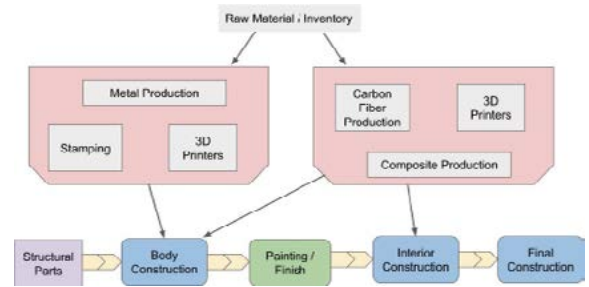
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Eric Sipe, Nissan North America Mobility Group  
Matthew Overbay, Nissan North America  
Manufacturing Strategy  
Thomas Lesieur, Nissan North America  
Manufacturing Strategy

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Nissan North America

## Modular automotive manufacturing plant design for Nissan North America

As Nissan looks toward the future, the company plans to construct manufacturing facilities with higher levels of flexibility to open possibilities both internally and with exterior startups who need an experienced manufacturing partner. This design plan maps a potential plant layout that uses multiple novel and emerging technologies to increase modularity without excessive sacrifices in time and cost. The novel design implements pin molds for stamping and die casting, metal additive manufacturing technologies for unique part production, new welding technologies to update that area, and enhanced quality assurance around the entire process. Also, evaluations of more solutions accompany this project in order to eliminate or qualify the use of additional manufacturing methods that may not satisfy the requisite needs of Nissan at this time or in the near future. This solution allows Nissan to produce cars within the same space with limited tooling changes or downtime, thereby opening the door to leasing space for manufacturing as a service.



The next generation design layout features multiple raw material processing stations that feed into assembly nodes for creation of vehicle's body and interior.



**MECHANICAL  
ENGINEERING**

**ME-4**

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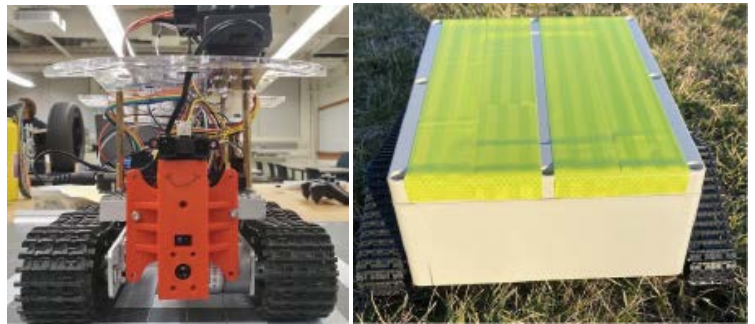
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Robenson Jean, Booz Allen Hamilton  
Adrian Perez, Booz Allen Hamilton  
Eric Barlett, Booz Allen Hamilton

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Booz Allen Hamilton

## IEDetected: Detecting improvised explosive devices in war torn nations

Thousands of active improvised explosive devices have been left in war torn nations as a result of guerilla warfare tactics. These IEDs continue to kill, causing a current annual death toll of around 22,000 civilians. The team designed a Go-kit to help detect the location of IEDs that is easy to understand and can be used by civilians to evacuate areas with potential IEDs. This device does not deactivate IEDs and should be used in tandem with a technical explosive ordnance disposal team to dismantle. A robot composed of an electrical box and thick treads includes a sensor payload attached to the chassis. The payload includes a metal detector, thermal camera, and infrared sensors. The sensors will be used in tandem to pick up potential IED signatures. A drone will offer a zoomed-out aerial view to allow the human controller to maintain a safe distance between a user and a potential IED. In the future, sensor data will be analyzed to help predict trends regarding IED location and types. IEDetected offers an easy-to-use, inexpensive alternative to IED detection.



Left, the first iteration of the robot carrying all electronics for motor control and IED sensor payload, including infrared sensor, metal detector, and thermal camera. Right, the updated electrical box and stronger treads used in the final iteration to increase durability and endurance.

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 Lydia Manuel, ME  
 Quentin Millora-Brown, ME  
 Morgan White, ME

**ADVISER**

David Oehler, Nashville Zoo at Grassmere

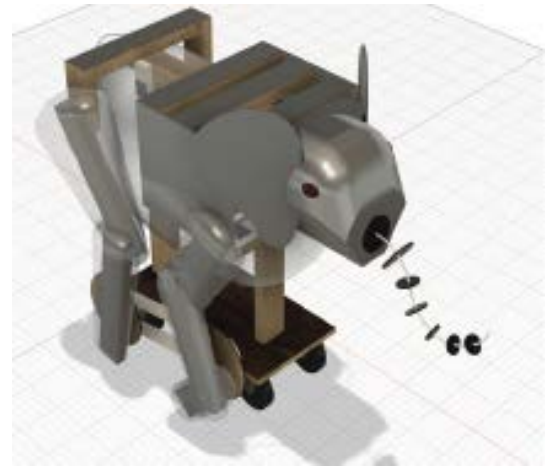
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Nashville Zoo at  
 Grassmere

**MECHANICAL  
ENGINEERING****ME-5**

## A robotic baby elephant for the Nashville Zoo

The goal of the project is to develop a robotic baby elephant for the future African Safari experience currently underway at the Nashville Zoo. Employing the use of quadruped robots allows for educational opportunities without compromising the animal's quality of life. The team's two sub-goals are to develop an animatronic face that replicates an elephant (i.e. eyes, ears, a mouth, and a moving trunk) as well as to make the robot capable of walking with a realistic gait. The legs are kinematically linked to the wheels through a cyclical motion to show the walking pattern of the elephant. Gait research and kinetic analysis was conducted with the intention of determining the power needed for the motors for future design iterations. This project, an example of humanitarian engineering, is proceeding while the exhibit is being constructed, so we hope to produce a design that future teams can easily iterate upon.



A robotic elephant model to show the functional mobility of the legs, trunk and ears.

**TEAM**

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 Tessa Kim, ME

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 David Oehler, Nashville Zoo at Grassmere

**SPONSOR**

Nashville Zoo at  
 Grassmere

**MECHANICAL  
ENGINEERING****ME-6**

## Nashville Zoo hoofstock animal enrichment feeder

The long-term under-stimulation of animals held in captivity has become an issue of increasing prevalence and severity. Unlike their natural environments where the challenging pursuit of survival ensures constant mental, physical and social enrichment, animals in captivity are stripped of these factors that help maintain their health. Our design team has developed an enrichment feeder for hoofstock animals at the Nashville Zoo that not only safely addresses the needs of a diverse group of animals, but also is easy to use for their zookeepers. Zookeepers have used off-the-shelf high-density polyethylene (HDPE) hay feeders for their giraffes, antelopes, okapi, and tapirs. Due to discontinuation, they sought a similar solution that would enable easy feeding and better stimulate the animals. The enrichment feeder, made primarily of food-safe hard plastic, features a custom tight-locking lid, a durable hanging mechanism, and holes cut to various sizes according to the animal species it serves.

The enrichment feeder, made primarily out of food-safe hard plastic, features a custom tightlocking lid, a durable hanging mechanism, and holes cut to various sizes according to the animal species it serves.



**TEAM**

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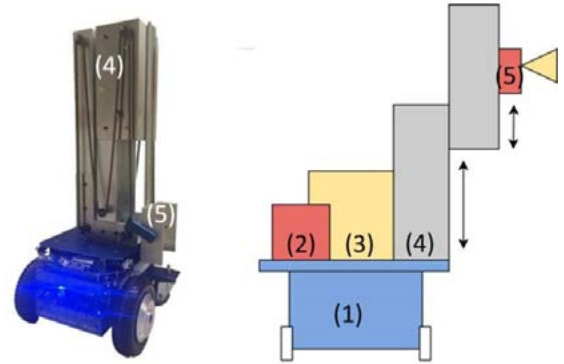
Nick Hegeman, PaintJet  
Sonia Chacko, PaintJet

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PAINTJET

## Autonomous interior painting robot

Rising labor prices and worker scarcity has prompted companies in the painting industry to turn to autonomous solutions to save time and money. The team designed and built an autonomous painting robot to paint commercial spaces overnight. After workers prepare a room for painting, the robot traverses the room to create a map. A worker then draws a path on the map to direct the robot around the edge of the room and loads a paint bucket onto the robot, which has a battery life of up to 8 hours. Throughout the night, the robot navigates along this path, stopping at set intervals to apply paint. The team designed a tiered lift system to raise the paint sprayer from the ground to 12 feet high while ensuring the system can collapse and pass through a standard doorway. The robotic base can carry up to 215 pounds, allowing it to carry a 5-gallon paint bucket, lift system, and paint sprayer. The autonomous painting robot is simple for one person to set up, clean, and resupply between painting jobs, making it more efficient, inexpensive, and less labor intensive than manual painting.



Left, A photo and model (right) of the autonomous painting robot with (1) robotic base, (2) paint bucket, (3) paint pump, (4) lift system and (5) paint sprayer.



**TEAM**

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Ryan Joyce, ME  
Katherine Wiesbrock, ME  
Jiajun (David) Xiao, ME

**ADVISERS**

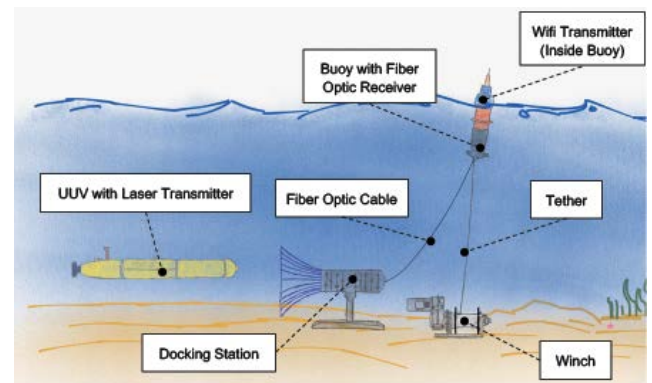
Timothy Daniel, NSWC Panama City Division  
Matthew Bays, NSWC Panama City Division  
Professor Jason Mitchell, ME

**SPONSOR**

Naval Surface Warfare Center,  
Panama City Division

## Unmanned underwater vehicles docking and communications buoy

Unmanned underwater vehicles collect massive amounts of data as they complete reconnaissance missions. Accessing this data is difficult due to the physical challenges of secure wireless communication through water. Traditional methods of data transfer involve hauling the UUV onboard a surface ship, which is expensive and interrupts the mission of both the UUV and surface personnel. Our team designed a buoy to mediate remote communication between a submerged UUV and a surface ship. The system implements optical communication using visible light to eliminate the challenge of making direct electrical contact underwater. The UUV enters a docking station on the seafloor and fires a laser to transmit data as a series of light pulses. A fiber optic cable carries these light pulses from the docking station to a buoy on the surface. Signal processing electronics inside the buoy translate the pulses into electrical signals that can be sent over WiFi to a nearby ship. A winch system attached to the docking station submerges the buoy after transmission to minimize its risk of detection.



When the unmanned underwater vehicle docks, it transmits data through a fiber optic cable to the buoy. This data is processed, stored, and sent over WiFi to a passing ship when the buoy surfaces. The winch then submerges the buoy to hide it from view.



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**SPONSOR**

Vanderbilt Aerospace  
 Design Laboratory  
 NASA

**MECHANICAL  
ENGINEERING****ME-9**

## Modular payload system for autonomous vehicle location tracking

The Vanderbilt Aerospace Design Laboratory is developing a vehicle and payload system for the 2022 NASA Student Launch Initiative. The goal for this year's project is to autonomously locate the vehicle upon landing by identifying its position on an aerial image of the launch site without GPS assistance. The team has developed a novel modular payload housing system, allowing for expedited payload configuration and a more robust set of mission capabilities. The vehicle will fly to a target altitude of 4,900 feet before descending under two parachutes. Design of the payload system incorporates redundancy between two side payload and two nose cone payload systems. The side payloads take photos and videos of the launch field on both ascent and descent to provide visual data. The nose cone payloads house a pair of cameras used to capture images for a computer vision algorithm, which has been developed to track changes in vehicle position so the final landing location may be determined. The vehicle also contains inertial measurement units (IMUs), which are used for a redundant vehicle location tracking method with 3D flight path reconstruction. The landing location is then transmitted to base using LoRa radio modules.



The 7-foot long launch vehicle with a modular and redundant payload system capable of autonomously identifying its landing location without the use of external systems.

**TEAM**

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 Kevin Shulman, ME  
 Barock Taddese, ME  
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 Derrick Young, Nissan North America  
 Bryan Meadows, Nissan North America

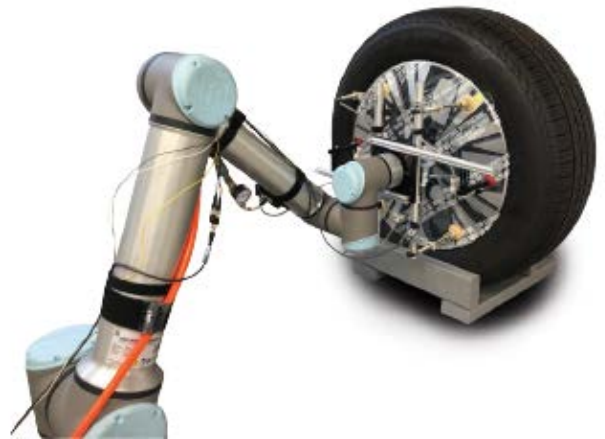
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Nissan North America

**MECHANICAL  
ENGINEERING****ME-10**

## Automating wheel mask application for vehicle delivery

Nissan applies wheel masks to their wheels to protect them from damage, as well as keep the rotors from rusting due to airflow coming through the spokes during vehicle delivery. The current process for applying the wheel masks on the assembly line is manual, requiring workers to continuously bend and twist during their shift. This leads to fatigue and inconsistent application. Unreliable wheel mask application could incur large expenses on different fronts. For example, delivery costs increase sharply if the vehicle is damaged and needs to return to the factory. In addition, if the mask comes off later down the assembly line, there is an additional material and labor cost to reapply the mask. To eliminate the poor ergonomics in this process and reduce the overall expense for vehicle delivery, the team designed an automated application system using a Universal Robotics COBOT (UR10e) to select the appropriately sized wheel mask based on a signal from the assembly line. The UR10e then moves the mask to a peeler station to remove the paper backing, and finally moves the peeled mask to the wheel and applies it—all while maintaining vehicle production rate.



The UR10e robotic arm's custom end effector equipped with suction cups and vacuum generators, applying a mask to a wheel.



# Design and project faculty

Biomedical Engineering,  
Chemical Engineering,  
Civil and Environmental Engineering,  
Electrical and Computer Engineering,  
Engineering Science, and  
Mechanical Engineering

We take great pride in recognizing these faculty members who are the core of our design program in their respective departments. Their outstanding contributions and excellence as instructors, advisers and mentors have led to the work demonstrated on Design Day, April 29, 2022.



**RALPH BRUCE**  
Professor of the  
Practice of Electrical  
Engineering



**MARC MOORE**  
Associate Professor of the  
Practice of Biomedical  
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**RUSSELL DUNN**  
Professor of the  
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**LORI TROXEL**  
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# Department of Computer Science

## 2021-2022 Immersion Showcases

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**Gabor Karsai**, Professor of Computer Science and Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering

**Forrest Laine**, Assistant Professor of Computer Science

**Ipek Oguz**, Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Assistant Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering

**Jules White**, Associate Dean for Strategic Learning Programs and Associate Professor of Computer Science and Computer Engineering

### PROJECTS

*Amadeus (Yifan Wu, Xiaoliang Zhu, Zihao Wu, Wangzhe Sun)*

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*Analyzing the Use of Load Balancers through HAProxy, YCSB (Katie Cella, Hannah Schrager)\**

---

*Arcade VR (Sam Bianco, Joe Mathis, Bo Peng, Miquéla Thornton, Kielan Watson)\**

---

*An Automatic Ukulele Tuner (Melissa Wang, Anthony Huang)*

---

*AR Project Cloudification (Elle Summerfield, Alan Xu, Logan Powell)\**

---

*Big Five Personality Test Comparison using a Distributed Web Application (Charlie Overton, Matthew Tremblay, Angelica Zverovich)\**

---

*Bank Shot: A Fully Automated Environment for NBA Gambling Data Collection, Analysis (Chris Hoogenboom, Jerry Li, Kyle Gendreau)\**

---

*Building AIs to Play a Simulated-World Sustainability Game (Hermela Gebremariam, Kevin Gomez, Anvitha Kosaraju, Erin McConnell, Blaine Mitchell, Joshua Newman, Sithara Samudrala, Hadley Shapland)*

---

*Camera-Based Object Tracking (Tianxiang Zhang, Yihao Yan, Alex Korman, Katie Helman, Emily Hagan, Jatin Krishna, Daniel Chu, Prakyath Bujimalla, Emma Willey, Jessica Lee, Yousef Abu-Salah, Jane Jung, Reena Zhang, Tina Guo)*

---

*Class Attendance System using AWS-Based Facial Recognition (Evelyn Mulyono, Sarah Wan, Siqi 'Christine' Zhou)\**

---

*Classifying Public Sentiment About Climate Change (Nam Dau, Emma Willey, Rohan Nakra, Anjay Friedman)*

---

*Cloud-Based Deep Learning: End-To-End Full-Stack Handwritten Digit Recognition (Aadarsh Jha, Ashwin Kumar, Terry Luo, Ruida Zheng)\**

---

*Cloud Based Facial Recognition Multi-Factor Authentication (Sean Tuttle, Bao Pham, Michael Knight)\**

---

*Cloud-Based Ray Tracing Animation Generator (Daniel Shu, Xinyu Niu, Yueqi Li)\**

---

*Cyclops (Jeongwoo Seo, Leila Leblanc)*

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# APRIL 28

Deathris (Alicia Yang, Ashley Suh, Abby Cohen, Jaehyuk Yu, Kelly Chang, Nishan Shehadeh)\*

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Deploying Mutational Biases Analysis on the Cloud (Qianhui Zheng, Xinyu Shen, Shiliang Tian)\*

---

Don't Get Run Over (Karl Schreiner, Dylan Gaines, Christine Zhou, Craigh McLaughlin, Angus Black)\*

---

Drinking-Water Quality Monitoring System: A Raspberry Pi (cyber), MATLAB (physical) Approach (Surya Sunil, Eduard Tataru)

---

Droopy Dodo (Justin Condren, Grant Bowlds, Alexa Madsen, Claire Whetstone, Jessica Wu, Victoria McMillen)\*

---

Dynamic Modalities (Aadarsh Jha, Raahul Natarrajan)

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Escape From the Lost Tomb (Brandon Groothuis, David Tamburri, Jennifer Jiang, Rachel Yang, Shannon Yan, Xinyu Niu)\*

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Experience Orchestra! (Kristine Choi, Raahul Natarrajan, Garrett Crumb, Richard Li, Patrick Tong)\*

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Experimenting with Microservice Scheduling, Performance in the Cloud (T. Dawson Lee, Jeerthi Kannan, Jingyuan Gao)\*

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Hanabi (Yuanhao Lyu, Sarah Fishbein, Marlee Silverman, Ignatius Liu, Sydney Horn)\*

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Handle: An Open Source Tool For Accurate Gesture Recognition In Real-Time Systems Across Static, Lantern Party (Zhangyi Shen, Tianyu Han, Yuanhan Tian, Qibang Zhu)

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High Speed Autonomous Driving (Xi 'Iris' Sun Karman Nagra, Matthew Daniel, Henrik De Jounge, Andrew Huang, Jason Kim, Ricardo Sandoval, Sam Welch, Jason He, Nicholas Ma, Rashmi Ja, Nibraas Khan, Zinnie Zhang, Maya Warren, Ao Qu, Ziyang Li, Luke Hewitt, Ioannis Dimotsis)

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Kubernetes vs Marathon via Phoronix Suite (Hao Fu, Jianqiang Hao, Yuheng Shi)\*

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Lidar-Based Localization and Mapping (Erskine Nyoike, Robi Abera)

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Light Piano (Karina Rovey, Leen Madiah, Damian Ho, Jacky Zhang, Katelyn Itano, Rhiannon Moilanen)\*

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The Making of Fake Twitter (Johnny Ou)\*

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Neural Implant (Noah Knox, Marco Georgaklis)

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Rage Room (Chenhao Ma, Akshay Doobay, Antonio Dominguez, Toni Mecklenburger, Ancher Li, Xue Ye Lin)\*

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Resilient Weather Interpolation (Baxter Hunter, Meghan Callandriello, Jaden Hicks, Martin Pena)\*

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Reuse Vandy Marketplace (Tabitha See Ya Lee, Alice Qiao, Kyle Gendreau, Kaleab Gebremichael)

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RL Skillshot Dodger (Rong Wang, Jerry Qin, Terry Luo, Nitish Nimma)

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Robot Collision Avoidance Controller (Yuanhao Lyu, Changzhe Liu)

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Semantic Segmentation for Autonomous Vehicles (Peize Li, Xinxuan Lu, Amanda Sun, Yihang Zhang)

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Spark Streaming with Twitter for Finance (Camren Hall, Safet Hoxha, Luke Garrett)\*

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SpikeBall (Anshul Joshi, Grace Schillewaert, Grace Sullivan, Jai Bansal, Rebecca Sun)

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Surf-Safe Flag Switching System (Jack Walton, Ryan Edelstein)

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Sybil Attack Detection on Edge Computing Servers (Baiting Luo)\*

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synthEsiziNG realistic fmri coNnectivity matrices for Enhancing dEep leaRniNG in data poor domains (Lucas Remedios, Alireza Abbasi)

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Towards using Twitter, Deep Learning to Predict Potential COVID Cases (Joshua Berger, Kabindra Shrestha, Hannah Yoon, Juyoung Kim)

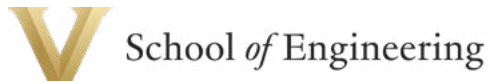
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Traffic Control System Model (Todd McKinney, Donovan 'Donny' Carr)

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\*These projects were presented at the fall 2021 CS Immersion Showcase.





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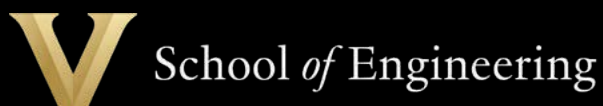
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