TBP FELLOWS

Fellowships have been awarded to 31 members for a year of graduate study in 2026-27.

Nelanne Bolima MD Δ '24
Zimmerman No. 15 | Biomedical sci's

Yuxuan (Lily) Chen CA Σ '26
Hennis No. 7 | Control eng'g

Trevor S. Dady AR B '24
Hanley No. 15 | Aero & astro eng'g

Rena P. Feng NJ Δ '26
Swalin No. 10 | Computer architecture

Mrigayu Ghosh TX A '26
Spencer No. 71 | Biomedical eng'g

Jeffrey T. Guiette CO E '26
Forge No. 14 | Computational electromag.

Vara Qi Gunananthan MD A '26
Fife No. 259 | Materials sci. & eng'g

Nathan J. Hansen UT A '23
Fife No. 260 | Computer eng'g

Alyssa M. Hicks WA A '26
Fife No. 261 | Chemical eng'g

Urwa Irfan IL B '22
Anderson No. 27 | Building science

Anjal M. Jain CT A '26
Anderson No. 28 | Advanced comp. sci.

Anika M. Jena CA Σ '26
Dodson No. 13 | Chemical eng'g

Sarp C. Kayabas MD A '26
Fife No. 262 | Chem. & biomol. eng'g

Ayden J. Kemp AL A '25
Centennial No. 41 | Aerospace eng'g

Kyle E. Kirwin NC Z '26
King No. 65 | Mechanical eng'g

Sophia J. Klymchuk NY I '26
Stark No. 49 | Mechanical eng'g

Vicky Lizardi-Lobb NM B '26
Stark No. 50 | Nuclear eng'g

Cole H. Malinchock NC A '26
Fife No. 263 | Naval arch. & Marine eng'g

Abigail L. Moeller MS B '25
Fife No. 264 | Bioengineering

Andres A. Moreno NM B '26
Fife No. 265 | Mechanical eng'g

Tran B. Ngo FL A '20
Fife No. 266 | Biomedical eng'g

Paul J. Nguyen AL E '26
Tau Beta Pi No. 855 | Chemical eng'g

Evrim E. Ozcan RI A '24
Tau Beta Pi No. 856 | Medicine

Khaleb L. Pafford NE A '25
Sigma Tau No. 52 | Aerospace eng'g

Diego A. Puerta AZ B '26
Brandt No. 5 | Electrical eng'g

Chathusha Punchi Wedikkara IN A '26
Tau Beta Pi No. 857 | Mechanical eng'g

Rachel E. Schenck MI A '25
Nagel No. 29 | Materials sci. & eng'g

Araj Shah DC A '25
Tau Beta Pi No. 858 | Computer science

Brian N. Wang NJ B '25
Tau Beta Pi No. 859 | Materials sci. & eng'g

Yameng (Moe) Zhang RI A '26
Williams No. 47 | Electrical eng'g

Hu (Oliver) Zhao AL A '21
Matthews No. 29 | Civil eng'g

The **Anderson Fellowships** are named for Mabel E. and Marshall Anderson, *MI Γ '32*, who was TBΠ Fellow No. 19 and left a bequest to the Society.

The **Brandt Fellowship** is made possible thanks to a gift from Larry D. Brandt, *OR A '67*.

The **Centennial Fellowship** honors the Society's most outstanding fellow and commemorates Tau Beta Pi's 100th anniversary.

The **Dodson Fellowship** is named for the late Charles R. Dodson, *MD B '30*, who made a gift to the Association.

The **James Fife Fellowships** are presented in memory of the father of the late William Fife, *CA A 1921*.

The **Forge Fellowship** is named for Charles O. Forge, *CA Γ '56*, who left a bequest.

The **Hanley Fellowship** is awarded in honor of Mary A. and Edward P. Hanley, *IL B '42*, TBΠ Fellow No. 84, who left a bequest.

The **Hennis Fellowship** is awarded thanks to a generous gift from the late Lee A. Hennis, *CA Δ '65*, to continue mentoring young engineers.

The **Harold M. King Fellowship** honors the 1954-58 president of TBΠ, Harold M. King, *MA A 1910*, and is given to that recipient whose participation in his/her technical society is judged worthy of special mention.

The **Matthews Fellowship** is awarded in honor of R.C. "Red" Matthews, *IL A 1902*, who served as Secretary and Secretary-Treasurer from 1905-47 and as Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus from 1947-78.

The Fellowship Board has announced the selection of 31 engineering students from 453 applicants for graduate fellowships. More than $9,520,000 in stipends will have been given by the Society when this 93rd group of fellows completes its graduate work. These awards bring the total to 1,892 fellowships since the program began in 1929. The Association is grateful to volunteer members for their role in the selection process; they are recognized at ***www.tbp.org/?Fellows***.

Nelanne A. Bolima

Zimmerman Fellow No. 15

Nelanne earned a B.S. in chemical eng'g from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), where she was a Meyerhoff, LSAMP, and U-RISE Scholar. At UMBC, she conducted research in biomaterials and biological systems while mentoring students and contributing to initiatives that promoted academic success and professional development. Following graduation, Nelanne completed a research-focused gap year as a PRIME-PREP Scholar at Duke Univ. where she gained advanced training in genomics and epigenetic regulation. Now, she's pursuing a Ph.D. in biomedical sciences through the NIH Oxford–Cambridge Scholars Program, conducting research jointly with Dr. Tisdale at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute & Dr. de la Roche in the dept. of biochemistry at the Univ. of Cambridge. Her research focuses on engineering safer antibody–drug conjugate strategies for hematopoietic stem cell conditioning and leukemia therapy, integrating biochemical design with translational hematology. Nelanne aspires to lead academic research advancing genetic therapies while mentoring the next generation.

Yuxuan "Lily" Chen

Hennis Fellow No. 7

Lily is a B.S./M.S. student in electrical and computer engineering at UC Santa Barbara, with a focus in controls and machine learning. Her research develops data-driven models and practical planning & control algorithms for autonomous industrial systems, translating real-world telemetry into intelligent decision-making for more energy-efficient and cost-effective industrial operations. Her work includes a paper accepted to the 2026 American Control Conference. Outside academics, Lily served as CA Sigma Chapter president and solar team lead for Engineers Without Borders where she led engineering service projects and received the UCSB Outstanding Community Volunteer of the Year Award. She also enjoyed working as a campus ambassador, giving tours to more than 2,000 prospective students. Lily contributed to data pipelines and observability tools for industrial autonomy systems and shipped safety-critical C++ logic for production vehicles through two summer internships. She is driven by a commitment to the real-world performance of intelligent systems.

Trevor S. Dady

Hanley Fellow No. 15

Trevor graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock with a B.S. in mechanical engineering and minor in mathematics. He's now graduating with an M.S. in mechanical eng'g following the presentation of his novel research involving design, testing, and analysis of thrust enhancing structures for UAVs. Trevor, a TBP Scholar and ASME/ANS Barry Sloane Scholarship Awardee, served one term as AR Beta Chapter treasurer and two terms as president. He also took part in UA Little Rock's ASME organization, aerospace/rocketry club, and Esports club. Trevor conducted additional fluid-focused research investigating more efficient designs for a hydraulic ram pump system and worked part-time as an Energy Analyst I at ENFRA, acted as the Head of Engineering at Bayner (a marine technology startup), and served as an instructor for mechanical eng'g labs at his alma mater. Trevor plans to pursue his Ph.D. in aeronautical & astronautical engineering at Purdue University with a focus on propulsion and computational engineering.

The **Nagel Fellowship** is given in honor of Robert H. Nagel, P.E., *NY Δ '39*, for his service as Editor of *The Bent* and Secretary-Treasurer from 1942-82 and as Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus in 1982-97.

The **Sigma Tau Fellowship**, perpetuates the name of Sigma Tau, a national engineering honor society founded at the University of Nebraska in 1904 and merged with Tau Beta Pi in 1974. It also commemorates Sigma Tau's former national president and secretary-treasurer, Clarel B. Mapes.

The **Charles H. Spencer Fellowship** is named for Tau Beta Pi's president from 1936-47, Charles H. Spencer, *IL B 1913*, it is awarded to a recipient whose contributions to his/her collegiate chapter are judged worthy of commendation.

The **Donald A. Stark Fellowships** are supported by a gift from a charitable trust named for the man who contributed much to progress in the fluid-power industry.

The **Swalin Fellowship** is named in honor of Helen M. and Richard A. Swalin, Ph.D., *MN A '52*, who left a bequest.

The **Tau Beta Pi Fellowships** are supported by matching gifts from companies as part of the annual alumni giving program.

The **Edward H. Williams Jr. Fellowship** honors the founder of Tau Beta Pi. It is given to a recipient who plans to earn a doctoral degree and become a professional engineering teacher, as was Dr. Williams, *PA A 1875*.

The **Zimmerman Fellowship** is named for Marlin U. Zimmerman Jr., *MD A '44*, who left a bequest in 2011.

Rena P. Feng

Swalin Fellow No. 10

Rena is graduating from Princeton University with a B.S.E. in electrical & computer eng'g, with minors in computer science, optimization & quantitative decision science, and Portuguese. Through internships spanning energy markets, power electronics, and chip design, she has adapted to and devised solutions for a diverse range of technical problems. Her research experiences include designing microcontroller-LEGO spectroscopy tools for the curriculum of an exploratory chemistry class, developing a framework to identify hardware security vulnerabilities, and benchmarking quantum computers. An avid proponent of STEM education, Rena was a leader in Science Olympiad for the past 11 years, both as a competitor and tournament organizer. She is also a rock and metal radio DJ for WPRB 103.3 FM and enjoys learning languages while serving as a volunteer translator for nonprofits. She will pursue a Ph.D. in computer architecture as an NSF Graduate Research Fellow at Carnegie Mellon Univ.

Vara Qi Gunananthan

Fife Fellow No. 259

Vara Qi, an international Malaysian student, is graduating from the Johns Hopkins University with a B.S. in materials science and engineering and a double major in applied mathematics and statistics. She served as MD Alpha Chapter president, and leads a student design team aimed at inventing a novel sutureless mitral valve prosthesis. Vara Qi has conducted research in reinforcement learning for soft-matter systems, high-strength aluminum alloys, and neuromorphic computing at Lawrence Livermore National Lab. She will be pursuing a Ph.D. in materials science and engineering at Stanford University, with a research focus on bioprinting and soft robots.

Mrigayu Ghosh

Spencer Fellow No. 71

Mrigayu is a University of Texas at Austin senior pursuing dual B.S. degrees in biomedical engineering (honors) and biochemistry, with a French studies minor. His research focuses on stem cell and vascular mechanobiology, and he works in Dr. Aaron Baker's lab. He has also completed research internships at institutions including Universität Heidelberg, where he studied photomechanical stimulation of stem cells. Beyond the lab, Mrigayu is committed to mentorship and leadership. He has served as a teaching assistant, mentoring nearly 150 students per semester, held multiple leadership roles in the TX Alpha Chapter, including president, and serves as the pre-graduate school coordinator for BMES. He will pursue a Ph.D. in biomedical eng'g through the Georgia Tech and Emory Univ. joint program in Dr. Jo's lab as an NIH T32 Cardiovascular Biomechanics Fellow, focusing on vascular mechanobiology and mechanosensitive gene targets in vascular disease.

Nathan J. Hansen

Fife Fellow No. 260

Nate is a 3rd year Ph.D. candidate in the Sanchez Research Lab at the Univ. of Utah and a member of the Utah Alpha Chapter. He's passionate about applying cutting-edge technology to improve human health through interdisciplinary collaboration. Through his clinical research studies, he has gone beyond the soldering station and lab bench to develop device protocols and work with patients. He is driven to create thoughtful, human-centered technology. As the BioHive student chapter president, Nate directs and hosts career development and networking events for students and companies. He leads a team of student scientists and engineers who are committed to building a collaborative community in Utah's biotech industry. Outside of the lab, you'll find Nate learning to crochet from his very patient wife, reading a book, playing the piano, or observing wildlife in Utah's Wasatch Mountains. After completing his Ph.D., Nate will develop AI-driven health technologies in industry, mentor students through industry-campus relations, and build cross-functional communities where bright minds accelerate growth.

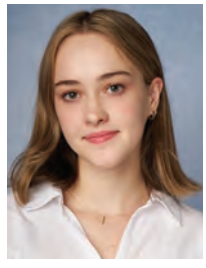
Jeffrey T. Guiette

Forge Fellow No. 14

Jeffrey graduated from the University of Colorado Denver with a B.S. in electrical eng'g and began pursuing an M.S. in EE with a focus on electromagnetics, RF engineering, and antenna design. He's worked in the Magnetic Materials Lab under Stephen Gedney for 3+ years, where he designs experiments, measures, and models the magnetic hysteretic and magnetoelastic behavior of ferromagnetic materials under varying axial and torsional stresses, temperature, and applied magnetic fields. His work includes experimental characterization using search coils & data acquisition systems to analyze material response during testing. His master's research applies machine learning and optimization methods to model these complex non-linear phenomena, strengthening his interest in computational electromagnetics and applied research. Prior to returning to school, Jeffrey spent several years as a sous chef, and plans to pursue a career in electromagnetics with a goal of contributing to advancements in fusion energy systems.

Alyssa M. Hicks

Fife Fellow No. 261



Alyssa is graduating from the University of Washington (UW) with an honors B.S. in chemical engineering and a minor in data science. At UW, she conducted research with Dr. David Bergsman on vapor phase infiltration of polymeric membranes to improve energy-efficient chemical separations. She served as secretary of the UW Chapter of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, vice president of the ChemE Brew Club, and a ChemE Peer Learning Fellow. During her undergraduate studies, Alyssa interned at H2 PowerTech, contributing to fuel cell system research and development, and at Micron Technology in semiconductor chemical management and sustainability. After graduation, she'll begin her Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota in the department of chemical engineering and materials science as an NSF Graduate Research Fellow and Wei-Shou Hu Fellow, where she aims to develop sustainable materials and technologies to address global challenges.

Urwa Irfan

Anderson Fellow No. 27

Urwa graduated *summa cum laude* from the Illinois Institute of Technology in 2022 with a B.S. in architectural engineering. At Illinois Tech, she was a research assistant with the Built Environment Research Group studying building mechanical system energy performance. Urwa then joined the architecture & engineering firm SmithGroup, designing mechanical systems for a variety of projects from workplace renovations to central utility plants across the country. She's now pursuing her M.S. in building science, technology, and sustainability at UC Berkeley. Her research at the Center for the Built Environment includes contributing to the Berkeley Decarb Tool, an open-source web tool that helps design engineers evaluate the energy and carbon performance of HVAC systems and equipment. Urwa served as an officer for the TBP Chicago and SF Bay Area Alumni Chapters. She's an active member of ASHRAE and will be student chapter president for the upcoming year.

Anjal M. Jain

Anderson Fellow No. 28

Anjal is a graduating senior at Yale University studying biomedical engineering and music. Her work sits at the intersection of healthcare, technology, and innovation, with a focus on advancing personalized medicine and delivering tailored treatments at scale. For her senior thesis, she is developing machine learning models to predict Medicare Advantage Star Rating thresholds, aiming to inform more effective healthcare investment decisions. Anjal has also conducted computational ophthalmology research at Stanford Univ., UCLA, USC, and Yale, applying AI-driven methods to improve early disease detection. She's a recipient of the 2025 Women of Innovation Award and serves as CT Alpha Chapter vice president and treasurer. In the future, Anjal aims to build data-driven platforms that deliver personalized therapies for genetic vision loss. She is involved in music through the Yale Glee Club and Dhvani with a music thesis exploring dialogue across traditions.

Anika M. Jena

Dodson Fellow No. 13

Anika graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), with a B.S. in chemical eng'g. She is a Congressional Barry Goldwater Scholar. As an undergrad researcher at the Fygenson Lab at UCSB Physics, Anika engineered DNA-based condensates and nanotubes to self-assemble into novel and valuable molecular architectures. Previously at the UCSB Takatori Lab in chemical eng'g, she developed biocompatible membrane-actin composite materials with tunable mechanical properties. An English minor and a classical pianist, Anika is pursuing a Ph.D. in chemical engineering at Stanford University as a Graduate Fellow, the highest honor for an incoming doctoral student. At Stanford, Anika will conduct research developing and probing advanced functional polymeric materials for applications in health, sustainability, and human advancement. Her professional aspiration is to develop materials and fabrication methods at nano and micron scales to elevate humanity.

Sarp C. Kayabas

Fife Fellow No. 262

Sarp will be graduating from Johns Hopkins University (JHU) with a B.S. in chemical and biomolecular engineering with a specialization in bioengineering. He is passionate about biomaterials, and his undergraduate research in Prof. Hai-Quan Mao's group focused on using machine-learning for optimizing the formulation and purification of lipid nanoparticles for nucleic acid drug delivery. Sarp was awarded the Vredenburg Travel Fund in his junior year to support a research internship in Prof. Esther Amstad's Soft Materials Lab at EPFL in Lausanne. During his time in Switzerland, he worked on the synthesis and characterization of sustainable high-performance textile fibers derived from cellulose and presented a research poster at the 2025 Bioinspired Materials conference. Sarp is continuing his studies through the JHU Institute of Nanobiotechnology's B.S./MSE program. As part of his master's studies, he will be completing a 6-month cell line development co-op at AbbVie's Bioresearch Center in Worcester, MA, with the intent to work in the pharmaceutical industry afterward.

Ayden J. Kemp

Centennial Fellow No. 41

Ayden graduated from Auburn University with B.S. degrees in biosystems eng'g (2024) and aerospace engineering (2025). Continuing his studies at Auburn, he's presently a doctoral candidate in biosystems eng'g and is also completing an M.S. in aerospace eng'g. As an undergrad, Ayden worked under the mentorship of Dr. Adhikari on developing sustainable aviation fuels from biomass. Now, his graduate research with Dr. Khodaei aims to create computational modeling tools for predicting the unique combustion characteristics of biofuels. He's served in several positions with the AL Alpha Chapter, including service chair, professional development chair, and presently as an advisor. Ayden has completed several internships and co-ops focused on human spaceflight and in particular, environmental control and life support systems engineering. He plans to develop advanced biological life support systems that will enable humanity to travel to Mars and beyond. Ayden is an active member of his Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints congregation and enjoys serving in his community.

Kyle E. Kirwin

King Fellow No. 65

Kyle graduated *summa cum laude* from East Carolina University (ECU) with a B.S. in engineering and concentrations in mechanical and biomedical eng'g. He will continue his studies at the University of Pennsylvania, pursuing a master's degree in mechanical eng'g and applied mechanics. His research began in the ECU's Acoustics and Vibrations Lab studying long-range atmospheric acoustics. He has presented at regional/national conferences, including the Acoustical Society of America. This work led to his selection as a DoD SMART Scholar, affiliated with the Naval Surface Warfare Center Philadelphia Division, where he will focus on machine acoustics. Beyond research, he served as president of ECU club soccer and on the Club Sports Student Executive Council. He was also a lead ECU engineering outreach coordinator, a tutor, member of a Greek organization, and led service efforts with the Food Bank of Eastern North Carolina. He looks forward to advancing his expertise in acoustics and defense applications.

Sophia J. Klymchuk

Stark Fellow No. 49

Sophia graduated *summa cum laude* from The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art with a bachelor of engineering in mechanical eng'g. At Cooper Union, she worked on human-robot interaction projects, and her capstone research focused on sensor fusion for robust localization. She also completed a summer research stay at the University of Burgos in Spain, where she characterized the thermophysical properties of hydrofluoroether mixtures. Throughout her undergraduate career, Sophia served as a tutor and teaching assistant for the math department. She also served as NY Iota Chapter president, and is a TBP Scholar. This fall, Sophia will begin her Ph.D. in mechanical engineering at Columbia University where she will work on sensing problems for space and field robotics applications. Sophia ultimately hopes to pursue a career in academia. In her free time, she enjoys cooking and rock climbing with friends.

Abigail L. Moeller

Fife Fellow No. 264

Abigail graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Mississippi as a Stamps Scholar with a biomedical engineering B.S. and a B.A. in Chinese, with a manufacturing minor. She spent three years researching cytoskeletal crosstalk in the UM Molecular Biophysics & Engineering Lab and has represented Ole Miss in poster presentations regionally and nationally, including at the Biophysical Society Annual Meeting. A committed leader, Abigail served as BMES chapter president and vice president of the Biomedical Think-Tank, where she supported prototype development for a wearable hand assistive device. She also served as laboratory coordinator for the D3B Center, a biomedical diagnostics and research hub in north Mississippi. This summer, she will intern at Lifelet Medical, a startup in Galway, Ireland, contributing to developing a synthetic polymer leaflet material designed to outperform current biological heart valve replacements. Upon her return, Abigail will pursue a master's in bioengineering at Rice Univ. in the Global Medical Innovation program, with the goal of developing accessible medical technologies for communities worldwide.

Vicky Lizardi-Lobb

Stark Fellow No. 50

Vicky is a senior studying mechanical engineering at the University of New Mexico (UNM), earning her B.S. in May 2026. She will begin graduate studies in nuclear eng'g at UNM this fall. Vicky began her academic journey at Fairfield University, earning a B.S. in political science. Her interest in engineering led her to Central New Mexico Community College (CNM), where she earned an associate degree in engineering and mathematics before transferring to UNM. Vicky works at Los Alamos National Lab in the fusion fuel cycle group. She currently serves as NM Beta Chapter vice president, Pi Tau Sigma chapter VP, and returns each summer to the STEM Core program at CNM to speak with students about engineering pathways. A first-generation college student, Vicky is the first in her family to pursue graduate education. As a Latina and a mother, she is committed to increasing access and representation in engineering. She plans to pursue a Ph.D. to advance hydrogen storage technologies for fusion energy systems.

Andres A. Moreno

Fife Fellow No. 265

Originally from Mancos, Colorado, Andres is graduating *summa cum laude* from the University of New Mexico (UNM) with a B.S. in mechanical engineering and a minor in mathematics. At UNM, he has participated in several extracurricular activities such as rugby, with the American Society of Mechanical Engineering, and an origami club. Andres has conducted research in multiple areas, including perovskite solar cells through the El Puente Research Fellowship program and autonomy and control technologies at the University of Texas at Austin. He's currently an intern at Sandia National Labs, where he studies component failure under extreme shock environments. In the fall, Andres will pursue his M.S. in mechanical eng'g at Georgia Institute of Technology and, intends to develop a thesis through his work at Sandia. After graduation, he aspires to enter the aerospace industry to focus on the design and development of advanced propulsion systems.

Cole H. Malinchock

Fife Fellow No. 263

Cole will be graduating *summa cum laude* from North Carolina State University with a B.S. in mechanical eng'g and minors in computer programming and environmental science. As a Park Scholar, he's conducted research across aerial, ground, and medical robotics. Under Dr. Gregory Buckner, Cole served as software developer on a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission drone project, building navigation systems for autonomously eradicating invasive plant species. He also led development of a halo gravity traction device for pediatric scoliosis, earning 1st place at the BMES Medtronic Undergraduate Design Competition and clinical trials at UNC Children's Hospital. A two-time IEEE first-author, including a visual cue-based localization paper, and four-time REU recipient, he also served as cycling club president and Second Chance Initiative treasurer, a prison education nonprofit. An NSF Graduate Research Fellow, Cole will pursue a Ph.D. in naval architecture & marine eng'g at the Univ. of Michigan.

Tran B. Ngo

Fife Fellow No. 266

Tran graduated with a B.S. in biomedical engineering at the University of Florida (UF). After graduation, she conducted immunology research at the National Institutes of Health and received various recognitions, including the 2021 NIH Director's Award and 2023 NIBIB Award for Scientific Achievements. Tran returned to UF for her M.D.-Ph.D. training at the intersection of biomedical eng'g, immunology, and surgery. Her research focuses on ischemia-reperfusion injury, with the goal of developing immunomodulatory therapies that modulate immune responses to improve outcomes in organ transplantation and acute injury. Outside of school, she serves as UF Equal Access Clinic executive director, a student-run network of free clinics delivering care to underserved communities. Her work expands access to specialty care, strengthens clinic infrastructure, and builds sustainable models of community-based healthcare delivery. Tran will pursue a career as a surgeon–scientist, integrating clinical practice with research.

Paul J. Nguyen

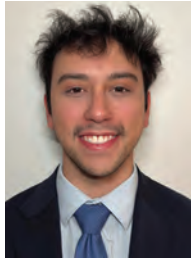
Tau Beta Pi Fellow No. 855

Paul is graduating in chemical engineering at the University of South Alabama (USA) and currently serves as AL Epsilon Chapter treasurer. In 2023 and 2024, Paul completed NSF REUs at Princeton Univ. in the Joseph Lab studying computational biophysics. Last summer, he completed the Fulbright Canada-Mitacs Globalink Research Internship, researching with the Moo Lab at Carleton Univ. in biomechanics simulations. His current senior research in the Rabideau Lab at USA focuses on machine learning for compound property predictions. Paul is a 2024 Goldwater Scholarship recipient, an inductee for the USA Senior Jaguar Medallion Society with a special award in research, and a three-time USA Academic All-Star for earning national recognitions. Paul is an active pianist with a minor in music and won 1st place in the Gulf Coast Steinway Society Competition in 2023, performing at Carnegie Hall (NY). Paul will attend the University of Pennsylvania to pursue his Ph.D. in chemical eng'g with a focus on computational polymer physics.

Diego A. Puerta

Brandt Fellow No. 5

Diego earned a B.S. in electrical engineering from Arizona State University (ASU) where he was the Outstanding Graduate for his major. Diego has worked as an undergrad researcher in power electronics at ASU since May 2024 and completed a validation engineering internship at Texas Instruments in the summer of 2025. He will return this summer as an analog integrated circuit design eng'g intern. In addition, Diego is a National Science Foundation graduate research fellow and a 2025-26 TBP scholar. This September, he will begin his Ph.D. in electrical engineering and computer science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he will conduct research in high-frequency to very-high-frequency power electronics. Diego's long-term professional goal is to become a leading researcher in power electronics and direct a world-class research group to deliver necessary innovations in renewable energy, data center power delivery, and biomedical devices.



Evrim E. Ozcan

Tau Beta Pi Fellow No. 856

Evrim graduated *magna cum laude* with honors and an Sc.B. in biomedical engineering from Brown University, earning induction into Sigma Xi. Before Brown, he developed a non-invasive method to measure oxidative stress from sweat at the University of Maryland, earning recognition as a Regeneron STS Scholar. At Brown, his research spanned biomedical eng'g and neurosurgery, including an honors thesis on a cranial access system for hemorrhage evacuation, a drug delivery device (under patent pursuit), avian flight mechanics, and neurosurgical outcomes research. Senior year, he co-founded Paracelsus Health to commercialize his device innovations. He then spent a year at Boston Children's Hospital, coordinating a device trial, RCT, and more. Now a medical student at Penn's Perelman School of Medicine, he performs plastic surgery research spanning microtia, hernia and neurectomy outcomes, and AI-driven surgical prediction. His work has been recognized through the Rothberg Catalyzer Grant, Halpin Prize, and additional honors. Evrim hopes to become a surgeon.

Chathusha Punchi V. Wedikkara *Tau Beta Pi Fellow No.857*

A Ph.D. candidate in mechanical engineering at Purdue University, Chathusha researches computational modeling of novel renewable energy systems under Dr. Aaron Morris. He develops modeling frameworks to predict thermal performance of concentrated solar power systems utilizing fluidized silica beds in collaboration with the National Renewable Energy Lab. His work advances simulation techniques for multiphase heat transfer in these systems. Originally from Sri Lanka, Chathusha earned his B.S. in mechanical eng'g from the Univ. of Moratuwa, where he was a three-time collegiate rowing champion, vice-captain of varsity crew, and awarded most outstanding graduate. At Purdue, he served on the Graduate Student Senate as an ME senator in fall 2025, advocating for graduate student needs. He is currently completing a graduate internship at Tesla, applying his thermal modeling expertise to battery-pack abuse functional safety for electric vehicles and energy storage systems. Chathusha aspires to join industry as a full-time researcher developing technologies to combat climate change.

Khaleb L. Pafford

Sigma Tau Fellow No. 52

Khaleb graduated with highest distinction from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a B.S. in mechanical engineering with computer science and mathematics minors. He served as Nebraska Alpha Chapter vice president, aerospace club president, and has held leadership roles on the Design Build Fly, Rocket Propulsion Group, and Rocketry engineering design teams. As an undergraduate, he conducted research at Midwest Roadside Safety Facility, evaluating inertial characteristics and sales trends of battery electric vehicles. Over the past year, he interned at Drone Amplified, designing hardware and payload modifications for unmanned aerial vehicles. Khaleb will pursue a Ph.D. in aerospace eng'g at the Georgia Institute of Technology as an NSF Graduate Research Fellow. His primary research interests include wear mechanisms in electric propulsion systems and alternative propellants for electric propulsion.

Rachel E. Schenck

Nagel Fellow No. 29

Rachel is a materials science & engineering Ph.D. student in the High Strain Rate Lab at Georgia Tech. Her research focus is energy dispersion of functionally-graded metals using time-resolved characterization techniques. Rachel is active with the GA Alpha Chapter, a Science Olympiad supervisor, and a club water polo player at GT. She graduated from Michigan State University with a B.S. in materials science & eng'g and mechanical engineering in 2025. During this time, she served as MI Alpha Chapter vice president for 2.5 years, treasurer and secretary of the Materials Science and Engineering Society, mechanical co-director of the Solar Car Team, and mentor for Women in Engineering. Throughout her time as an undergrad, Rachel conducted catalyst simulation research under Dr. Mendoza, sustainable lignin-based foam and adhesive replacements under Dr. Nejad, and industry research during four internships at Gentex, 3M, Williams International, and Wipro Pari. Her achievements include co-authored publications, conference presentations, being a GT Presidential Fellow, Alumni Distinguished Scholar, and an NSF GRFP Fellow.

TAU BETA PI FELLOWS continued from page 17

Araj Shah

Tau Beta Pi Fellow No. 858

Araj is completing his computer science and mathematics degree at Howard University, and this fall he'll begin a master of science in computer science and engineering at the University of Michigan. His studies have centered on machine learning, systems, and applied mathematics, and he's been fortunate to explore those interests through research and software eng'g internships at Google. Outside the classroom, Araj has enjoyed serving as a teaching assistant in computer science and mathematics, tutoring students, and being involved in organizations such as TBP, NSBE, and Howard's math and robotics communities. He values these spaces because they have taught him that knowledge carries its greatest force when it is shared, and that one of the most meaningful things we can do is help widen the circle of who feels they belong in technical spaces. After graduation, he hopes to build trustworthy AI and software systems that are both technically rigorous and humane. Araj carries deep gratitude for his family, mentors, and the Howard community, whose belief in him has made this path possible.

Brian N. Wang

Tau Beta Pi Fellow No. 859

Brian graduated *summa cum laude* from Rutgers University in three years with a B.S. in materials science & engineering. He's served as NJ Beta Chapter secretary, supporting outreach/community initiatives, and vice president of Material Advantage. Brian has conducted a wide range of materials systems and processes research. Under Dr. Haber, he synthesized and characterized ultra-high temperature ceramics for hypersonic applications. Under Dr. Riman, Brian led an undergrad team developing early-stage procedures for a novel metallization process for rare-earth chlorides. He also completed an internship at Picatinny Arsenal, analyzing inert weapon components and coatings, strengthening his interest in defense & aerospace materials. Brian is currently pursuing an M.S. in materials science & engineering under Dr. Goel and works on optimizing high-performance aluminoborosilicate glasses with superior hardness, crack resistance, and manufacturability for next-generation transparent armor and display protection. Brian recently returned to hypersonic materials research, investigating coatings for hypersonic flight.

Yameng "Moe" Zhang

Williams Fellow No. 47

Moe is graduating from Brown University with honors in engineering physics. During her undergraduate studies, she conducted research in quantum optics under Prof. Jimmy Xu where she investigated quantum imaging with undetected photons, a technique based on induced coherence to form images using light that never directly interacts with the object. Her work holds significant promise for imaging at otherwise inaccessible wavelengths, with applications spanning biological imaging, remote sensing, and quantum-enhanced sensing technologies. Moe will pursue a Ph.D. in electrical engineering at Stanford University as a Stanford Graduate Fellow. Her research interests lie at the intersection of photonics and sustainability where she aims to approach fundamental questions from first principles and translate them into technologies that address pressing environmental and energy challenges. Outside of academics, she is an avid runner, synchronized swimmer, and enthusiastic reader. In the future, she aspires to become a professor, combining her passion for research, teaching, and lifelong learning.

Hu "Oliver" Zhao

Matthews Fellow No. 29

Oliver is a Ph.D. student in civil and environmental engineering at Texas A&M University, researching urban resilience in Dr. Ali Mostafavi's Urban Resilience.AI Lab. He previously studied at Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture, earned his B.Eng. *magna cum laude* as an honors scholar from Auburn University, and completed his M.S. at UCLA. Oliver served as TX Delta Chapter president and as a 2024 TBP Convention voting delegate. He authored the June 2025 cover feature for *The Bulletin* and writes the recurring column "Exploring Life & Engineering with Hu" in *The Bent*. He's held officer roles in Chi Epsilon, Engineers Without Borders, TAMU graduate student consulting club, and Auburn's Student Government Association, to name a few. He has received multiple prestigious awards, including Auburn Honors College Eagle of Excellence award and Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering Excellence Fellowship. A World Economic Forum Global Shaper alumnus and Clinton Global Initiative University Fellow, he intends to pursue a career in management consulting.