



# 2023 Mechanical Engineering Scholarship Recipients

---

## David A. Brown Fellowship in Mechatronics



### Sana Saleem

I am Sana Saleem, a mechanical engineering student at San Jose State University. I am from Concord CA, and my parents are middle eastern. Outside of school my hobbies are working out, reading books, and shopping. I love working out and being healthy because it helps me out when I am stressed. I like reading books before going to sleep. I also have a passion for teaching so one day I hope to become a college professor at Stanford University. I am hoping to be able to start my Master's program this upcoming fall semester.



### Ashwin Unnikrishnan

I am an international student from India. Post completing my Bachelors in Automobile Engineering back in 2018, I worked at Mercedes-Benz, India for close to 5 years. I then decided to pursue my Master's in Mechanical Engineering to step foot into the field of Research and Development for which I felt San Jose State University is an excellent option. As someone who is passionate about using technology to solve real-world problems, I see mechatronics as a field that offers endless possibilities. I am particularly interested in the application of mechatronics in the healthcare industry, where robotic systems can be used to improve the quality of patient care by enabling precise and efficient diagnosis and treatment. In the long term, my goal is to be at the forefront of technological advancements and play a vital role in shaping the future of engineering.

## Francis Huang Memorial Scholarship



### Rohith Nanjappa Ravindranath

I'm pursuing my master's in Aerospace Engineering at SJSU. I am an international student from India, where I did my undergraduate in Mechanical Engineering. My interest in the field of Mechanical Engineering started in high school when I witnessed my first rocket launch in person. My dream of going to space brought me to SJSU as an Aerospace student and gave me exposure to many clubs and projects that made me stronger both academically and professionally. For my Master's project, I am working on an Expandable Lunar module that could help future lunar missions to have a base on the lunar surface. This project idea was accepted in NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts Phase 1, part A. I would like to build a prototype model of My expandable Lunar module before I graduate from SJSU.



### Kyle Fitzpatrick

My name is Kyle Fitzpatrick and I am a first generation college student. I'm from Martinez, Ca and transferred here from Los Medanos College. Being the first person in my family to go to college I feel a lot of responsibility to be the best I can be and make my family proud. I served 4 years in the US Navy and when I got out enrolled in college. I'm very proud and happy to be at San Jose State pursuing a Mechanical Engineering degree.



# 2023 Mechanical Engineering Scholarship Recipients

---

## ME Graduate of the Year

### Sai Hein Si Thu



Hi! My name is Sai Hein Si Thu, or more conveniently, Andrew. I am an international student from Myanmar (Burma) and hence the relatively long name. All four words in my name and yet none of them is my first, last, or middle name. That is because, in Myanmar, the naming convention is to only give single-part names, which I find strange after arriving here in the United States. I am thrilled to be nominated the Mechanical Engineering Graduate of the Year because during my time at San José State University, not only did I get to learn a whole lot about Mechatronics, but I also received this award for doing that! I feel very lucky and grateful to all my friends as well as professors and staff members that I got to know throughout my undergraduate years at SJSU. Moreover, I want to thank especially my closest friends, who have transformed me as a person— teaching me new things, helping me improve, bringing me out of my comfort zone, allowing me to express myself, and spending time with me through our struggles, both academically and life-wise. Without them, my time at SJSU would not be as fulfilling! I owe a large part of my “success” to them. Furthermore, I would also like to thank the Waltonsmith family for providing me with this award, this recognition that serves as evidence of the hardship that I have been through. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

## ME Endowment Scholarship



### Jurel Dizon

I'm Jurel Dizon, I originally came from South San Francisco, but ever since I transferred from the College of San Mateo in 2021, when most of my engineering experience was virtual, I have gotten nourishing experience that gives me the perspective on how I can contribute to my community as an engineer. From participating in Baja SAE as a senior suspension engineer, to being a research assistant for Dr. Lee in the microelectromechanical laboratory, I was not only able to get hands-on experience, but I was also able to teach fellow engineering students as well.

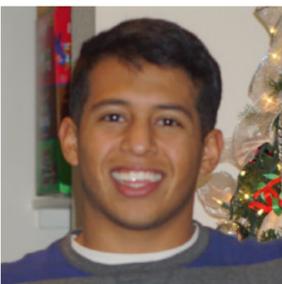
## S. Brooks Walton Scholarship Award



### Nate Preston

I'm a native of Santa Cruz County. I currently live in Watsonville with my wife. While my journey to becoming a mechanical engineer has been a little longer than most, it's been a great experience. Here at San Jose State, I had the opportunity to join Dr. Furman's ME-106 lab instruction team for a year, and did my best to help others learn the material. I'm currently working in the Senior project center, helping students manufacture parts for their projects, as well as teaching them good shop practices. As I graduate, I'm looking forward to finding a career that gives me the opportunity to continue growing, learning, and helping others.

## Veterans Scholarship



### Nico Alfaro

My name is Nico Alfaro, I am from Salinas, CA and I am studying Mechanical Engineering. I am a non-traditional student, who served in the United States Marine Corps before returning to school. I chose Mechanical engineering, for the opportunity to build a strong foundation in problem solving, physical sciences, and creativity with the intention of solving problems in the biomedical, environmental, and outdoor sports industry. I am extremely grateful for this award,



### Wyatt Leuck



# 2023 Mechanical Engineering Scholarship Recipients

## Gilead Sciences Scholarship



### Brianna Valverde

My name is Brianna Valverde, and I was born and raised in San Jose, California. I'm a first-year mechanical engineering student at San Jose State University, having transferred from West Valley College, where I was taking courses to complete an associate degree in biological sciences. However, I soon realized that my true passion lay in math, science, and robotics, which I have always enjoyed since childhood. Thus, I decided to switch my major and pursue mechanical engineering to further my education and enhance my problem-solving skills.

Outside of academics, I have always been an athlete and played soccer since the age of seven. I continued playing soccer throughout community college, where I learned valuable teamwork and leadership skills. I also have an interest in gardening, which provides a relaxing and therapeutic break from academic demands.



### Jose Luiz Sarabia Torres

Hello there!!! I'm Jose Luiz, and I am a first-generation Mechanical Engineering student with a clear vision of pursuing a Ph.D. at Stanford University after completing my Bachelor's at San Jose State. As a commuter from Redwood City, it was challenging to find a community that fostered Latino success in Engineering until I met the Society of Latino Engineers and Scientists (SOLES). At the beginning of the Fall 2022 semester, I found a "familia" within the College of Engineering. I vividly remember walking down 7th street during Engineering Club week and having the SOLES bright yellow flag catch my eye. As I approached their table, the current SOLES president welcomed me with warm and open arms. Throughout the semester, I attended the SHPE National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, toured NVIDIA's campus in Santa Clara, and most importantly, found a community that supported me mentally and emotionally through my journey as a first-generation. I realized I was not alone. There were other Latinos in Engineering. Now I plan to use my wealth and knowledge to continue advocating for Latino success. Next semester I am set to be the PRESIDENT of the Society of Latino Engineers and Scientists (SOLES), which fills my heart with happiness as I will invest in the next generation of Latino Engineers at San Jose State University. As president, I am committed to providing our members the opportunities to excel professionally and become leaders in STEM who foster diversity, equity, and inclusion in Engineering.



### Elizabeth Bremberg

I am Elizabeth Bremberg, a Mechanical Engineering major focusing in Mechatronics with a minor in Robotics. As a local to Silicon Valley, I was constantly surrounded by opportunities in STEM growing up, increasing my interest in the field. Ultimately, it was my experiences on the Space Cookies VEX Robotics Team which would shape my choice in major and potential career. The six years I spent competing and participating in the troop helped to foster my love of both engineering and advocacy of women in STEM. Today, I continue my advocacy for underrepresented individuals in STEM through my STEM sorority, the Beta Upsilon Chapter of Alpha Omega Epsilon.



### Maiken Nettie Pardon

My name is Maiken Nettie Pardon. I am majoring in Mechanical Engineering and working towards a minor in Computer Science. I am the youngest of five kids where I am the first to pursue an engineering degree. I found my passion for engineering at a young age. I was introduced to the idea by my parents proposed becoming a toy designer since I loved playing with toys as a kid. The idea grew on me because engineering gave me a space where I could dabble in all of my interests. In addition to school, I play water polo for San Jose State's women's team, am a member of Pi Tau Sigma, and a member of Tau Beta Pi. I also am a fundraising chair for the Society of Women Engineers and am a member of Pi Tau Sigma. As a fundraising chair, I get to encourage more women to join engineering and raise money for a cause that is important to me. I grew up in Manhattan Beach, California. Growing up near the beach has given me some different hobbies. I have been able to be an ocean lifeguard and swim a 10K.



### Ana Isabel Espinosa Agundis

Isabel Agundis is a mechanical engineering major and transfer student from Santa Barbara City College, as well as a member of the MESA Engineering Program (MEP). With a passion for science, technology, engineering and mathematics, Isabel has gained extensive internship experience at NASA's Johnson Space Center, Northrop Grumman Mission Systems, Cummins Jamestown Engine Plant, and IBM Silicon Valley Lab. In Fall 2022, she served as a research assistant in the Mechanical Engineering department for a Robotic Exoskeleton project.

Isabel is also a notable achiever, having been appointed to the Students, Post-Doctoral Scholars and Early Career Professionals (SPEC) Subcommittee, where she provided advice to former President Donald Trump and the Executive Office of the President on science and technology policies. Additionally, as a Product Lead for Anitech Startup, Isabel helped the company win the Silicon Valley Innovation Challenge for Best Product Innovation in 2021 and actively participated in the 2021-2022 ZinnStarter program as a startup company.



# 2023 Mechanical Engineering Scholarship Recipients

## Robert A. Dees Memorial Scholarship



### Behdokht Meshkin Fam

Hello, I'm Behdokht Meshkinfam, an aspiring mechanical engineer and a native of Iran. I'm currently pursuing my graduate studies in mechanical engineering at San Jose State University. Sustainability and innovation in engineering are my core interests, and I'm driven to create a better world for us all. When I'm not working on my studies, I enjoy hiking and photography, which allows me to capture the natural beauty around me. My passion for community service and helping others led me to pursue a career in engineering, where I can use my skills to serve society. I'm committed to making a difference by developing sustainable solutions that will reduce carbon emissions and benefit our planet in the long run.



### Lance Lee

I am a mechanical engineering student at the College of Engineering. I come from Alameda, California, and my interest in mechanical engineering started when I began my personal project of restoring my family's car - our 1989 Honda Civic. I view my restoration project as a way to give back to my family who have been supporting me along my academic journey thus far, and to apply the knowledge I have learned in my engineering classes into real-life applications. At school, I also joined the Spartan Baja Racing Club - a competitive automotive engineering club - to further enhance my interest in automobile mechanics serving as a member of the powertrain team. In the future, my longtime goal is to work in the motorsport industry as an automotive engineer.



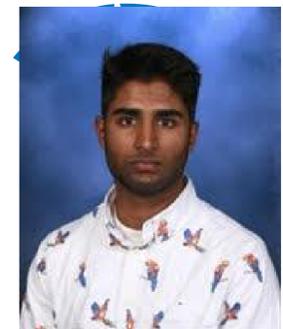
### Michael Kamas

Michael is San Jose native, who currently commutes from Santa Clara to attend classes. He is preparing to enter his 3rd and final year at SJSU focusing on the mechanical design capstone courses, having transferred with an associates degree from West Valley College. While being homeschooled, he was able to explore interests in science and mechanics, and helped inspire a love of math and problem solving. Outside of his studies, Michael spends his time designing and building Human Powered Vehicles with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers student chapter, working behind the scenes on performances at the Hammer Theater, using his 3D printer to make and experiment with new designs, or at home relaxing with his cat and fiancée.



### Madelyn Beckner

I'm a third year mechanical engineering student from Tracy, CA. Some fields that I'm interested in are surgical robotics and renewable energy. When I'm not studying I enjoy reading books of all genres and keeping up with formula one racing.



### Jonathan Merino

: WaI\_ k` S\_ We-SeZS` =WZz; S\_ SXWZ\_ S` SfE-EGl efgMk` Y? WZS` [LS^7` YI` WwI` Yz; dMWPk YcSVgSfWxh\_ >WYZ: [YZ EUZaa^I` ES` <aeMS` Vef` UWZl^VZaaM; ZShVZSVS bSeeja` XidWYI` WwI` Yz; `ahWa fl` ] Wli [fZ \_ SUZl` Wl` Vsd Zai fZW`i ad}S` V\_ aV}k fZW` fa [ bcahWZMdbWad` S` UWidgeSI[|fkz; ebWV\_ kXWwI` Va` \_ k bca`Wfd WZWDj [ YUSd i aaVi ad [ Y adWwY [ Y bcaVgUfeI` 536 eaXi SdW? k`a` YfWl` YaS^[efa geWZW Sf aXWYI` WwI` Yfa\_ S] Vsbaf|hW\_ bSuf a` eaUWk



# 2023 Mechanical Engineering Scholarship Recipients

---

## Mark A. Pasquale Scholarship



### Niels Hofmeijer

My name is Niels Hofmeijer and I am an international student from the Netherlands. In August 2018, I moved from the Netherlands to San Jose to pursue a Bachelor's Degree and a Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering. Before coming to SJSU, I combined highschool, swimming and water polo at a high level. At SJSU, I was part of the Division 1 Men's Water Polo team from 2018 until December 2022 (as I finished my 5 years of eligibility). One of the biggest achievements was becoming 8th in the nation with SJSU during our 2021-2022 season. While playing for the Water Polo team, I completed the BSME last year. Now, I am planning to complete the MSME with a focus in design and controls in the Fall of 2023. I immediately enrolled in graduate school after finishing my BSME. I do recommend this to a lot of ME students as the material that is covered in the graduate classes is advanced and extremely interesting especially if you are passionate about Mechanical Engineering.



### Devon Heubel

My name is Devon Heubel, a third year Mechanical Engineering student from Lake County, CA. I spent last semester working full-time at Tesla in Fremont as a Manufacturing Equipment Engineering Intern for the S/X line where I had tons of learning opportunities and the ability to make a lasting impact on the company. Also, being a fan of Initial D, this job allowed me the opportunity to have a car from the era, a 4th generation Toyota Celica. When there's free time, I love designing and making fun things, working on my car, traveling, and language learning.

## Steven Meacham Memorial Scholarship



### Charlie Nino

Hello, my name is Charlie Nino, and I am a fourth-year Mechanical Engineering student from Sonoma County, CA. I have a great passion for technology, innovation, and community. I am currently involved as the President of SJSU ASME, a member of the SJSU Biomedical Engineering Society, and a Lead Peer Advisor and Student Assistant for MEP. I hope to continue to serve my community and shape my future through leadership and opportunities that will allow me to grow as an engineer. I am looking forward to pursuing my Senior Project in the Fall and finishing up my final year at San Jose State.

### Meshi Shachaf

Meshi is the presiding President of Pi Tau Sigma, the International Honor Society for Mechanical Engineers. In that role, she hosts social events so engineers on different paths can socialize in a more welcoming environment, also hosting industry events to help members improve their skills and expand options for possible career paths. She is a participating member of Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society. Meshi is also involved in the Spartan Racing, Baja SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) International, where she participates in activities related to design, manufacturing, and testing a downscaled all-terrain off-road vehicle for the 2023 race based on regulations and standards similar to those imposed on professional motor sport teams. Meshi is conducting part-time research with Professor Farzan Kazemifar titled "Experimental Study of Microfluidic Droplet Generators", studying the generation of droplets in liquid, their flow in a controlled setting, and how that flow changes depending on various parameters. In her free time, she enjoys hobbies including photography, woodworking, horse riding, ice skating, and graphic design.



### Jason Corona

My name is Jason Corona and I am a rising senior majoring in mechanical engineering. My interest in mechanical engineering originated from growing up in the Bay Area and riding different types of public transportation. This made me want to pursue a career in engineering that would make public transportation more sustainable and efficient. Throughout my time at San Jose State University I feel that I have been prepared to be an effective engineer. I will take what I have learned in university to make public transportation better for communities throughout the Bay Area and beyond.

