

2023 Charles W. Davidson College of Engineering Scholars

Caden Sanchez | Computer Engineering

Proactive | Hardworking | Adaptive

The Ditmore Family Scholarship Endowment

1. Why did you choose your major?

I was born into the generation of the internet. Like many kids that were my age, I found a hobby in playing video games. I was fortunate enough to have video games where I could explore my creativity. I played games that fueled my innovation and ingenuity. I would bring designs in my head to life. I also played many virtual puzzle games. Through my schooling, I had a special interest in math because I thought of math as a puzzle, and I loved solving it. When I looked into what I wanted to do as a career, computer engineering encapsulated my interests and was the perfect path for me.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

As a first year student, I hope to join many engineering programs to fuel my innovation as well as collaborate with my peers.

3. What is your dream job?

I don't have a specific position of work that I want to do, I know that in my career, I want to contribute to the mitigation of the environmental impacts from technology. Every computer made comes at the price of a larger carbon footprint. The mining of precious metals creates hazardous waste. Seeing the environmental impacts that this could have motivates me into wanting to innovate more efficiency in computer design.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

As I am currently a freshman, my advice to myself is to work hard and stay focused on my school work. Get involved with San Jose State and take opportunities.

Charlie Nino | Mechanical Engineering

Involved | Organized | Enthusiastic

Marvin and Anna Jean Sheets Scholarship

1. Why did you choose your major?

Ever since I was young, I've always enjoyed brainstorming different ideas, innovating, and creating with Legos. I was first introduced to the field of engineering through my older cousin who works as an R&D engineer for a medical technology company. After research and interviewing others in the field, I found that Mechanical Engineering would be the perfect major for me due to its broad scope and versatility. I see engineering as a field that allows for the

power of innovation and change, to positively impact our society. My major will allow me to pursue a career in many engineering fields where I can apply my technical knowledge, creativity and communication skills to find solutions through innovation and serve a greater purpose in this world.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

I am very involved both on campus and in my community. Being involved for me is essential for personal and professional growth. It is a great way to practice leadership, communication, and teamwork to prepare for a future career, and it allows for opportunities and networking. I am enthusiastic about being involved not only for these reasons but also because involvement helps establish a community that you can contribute to, one that supports growth and promotes positivity.

I am currently the president of the SJSU American Society of Mechanical Engineers Section (ASME) and a member of the Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES). I joined both clubs my freshman year and have gained a lot of valuable experiences that have helped me in my journey. I chose these clubs specifically because I wanted to meet people in my major with similar interests and work on projects where I can apply ideas learned in the classroom.

I have also been actively involved in the MESA Engineering Program since my freshman year, and have had the opportunity to attend several career enriching activities from resume workshops, networking nights, and industry mixers. I just started my third year working as a Peer Advisor for MEP and enjoy being in a position where I can give back to the SJSU community, by helping engineering students find the support and resources they need to succeed.

My last two years I also served as a House Leader for the Spartan Village first-year engagement program serving over 300 engineering students. I was also chosen to be an ambassador for the Engineering Go Program, which I have been actively involved in since my first year at SJSU. With these roles, I am able to use my experiences to help support others as I continue to learn and grow myself. Involvement is one of my passions and I hope to continue making a positive impact through my activities as I pursue my goals.

3. What is your dream job?

With mechanical engineering the field is very broad and open to many different opportunities. While I don't have one dream job, I am very passionate about being successful in my field. I am very interested in technology and biomedical engineering and would like to see myself as a Research and Development Engineer, so that I can be a part of a team and work to identify problems and find solutions. I've seen this with my cousin who works in medical technology and it inspires me to use my engineering degree similarly, to innovate for an advanced future.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

I love this question because in my on-campus jobs, I often advise freshmen and share my own personal experiences with them.

Advice I would share to my freshman self is to take advantage of all of the opportunities and resources available to you. Your college experience is truly what you make out of it! Get involved, make friends, have fun, and gain experience from all that you can.

It is never too early to start thinking about networking and internships. Don't be afraid to apply or ask questions because that's what will lead to your growth. I remember attending career fairs and industry mixers as a freshman just to speak with professionals to help me get an idea of what they may look for in potential candidates. It really is a great way to make connections, learn about different companies and see where your interest lies. It's also great practice to perfect your professional sales pitch and interview skills.

My final piece of advice to my freshman self would be to keep your end goal in mind, to remind yourself of what you're working for when it gets tough. Your professors are there to help you succeed so don't be afraid to reach out to them when you need help. Having a supportive network of peers, faculty, and advisors will help push you to continue pursuing your goals to meet your dreams. Don't let anyone tell you you are not capable of something, challenge yourself to achieve the impossible.

Tram Do | Aviation and Technology

Tenacious | Curious | Passionate

Eugene C. Coussens Scholarship Endowment

1. Why did you choose your major?

I chose Aviation major because I was interested in becoming a pilot. Coming from Vietnam, where I did not have as many opportunities to pursue a flying career, I saw my chances to pursue my dreams in aviation here in the United States. I have always been interested in space. My first flight as a passenger in the airplane to immigrate to the United States was an indescribable experience. I have been intrigued with flying and airplanes ever since.

Getting my private pilot license took a lot of perseverance. There were so many events that happened in between. I switched flight schools, had five different instructors, dealt with ACL surgery and recovery, and many more events. I was also attending college full-time, working part-time, and being involved with extracurriculars. Despite my obstacles and hardships, I refused to give up because I believed I would eventually achieve what I wanted as long as I kept going. I finally received my private pilot license in over two years. Getting my license is my greatest accomplishment, and I can not wait to achieve more ratings.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

I am a Vice President of the Women In Aviation SJSU Chapter. I joined the club as a member, and being in the club opened so many opportunities for me. I connected with my fellow aviators and met more people in the aviation community. This year, our club got to go to the Women in Aviation International Conference in Long Beach, California. I learned more about aviation

opportunities and networked with Aviation Professionals. Our club is working towards fundraising for the next conference in 2024, and I hope to have more club members get to go.

3. What is your dream job?

My dream job would be an airline pilot. An existing problem with the aviation industry is that there is a small percentage of women pilots. I want to help increase the percentage of women in the aviation industry. As part of the Women in Aviation club at SJSU, I am helping to support and uplift women in the aviation program and inspire young girls to pursue aviation careers. I want to be an airline pilot to encourage more women in aviation, especially women of color.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

Advice for my freshman self is to get involved with student clubs and community service as soon as possible. Those activities have helped me feel connected and give back to my community. Another piece of advice would be getting to know your professors. Do not be afraid to talk to your professors for letters of recommendation. Keep applying for scholarships and improving yourself.

Matthew Ard | Mechanical Engineering

Altruistic | Hardworking | Funny

Silicon Valley Engineering Scholarship (SVES)

1. Why did you choose your major?

For the first 2 years of my life, I lived in an orphanage in China. I could be in a very different place in life right now, but luckily I was adopted and brought to America. At the time it was a very hard transition for me, but as time goes by, my gratitude for being adapted only increases. Unfortunately, there are a lot of other people who are not as lucky as me and face many challenges every day that many of us would never consider being a problem.

Due to climate change, many of these problems have increased in magnitude and frequency. I chose engineering because I love science and problem-solving, and engineering allows me to use these skills to create real world solutions. More specifically, I chose mechanical engineering because I am most interested in energy-related research, to mitigate the effects of climate change, which mechanical engineers can do a lot of work in.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

I am involved in 2 different communities/organizations at school, as well as the McNair Scholar Program. I am the coach and treasurer for the Gymnastics club. Additionally, I am a member of SJSU Robotics. I joined as a mechanical engineer, and now I am the treasurer.

I chose the robotics club because of the technical experience it could give me and the people that are a part of it. Although I do not want to work in robotics for my career, being a part of this club allowed me to gain technical experience and be a part of a hardworking and driven group of engineers.

The gymnastics club is a good opportunity for me to relax a little bit and meet students from other departments of the university.

3. What is your dream job?

There is no specific company or job title that I can think of as my dream job, but I would like to be a leader in the clean energy field to help mitigate the effects of climate change. I am most interested in working with a company who is trying to lower the cost of clean energy technology to make it more accessible for people and competitive to the fossil fuel counterparts. I would like my research to be applicable to the real world and create solutions that people can start implementing soon.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

Time is a very important resource that you should not take for granted. While school may seem like the most important thing right now, and you should work hard at it, it is only going to be a very small portion of your entire life. Keep working hard to achieve your goals, but also take time to enjoy and experience life because what's the point of living if you are only working.

Nikitha Fernandes | Biomedical Engineering

Ambitious | Kind | Insightful

Gordon Family

1. Why did you choose your major?

I chose biomedical engineering because it combines my interests in healthcare and engineering. When I was younger, I was interested in becoming a doctor, but during high school, I decided that I was also interested in engineering and wanted to contribute to the healthcare system using those skills. Since I became interested in engineering later in high school, I was nervous that I wouldn't be prepared for the math and science required to succeed in college. However, at SJSU, I was able to utilize the resources available to do well in my engineering coursework, and I have come to really enjoy it.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

I am part of the Society of Women Engineers at SJSU. I joined this club to meet new students with a similar mindset to mine, and to make friends during online classes. Since then, I have become highly involved in SWE, in various leadership positions. SWE has been such an important part of my college experience, especially to find a supportive community in engineering. In addition, SWE has given me the opportunity to give back to others, by mentoring incoming and current students through the big little program and high school outreach. Outside of SWE, I am also part of Girlstart, a program that provides STEM afterschool programs to 4th and 5th grade girls. Both of these programs are very important to me to help improve the diversity in STEM fields and especially engineering. It also motivates me to continue in my degree and improve the experience of students that come after me.

3. What is your dream job?

I would like to work as a design engineer at a biomedical device company. In this job, I will be able to help design products that will support doctors in treating their patients effectively.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

I would advise myself to get involved in as many clubs and activities as possible. During my freshman year, I felt nervous about attending events by myself, and it took me a while to start making connections. In addition, I would encourage myself to make friends in my classes and connect with professors early. This helps with getting help and support when needed, as well as motivation to stay on top to schoolwork and studying.

Brianna Liang | Mechanical Engineering

Creative | Persistent | Curious

Munson Engineering Scholarship

1. Why did you choose your major?

Growing up in Silicon Valley has shown me how versatile and valuable it is to have an education in engineering. I gained experience in the industry by assisting mechanical engineers in high school, which affirmed my interest in pursuing mechanical engineering.

After graduating, I was accepted into another reputable university for mechanical engineering. However, due to complications with my health, I was moved to long-term hospital living and had to withdraw from school. When the accessibility to online classes significantly increased during the pandemic, I saw the opportunity to resume my education, and I enrolled in online classes. Taking these classes were the highlight of my days and gave me the strength to make a full recovery, leading to my discharge and eventual transfer to SJSU. My persistence during this time makes me feel confident in tackling any future challenges in my education or career.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

My favorite school activity is bouldering in the SRAC. I'm still a beginner, but it's a fun way to break up the school day and meet new people. I feel more connected with my SJSU community through this activity.

Outside of school, I work as a Pilates instructor. Pilates is a physical therapy workout that empowers people to take back control of their bodies. It makes me happy to see clients not only gain mobility and strength but also improve their lifestyle.

3. What is your dream job?

My dream job is to come up with innovative engineering solutions that will benefit those in my community. Currently, I am participating in a senior project about intracity transportation solutions. The project tackles the issue of carbon emissions from a new and innovative angle. I believe this technology can significantly improve the lives of people in the future, providing accessibility to transportation for all. This project inspires me to also make waves in my community by thinking outside of the box.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

The advice I would share with my freshman self is to seek out others for resources and networking opportunities. Connecting with the school counselors has enabled me to receive extra support about any external challenges, greatly enhancing my education experience. Additionally, I would tell my freshman self to attend school events/conferences of interest to network with like-minded peers and people in the industry.

Brian Chiang | Computer Engineering

Innovative | Empathetic | Resilient

Emma E. Legg Memorial Scholarship for Engineering

1. Why did you choose your major?

I believe that my computer engineering major represents an opportunity to develop my passion for computers into a career that offers a meaningful difference in people's lives. Growing up with limited financial resources, my deep fascination with computers, their hardware, and software acted as a gateway to a world of infinite possibilities. I was constantly intrigued by how they functioned at a fundamental level. How someone could turn copper, resin, and glass into computational powerhouses capable of transmitting data wirelessly.

While navigating the challenges of limited means, I realized that engineering offered a unique avenue to apply skills creatively and innovate new solutions. To me, engineers are architects of progress who use their expertise to bring transformative solutions to real-world problems to life. The world of engineering was constantly evolving, and I was determined to explore it.

One moment I consider pivotal was in assembling my first computer after researching the components I wanted. Through rigorous stress tests and years of use, I gained a profound understanding of the capabilities of computers. This set me on the path of envisioning how the powerful machines could be harnessed to automate various systems, providing assistance to individuals who faced mobility or time constraints.

The vision was deeply personal. As you age, you begin to realize how fleeting life can be. I recognized the signs of diminishing mobility in my family as I matured. Yet, in front of me was an opportunity to learn skills to create home automation solutions. I witnessed the possibilities of home automation. Stair-chair lifts, Roombas, and security systems, all illuminated the power of technology to provide practical solutions to everyday challenges. This offered a solution to significantly improve the quality of life for people like my parents, who would often work tirelessly to support my aspirations and found themselves too exhausted to engage in more meaningful aspects of life. In leveraging my engineering skills, I envision a future where technology could offer support and alleviate the burden from individuals like my parents.

I chose computer engineering not just to quench my curiosity for the field I am passionate about but also as a pathway to harness technology's potential and give back to those who had sacrificed for me. Through my desire to create innovative solutions and enhance the lives of

barrier-facing individuals, I aim to contribute to the development of these systems that empower and support those who, like my parents, deserve a brighter and more accessible future.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

I am an active member of Spartan Racing, SJSU's Formula Electric Race Car team (FSAE) on their software/electronics division. As a Computer Engineer, I recognize the importance of honing both hardware and software skills. FSAE provides one of the best hands-on platforms to gain practical experience in PCB Design, Software Development, and Embedded Systems. The prospect of developing complex electronic systems from designing circuit boards to developing software that controls them was exciting. It's an excellent opportunity to learn, innovate, and apply knowledge to real-world problems and contexts.

My family's unwavering support on top of belief in the power of education has always guided my choices. In joining FSAE, I am not only pursuing my own dreams but honoring their values. My involvement aligns with their aspirations while also reinforcing the importance of practical learning.

In FSAE, I hope to develop a comprehensive skill set that spans both hardware and software engineering while collaborating with my teammates to build a car from the ground up. It's a thrilling and rewarding experience, combining technical challenges with the joy of creating something exceptional. Through the club, I strive to grow as an engineer, and contribute to the team's success, while carrying forward the principles that hold significance for my family and me.

3. What is your dream job?

My dream job would most likely be to become a leader in the field of TinyML (Tiny Machine Learning) or AIoT (Artificial Intelligence of Things), particularly focusing on home automation. The motivation is driven by the desire to address existing industry problems and provide a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals who may be too busy or possess limited abilities.

A significant problem in the industry would be the lack of truly accessible and inclusive home automation solutions. Many existing systems tend to be too complex to set up or lack the adaptability to cater to the specific needs individuals have. My goal is to revolutionize this field by developing smart systems that are not only user-friendly but also highly adaptable and can be customized to suit the unique requirements of each user.

Through a combination of hardware expertise like PCB design and embedded systems/IoT development, as well as software proficiency in machine learning algorithms and resource management, I plan to create smart machine power home automation solutions that are intuitive, efficient, and responsive. The aim is to not only enhance the quality of life for individuals like my parents but also empower them to have greater control over their living spaces, offering increased independence and convenience.

My dream job is not just about technical innovation, but also about providing a positive impact on people's lives. By simplifying and enhancing home automation, I hope to aid individuals with limited abilities and give them a more comfortable and accessible living environment. My vision is to innovate technology that meets the needs of users while enriching their daily lives.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

Given the chance to offer advice to my freshman self, I would make an effort to focus on breaking out of my shell and fully embracing the college experience. I would further emphasize the importance of being less shy and taking risks, as I've come to realize that, in truth, nobody really cares about how you perform or how you may appear. If you ask a stupid question, 10 years from now, likely nobody will remember.

Don't Fear Failure: Making mistakes and stumbling is an integral part of the learning process. If avoided entirely, I would most likely never learn and just keep to myself. Therefore, I would encourage my younger self to seek professor aid when required rather than attempting to brute force complex topics independently and inevitably giving up. Seeking assistance is a sign of strength and drive, not necessarily weakness.

Get Involved: While academics are important, personal growth and a practical well-rounded skill set are equally if not more important. I would yell at my freshman self to annoy student club representatives to the point where they got tired of me asking for more tasks. Find a student club or community that aligns with your interest and get involved so that you are provided practical application of knowledge while making lifelong friends.

Lastly, I would tell myself to find your place. While being less outgoing is fine, college is also a great time to explore and discover where you fit in. Seek out like-minded individuals and communities who tend to resonate with my interests and values. In this way, a sense of belonging can be found, greatly enhancing the college experience instead of just coming to class and then going home.

Anaiya Williamsom | Industrial & Systems Engineering

Caring | Positive | Determined

Ichor Systems, Inc. Engineering Scholarship

1. Why did you choose your major?

Growing up, I always had an affinity for STEM. I was involved in MESA and went to many STEM related summer camps, but I never actually considered majoring in engineering due to the imposter syndrome I felt. I wasn't exposed to many black women who worked in engineering so I never saw myself in the field. So I made an effort in highschool to seek out some engineers who looked like me and hear their experiences. They encouraged me to pursue my dream of becoming an engineer and I started to gain confidence in my abilities. While my college journey has had its challenges, it has been a great experience. My aspiration is to use my engineering degree to contribute to an industry that genuinely improves people's lives.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

I find it very important to be involved in the African American community at San Jose State University. During my freshman year, I discovered the Black Alliance of Scientist and Engineers (BASE). I was so excited when I found this club because I had trouble meeting other black engineers on campus. This club is very meaningful to me because having a strong community of both students and professionals is vital to black engineering students. It can be discouraging being underrepresented in STEM, so providing students with the opportunity to network with black STEM professionals helps them envision themselves in the field. Also it facilitates students in gaining resources which helps them grow professionally.

3. What is your dream job?

As an industrial engineering major, I have a lot of industries to choose from. While exploring these diverse options, I can envision myself in various fields. However, the most important factor in my career choice is to be part of an industry that has a direct, positive impact on people's lives.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

I'd counsel my freshman self to prioritize mental well-being. Adapting to college often left me feeling burnt out and overwhelmed and I wish I had dedicated more moments to self-care.

Ji Ho Park | Aviation and Technology

Precise | Organized | Optimistic

Eugene C. Coussens Scholarship Endowment

1. Why did you choose your major?

Since I was young, I struggled a lot to find a major that I enjoy. When I was studying in college, my friend, who studied aircraft mechanics, suggested an introductory flight. That flight inspired and motivated me to learn more about the aviation industry. Since then, I decided to become a pilot in the future.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

I have been working as a ramp agent at San Jose Airport for over a year. This job allowed me to immerse myself in the aviation industry by fueling aircraft, providing customer service, building trust between coworkers, and promoting safety. Even though the job is tough, I am pleased to be around aircraft and pilots whom I get inspiration and advice from.

3. What is your dream job?

After graduating from SJSU, I want to achieve a commercial license and become a certified flight instructor to teach student pilots. I believe that being a flight instructor is more than just teaching someone how to fly an aircraft. It's about sharing a passion and instilling a love of aviation that will last a lifetime. After building hours, becoming an airline pilot is my ultimate goal.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

I would tell myself to get involved in student clubs. Build connections with other students, enjoy more school activities, and apply for internships.

Arjun Sudheer | Computer Engineering

Hardworking | Helpful | Considerate

Jane G. Evans Scholarship

1. Why did you choose your major?

I chose software engineering as my major because I really liked the problem solving aspect of it. I learned how to code in my freshman year of high school, and initially it was tough to create a solution to the coding challenge at hand. I chose to stick with it though, and eventually, it became easier for me to understand. I remember coding my own golf game and my own version of Atari breakout, which was very rewarding to see successfully work.

I also joined my school's robotics club where I was able to learn more about how software can control motors and servos to allow the robot to perform really precise actions. I worked on the code that would allow the robot to pick up rings off the ground and launch them into goals. Before, software development just meant moving a sprite on a screen, but this experience showed me that software can also bring robots to life. I became fascinated with trying to optimize my code as well as trying to develop robot-tracking systems to complete the missions efficiently.

Software Engineering allows me to find new and efficient ways to solve various problems, and I think that is very exciting.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

Since middle school, I have been a part of the Boy Scouts of America. Through this organization, I have been able to try out a lot of new experiences on many camping trips, and I have also been able to make more friends over the years.

I participated in a lot of volunteering programs where I would help clean creeks to protect the wildlife, and help manage Goodwill Drives. The most impactful for me was when I volunteered at the Safe Car Park Event. Safe Car Park is an event where homeless citizens can park their cars in the local church parking lot, and volunteers can cook them a hot meal. It made me really happy to know that I was giving back to the community by preparing a hot meal for these citizens.

On my trail to achieving Eagle Rank, I led a service project where I built a book display stand for my high school's library. I created the designs of the book display stand, and led the build of the project. It was a rewarding experience for me to involve younger scouts in my project and set an example for them. I feel very happy seeing the book display stand being put to good use in my high school's library.

Through Boy Scouts, I have learned how valuable and impactful it can be to stay involved in my community, and that is something that I hope to continue doing moving forward.

3. What is your dream job?

My dream job is to develop software in the fields of robotics and cybersecurity.

For robotics, I am especially interested in helping develop surgical robots. Many people around the world do not have adequate access to cutting edge healthcare treatments, and surgical robots can help solve this problem.

For cybersecurity, it is becoming an increasingly important field as our world becomes more digital. Ensuring privacy and security online will be important moving forward, and cybersecurity can definitely help make the online experience safer for everyone.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

I would tell my younger self to not be afraid to try new things. A lot of learning can happen through hands-on experiences, so don't be afraid of joining a club or an organization because you may not know how to do something just yet. It is important to put yourself out there and try new experiences. In the beginning, it may be tough and there may be some setbacks, but keep persevering and eventually good things will follow.

Muskaan Kapoor | Aviation and Technology

Supportive | Frank | Polite

Dale and Sue Missimer Engineering Scholarship

1. Why did you choose your major?

I am an international student and I grew up in a family with a business background who were not very inclined towards the job side of the world, but I had a different opinion and was open to any opportunities. As outer Space and galaxies always astonished me I originally decided to pursue Aerospace Engineering and I felt a little closer to it when I entered my freshman year in Aerospace, Aeronautics, and Astronautical Engineering. By the end of my freshmen year, I had some personal situation due to which I had to find another field to pursue. I was confused, hundreds of miles away from home, and had no idea what other field interested me. After putting all my efforts into looking for something that had 3 values, Beauty, Benefit, and Good. I wanted to pursue something that I love doing (Beauty), it provides me with benefits and contributes to society (Good). Ideally, Aerospace was perfect but in the real world sometimes a situation arises that influences your original plan, right? After looking at various majors, what interested me was Engineering Technology – Computer Network Systems management with a minor in Business Administration. I ended up taking it as my major because it interested me. It definitely will provide me with benefits and I can contribute to society directly or indirectly through this since our world is headed towards an era of networking, cloud technology, smart manufacturing, and many more. Throughout the process, I had a lot of situations that changed my original course of action. I could have lamented over how I had to give up on my first choice, or I could have focused on being an indispensable person in my current field.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

I was involved in a lot of school activities by taking volunteering positions, on-campus jobs, and leadership roles. The first organization I became part of was MEP (MESA Engineering Program) and EAP (Engineering Ambassador Program) as an Engineering Ambassador for the Department of Engineering. EAP is part of the National Engineering Ambassador Network. I did STEM/College outreach with local youth while developing critical professional skills. Where I served as a student leader, striving to change the conversation about STEM. I also got a chance to be more involved with students living on campus when I became part of two theme communities CELL (Community for Engineering Learning and Living) and Business Innovation and Leadership Development (BUILD) as a Peer academic success coach (PASC). I was able to host and participate in events like field trips, Painting events, Cookie baking, and many more fun activities and workshops for students with the help of faculty in residence. I was also a House Leader for Spartan Village. The village is composed of several dozen groups or "houses," each with its own unique nature but connected to the rich history and traditions of San Jose State. House names will exemplify that connection (i.e. Smith House, Uchida House, etc). Each house in the village has a House Leader who is an upper-class student ready and willing to guide them. I was a house leader for "BRAVO HOUSE" named after Stephanie Bravo 1 of the 100 Women of Influence in Silicon Valley by the S.V. Business Journal. Lastly, I volunteered as a Peer Mentor for International student and scholar services. Where I acted as a mentor by helping mentees develop skills that promote academic success and personal growth. I Navigated freshmen international student's arrival and campus life through their first year at San Jose State University.

Two main reasons I was involved in organizations, on-campus positions, and volunteering positions was to keep myself distracted from getting homesick but later on I realized how I can make a difference for other students who are in the same boat as me. They too might be feeling homesick, or struggling financially or academically. It started as a reason to escape the feeling of homesickness but I found a greater mission to support fellow students in every way possible.

3. What is your dream job?

I definitely want to be part of the technology world, to be specific, cloud technology really interests me. One of the reasons is that it is a sustainable technology and can help resolve a lot of issues at a lower cost which gives companies an incentive to move on cloud from on-prem. My goal is to be part of that process and create a difference by learning and implementing a technology that can help us make this world more sustainable.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

To be not hesitant and ask for help when needed. There is no point in suffering when you can reach out to people and try to figure out a solution together. Basically, to be the protagonist whether it's related to starting an organization, forming student groups, networking with new people etc.

"Alone, one's suffering only deepens. . . . Human beings need to be with and among other human beings. Engagement with others forges our character and enriches us." - Daisaku Ikeda

Tida Ngov | Biomedical Engineering

Passionate | Caring | Determined

Silicon Valley Engineering Scholarship (SVES)

1. Why did you choose your major?

I've always had an interest in the sciences, and growing up with my immigrant family meant that I often served as a caretaker in some capacity, from a young age. This meant things like managing the doctors appointments. This is where my interests and duties collided, and ended up forming into a passion that I would carry throughout my academic career. I love being able to create and work with my hands, and I knew that I wanted to work in healthcare, so biomedical engineering was a perfect fit for me. I am also double minoring in biology and Asian American studies; biology because of my passion for science, and Asian American studies because of my passion for working with the community.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

I am involved in BMES and BMEidea, which are biomedical engineering clubs that focus on supporting students and providing places for students to gain valuable industry experience. I also recently interned at Asian Health Services, which was an amazing experience for me, since my family are patients there. I was able to learn more about community-based healthcare and advocating for marginalized communities, and work with like-minded individuals, and it was truly a wonderful and empowering experience for me.

3. What is your dream job?

I want to be able to one day work as a neurosurgeon. I love being able to work with my hands, and I find neurology such a fascinating area of study. The main reason why I initially became interested, however, was because of my grandmother, who suffered a rupture brain aneurysm, and had to go through intensive brain surgery. Being able to help others like my grandma, in a field that is incredibly interesting, is my goal. Additionally, I hope to be able to work in policy, in some sort of capacity. There are not many people in the field who look like me, and it's incredibly important for me to be able to help fight for marginalized communities like my own, and being able to have that position and advocate for the community is incredibly important to me.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

Don't be afraid to put yourself out there, and do things that you may not have done before, or might be scared of doing. And remember to be kinder to yourself, it'll all work out in the end.

Yuta Nakajima | Mechanical Engineering

Optimistic | Caring | Easygoing

Qualcomm Engineering Scholarship

1. Why did you choose your major?

I chose my major because of my high school robotics club.

I was forced into joining the robotics team in my sophomore year as a way of making friends. At first, I was completely appalled at this idea. At the time, I was under the impression that the robotics club was a gathering of "nerdy" people doing "nerdy" things. I grudgingly joined the club, but it didn't take long before this view was completely shattered. In the club, I met some of the coolest people who are now my closest friends. Building a robot was very complicated but also extremely fun. Soon, I found myself spending most of my time in the lab, working on the robot with friends closer than none other. It was stressful at times, but it was also the most fun I had in my life. I learned teamwork, responsibility, and friendship. Compared to my freshman year when I spent most of my time in my room, alone, listening to music, my world had completely been changed.

I chose mechanical engineering because I want to have more experiences similar to my time at the robotics club.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

Although I am not officially involved in any extracurricular activities, I frequently go to my robotics club and provide help. There, I do things like offer general advice, talk to new members to make them more comfortable, and help with physical tasks when they need more people. I mainly do this because it is fun, and because I want new students to have the same opportunity that I did as a high schooler. As stated in the last section, my robotics club completely changed my life and became my second home. I would like the club to continue this way, changing new students while also spreading engineering.

3. What is your dream job?

Although I do not have a specific job that I want to work as of yet, I would like to have some type of job that involves clean energy sources. Our world is currently facing two major threats: global warming and energy consumption. If left alone, both of these threats can cause irreversible damage to our society and possibly even lead us to extinction. Global warming can increase the temperature and bring major droughts and cause the loss of food sources. As for energy consumption, at the rate we are currently spending energy, it is estimated that we will run out of fossil fuels in around 50 years. The solution for both of these problems lies in reliable clean energy sources, such as windmills and solar panels.

The world and the industry is sure to change by the time I graduate from college. In the best case scenario, these problems may already be solved before I start working. However, it is much more likely that we will still be facing these dangers, and in that case, I would like to contribute at the front lines against these major threats of our generation.

Aryan Gaur | Computer Engineering

Friendly | Outgoing | Open-minded

Jane G. Evans Scholarship

1. Why did you choose your major?

I chose my major because this is the major that will allow me to have the biggest opportunity to create change within my community. My dad is from a very rural neighborhood in India where healthcare is not easily accessible and they struggle to gain necessary resources. With my current major, hopefully I will gain the skills required to go ahead and help those people.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

I am planning on playing lacrosse, it is something I am very passionate about and enjoy doing. I would love to help the team and play.

3. What is your dream job?

I would love to be able to work a job where I am again, working on innovative solutions to big problems in third world countries such as lack of healthcare and medicine.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

I say that in order to accomplish your goals, you need people to help you along the way, which means you need to meet and make friends with as many of those people as possible. Reach out and become close with many new people.

Andy Neidhart | Computer Engineering

Meticulous | Genuine | Hard-working

Jane Evans

1. Why did you choose your major?

I chose the Computer Engineering major because it is a subject that inspires me to learn. Throughout my life I have found ways to further that interest both in and out of school. I have always had a more mechanically inclined mindset. I loved all things tech, and as I started to take more classes revolving around engineering my fixation on engineering and how things work really started to develop. I had originally been stuck between electrical engineering, working on circuits and electrical systems, or software engineering where I could focus more on code. After some long deliberation and talking to different teachers I ended up on a happy medium that allows me to learn about both. Each learning concept is a building block that has deepened my interest in more specific areas of Engineering. Ultimately my experiences in and out of the classroom have led me to a passion that I want to explore as my major. Additionally, being from an underrepresented group in the engineering field is something that pushes me and motivates me to learn as much as I can.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

I am currently involved in SJSU's Dragon Boat team which I was hesitant to join at first but I have met a lot of amazing people and built strong connections with the team. The other big school activity I am in is SJSU's FSAE team where I work on software for the car. I joined this club because I wanted to network with others and learn as much as possible.

3. What is your dream job?

After graduation I want to work in the computer engineering field, but more specifically I want to go into embedded systems or firmware engineering. where I can still be close to the machine itself. I want to make systems and machines more efficient and help create new computerized things that can change the world we live in.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

I would tell my freshman self to get more involved with student organizations and start networking with people. The other advice I would give myself is to get started early in creating a resume and looking for internship opportunities.

Deema Saddik | Industrial & Systems Engineering

Perseverant | Responsible | Optimistic

Dale and Sue Missimer Engineering Scholarship

1. Why did you choose your major?

I have always been driven towards finding more efficient ways to complete tasks and run organizations I was involved in, so naturally when I found out there was a whole field dedicated to optimizing processes and systems, I was intrigued. Back in high school, I had tried out for the volleyball team but didn't make it. However, I wanted to remain involved so I asked the coach if I could help in managing the team which was one of the first experiences I had in leadership and management. I enjoyed coordinating the logistics of the team's away games, analyzing score trends over time, and determining the optimal order of their warmup exercises. What started as a negative experience quickly flipped into one with many learning opportunities that have led me down the path I am now pursuing as a career.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

I have been teaching and volunteering at a local Sunday School for the past six years. I believe that everyone can have a positive impact on those around us, and I am lucky that most of my teachers have inspired me to be better and pursue more. As Muslims, we believe that we are all brothers and sisters, that we are all one family, one Umma. That is the environment I try to instill in class. I try to make every class feel like a discussion where students are safe to ask me their questions, delve deeper into their identities, and connect with one another as we go through the material. I really value community and growing collectively and hope that these students will grow up to be empowered individuals who foster positive change in the world.

3. What is your dream job?

My dream job would be one where I can contribute my expertise to non-profit organizations dedicated to supporting children's rights, education, shelter, and food access. While Industrial and Systems Engineers don't typically work within such organizations, I would love to work in designing and implementing sustainable solutions that enhance the efficiency, effectiveness, and reach of these non-profits. By collaborating with cross-functional teams within non-profit organizations, we could work to analyze existing processes, workflows, and systems and identify areas for improvement, just as we would in a manufacturing plant or service-providing

business. I would want to implement streamlined processes that maximize resource utilization and optimize the supply chain and logistics for delivering essential resources to children in need. I would like to one day be able to support the development of sustainable infrastructure for educational facilities, shelters, and community centers that are conducive to learning, safety, and well-being, whilst being low-cost for the families and children who need the support.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

I would tell the freshman me to branch out at any given opportunity. College is such a unique experience in that you are surrounded by so many diverse opportunities and people with different life experiences, passions, and areas of expertise. There is so much to be learned and so many cool connections to be made, be it with peers or faculty. Don't wait until you are comfortable to branch out, try new things, or talk to new people, because often the first step is always a little scary. And honestly, you're more likely to gain something positive than to lose something by joining that club, taking up that internship, or reaching out to someone.

Elizabeth Bremberg | Mechanical Engineering

Loyal | Supportive | Thoughtful
SVES

1. Why did you choose your major?

Growing up, I never anticipated pursuing any sort of engineering discipline, let alone Mechanical Engineering. However, my mindset changed in middle school after I attended a robotics tournament and learned more about a local Girl Scout robotics troop, the Space Cookies VEX Team. I joined at the end of sixth grade, and continued with the troop until graduating high school. Through Space Cookies, I gained hands-on experience with multiple aspects of engineering in a fun and supportive environment. These experiences helped open my eyes to more possibilities for my future. By the beginning of my senior year of high school, I still had not decided what path I wanted to take for my academic journey. I considered pursuing science disciplines, but I desired a more practical and applied approach. That drew me back to my experiences in Space Cookies. While I enjoyed those experiences, I felt hesitant about pursuing engineering due to struggles I was having with my physics classes--something not ideal for an engineer. However, thanks to the encouragement of two women engineers who were my Space Cookie mentors, I was convinced that I had the capabilities necessary to carry me through an engineering degree program. Ultimately, I decided to focus on Mechanical Engineering in order to have the best opportunity to explore the different elements of robotics and robotics applications and follow the passion that Space Cookies had inspired.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

Completing high school also meant graduating from Space Cookies VEX. However, I have remained in contact and have volunteered with the troop every season since. I work with the current members each year to help them gain the same sorts of experiences and knowledge that benefitted me so much.

Since coming to campus, I have joined other organizations to keep me involved in both STEM and the surrounding community.

My first semester, I joined Circle K International, one of the largest collegiate service organizations in the world. Circle K connected me to students who were just as passionate as myself about serving our campus and local community. Together with other schools and our sponsoring Kiwanis club, we have helped community-based organizations across Santa Clara County, including the South University Neighborhood, which lies just off campus. Currently, I am in my second term serving as our club's president, helping to coordinate these events so that we can stay true to our organization's tenets of service, leadership, and fellowship.

My second semester, I also joined the Beta Upsilon Chapter of Alpha Omega Epsilon, a STEM-focused professional sorority. The sisters impressed me with their commitment and dedication to the sorority's objective of promoting women STEM professionals. I was inspired by how each sister felt that being part of the Alpha Omega Epsilon had positively impacted them in their engineering and technology paths. Their experiences and encouragement motivated me to pursue my candidacy, and I am now a full active member. Seeing the passion of sisters to help support each other and the different opportunities membership presented to us, I decided to run for Recruitment Chair to help spread our message, a position which I served for three semesters and continue to support as a committee member. Currently, I serve as our chapter's Philanthropy Chair, creating and hosting events and fundraisers to benefit different charitable organizations, all while promoting the strength of underrepresented individuals as STEM professionals.

3. What is your dream job?

Given the chance, I would love to find a way to pair nature conservation with robotics. Since I was young, I have had a fascination with the natural world. Using my field of interest to help preserve and sustain the natural world would be an absolute dream. Biomimicry is already being explored and tested in the world of robotics and other mechanical systems, and I would love to help develop, expand, and utilize these tools for the growth and betterment of our planet.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

If I could talk with my freshman-year self, I would tell her to explore her options and possibilities as much as she could. Talking with peers in my classes and finding my student organizations helped me gain a better sense of the different options out there and grow into the student I am today. However, I feel that if I had started exploring my options earlier, charted multiple paths and routes for my college career sooner, I could have worked better towards my goals and gained even better footing leading into my upperclassmen years as I explored my concentration.

Samuel Vazquez Lozada | Computer Engineering

Respectful | Dedicated | Intelligent

Silicon Valley Engineering Scholarship (SVES)

1. Why did you choose your major?

I chose this major specially because I don't hear much about Latinos in the tech industry, or many of them are not given the credit that they deserve. I wanted to change that in some ways as well as to encourage other minority students to follow their dreams even if they face difficulties.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

Not at the moment.

3. What is your dream job?

My dream job would be working for a large tech company such as Nvidia, Apple, Intel, AMD, etc.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

I would say forming study groups and asking for questions when they are necessary. Not being afraid of what others might say and trying to reduce all distractions while taking a class.

Steven Vary | Aerospace Engineering

Determined | Team-player | Accountable

Qualcomm Engineering Scholarship

1. Why did you choose your major?

Similarly to many engineers, I have been fascinated by science, physics, and technology ever since childhood. Space exploration particularly resonated with me because it gives us the opportunity to learn more about our universe and develop new sciences that will help improve the lives of all humans. I chose to pursue an aerospace engineering degree because it allows me to learn about propulsion, aerodynamics, materials, structures, manufacturing, and so much more. The aerospace degree will prepare me for all the different kinds of work that are being done to push our scientific progress further, and I hope that getting my degree, even though it may be difficult sometimes, will allow me to contribute to this deeply meaningful work.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

After transferring to SJSU I enrolled in the ASME club, which has been an absolute joy. It's a wonderful club that has given me many opportunities to work with and learn from my peers as well as design and produce some amazing projects. The innovative work and team skills that are created in this club makes me so thankful for my membership, and I hope as I continue throughout my education I get to bring these perks to all of our new members.

3. What is your dream job?

My favorite part of engineering is research and development because those are the jobs where we get to feed our craving to both learn more, and use what we learn in creative ways. Coming up with solutions to our problems is at the very heart of engineering, so R&D would have to be my dream job. I understand that R&D can be a broad field without listing a specific topic, but as a human there are so many interesting things to work on that picking just one specific thing to research and develop would be almost limiting. Many of my peers would dream about working

on something that goes into space or alongside F1 race car teams, but personally I dream of working on projects that will help change the world. Sure, that can include sending stuff into space, but after working on projects like prosthetic development with my club, or seeing the hardware going into future wearable tech, I think it's more important for me to focus my energy on R&D for tech that improves people's lives in both outer space and our inner space.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

I'm very proud of my accomplishments as a freshman, but if I had to pick one piece of advice I wish I had back then, it would have been to pace myself more, or to schedule things better. My freshman year was wildly erratic, with dramatic changes in my living situation, the coronavirus pandemic making planned classes become unavailable at my community college, deaths in the family, and much, much more. There were points in my freshman year where I was taking more than the recommended amounts of classes, as well as working a full time job. I did wonderfully during this time, but it was exhausting. Just the very next semester I wouldn't be able to take all the classes I needed, and I wouldn't have as much work, so I'd be left feeling like I wanted to do something more with my life. So, with all this in mind, I think if I could share advice with my freshman self, it would be to create a healthy but adaptable schedule to help me reach my goals.

Emmanuel Gomez | Civil and Environmental Engineering

Resilient | Passionate | Diligent

Harry Wong

1. Why did you choose your major?

I chose Civil Engineering because I've always been passionate about structures. Not being the greatest in academics, I knew the road was going to be difficult. However, two full years complete and I have been able to maintain a good standing GPA.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

I am involved in the Society of Latino Engineers and Scientists (SOLES). I chose this

3. What is your dream job?

My dream job is to work as a lead Engineer in my hometown. My hometown has many parts of the city, including buildings and roads that are not up to code, and I want to help out.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

I would say to get involved in a club with like minded people. Make connections with them and build study groups. Trying to do everything by yourself is difficult, however, having a group just as driven as you can inspire you to do better.

Juan Hernandez | Aviation and Technology

Thoughtful | Charismatic | Driven

Marvin and Anna Jean Sheets Endowment

1. Why did you choose your major?

Growing up, one of my favorite parts of any trip to visit family back home would be the plane ride. I'd always look forward to any opportunity to fly, especially if it were on an aircraft type I hadn't flown before. While my career aspirations fluctuated throughout childhood, I always knew that I wanted to be in the sky in some capacity. I eventually decided to look into becoming a professional pilot and, after taking an introductory flight, I was hooked. The feeling of being at the helm of an airplane is unlike anything else, and I quickly knew that a career as a professional pilot was right for me. I continued with my flight training and, despite some setbacks along the way, was able to earn my private pilot's certificate in August 2023. Seeing that SJSU had a well-respected aviation program with dedicated faculty, I decided that majoring in Aviation here would be the best way to support my future growth as an aviator as I continue pursuing aircraft ratings and a college degree.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

As I am a freshman, I'm still finding my place on campus and deciding what I want to be involved in, but I've been impressed with the wide variety of organizations offered and am excited to see what SJSU has to offer. In high school, I was involved in a few different activities. I was Editor-in-Chief of my high school yearbook for all 4 years, as well as President of my school's Spanish Honor Society chapter. I was also involved in a constitutional competition called We The People, and was in flight training during high school. I tend to enjoy a wide range of activities, even those that don't necessarily pertain to what I plan to study in the future, and am confident that I will find even more activities I enjoy at SJSU.

3. What is your dream job?

For many years my dream job has been a professional pilot. Air travel is facing unprecedented demand as of now, and my hope is that the opportunities offered to me at SJSU will empower me to become part of the solution to ensure widespread and safe air travel for all. I'm not sure about what type of flying I want to do yet, whether it be at a passenger airline, cargo airline, or even a more unique job such as ferry flying. However, I know that I am happiest in the sky, and hope that my future job allows me the pleasure of flying for a living.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

I'm still unsure of what I'm doing correctly or incorrectly as not enough time has elapsed to reflect upon my freshman year. However, some general advice that I've learned through prior experiences is that it always pays to branch out from your comfort zone and build meaningful relationships that will help you succeed in all areas of your life.

Kyle Fitzpatrick | Mechanical Engineering

Strong | Independent | Hardworking

Silicon Valley Engineering Scholarship (SVES)

1. Why did you choose your major?

I wanted to design and help implement new renewable energy resources.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

I am trying to improve my professional development and network so the clubs I chose were based around that. I am a part of Pi Tau Sigma (a Mechanical Engineering Honors Society) where we network and meet professionals in the industry. The Veterans Club is for networking and development skills for translating military skill into civilian skills. I am also in ASME where I can grow my engineering knowledge and apply it to different projects.

3. What is your dream job?

I would like to work at a renewable energy start up developing new forms of renewable energy. Either in research and development, design, or systems engineering.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

Follow the road map you laid out and keep pushing through. Network and message people on linked-in instead of just applying for jobs. Do not overload yourself on clubs, classes, and personal activities. Find a balance.

Jared Ho | Computer Engineering

Resourceful | Efficient | Diverse

Ching Scholarship

1. Why did you choose your major?

I chose Computer Engineering due to my interest in technology. I have always been interested in computers and how they work, so choosing this major was obvious to me. With the recent development in AI, I've found the major even more interesting.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

I've been part of the Spartan Marching Band. Music has always been a hobby of mine, so participating with the SMB was a great way for me to continue this hobby while being involved with fellow Spartans.

3. What is your dream job?

My dream job would be working on microprocessor architecture designs.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

Go and try to meet new friends earlier, even though everything is on Zoom. Make sure to keep on networking and apply for internships earlier than you think.

Spencer Guinther | Mechanical Engineering

Tenacious | Logical | Empathetic

Emma E. Legg Memorial Scholarship for Engineering

1. Why did you choose your major?

I chose mechanical engineering as a challenge. Throughout high school and early college years I considered myself to be incapable of the rigors of STEM, like I wasn't smart enough to

succeed. I used to ask myself what the hardest thing I could imagine was (astrophysics at the time) and one day I gave it a shot. Removing the limitations I put on myself allowed me to find a challenging and rewarding major that lets me push myself every day.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

I am involved in SJSU Baja SAE. I chose this club because I liked the members. They're grounded, genuine, hard working students that are easy to connect with. I've been able to grow my organizational and leadership abilities with the club and hope to help them succeed this season.

3. What is your dream job?

I would like to work on thermal systems in aerospace. With the rise of alternative fuels and power sources, alternatively powered aircraft and spacecraft are now on the horizon. I'd like to help lead the charge on sustainable flight and space travel using my engineering skill set, and eventually utilize my business acumen to lead a team of engineers in this space.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

Don't doubt yourself, don't put limits on what you can achieve. The only thing that held me back so long was myself. Applying to internships earlier and trying as many things as possible can only help your situation.

Pierce Tyson | Interdisciplinary Engineering

Empathetic | Intuitive | Passionate

Harry Wong

1. Why did you choose your major?

I chose Interdisciplinary Engineering because I wanted to make an impact in my community by being able to apply myself to solving any problem. Growing up with my mom having brain surgeries and health challenges, and different friends struggling with health as well, not having the ability to change anything made me realize my desire to bring positive change to those around me. I discovered that I can't take away other people's pain however, and that practical change comes from developing the tools that can. With engineering my talents for math could materialize my aspirations to change the world.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

I'm involved in a non-profit program called E-sports. E-Sports includes several Bay Area community service programs that specialize in inclusion: partnering typical and special needs kids in various activities. I contribute by leading the E-Hoops program out in Sunnyvale. It is a great volunteering experience that has taught me and many others the importance of inclusion, flexibility in leadership skills, and initiative with bringing change to the community. We have had the opportunity to partner with the Golden State Warriors and host an annual E-Hoops day where kids get to play a scrimmage during half-time at a Warriors game. Growing up in this program has been such a blessing and I hope to help build the next generation of leaders.

3. What is your dream job?

My dream job is to run my own general contracting company. Working as a project engineering intern this last summer helped me fall in love with making blueprints come to life. I want to climb the ladder and help develop projects that bring good to the world. The people I had the pleasure of working with amazed me with their people skills and problem solving techniques. I was also on a project that worked directly under some of the highest ranking people at Apple. I want to make a stamp in the construction industry by making a difference on the people at the top and building projects that positively affect the world.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

I would tell my freshman self to put himself out there! Although it was during the prime of the pandemic, really putting yourself in a position to be known and network with people is essential in success, but also in meaningful relationships. It is something I have grown in myself, but freshman-me was not good at it.

Indigo Ramey-Wright | Industrial & Systems Engineering

Hard-working | Thoughtful | Honest

Silicon Valley Engineering Scholarship (SVES)

1. Why did you choose your major?

I always thought engineering was interesting. When I was younger, I developed a strong passion for space travel which pushed my interests towards engineering from an early age. As I grew up and started becoming involved in my community, my interests shifted. I volunteered for non-profits, provided free tutoring to students, and explored community outreach events. These experiences made me realize my interests had begun to change. I wanted to be able to give directly back to my community. Industrial and Systems Engineering provided me with the experiences necessary to protect the environment and my community. I look forward to completing my degree and entering the workforce to combat climate change.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

I am a part of the Formula SAE club on campus. I have always loved cars but I never thought much of my interest. When I saw the flyer for FSAE in the engineering building, I joined on a whim. The club has provided me with experiences I would have never received in the classroom. It has reignited my passion for automobiles, especially electric vehicles, and I hope to work in the automotive industry at some point in my career.

3. What is your dream job?

As an engineer who loves cars and the environment, the best way for me to give back to my community and combat climate change is to work with electric vehicles. EVs are dynamic systems that Formula SAE has given me an introduction to. I hope to expand upon that by working as a human factors engineer, safety engineer for automobiles, or data analysis for an electric vehicle company.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

Appreciate what you have and don't be afraid to take some risks here and there. Join clubs sooner! Remember that grades are important, but gaining hands-on and real-world experience through FSAE club work is just as important. Don't be afraid to geek out on things you love.

Aburva GS | Aviation and Technology

Kind | Growth-oriented | Sharp

Alumni Award

1. Why did you choose your major?

Growing up, I had always been fascinated by technology and computers. However, during my high school years, I struggled with my academics, particularly in mathematics and I carried on this fear into college as well. I always felt like an imposter and being the only woman in most of my technical classes just fueled this feeling. But with the help of friends, family and most importantly, my professors, I slowly started to excel in my college coursework. I realized that my previous struggles had given me a unique perspective and a deep appreciation for the subject matter. I also developed strong problem-solving skills that were valuable in the field of computer network systems management.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

Being a Resident Advisor (RA) and a Peer Academic Success Coach are both meaningful roles that I have chosen to take on in my school and community. Each of these positions holds a unique significance to me and my personal development.

As a Resident Advisor, I have the opportunity to create a positive and inclusive living environment for my fellow students. This role is especially meaningful to me because it allows me to contribute to the well-being and sense of belonging of my peers within the residence hall. I see it as a way to give back to my community and help create a home away from home for others. On the other hand, serving as a Peer Academic Success Coach allows me to support my fellow students in their academic journey. Education has always been highly valued in my family, and I understand the importance of having a strong academic foundation. By working as a coach, I hope to help my peers overcome academic challenges, set and achieve their goals, and develop effective study habits. This role allows me to give back to the community by sharing my knowledge and experiences. In both of these roles, my overarching goal is to make a positive impact on the lives of those I interact with.

3. What is your dream job?

It has been a dream of mine to become a Technical product manager at a top tech company in the future. As a Technical Product Manager, my dream job would revolve around bridging this gap and ensuring that technology is harnessed to improve people's lives effectively. I would work on creating products that are not just technically advanced but also deeply understand and address user needs. My focus would be on crafting solutions that simplify complex tasks, enhance efficiency, and improve overall quality of life.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

Some of the advices I would have given myself will be:

- Explore Widely: Don't be afraid to take classes outside your major or join clubs that pique your curiosity.
- Self-Care: College can be demanding, but don't neglect your physical and mental health. Prioritize self-care, including regular exercise, a balanced diet, and seeking support when needed.
- Seek Help When Needed: If you're struggling academically or personally, don't hesitate to seek help from professors, academic advisors, counselors, or mentors.
- Enjoy the Journey: College is a unique and transformative time in your life. Embrace the opportunities for growth, self-discovery, and personal development. Don't forget to have fun and create lasting memories along the way.

Remember that your college experience is a time of learning and growth, both academically and personally. It's normal to face challenges and uncertainties, but with determination and a willingness to explore, you can make the most of your college years and prepare yourself for a successful future!

Garrett Miller | Computer Engineering

Honest | Dependable | Witty

Jane G. Evans Scholarship

1. Why did you choose your major?

Choosing my major was a very stressful experience. After being stuck at home my junior year of high school and having no way to truly experience and experiment with things I may have wanted to pursue in college I felt lost when it came time to choose a major. However I had just started taking a coding class during my senior year of high school and it helped me find a major I fell in love with but also helped me enjoy learning again after becoming very indifferent towards learning over my junior year of high school.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

I am a volunteer assistant for the SJSU men's soccer team and I also coach a youth soccer team when I am back home in Bakersfield. Athletics was a huge thing for myself and my family when I was growing up and these two activities really help me stay in touch with that side of my life as well as affect the lives of the members of my community and be a positive role model.

3. What is your dream job?

Right now I am still exploring what I want my dream job to be but I do know that I would like to find a way to make technology more efficient and more accessible to underprivileged areas.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

Get involved in clubs and don't be afraid to talk to random people. Most people here are extremely nice and open to conversation.

Dontario Beverly | Mechanical Engineering

1. Why did you choose your major?

I have always had a passion for space exploration and aeronautics since I was a kid. However, growing up, I never met any engineers or scientists in my family or in my community. This strongly affected my ability to see myself as an engineer and even discouraged me from pursuing becoming one. So, when I decided to return to college as an adult and major in mechanical engineering, I felt like it would serve a dual purpose: a chance to pursue my childhood passion and also become the representation for other Black kids that I needed when I was growing up.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

I am a part of SJSU's National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) chapter known as the Black Alliance of Scientists and Engineers (BASE). It is important for me to be a part of an organization like BASE because BASE provides support, encouragement, and a space for Black STEM students. Being a Black STEM student can often be alienating, resulting in a lack of sense of belonging, which can affect how we show up inside and outside the classroom. However, BASE has specific resources, such as resume workshops, special events with employers, study sessions, and academic and professional support for Black students. All of this helps foster an environment that empowers each student to not only succeed academically and professionally but also to make space for themselves and have confidence in the fact that we belong in the STEM community just as much as our counterparts. During my involvement with BASE, I've found purpose and joy in serving as a mentor and a resource for other students, especially first and second-year students, as navigating being a STEM student at university can be a very challenging and sometimes even daunting experience.

3. What is your dream job?

My dream job is to work in the defense industry. With new technologies and advances within the aeronautics and space industries, there will be many challenges as we begin to apply these new technologies. I hope to add value and help reshape what we think is possible and the ways we approach future challenges.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

I would tell myself to get involved with student clubs and organizations as soon as possible. Not only get involved but also take on leadership roles so that I can develop and improve my leadership and interpersonal skills. Additionally, I would pursue internships during my freshman year to gain as much experience as possible before completing my degree and looking for full-time employment. Lastly, I would go to events put on by the college, such as conferences and career fairs to help build my professional network.

Oscar Rodriguez | Civil and Environmental Engineering

Passionate | Noble | Determined

Harry Wong Scholarship Endowment for the College of Engineering

Marvin and Anna Jean Sheets Endowment

1. Why did you choose your major?

I chose my major because I believe that civil engineering in its essence, is helping others. Providing infrastructure to further improve the lives of those in your community is a noble cause I wholeheartedly wish to participate in. With a concentration in construction management & engineering, I have worked a couple internships regarding the construction of affordable housing, a crisis that has plagued our Bay Area in recent years. I have no doubt that affordable housing projects are what I would like to continue to specialize in once I enter our construction industry. Helping and shaping our Bay Area through modernization and renovation is why I decided to choose civil engineering!

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

I am currently the treasurer of the SJSU AGC Student Chapter. I thoroughly enjoy participating in the club as it gives me the opportunity to expose our construction industry to all interested SJSU students. Through job site visits and industry professional lunch & learns, we strive to show our members all the exciting innovations within our industry. I am also a member in other civil engineering organizations, such as ASCE, ACI, and more notably, the civil engineering honor society Chi Epsilon.

3. What is your dream job?

As touched on previously, my dream job is to either be a project engineer at a construction company with a vast portfolio in affordable housing. Helping to mitigate the housing crisis we are currently facing would bring me great fulfillment and the notion that I am giving back to my community and home. To go into greater detail, I would like to specifically work on either the design or the construction management of the structural concrete aspect of these buildings.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

The main piece of advice I would give to my freshman self would be don't be afraid to put yourself out there! Make the leap and get involved in everything that you can that interests you. You will see that along the way it will benefit you tremendously. Network, make friends, give back through community activities, will all help you to become a passionate and driven individual.

Anahit Tonoyan | Electrical Engineering

Intelligent | Caring | Persistent

Qualcomm Engineering Scholarship

1. Why did you choose your major?

As a sophomore in high school, I decided to take two AP classes instead of one, which was the traditional path students would often take. I selected AP World History, along with AP Physics 1. However, as schools began to close soon after, due to the pandemic, I began to notice the difficulty of the AP Physics class. It was fast-paced, and the topics were much harder to understand than other classes I had taken before, especially since I had little physics knowledge

prior to taking the class. I struggled through the class, failed the tests, and even began questioning whether or not I really belonged in a college-level class. The virtual learning only inhibited me from success, since it was difficult to interact with other students and use each other as resources. However, I was able to recover my grades by the end of the year. Although I struggled quite a bit, I realized that I had a passion for physics, which enabled me to take another AP physics course the following year. Soon enough, I found circuits and electromagnetism to be units that I enjoyed in the class. When deciding on a major, I considered aerospace engineering, along with software, computer, and of course, electrical. After extensive research, I decided on electrical engineering, since it seemed to align with my passions more than the other majors. Looking back on the past, if I never challenged myself to take a harder course in high school, I wouldn't have discovered my passions.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

I am an active member at the St. Andrew Armenian Apostolic Church. During community events, I am always present and contributing to the success of these events. Specifically, I always volunteer to help at the Armenian festival, which is the biggest event at the church. Being a part of this community helps to tie me closer to my religion, as well as my culture. By helping the church and being surrounded by Armenian people, I hope that I am able to maintain my culture, which is extremely important to me.

3. What is your dream job?

My dream job is to work at Nvidia. Since my dad is currently an employee at the company, he always tells me about the new chips they are designing, which is very fascinating to me. A lot of technology nowadays, such as gaming devices or cars, run on these chips, therefore, there is no doubt that they will be necessary in the future as well. I wish to work on these chips, making them as efficient as possible for future uses.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

One advice I would give to my freshman self is to get involved with people more. Make sure to form as many connections as you can, since it is vital in college and in the workforce. Working in a team is an extremely important skill, and if you don't involve yourself with people, it will be difficult to learn how to work with people.

Gift Olatunji | Industrial & Systems Engineering

Calm | Collected | Cultured

Future of Silicon Valley Graduate Scholarship

1. Why did you choose your major?

I was fortunate to learn about the Industrial Engineering major right before moving to the U.S. I initially wanted to go into general engineering but I later learned that industrial engineering was more in tune with what I wanted to do. I wanted to build, innovate and improve systems that will help people all around the world.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

I am taking part in multiple church activities and a business resource group.

3. What is your dream job?

My dream job is one where I am able to impact the lives of others directly and indirectly, learn from the experiences me and other people being to the table and pass on my knowledge to the next generation.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

Do not be afraid to reach out for help, embrace who you are and tell your story.

Jason Corona | Mechanical Engineering

Hardworking | Loyal | Dedicated

Ching Scholarship

1. Why did you choose your major?

I chose my major of mechanical engineering because I had an interest in understanding how things were built and the thought process behind them. I also saw my major as a way to better understand engineering principles that would help me one day design different devices. Overall in choosing mechanical engineering I wanted to gain the knowledge of engineering principles that would allow me to work on expanding public transportation as well as making it more sustainable.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

I completed the Leadership and Career Certificate Program at SJSU and I am a member of Pi Tau Sigma mechanical engineering honor society. As part of the Leadership and Career Certificate Program I learned about life beyond the university, taking lessons on how to go into the workplace after SJSU. Being part of Pi Tau Sigma allows me to meet other people in the mechanical engineering field, expanding the network of people I know. I am also an intern with the Millbrae Engineering Department looking to learn more about how engineering can help communities.

3. What is your dream job?

My dream job would be to work in the public transportation industry to be able to help make it more expansive, efficient and sustainable. Public transportation in its different forms throughout needs to be able to get people to more places to be able to be a practical option connecting cities and beyond. Making it efficient is also a goal so that it is an option that is reliably there and quick to get to one's destination. Making public transportation more sustainable is a big goal to be able to fight climate change and to move the world in a better way for the future.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

Advice that I would share with my freshman self would be to trust the process and to apply to internships early on. By trusting the process, I mean to not get stressed on the things that you cannot control and to trust in the work that was done throughout the semester. Going into a big test is a situation where after doing the necessary preparation I can now trust myself that I

studied enough and be confident in the work I did. Internships are also something where the higher the volume of applications the better so it is better to start out early on.

Aarya Khadka | Biomedical Engineering

Resilient | Driven | Compassionate

Future of Silicon Valley Graduate Scholarship

1. Why did you choose your major?

I chose to study biomedical engineering because of my deep passion for mathematics and science. After completing my associate's degree in science, I realized that combining these interests in biomedical engineering was the perfect fit for me. However, pursuing my undergraduate degree was not without its challenges. As an immigrant to the US, I found myself in a position of responsibility as the first daughter in my family. Financially supporting my family back home became a priority. I still continued my undergraduate studies, but the financial burden remained overwhelming, forcing me to take a break to support my family. After three years, I regrouped and resumed my education at SJSU. Fast forward to May 2023, and I achieved my dream of earning an undergraduate degree in biomedical engineering. Currently, I am pursuing my master's in BME at SJSU.

This journey has taught me the value of resilience, hard work, and determination, and I am excited to continue making positive strides in the field of biomedical engineering.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

While my involvement in school and community activities has been limited due to my enrollment at SJSU during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, I am a proud member of Tau Beta Pi, the engineering society, Phi Theta Kappa, the international honors society, and BMES. I had the opportunity to volunteer with BMES in a marketing team during the BMES conference, and I'm eager to contribute more to volunteering efforts in the future.

3. What is your dream job?

My dream job is to work in the R&D field. My passion for this field intensified during my senior project, where I explored the endless possibilities the medical research holds and the potential it has to make a significant difference in the medical world and improve people's lives through innovative solutions. I'm excited to continue contributing to cutting-edge research and advancements in healthcare.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

Don't be shy! Build connections with your classmates, engage with your professors, and leverage platforms like LinkedIn. Networking isn't just about collecting contacts; it's about building relationships that can shape your future. Don't hesitate to seek guidance, ask questions, and collaborate on projects. Stay active on LinkedIn - it's not just an online resume but a gateway to a world of opportunities. Lastly, don't forget to offer help and support to others along the way.

Patricia Dela Cruz | Chemical and Materials Engineering

Adventurous | Persistent | Caring

Future of Silicon Valley Graduate Scholarship

1. Why did you choose your major?

I have perceived technology to be the biggest factor that enhanced my standards of living. This realization naturally drew me to be interested in the newest technology or how these high-tech things are made. With this interest in mind, I decided to pursue engineering. During my introductory engineering courses, I gained a comprehensive understanding of the fundamental concepts of material structure, properties, processing and performance and learned that the design and development of materials significantly impact the reliability of the final product. Since I particularly enjoyed and excelled in my classes related to this, I decided to pursue Materials Engineering and have been enjoying the work I do in the electronics/semiconductor field.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

I'm currently serving as a board member Director for the Society of Plastics Engineers, Golden Gate Section (SPE GGS). I started out as a member of the SJSU student chapter due to my interest in plastics during my undergraduate years. After participating in their workshops and events, I learned the importance of building my experience and networking with students and professionals within that field. I enjoyed being a part of the community and helping out and eventually, I took over as president for the student chapter and contributed to the best of my abilities. Once I graduated, I helped out by bridging the connection and communication between GGS and student chapters by serving as the secretary and education chair. My involvement with SPE exposed me to a lot of leadership experience as well as professional opportunities and I hope to continue to offer the same guidance, resources and opportunities to my fellow students and young professionals interested in this field.

3. What is your dream job?

My dream job is to land a leadership position in a technical role (currently, electronics/semiconductors). I'm someone who is passionate about learning and have always valued the guidance and mentorship from senior colleagues, professors and mentors. I hope to help others by passing on my experience and learnings as others have done for me. Working in the electronics/semiconductor industry has been a challenging but yet a rewarding experience. The problems I get to work on really require resourcefulness and out-of-the-box thinking as our technology continuously evolves. Working in a leadership role will allow me to continue sharing my skills, passion and drive for working in a team setting while creating an impact.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

I would advise my younger self to actively challenge myself to get out of my comfort zone by joining student clubs or participating in events to expand my network. As someone who did not have a lot of resources and experience, networking and participating has helped me grow as an individual and as a professional. It also improved my confidence and my skills. These activities also allowed me to gain a mentor, who guided me through the steps of building my resume, applying for internships and excelling in interviews.

Anisa Khan | Chemical and Materials Engineering

Determined | Empathetic | Innovative

Future of Silicon Valley Graduate Scholarship

1. Why did you choose your major?

I chose chemical engineering because it aligns with my passion for science and my unwavering commitment to making a positive impact, particularly in the pharmaceutical industry.

Overcoming academic challenges, such as a demanding thermodynamics course, strengthened my determination. This experience also ignited my passion for mentoring others, emphasizing how chemical engineering can help me contribute to innovative pharmaceutical solutions and improve people's lives. My major represents my dedication to turning challenges into opportunities for growth and serving society by developing life-saving medications.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

During my junior and senior years, I served as the president of our school's ISPE chapter (International Society for Pharmaceutical Engineering). I chose this role because of my passion for pharmaceutical engineering and its potential to impact healthcare.

Through ISPE, I aimed to create a supportive community for students, offering resources, networking opportunities, and bridging the gap between theory and practice in pharmaceutical engineering. My goal was also to instill a sense of responsibility and ethical commitment within the pharmaceutical industry, emphasizing quality and patient safety.

3. What is your dream job?

My dream job is to work as a process engineer, specializing in drug development and manufacturing within the pharmaceutical industry. I aim to address the challenge of making life-saving medications more affordable and accessible by optimizing manufacturing processes. This will help ensure that essential drugs reach those in need, particularly in underserved communities and developing regions. Ultimately, I want to contribute to saving lives by improving the availability and affordability of vital medications.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

To my freshman self: Embrace diverse courses and experiences to discover your passions. Get involved in clubs and activities. Balance your life, seek help when needed, and network early. Stay open to new experiences and cherish the journey. Set goals, learn from mistakes, and stay connected with your family for support. College is transformative, and the lessons you learn will shape your future.

Majlona Aliaj | Computer Engineering

Hardworking | Friendly | Witty

Future of Silicon Valley Graduate Scholarship

1. Why did you choose your major?

I chose engineering because I enjoy solving real-world problems creatively and I do appreciate the practical impact of engineering in everyday life. As an engineer, I want to contribute to solutions that make a positive mark in the society.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

I like to participate in competitive coding challenges at SJSU.

3. What is your dream job?

My dream job is in a company that values both software development and networking. I want to combine these fields in a sustainable tech solutions role, where I can improve digital access and enhance literacy for underserved communities.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

I would definitely work on expanding my network and start looking for internships as soon as possible.

Umesh Singh | Computer Engineering

Courageous | Intelligent | Hard-working

John W. Akin Engineering Scholarship

1. Why did you choose your major?

I chose Software Engineering as my major because of my deep-rooted passion for video games from my childhood. Growing up in India, I was captivated by the world of gaming, and I saw software engineering as the perfect avenue to turn that passion into a career.

However, pursuing this dream wasn't without its challenges. Leaving my life in India and coming to the US required immense effort and determination. I faced cultural and academic differences, and there were moments when I felt overwhelmed. But those challenges were opportunities in disguise.

My life in India had taught me the value of hard work and perseverance. It instilled in me a strong work ethic and a resilience to overcome obstacles. Rather than dwelling on the negatives, I turned these experiences into motivation. I worked tirelessly to excel in my studies and prove that I could be the best, despite my background.

Ultimately, my journey from a childhood love of video games to pursuing Software Engineering has been shaped by my determination to turn adversity into personal growth and success.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

I'm an active member of the Theta Chi Fraternity, where I engage in community service events. This choice reflects my family's emphasis on giving back and my personal commitment to making a positive impact. We organize fundraisers, with proceeds benefiting organizations like the USO, aligning with my values of service. I aspire to inspire others to engage in community

service through my involvement. Theta Chi provides a platform for me to channel my passion for service and transform it into a force for good, within my fraternity and the wider community.

3. What is your dream job?

My dream job is to work at Google as a Software Engineer. In this role, I aspire to tackle complex technological challenges and develop innovative solutions. Google, as a global tech leader, provides a platform to work on cutting-edge projects that can reshape the future. I aim to make a difference by contributing to the development of products and services that enhance people's lives, whether through improved search algorithms, innovative applications, or groundbreaking technologies. Through my work, I hope to help others by creating tools and experiences that empower individuals, simplify tasks, and connect the world in meaningful ways.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

Join at least 1 student org on campus and get an internship ASAP.

Michelle Dao | Aviation and Technology

Determined | Open-minded | Silly

Kind Family

1. Why did you choose your major?

My family has a history of being laid off as engineers. Both my father and uncle were initially Electrical Engineers before laid offs occurred during the early 2000s. They would always guilt-trip me to go to the medical or teaching field, so I would have job security. During high school, I took biology courses to prepare for the medical field out of the motivation of job security. By Spring Semester of my senior year in high school, I realized that I did not want to go into the medical field. Instead, I gained interest in engineering and programming, so I had to give a talk to my parents about changing majors from Molecular Biology to Engineering.

For my first year, I was very determined to get into Computer Engineering by taking all the required courses that would be taken in as a first-year majoring in Computer Engineering. I did receive a message telling me that I was not on track for my first major, so I was automatically changed into Undeclared by Spring 2022. Due to the impaction, I was not able to get into Computer Engineering, and out of the recommendation of my Change-of-major advisor, I decided to change into Engineering Technology for Fall 2022. At first, I didn't like the major as the career could go into the field of Information Technology, but by joining NETs, I was able to realize the career pathways that I can take with my major from Cybersecurity, Network Management, and even Data Analyst too.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

I joined the Society of Women Engineers in my first year, immediately once I heard their presentation in the club fairs as I experienced with male-bias in the robotics club back in highschool. In the 2018-2019 First Tech Challenge Rover Ruckus Season, the challenge was to build a device that can pick up minerals and drop them off into the Rover. The delay in our

Robotics Kit delivery resulted in a small team of 3 girls and 5 boys to spend the majority of our winter break finishing building our robot. The late-night team building and the teamwork between the girls and boys fell apart because the boys wanted to do the building and desired the girls to record the process and document it in the engineering journals. While my advisor intervened to resolve the tension between the girls and boys, this opened up how there needs to be more support for girls to do any field of STEM.

I wanted to be involved in the Society of Women Engineers, so I decided to apply to be an officer. I was accepted to be an Outreach Chair. As Outreach Chair, I assisted in tasks that would bring together events that Outreach hosts. I gained experience in planning and hosting events throughout my first year. From my experience, I wanted to change the events that we hosted, so I decided to become an Outreach director when I ran for election periods in Spring 2022. I believe that there should be different types of events that Outreach should host besides panel events.

At the same time in that particular Spring, I decided to volunteer after a year of absence. By continuing to volunteer for Tech Interactive since 2018, I'm able to gain an understanding of the lack of knowledge and experience that students and families have in STEM. The biggest issue is that teaching the basics of STEM at Tech Interactive does not prepare students for the real world and the challenges of being in a STEM major. I find that students need to also gain exposure to advancing towards their interest in Computer Science or any type of Engineering majors.

In my second year, I wanted to explore more about the major. Once I heard about the club through the TA from my Introduction to Networks course. I joined the Network Engineering Technology society (NETs). The club really helped me understand the jobs that I can get from the major and how to improve on skills by attending the Friday labs. The Friday labs open up my eyes that there's a lot of things out there that I still need to learn. By being with passionate people that have the same major as me and I would relate to the most, I was encouraged to still continue to pursue the major.

Joining these clubs helped me to network with people. I can prove to my family that I can still have a successful career in Engineering if I were to be prepared with their career-oriented workshops that these clubs host.

3. What is your dream job?

My dream job is to be a Network Administrator that will continue to do research on the side. Besides troubleshooting and repairing the network systems, I would also like to invent new protocols and improve the network systems. The network runs under many protocols being made to ensure that traffic is efficient and fast. However, as networks are starting to expand to reach up to space use, there may be a need for new protocols to be made. My main goal is to invent a protocol that will prevent interceptions when packets are sent.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

My motto I go by is, "Easier said than done" because people can say it, but in reality, it's hard for others to do or have. The people that say "that it's easy" can lack awareness or are inconsiderate of other people's backgrounds in where they come from or who they are. In my freshmen year, I couldn't help comparing myself to other Freshmans that were so much better than me in terms of knowledge and skills. I felt really depressed seeing how students could brag about how a certain subject or whatever they did is easy for them to learn. Overtime, when I talked to my high school friend one day, I realized that people had opportunities to be ahead or even, they were just natural to the subject compared to what others have or want to have. Learning how my friend who was also facing his own struggles adjusting to his first year in college too, I started to not care what people say. What's important is being with people that understand and support you instead of acknowledging themselves as if it is easy for them.

Matthew Hung | Mechanical Engineering

Determined | Proactive | Empathetic

Future of Silicon Valley Graduate Scholarship

1. Why did you choose your major?

As far back as I can recall, my family and I have made regular trips to Vietnam to visit our relatives. From a very young age, I was captivated by the idea of people traveling across the vast Pacific Ocean in a metal tube. However, during my undergraduate years, my fascination shifted towards designing solutions that enhanced people's lives and streamlined processes. I even began using my 3D printer to repair items around the house, finding it more cost-effective than purchasing replacements. Shortly after earning my degree in Aerospace Engineering, I made the decision to pursue a Master's in Mechanical Engineering to further fuel my passion for creating innovative solutions.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

At the moment, I am not actively involved in any school or community activities as I am pursuing my master's degree while having a full-time job. However, during my undergraduate years, I was an active member of several organizations, including Alpha Kappa Psi, a professional business fraternity, Sigma Gamma Tau, an aerospace engineering honor society, and Tau Beta Pi, an engineering honor society. These involvements enriched my life with valuable social and professional experiences that I will carry with me into the future.

3. What is your dream job?

The opportunities I've been fortunate to embrace, including internships, academic projects, and my personal tinkering pursuits, have all illuminated my passion for designing solutions that generate positive change. Therefore, my dream job is to directly develop a new device that will positively impact millions of people around the globe. I believe we're currently in a pivotal era bridging technology and consumer experiences. I'm eager to harness this opportunity to contribute to the evolving landscape of the consumer electronics industry.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

In college, it's essential to seize every opportunity that comes your way. Whether it's a chance to tackle a challenging project, join an extracurricular club, or explore a new field of study, saying "yes" to these experiences can lead to personal growth and valuable insights. Additionally, actively engaging with your college community is crucial. Attend events, participate in class discussions, and introduce yourself to professors and fellow students. Building a strong network can provide you with support, mentorship, and future opportunities. Embrace discomfort as a catalyst for growth. College is an ideal time to step outside of your comfort zone, whether that means taking on challenging courses or accepting leadership roles. Lastly, connect with a diverse range of people from various backgrounds and perspectives. Strike up conversations with classmates, roommates, and even strangers in everyday situations like a coffee shop line. You never know when a chance encounter might profoundly impact your life and career trajectory. These principles collectively shape a rich and transformative college experience, setting you up for a successful and fulfilling future.

Faye Karoglou | Civil and Environmental Engineering

Determined, Trustworthy, Compassionate

Future of Silicon Valley Graduate Scholarship

1. Why did you choose your major?

By the time I was in high school, I knew I wanted to major in Civil Engineering. I excelled in every math class I took, and ever since I was a kid, I have been fascinated with structures. This fascination with structures is also why I decided to continue my education and start my graduate degree with a specialization in Structural Engineering.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

I am involved with the Chi Epsilon Civil Engineering Honors Society. I served as an officer for the Spring 2023 semester. I enjoyed my time as an officer as I became close with many of my peers in my major. I intend to be active in Chi Epsilon by staying connected with other members and going to various events.

I am also a part of a traditional Greek folk dance group through my Greek community in San Jose. Greek dancing is something I have done since I was 5 years old. Being a part of the dance group is important to me because it helps me to appreciate and embrace my Greek culture. Through Greek dancing, I have also created meaningful relationships with many other Greeks throughout the United States by attending Greek dance festivals and conferences.

3. What is your dream job?

My dream job is to be a structural engineer who will design safe, sustainable, and innovative infrastructures that will positively impact our community. San Jose is constantly growing and advancing, and I want to be one of the many engineers that contributes to new infrastructure and retrofitting existing infrastructure.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

Learn about all the resources that are available and take advantage of them. Join clubs early on as it is a great way to meet new people and become more involved.

Eloisa Kaye Difuntorum | Electrical Engineering

Adaptable | Curious | Outgoing

Future of Silicon Valley Graduate Scholarship

1. Why did you choose your major?

Since both of my parents are Civil Engineers, I was exposed to the world of engineering at an early age. When I was nine years old, I moved to the United States from the Philippines with my parents and brother in pursuit of the American Dream. After moving here, I grew homesick and spent countless nights reconnecting with my family and friends back home. Due to the time difference, I found myself tinkering with electronics and computers when they were asleep. I developed a great appreciation for having access to technology. I chose to major in Electrical Engineering because I want to give back to the same field that enabled me to connect with my friends and family. I would love to help bridge people together no matter how far apart they may be, by finding ways to help electronics and technology evolve.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

In my first semester of undergrad here at San José State, I longed for long-lasting bonds and close-knit friendships with other engineering students in and outside of my classes. I wanted to find a place where I felt like I belonged. In addition, I was a freshman that had no idea how to tackle the realm of professionalism. I decided to join Co-Ed Professional Engineering Fraternity, Theta Tau to form friendships with students that cared about the community while also learning about how to maintain a high standard of professionalism. By joining, I was able to grow professionally, perform acts of service to the community, and foster life-long friendships. I took on various positions within the organization that eventually led to my role as Regent (President). Joining Theta Tau helped me find my place within the engineering community at SJSU and even in the workplace.

3. What is your dream job?

I hope to become a Radio Frequency (RF) Design Engineer that works on handheld devices, such as phones and tablets used by many people today. RF and cellular infrastructure are fields I am eager to specialize in because the technology helps bridge people together, which comes full circle as to why I chose to major in Electrical Engineering. RF does this by connecting our devices through electromagnetic waves in the air, such as our phones to Wi-Fi and cellular data. I plan to contribute to the world of RF by working at companies that seek to improve these technologies. An example of this is improving speeds and providing more cellular coverage for more remote areas. Additionally, I would like to research new ways to operate RF systems on devices with much lower power and resources, so that a similar type of communication infrastructure in the U.S. can be applied to third-world countries. This enables everyone to communicate and learn more from one another. It can provide for a child that lacks resources in their studies. Working on RF will help distribute our knowledge of the world and of each other in a better span, and I desire to be in the forefront of advancing innovations that do so.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

Dear freshman self,

I hope you know that you will do well. You will accomplish your goals and overcome your doubts/worries one way or another. It's okay to breathe. It's okay to relax once in a while. Take a moment to enjoy seemingly simple moments because they are as fleeting as the next. You, everyone, and everything else around you are only getting older. Take the time to appreciate what you can still do when you are a student and as someone your age. Express your gratitude often, smile often, and remember that your time in school is only a fraction of your life. Focus on what matters and only on what you can control. Mindset and attitude can make today the best day of your life.

Sincerely,

Yourself four years from the future

Jose Luiz Sarabia Torres | Mechanical Engineering

Ambitious | Innovative | Vision

Eugene C. Coussens Scholarship Endowment

1. Why did you choose your major?

Technology is constantly advancing and creating new opportunities for development. As a Latino pursuing a degree in Engineering, I constantly faced Imposter Syndrome. I felt like I didn't belong in my major, until I heard about the Society of Latino Engineers and Scientists. I chose Mechanical Engineering not only because of its versatility in industry, but because I want to see more Latinos in Engineering. That is my PASSION. Being an Engineer allows me the opportunity to INVEST, MOTIVATE, and INSPIRE the next generation of Latino leaders in STEM.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

Currently, I am the President of the Society of Latino Engineers and Scientists (SOLES) at SJSU, where we host professional, social, and collaborative events with other organizations on campus. Our mission is to empower the community to reach its full potential by advancing Latino success in STEM at SJSU.

I partake in the SJSU College Corps Program where we introduce programming enrichment to underrepresented 3rd-6th grade students in afterschool programs in San Jose. As a College Corps Fellow, we also combat food insecurity by volunteering at Second Harvest and provide fresh produce to families across Silicon Valley.

In addition to being a full-time student at SJSU, I am an Undergraduate Research Assistant at Stanford University with the Doerr School of Sustainability. I work alongside the Fendorf Lab and Dr. Alireza Namayandeh in researching Cr (VI) generation during wildfires.

Finally, I am a Vice-National Student Representative for the MAES National Chapter. I assisted in planning, logistics, and coordination of the MAES Leadership Academy (MLA), which will be held at SJSU from September 28th - October 1st.

3. What is your dream job?

After obtaining my Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering at SJSU, I aim to pursue a Ph.D. at Stanford University. One of my values and what makes me get up every morning is to continue to strive for Latino Success in Engineering. It is essential for me to work in a company that values diversity and allows me the opportunity to expand my knowledge as a Mechanical Engineer.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

JOIN CLUBS! Not only do clubs provide opportunities to network with industry, but other students as well. Some even attend National Conferences, which are AMAZING if you are looking for internships, full-time jobs, or networking with recruiters. Once you are actively involved in the organization, take initiative and run for a leadership position. Companies value individuals who step up, out of their comfort zone, and take action.

Pari Sharma | Computer Engineering

Passionate | Dependable | Resourceful

Jane G. Evans Scholarship

1. Why did you choose your major?

I chose my major because I've always been fascinated by the potential of technology. I first learned to work with computers and code through workshops at my elementary school. I still remember the excitement I felt as I experimented with what we had learned to create my very first game. I further pursued this interest through coding and engineering competitions. In high school, I was a part of the computer science pathway and various related clubs. Paired with my love of mathematics, I knew that I wanted to major in Software Engineering. I believe that through this major, I can channel my passion for technology and innovation to make meaningful contributions to society.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

I have always enjoyed participating in clubs and organizations. As a woman in STEM, I am interested in joining the Society of Women Engineers. I hope to connect with fellow women in the engineering field and contribute to building a supportive community where we can learn from each other, share experiences, and inspire one another to excel. I'm also actively exploring other clubs and opportunities to get involved in. I believe that this can help me develop new skills and make an impact within my school and community.

3. What is your dream job?

Engineering is a vast field with a variety of career options. Throughout my time at SJSU, I hope to dive into these diverse career paths and identify the one that resonates most with my

passions and strengths. Particularly, I hope to utilize my skills and knowledge to tackle real-world challenges.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

As a freshman myself, I am at the beginning of this exciting journey. Based on my goals for this year, I would emphasize the importance of exploring student clubs and community activities. I have already met new people and discovered new interests by doing so. In addition, I believe it is crucial to find people in my major I can study and spend time with. This can be an effective way to stay motivated and make meaningful connections. I look forward to making the most out of my freshman year.

Gunraj Singh | Computer Engineering

Passionate | Positive | Grateful

Alumni Award

1. Why did you choose your major?

It has always been my grandfather's and my dream to come to the States to pursue higher education. And with my current academic achievements, I am honored to be one of the Spartan Engineers.

Extremely grateful to have been raised by a very hardworking and supportive family. I have been taught that "No matter how hard life may be, always look for the light at the end of the tunnel."

My decision to major in Software Engineering was to support and inspire dreamers like me, that "WE CAN BE THE CHANGE WE WANT TO SEE!"

I am continually striving to create a healthy balance between my social, academic, and work-life while working hard in my classes.

Really appreciative of all the application-based courses that encourage me to always learn and grow from my mistakes. I plan to use these extensive technical skills to continue to find solutions to real world problems like climate change, financial insecurities, and educational access for communities of color, all while thinking outside the box.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

Being involved on campus has been one of the best experiences of being an SJSU Spartan. The diverse and supportive Spartan community pushes me to put my best foot forward and the uplifting spirit of success be it through my SI session for CS 146, campus tours/commercials as a Student Ambassador, is unparalleled.

I am eternally grateful for all the opportunities I have had, be it being invited by the White House to to meet Vice President Kamala Harris to represent the city of San Jose and SJSU, or as a Lead performer at homecoming, to showcase my culture and talent, a Vice President Candidate

in the Associated Students Elections, to advocate for student needs, I have really seen myself grow and develop as an individual through all these activities.

I moved from 20,000 miles away knowing nothing about living alone, managing finances, or even the education system, and landed with a bag full of bare necessities and a mind full of dreams.

3. What is your dream job?

Working day and night ever since I set foot in the bay. I strive to succeed at work and school, while always being eager to learn and develop new skills. It is key to understand that setbacks and rejections are opportunities for growth and development, which is a quality I deem to be extremely essential to be a successful Engineer at SJSU.

In the future, I hope to work as a Product Manager or as a Technical Program Manager at Apple, to lead its world class products and expand the realms of technological development.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

It is okay to take breaks, and take a step back when needed. Just believe in yourself - You got this!

Everything happens for a reason and if you feel lost, keep looking for the light at the end of the tunnel, it is definitely WORTH it.

Mamta Kanda | Industrial & Systems Engineering

Ambitious | Curious | Determined

Future of Silicon Valley Graduate Scholarship

1. Why did you choose your major?

The reason I chose industrial and systems engineering is because I fell in love with the human factors and ergonomics aspect of it. As industrial engineers, we focus on optimization, and efficiency and these are 2 aspects I value greatly in my personal life. Moreover, industrial engineering offered the versatility to branch out into various industries. As an industrial engineer, you graduate with an array of valuable skill sets that set you up to be a well rounded individual, capable of making a huge impact anywhere you go. Industrial engineers can make improvements in health, safety, manufacturing, management, and much more. After gaining this breadth of knowledge from SJSU, I decided to return back for my Masters in Engineering Management to continue developing my leadership skill sets. I wanted to further solidify my engineering practices while also tying in the business elements to successfully solve complex problems in the future.

2. Are you involved in any school or community activities?

I am heavily involved in the student organizations on campus. I have held leadership positions for the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineering Organization and also for Tau Beta Pi the Honor Engineering Society. Moreover, I was also part of the Society of Women Engineers,

MESA Engineering Program, and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. During my freshman year I was very ambitious and wanted to be part of as many student organizations as possible to have the opportunity to network and learn from my peers. I have formed some of my greatest friendships through these clubs, and they have truly shaped my college experience for the better. As a commuter student, these clubs created a sense of community and safe space on campus, which I am very grateful for.

3. What is your dream job?

My dream job would be a role in which I am able to solve problems everyday in a creative manner while also making a positive impact in my community.

4. What advice would you share with your freshman self?

The advice I would give to my freshman self is to not be shy and to network, network, and network! Don't be too tough on yourself and keep an open mind for new opportunities.