



The College of Engineering Newsletter  
Spring 2017/Summer 2017

## Message from the Dean



With the end of the Spring semester we have many things to be excited about here at the SDSU College of Engineering. On Saturday, May 13, 2017, we held our largest Engineering Commencement Ceremony at Viejas Arena with 849 students graduating. With 203 graduates, the number of B.S. degree recipients in Mechanical Engineering made the [SDSU Top 10 Degrees for 2017](#). US News & World Report ranked the SDSU Aerospace Engineering graduate program No. 7 in California and No. 37 in the nation.

The construction on the new Engineering Interdisciplinary Sciences (EIS) Complex continues to move quickly with construction to be completed this Fall and expected occupancy in early 2018. A live feed of the construction can be viewed at: <http://130.191.35.82/live.htm>, and for more information on the EIS Complex, please visit: <http://eis.sdsu.edu>.

I hope you enjoy reading the news stories that follow about our students, faculty and community programs. We are looking forward to a very busy and productive Fall 2017, when our student organizations, creative design studio, six instructional labs and ten research labs are moved into the new EIS Complex.

Dr. Morteza Monte Mehrabadi  
Dean, College of Engineering  
[www.engineering.sdsu.edu](http://www.engineering.sdsu.edu)

## Alumni Highlight



**Sofia Russi** ('07, Aerospace Engineering), a Mechanical Engineer for Denmar Technical Services in Las Vegas, NV, and an AIAA member since 2002, has been selected as the new Young Professional (YP) Liaison to the AIAA Board of Trustees. Her term begins in May 2017 and ends in May 2019. [Read More>>](#)

**Jeremy Caplan** graduated from SDSU in 2014 with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. After graduation, he spent the first 15 months of his career in Phoenix working for Boeing on the Apache Attack Helicopter. [Read More>>](#)



## Faculty Highlight



**Dr. Sam Kassegne**, Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, and Center for Sensorimotor Neural Engineering (CSNE) research collaborators published in [Nature](#) on the superior electrochemical properties of a new electrode material fabricated from glassy carbon.

## Student Accolades



Aerospace Engineering students, **Paulina Diaz-Montiel**, **Bashar Qashat**, **Enrico Santarpia**, and **Michael Stromecki** were each awarded a \$1,700 Reuben H. Fleet Scholarship at the [2017 AIAA San Diego Section Annual Awards Banquet](#) held on May 21st, 2017. Kimberly Painter, Aerospace Engineering student, was also recognized for her contributions to the SDSU AIAA student branch.



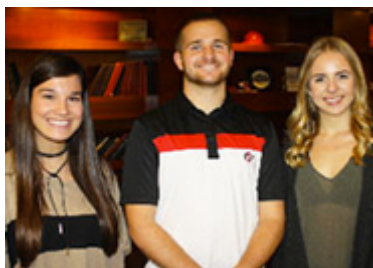
For Mechanical Engineering graduates **Jordan Custodia**, **Cassandra O'Shea**, **Sean Bennett**, and **Matthew Penning**, the Engineering Commencement on May 13, 2017, marked the beginning of a new adventure for the founders of Recyclinator, a startup company they developed while students at SDSU. Through the support of the SDSU's Zahn Innovation Platform (ZIP) Launchpad, Recyclinator CEO Custodia and his classmates developed a device that captures

carbon dioxide emitted during the craft beer brewing process, then cleans, stores and recycles it for reuse. [Read More>>](#)



**The Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) San Diego** celebrated its 35th Annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet on Friday, May 5, 2017. Engineering students **Claudia Soto** (Civil) and **Erasmio Canogo** (Mechanical), received a scholarship from Solar Turbines and Qualcomm, respectively. The SHPE SD Chapter of the Year was awarded to SDSU and President of the Year was awarded to SDSU's SHPE President, **Alexandra Arambula**.

**Jacob Dayton**, Mechanical Engineering student, was one of three SDSU students to receive a \$5,000 scholarship from SDSU Alumni. [Read More>>](#)



## Faculty Accolades

For recent grants and contracts awarded to the College of Engineering Faculty, please visit the SDSU Research Foundation website at: [https://www.foundation.sdsu.edu/recent\\_awards.html](https://www.foundation.sdsu.edu/recent_awards.html)



**Dr. Asfaw Beyene**, Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, will be hosting and chairing the [ECOS - 2017 Conference](#) from July 2 - 6, 2017 at the SDSU Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Union. The ECOS - 2017 Conference is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. The Conference provides a forum for discussions among hundreds of international scholars and policy makers from multiple disciplines on the current state of energy related research.



**Dr. Eugene Olevsky**, Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, along with Dr. Rajendra K. Bordia, Professor & Chair of the Materials Science & Engineering Department at Clemson University and Suk-Joong L. Kang, President of the Korea Institute of Ceramic Engineering and Technology, recently published a Centennial Celebration feature article, "Current understanding and future research directions at the onset of the next century of sintering science and technology" in the [Journal of the American Ceramic Society](#).

## Community & Outreach



**Project Lead The Way (PLTW)** is welcoming over 376 K-12 teachers that will be attending the PLTW Core Trainings at SDSU this summer. For more information please visit [PLTW California](#). If any alumni or community partners would like to visit one of the workshops or meet the teachers, please contact Michelle Bunn, Affiliate Director, PLTW California at: [mbunn@sdsu.edu](mailto:mbunn@sdsu.edu).

On April 19, 2017, Northrop Grumman's One Adelante Employee Resource Group and SDSU's **Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) Program** offered a Northrop Grumman Interview Workshop at the SDSU Career Services facility. [Read More>>](#)





## Giving to the College of Engineering



Recognizing the importance of interdisciplinary research to advances in engineering, San Diego State University is currently constructing a new 85,000 square foot facility, the Engineering and Interdisciplinary Sciences (EIS) Complex, a key initiative in the University's drive to become a top-50 public research university. Not only will it enhance the University's current teaching and research capacities, the EIS Complex will also boost San Diego State University's ability to attract the best and brightest researchers and

graduate students.

To learn more about giving to the College of Engineering, in particular, about the naming opportunities available in the new Engineering and Interdisciplinary (EIS) Complex, please contact: Kim DuFour, Senior Director of Development, College of Engineering, [kdufour@sdsu.edu](mailto:kdufour@sdsu.edu) or 619-594-6416.