

Biomedical, Industrial & Human Factors Engineering Newsletter

Fall 2022



Chair's Note

Welcome to Fall '22 Newsletter. I am grateful and thankful to my staff, faculty, students, and their family for being there with us and for working towards student success. I hope you find the newsletter informative. Whether you are a prospective student or parent, an alumni, industry partner, or just interested please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,
Subhashini Ganapathy
Professor & Chair



Uganda, Water and the Engineer

When the academic year ended in April, Wright State University students generally were off to internships, vacations or back to classes. John Wilke did none of those. He went to



Uganda to help the health of people in a small village. And he's going back next year to help finish what was started. After two years, he transferred to Wright State, allured by the biomedical engineering program and the opportunities the university offers. "I always liked the medical field," he said. Wilke is a Kettering native who is a rising senior and a [biomedical engineering major](#) in the [College of Engineering and Computer Science](#). He started his

academic journey at Columbus State Community College, attracted by the small class sizes. [Read more](#)

Matt Specht, a senior industrial and systems engineering major, learned that small changes can have a significant impact on large-scale manufacturing during an internship with Honda. As an industrial systems engineer, Specht's job is to improve quality and reduce inefficiencies at a company.

"They (industrial systems engineers) can be responsible for looking at a single manufacturing process and trying to cut out as much unnecessary time as possible, or looking at all the scrap parts made in a plant and coming with ideas on how to turn them into useful products," he said. [Read more](#)

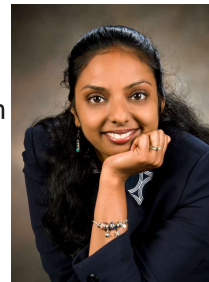


Grants from Intel Corporation will support curriculum development and training for local students

Wright State University is a key participant in two of eight grants awarded to Ohio colleges and universities by the Intel Corporation, which is building two chip factories near Columbus. The grants are part of a coordinated effort to address the research and workforce needs of the growing semiconductor and microelectronic industries in Ohio. [Read more](#)

Biomedical, Industrial and Human Factors Engineering Chair Subhashini Ganapathy receives DBJ Diversity Champion Award

Subhashini Ganapathy, Ph.D., professor and chair of the [Department of Biomedical, Industrial and Human Factors Engineering](#) at Wright State University, was honored as a diversity champion by the Dayton Business Journal. The Outstanding Diversity Champion Award honors individual who have shown outstanding initiative to promote diversity and inclusion either in their organization or community, making a positive difference in others' lives through contributions to social justice, equality and diversity. [Read more](#)



2022 Women of the Year Awards in STEAM Gala

Women in Technology congratulated these women on making it to the next round of judging for the 2022 Women of the Year Awards in STEAM Gala!

✦ Shobha Ramu Shivaiah, Sr. Manager, Software Development Amazon

✦ Dr. T. Tesfamichael, Senior Product Strategist Udacity

✦ Hannah Wang, Technical Architect Equifax

✦ Lakshmi Vitthanala, Senior VP InComm Payments

✦ Amanda Preyer, Director, Axion BioSystems

✦ [Oladunni Olowoporoku](#), Industrial Engineer Syncreon Technology

✦ Dara Solomon, IPC Global VP of Professional Services and Research UserTesting

✦ Maribeth Gandy Coleman, Principal Research Scientist, Director of Research Georgia Institute of Technology

✦ Tequila Harris, Associate Professor Georgia Institute of Technology



Alumni Spotlight

Tara Wilson

"When I first applied to medical school in the summer of 2019, I didn't get in. My whole life I have wanted to become a doctor. I love working through problems that help make people's lives easier. During high school, I realized the same desire to help people,



coupled with my passion for STEM, would make me a good engineer and I chose to pursue a bachelor's in engineering. After my junior year of college, I applied to medical schools all over the country, assuming it was time to step into the next phase of my career.

In April of the following year, I got a devastating email, I had not gotten accepted to any of the schools I applied to.

Suddenly, I had no idea what to do with my life and had to re-evaluate if I wanted to become a doctor and what I was going to do in the interim. Like many people freaked out by the real world, I

went to get a master's right after finishing my undergraduate degree. I started Wright State University's Master's in Biomedical Engineering program and worked as a Graduate Teaching Assistant. Teaching was incredibly fulfilling, it changed from day to day, and I felt like I was helping people; I considered getting my Ph.D. and teaching. However, one of my mentors told me that the best engineering professors have industry experience, so I started applying for engineering industry positions so I could one day become a professor.

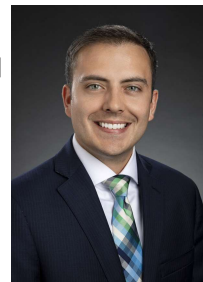
I worked at a consulting firm and enjoyed designing medical devices. Once again, I felt like I was solving problems that made others' lives better. I liked my co-workers and the work-life balance I was able to strike in an industry position. I was once more reconsidering everything I thought I wanted to pursue with my professional career.

applications. I am driven by a desire to make a difference in people's lives, to help fix their problems; but I want to do that more directly than what I can accomplish as an engineer. I applied to medical school once more and have chosen to matriculate in Wright State University's Class of 2026.

It was not the more direct route to where I wanted to get and there were many, many instances where I thought this would never happen. Now that I have gone through it all though, I'm thankful I didn't get in the first time. Being forced to reconsider what I wanted in life helped me hone my professional goals. It also showed me that the imposter syndrome I felt about being an engineer was normal but unwarranted. I could not be more excited to begin my road in medicine, or more thankful for the path that brought me here."

Graduate of the Last Decade Award -2022 Alumni Achievement Awards

Zachary Kiehl received a [bachelor's degree](#) and a [master's degree in biomedical engineering](#) from Wright State. Kiehl is the president, CEO and co-founder of Sentinel, directing the company's efforts to protect the lives of people at risk through modern, secure and scalable technology. [Read more](#)



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