

# DIVERSITY IN ACTION

Vol. 10,  
SUMMER 2025

## DEAN'S NOTE



While the arrival of summer usually offers a chance to catch our breath, recent national developments have cast a shadow as we navigate impacts on higher education and our communities. Please know that leaders in the engineering school regard your well-being as paramount. My office and others are here to support you. We encourage you to engage with our upcoming events, which are designed to foster professional development and strengthen our community bonds. As you take advantage of these offerings, you not only advance your career, you also open opportunities for connection, learning, collaboration, and mutual support across our community.

**Julie Yun**

Associate Dean for Diversity  
and Inclusion

## PEOPLE OF PRINCETON

Excerpted from our social media series

**#PrincetonEngineers**

**Abiola Bolaji '26**, "I came to Princeton intending to explore engineering to develop biomedical technology. After taking introductory courses and discovering the major's versatility, I was quickly drawn to electrical and computer engineering (ECE). What impacts me the most has been the department's way of encouraging interdisciplinary explorations... Outside of academics, the National Society of Black Engineers and its alumni network significantly influenced my decision to major in ECE. As the current president, it is an honor working with my executive board as we continue to uphold the NSBE mission statement of increasing the number of Black engineers who are successful academically, professionally, and in their communities."



**Kamar Hachem '27** "My academic journey at Princeton opened my eyes to the complexity of environmental issues. In a freshman seminar called "Slow Death by Rubber Duck," I developed a fascination with organic contaminants and researched a chemical in perfumes that is difficult to filter from water. Outside the classroom, I'm active in Engineers without Borders and Matriculate Princeton (a college advising program for first-generation, low-income high school students). These groups have enriched my Princeton experience by connecting me with peers and engaging me in meaningful projects..."



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

### Technical Leadership in Engineering

This semester, a trio of professional development workshops developed by Professor Jean Tom of chemical and biological engineering offered a snapshot of essential skills for career success. The first workshop emphasized the value of identifying a personal sense of purpose and



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having balance when choosing a career path. The second session helped participants assess their own behaviors and recognize their communication styles. The final workshop focused on navigating organizational culture, equipping students with strategies to analyze, adapt, and influence workplace environments.



### New Graduate Course in Leadership

Following the success of her workshops, Professor Tom partnered with Professor Christos Maravelias to create a course: **CBE 531/EGR 531** Technical Leadership in Engineering. This course, now open for enrollment, will help graduate students prepare for careers in industry or leadership roles in academia. Professor Tom will cover vital professional competencies such as communication strategies, team collaboration, organizational culture, leadership effectiveness, and workplace navigation. See the Registrar's site [for details](#) and to enroll.

### Inclusive Mentorship and Advising

In a recent workshop titled Mentorship vs. Advising,

Ransford Pinto from the McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning offered an analogy to distinguish two roles: an advisor provides a broad overview like a paper road map, while a mentor functions more like GPS—actively guiding each turn along the professional journey.

Ransford shared insights from his own academic path, and encouraged students to take a proactive role in cultivating both an advisor and a mentor for continued success in their future career goals.



### Celebrating Women Leading Innovation and Change

On March 20, students, faculty, and staff gained valuable perspectives on leadership from a distinguished panel of women engineers representing various sectors. Engineering Dean Andrea Goldsmith joined experienced leaders Emily Carter (Princeton Plasma Physics Lab) and Charlotte Farmer (Underwriters Laboratories Research Institutes) to discuss their career journeys, emphasizing themes such as seeking supportive mentors, learning from setbacks, and Emily Carter's insightful definition of leadership as “enabling the success of others.”



### Celebrating Excellence in Teaching

On Friday, April 4th, the Undergraduate Engineering Council celebrated the passion and dedication of faculty members and teaching assistants at the annual School of Engineering and Applied Science Excellence in Teaching Awards. Thank you to Undergraduate Affairs Administrator Traci Miller who set up and organized the event. Congratulations to the following honorees:

#### Fall 2024-25

Dr. Mark Cerenzia (ORF 309)  
Dr. Ruth Fong (COS 126)  
Professor Peter Henderson (COS 352)  
Dr. Pedro Paredes (COS 226)  
Christian Chung (COS 352)  
Tuo Hu (ECE 308)  
Victoria Malarczyk (MAE 331)  
Gabriel Mantegna (MAE 573)

#### Spring 2023-24

Dr. Chris Greig (ENE 372)  
Professor Anirudha Majumdar (MAE 206)  
Dr. Hossein Valavi (ECE 203)  
Dr. David Villalobos (MAT 202)  
Dr. Katerina Visnjic (PHY 109)  
Dr. Grace Bosse (PHY 104)  
Benjamin Budway (ORF 387)  
Jonathan Zhou (ECE 304)





## EVENTS

### Plant Life & Meditation

To celebrate Earth Day, the school of engineering partnered with Ellen Kellich from the Graduate School and Steph Vituccio with Counseling and Psychological Services to offer a workshop called Plant Life with the goal of using connections to nature to better ground students during stressful times. The workshop opened with a grounding meditation, leading into a hands-on activity where attendees repotted a plant and discovered its unique care needs.

### Pride Fest 2025

The School of Engineering participated in the campus Pride Fest on April 18th. The event drew 600 attendees who engaged with the 40 participating entities: 17 student groups, 19 campus departments, and 4 outside organizations. Pride Fest continues to play a vital role in bridging connections across campus and nurturing a culture of allyship and support for all.

### Managing Travel Anxiety

The new administration in Washington has introduced changes for scholars and students traveling on nonimmigrant visas. We collaborated with colleagues in Counseling and Psychological Services and the Davis International Center to help our students and scholars better manage their travel anxieties and receive information about travel resources offered through the university.

### Inspiring the Next Generation of STEM Students

Engineering students and researchers took part in the Young Women's Conference hosted by the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory. The conference is an annual event where 800+ students from all over the state are invited to engage with researchers, participate in interactive experiments, and learn about careers in STEM.

### Take Your Child to Work Day

The Dean's Office in the School of Engineering, thanks to the expert organization of Andrea Mameniskis and Traci Miller, hosted a successful "Take Your Child to Work Day." The event welcomed 43 children and 32 parents from across the school. Designed to ignite young imaginations, the day featured hands-on experiences and demonstrations showcasing the breadth of engineering disciplines.

Presenters included:

Arvind Narayanan (COS faculty/CITP Director), "How to use AI for fun and learning while avoiding risks"

Reza Moini (CEE faculty), Shashank Gupta (CEE grad student), Aimane Najmeddine (CEE postdoc), "Robotic Concrete 3D Printing Lab"

Aimy Wissa (MAE faculty), "Fly Like a Bird"

Donggeon David Oh (ECE grad student), Justin Lidard (MAE grad student), "AI Assisted Safe Car Racing"

Janine Nunes (PMI Outreach Director), Kai Filsinger (PMI Lecturer), Kevin Lamb (PMI Sr. Technical Support Staff), "Ice Cream making with nitrogen gas"



## SPOTLIGHT

### Machine Shop: Small Team Powers Innovation

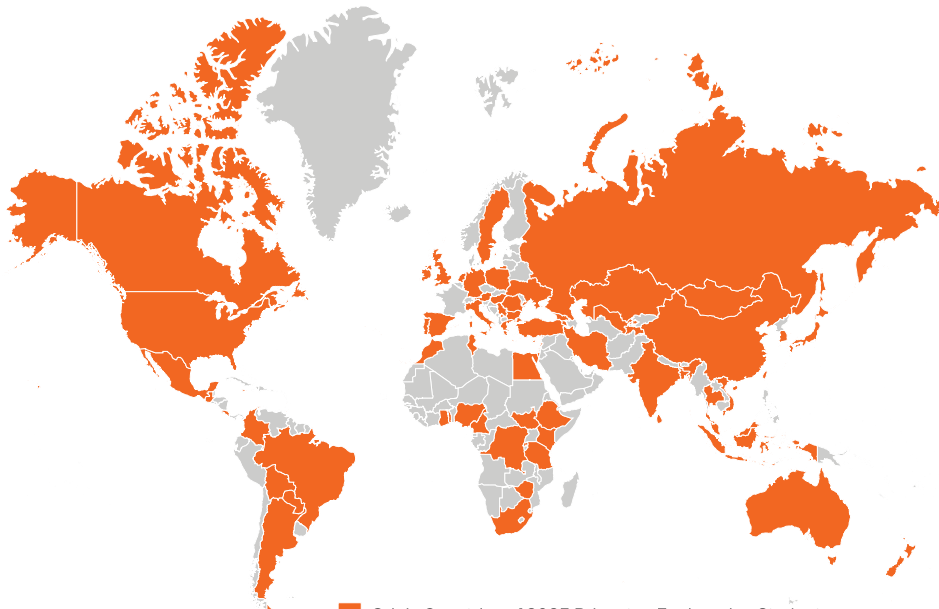
Serving all six departments in the School of Engineering, the Machine Shop quietly powers the creation of custom components and experimental prototypes essential to groundbreaking research. From precision parts for biomedical devices to intricate assemblies for aerospace testing, Larry McIntyre and Ryan O'Donnell have supported hundreds of projects. Larry retires June 30, after 25 years at Princeton, and we wish him all the best. The machine shop remains an



indispensable resource, enabling students, faculty, and researchers to turn bold ideas into tangible, world-changing solutions.

## POPULATION DATA

Princeton Engineering students represent a remarkable array of countries and cultures. Our international students bring invaluable perspectives, experiences, and insights into the classrooms, enriching our academic community.



Orange: Origin Countries of 2025 Princeton Engineering Students  
Grey: Not represented this year

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Check out our new website to join us at a future event: [engineering.princeton.edu/diversity-and-inclusion/events](https://engineering.princeton.edu/diversity-and-inclusion/events)

Engineering Your Resume for Industry  
Thursday, 7/24

CV Writing for Jobs in Academia,  
Wednesday, 8/6

## NEW ASSOCIATE DEAN

Please welcome Cecily Swanson! Cecily, who joins us from the Office of the Dean of the College, has been appointed to be the new associate dean for undergraduate affairs at the engineering school.



She starts July 21, and succeeds Peter Bogucki, who retires June 30 after 31 years in the role. We are excited to welcome Cecily and wish Peter all the best for a well-earned retirement.