

Keep up with what's new - Systems Engineering at the Naval Postgraduate School



SE NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

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Letter from the Chairman

The Systems Engineering (SE) Department completed our biennial curriculum review in November 2018. One of the practices that makes the SE programs especially relevant to the Navy and the Department of Defense is our practice of reviewing the curricula with our sponsors. The review includes briefing the Navy's Systems Engineering Stakeholder's Group (SESG) and the formal review conducted by our curricula sponsor. Our Curricula sponsor is VADM Johnny Wolfe, the director of Strategic Systems Program, who took over for VADM Terry Benedict. VADM Benedict retired from the Navy in May 2018, and the SE Department really appreciates the strong support we received from him during the department's formative years. It was with VADM Benedict's support that the SE Department was able to grow in size and reputation.



Dr. Ronald E. Giachetti
Chair, Systems Engineering
regiache@nps.edu

The curricula review process went well and shows the SE department programs remain strong and relevant. Two notable trends concerning systems engineering in the DoD as well as the larger community were identified as areas the SE Department needs to strengthen. The first is model-based systems engineering (MBSE). MBSE is the formal application of modeling to support all the systems engineering activities. The Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Systems Engineering released the Digital Engineering Strategy in June 2018 layout out a vision for incorporating modeling throughout the acquisition process to provide an authoritative and enduring source of truth. All the Navy SYSCONs, the Marine Corps, and the Army are pursuing variations on this vision, of which MBSE plays a major role.

The SE Department faculty do a lot of research in MBSE, and the topic is mentioned and discussed in many of our courses. What we are embarking on is the more formal incorporation of MBSE into the curricula with the intent our students graduate from our programs with the knowledge and skills to help contribute to the digital engineering vision. We are working out our approach, but it will likely entail greater emphasis on formal modeling supported by an underlying ontology or definition of model elements, use of a MBSE process, and learning one or more MBSE tools.

Additionally, the SE Department is at the forefront of research and education on Mission Engineering. The term "mission engineering" refers to the mission as the system of interest and applies systems engineering concepts, methods, and tools to the design of missions. As a community we realize our systems must interoperate with other systems in systems of systems to provide capabilities unavailable in any of the individual systems. The SE Department has been doing this type of engineering for some time, albeit without the label mission engineering. We are making efforts to let the Navy, DoD, and wider systems engineering community aware of the work we have been doing in Mission Engineering. One part of our effort is the organization of a special issue on Mission Engineering in an upcoming issue of the Systems journal. Please [click this link](#) for further information, and I invite you to consider contributing to this special issue.

As always, we welcome any news on our alumni and their work for the defense and security of our nation.

NPS Professor Appointed Editor-In-Chief of "Systems Engineering" Journal



Professor Cliff Whitcomb

NPS Department of Systems Engineering Professor Clifford Whitcomb has been selected to serve as the new Editor-In-Chief (EIC) of "Systems Engineering" journal, a bimonthly publication recognized as a respected, forward-looking archival resource for systems engineering and related fields.

"My experience in systems engineering at NPS has prepared me very well for my position as the EIC of 'Systems Engineering,'" said Whitcomb. "Much of the basis for accomplishing systems engineering development in the past 50 years has come from defense and defense-related industries. Defense systems acquisition, in particular, has provided a fundamental basis for understanding the fundamentals of systems engineering methods and applications."

Whitcomb joined NPS in 2005 shortly after the Department of Systems Engineering (SE) was tasked by the Naval Sea Systems Command to develop an SE curriculum for the education of naval engineering duty officers.

"I was able to begin my career at NPS by being a team member for the design, development and deployment of that systems engineering curriculum, and for the subsequent advancement of the development of systems engineering education and research for the Navy and DOD," said Whitcomb. "My NPS experience in defense systems acquisition translated directly to being able to demonstrate a depth and breadth of systems engineering knowledge, skills and abilities to enable me to be selected as the new EIC for the journal."

Whitcomb says he regularly encourages students to read "Systems Engineering" and similar journals that publish on SE-related topics. There are several papers authored by NPS SE faculty in the journal, and

several NPS alumni have also been published in them. In the end, he says, professional journals like “Systems Engineering” can serve as important resources for our students as they begin developing their theses.

“I led the development of, and teach, a series of SE orientation and graduate success seminars where I introduce every new graduate student in SE to critical thinking and effective writing,” said Whitcomb. “In those seminars, the students are exposed to our chosen model for critical thinking through engineering reasoning and complete an exercise to assess an author’s reasoning in a published article.

“We have used articles from Systems Engineering in those exercises from time to time,” he continued. “We also include an introduction to writing in the seminars, and have the NPS Graduate Writing Center and [Dudley Knox] Library introduce topics on effective writing and the use of library resources to find journal articles for their research.

“By having the students develop an understanding that writing is making your thinking visible, and connecting them to journal articles, we are able to help them connect to the larger body of knowledge that is captured by archival journals and use these in their thinking and writing,” he stressed.

Article by MC2 Michael Ehrlich
[Link to article.](#)

Summer Interns Help NPS Engineers Explore Unmanned Systems



Two young interns are making some serious waves this summer at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS).

High school senior Kathryn Yeager and college sophomore Colin Cool are spending their summer breaks conducting hydrodynamic experimentation in NPS' recently restored wave-generating tow tank as part of the school's science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) internship program.

The interns' work, under the mentorship of systems engineering assistant professor Joseph Klammo, will be instrumental in optimizing the performance of autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs), while providing the students with invaluable exposure to STEM research.

"A lot of the work we do benefits the development of young students who are potentially interested in science and engineering," Klammo said. "I think experimentation is an exciting way to get people interested in, and hands-on experience, in the field."

Collaborating with Dr. Young Kwon, distinguished professor in the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering department, the group has spent the last several weeks collecting and analyzing data on AUV models to explore how an AUV near the surface will feel the effects of waves.

The tow tank, operated jointly by NPS' Systems Engineering and Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering departments, replicates ocean waves – from tranquil sine waves to irregular, raging swells – which induce varied pressure loads on the craft.

"We're trying to understand the magnitude of those loads, what controls their severity in terms of wave heights and lengths, including the vehicle speed and geometry," Klammo explained. "Once we understand these things, we can predict them and determine how to compensate for them to get better vehicle performance."

This research experience will ripple throughout the students' future careers.

Yeager, about to enter her final year at York School in Monterey, has set her course on STEM work in the U.S. military and is currently applying for Army and Air Force ROTC scholarships. She's right at home in the field: since the third grade, Yeager has explored underwater robotics with her older brother and father as well as participating in her school's robotics club.

Two years ago, Yeager's brother undertook a similar internship at NPS, and as soon as she had the chance to intern through the Office of Naval Research (ONR) Science and Engineering Apprenticeship Program, she dove right in.

"It's pretty rare to get an opportunity like this to work in such a professional environment, especially for a summer job," Yeager said. "I've always been interested in engineering through my experience in robotics, and enjoyed STEM classes at school, so this internship really reinforces what I've learned."

"On top of that, being in a military environment is really, really helping me get a glimpse of what my life is going to be like in the military," she continued. "Talking to all sorts of people in different branches and career paths has given me a lot of insight."

Like Yeager, Cool possesses an innate drive towards STEM work. The Monterey area native, currently studying systems engineering at the University of Virginia, completed an internship at NPS in 2017 with the Defense Analysis department's Global ECCO program, and was keen to work with Klammo this summer through the ONR Naval Research Enterprise Internship Program.

"I've learned a lot about research, how to collect and analyze data, and scientific theory and process," Cool said. "It was surprising how relevant the internship is to what I'm studying at school."

"It's definitely furthered my passion for entering the STEM field," he added. "I love working with people on numbers and seeing that the information we're collecting has an impact on the Navy: this kind of meaningful work is something I'd like to do when I grow up."

The duo has made their mark on NPS as well.

From day one, Klammo immersed Yeager and Cool in graduate-level research, continuing work previously accomplished by NPS graduate students, with wonderful results.

"I would say it's beyond my expectations," Klamo said. "They are both very mature, dependable and accountable. It's unbelievable the amount that they've been able to contribute and add to the previous work."

The interns will soon depart NPS, Cool to resume his studies in Virginia and Yeager to apply for colleges and wrap up her senior year.

They are both quick, however, to praise their time at NPS working with Klamo.

"He's the best mentor; he's a total goofball and really fun to work with!" Yeager exclaimed. "But at the same time, he's taught us so much in such a short period of time. He is very clear about his priorities and that what he really cares about is our learning experience and making sure that we're getting out of this internship what we want to get out of it."

Article by Matthew Schehl

[Link to article.](#)

SE Student Publishes Commentary Article on Drone Swarms



[website.](#)

Lt. Joseph Hanacek is a Surface Warfare Officer earned his masters degree in Systems Engineering Analysis at Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. He has previously served aboard USS Lake Champlain (CG-57) and USS Jackson (LCS-6). His article discusses the challenges and potential solutions to defending military installations against drone attacks.

[Click here for his commentary piece published on the War On the Rocks](#)

Naval Air Systems Command and Naval Postgraduate School Graduate 32 Masters of Science and Systems Integrators



Naval Air Systems Command employees are photographed during a commencement ceremony at Patuxent River Naval Air Station on Oct. 4. Graduates completed the rigorous graduate non-resident program offered by Naval Air Systems Command and the Naval Postgraduate School. Professors Gene Paulo (back left), Ron Carlson (back, second from right), and Rama Gehris (front, right) joined in the ceremony to honor the graduates.

NAVAL AIR WARFARE CENTER AIRCRAFT DIVISION, PATUXENT RIVER, Md.

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Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) and the Naval Post Graduate School (NPS) jointly graduated 32 of the command's newest Masters of Science and certificate holders during a commencement ceremony at Patuxent River Naval Air Station on Oct. 4.

NAVAIR Deputy Assistant Commander for Research and Engineering and chief civilian engineer, Anthony Cifone, gave congratulatory remarks during the ceremony.

"Systems engineering and integration is a critical skillset supporting our Fleet," said Cifone. "As aviation and weapons systems become increasingly complex, NAVAIR looks forward to leveraging these experts for a better Navy."

In 2008 NAVAIR and NPS joined to form a geographically distributed defense oriented education system. The rigorous non-resident programs offer military officers and civilians the opportunity to participate in graduate level education. The program has produced more than 450 degree holders to date. Today's ceremony recognized graduates earning Masters of Science in systems engineering, Masters of Science in engineering systems and certificates in lead systems integration.

With facilities in Patuxent River, Maryland; Lakehurst, New Jersey; and Orlando, Florida, NAWCAD supports the research and development, engineering, test and evaluation of all Navy and Marine Corps air vehicle systems and trainers.

[Link to full article](#)

Division Newport Employees Earn Degrees, Certificates from Naval Postgraduate School



Thirty-nine Division Newport employees graduated from the Naval Postgraduate School and were honored during a ceremony held Sept. 18 at Chafee Auditorium in Building 1346. (Photos by Dave Stoehr, McLaughlin Research Corp.)

Each of the speakers at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) Distance Learning Program graduation ceremony discussed the difficult balancing act that the 39 Division Newport employees had to perform while managing their coursework, professions and personal lives. Of those graduates in attendance on Sept. 18 at Chafee Auditorium in Building 1346, few know this better than Cheryl Mierzwa, Code 8532.

Mierzwa, who is the lead systems engineer for the Snakehead large displacement unmanned undersea vehicle (LDUUV) at Division Newport, received her master's degree in systems engineering and was also honored as the recipient of the Rear Adm. Wayne E. Meyer Award for Excellence.



Cheryl Mierzwa (second from right), Code 8532, lead systems engineer for the Snakehead large displacement unmanned undersea vehicle (LDUUV), received her master's degree in systems engineering and was also honored as the recipient of the Rear Adm. Wayne E. Meyer Award for Excellence. Celebrating her graduation are Dr. Warren Vaneman, Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) professor of systems engineering and academic associate of lead systems integration program; Dr. Clyde Scandrett (from left), the dean of the NPS Graduate School of Engineering and Applied Sciences; and Capt. Michael R. Coughlin.

For each graduating class, engineering professors select a student who has excelled in academic achievement to receive the award. It is named after Meyer, who is known as the "father of Aegis" for his 13 years of service as the Aegis Combat System manager.

Mierzwa excelled in earning her degree — which consisted of taking two classes per quarter for two years, including a capstone project at the end — all while working full time and pregnant with and later caring for her daughter.

"She's a smart girl," the proud mother said of her now 18-month-old daughter. "When she was born, the professors understood how I needed to take a few weeks off. They were accommodating. I was late on some things but I got back on track.

"The main change was that I was used to working up to six hours straight on Saturday doing homework. Now with her, I had two-hour blocks here and there. Time management kicked in a little more, as well as being more efficient with my time."

In addition to her professors, Mierzwa credited her family with helping her get through the program. Coincidentally, her husband, Sebastian, an engineer in Code 3413, also was attending school at the same time and received his master's in software engineering from Penn State University in April — just two months ahead of Cheryl.

Cheryl Mierzwa also noted how much it helped having classmates who are co-workers. Her capstone team included Melissa Suursoo, Code 8551, Jahdiel Franco, Code 8554, Chris Carr, Code 1553, and Lewis Shattuck, Code 1521.

“It was all online, but having the Newport cohort helped,” Mierzwa said. “My capstone team was all from NUWC, so we got together as a team in conference rooms and we were able to discuss the capstone project.”



Capt. Michael R. Coughlin

In all, 39 students received either master's degrees or certificates at the recent commencement ceremony, the first formal one to be held that honored all those graduating. Prior ceremonies were held by individual departments or were combined with other award ceremonies. Fourteen students received degrees in systems engineering, nine in engineering acoustics and one each in electrical engineering and contract management, respectively. Ten students earned certificates in anti-submarine warfare, while another four received lead systems integrator certificates. Two students who have finished their coursework and are in the process of completing their theses for master's in engineering acoustics also were recognized at the ceremony.

“This is a big celebration here today to honor your accomplishments and efforts,” Capt. Michael R. Coughlin told the graduates. “I’m humbled by all the work you do for our warfare center on a daily basis and I’m always amazed that you’re able to this academic work all at the same time.”

Coughlin was introduced at the ceremony by Ronald Carlson, a retired Navy captain and professor at NPS who on this day served as the master of ceremonies.

Throughout the hour-long event, Carlson touched on a number of topics. He outlined the basics of the NPS program and its history, while also noting that in the past 15 years it has produced more than 3,000 graduates.

“The bottom line is you are earning a highly valuable degree that will serve you well in your career,” Carlson said before introducing Dr. Clyde Scandrett, the dean of the NPS Graduate School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

Scandrett echoed many of the same topics, thanking the graduates while also noting the hard work it took to complete the program. Scandrett also discussed the value this increase in knowledge has to the U.S. Navy.

“It’s extremely important. It’s a competitive world out there,” said Scandrett, who along with Coughlin and Carlson was joined on stage by Dr. Warren Vaneman, NPS professor of systems engineering and academic associate of lead systems integration (LSI) program. “It is my belief that what you have learned through this period of time has increased the combat effectiveness of our Navy and definitely has improved the knowledge base here at NUWC Division Newport.”



Ronald Carlson (left photo), a retired Navy captain and professor at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) served as the master of ceremonies. Dr. Clyde Scandrett (right photo), the dean of the NPS Graduate School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, talked about the value of education for the U.S. Navy.

The Naval Postgraduate School, established in 1909, provides relevant and unique advanced education and research programs to commissioned officers of the naval service and select federal civilians. NPS offers programs of academic excellence and relevant, meritorious research which support the needs of the Navy and Department of Defense.

“It takes a lot of extra effort to get through these programs,” Carlson said. “It’s almost like another half-time job.”

Through both resident and distance-learning graduate education, enrolled students participate in advanced executive and professional development programs at the country’s premier defense and security oriented graduate university.

Division Newport has been participating in academic programs at NPS for more than two decades, and students have benefited from unique learning opportunities, empowering graduates to apply their learning directly to the security and superiority of the U.S. military.

There are currently 49 students enrolled in various distance learning programs at NPS from Division Newport. More programs will be announced to the workforce in fiscal year 2019. Selections are competitive and only command-endorsed nominees are eligible to apply.

SE Curriculum Review Provides an Opportunity for Student Mentoring



Vice Adm. Johnny R. Wolfe Jr., Director for Strategic Systems Programs (SSP), visited the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), Nov. 26-28, to perform a periodic review of the university's system engineering (SE) curriculum.

"Every two years, the director of SSP comes out and reviews the program, making any modifications or changes needed based on the current needs of both what I need as the SSP and what the Navy needs," explained Wolfe. "They really do provide the Navy's technical expertise from a curriculum and learning perspective, making sure we have the right talent in the right place for the Navy."

During his visit, Wolfe also took the opportunity to meet one on one with a handful of engineering students to provide them with an experienced perspective and advice on their careers.

"I'm an engineering duty officer (EDO), and we have a lot of engineering duty officers that come through the postgraduate school," said Wolfe. "We talk with them about what their jobs are going to be, how they're doing in school, and round everything out with individual counseling," he added.

For the students, the opportunity provided them with an invaluable interaction with the senior leadership of their field.

"It really helps with networking," said Lt. Andrew Miller. "Talking with leaders eye-to-eye really helps, compared to just looking at someone as a name on paper. It's huge, especially with a small community like the engineering community."

Wolfe's review of the SE curriculum included a recommendation to look at the addition of cyber to the program ... Fortunately, it's a specialty of NPS.

"We are really putting a lot more focus on the cybersecurity aspect of everything," said Wolfe. "When you look at how you engineer and design systems, learning in this environment how to think about the cyber aspect is one of those things you need to design and engineer into your system at the very beginning of the process."

System engineering is considered a major component in today's Navy, Wolfe says, touching almost every aspect of the service and its platforms.

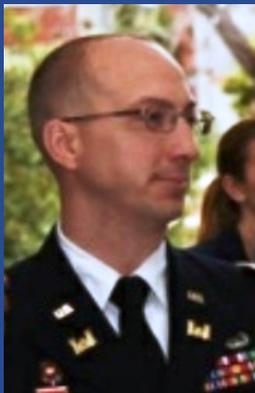
"If you fundamentally think about everything we do in the Navy, everything is a system," said Wolfe. "Everything we design starts with a list of requirements and a process to take those through to guarantee we got the system right."

"By using the systems engineering curriculum here at NPS, it really gives the engineers that graduate the fundamental foundation of how to integrate the mechanicals and electricals into a system view to make sure everything works properly," he added.

By
MC2 Taylor Vencill
NPS PAO Office
December 11, 2018

Alumni News

SE Alumni Awarded Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory Award for Excellence in Applied Physics Research



CPT Todd Howe, U.S. Army, won the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory Award for Excellence in Applied Physics Research for his thesis work performing fundamental thermodynamic analysis of Liquid Air Energy Storage and Expansion Systems.

The award is presented twice a year to an NPS student for outstanding research in applied physics who has the potential to positively impact future Navy and Marine Corps systems and operational capabilities. The awardee receives an engraved plaque and a \$200.00 honorarium. In addition, the recipient and his/her advisor will be provided with invitational travel to Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory to present the winning research at an APL colloquium. The award is open to students from any department performing research in the area of applied physics. This is the first time the award was won by a Systems Engineering student.

CPT Howe was graduated from the Systems Engineering Department last summer and is currently stationed at Fort Knox, Kentucky where he serves as an exercise controller. His advisor was Dr. Anthony Pollman from Systems Engineering. His co-advisor was Dr. Gene Paulo also from Systems

Engineering. And, his second reader was Dr. Anthony Gannon from the Mechanical Engineering Department. A portion of this work was published in the Entropy journal in October 2018 (DOI: 10.3390/e20100770).

Summer Quarter Graduation



Mr. Thomas C. Irwin, Ph.D

When called upon, the Department of Defense organizes and integrates capabilities from across the Services. The resulting group of military resources operates as a Joint Force, disassembles when the mission is complete, and prepares for the next potential mission. Mr. Irwin, in research sponsored by the Joint Staff, developed a methodology that enables the effective systems engineering of Joint operational mission capabilities. He developed a reference operational mission architecture, integrated the existing three Department of Defense capability development systems, and introduced a new class of systems called episodic enterprise systems that together, deliver warfighting capability for 21st Century Joint operations.

-Provost Steve Lerman, September 21, 2018.



Photos by NPS PAO Office

Vice Admiral P. Gardner Howe, III delivers the commencement address for the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) Summer Quarter Graduation ceremony in King Auditorium, September 21, 2018. Vice Adm. Howe is the Associate Director of Military Affairs for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Doctor of Philosophy in Systems Engineering

Mr. Thomas C. Irwin, Joint Staff

Master of Science in Systems Engineering

Captain Yong Jie Chia, Singapore Army **

MAJ Kai Mok, Singapore Army

MAJ Boon Hong Teow, Singapore Army *

LT Gregory DeJute, USN

LT Michael O'Grady, USN

LCDR Daniel Moran, USN

Mr. Richard Bee

Mrs. Meredith Broadfoot

Mrs. Catherine Bush

Mr. CaoBao Chung

Mr. Joshua Considine

Mr. Kevin Friedemann

Mr. William Goodwyn

MAJ Wee Leong Lee, Republic of Singapore Air Force ***

Military Expert 5, Xinhong Lin, Republic of Singapore Air Force **

Mr. Wei Shun Teo, Defense Science Organization National Laboratories, Singapore *

Mr. Choon Pei Teo, Defense Singapore Organization, Singapore **

Mr. Tyler Hallenbeck

Ms. Beth Harpel

Mr. Julio Hernandez Jr.

Mr. Jarrod Hoose

Mr. Charles Junghans

Mr. Kelvin Konevsky
Mr. Paul Laube
Mr. Thomas Lajoie
Ms. Kelly Ann Leimkuhler
Mrs. Gabriela Nagy
Ms. Emily Overman
Mrs. Allison Parcus
Ms. Nora Paz
Mr. Benito Perez
Mr. Trevor Scott
Mr. Valerio Sanchez
Mr. Zachary Stansfield
Mr. Dominick Viruleg Jr.
Mr. Justin Williams
Mrs. Kerri Zalman
Mr. Jorge Zuniga

Master of Science in Engineering Systems

CDR Christian Beard, USN
LCDR Christopher Gzybowski, USN
LT Anthony Sirico, USN
MR. Dustin Allan
Mr. Aleredo Betancourt
Mr. Sean Buckley
Mr. Alejandro Fernandez
Mr. Dennis Geary
Mr. Bryce Hadley
Mr. David Heinzer
Mr. Robert Jones
Mr. Miguel Leon
Ms. Michelle Leslie
Mrs. Jennifer Montgomery
Mr. Richard Paladino
Mr. Garrett Strzok
Mr. James Thomas
Mr. Daniel Toland

Master of Science in Systems Engineering Management

LCDR Christopher Krukowski, USN *
Mr. James Beaufait
Mr. Anthony Constable *
Mr. Joseph Dean
Ms. Jessica Eisen
Mr. Robert Gallerani
Mr. Mark Glass
Mr. Ishmael Kamara
Mr. John Kosempel
Mr. Christopher Melkonian *
Ms. Megan Mosher
Mr. Douglas Ray
Mr. Cody Reese
Ms. Katelyn Rydberg
Mr. Joseph Simonetti

* Student recognized for "Outstanding Thesis"

** Student recommended for "With Distinction"



Vice Admiral P. Gardner Howe, III and Mr. Kevin Friedemann



Mr. Xinhong Lin, MAJ. Kai Boon Mok, MAJ. Boon Teow, Captain Yong Chia, MAJ. Ee Hong Aw, Senior Lecturer Matt Boensel, Mr. Choon Teo, MAJ Wee Leong, Mr. Wei Shun Teo



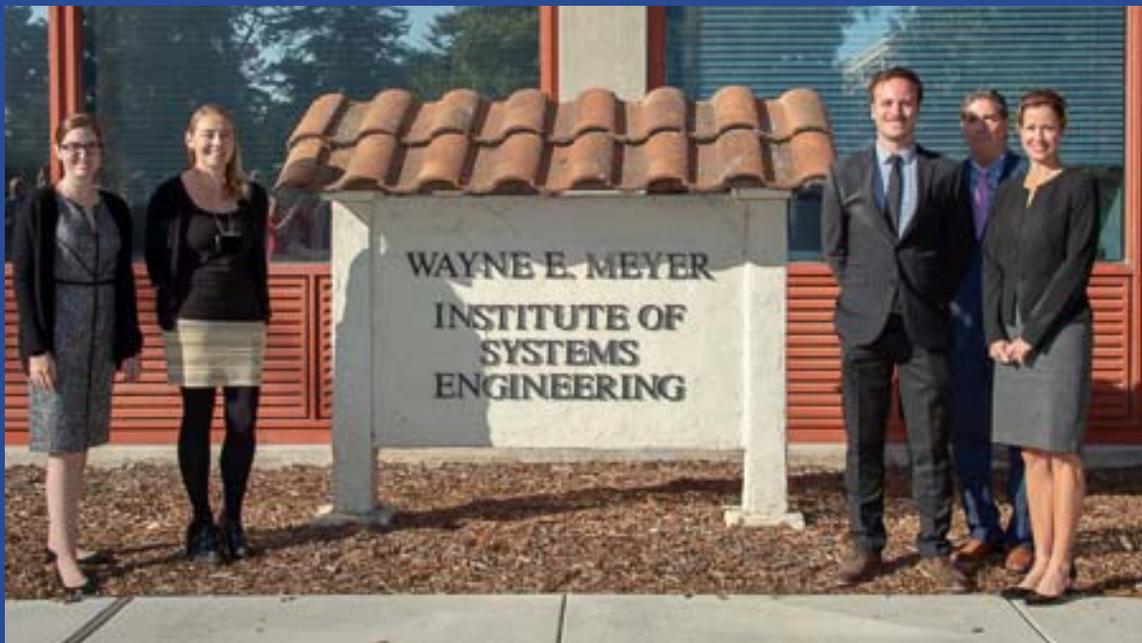
Vice Admiral P. Gardner Howe, III and MAJ Kai Boon Mok, Singapore Army

Meyer Award Winners

The Meyer Award for Outstanding Student in Systems Engineering (Distance Learning) is presented to an outstanding Department of Defense graduate of each Distance Learning Systems Engineering degree program who has demonstrated superior academic performance. This quarter, the award was presented to Mr. Cody Reese, Kelly Ann Leimkuhler, Dennis Geary, and Paul Laube.



Lecturer Brigitte Kwinn, Mr. Dennis Geary, and Professor Ronald Giachetti



Associate Professor Kristin Giammarco, Mrs. Heather Hahn, Mr. Sean Buckley, Senior Lecturer Wally Owen, and Mrs. Jennifer Montgomery

Fall Quarter Graduation



Photos by NPS PAO Office

Congressman Jimmy Panetta offers his commencement address to the final graduating class of 2018 during the Fall Quarter Graduation Ceremony, Dec. 14, in King Auditorium. The graduation also marks the final class for university President retired Vice Adm. Ronald A. Route, who completes his five-year term at the helm of the institution in January 2019.

[Click here for full article](#)

Master of Science in Systems Engineering

LT Jason Beaudwin, USN
Mr. Daniel Call
Mr. Tyler Collins
Ms. Emily Cummings
Mr. Rowell Domondon
Mr. Chadwick Doub
Mr. Cordell Golson
Mr. Bradley Scott
Mr. Bhavin Shah

Mr. Christopher Sikes
Mr. Cyprien Tchatchou
Mr. Justin Watts

Master of Science in Engineering Systems
Mr. Kayur Shah

Master of Science in Systems Engineering
LT John Langreck, USN
LT Ryan Willis, USN
LT Peter Winstead, USN *
LT Herman Wong, USN

* Student recognized for "Outstanding Thesis"
** Student recommended for "With Distinction"



Congressman Jimmy Panetta and LT. John Langreck, USN



Congressman Jimmy Panetta and Ms. Emily Cummings, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dalghren Division

Meyer Award Winner

The Meyer Award for Outstanding Student in Systems Engineering (Distance Learning) is presented to an outstanding Department of Defense graduate of each Distance Learning Systems Engineering degree program who has demonstrated superior academic performance. This quarter, the award was presented to Mr. Tyler B. Collins, Department of Defense.

Faculty News

Newest SE Faculty Member



Rob Semmens recently joined the SE Department as an Assistant Professor. Previously he was a postdoctoral scholar at Stanford University, in the Center for Design Research, Department of Mechanical Engineering. His Ph.D. is also from Stanford, from the Learning Sciences and Technology Design program in Graduate School of Education. His research interests include discovering how people learn about technology while using that technology. He is also interested in the development and assessment of training techniques relevant to spatial thinking and wayfinding. Prior to Stanford, Rob worked on projects for the Army Research Institute and the Asymmetric Warfare Group. He specialized in the development of innovative instructional approaches to improve Army training, and conducted ongoing analysis of the contribution of technology to learning. Additionally, Rob has taught courses to improve the human's understanding of complex systems, such as a missile defense system. He has also taught or assisted in teaching courses in human-computer interaction, cognition and learning, visualization, and research methods. Rob is a West Point graduate and a decorated combat infantryman who served in the 82nd Airborne Division. During his time in the military, he deployed to Kosovo, the Sinai, and Afghanistan.

FACULTY AWARDS



Lecturer Brigitte Kwinn and Professor Ronald Giachetti

Brigitte Kwinn

SE Lecturer, Brigitte Kwinn was presented the Meyer Award for Teaching Excellence in Systems Engineering (Distance Learning) for the AY18 Summer Quarter. The award is presented to an outstanding faculty member of each Distance Learning Systems Engineering degree program who is recognized by the students for teaching excellence and/or exceptional contributions to the student's overall learning experience.



Professor of Practice Donald Muehlbach

Donald Muehlbach

SE Professor of Practice, Donald Muehlbach was presented the Meyer Award for Teaching Excellence in Systems Engineering (Distance Learning) for the AY18 Summer Quarter and the AY19 Fall Quarter. The award is presented to an outstanding faculty member of each Distance Learning Systems Engineering degree program who is recognized by the students for teaching excellence and/or exceptional contributions to the student's overall learning experience.

Cliff Whitcomb

Cliff Whitcomb was just elected a Fellow of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers (SNAME). SNAME is an internationally recognized non-profit, professional society of individual members serving the maritime and offshore industries and their suppliers. For many, SNAME has been absolutely essential to career development and success in the industry. With more than 6,000 members around the world in 85 countries, SNAME is THE International Community for Maritime and Ocean Professionals!

From the SNAME website, "The grade of Fellow may be accorded exclusively to individuals who have made outstanding personal contributions to naval architecture, marine or ocean engineering, or allied disciplines through significant achievements in design, research, production, operation, education, or associated management."



Professor Cliff Whitcomb

Request for Alumni News!

The SE Department is interesting in hearing how our alumni are doing. Please feel free to send the [editor](#) news items for inclusion in future newsletters.

Please visit our [NPS SE Website!](#)

If you would like to continue receiving the SE Newsletters once your NPS email address expires, please contact the [editor](#) with a forwarding email address.

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