BME Department Chair, Dr. Gary Bledsoe, and Associate Chair, Dr. Silviya Zustiak, had the honor of attending the SLU Athletics Straight A Breakfast, which recognized student-athletes who earned all “As” in either the Spring 2023 or Fall 2023 semesters. Students were asked to invite a faculty member who has made an impact on their lives during their time at SLU. Congratulations to these hardworking students and the faculty who supported them!

James Baker (EE/Track and Field), Irmak Gokcen (BME/Volleyball), and Abby Kieffer (BME/Track and Field). Not pictured - Max Babich (BME/Baseball) who recognized Dr. Natasha Case.
SLU School of Science and Engineering students attended the 2024 Pre-commencement Ceremony on May 17, 2024. Congratulations to all our seniors and graduate students for their hard work and accomplishments. BME wishes everyone the best in their future academic and career endeavors!

BME Graduate Students
Top Row: David Johnson, Grace Yost, Connor Tobo, Alli Faber
Bottom Row: Gabbie Coronado, Olivia Widdoes, Parul Nigam, Ahmed Mahmoud

BME Undergraduate Students

Grades from Dr. Zuskiak’s Lab
L to R: James Baker, Ether Dharmesh, Silviya Zuskiak, Parul Nigam, Eya Ferchichi, Alli Faber

Grades from Dr. Garg’s Lab
L to R: David Johnson, Koyal Garg, Connor Tobo
SLU HONORS PROGRAM BANQUET

BME graduates, Grace Almgren and Ether Dharmesh, completed SLU’s honors program and recognized Assistant Professor, Dr. Marta Cooperstein, and Associate BME Chair and Professor, Dr. Silviya Zustiak as having supported them through their time at SLU. They all celebrated at a banquet on May 13, 2024. Congratulations to all!

Connor Tobo, graduate student, successfully defended his master’s thesis titled, “Optimizing Localized Delivery of Biological Cargo Via Gelatin Nanoparticles For Tissue Repair” on April 30, 2024.

NEW APPOINTMENT
Dr. Silviya Zustiak became a Professor, Secondary Appointment in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, School of Medicine, SLU.

NEW GRANT
Dr. Zustiak is a co-investigator on a newly awarded $300,000 grant funded by Mid-America Transplant Society. The interdisciplinary team she is a part of includes faculty from the Department of Chemistry, BME, and the School of Medicine. The primary investigator is Mustafa Nazzal (Abdominal Transplant Center).

The grant titled, “The Use of Nanocomposite Materials Tagged with Deferoxamine to Facilitate Iron Chelation and Mitigation of Ferroptosis and Ischemia Reperfusion Injury of Livers using Novel Nanoparticles” will run from July 2024 through June 2027.

NEW PUBLICATION
Emily Luc (M.S. in BME, 2023) and Philomena Jombo (M.S. in BME, 2023), contributed to a collaborative publication with Dr. Irma Kuljanishvili (secondary BME faculty) and Dr. Silviya Zustiak who are co-corresponding authors.


Click here to read the full article which will appear in a special issue about “Women in Carbon Science and Technology.”
POSTER PRESENTATIONS
Students from Dr. Garg’s Lab presented posters at the Musculoskeletal Research Center Symposium at Washington University in St. Louis on May 15, 2024.


**Tadiwala J., Tobo C., Ridolfo M., Garg K., “GDNF-infused Biosponges for Muscle Reinnervation Following Volumetric Muscle Loss.”**

MEDLAUNCH DEMO DAY 2024

MEDLaunch is a student-driven, biomedical, and entrepreneurship incubator in the Chafeitz Center for Entrepreneurship at SLU. To read more about MEDLaunch, click here. Working in multidisciplinary teams to innovate solutions in areas of surgical devices, health information technology, and medical diagnostics, five teams pitched their ideas at MEDLaunch Demo Day on May 1, 2024 at the Cortex. Thank you to the BME students who participated in this event! A special thanks to two BME students, Ether Dharmesh and Abby Kieffer who served on the executive board as President and Vice President respectively of Curriculum and Recruitment. For more information about this year’s projects, click here!

Congrats to the HandTronix team for winning funding from MEDLaunch for their pitch!

MEDLaunch Cohort 2023–2024

*BME students are in bold

**Project: HandTronix**
Members: Talon Krieger, Katie Woehlert, Natalie Phelps, Gerard Pena, John Melulis

**Project: Quick Naloxone**
Members: Kirti Madhu, Harshu Pande, Claire Schoenekase, Katheryn Gurski, Olivia King, Rahul Jasthl, Caiden Gagliano

**Project: Ohm Ring**
Members: Joel Hwang, Gabbie Coronado, Daniel Kim

**Project: Aspiricare**
Members: Saloni Shringapure, Varshith Reddy Legala, MacKenzie Hertel, Anika Karumuri, Wasi Gema

**Project: MindTrack**
Members: Ben Sloan, Ben Schneider, Lexxy Ahn, Edward Chau
BME graduate students and faculty enjoyed an afternoon at Top Golf on May 7, 2024. There was a great turnout on this warm spring day. Take a look at the pictures below!
Saloni Shringarpure, BME senior, was recently highlighted in SLU News as a 2024 graduate. Read the full article here to learn more about why Saloni decided to study biomedical engineering, what she has been doing since becoming EMT certified, and what she plans to do next.

Congratulations to 2024 graduate, David Johnson, Ph.D., who was recently awarded the School of Science and Engineering 2024 Graduate Student Excellence in Research Award, which included a monetary prize of $750. David has worked in Dr. Koyal Garg’s Musculoskeletal Tissue Engineering Lab. David’s long-term goal is to improve the quality of life of patients suffering from musculoskeletal injuries.
ATTENTION 2024 GRADUATES AND BME ALUMNI

Did you graduate this year? Are you a SLU BME Alumni? If so, we’d like to invite you to fill out the form below to give us your updated contact information (email) and tell us where you have landed after graduation. With your permission, we would love to highlight your career achievements and stay connected with you in the future!

BME ALUMNI FORM

BME NEWSLETTER ACCESS

Did someone forward you this newsletter? Click here to be added to our distribution list.

Receiving this newsletter for the first time? Click here to read news from previous months.