Meet the 2023-2025 College’s DEI Committee

The Committee's first charge for fall 2023: Develop a comprehensive summary of the College's Climate Survey.

The committee will assist with the planning and implementation of college-wide DEI initiatives/activities. The committee will also be tasked with facilitating communication and understanding among different constituencies in the College.

Dr. Sonia Garcia
College's DEI Committee Chair
Assistant Dean for Undergraduate DEI

Dr. Mable Fok
College's DEI Faculty Representative
Associate Professor
School of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Dr. Cheryl Gomillion
College's DEI Faculty Representative
Associate Professor
School of Chemical, Materials, and Biomedical Engineering

Amanda Mooney
College's DEI Administrator/Staff Representative
Human Resources Manager

Amanda Snyder
College's DEI Staff Representative
Administrative Assistant
School of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Tia Shorter
College's DEI Graduate Student Representative
2nd year Graduate Student in Dr. Handa’s Biomaterials Research Lab

Sophia Olson
College's DEI Undergraduate Student Representative
Spanish major
Message from the Assistant Dean of DEI

Dear Engineering Community,

I just want to take this opportunity to say “best of luck” as you begin finals week. I hope whatever exams you have scheduled go well, and I hope that you feel confident about your work on any final assignment you recently submitted or will be submitting. First, I want to reflect on last year and to thank you for your tremendous dedication! I am particularly proud of the DEI work we have accomplished.

For instance, we successfully completed and submitted our college DIEP Plan, which was fully approved on November 1st, 2022, and immediately, we started rolling out the initiatives and goals indicated in the DIEP. In addition, we launched a number of initiatives, such as the College’s DEI webpage, the Diversity Matters Newsletter, the Enhancing Diversity Monthly Brown Bags Series, the Engineering and Computing Pathway: UGA Certificate in Diversity and Inclusion, the Engineering Climate Survey, the Engineering Symposium for High School Counselors and Teachers. In addition, we received a $100K Grant from Georgia Power to launch our first Engineering Academic Boot Camp for incoming first-generation, URM and BIPOC admitted students. This summer we will also be launching a High School Internship Summer Program. This internship program is a collaboration with Dr. Jaime Camelio, Associate Dean for Research, University of Georgia College of Engineering where rising Sophomores and Seniors will be working in Dr. Camelio’s Lab/Factory in the I-STEM Building under the supervision of Mx. Hunter Halloran.

We take pride in having created community events honoring and celebrating our various diverse groups, student organizations and chapters, international students, and first-generation students. This past year alone we supported engineering students, more than 100, by attending nationwide professional development conferences, publishing two scholarly papers for ASEE, and next fall, we will work alongside the 2023 College of Engineering DEI Committee in various initiatives. Measures we have taken thus far will collectively help us raise the bar and make us proud of what we are able to put in place for this important aspect of our college culture and learning environment.

Lastly, I hope your summer break provides ample opportunities for you to unplug, unwind, and reconnect with family and friends to the greatest extent possible. Until fall 2023, please continue to be well, be safe, be smart, and be careful!

Faculty Fellows and GSPE Engineering Educator of the Year

Dr. Bjorn Birgisson
Fellow, American Society of Civil Engineers

Dr. XQ Wang
Fellow, American Society of Mechanical Engineers

Dr. Brock Woodson
Fellow, American Society of Limnology and Oceanography

Dr. Jidong Yang
Fellow, Institute of Transportation Engineering

Dr. Eric Freeman
Fellow, American Society of Mechanical Engineers

Dr. Mi Geum Chorzepa
GSPE, Engineering Educator of the Year
Congratulations to Our Graduating Seniors

Congratulations to the Class of 2023! Best wishes for a rewarding future!

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**Engineering Academic Boot Camp!**

The college's DEI along with faculty will provide teaching and mentorship support to 12 admitted UGA freshmen thanks to the financial contribution of $100 from Georgia Power. The program will run from July 16-28, 2023.

Please share with any incoming UGA freshman who have an interest in pursuing engineering. The deadline to apply is May 31st.

Apply via this link: Discovering Engineering at UGA Academic Boot Camp | UGA College of Engineering.

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**UGA Discovering Engineering Summer Internship**

For three weeks, seven high school students from across the state of Georgia will be working in the I-STEM Lab.

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**MAY 2023**

- **4 National Prayer Day:**
  This tradition continues in modern America each year, with the president proclaiming the first Thursday in May as the National Day of Prayer.

- **5 Cinco de Mayo:**
  Mexican-American holiday that celebrates Mexico's defeat of the French Army.

- **12 Spring 2023 Convocation Ceremony:**
  Celebrating all graduating seniors.

- **14 Mother’s Day:**
  A day to honor mothers, grandmothers, mothers-in-law, and all motherly figures.

- **17 International day against Homophobia:**
  The aim is to raise awareness for the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals worldwide and incidents of LGBTQ+ rights violations.

- **29 Memorial Day:**
  Honors the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military.

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**Full Month**

- **Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month:**
  In 1990, the U.S. government established Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. This May diversity holiday seeks to recognize the achievements and contributions of these individuals.

- **Jewish American Heritage Month:**
  The recognition of Jewish contributions to American culture, history, military, science, government, and more.

- **Haitian Heritage Month:**
  A nationally recognized month and an opportunity for individuals including Haitians and lovers of the the Haitian culture to celebrate the rich culture.

- **Speech and Hearing Awareness Month:**
  Provides an opportunity to raise awareness about communication disorders.

- **Mental Health Awareness Month:**
  The goal is to raise awareness for those living with mental and behavioral issues. This month also seeks to support families or communities who are impacted by mental illness.