

SPRING 2026

# IEM NEWSLETTER

## *Greetings*

from the School of Industrial Engineering and Management at Oklahoma State University! I would like to sincerely thank our students, faculty, staff, The Cowboy Academy and CEAT support personnel that made my year as Interim Head a very successful one! IEM did not miss a beat, and although there were countless accomplishments over this past year, there are simply too many to name in this brief message.

Our IEM staff has been incredible, working diligently and collaboratively to support departmental operations, and our faculty are truly the absolute best. Their commitment continues to make IEM a strong and thriving academic unit. We concluded the Spring 2026 semester with an outstanding graduation reception, celebrating:

- 22 B.S. IEM graduates
- 5 M.S. IEM graduates
- 7 Ph.D. IEM graduates
- 12 M.S. Engineering and Technology Management graduates

With nearly 100 attendees, this was one of the most well-attended graduation receptions in recent years.

As we transition into summer, we are excited to welcome our new IEM Head, Dr. Linkan Bian, who will be joining us in June. Please join me in extending a warm Cowboy welcome to Dr. Bian and his family as they move to Stillwater and become part of the OSU community. We look forward to the leadership and vision he will bring to the School of IEM.

## *Go Pokes!*

**TERRY R. COLLINS, PH.D., PE, CPEM**

Associate Professor and Interim Head



SCHOOL OF  
**INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING  
AND MANAGEMENT**

College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology



## CEAT FSS AWARDS

CEAT recognized faculty, staff and students for outstanding teaching, research, performance and service during the 2026 Faculty, Staff and Student Awards Banquet.



## JUNIOR STATUS EXCELLENT SCHOLAR AWARD

Dr. Katie Jurewicz received the Junior Status Excellent Scholar award. This award recognizes significant contributions in scholarship, as evidenced by publications, citations, research expenditures, graduate student mentoring and other areas.

## OUTSTANDING SENIOR AND GRADUATE STUDENT

CEAT honors an outstanding senior and an outstanding graduate student in each academic school to recognize their top achievers. This year Parisa Vaghfi Mohebbi received the IEM Outstanding Graduate Student award. Mohebbi is a Ph.D. student of Dr. Baski Balasundaram. Kaegan Reynolds was awarded the IEM Outstanding Senior award.





## THE HUMAN SIDE OF WARFARE: OSU COLLABORATION SHAPING THE FUTURE OF AMERICA'S FIGHTERS

Improving the U.S. Department of Defense's capability to evaluate weapons systems requires more than firepower. It needs engineering precision focused on human-centered design, all in the effort to save American lives.

Thanks to a perfect storm of opportunity, technology and engineering, a CEAT team is actively involved in analysis that makes weapons systems evaluation more manageable for active-duty members of the U.S. Army.

Through a collaboration among Dr. Katie Jurewicz, Dr. Ryan Paul of the School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, and defense contractor Torch Technologies, analysis is underway in Lawton, Oklahoma, aimed at understanding how Army personnel interact with both new and existing weapons systems capabilities.

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## ST. PATRICK'S AWARD

Three IEM students including Connor Meissner, Kylie Chutek and Malte Kuhn, received a St. Patrick's Award at the CEAT 2026 Faculty, Staff and Student Awards Banquet. The St. Patrick's award recognizes the top 10 graduating students for their accomplishments in the areas of leadership, academics and contributions to OSU, CEAT and the community.

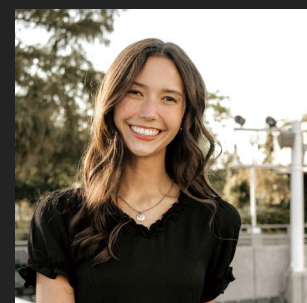
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Malte Kuhn



Connor Meissner



Kylie Chutek

## DATA4GOOD ANALYTICS COMPETITION

IEM student Kazi Arman Ahmed, along with his team won first place at the 'National Data4Good Analytics Competition 2026' which took place at Johns Hopkins University. Overall, the competition included more than 1,100 participants from 105 universities and 295 teams. Kazi and his team were honored to finish in first place.

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## SOLDIER TOUCHPOINT RESEARCH CENTER LAB VISIT

Dr. Terry Collins visited the Soldier Touchpoint Research Center Lab, co-led by Dr. Katie Jurewicz, during the Fires Symposium 2026. Ainsley Kyle, a Ph.D. student in IEM, gave Collins a tour of the lab space and the Fires Innovation Science and Technology Accelerator in Lawton, Oklahoma. Jurewicz, Collins and Kyle are pictured here in front of the Long Range Precision Fires simulator. Dr. Hanchen Huang, dean of CEAT, also visited the STRC Lab space, and Collins, Huang, Nathan Cragun, manager of CEAT Online Learning, Jurewicz and Spencer Knight of Torch Technologies met with the education offices at Fort Sill to expand online IEM offerings to Soldiers based at Fort Sill.

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## CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP MEETING

Dr. Katie Jurewicz, alongside Spencer Knight with Torch Technologies, met with Oklahoma congressional leadership in Washington, D.C., on the future of OSU expanding capabilities of the Soldier Touchpoint Research Center in Lawton, Oklahoma. Jurewicz and Knight met with the offices of Representative Tom Cole, Senator James Lankford and Representative Stephanie Bice, an OSU alumni!



## U.S.-SRI LANKA FULBRIGHT COLLOQUIUM

Dr. Sunderesh Heragu participated as a panelist in a U.S.-Sri Lanka Fulbright funded colloquium to prepare Sri Lankan educators in research and entrepreneurship at the University of Peradeniya campus in Kandy, Sri Lanka. Heragu also led the launch of India's first ISE (Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers) chapter in the campus of BMS College of Engineering, Bengaluru, India.

## URA AWARD

Connor Meissner received the departmental "Excellence in Undergraduate Research" award, in recognition of outstanding dedication, intellectual curiosity and contributions to undergraduate research within IEM.



## COGNITIVE PERFORMANCE LAB

The Cognitive Performance Lab, led by Dr. Pratima Saravanan, published two peer-reviewed journal articles in January 2026. The first article, published in Human Factors, is a collaborative study with researchers from Texas A&M University and Houston Methodist. The research examines occupational stress among ICU nurses using physiological measures such as heart rate variability and wrist-worn accelerometers, contributing to a deeper understanding of stress in healthcare environments. The second article, published in Frontiers in Cognition, was led by IEM Ph.D. student Nurul Ahad Choudhury under Saravanan's mentorship. The paper presents an integrative review on decision fatigue and introduces a conceptual framework to guide future research in this area.



## DR. GLENN

Dr. Glenn and her husband, Allen Glenn — who taught the IEM Senior Design Capstone course this semester — hosted a graduation luncheon for Senior Design students, as well as a dinner at their home for all ENGR 1412 TAs and SLAs.



## OSU RESEARCHERS USING AI TO HELP INHALERS REACH THE SMALLEST AIRWAYS

For millions of people living with lung diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, inhalers are a daily lifeline. Yet even when medication is taken correctly, much of it may never reach the small airways where the disease often begins and progresses. Instead, drug particles can deposit unevenly throughout the lungs – or miss their target altogether.

Dr. Chenang Liu and Ph.D. candidate Ziyang Zhang, both of IEM, along with Dr. Yu Feng and Postdoctoral Researcher Dr. Hang Yi of the School of Chemical Engineering are part of a research team that developed a computational fluid particle dynamics and artificial intelligence-driven framework designed to help inhaled medications reach these airways more effectively and uniformly.

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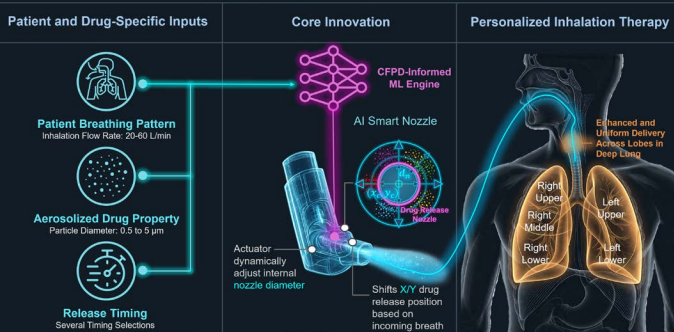
## IEM UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP PROGRAM KICKS OFF FOR SPRING SEMESTER

The IEM Undergraduate Research Assistantship Program officially kicked off for the spring semester on February 9. The program provided undergraduate students with opportunities to engage in hands-on research under faculty mentorship, fostering early involvement in scholarly and interdisciplinary work. A total of 10 undergraduate students participated in the program under the mentorship of five IEM faculty members including Drs. Wenmeng Tian, Srikanthan Ramesh, Pratima Saravanan, Katie Jurewicz and Paritosh Ramanan.



### AI-Guided Precision Inhalation Therapy via User-Centered Smart Inhaler

Ziyang Zhang, Dr. Hang Yi, Dr. Chenang Liu and Dr. Yu Feng





## **DR. JOHN LESLIE**

“OSU gave me a comprehensive educational background that allowed me to professionally excel in a wide range of fields,” Leslie said. “These include rehabilitation engineering, technical management, academic and college administration, fire science technology, aerospace industry consulting and service on numerous boards of directors.”

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## **KENT POWERS**

“The biggest takeaway was the people I worked with ... being able to apply my education and personal skills to a common goal was incredibly rewarding, but the people I worked with, the achievements we made along the way, because it’s a team effort, that’s what stands out the most,” Powers said.

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## **WENTZ RESEARCH SCHOLAR**

IEM student Jonathan Nantois was selected as a 2026-27 Wentz Research Scholar. The Wentz Research Scholars program is funded, in part, by the Lew Wentz Foundation and administered by OSU’s Henry Bellmon Office of Scholar Development and Undergraduate Research. Awardees will receive a \$6,000 scholarship to conduct their research project over the course of the next academic year. Nantois is mentored by Dr. Pratima Saravanan.

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