

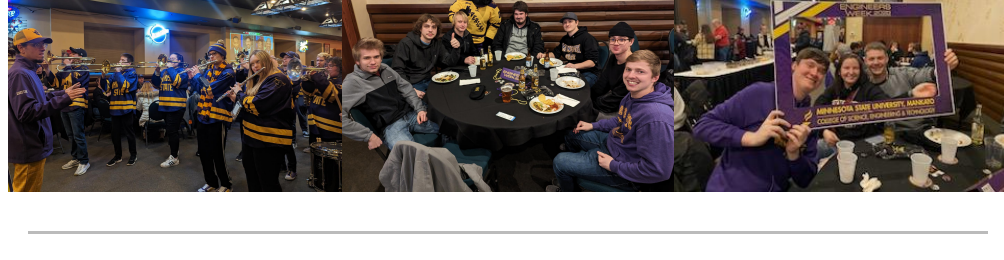
## February 2023 Highlights

### CSET Students, Faculty, Staff, and Alumni Celebrate National Engineers Week!



Left to Right: Aaron Budge (Acting Dean, CSET), Steve Druschel (Civil Engineering), Stomper and Patrick Tebbe (Mechanical Engineering).

National Engineers Week, which is a week-long celebration of the profession, included several activities around campus from student groups, including industry talks, a ping-pong night and mock-interviews. The week was capped off with a gathering at the Loose Moose on February 24, which engineering industry partners, students faculty and alumni attended.



### CSET Faculty Participate in KEEN Conference



Pictured above (left to right) are Elizabeth Pluskwik (Int Eng), Lauren Singelmann (Int Eng), Kuldeep Agarwal (Auto & Manuf Tech), Yuezhou Wang (Int Eng), Aaron Budge (Acting Dean, CSET), Rob Sleezer (Int Eng), Darle Christensen (Int Eng). Also Başak Bektaş (Civil Eng) and Dennis Rogalsky (Int Eng) participated virtually.

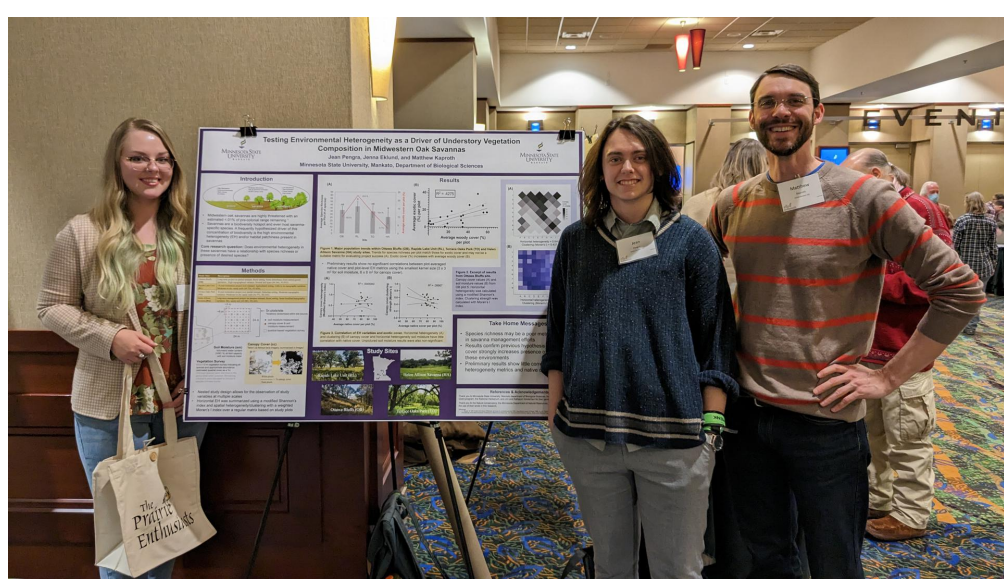
Nine CSET faculty made Connections with over 500 engineering faculty from 93 institutions at the KEEN National Conference in late January. The 2023 KEEN National Conference (#KNC2023) was held both online and in person from January 26-28, 2023 in Atlanta, GA. Along with inspiring keynote addresses from Erika Wagner (Senior Director of Emerging Markets at Blue Origin) and Bobby Kasthuri (neuroscience researcher at Argonne National Laboratory), the faculty participated in a variety of engaging workshops on building entrepreneurial mindset into engineering.

### Minnesota State Hosts MathCounts Competition



The Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers, Bolton & Menk, Inc., and CSET hosted the 2023 Regional MathCounts Competition on Friday, February 3 in the CSU Ballroom. The annual competition for sixth through eighth graders allows students to compete both as individuals and teams in a series of math tests for the opportunity to advance to State and National Competitions. Over 90 students competed, representing 11 public and private schools.

### Biological Sciences



On Feb 11, Jean Pengra (Biology MS student), Jenna Eklund (Biology BS student) and Dr. Matthew Kaproth attended and presented at the annual The Prairie Enthusiasts meeting near Red Wing, MN. The research was part of Jean's graduate thesis: "Environmental Heterogeneity as a Driver of Understory Vegetation Composition in Midwestern Oak Savannas"

### Construction Management



The Construction Management Student Association sent 7 students to the National Association of Home Builders Student Competition: Four-Year Programs – Production Homes in Las Vegas, NV (January 29th through February 2nd). There were 28 teams from different schools around the country. Each team was given a 200-acre plot of land to develop a neighborhood, focusing on market analysis, product, construction management, project management, and financial analysis.

MSU Mankato CM Student Team: Brady Andrus, Zach Dubai, Evan Fogelberg, Lebogang Kekana, Nathaniel Kerzman, Bryce Stalboerger, Trevor Turgeon.



The Construction Management Student Association took on Mount Kato last Thursday for their first member team-building event! It was a great night for members to have fun, build personal connections with each other outside of a professional environment, and celebrate all of the hard work that this group has accomplished.



Congratulations National Handball Champions!

Congratulations to our CM Students who play on the MSU Handball Team for their superb performance in winning the 2023 National Handball Championship!

(Left to right) Justin Klein, Andrew Unick, Luiz Mendez, and Mark Doyle

### Electrical Engineering

Drs. Vincent Zhang, and Jiamwu Zeng published an article titled "[A Carrier-Based Discontinuous PWM for an 80 Kw PV Inverter With the Reduction of the DC-Link Voltage Ripple and Common Mode Current](#)" in IEEE Transactions on Industrial Electronics, which is one of the top 2 journals in the Electrical Engineering Field. Congratulations!

### Integrated Engineering

Dr. Jacob Swanson, Twin Cities engineering received a gift of crypto currency valued at \$231,000 to support research to better understand the transport of airborne virus in outdoor environments. The funds came from an organization named Balvi, which hopes the study creates an innovative system that can provide clean, safe indoor air and prevent the spread of respiratory infections. The project is also being worked on at the University of Maryland which received substantial gift from Balvi. Congratulations!

### Upcoming Events



The SWE Spaghetti Dinner is coming up this Thursday, March 2nd from 6:00- 8:00 PM at Crossroads Church on campus. Tickets will be \$5 pre-sale and \$7 at the door. To purchase a ticket prior to the event, contact [koshangi.jha@mnsu.edu](mailto:koshangi.jha@mnsu.edu)



SAVE THE DATE! The 2023 Women In STEM Dinner will be held on Tuesday, March 21 from 4:30-6:30PM in the Ballroom. The evening will include a Q&A session with women currently working in STEM industries along with a short program and an opportunity for networking after dinner.

Looking for help promoting your program, organization or upcoming event? Need photos? Want to submit an update for our newsletter or have an idea for our magazine? Reach out to [Emily.Fredrick](mailto:Emily.Fredrick), Communications & Marketing Director: [emily.fredrick@mnsu.edu](mailto:emily.fredrick@mnsu.edu) or 507-389-1152

Follow us on social media:

