



VCU

College of Engineering Biomedical Engineering

ALUMNI UPDATES *(summer 2018)*

The following updates were provided by the VCU BME alumni themselves in response to the department's request as part of the inaugural VCU BME Alumni Newsletter. Many thanks to all who completed the update! It has been especially rewarding to hear from you, learn of what you are currently doing, and simply making connections again with more of you after so many years. We welcome feedback that you wish to share on likes/dislikes/ways to improve our outreach to alumni.

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Professional Achievements

1984-1989

Lou Chitkushev (MS 1989) – Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Director of Health Informatics and Health Sciences, and Associate Professor of Computer Science at Metropolitan College / Boston University in Boston MA

1990-1999

Deepak Gupta (MS 1996) – works with Venture Capital and University of California at Berkeley

Shruti Japee (MS 1996; PhD 1999) – Staff Scientist in the Lab of Brain and Cognition at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda MD. Conducts neuroimaging research to study how humans pay attention, process emotions, and make decisions. Was recently awarded the NIMH Director's Award for selfless work supporting the Lab of Brain and Cognition by managing the lab's human subjects' research protocols.

2000-2009

Joel Stitzel (MS 2000) - Professor and Chair of Biomedical Engineering at Wake Forest University School of Medicine in Winston-Salem VA and Associate Head, VT-WFU School of Biomedical Engineering and Sciences. Expertise in computational modeling of the human body including Global Human Body Models Consortium, Biomechanics in automotive, sports, military, aerospace, medical device applications. Member of BMES, ASME, Deputy EIC for Annals of Biomedical Engineering, Current President of Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine.

Asma Habib (BS 2001) – received MD from VCU in 2006. Completed residency in Internal Medicine & Pediatrics at East Carolina University in 2011, a fellowship in Pediatric Cardiology at the Riley Hospital for Children with Indiana University in 2015, and a fellowship in Adult Congenital Heart Disease with University of Washington / Seattle Children's Hospital in 2017. Currently Assistant Professor of Pediatric Cardiology and Director of Adult Congenital Heart Disease Program with Carilion Clinic / VTC School of Medicine in Roanoke VA.

Mark Taylor (BS 2001) - Assistant General Counsel, Patent Litigation with Microsoft Corporation in Seattle WA

Nathan Winslow (BS 2001) - Associate Director of Product Development, Zimmer Biomet Sports Medicine. Named as an inventor on over 60 US Patents.

Justin Kingsford (BS 2002) - Deputy Program Director for Warfare/Cost Analysis with Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division in King George VA

Daniel Moon (BS 2002) – received Masters in Bioengineering in 2005, Medical Degree in 2009, completed residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation 2013, Fellowship in Neurorehabilitation in 2014. Currently an Attending Physician at MossRehab in Philadelphia PA.

Michael Rezba (BS 2002) – Orthopaedic sales representative with Wright Medical in New York NY

Brian Le (BS 2005) – currently Assistant Professor of Plastic Surgery with VCU Health. Recently completed a Hand Surgery Fellowship at NYU and returned to VCU as faculty with emphasis on hand surgery, microvascular reconstructive surgery, burn and cosmetic surgery.

Farhaad Riyaz (BS 2005) – Mohs micrographic surgeon with Integrated Dermatology of K Street in Washington DC

Jennifer Saylor (BS 2005) – works with Smith & Nephew in Memphis TN

Angela Weingarten (BS 2005) – Adult Congenital and Pediatric Cardiologist at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville TN

Peter Liacouras (MS 2002; PhD 2006) – Director of Services in the 3D Medical Applications Center at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda MD. With 3D printing and digital technology, creates custom implants, surgical guides, and prosthetic attachments for the Department of Defense.

Rahul Mahajan (BS 2006) – MD/PhD completed in 2014. Currently a Neurology Resident Physician with Harvard Medical School Partners Neurology Residency program at Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston MA.

Brian Noel (BS 2006) - Lead Electrical Engineer with Monolith Materials in San Francisco CA

Patrick Lloyd (BS 2007) – Vice President of ACES Inc. in Richmond VA

Mital Patel (BS 2007) - Clinical Consultant with Boston Scientific in Richmond VA. Received MD after graduating from VCU.

Kelly Shields (MS 2002; PhD 2007) - Assistant Professor of Medicine with the Allegheny Health Network in Pittsburgh PA

Nikolai Eroshenko (BS 2008) – CSO of HelixNano in Cambridge MA

Robert Filler (BS 2008) – Navy physician in South Carolina

Justin Owen (BS 2008) – Director of Augusta University Interdisciplinary Simulation Center in Augusta GA

Zoe Reidinger (BS 2008) - Assistant Teaching Professor of Biomedical Engineering with Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester MA

Alex Sherwood Miller (BS 2008) – OB/GYN Physician with US Army in Ft. Hood TX

Kevin Elmore (MS 2009) – VP of Operations with All Points Broadband in Leesburg VA

Scott Sell (BS 2003; MS 2006; PhD 2009) – Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering at St. Louis University in St. Louis MO. Achieved promotion and tenure to Associate Professor in May 2017.

2010-2014

Adrienne Capil (BS 2010) – Nuclear Engineer in Virginia

Kunal Chaniary (MS 2008; PhD 2010) – Clinical Engineer with Abbott Neuromodulation in Los Angeles CA

Laura Kueny (BS 2010) – currently a Senior Ophthalmology Resident at Georgetown University in Washington DC. Matched into Fellowship for Pediatric Ophthalmology at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC for the 2018-2019 academic year.

Benjamin Majors (MS 2010) – Senior Project Engineer with Paragon 28 in Denver CO

Kwadwo Opoku (BS 2010) – completed Pre-medical certification with VCU's post-baccalaureate program in Richmond VA

Hieu Ta (BS 2010) – currently a Pediatric Chief Resident at Inova Children's Hospital in Falls Church VA. Will pursue a pediatric oncology fellowship starting July 2018.

Sung Paek (BS 2011) – Project Engineer with Hasbro Inc. in Los Angeles CA. Leads product development of licensed Disney Princess toys.

Laura Romanchik (BS 2011) – currently a Software Engineer with Missile Defense Agency in Huntsville AL. After VCU graduation, continued working with her internship company as a biomass boiler design engineer before moving to another small company in Richmond, VA as a controls system engineer working with electrical panel design/wiring, radio telemetry, PLC/HMI/SCADA programming, display designs, and field work. In 2015, moved to Huntsville AL as a PCB sales engineer representing the SW USA working with clients to optimize circuit board design. Wanting to slow down travel-wise, took a position with Boeing as a Software Engineer supporting 777X as a Systems Engineer, 737Max Propulsion as a Manufacturing Engineer, CCTS as a Battery Systems Engineer, and finally the SLS rocket and Electrical Design Engineer and video imagery lead. Was then recruited to Parsons as a Software Engineer supporting MDA in software and systems engineering, with a growth path in management.

Morgan Barlow (BS 2012) – Mechanical Engineering Patent Examiner with the US Patent & Trade Office. Currently serves as the Secretary for the VCU School of Engineering Alumni Board.

David Burch (BS 2006; MS 2008; PhD 2012) – Medical Technology Solutions Research Team Lead in the School of Aerospace Medicine with the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base OH. Manager for a \$9M Research Portfolio; Principal Investigator for \$5M+ of DoD funding. 2016 Mentor of the Year Award-winner for the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine. Air Force Research Laboratory Subject Matter Expert for the fields of Aerospace Physiologic Monitoring and Impact of Patient Transport.

Jeff Frankart (MS 2012) – Testing & Reliability Engineer with QubicaAMF in Mechanicsville VA

Koyal Garg (MS 2008; PhD 2012) – Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering with St. Louis University in St. Louis MO

Paul Gimeno (BS 2012) – Manager of Data Analytics with the Alzheimer’s Association in Washington DC

Shawn Joshi (BS 2012) – MD/PhD Candidate at Drexel University in Philadelphia PA. Working at Oxford Institute of Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Research in Oxford, United Kingdom. Was a Fulbright Grantee - Open Award United Kingdom and a Peace Corps Volunteer.

Jae-Eung Kim (BS 2012) - Korea Research Institute of Chemical Technology

Nicholas Yesbeck (BS 2012) – completing dental degree with VCU Dentistry in Richmond VA. Starting residency in periodontics next year at VCU.

Garrett Atkinson (BS 2013) – Patent Examiner with the US Patent & Trade Office in Moseley VA; cofounder of Atkinson Enterprises LLC, a company specializing in custom computers for cryptomining, rendering, and gaming. Member of the VCU BME Industrial Advisory Board.

Mary Foltz (BS 2013) – Doctoral student in Rehabilitation Medicine at University of Minnesota in St. Paul MN. Received an MS in Biomedical Engineering from University of Minnesota in January 2016; continuing her education in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine.

Erika Matheis (MS 2013) – Biomedical Engineer with the Army Research Laboratory in Adelphi MD

John Moore (BS 2013) – Clinical Engineer with UCS Inc., a contractor for Naval Medical Logistics Command in Frederick MD

Isaac Rodriguez (MS 2010; PhD 2013) – Co-founder and CEO/CSO of SweetBio, Inc. in Memphis TN

Rafik Shoorbajee (BS 2013) – Technology Consultant with Accenture in Washington DC

E. Meade Spratley (MS 2009; PhD 2013) – Research Scientist in the Center for Applied Biomechanics at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville VA. Working on the multi-institution WIAMan biomechanics program sponsored through the U.S. Army; sponsored research on concussion and foot/ankle injury through the NFL; serving as PI for my first externally-funded contract this year.

Christina Walinski (BS 2013) – Currently a Product Engineer with Alcon Laboratories in Houston TX. Received a Masters of Biomedical Innovation and Development from Georgia Institute of Technology in 2014.

Cassandra (Woodcock) Humphries (BS 2009; MS 2013) - Liaison to the Board of Directors, United Network for Organ Sharing In Richmond VA

Sarah Cameron (BS 2014) – works in military biomechanics research with Natick Soldier Systems Center in Natick MA

Taylor Illman (BS 2014) - completed Masters of Engineering program at Duke University in Durham NC. Currently a business owner in Williamsburg VA.

Ross Petrella (BS 2014) - Graduate Research Assistant with Old Dominion University in Norfolk VA and will graduate with a PhD in Biomedical Engineering

Munif Saza (BS 2014) – Cybersecurity analyst; CISSP (Certified Information Systems Security Professional)

Rachel Takahashi (BS 2014) – currently a Design Engineer, Module with Kyocera International Inc. in San Diego VA. Earned a Master of Engineering in Bioengineering from UCSD in 2015, then worked as a design engineer at a medical devices startup call Cognionics. Recently moved into the semiconductor packing industry.

Bhavya Vendra (BS 2014) – Quality Engineer with Smith & Nephew Orthopaedics in Memphis TN

Clinton Yeaman (BS 2014) - Medical student with Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk VA. Will begin urology residency July 2018 at University of Virginia in Charlottesville VA.

2015-Present

Donald J. Aduba (MS 2012; PhD 2015) – Postdoctoral fellow at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg VA. Received a postdoctoral fellowship from National Research Council to work in the Biofabrication Division of the U.S. Naval Research lab in Washington DC beginning Spring 2018.

James Clingenpeel (BS 2015) – Senior implementation analyst with Becton Dickinson in Virginia Beach VA. Works with ventilators, saving lives every day, including those of his close family.

Armond Conte (BS 2008; MS 2015) - R&D Engineer with Pennsylvania State University in State College PA

Garrett Cyprus (BS 2015) – Scientist with PPD Inc. in Richmond VA

Brittany Martinez (BS 2015) – Doctoral candidate in the Department of Pharmacology at University of Virginia in Charlottesville VA. Received MS in Biomedical Sciences from UVa in 2017, is a Peach Fellowship Awardee, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Gilliam Fellowship Nominee 2018, and Platform speaker at the Annual Drosophila Research Conference in 2018

Shruthi Muralidharan (BS 2015) – Master’s candidate at University of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh PA. Studying Medical Product Engineering and graduating Spring 2018 to continue professional development in the medical device industry, specifically product development and management.

Brittany Noah (BS 2015) – Doctoral student in Engineering Psychology at Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta GA and Pathways Fellow at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Dahlgren VA

Gireesh Reddy (BS 2015) – Medical student at Duke University in Durham NC

Lindsay Schnur (BS 2015) – Ergonomist with Sandalwood Engineering and Ergonomics in Louisville KY

Alex Smith (BS 2013; MS 2015) – R&D Engineer with Skeletal Dynamics in Miami FL

Edward (EJ) Tremols (MS 2015) – R&D Engineer II at Skeletal Dynamics in Miami FL

Leyuan Xu (MS 2013; PhD 2015) – Postdoctoral Fellow at Yale University in New Haven CT

Michael Berger (BS 2016) – Doctoral student with VCU Biomedical Engineering in Richmond VA

Ruchi Chande (MS 2012; PhD 2016) – Research Engineer with SI-BONE in San Jose CA. Oversees FEA research projects and participating in new product development activities.

George Gitchel (BS 2006; MS 2011; PhD 2016) – Director of Clinical Research in the Parkinson’s Disease Research Education and Clinical Center (PADRECC) with the McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond VA. With Drs. Wetzel and Barron of VCU Biomedical Engineering and of Neurology, licensed technology for eye movement analysis in patients with movement disorders, known as RightEye LLC. Product was awarded Honoree of the prestigious CES Innovation Award at the Consumer Electronics Show in January 2018 and will go on sale this year for diagnosis of Parkinson’s, tremor, and other neurological diseases.

Carla Gomez (BS 2016) – Fundraising Operations Specialist with Project HOPE in Northern Virginia. Currently pursuing a Master’s of Public Health in Epidemiology to further her career within the global health organization, Project HOPE. Plans to pursue medical school in the future.

Eric Lara (BS 2016) – Additive Manufacturing Engineer with M3D in Fulton MD

Ashley McCormick (BS 2016) – Event coordinator with VCU School of Medicine in Richmond VA

Natalie Noll (BS 2016) – Doctoral student in Biomedical Engineering at Vanderbilt University in Nashville TN

Allison Ramey (BS 2016) – Graduate student at Georgia Tech & Emory University in Atlanta GA

Keegan Zacharie (BS 2016) – Medical student at Marshall University School of Medicine in Huntington WV. Helping to provide medical care to the impoverished in Huntington WV and recently became certified in naloxone administration to help combat the opioid crisis in West Virginia.

Dan Ababayehu (PhD 2017) – Postdoctoral fellow at University of Virginia in Charlottesville VA

Ngoc (Crystal) Duong (BS 2017) – Scribe with BetterMed Urgent Care in Chesterfield VA as she prepares for medical school applications

Khade Grant (BS 2017) – Engineer with the US Department of Defense

Simone Gregor (BS 2017) – Associate Biomedical Engineer with United Therapeutics Corporation in Research Triangle Park NC

Michael Lancina (PhD 2017) – Senior Lecturer/Project Engineer at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield MI

Devin Mair (BS 2017) – Doctoral student at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore MD

Andrew Phung (BS 2017) – Technology Analyst at Accenture Federal Services in Arlington VA. Works in a fast-paced coding environment.

Sanam Solanki (BS 2017) – Medical student at VCU School of Medicine in Richmond VA (class of 2021)

Lindi Sparks (BS 2017) – Technical Support Engineer at Trimech in Glen Allen VA

Tiffany Vuong (BS 2017) – Physical Therapy Aide with Town Center Orthopaedic Associates in Centreville VA. Will return to VCU as part of the Doctor of Physical Therapy program (class of 2021).

Personal Updates

Joel Stitzel (MS 2000) – married to Sarah since 2000 and they have two girls, Leah and Molly

Nathan Winslow (BS 2001) – 12 time finisher of Ironman Long-Distance Triathlon

Daniel Moon (BS 2002) – married and happy parent to a 1½ year old

Brian Le (BS 2005) – drove 2500 miles to Gillam Manitoba for a solo-canoe camp trip in the Canadian wilderness before joining VCU Health

Peter Liacouras (MS 2002; PhD 2006) – married with 3 children

Rahul Mahajan (BS 2006) – married to VCU BME graduate Audrey Le in 2017

Justin Owen (BS 2008) – birth of daughter and first child, Faith Elizabeth Owen, in November 2017

Kwadwo Opoku (BS 2010) – married with 2 boys

Hieu Ta (BS 2010) – married in 2010 and has two children aged 5 and 1.5 years

Sung Paek (BS 2011) – getting ready to live/work abroad in Hong Kong in 2019

Laura Romanchik (BS 2011) – married in November 2017 in Charleston SC to her NASA rocket engineer, Dan Riley. Toured the Adriatic coast (Montenegro, Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia) on their honeymoon. Competes in Area III horse trials through USEA, and dressage shows through USEF/USDF with her Connemara cross pony, who she has owned for over 10 years.

Garrett Atkinson (BS 2013) – married to his best friend and fellow VCU graduate, Katelyn Atkinson

E. Meade Spratley (MS 2009; PhD 2013) – married since 2013 to my amazing wife, Jennifer. We have one son, Meade Jr., and just celebrated the birth of their daughter, Eleanor Feild, in April 2018.

Cassandra (Woodcock) Humphries (BS 2009; MS 2013) – married Kendall Humphries (MCE 2012) in October 2014. Welcomed daughter Charlotte Humphries in March 2017.

Sarah Cameron (BS 2014) – married a fellow VCU engineering graduate in January 2018

Rachel Takahashi (BS 2014) – enjoying the great outdoors of southern California

Clinton Yeaman (BS 2014) – married in May 2018

Alex Smith (BS 2013; MS 2015) – married April 2018

Edward (EJ) Tremols (MS 2015) – married November 2017

Leyuan Xu (MS 2013; PhD 2015) – birth of baby boy, Darren, in June 2017

George Gitchel (BS 2006; MS 2011; PhD 2016) – married September 17, 2016