Dear Margie and Bill,

I feel so fortunate to know you both and be able to witness, firsthand, the impact your support is having on our students, faculty, and staff in the Klesse College of Engineering and Integrated Design. I hope this small token will help to demonstrate our extreme gratitude and showcase the lives you have and will continue to change. Through your initial investment, we have awarded over 40 scholarships, funded the research and outreach initiatives for nine faculty, created opportunities for integrated learning and community impact for our city of San Antonio and have catalyzed support from other members of our community. And we are just getting started!

Your gift to support future generations of critical thinkers and problem solvers serves as a strong reminder that solving the grandest challenges where humanity meets the physical world begins with visionaries like you. At our Klesse Scholars luncheon this year you both remarked on your beginnings, and how hard work with a dedicated “family-first” attitude allowed you to achieve great heights and fulfill your dreams. I hope you were able to see all the dreams that filled the room that day – faculty and students who found a home at UTSA where they were able to thrive, and are inspired to make a positive impact on the world around them.

Though we are just now celebrating a year since your decision to launch our college to new heights, we have already seen so much progress. In the following pages, we highlight the four areas of priority that your giving has gone on to bolster. Above all, as you and I have discussed and agree, I promise that we will continue to use these funds to help Klesse College students of all academic ability and background succeed, because our world is a better place with their discipline, grit, and ingenuity at work.

Thank you for your remarkable generosity. And thank you for making a bold impact.

Warmest Regards,

JoAnn Browning, P.E., Ph.D.
David and Jennifer Spencer Distinguished Chair of Engineering
Dean, Margie and Bill Klesse College of Engineering and Integrated Design
Areas of Impact

Your naming gift supported four main areas of need throughout the college in the first year of its impact. The following pages demonstrate ways your support has transformed the following areas.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Your support of scholarships helped to make an innovative engineering and integrated design education possible for over 40 students.

FACULTY RESOURCES

In the first year of your transformational naming gift, a part of it was designated toward supporting our talented faculty.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Your gift has gone on to fund innovative curriculum initiatives such as EPICS, helping to address human, community and environmental needs.

MATCHING FUNDS

Part of your naming gift was designated as a matching fund, catalyzing support to Klesse College from other community members.
SCHOLARSHIPS

Out of our many brilliant students within the Klesse College, 44 were chosen as this year’s Klesse Scholars. The following pages feature these students, their majors, their hometowns and their words of appreciation. Thank you for supporting our Roadrunners.
Your Scholarship Support by the Numbers

- **4,300** Total number of Klesse College students
- **41% FEMALE** | **59% MALE**  
  Klesse Scholars breakdown
- **44** Number of students selected as Klesse Scholars for the 2022-2023 academic year
- **2.8** | **4.0**  
  Range of GPA’s from Klesse Scholars
- **$2,100** Average Klesse Scholarship amount
- **$92,500** Total Klesse Scholarship dollars given to Klesse College undergraduate students for the 2022-2023 academic year
- **9** Number of disciplines represented by Klesse Scholars
Maria Arteaga | Chemical Engineering ‘26
Kissimmee, Florida

Thank you very much for considering me and accepting my request. Your donation can help me achieve my desire to be an excellent professional, as well as to continue with my studies, to always pursue my goals and dreams that my future career has become.

I hope one day to contribute valuable knowledge to this field, do what makes me happy, make my family feel proud of me, my work and of course helping this beautiful country. Thank you so much for supporting students like me.

Jacqueline Avila | Biomedical Engineering ‘24
Austin, Texas

By awarding me the Margie and Bill Klesse Annual Scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden which allows me to focus on learning and developing myself professionally. I am a part of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers which is an organization that empowers Hispanics in the STEM field. I plan on attending the convention from November 2nd through the 6th in Charlotte, North Carolina where I will have the opportunity to attend educational workshops, networking events, a career fair, and a graduate school expo. Attending this convention at this point in my college career will benefit me by allowing me to meet various representatives from biomedical engineering companies and apply for several internships. Being able to develop myself professionally is a big aspect of my life and because of your generosity, I will be able to do that.

Thank you again for your support and I promise you I will work very hard to eventually give something back to others.
Kaylor Bonilla | Civil Engineering ‘23
San Antonio, Texas

Thank you for selecting me for your scholarship and for supporting higher education at the University of Texas at San Antonio. I look forward to giving back to the community through the skills and experience I earn at UTSA. This scholarship will help tremendously and I appreciate your desire to help support higher education.

Jonathan Castro | Chemical Engineering ‘23
San Antonio, Texas

This scholarship will ease my transition from an internship I am currently undertaking in the summer of 2022. I am working in a chemical manufacturing plant with both a laboratory and engineering production lens. After graduation I plan to go into industry to learn techniques that I could then use to become an environmental engineer. Thank you for your time and investment, it truly means a great deal to be awarded this honor.

Maisie Christensen | Chemical Engineering ‘25
Dickinson, Texas

Thank you for believing in me enough to support me throughout my college career. I have been through many trials and tribulations throughout my life that have prepared me for my future in college and in the workforce. I have been through brain surgery, a pandemic, and a major car accident. Your financial support will allow me to focus on my studies rather than trying to balance a hefty workload of jobs and school. This scholarship means so much to me and I want you to know that I am grateful for your support every step of the way.
Laura De Alejandro | Interior Design ‘23
Weslaco, Texas

I am deeply honored to be selected as a recipient of the Margie and Bill Klesse Scholarship Award for Fall 2022. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping make it possible for me to pursue a career in Architecture and Interior Design. I am currently a 2nd year Interior Design student and your very generous donation will allow me to continue focusing on my studies. I really enjoy what I am studying and it brings me so much joy that I was selected for this award!

I currently work part time to help pay for my tuition but sometimes it can take away precious time from my learning so this award will reduce my financial burdens and allow me to focus solely on my studies. Thanks to this scholarship I’m one step closer to my dream career.

Barbara Dzogbenuku | Chemical Engineering ‘24
San Antonio, Texas

I appreciate your scholarship because it has toned down the burden and anxiety of thinking about how I will get through the semester with tuition as well as my other educational expenses. This past year has been tough, but I managed to pull through. Seeing that I have been awarded this scholarship once again, shows me that I’m being recognized for my hard work, and for that I appreciate your support and encouragement.

thank you for your consideration and for supporting my dream to become a petroleum engineer. Your aid has motivated me to persist even in hard times and shows me that hard work pays off. In the near future, I hope to help assist in lifting the financial burden for others, just like you have done for me.
Malik Farooq | Electrical Engineering ‘24
San Antonio, Texas

Being a first-generation student going to college in the US, I was very much scared of what was to happen in transitioning from high school (to college). Where would I get funds, who do I ask for help, when do I choose classes, all these questions roamed my head not so long ago. Being able to finally take steps towards gaining knowledge, I am so thankful to you for providing me this scholarship. Not only does this help with the financial burden of my degree, rather it also extends my chances of success, given that I can now put more focus into learning/growing as an engineer.

With the successes I’ve had so far, I have no doubt that I can accomplish whatever I put my mind towards. Whether it be a small project or a lifelong goal to end electrical problems, there is no way of knowing success unless I try and put effort into solving a problem (Something I live by with all the things I try and overcome). Thank you once again for choosing me as a scholarship recipient, and I hope to return this gift with even greater success.

Noel Flores | Computer Engineering ‘24
San Antonio, Texas

Thank you. It is indescribable the help that this scholarship provides to me. I, as a first-generation college student and have no savings from my parents to pay for college. The money from this scholarship will save me insurmountable amounts of time and work. From a family that isn't very well off like other people I would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts.
Emiliano Garcia | Computer Engineering ‘25  
McAllen, Texas

Thank you for this opportunity to aid me in pursuing my degree and allowing me to pay for school without having to break the bank. I come from a low-income household and area, so I know that every dollar counts when it comes to college and everyday finances. This scholarship is going to be an extreme help for my college experience as it will allow me to stay focused on my studies without having to worry about how much money I will be left with for food, rent, etc. I cannot express how deeply appreciative and pleased I am to receive this scholarship. Thank you.

Gladvin George | Electrical Engineering ‘25  
Round Rock, Texas

I am writing to express my thanks for the opportunity bestowed upon me for this scholarship. Ever since I was a child, I was fascinated with technology and college was something I was initially wary of due to a number of factors, including financial. As such, I am writing this to express my gratitude to the Margie and Bill Klesse Annual Scholarship as this relieved a bit of my financial burden to pursue higher education. I was very surprised to see this opportunity arise and am appreciative to be able to accept this scholarship.

Currently, I am majoring in the field of Electrical Engineering in hopes of becoming a prominent engineer in the tech space. As my family is supporting multiple people, the financial stress my family experiences have become greater as time has gone by. This upcoming year, a sibling of mine is also going to go to college, further increasing the burden of money that my family has to experience. Thanks to this scholarship, I am able to relieve just a bit of that burden.
Michael Gomez  |  Electrical Engineering ‘23
Edinburg, Texas

I am writing this letter to thank you for the Margie and Bill Klesse Annual Scholarship in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering award. It is an honor to have been chosen as a recipient, and I greatly appreciate the support.

Beyond the monetary assistance, I would like to thank you for the encouragement. Your generosity has helped inspire me to pursue my most ambitious career goals, and I hope to be a similar source of inspiration for others. As a double major, I strive to graduate from UTSA with bachelor’s degrees in Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering. Afterwards, I plan on pursuing a master’s degree in Electrical Engineering and then a DPhil at the University of Oxford before finally finding a steady job at an engineering firm. I am one step closer to accomplishing these goals thanks to this award, and I cannot express my gratitude enough.

Gracie Gonzales  |  Interior Design ‘25
Houston, Texas

With the help of your donation, I will be able to continue my education at UTSA and graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Interior Design and also be classified a UTSA Honors Graduate. After receiving my education, I will acquire a career in the Interior Design field, either firm or commercial, and work my way up to a leadership position. My focus in my career will be to construct impactful forms of interior design to better the human deception of the essence of a sustainable environment. I, once again, am extraordinarily grateful for this personal contribution that will provide me with financial support and will highly impact paying for my educational expenses.
**Elia Gonzalez | Chemical Engineering ’23**  
*Harlingen, Texas*

I am a Chemical Engineering major with a special interest in nanomaterials. I am currently a rising Senior and plan to graduate in the spring of 2023. After graduation I plan on pursuing a doctoral degree and become a part of the very small percentage of Latina women who have a Ph.D. in the STEM field. The financial assistance you provided will be of great help to me in paying my educational expenses, and it will allow me to concentrate more of my time for studying and research.

Thank you again for your generosity and support. I plan on inspiring future women everywhere to pursue a higher education, and it is through your support that this will be made possible.

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**Javier Gonzalez | Civil Engineering ’25**  
*San Antonio, Texas*

I am married and have three daughters and have been the sole provider for our family. My wife is now working full-time and I am working part-time to make enough and the scholarship is such a huge help for me. Now that I have registered for summer school classes and fall classes, I have realized pursuing an engineering degree while working full time in construction is impossible to accommodate the hours required for classes and work. I now know I had to make the sacrifice in position and pay because I no longer have to worry about making time for school and having the time off to attend classes.

The scholarship provided just adds to the decision I made to focus on school as the right one. Having not to worry too much about how to pay for classes and just focusing on school makes a huge difference.
Roland Gutierrez  |  Civil Engineering ‘25  
San Antonio, Texas

I am currently a Civil Engineering major with hopes of becoming a professional engineer working with the Army Corps of Engineers. The financial support you provided will greatly help me in covering my educational expenses. In addition, your support encourages me to keep striving for excellence as it provides well appreciated recognition. I can promise you that no matter the difficulty, with the help of my teachers, I will aspire to do my best to thrive at UTSA.

I will continue to work hard and strive to do my best in every task I face. Not only is your support helpful, but it is also encouraging, and I too hope to one day do the same and give back to my community and my school.

Judea Hamilton  |  Interior Design ‘24  
Fresno, Texas

I want to give my utmost thank you to Margie and Bill Klesse, for giving students a source of strength and motivation to keep pressing on. Education is a beautiful thing. It is where we ordinary people, learn to take our place in the world. And for many reasons, it can be extremely difficult to keep chasing this goal. This scholarship came right on time for me. I am extremely blessed to be the chosen receptor, and will use this as a reminder that when you persevere, everything around you will support you. As an Architecture/Interior Design student, the stress of wanting to create something you'd want to see in reality can overwhelm you. Thank you, once again, for this gift. It is a reminder to me that it is indeed, all worth it. The University of Texas at San Antonio constantly teaches me the value of community and support, especially the Architecture department where a family is built through a collective striving to find our place.
Patrick Hardy | Chemical Engineering ‘23
Waxahachie, Texas

Thank you for providing this scholarship to myself and everyone else who has been able to benefit from your generosity. The amount of assurance this grants me will allow me to perform and increase my abilities. It lifts a kind of pressure that comes from thinking about what costs those around me have to bear in some way.

At the same time, this scholarship instills a certain feeling within me. A drive to make good on it and all the things that have been granted to me up until now. I hope I can show my appreciation through eventually being able to do good for people just as has been done for me. I am truly grateful for this scholarship, as its effects will resonate through my life in a way where I hope it keeps on resonating through my choices and through others I affect in my life.

Noah Hernandez | Mechanical Engineering ‘23
San Antonio, Texas

While words are not enough to demonstrate how thankful and appreciative I am for your generosity with the Margie and Bill Klesse Annual Scholarship in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, I wanted to take the time to express how grateful I am for this scholarship. My name is Noah Hernandez and I am currently pursuing my Bachelor’s of Science in Mechanical Engineering with a strong passion for the field of aerospace engineering.

This scholarship and your generosity will greatly assist me in pursuing my purpose of being sacrificially and selflessly generous to others through my words and actions both in my life and engineering career. I hope that this generosity that I desire will instill the same joy and gratitude into others as you have instilled in me. Thank you so much.
Rafael Herrera | Mechanical Engineering ‘25
San Antonio, Texas

I’m writing to thank you for the Margie and Bill Klesse Annual Scholarship in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. I was amazed to learn I was selected to receive such a generous contribution, and I’m very grateful to be given this opportunity. I’m currently a freshman majoring in Mechanical Engineering and I’m hoping to secure a job in engineering once I graduate UTSA in Spring 2025. This scholarship is very important to me because it helps alleviate the financial burden I’m already facing, and it allows me to focus on my studying without having to worry about how I’ll pay for my textbooks, fees, and other resources I’ll need to be an efficient student. I’m very thankful for this opportunity and I’ll make certain not to squander it by continuing to work hard in my classes and master the material necessary to become a great engineer.

Hung Ho | Chemical Engineering ‘24
Danang, Vietnam

My name is Hung Le Viet Ho. I am a sophomore majoring in chemical engineering at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA). As a recipient of the scholarship, I cannot say enough to describe how grateful I am for your kindness. Without a doubt, the scholarship will financially assist me in completing the undergraduate program at UTSA. The scholarship will also inspire me to make positive impacts to my communities as a chemical engineer.

Once again, I appreciate your generous support. I will work hard academically to re-contribute to UTSA and help future students like me achieve their success.
Yagmur Hocaoglu | Chemical Engineering ‘24
San Antonio, Texas

I am a chemical engineering major that is passionate about renewable energy sources and recycling CO2 to produce clean energy sources. This scholarship that you have provided me will help me in paying my educational expenses along with being another motivating factor in studying engineering. By having financial aid through pursuing this degree, this will ease my financial burdens throughout college.

Thank you again for awarding the Klesse Scholarship to me. Your generosity has inspired me to work very hard and give back to my community in the future with either renewable energy sources or another environmental aspect of chemical engineering. I hope that one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals in their majors the same way you have helped me with this award.

Domynick Jaure | Mechanical Engineering ‘24
Harlingen, Texas

I am a Mechanical Engineering major with an emphasis in aerospace. I plan to pursue a career in engineering upon graduating from UTSA. I am currently in my sophomore year with enough credits to be a junior, and plan to graduate in the spring of 2024. Thanks to you, I am one step closer to that goal.

By awarding the Margie and Bill Klesse scholarship to me, you have lightened my financial burden which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school, learning. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goal just as you have helped me.
Alexander Jones | Construction Science & Management ‘26
Katy, Texas

I am writing to thank you for your generous $2,000 Margie and Bill Klesse scholarship. I was very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as a recipient of your scholarship. As soon as my spring semester was finished, I started working 40+ hours a week to earn income to pay for my fall 2022 semester. This scholarship will assist tremendously to cover the tuition additional fees, books, and cover some of my rent expenses. Thanks to you, I will be one step closer to meeting my career goal to graduate in 3 years. I will be starting my sophomore year in Construction Science. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope that one day, I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you helped me succeed.

Hadyn Keller | Chemical Engineering ‘25
San Antonio, Texas

I really wanted to give my thanks and appreciation. This really means so much to me. I have had to take more loans for school and my family really haven't been doing well. We aren't doing well with money. Our bills shot up and we are just trying our best. This honestly is a saving grace again for me to continue my education. I am honestly ecstatic that you have chosen me for this opportunity and I will try my best not to let you down. This semester will be a bit difficult for me, but I'm glad to have you on my side. At the cost of sounding like a broken record I really do appreciate this Scholarship. Thank you again.
Mistica Lozano Perez  |  Biomedical Engineering ‘23  
Dilley, Texas
My overall goal in life is to work in academia as a full-time researcher and professor. I was able to be selected to be a participant in a Research Program at UTSA known as RISE. Through this program, I am able to enter a research lab and help PhD students with their areas of focus. I understand that engineering majors take an abundance of hours to successfully complete. Due to that fact, I am relieved that your assistance will allow me to focus more on my studies than tuition payments.

Joseph Martin  |  Chemical Engineering ‘25  
San Antonio, Texas
As a chemical engineering major focusing on environmental preservation with hopes of becoming an emission tracking analyst, this scholarship helps me push through the financial burden of university in order to focus more on my studies here at UTSA. With this, I have been given hope that people like yourself will continue to give back to their community in order to make the world a safer place for everyone.

Danya Martinez  |  Civil Engineering ‘25  
San Antonio, Texas
Ever since I can remember, I've been fascinated by how infrastructures, that were once design concepts, have helped society become more advanced by meeting challenges brought on by new technologies, population growth, and climate change. From interacting with LEGO's as a child to volunteering at and participating in many engineering-based organizations and institutions, my interest in this jack-of-all-trades discipline developed. I'm appreciative of the opportunity I've been offered, and as a result, I'm determined to embrace it. I look forward to helping the community and allow students like myself to achieve their goals.
I am married and have three daughters and have been the sole provider for our family. My wife is now working full-time and I am working part-time to make enough and the scholarship is such a huge help for me. Now that I have registered for summer school classes and fall classes, I have realized pursuing an engineering degree while working full time in construction is impossible to accommodate the hours required for classes and work. I now know I had to make the sacrifice in position and pay because I no longer have to worry about making time for school and having the time off to attend classes. The scholarship provided just adds to the decision I made to focus on school as the right one. Having not to worry too much about how to pay for classes and just focusing on school makes a huge difference.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Braedon McFee | Chemical Engineering ‘23**  
Cibolo, Texas  
I am writing to thank you for your generous Margie and Bill Klesse Endowed Scholarship in Chemical Engineering scholarship award. I was ecstatic and appreciative to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship.

I am a Chemical Engineering major and I plan to pursue a career in engineering upon graduating from UTSA. I am currently a junior enrolled in 16 credit hours, and plan to graduate in the spring of 2023. After graduation, I will become a Chemical Engineer at a successful corporation. Thanks to you, I am one step closer to that goal.

**Denzel Megafu | Chemical Engineering ‘24**  
Katy, Texas  
I am soon to be a junior with a major in Chemical Engineering with an interest in the energy and security industry. The scholarship has given me the encouragement and the help to reach my goal.

I promise to work to the best of my abilities, using the scholarship you have generously provided me. I hope that I can one day offer a student like me the same generosity.
Alejandro Moran-Porras | Architecture ‘23
San Antonio, Texas

I am truly ecstatic having received the news that I was selected as a recipient for your scholarship and appreciate your generosity in your aid towards my higher education.

Currently, I am a Junior Architecture student with a passionate interest in sustainable building practices as well as historic preservation. Following graduation from UTSA, I hope to get a master’s degree in architecture in order to become accredited and one day have my own design firm focusing on retrofitting existing buildings to be more efficient and environmentally friendly. The assistance that your scholarship will provide me with will allow me to come one step closer to my goals. So, thank you for your beneficence as well as for selecting me to be a recipient for your scholarship as I one day hope to pay forward myself.

James Moseley | Mechanical Engineering ‘24
San Antonio, Texas

For me, I use theoretical and empirical approaches to find the best career area for maximizing the contribution I can make to engineering and for what’s interesting. This scholarship is thus impactful not only because it helps me approach that goal, but also because it demonstrates your willingness to support aspiring engineers such as myself.

Once again, thank you two for everything you have done as I continue to help those around me with their engineering problems as you have done for me.
**Alanah Penn**  |  Biomedical Engineering ’24  
**Indianapolis, Indiana**

Currently, I am a Junior majoring in Biomedical Engineering with a concentration in Nanobiotechnology and Medical Imaging. Outside of academics, I am involved with the university’s National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) chapter where I was just elected President. In the past couple of years, I have been on my own to fund my college and living expenses. Unfortunately, I do not have help from my parents, so I work multiple hours during the semester to make sure I have a place to live and money to pay for my tuition.

Receiving your scholarship will allow me to reduce the number of hours I have to work so that I can focus on my schoolwork and easily pay for my tuition. The financial assistance you provided will also improve my mental health because I will not have to worry as much about where I will find the money to fund my college expenses.

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**Fernanda Perez Marin**  |  Chemical Engineering ’25  
**San Antonio, Texas**

I can't seem to put the amount of gratitude I feel into words. I am just so thankful that there are such kind people, like yourself, that are willing to help a student out. As a first-generation student, just the opportunity to attend a university is a dream already, but to be a recipient of such a generous scholarship is just such an amazing blessing. I fully support myself and my dog. Majority of the weeks this semester I was working 45+ hours and struggling to manage the 7 classes I was in. It was completely overwhelming and mentally exhausting. I can say thank you a million times and it still wouldn't be enough to show just how thankful I am. Thank you so much once again!
**Anthonee Powell | Architecture ’25**  
**Castroville, Texas**

I am an undergraduate student entering my second year at The University of Texas at San Antonio coming next fall, with a major in Architecture. I plan to pursue a career in architecture and fashion design upon graduating from UTSA in 2025. After graduation, I will intern at a firm to gain my architecture license. Thanks to you, I am one step closer to that goal.

By awarding me the Margie and Bill Klesse Annual Scholarship in the School of Architecture and Planning, you have lightened my financial burden, which allows me to concentrate more of my time on my studies and numerous projects. Your generosity has inspired me to try harder and push further to goals larger than me. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their dream jobs, as well as their lifelong passions, just as you have helped me.

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**Rabiat Sadiq | Computer Engineering ’23**  
**Houston, Texas**

I am truly honored to be a recipient of the Margie and Bill Klesse's scholarship in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. With great regard and gratitude, I would like to thank Margie and Bill Klesse for this liberal contribution to my educational journey. Along with your support, I will have the opportunity to focus on my education comfortably and be able to put more time and effort into my academics. With your support, I will have the opportunity to gain exceptional coaching and guidance.

I am so thankful to get this generous gift because it gives me more motivation to stay on top of my work and complete my degree.
Daniel Silva | Construction Science & Management ‘24
Brownsville, Texas

The ongoing debate of money buying happiness or not is much more complicated than it seems. That is because happiness comes from many other things such as doing the things you love. Being a college student, I am in a process of doing what makes me happy; therefore, money can make this process much easier for me nonetheless; possible.

Receiving this money will help me get back on my feet and help me focus on the sole purpose of graduating. From the bottom of my heart I would like to thank you, the donors, of this scholarship which I have soon to prove that this money will serve a great purpose.

David Solis | Construction Science & Management ‘24
San Antonio, Texas

I would like to thank you very much for your generosity and the opportunity bestowed upon me. It is an honor to be chosen for the Margie and Bill Klesse Annual Scholarship in the School of Civil & Environmental Engineering and Construction Management scholarship. Being allowed to become a student at UTSA, this scholarship will help me continue my opportunity of an advanced education while also completing many achievements along the way. Upon completion of my studies, I plan to pursue a career in construction with my degree with only the possibility because of the assistance of this scholarship. Thank you again for the selection of me. Words cannot express my gratitude for this opportunity.
**Brianna Torres | Mechanical Engineering ‘25**
Houston, Texas

Thank you, Margie and Bill Klesse, for the support you have given me. This is my first time ever receiving a scholarship award from any organization and I am completely honored. Especially receiving this from you and the Department of Mechanical Engineering, I feel noticed and I am now acknowledging myself that I can be heard and achieve many more challenges that come my way. This scholarship is going to bring me one more step closer into completing school and attending classes. Due to my lack of my own financial support, I was afraid I wouldn’t be able to attend UTSA because I could barely afford my living but this opportunity gives me strength and motivation. Now that I am about to become a sophomore in college, I can't believe where I am today and have to give myself reality checks because I am here and I am present. thank you again for acknowledging me and for awarding me the first scholarship of my life.

**Eberardo Trejo | Mechanical Engineering ‘25**
Del Valle, Texas

To have this scholarship rewarded to me brings a huge smile to my face and it honestly sparked hope and excitement for my upcoming semester! I’m beyond proud and confident to go back to school knowing I have helping hands like this backing me up, supporting me and believing in me. I’ve had nothing but support from UTSA and I’m beyond happy to be a part of this family and community! I will use this scholarship to fund my education and my upcoming semesters, and possibly even use it for my college books because we all know that college books can tend to be pricey! Being a part of a first-generation Mexican American family it has been very difficult to find my way through college and being able to afford college makes it even harder, but graceful scholarships like this help tremendously.
Andrea Valero | Chemical Engineering ‘24
San Benito, Texas

I am a freshman majoring in Chemical Engineering and an ESTEEMED Scholar at the University of Texas at San Antonio. One day, I hope to work at one of the major medical research institutes. At some point, I want to start my own pharmaceutical company, and this scholarship will give me the chance to guide my future towards prosperity.

Your scholarship has opened a door and the prospect of a brighter future, and will play a key role in shaping me into a successful person in the future. Donors like you make life brighter for us, and I can only hope that one day, I too will be in a position to bring a smile to another student.

Marlist Villegas Verschoyle | Electrical Engineering ‘26
San Antonio, Texas

I am writing to express my many thanks for the Klesse College Electrical and Computer Engineering Scholarship. I was over the moon when I saw that I was selected for this generous award.

I am entering UTSA this fall as a freshman, and will be majoring in electrical engineering. I plan to earn both a bachelor's and master's degree in engineering. After finishing my education, I want to use what I have learned to make renewable energy more efficient and widely available, especially in urban spaces. With your scholarship, I will not have to take on as much debt, and can progress without that financial stress.

I will dedicate myself to putting this scholarship and my education to the best of use. In time, I hope to give back to the community through my efforts to create a greener energy grid.
Robert Wampler | Chemical Engineering ‘25
Round Rock, Texas

I am a sophomore Chemical Engineering student at UTSA who plans to graduate in the spring of 2025. After graduation, I plan to go to graduate school to earn a master's degree. Your generous award will help provide financial assistance, allowing me to focus harder on my studies and pursue extracurricular activities so I can accomplish this goal.

Once again, thank you for providing students like me with financial assistance through the Margie and Bill Klesse Endowed Scholarship in Chemical Engineering. This generous donation means a lot as the cost of education at a university is very expensive and difficult for most students to afford without such aid. Receiving financial aid through this award motivates me to work hard in my studies so that one day I can give back to the community that helped fund my education.

Elizabeth Wostarek | Architecture ‘24
Austin, Texas

I want to say thank you for your donation, your support means so much to me. I have been applying for scholarships for a long time and I’ve been worried about how I’m going to pay for school. Even though I work year-round and I try to save, I still can’t seem to save enough to avoid loans. Your donation to this scholarship is a tremendous gift that I can't thank you enough for! Now I will be able to focus more on my studies and prepare for a professional career with fewer worries. Hopefully, I will be able to give this gift to others in the future.
From our brilliant Klesse College faculty, 9 were selected as our inaugural Margie and Bill Klesse Endowed Professors and Fellows. Funds from their endowed positions go toward advancing their research, presenting at conferences, and supporting their students. **Thank you for investing in our talent.**
Thank you so much for your generous gift! It’s the dedicated support of long-time donors like you that keep our lights on and help us to fulfill our mission of promoting engineering education and advancing state-of-the-art research.”

- Dr. David Akopian
Please know that your support is not only positively affecting our students, but it is also positively transforming faculty and staff like me, as we learn from you. I really hope life gives me the opportunity to contribute to society in an equivalent way as you do."

- Dr. Jose Francisco Herbert Acero

Dr. Jose Francisco Herbert Acero | Mechanical Engineering
Margie and Bill Klesse Endowed Fellow

My education
Doctorate in Engineering Sciences, Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education
Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics, Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education

My research interests
My research currently focuses on renewable energy, theoretical and computational thermo-fluid dynamics, machine learning and data analytics, measurements and instrumentation, and interdisciplinary simulation and optimization.

What I love most about UTSA
Collaborating with outstanding faculty, staff, and students is the most exciting part of working at UTSA. Every day I learn new things that enable me to be better at what I do. UTSA has provided me with all the necessary technology, with a dynamic environment and many opportunities to excel as a faculty and to provide my students with state-of-the-art knowledge that will pave the way for their success.

What receiving your support means to me
I am deeply honored and humbled to be selected as a Margie and Bill Klesse Fellow. The generous support provided by this fellowship will primarily help me improve students’ overall success, enhance the quality of my courses and research activities, and continue serving and contributing in the advancement of the renewable energy field.
Thank you, Margie and Bill Klesse, for establishing the Klesse endowments. These endowments will help UTSA reach the next level in research excellence.”

- Dr. Eugene John

Dr. Eugene John  |  Electrical and Computer Engineering
Margie and Bill Klesse Endowed Fellow

**My education**
PhD, Pennsylvania State University

**My research interests**
My research interests currently include energy efficient computing, machine learning, AI hardware, ultra-low energy computing for implantable cardiac devices, machine learning workload analysis and characterization, computer architecture and performance evaluation, low power VLSI design, and power-aware and secure systems.

**What I love most about UTSA**
My favorite thing about being at UTSA are my students. I love the ability to interact with and help develop young people.

**What receiving your support means to me**
Receiving Klesse endowment fund is such an honor. It helps me and my students to attend more conferences.

Thank you, Margie and Bill Klesse, for establishing the Klesse endowments. These endowments will help UTSA reach the next level in research excellence.”

- Dr. Eugene John
Dr. Vikram Kapoor | Civil & Environmental Engineering and Construction Management
Margie and Bill Klesse Endowed Professor

My education
PhD, Environmental Engineering, University of Cincinnati,
Bachelor of Technology, Biotechnology, Jaypee Institute of Information Technology

My research interests
My research lies at the cross-section of environmental microbiology, biotechnology and environmental engineering. They include biological wastewater and water treatment, resource recovery from wastewater, microbial source tracking, microbial ecology of natural and engineered systems, stormwater management and water quality improvement, and environmental and public health.

What I love most about UTSA
UTSA is a young university and I love the changes I see every year as the university is growing and expanding into a world-class university.

What receiving your support means to me
I am extremely grateful for the endowed professorship, which truly is a recognition of the great work conducted by all students in the lab. Support from this endowment will provide resources to advance my research pursuits and support future students.

"I am extremely grateful for the endowed professorship, and I thank Margie and Bill Klesse for supporting our students and faculty."

- Dr. Vikram Kapoor
I cannot overemphasize how important your support has been for our college and our students. It has really changed (and will continue changing) so many lives, giving opportunities for education, growth, and numerous academic and technological accomplishments.”

- Dr. Panagiotis Markopoulos

My education
PhD, Electrical Engineering, The State University of New York at Buffalo

MS, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Technical University of Crete

Engineering Diploma, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Technical University of Crete

My research interests
My expertise is in the areas of machine learning, data science, and signal processing. The purpose of my research is to advance efficient, explainable, and trustworthy artificial intelligence. My focus is on fundamental problems (theory and algorithms), but also on practical solutions to a wide range of applications, ranging from remote sensing to healthcare technology.

What I love most about UTSA
I love how UTSA places its students in the heart of its mission and how strongly it is committed to their success. UTSA is a place where I know that my teaching and research can have a real impact in helping students (many of them first generation) envision and create a bold future!

What receiving your support means to me
Funds from this endowment will be used to further support the success of our students and provide them with even more research opportunities at the cutting edge of machine learning and data science.
Thank you so much for your generosity. This fellowship is giving me the opportunity to start a new phase of my research that is specifically focused on creating design requirements for intergenerational shared sites."

- Dr. Neda Norouzi
Dr. Chris Rathbone | Biomedical and Chemical Engineering  
Margie and Bill Klesse Endowed Professor

My education
PhD, University of Missouri-Columbia
MS, Texas A&M University
BA., University of Northern Iowa

My research interests
My current research is focused on using tissue engineering strategies to develop skeletal muscle models that can recapitulate the negative effects of diseases, like Type 2 diabetes. We also utilize tissue engineering-based approaches to develop therapies to treat diseases and injuries that can occur as a result of trauma.

What I love most about UTSA
Every day has victories scattered throughout the day, both small and large, that provide fulfillment. I cannot emphasize enough that I am thankful to be surrounded by people at UTSA that provide encouragement and momentum to help me achieve those victories.

What receiving your support means to me
The Klesse endowment funds are a recognition of not just my achievements, but also of the work, dedication, and support of my mentees, mentors, and colleagues both within the Department and College.

“I am extremely grateful for your contribution. Your kindness means a great deal to me, and I am very humbled by your generosity.”
- Dr. Chris Rathbone
Dr. Gabriela Romero Uribe | Biomedical and Chemical Engineering
Margie and Bill Klesse Endowed Professor

My education
PhD, Applied Chemistry and Polymeric Materials, Universidad del Pais Vasco, Spain

MS, Advanced Materials Engineering, Universidad del Pais Vasco, Spain

BS, Chemical Engineering, Universidad Autonoma de San Luis Potosi, Mexico

My research interests
My research team focuses on developing soft biomedical materials to modulate cell signaling and behavior. We are interested in stimulating neural activity and differentiation to treat central nervous system diseases. Our main goal is to develop the next generation of neuromodulation technologies.

What I love most about UTSA
What I most love about working at UTSA are the student population. I enjoy interacting and mentoring young brilliant minds and follow their success at UTSA and beyond. UTSA provides a unique family-like environment for students, professors and staff that you cannot find elsewhere.

What receiving your support means to me
It a great honor to receive the Klesse Professorship. The endowment funds will allow me to continue providing research opportunities to students and supporting activities for their professional development.

Your generosity to the Chemical Engineering program at UTSA has been critical for the establishment and growth of the program. You are providing tremendous support to our students through fellowships and unique learning experiences in the Chemical Engineering Labs.”

- Dr. Gabriela Romero Uribe
My education
PhD, Applied Physics, University of Tsukuba, Japan

BS, Department of Optical Engineering, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China

Certificate in MBA Essentials and Entrepreneurship Program, Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan

My research interests
My research involves biophotonics and nanobiotechnology, with special emphasis on the development of cutting-edge ultrasensitive and ultrafast laser-based detection techniques to address critical issues in biomedical research and applications. I am the principal investigator for the Advanced Biophotonics and Nanotechnology Lab at UTSA.

What I love most about UTSA
As a Carnegie Tier One university, UTSA is dedicated to both research and academic excellence for our student population from all different backgrounds. UTSA is a wonderful place to work and make significant impacts on the development of cutting-edge technologies as well as the success of our students.

What receiving your support means to me
This fellowship motivates me to keep exploring the exciting research field of biophotonics and continue the development of innovative technologies to address a range of unmet needs in biomedical research and applications.

Dear Margie and Bill,
Thank you so much for your great generosity! I am extremely grateful for the support provided by the Klesse Fellowship, which gives me the resources needed to further expand my research in biophotonics to address critical issues in biomedical applications.

- Dr. Jing Yong Ye
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Through your support, we can enhance outreach initiatives embedded in college curriculum such as our Engineering Projects in Community Service (EPICS) program. Thank you for supporting our San Antonio community.
The Greenway Maverick Project

The Greenway Maverick EPICS project is meant to engage students from different disciplines of study such as business, engineering, environmental sciences, analytics, and humanities. Students among these disciplines are designing and creating new methods, machines or products that aid in our efforts to mitigate and alleviate litter and inorganic debris from filling our creeks and floodways.

Our vision for this project is:

- To clean up existing trash and inorganic matter.
- To find and/or create sustainable methods, or products that remove or prevent trash and inorganic materials from getting into our waterways.
- To understand, influence, and implement a culture that values themselves and their geographic area.

“

Our sincere appreciations for the Klesse endowment that is funding our Greenway Maverick Project, for it enables us to create a learning atmosphere outside the normal scope, hand-in-hand with our partners, for a bright future that is shaped by our students’ contributions.”

- Dr. Saadet Beeson
  Associate Dean for Community Engagement
MATCHING FUNDS

By allocating $75,000 this year toward providing matching funds, we are multiplying the impact of gifts to the Klesse College from other likeminded members from our community. Thank you for catalyzing our growth.
My education

PhD in Architecture and Design Research, Virginia Tech
Master of Architecture, University of Colorado, Denver
Master of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Colorado, Denver
Bachelor of Environmental Design, University of Colorado, Boulder

My research interests

My research is focused on the design of healthy environments for the underserved populations who might otherwise not be heard. In my research healthy environments range from a universally designed home that serves people of all ages and abilities to a psychiatric hospital that is designed to cater to the needs of patients and staff.

What I love most about UTSA

I love the opportunities for collaboration with colleagues from my school and college as well as the larger community of San Antonio.

What receiving your support means to me

Your support will help seed fund for my research on spatial design requirements of Intergenerational Shared Sites. This research will contribute to the environmental design of new facilities and the remodeling of existing ones in order to best serve older adults and children who will be using these building years later than 2022 when this fellowship was granted.

THANK YOU, MARGIE AND BILL

Because of your generosity, the Klesse College is uniquely positioned to boldly solve our physical world’s grandest challenges.
My education
PhD, University of Missouri-Columbia
MS, Texas A&M University
BA., University of Northern Iowa

My research interests
My current research is focused on using tissue engineering strategies to develop skeletal muscle models that can recapitulate the negative effects of diseases, like Type 2 diabetes. We also utilize tissue engineering-based approaches to develop therapies to treat diseases and injuries that can occur as a result of trauma.

What I love most about UTSA
Every day has victories scattered throughout the day, both small and large, that provide fulfillment. I cannot emphasize enough that I am thankful to be surrounded by people at UTSA that provide encouragement and momentum to help me achieve those victories.

What receiving your support means to me
The Klesse endowment funds are a recognition of not just my achievements, but also of the work, dedication, and support of mentees, mentors, and colleagues both within the Department and College.