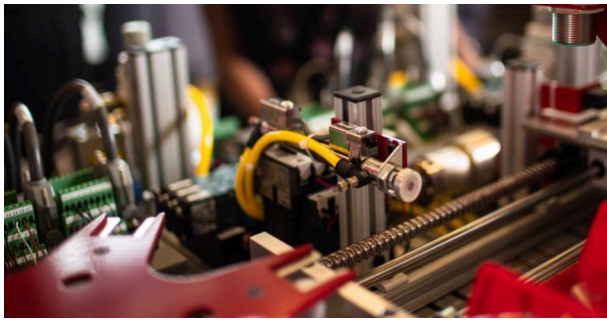




Engineering Technology (ET) Newsletter

Fall 2025, Spring & Summer 2026 | ISSUE 6

AP Austin Peay
State University
CLARKSVILLE TENNESSEE

Editor - Professor **Ravi Manimaran**

Graduate Success Stories



Pic 0: ET faculty, staff and award recipients

Fifth Annual Engineering Technology (ET) Awards Ceremony

On April 30, 2026, the Department of Engineering Technology celebrated its 5th Annual Award Ceremony and recognized 19 graduates who graduated in May 2026 from the four concentrations in the engineering technology and aviation science bachelor's degree programs. There were three categories of awards - Outstanding Achievement (four graduates), Academic Achievement (eight graduates), and Professional Achievement (seven graduates).



Pic 1: Matthew Anderson, Bucyrus Puckett



Pic 2: Matthew Anderson, Josh Adamson



Pic 3: Hossain Ahmed, John Blake, Brandon Monter, Xavier Lawrence

May 2026

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Michael Walker - Rotor-Wing Aviation Science
Bucyrus Puckett - Mechatronics Engineering Technology
Clayton Wyatt - Mechanical Engineering Technology
Ryan Brazill - Mechanical Engineering Technology

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Joshua Adamson - Mechatronics Engineering Technology
Xavier Lawrence - Mechanical Engineering Technology
Micah Willis - Mechatronics Engineering Technology
Francisco St Laurent - Mechanical Engineering Technology
Nathan Smith - Mechanical Engineering Technology
Jacob Bailey - Mechanical Engineering Technology
Ryan Moyer - Rotor-Wing Aviation Science
Daniel Palencia Alvarez - Mechatronics Engineering Technology

May 2026

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Keagan Evick - Rotor-Wing Aviation Science
Gabrian Harper - Mechatronics Engineering Technology
Karl Gross - Rotor-Wing Aviation Science
Jamel Wright - Mechanical Engineering Technology
Brandon Monter - Mechanical Engineering Technology
Joshua Martin - Electrical Engineering Technology
Kyle Henning - Mechanical Engineering Technology

Pic 4: ET Faculty and Award Recipients

IN THIS ISSUE:

Cover Story

Graduate Success Stories

Page 2

The Innovation Experience

ETAC ABET Accreditation

Page 3

APSU IEEE

Scholarly Activities and Faculty Accomplishments

Page 4 - 5

Grants

The Innovation Experience

On April 23, 2026, the fifth annual Innovation Experience was hosted by the Austin Peay College of STEM. The event was created by Dean Karen Meisch to encourage collaboration between Austin Peay's CoSTEM programs, while also exposing promising students to local leaders in industry. Each program presented teams of students, led by a faculty advisor, who were tasked with solving or researching a particular problem. Their work was then presented, and winners were selected based on their findings and presentations. From the Department of Engineering Technology, Associate Professor Anderson had two teams—Automated Sorting and Distribution Systems for Small Fasteners, Industry-Based Automated Trainer; Assistant Professor Alberd had one team – FORTIS (Field-Optimized, Rapidly Transportable Integrated Support System; Professor Blake had four teams—Improved Target Acquisition System (ITAS) Alignment Tool, Mobile Bridging Ladder for Tactical Vehicles, Optimized and Field Expedient Net Poles and Spreaders, and Making Improvements to 8W3 Data Cables to Increase Reliability and Survivability in Field Use; Assistant Professor Md. Ali Haider had two teams—Industrial External Cooler, Automated Power Switching System for Hybrid Energy Sources.



Pic 5



Pic 6

Professor Blake's team won the Creativity and Problem-Solving Award for Mobile Bridging Ladder for Tactical Vehicles. The Mechanical Engineering Technology Capstone Group (pic 5) members were Jacob Bailey, Ryan Brazill, Kyle Henning, Xavier Lawrence, Brandon Monter, Chase St. Clair. Associate Professor Anderson's team won the Prototype Achievement Award for Automated Sorting and Distribution System for Small Fasteners. The Mechatronics Engineering Technology Capstone Group (pic 6) members were Gabrian Harper, Micah Willis, and Clayton Wyatt.

ETAC ABET Accreditation

The Department of Engineering Technology (ET) offers a Bachelor of Science in engineering technology with four concentrations – electrical, mechanical, mechatronics, and manufacturing. It also offers an associate degree in engineering technology with an electronics concentration. All five programs are ABET accredited through Sept. 30, 2027. In Spring 2026, the ET faculty team led by Professor Manimaran, department chair and Dr. Anderson, assessment coordinator, worked on the successful completion of the Self-study Reports (SSR). On June 30, 2026, the SSRs for the five ABET programs were submitted to ABET. Subsequently, a team chair and four PEVs (Program Evaluators) have been assigned. The ABET site visit is scheduled from Sunday, Oct. 25 to Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2026. The ET faculty have been working diligently preparing for the ABET site visit that includes supplementary materials, lab tour videos etc. The ET department offers five ABET programs that cover two locations, Clarksville and Fort Campbell. It is also the APSU department with the largest number of externally accredited programs (ABET) and course offerings, from 9:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday in multiple locations.

APSU IEEE Student Branch Meeting: Inspiring Future Innovators

On Feb. 20, 2026, the APSU IEEE Student Branch hosted a meeting to introduce students to IEEE opportunities and encourage active involvement in the organization. Faculty advisor Md Ali Haider led the session, highlighting the benefits of IEEE membership, including professional networking, technical development, leadership experiences, and career preparation. Through collaboration among IEEE student leaders and faculty advisors, the meeting reinforced the organization's commitment to fostering innovation, professional growth, and student engagement (pic 7) within the APSU community. The event also provided students with an opportunity to connect (pic 8) with fellow technology enthusiasts and learn how involvement in IEEE can support their academic and professional growth.



Pic 7



Pic 8

Scholarly Activities and Faculty Accomplishments

Publications and Presentations:

In AY 2025-26, the ET department faculty's scholarly efforts resulted in several publications and conference presentations.

Publications and Conference Presentations:

Pallikonda, M. K. (2026). Integrating Experiential Learning into a First-Year Manufacturing Course to Support Diverse and Non-Traditional Students. ASEE SE.

Pallikonda, M. K. (2026). J. L. Alberd, H. Ahmed, & R. C. Manimaran, From Feedback to Framework: Industry-Driven Improvements in Engineering Education. ASEE CIEC.

Ahmed, Hossain: Published a peer-reviewed book chapter as the sole author, titled "A Review on Corrosion of All Aluminum Microchannel Heat Exchangers," in Corrosion Engineering: Recent Breakthroughs and Innovative Solutions, Intech Open.

Alberd, Jody Lee: From Flight Deck to Factory Floor: A Veteran's Perspective on Bridging Military Experience and Engineering Technology Education, published in the proceedings of the 2026 ASEE Conference for Industry and Education Collaboration (CIEC), and presented at the national conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, in February 2026.

Alberd, Jody Lee in collaboration with Dr. Mahesh Pallikonda and ET students Jordan Kublickis and Simona Vest: Bridging Academia and Defense: Student-Driven Additive Manufacturing for Military Problem Solving; Published and presented at the 2026 ASEE Annual Conference and Exposition.

Industry Presentation:

Dr. Pallikonda delivered a presentation on AI in Manufacturing (pic 9) at the Annual LG Managers Meeting at the LG Electronics Clarksville plant. His presentation, AI in Manufacturing: Trends, Technologies and Real-World Impact, explored how artificial intelligence is transforming modern manufacturing and industrial operations.





Pic 9

Grants

ET faculty applied for several grant proposals including TAF that were funded for Fort Campbell and Clarksville. The department used the funds to maintain manufacturing equipment, renew the maintenance contract, and purchased new equipment to support more hands-on labs.

(a) National Science Foundation Research Initiation in Engineering Formation (RIEF) Grant #2609426 - \$158,000: Assistant Professor Jody Alberd developed and submitted a proposal as the Principal Investigator that was funded in Spring 2026. The 2-year RIEF grant will examine engineering identity development among student veterans participating in senior capstone design projects. The project establishes a focused research agenda connecting engineering identity formation, student veterans, capstone education, and engineering technology. The project has relevance to Austin Peay due to its significant military-affiliated student population at Fort Campbell. In addition, the research addresses a broader national issue concerning how veterans transition from military service into engineering education and professional technical careers.



Pic 10

Assistant Professor Jody Alberd with Dr. Marie Paretti, a professor of engineering at Virginia Tech (pic 10) and the co-principal investigator for the NSF research project.

(b) Assistant Professor Jody Alberd was awarded funding as a Co-Principal Investigator on the APSU DIY for Good initiative through the Maynard Family Fund of Excellence. This internally funded interdisciplinary project brings together faculty, staff, and students from Engineering Technology, the APSU GIS Center, Biology, and other disciplines to research, test, fabricate, and deliver assistive devices for members of the community.

(c) Outcomes from Dr. Mahesh Pallikonda's SASI Grant in 2025-26: During Fall 2025 and Spring 2026, as part of the ET department's ongoing SASI grant-supported initiatives, the Technology Fusion Club (formerly TLC) led impactful events to enhance student learning and industry engagement. In celebration of the National Manufacturing Month (Fall 2025), the club coordinated two insightful plant tours and hosted three guest lectures featuring regional industry professionals. This month-long effort was designed to strengthen early workforce readiness, connect students with industry leaders, and highlight the exciting career pathways in advanced manufacturing.

Building on this momentum, the Spring 2026 semester featured three alumni guest lectures from distinguished industry speakers.

- Angel Fowler — Project Engineer II, Project Controls, Poynter Sheet Metal
- Ryan Marvel — Plant Manager, Stanley Engineered Fastening
- Phani Gudipati — Chief Operations Officer, Montanstahl AG

The lectures exposed students to real-world expectations, emerging technologies, and pathways to leadership roles in manufacturing.



Pic 11

ET students on a Plant Tour to Hankook Tire (pic 11) as part of the National Manufacturing Month Celebrations – October 2025

(d) Dr. Pallikonda received another SASI Grant funding (\$2,150) in 2026-27 – Breaking the Ice: Engaging Students with Regional Manufacturing Professionals. This is the third year in a row he has received SASI grant funding.



Pic 12

Faculty Accomplishment:

In August 2026, Dr. Md Ali Haider, assistant professor (pic 12) received the 2026 Socrates Award for Excellence in Teaching.



Pic 13

ET Industrial Advisory Board members and department faculty (pic 13) in Spring 2026

Engineering Technology (ET) Department

Ravi Manimaran

Professor & Chair

Faculty:

Hossain Ahmed
Jody Alberd
Matthew Anderson
John Blake
Md. Ali Haider
Mahesh Pallikonda
Getachew Ambaye
Charles Weigandt (Aviation)
James Gallagher (Aviation)

Staff:

Andrew Bachmann (Lab. Technician)
Crystal Erdmenger (Academic Assistant)
Jerry Gray (Director of Aviation Maintenance)
Kristina McDowell (Aviation Operations Coordinator)

Student Workers:

Thomas Frasson
Savannah Williams

AP Austin Peay
State University
CLARKSVILLE  TENNESSEE
College of STEM

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