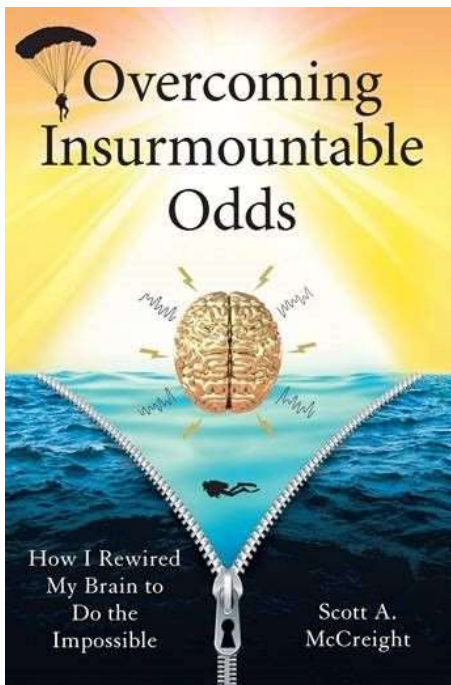


# Alumni Spotlight

## Overcoming Insurmountable Odds by Scott A. McCreight



We Alumni Scott McCreight, BSIE, MSCIS, PMP '93 has a lifelong philosophy of using his experiences to inspire and encourage others. McCreight, Senior Program Manager at Gainwell Technologies, recently shared some of these experiences as an author in his recent book, "Overcoming Insurmountable Odds, Neuralplasticity in Action."

He shared with us recently about his inspiring journey as he faced challenges due to Cerebral Palsy as a young student here at TTU IMSE, and how great mentors supported him in achieving his dream of becoming an engineer. In reflecting on his growth as both a person and a student during his time at the IMSE, he shared with us his most memorable moments as a freshman were experiencing dorm life and studying engineering, a dream come true. He noted how Dr. Charles Burford and Lee Kitchens from the department mentored him, and he credits them for shaping him into the engineer he is today. Also, how mentors like Dr. Milton Smith and the dean of students played significant roles in his academic journey.

McCreight actively participated in various clubs and organizations, including the RHA Council and the IIE Student Chapter during his time at the IMSE. He spoke of how his capstone Engineering class at Texas Tech paved the way for his successful career, and that his experiences as student were a huge influence upon his life. "My capstone Engineering class, where we presented our projects to our sponsors and engineering staff, was a fantastic experience that led to many other wins in my career. I wouldn't give that up for the world!"

McCreight advises others to never to give in to complacency and to keep learning. The IMSE proudly recognizes outstanding alumni like Scott McCreight and the positive impact they choose make in the lives of others and the world. We are grateful to have been a part of his educational and life goals.

## Michael Hatcher Alumni Spotlight



Born into an engineering family, Texas Tech University Alumni, Michael Hatcher, CLSSBB, shares his experience here at TTUIMSE. Hatcher now works as an Industrial Engineer Manager for Albertsons Companies and graduated in 2013. He shared he chose IE because, “The possibilities seemed endless, the concepts spiked my curiosity and the decision felt right to choose Industrial Engineering as my major. The only decision I had to make from there was– should I go to Texas Tech or A&M another University? I obviously made the right choice. I remember sitting in a large lecture hall with engineering students-to-be. The person at the front of the room explained that, statistically, 1 in 3 students in that room will end up graduating with an engineering degree. I love a challenge, I looked to my left and looked to my right – I was determined to be in that top 1/3”. We asked Mike if there were mentors at Texas Tech that helped him in his academic journey and he told us about Dr. Ismael de-Farias. “He instructed our Operations Research class – an area of work that is profoundly interesting to me. He was always willing to spend time with me one on one to answer my questions and provide hypotheticals. His passion for his work was truly contagious”. The IMSE prides itself on these types of interactions with our students through our open office hours with faculty. Our faculty do their best to know each student by name and advise them as not only as professors, but mentors as well. Hatcher also served as the vice president for the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers TTU IISE Student chapter during his junior year, studied abroad through the Global Program in Seville, Spain which he describes as “one of the best experiences of [his] life”, and was a member of the Industrial Engineering Honor Society, Pi Alpha Mu. Hatcher describes how Texas Tech prepared him for success in his career, and how he continues to notice the same readiness in students who have graduated from Texas Tech. “I have always liked to say that Red Raiders have more grit. Call me biased, but I continue to see examples everywhere I go. I interviewed Red Raiders, I have hired a few – and they aren’t afraid to do what needs to be done. They are the type of people who avoid the excuse of “that’s not my job.”. They show ownership and pride in their work – and that reflects the culture that is created at our university and at the IMSE.” In reflection on his time at Texas Tech, we asked him what he would say to his younger self, in hopes that it would resonate with students in the IMSE. “Put yourself out there and be willing to make more mistakes. The best way to learn is experience.” The IMSE recognizes all our outstanding alumni, such as Mike Hatcher, and we are proud of the impact and difference each is making in the lives of others and in industry.

## Ghislaine Tchakoumi Alumni Spotlight



The Texas Tech University Department of Industrial, Manufacturing, and Systems Engineering takes great pride in extending its heartfelt congratulations to Ghislaine Tchakoumi, a distinguished 2018 alumna of our program, on her recent appointment as a Quality Control Engineer at Camaco-Amvian.

Ms. Tchakoumi's remarkable achievement serves as a testament to her exceptional skills, unwavering dedication, and relentless pursuit of excellence. Throughout her academic journey pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering at Texas Tech University, she consistently displayed a profound understanding of industrial, manufacturing, and systems engineering principles, exemplifying the highest standards of proficiency and commitment.

During her tenure at Texas Tech University, she acquired a diverse skill set encompassing various areas of expertise such as proficient data collection, astute organizational development, and effective presentation skills. Furthermore, she demonstrated exceptional aptitude in critical thinking, meticulous data analysis, analytical proficiency, and adapt problem-solving capabilities. In addition to her academic pursuits, she actively participated in the renowned ADDE organization, while also holding a distinguished membership in the esteemed National Society of Black Engineers.

Prior to assuming her newest role, Ms. Tchakoumi's gained invaluable experience at Ten o One Corporation from 2018 through 2020, where she undertook a role in Project Management. Following her time at Ten o One Corporation, Ghislaine Tchakoumi joined the esteemed ranks at Ford Motor Company as an Industrial Engineer/Quality Control Engineer from 2020 through 2022. In light of her extraordinary achievement and her unwavering commitment to professional growth, Ms. Tchakoumi's appointment at Camaco-Amvian comes as no surprise.

Texas Tech University Department of Industrial, Manufacturing, and Systems Engineering takes immense pride in Ms. Tchakoumi's accomplishments, considering her a shining example of the exceptional talent our program nurtures and produces. We are confident that her continued success will serve as an inspiration to the current and future Red Raiders, reaffirming the tremendous value of a rigorous education in engineering.

## Raphael Akinsipe Alumni Spotlight



The Department of Industrial, Manufacturing, and Systems Engineering at Texas Tech University (TTU IMSE) takes great pride in celebrating the remarkable achievements of our esteemed alumni. Among them is Raphael Akinsipe, a distinguished graduate of TTU IMSE and the prestigious Texas Tech Accelerator Program in the year 2016. Since graduation, Akinsipe has charted an extraordinary path of success, amassing an impressive array of accomplishments and experiences that have propelled his career to great heights. Notably, he has contributed his expertise and skills to renowned companies such as Google, Microsoft, and Marvel Entertainment, leaving an indelible mark on each organization.

However, Akinsipe's contributions extend far beyond his work with these industry giants. Displaying an entrepreneurial spirit, he embarked on his own ventures, launching not one, but three successful companies. One of his recent endeavors is SocialCrowd, an innovative automated employee incentive platform. This platform enables companies, including esteemed entities like SONIC Drive-In and Motorola Solutions, to establish meaningful connections with their employees and motivate them based on their personal guidelines and standards. As SocialCrowd steadily gains momentum, it has attracted attention and recognition from both local businesses and national brands.

In addition to his remarkable accomplishments in the professional realm, Akinsipe has exemplified his generosity and commitment to helping others by establishing an Endowed Scholarship in collaboration with the College of Engineering with the aim to extend financial support to students from underrepresented populations, ensuring that they have equal opportunities to pursue and excel in their academic careers.

# Antonio Luna Alumni Spotlight



We at Texas Tech University's Industrial, Manufacturing, and Systems Engineering program hold our esteemed alumni in the highest regard, and it is with great pride that we celebrate TTU IMSE Alum Antonio Luna III, EIT.

Having earned his degree from TTU IMSE in May of last year, Luna wasted no time in establishing himself as a prominent figure in the field of industrial engineering. In June 2022, he joined Llano Logistics, a renowned firm that is widely recognized for its exceptional distribution services to major supermarkets like United Supermarkets, Praters, RC Taylor, and Albertsons Market.

Luna's career journey began during his Senior Design course, where he and his team were given the opportunity to tackle real-world business problems at Llano Logistics. His impressive work ethic and unwavering dedication quickly caught the attention of Llano Logistics, who offered him a position after graduation. Since then, he has been appointed as Llano Logistics' first Industrial Engineer, entrusted with a range of responsibilities that include overseeing facility layouts, transportation, and labor standards.

Luna's leadership skills and expertise have been instrumental in the success of the significant project he is currently leading, aimed at updating labor standards within the warehouse, which is set to go into effect on March 26. He has also taken on the responsibility of guiding new senior design projects and providing valuable insights to students, having been in their shoes just a year ago.