Alwyn Sekhri

Alwyn Sekhri has 19 years of experience in UX Research & Strategy as both a practitioner and global Senior Manager with a passion for front end innovation and building successful UX teams. She has utilized user insights to shape product/business strategies, identify new product portfolios, and create new business opportunities at technology companies including Google, ServiceNow, and HP. Her career has spanned across multiple industries from medical to enterprise software, with her latest position taking her to D-Ford to focus on autonomous vehicles + mobility as a Manager of Design Research. She has traveled across 6 continents in the quest for user insights while leading various global UX Research initiatives in both emerging and developed markets. Alwyn holds a B.S in Industrial Engineering + Human Factors (minor in Bioengineering) from the University of Illinois and an M.S. in Product Design & Development Management from Northwestern University.

Rae Ferriolo

Rae Ferriolo is a Senior Electrical Engineer at Coffman Engineers, Inc. with over 14 years of experience. A San Diego native, she graduated high school from the Academy of Our Lady of Peace and then proceeded to earn her BS in electrical engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago where she specialized in Power Engineering.

Rae started her professional career as an intern at MWH Global in Chicago before transferring back to San Diego to be closer to family. Upon her return to Southern California, she joined Sparling where she spent 8 years as an electrical engineer, passed her EIT, and then her PE exam. She had a brief stint with a small electrical equipment manufacturing firm called Teal Electronics but eventually returned to Sparling/Stantec as a project manager.

In 2017, Rae joined Coffman Engineers to help support and grow their electrical engineering department. She currently manages some of Coffman's most complex electrical design projects and multi-discipline projects in the Southern California market. Rae is well-versed in all things electrical and is well-respected throughout the AEC industry for her creative and dynamic solutions to the built environment. When she's not designing a new engineering solution, Rae is supporting Coffman's local business development and proposal efforts, mentoring the younger team members, and remaining active in the industry organizations such as the Women's Construction Coalition (WCC), Society of Women Engineers (SWE), and the Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA).
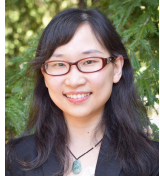
Jishen Zhao

Jishen Zhao is an Associate Professor in the Computer Science and Engineering Department at University of California, San Diego. She is affiliated with the Non-Volatile System Laboratory, Center for Machine-Integrated Computing and Security, and Center for Memory and Recording Research at UCSD. Her research spans and stretches the boundary between computer architecture and system software, with an emphasis on memory and storage systems, machine learning and system co-design. She is particularly interested in architecting emerging memory technologies (e.g., nonvolatile memories and 3D-stacked memory) into future data centers and edge computing systems that execute various applications, e.g., machine learning, big-data analytics, smart home, smart transportation, and scientific computing.

Jacqui Le

Jacqui Le received her B.S. and M.S. in Structural Engineering from UC San Diego. She has been a part of a large variety of projects ranging from retrofitting underground large diameter pipes and analyzing carbon composite airplane panel damage from hail ice impact, to remodeling historic museums and designing new hospitals and hotels. Jacqui currently works at KPFF Consulting in San Diego as a structural engineer. Some local San Diego projects she has been a part of including the San Diego Padres Hall of Fame, San Dieguito Riverpark Classroom, and Sharp Grossmont Hospital. Jacqui is excited about learning, teaching, and solving real-life problems.

Vanessa Alburquerque-Swope

Vanessa is a Senior Engineering manager for the Reliability and Maintainability and System Safety organization at General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc (GA-ASI). She leads a team of engineers from all different engineering backgrounds; from Software to Mechanical Engineers. GA-ASI develops unmanned aircraft platforms, ground stations, sensors, and ground support equipment. Vanessa's team is responsible for developing various types of

analysis to ensure that the design (software or hardware) are reliable and easily maintainable as well as safe. Vanessa started at GA-ASI right out of school with a Bachelor's in Electrical Engineering from UCSD. She has been at the company for over 15 years, and through her time there she has gone from individual contributor in the System Safety group, to Project Engineering, then back to the System Safety team as a supervisor. She finally acquired the role of Senior Manager for the entire department a couple of years ago. Moving from role to role has shown her that management was the correct path for her to grow and give back to the younger generation of engineers. At the company she is also a member of the Women's Internal Network (WIN) and was a co-founder of the LatinX-GA employee resource groups (ERG); which allow her to give back to the community by doing outreach events for local High Schools, Community Colleges and Universities. The ERGs also serve as a source for leadership growth and other professional educational sessions that help her fellow GA colleagues.