

I dedicate this work to my family, friends, mentors, and peers, whose unwavering support has made this journey possible. I also honor my ancestors, whose resilience and sacrifices paved the way for my presence here today. Your strength and legacy form the foundation upon which this work is built.

the Black
community

ONE MISSION.

Shooting for Success, Fueled by Family

At my Master's Commencement Ceremony in May 2024, I was one of only three Black students graduating from the A. James Clark School of Engineering—one of three who “looked” like me. The stark lack of representation on that stage was unsettling. Even more disheartening was hearing our names mispronounced despite phonetic guides and in-person coaching. The same faculty member who fluently articulated names like Żurkowski and Chakravarthy stumbled over “Jehnae.” That moment crystallized the cultural disconnect that exists not only within my institution but also within the engineering discipline as a whole. It served as a reminder that even at our highest moments of achievement, our presence can still be treated as unfamiliar, inconvenient.

Ready for Change

EQUITY

The Worst Story Ever Told

Disrupt Design and Build Black Futures, examines the manifestations of anti-Blackness within culturally responsive design.

Transform

Black Voices

Black perspectives

Higher Ed

Black professionals in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

This dissertation, *Engineering While Black: Centering Lived Realities* (STEM) can serve as a radical foundation for inclusive

engineering spaces and explores how the lived experiences

Ph.D. Qualifying Examination
Jehnae Jasmine Linkins
Mechanical Engineering Graduate Program
Fall 2022

ENGINEERING WHILE BLACK:
CENTERING LIVED REALITIES TO
DISRUPT DESIGN AND BUILD BLACK
FUTURES

Jehnae Jasmine Linkins, Doctor of Philosophy
2025

I GOT MY
KNOWLEDGE
FROM A
HISTORICALLY
BLACK COLLEGE

Acknowledgments

Ask for help

Keep in touch

First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude to Dr. James Holly Jr. for graciously agreeing to become my advisor on June 8, 2023, following an email introduction from a colleague. As a professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Michigan, Dr. Holly has supported me since that day, consistently demonstrating insight and a deep commitment to my growth. I will never forget his willingness to step in during a pivotal academic journey. Dr. Holly's mentorship has encouraged me to think critically, act intentionally, and support, guidance, and belief in both me and this work. I am genuinely grateful for his unapologetically center Blackness in engineering. I am genuinely grateful for his support, guidance, and belief in both me and this work.

Drink sensibly

** Degree Information **

GRADUATE SCHOOL
Master of Science
- With Thesis

Awarded 12/19/23
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

EAT
WELL

FOR ADVISING PURPOSES ONLY

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
COLLEGE PARK
Office of the Registrar
College Park, MD 20742
UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT

Black
experiences

Take a break

** Degree Information **

GRADUATE SCHOOL
Doctor of Philosophy
Awarded 08/22/25
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Do something you're good at

I'm a Maryland
Mechanical
Engineer

Accept who you are

DON'T ADJUST YOUR
C.R.O.W.N



WHAT IS ACADEMIC
FREEDOM?



THE
COSTS
OF
COMPLETION



UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
A. JAMES CLARK
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

