



PITT | SWANSON
ENGINEERING



University of Pittsburgh IEEE Student Chapter Newsletter

October 2017



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10/17 October General Body Meeting –

At our second GBM of the semester, we will provide pizza and more information about upcoming events this month. The meeting will be in **G31 Benedum Hall at 7:30PM.**

10/21 PMADD -

Volunteer with Pitt IEEE on Pitt Make A Difference Day and help the community! **The last day to sign up with Pitt IEEE is 10/9. Please register with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. You can register at:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pitt-make-a-difference-day-2017-registration-36310786540>

10/24 Quarterzip Sale –

This month, Pitt IEEE will be selling ECE Quarterzips with several different color options. **To order, fill out this form:**

<https://goo.gl/forms/GzF3NSBudo5eY1dK2> and submit payment by **October 24th, the end of the sale.**

11/3 IEEE Super Smash Bros. Tournament –

C'mon, show me your moves! Compete against your peers for prizes or challenge the Pitt IEEE Officers to intense Crew Battles. Look for more details later this month.

Professor Spotlight

Dr. William Stanchina

What type of research are you working on currently?

I work on group 3-5 and high frequency semiconductors. I also work on wide band gap semiconductors and nanowires for power conversion. My interest in these semiconductors started in graduate school when my faculty advisor researched them. I enjoy research because of that feeling of discovery--that time of excitement from learning something new. Identifying the potential of materials, determining their useful attributes, and confirming predictions with tested results is a rewarding experience.



Why did you become a professor at Pitt, and what do you like best about being a professor in the ECE department?

There are several reasons that I became a professor at Pitt. I had been a professor at Notre Dame and really enjoyed the position. Later, I saw an opening for ECE Department Chair for Pitt one day and thought that with my management experience from working in industry, I would be qualified for the position. Coming to Pitt was also like coming home, as I grew up close by in Wheeling, West Virginia.

By becoming a professor here at Pitt, I wanted to share my experience gained from working in industry with my students. I wanted to be able to explain practical applications of the concepts they learn in textbooks. Seeing my students work hard and then be able to understand and demonstrate what they have learned makes it all worth it.

What is the best advice you could give to your engineering students?

Always keep alert and up to date on current information and advancements in industry. The field changes rapidly, and to be successful in a long career, you have keep to learning to stay relevant.

Also, you should take advantage of the great access to information you have. Technical, business, and career development resources all can help you if you use them.

Student Spotlight

Tristan Gibson, Jr. Electrical Engineer

Why did you choose engineering and what is your favorite or most interesting course so far?

In high school, I was good in math and liked science and physics, so I thought I would go to college for engineering. At first, I went into college expecting to be a chemical engineer because I enjoyed chemistry in high school, but when I had physics 2, I really liked the concepts concerning electricity and circuits. From there, I thought maybe I should become an electrical engineer.



I did not know how much computer and programming-related material was involved in the electrical engineering major, and had little programming experience before college. Luckily, I liked classes like Digital Logic and the Digital Systems Laboratory that showed how logic circuits may be designed to perform different functions.

What direction are you hoping to go in career-wise after graduation?

The idea of going to Grad School is a possibility. Right now though, I've completed three internships with a company called Premier Automation. They do industrial controls and are located in Monroeville which is convenient since it is close to where I live. They have told me if I continue with my internships, I could potentially be hired full-time after graduation. I am still not sure yet what I will want to do or if I want to commit to the field of industrial controls. Working towards the future, I plan to tailor my courses to a concentration like the power concentration. Although, I would definitely like having a full-time job after graduation.

What advice would you give to underclassmen in engineering?

I would say most importantly, expose yourself to the material and read the chapters before class because the more information you throw at yourself, the better you can do. Beyond that, go to the professor's and teaching assistant's office hours to make sure you understand the concepts that you are learning. It is not just about passing the test since you will see a lot of the same material later in other classes.

Another piece of advice is to make time for whatever projects and assignments you have. Engineering school is hard, and you need to make time for it. That may be a given, but it is important to remember that.