Welcome back to campus! There are three significant activities at the start of this semester that we would like to emphasize. When it comes to underrepresented students in engineering on this campus, we hope that these activities provide mentoring opportunities plus guidance towards successful opportunities in engineering. Enjoy!

1) EG 2020: ENGR. ORIENTATION FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

“How do I get my work done and still have some time to myself?”
“What is expected of me in order to become an engineer?”
“What do engineers do and how do I obtain experience?”

The Engineering Orientation seminar provides a roadmap towards a rewarding experience as an engineering student. Students will discuss the above questions and other issues that arise while beginning a career in engineering. Students will be asked to survey learning techniques for technical courses, clarify their career goals, and assess their academic progress throughout the semester. All students who intend on participating in the Minority Engineering Program should register for this course. This 1-hour seminar meets once a week on Sunday afternoons and carries minimal homework. To sign up, please fill out the form on the web link.

Web: www.nd.edu/~mepnd/orientation

2) MEP STUDENT AND ALUMNI RETREAT

The MEP Alumni Advisory Board will be facilitating this semester’s retreat. The goal of the retreat is to allow alumni to “give back” to current MEP students. Alumni will talk about topics such as “What do engineers really do?”, “How to deal with adversity”, and “How to make the most of your ND education”. See the web site below for more details.

Web: www.nd.edu/~mepnd/retreat.htm

3) HONORS DINNER

This dinner is held the day before the College of Engineering’s “Industry Day” career fair. This dinner brings together industry partners who are interested knowing MEP students beyond what might be on a resume. In turn, students will have the opportunity to learn more about what each company expects from students and opportunities available to them. Dress is business / semi-formal. Students interested in participating should visit the MEP office.

Web: www.nd.edu/~mepnd/honors_dinner.htm
The College of Engineering’s Mission is “To nurture the intellectual growth of our students and to serve humanity through the creation, application, and dissemination of knowledge relevant to technology.”

SO HOW DO I BECOME AN ENGINEER?

An engineering education is more than problem sets, labs, and tests. The sooner you realize that, the sooner you can think about how the path that you are traveling on will lead towards opportunities that lie ahead.

Get your work done. Start your assignments the day they are assigned and work on them every day until the assignment is complete.

Study and practice. While you are completing assignments, identify the material that gives you the most trouble. Read, learn, and study this material until you become proficient. Work with others to gauge and test your progress.

Get involved. Aside from study groups and dorm activities, it is worthwhile getting involved with an engineering-related club. Each major has national organizations that offer opportunities for students to learn more about their major and serve as ways to meet others in your field. There are also clubs that encourage success among underrepresented students in engineering such as National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), and Society of Women Engineers (SWE).

Discern advice. Be aware of the types of advice you hear and how it may influence you. You might hear from students complaining about their workload or the lack of time they have. At the same time, they will spend their “study time” socializing and being unproductive. Before you are allowed to be influenced, take some time to think it through.

Man is not the creature of circumstances. Circumstances are the creatures of men.

- Benjamin Disraeli

THANK YOU!

The MEP would like to thank Mr. Sergio Lucero (AERO ’95), Senior Integration and Test Engineer, Orbital Sciences Corporation for his efforts in seeking internship and full-time opportunities for MEP students. At least two students were able to secure engineering experience in the aerospace industry through Mr. Lucero’s efforts.

MEP STUDY AREA

MEP students are encouraged to use the MEP conference room (256 Fitzpatrick) for quiet study. The room has a small selection of academic resources including computers, books and test files available for your use. NSBE and MAES/SHPE frequently use this room for meetings and peer-tutoring. The room is available 24/7 with a code on the door. Please ask MEP staff to remind you of the code.

The Engineering Study Lounge (217 Cushing) is also available for student use.
**ADVICE TO FRESHMEN**

Some basic things to remember are to always be on top of things, especially studying. Though you may have friends that like to start partying on Thursday night, it’s usually not a good idea to waste this time. Also, meet as many people as you can. You can never have enough friends. I have found that college is an excellent opportunity to put yourself in a huge network of people that may benefit you down the road, after college. Most importantly of all though, HAVE FUN! Though you may be extensively studying for quizzes or exams, do take the time to relax and absorb the atmosphere you have been welcomed to, the fine institution that is Notre Dame. Best of luck to all of you, and may you have a successful first year at Notre Dame.

Dan Guerrero

Take advantage of the opportunities and get involved with the university. Time goes by fast, so enjoy your time in college.

Yamil Colon

• Don’t be discouraged if your grades are not as high as those you made in high school.
• Study a least a week in advance for major exams. You will have time to ask your professor and you won’t have to cram the night before.
• Try to find a balance between school, work, friends, extracurricular, etc. You can only study and be productive for so long. You need time to socialize and outlets for relieving stress.
• Go to your professor’s office hours at least once, even if you feel you know material for class. It could be the difference between a B+ and an A-.
• Get to know an upper-classmen, preferably in your major. **They can give advice on professors and insight on what to expect from your classes. Also, many times they can be a good resource for past exams.

Loren Lopez

I would advise that they make a genuine effort to get to know their fellow incoming engineering intents since these friendships will make it much easier to survive their first year. Also, I would advise thinking very hard before deciding to overload during the first semester of college.

Rosary Abot

It’s going be tough; possibly harder than you expected. But don’t let any of your first test grades hold you down; there is time to rebound if you work at it.

Mike Gonzalez

Work hard and play harder. There is no substitute for hard work, but make sure you also take the time to have a lot of fun along the way. College is a great experience so try to embrace every moment and life your life to the fullest!

Richelle Thomas

**SUMMER INTERNSHIPS**

I’m in Cleveland working for General Electric’s Lighting Division. I’m in the innovation department working on OLED’s, which are Organic LED’s that will be out sometime in the next 2-3 years. It’s cutting edge technology and very exciting! I’m learning a lot about the corporate culture, and about being intuitive on the job. It’s a lot of fun being in a new city, but also a little nerve wracking, as I still get VERY lost!

Kelsey Montalto

I’m interning with Carter-Burgess in the Building Programs Division. My group works on the designing of CVS and so far I have learned to use AutoCADD to edit plans for proposed CVS. I also make compliance calls to city departments regarding their city building requirements for each project we work on. This internship is giving me an idea of what working in a corporate company is like.

Lauren Lopez

I’m doing research with a Nano-Bio REU at Notre Dame.

Yamil Colon

Information Management Leadership Program Intern with GE Healthcare in Milwaukee.

Patrick Braga-Henebry

I am interning with Horizon Milling, a subsidiary of Cargill. I am in Los Angeles for 12 weeks working on a myriad of different tasks and being given lots of responsibility and opportunity within the company to help it grow. In 3 weeks I’ve been immersed in the complicated field of flour milling. I’ve also been involved in many of the decision making processes, and hope to make a contribution.

Oscar Garcia

I got an internship with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce here in San Antonio in the Communications Department.

Richelle Thomas

I’ve been offered a job with Lockheed Martin in Houston.

Arturo Garcia

I am working in the research and development site of a specialty chemicals company. My research involves studying how different modes of deformation (UV radiation, shear stress, heat, and chlorine) affect how the plastic used to make industrial piping behaves. These are four of the most common causes of pipe failure and my project involves isolating methods to correctly identify which one (if any) is the cause of pipe failure. I really enjoy my work in R & D because it gives me a different perspective from what I gained by working in a manufacturing plant.

Mike Gonzalez
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MINORITY ENGINEERING PROGRAM

NSBE—NATIONAL SOCIETY OF BLACK ENGINEERS

The National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) is the largest student-managed organization in the country. NSBE’s mission is to increase the number of culturally responsible Black engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact the community. NSBE strives to increase the number of minority engineering students studying engineering and to act as a support group for Black and other minority engineers to cope with the demands of the engineering curriculum.

www.nd.edu/~nsbe

“Good timber does not grow with ease; the stronger the wind, the stronger the trees.”
- J. Willard Marriott

HES—HISPANIC ENGINEERS AND SCIENTISTS

HES is a student chapter of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) and Society of Mexican American Engineers and Scientists (MAES), HES is dedicated to the advancement minorities in science and engineering. It works towards increasing the number of talented minorities in engineering through outreach and programs that provide academic and peer support to other Latino students.

www.nd.edu/~maesshpe

AMERICAN INDIAN AND ASIAN-AMERICAN STUDENTS IN ENGINEERING

Students interested in being part of a student group similar to HES and NSBE targeted to the academic and social experience of American Indian or Asian-American students in engineering should contact the MEP office.