An Education in Telecommunications

When I reminisce about last fall, I remember one thing above all else: my quest for an internship. As an inexperienced sophomore, I had no idea what to expect. The ways of the corporate world were still foreign to me, but I had spoken to many peers about their internships. Thankfully, many of the notions I had about my summer were far from the truth. I interned with Verizon in Hunt Valley, MD, a neighborhood north of Baltimore, and I was awestruck by the vast network behind modern communications.

I worked in the landline division with the team responsible for the copper and fiber optic cables running through the Mid-Atlantic. During my first couple weeks, I was awestruck by the vast network behind modern communications. I had never given enough time to understand how the Internet is connected, but I soon learned about the technologies that all work together to get data from one user to another.

This unseen highway is responsible for so much in today’s digital world, and just like the roads we use every day, it requires a considerable team to run smoothly.

During my time working with the people in management, I learned how this business builds our networks. Much of the workforce tasked with maintaining and laying cable was part of the union, but my immediate

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Mission Statement
This monthly newsletter will inform, entertain, and connect the students of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Florida. This newsletter links students to our university and future workplace by presenting articles on our department, industry, and events hosted by the different campus organizations.

The IEEE Newsletter needs your help in making this a better newsletter. Please email your comments, events, and ideas to ieee.uf.newsletter@gmail.com.

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Summer Internship Continued on Page 2
coworkers were not. Instead, they were responsible for getting work orders readied for the construction teams.

Along with this came a myriad of metrics and pressures from upper management. Every year, the team saw reductions in force, and every year they were expected to improve performance amongst their teams.

Though harsh, I had to accept this reality: companies stay competitive by constantly striving for improvement.

I could not have asked for a more educational summer. By immersing myself in a field that I knew little about, I learned about an important technology with a fresh perspective.

I also gained an understanding of the way projects are managed, and I worked with a diverse group of people whose loyalty I found admirable.

Most of the employees had been with the company for more than fifteen years, and I think there is something to be said for stable, meaningful work.

Before this summer, I had never considered how my messages or entertainment were finding their way across the globe. Today, I think about my friends in Hunt Valley and the work they do to keep the network buzzing.

-Daniel Holloway, CE Junior
SWE Welcomes Freshman Engineers

This past weekend, SWE hosted their annual eSWAMP event to get freshman engineers together and introduce them to our college of engineering. Despite the tropical storm Erika scare, it was a hot, sunny day, in which 157 new engineers gathered to be welcomed to our institution. Each attendee was given a t-shirt, info packet, and career advice.

The day was meticulously planned down to the minute, with rotating activities including an e-fair, corporate sponsor panel, academics panel, design challenge, and mentoring time. As I talked with the new students, I almost wished I could start over again.

Some tips for surviving engineering that really stuck with me were:

1. Find a place to study that isn’t your room. With so many distractions, from netflix to loud roommates, it’s vital to find a quiet place where you can focus, whether it’s the library or just a quiet area.

2. Get to know your professors. They can be extremely helpful in coursework, research opportunities, and recommendations. It’s good to start making these connections now because when the time comes for you to apply for grad school or jobs, you want them on your side.

3. Have fun! College is a great time to explore your interests and try something new. Don’t get caught up in all the academia; go out and have new experiences. They will make you a better engineer and individual.

Whether you’re a freshman or a super-senior, SWE can offer engineers great resources and opportunities for career development. If you would like to get involved with SWE, join their facebook group, the UF Society of Women Engineers.

-Elise DuTreil, ME Junior

Upcoming IEEE Events

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Join the Newsletter Team!

The 2015-2016 IEEE newsletter team is looking for more short article writers and those experienced with Adobe InDesign to join the group. Interested in becoming a regular? There are no restrictions on what you can write about. Send an email to ieee.uf.newsletter@gmail.com for information.

Have a department event you want to advertise, or have information you want to share with the university? Send us an email and we’ll get it published for you.