

## Dr. Estrada's Students Present Autonomous Path-Following Pace Car at ASEE Zone 1 Conference

A multidisciplinary team of four of our department's seniors, mentored by Dr. Tomas Estrada, presented their work at the American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE) Zone 1 Conference, held in Bridgeport, Connecticut, on April 3rd-5th. The team was comprised of Brian Layng (General Engineering, Mechanical concentration), Kyle McNulty (Industrial Engineering Management), David Cain (Computer Engineering) and Ryan O'Connor (Computer Engineering).



The ASEE Zone 1 Conference served as a venue for students and faculty from the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic geographical regions to present their research and design projects. In total, there were over 500 presenters at the event. Dr. Estrada's team presented the work "Design of an Autonomous Path-Following Pace Car for Athletic Training."

The idea for the project stemmed from Brian Layng's desire to integrate his two passions: engineering and athletics. Layng, a standout NCAA track and field athlete, drew from his personal experiences to inspire him on this project. "When you're on the track," said Layng, "it is difficult to train by yourself without a teammate to keep as a speed reference. I looked for a system that could solve this problem, but there wasn't anything out there. So I figured, why not design it myself?"

According to the students, the conference was a very positive and rewarding experience. "From a professional standpoint, it was a great experience, to spread ideas and learn with people with similar interests," said Ryan O'Connor.

Additionally, the students came away with the reinforced feeling that the education received at Elizabethtown is indeed top-notch. "Many of the projects seemed simple compared to the problems we have solved in our courses at Etown," remarked Layng.

Beyond the professional aspects of the conference, the students felt that the experience was a positive one on a personal level. "It was great to hang out and have genuine, honest conversation with people whose opinions I respect," said O'Connor. "It was a memorable experience."