

Engineering Department Welcomes Class of 2017

The Elizabethtown Engineering Department welcomed its largest incoming class in the fall of 2013. The sixty-five prospective engineers brought to Elizabethtown an impressive range of experiences and talents.

Our classroom conversations have been greatly enhanced by the global perspectives of international students hailing from Spain, Egypt, Vietnam, and Japan. Like the rest of Elizabethtown College, many of the first-years are from the tri-state area of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland. **Claude Abou Negm**, native of Cairo, Egypt, stated that “I was a little worried at first before coming to Etown: leaving my country to study abroad for four years was a big step for me; I did not know who I was going to meet and how I was going to adapt to a totally new life. Amazingly, I made friends from very different backgrounds, people from the U.S and countries from all around the world! I learned how to step-in and try new things and never say no to anything that could be beneficial to me. I am certain now that Engineering is for me.

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The engineering department also continues its close relationship with the athletic program, with first-year athletes on the following team rosters: lacrosse (5), track and cross-country (6), swimming (1), tennis (2), golf (1), wrestling (1), soccer (2), basketball (2), club hockey (2), and baseball (4). **Reid Seifert**, member of the club hockey team, had insight into the synergy between engineering and athletics. “Through all my years of schooling, from third or fourth grade on up, I have had to balance my time between sports and school. I feel this actually helps me keep my time managed. I feel that I get more work done when I have time constraints than when I don't have anything to do.”

The first-year engineers also include members of campus acapella groups and several talented musicians. **John Hollister**, an accomplished guitarist, points out that engineering is an “avenue to express creativity.” He also notes that in engineering, “just like in fine arts, success does not come from bland products. The products that shine are the ones that are unique, thoughtful, and creative.”

“Engineering is an avenue to express creativity.” – First-year John Hollister

Several of the first-year students had engineering experiences in high school, from engineering courses, to participating in robotics competitions, to having completed projects at home such as rewiring devices and creating computer programs. Others weren't sure about engineering until they arrived at Etown: **Abby Haines** stated that during her senior year of high school her mom told her that engineering “would mix math, science and the arts together. It seemed like exactly what I wanted to do with my life. So I rolled with it.”

Still other first-years discovered a passion for engineering after they realized it allows them to have an impact on the world. **Kimberly Kim** admitted, “Before coming here, all I knew was that to get a suitable job, one had to have higher levels of education. I wanted to be an engineer but I did not understand what that job demanded. Now I have a much better understanding of the field. I want to build and research water filters, pumps, and systems. I want to find cheaper materials in ... developing countries to make ... potable water accessible for everyone. In doing so, I could raise the standard of living around the world.”

As for the future career interests of these students, about 45% are interested in mechanical engineering, about 15% each in sustainable design, electrical, and computer engineering, with about 10% interested in industrial engineering.

Of note, the engineering department also enrolled its first twins – and not just one, but *two* sets of identical twins. **Mike and Nick Specht** both play lacrosse, while **Chris and Patrick Jones** both run track/cross-country. Both sets of twins opted to room together as brothers in the Partners In Engineering (PIE) living learning community, making their dorm room feel a little more like home.



Fun facts about the 2013 first-year engineering students:

The most common:

NAME: Nick (4)

SPORT: track/cross-country (6)

INTENDED CONCENTRATION: mechanical engineering

HOME STATE: Pennsylvania

DORM: Schlosser (Partners In Engineering floor)