



Welcome from Our Directors

Director of Engineering Student Services

Hola! Bom dia! Guten Tag! Ni hao! Zdravstvuite! Bonjour!

And, WELCOME to your son or daughter's first fall semester in the School of Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh!

I would like to join my colleagues Dan Budny and Alaine Allen in extending a warm greeting and introduction to what will most definitely be an exciting year for all of us. I have had the good fortune of meeting many of you during our PittStart registration sessions over this past summer. For those of you who were unable to attend – as well as for those who may benefit from a quick refresher – allow me to introduce the team of professionals dedicated to supporting and encouraging your freshman engineer through their first year as a university student.

The engineering advisors work under the umbrella of the Engineering Students Services Center, located in B-80 Benedum. Our mission is not only to recruit highly motivated individuals; we are also focused on providing excellent advice and guidance so that all of our freshmen have every chance of successful completion of their first year as an engineering student. Among various other responsibilities, all of the professionals listed below provide advising services to the freshmen prior to the department selection process. Once a student chooses an engineering program, students work with the faculty and staff of that department for the remainder of their undergraduate career.

Name	Title	Email
Cheryl Paul	Director, Engineering Student Services	cpaul@engr.pitt.edu
Lauren Byland	Associate Director & Coordinator of Engineering Recruitment	lbyland@engr.pitt.edu
Jill Harvey	Associate Director & Coordinator of Freshman Engineering Advising	jharvey@engr.pitt.edu
Heather Conrad	Assistant Director, Freshman Engineering	hconrad@engr.pitt.edu
Kira Gosh	Coordinator of Transfer Student Recruitment & Advising	kgosh@engr.pitt.edu
Martha Garritano	Freshman Program Office Executive Administrative Assistant	fpoadmin@engr.pitt.edu

If at any time through the course of the year, you have questions regarding your son/daughter's freshman experience please feel free to contact us. While we are very open to assisting you in any way we can, I ask that you familiarize yourselves with the Family Educational Rights & Protection Act as it does dictate the level of information about your son/daughter we are permitted to legally disclose. Pitt has created an excellent reference presentation that can be accessed at:

[http://www.ogc.pitt.edu/presentations/Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.ppt](http://www.ogc.pitt.edu/presentations/Family_Educational_Rights_and_Privacy_Act.ppt) . For those of you who wish to learn about FERPA without viewing the complete PowerPoint presentation, please visit the university's Registrar's office informational page: <http://www.pitt.edu/~registrar/frpaPgFERPA.htm>.

Finally, I would also like to direct all of you to a fantastic Pitt Parent web page found on: <http://www.pitt.edu/parents.html>. Please pay particular attention to the right tool bar that links directly with a number of important resources that are certain to keep you informed and knowledgeable about the university and it's policies & procedures.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I wish all of you the very best experience as your students embark on new educational and personal pathways. This is an exciting time that can often become both exhilarating as well as confusing. Please keep in mind we are on your team as well, and it is our highest aspiration to assist each incoming freshmen to complete their undergraduate engineering degree at the University of Pittsburgh. *Carpe diem!*

With kind regards,

Cheryl Paul

Cheryl A. Paul, M.Ed.
Director, Engineering Student Services



PLANTING THE SEEDS FOR A
SUCCESSFUL FRESHMAN YEAR

A Welcome from Our Academic Director

PLANTING THE SEEDS FOR A
SUCCESSFUL FRESHMAN YEAR

Hello from Pittsburgh,

This is Dan Budny. I am the director of the Freshman Curriculum. My responsibility is to maintain coordination between the School of Engineering and the science programs in Arts & Sciences to assure that the course content in the freshman courses meets Engineering's curriculum requirements. My experience is that as the semester progresses, it becomes a very rewarding experience for both the students and the faculty. However, this does not happen without a number of surprises for the students. The students will make a number of discoveries about the engineering profession, their academic abilities, and most importantly about growing up. I would like to give you an update on what they will be studying in their Introduction to Engineering course.

If you are interested you can view the course web pages directly at:

ENGR0011	http://www.engr.pitt.edu/~eng11
Honors ENGR0711	http://www.engr.pitt.edu/~eng12/index711.html
My web page	http://www.pitt.edu/~budny

We begin the ENGR0011 course with a review of two software packages that the students can use in their other courses and end the semester studying MATLAB, an engineering software package. This material is introduced in a fashion that both teaches students how to use the software, and also demonstrates how the software can be used to solve engineering problems. Around the end of September, we will begin the web development part of the course and students will be asked to create a web page for themselves, and finally they will teamed with two other students to create a company and design a web page for this company.

You will be able review your students web page. To view his or her page, start at the appropriate course web page (see above) and click on the "Students Webpages" link on the left side. This will take you to a page with the pictures of the faculty teaching the course, and the time of the course. Click on the section your student is in, and this will take you to a page that has links for all the student pages. The page is a list of pictures of every student in the class, just look for your student and click on their picture. (I will make the images as small as possible but even by doing this it takes time to download 80 pictures, so I am sorry if this page takes a few minutes to download.) The basic appearance and layout of their web page is a course requirement, so do not judge the design, because it is designed by me to test them on various web design components. However, the content is all theirs. I think you will find it very interesting to see what your student lists as their bio, hobbies, thoughts about living in America, and what kind of company they would design.

The honors' course follows a different path. In this course we teach programming in MATLAB and C during the first semester and the web design in the second semester. However, in addition to the technical content, we also integrate ENGR0011 and ENGR0711 with Freshman Seminar, Freshman advising, Peer Advising and counseling. As a result, you will see information on their web pages on a research assignment they are working on related to their future career plans. We ask them to research the field of engineering they find interesting, and basically answer the questions: "What do engineers do?" "Where do engineers work?" and "What kind of engineer do I want to be?" By the time you see your son or daughter for Thanksgiving they will have written 3 papers on these basic questions, and then put everything together into a final paper that summarizes what they learned.

Please read what they write on their web page and ask them for a copy of their final paper. It would be very helpful if they knew you were interested in what they had to say. When they return from Thanksgiving break we are going to have each student give a 15 minute oral presentation on their final paper. Ask them to bring a copy of the power point slides home for break and have them give the presentation to you. It will be great practice for them.

Please feel free to review the material on the web sites for your daughter/son and become part of their experience.

Dan Budny, Ph.D.
Director, Freshman Engineering Program

A Welcome from Our Director for EXCEL

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Greetings Parents!

My name is Alaine Allen and I am the director of Pitt EXCEL, a comprehensive undergraduate diversity initiative committed to the recruitment, retention and graduation of academically excellent engineering undergraduates, particularly individuals from groups underrepresented in the field and students in the Act 101 population. As with the Freshman Program Office, our interaction with students begins during the freshman year. However, we continue to regularly interact with these students throughout their time at the University. Some of the services offered through Pitt EXCEL include academic counseling, study sessions, engineering research and mentoring opportunities, graduate school preparation and career development workshops, as well as a two-week intensive study skills and pre-calculus review session for pre-freshmen called the Summer Engineering Academy. We also work closely with the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) and the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), three student organizations with a diversity focus.

Other Pitt EXCEL staff members include Dominique Herring - Administrative Assistant, Yvette Moore - Academic Counselor, and Sarah White - Academic Counselor and Retention Coordinator. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us by email (excel@engr.pitt.edu) or phone (412-624-9625). We look forward to interacting with your children and hope that they find us to be a valuable resource during their years in the School of Engineering.

Alaine Allen, M. Ed.
Director, Pitt EXCEL
PECAP

Additional Information

Important Dates for Fall 2007

Residence Halls Open:	August 22
ENGR Freshman Orientation:	August 24
Fall Term Classes Begin:	August 27
Labor Day (no school):	September 3
Add/Drop Period Ends:	September 7 (5pm)
Family Weekend:	October 19-21
Monitored Withdrawal Period Ends:	October 26 th
Thanksgiving Break:	November 21-25
Last Day of Classes for Undergrads:	December 7
Final Exams:	December 10-15
Grades Posted:	December 20
University Closed:	Dec 24-Jan 1
Spring Term Begins:	January 7 th , 2008

Important Phone Numbers at Pitt

Freshman Program Office:	412.624.9825
University of Pittsburgh Main#:	422.624.4141
Career Services:	412.648.7130
Counseling Center:	412.648.7930
Disability Services:	412.648.7890
Housing/Panther Central:	412.648.1100