Understanding cultural issues, creating a successful working culture, and adapting to cultural change have become critically important in all branches of engineering. Never has it been more important to create a culture which strikes the right balance of the freedom to create and innovate with the project management discipline to meet ever-shorter times to market, the skills to facilitate international virtual teaming, and the understanding of the importance of cultural inclusion.

Silicon Happy Valley, coordinated by the School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Alumni Society, brings together Penn State alumni, faculty, staff, and students to discuss current topics of common interest, encourage networking, and share experiences in the diverse and evolving practice of the electrical and computer engineering and computer science professions.

Highlights for this year's conference will include:

- An introduction by the Head of the School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
- A keynote talk by an outstanding alum who will describe his research in support of NASA's quest for extraterrestrial life
- A presentation on the teamwork and culture of Penn State’s unique Lunar Lion project
- Best practices on the creation of successful virtual teams in a global environment
- Several presentations by alumni concerning the nature and importance of culture in their professional careers
- A panel of electrical engineering and computer science and engineering undergrads will share their internship experiences and lessons learned adapting to industry culture