Mechanical Engineering
Graduate Student Mentoring Event

Friday, October 26
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
125 Reber
Agenda

9:00 a.m.  Welcome and Introductions, Karen Thole and Mary Frecker

9:30 a.m.  Panel 1: Successful Careers in Industry
- Yashwanth Tummala, Ph.D., 2013, Associate, A.T. Kearney
- Saad Ahmed, Ph.D, 2017, Lithography Engineer, Intel Corporation
- Hassene Ben Atitallah, Ph.D., 2015, Senior Design Engineer, Seagate Technology

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. Panel 2: Successful Careers in Academia and Government Labs
- Marta Hatzell, Ph.D., 2014, Assistant professor, Georgia Tech
- Amy Mensch, Ph.D, 2015, M.S., 2009, Mechanical Engineer, NIST

11:45 a.m. Lunch with Graduate Students

1:00 p.m. Speed mentoring with individuals at 30 minute intervals
Note: Graduate students will be asked to be prepared with a resume and a five year career plan.

Dr. Yashwanth Tummala earned his Ph.D. in mechanical engineering at Penn State in 2013. Currently, he is an associate at A.T. Kearney in Chicago, Illinois and earning his MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. He has also previously held positions with Allstate, UI Labs, S&C Electric Company, and GE Global Research.

Dr. Marta Hatzell is an assistant professor the George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering at Georgia Tech. Prior to her appointment in 2015, she completed a yearlong postdoctoral research fellowship in the Department of Material Science and Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In August 2014, she completed her Ph.D. in mechanical engineering at Penn State as a NSF Graduate Research Fellow. She also received a M.Eng in environmental engineering in 2014, a M.S. in mechanical engineering in 2010, and a B.S. in mechanical engineering in 2009 from Penn State University. Her research group focuses on electrochemical synthesis and separations.

Dr. Amy Mensch is a mechanical engineer conducting research in engineered fire safety at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in Gaithersburg, Maryland. She received her M.S. in mechanical engineering from Penn State in 2009, studying the sooting tendency of jet fuel. Dr. Mensch then began working at NIST, investigating the thermal performance of respirator facepieces, before returning to Penn State in 2011 to start a Ph.D., researching heat transfer in gas turbine applications. After completing her doctoral degree in 2015, she returned to NIST, where she is studying fire and smoke detection and soot deposition.

Saad Ahmed is a lithography engineer in Logic Technology Development (LTD) group at the Intel Corporation. He received his Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Penn State in 2017. He also received his M.S. in mechanical engineering with a minor in material science and engineering from Penn State in 2015. During his graduate studies he worked with smart materials, more specifically electroactive polymers (EAPs) to achieve field driven self-folding structures. He has made contributions in the utilization of EAPs to achieve origami-inspired self-folding structures. His developed multilayer analytical model is being used to study EAP based cellular metamaterials and to develop dynamic models for origami structures. Ahmed is the recipient of the 2015 best paper award from the ASMS branch of the Aerospace Division of the ASME, the winner of several student poster competitions, and the recipient of several travel grants. His work on origami-inspired engineering was featured in NBC Learn in the episode titled, “Science of Innovation: Origami Structures”.

Hassene Ben Atitallah is a Senior Design Engineer within the Mechanical Research and Development organization at Seagate Technology. He is in charge of innovation opportunities to develop/integrate advanced materials into Head Gimbal Assembly (HGA) to meet next-generation hard drive requirements. He obtained his Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Penn State in 2015, a Master's in computational mechanics in 2009 from the Tunisia Polytechnic School and a Bachelor's in mechanics & structures in 2008 also from the Tunisia Polytechnic School. During his Ph.D. research, he worked on modeling characterizations of smart materials with a focus on piezoelectric materials, a key component in HGAs. He is the author of more than 10 technical papers in the field of piezoelectric materials.