

THEME PARK ENGINEERING AND DESIGN AT PURDUE BUSINESS CARDS ON BUSINESS CARDS

TPED'S ANNUAL TRIP TO IAAPA

Another year, another IAAPA Attractions Expo! The expo hosted by *The International Association of Theme Parks and Attractions* was held from November 13 to 17 in Orlando, Florida – the proclaimed “Theme Park Capital of the World.” Held every year, it is the biggest expo for the themed entertainment industry. For college students eager to become theme park engineers, the IAAPA Attractions Expo is the most anticipated event of the year.

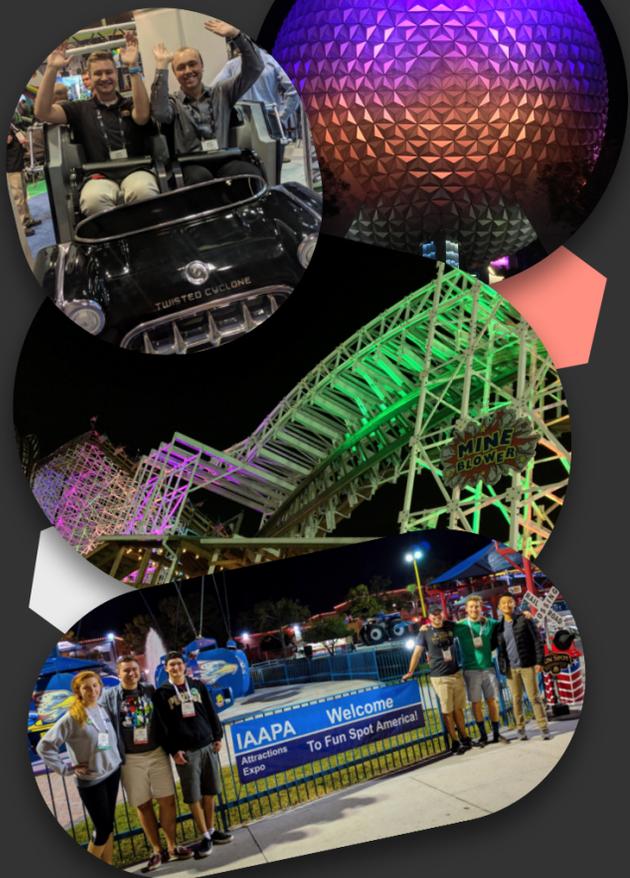
Aside from being a welcome break from exams, IAAPA is a fantastic opportunity to network with industry representatives and to get a sneak-peek at some of the innovations coming to the themed entertainment industry in the coming years. For TPED veterans, our November trip to Orlando was also chance to catch up with colleagues from past internships and from other TPED groups around the nation. For new TPED members like myself who had never been to the expo before, it served as a very real look into the industry and was a great place to practice networking skills.

Besides the countless pamphlets, buttons, stickers and other corporate swag, I took away some new skills, got a better understanding of the industry, and created bonds with my fellow TPED members. Before attending IAAPA, I'd never had to seriously network. At the expo, I had to think about how I presented myself, how to talk to people in a professional manner, and how to keep track of never ending business cards! Additionally, IAAPA helped me to comprehend that the themed entertainment engineering is serious work. I'll admit that in my mind I'd had a romanticized image of what working in the industry would be like. Now I understand that despite creating fun theme park experiences, theme park engineers still have to meet deadlines and use the skills that every engineer uses.

Once the expo had come to a close, we spent the weekend having fun around Orlando. I myself spent the weekend taking in as much Walt Disney World as possible. Other TPED members went to Universal Studios and Fun Spot. Looking back on the trip, it was one of the best experiences of my life.

Both days of the expo were some of the simultaneously most fun and exhausting days I have ever experienced. For anyone on the fence about going for the 2018 expo, do it! For anyone who seriously wants to work in the themed entertainment industry, it's a must!

WRITTEN BY:
JACK MILLER - PR CHAIR



'MOST FUN AND EXHAUSTING DAYS I HAVE EVER EXPERIENCED'

14 HOURS LATER...

HOW WE CONQUERED KINGS ISLAND

Waking up at 7AM and not going back to sleep until 2AM the next day would be difficult for anyone, unless of course you're a coaster enthusiast visiting one of the best amusement parks in the Midwest. Well, TPED is dedicated! We took advantage of our members' vigor and marathoned rides such as the Beast, Diamondback, Banshee, and Mystic Timbers for nearly 14 hours. And, as a small break, we even enjoyed a ride on the K.I. & Miami Valley Railroad. But surprisingly enough, the most memorable aspect of the trip wasn't the rides on world class attractions, it was the time spent with other members and the opportunity to form new friendships.

WRITTEN BY:
CHASE DAVIS - PR CHAIR



FAMILY MATTERS

FRESHMAN EXPERIENCE IN THEME PARK ENGINEERING AND DESIGN AT PURDUE

Walking into the call-out after being on campus for less than two weeks was quite intimidating. Now that I think about it, being the freshman, in any situation can be intimidating. However, I figured it was worth a shot. As soon as I stepped into the room, HAMP 1252, all of the anticipation and nervousness that had built up turned into excitement. I was greeted with an incredible sense of welcoming and belonging. It was at this moment I knew TPED would be something I would always be a part of.

As the year went on, the academic demand of the fall semester entered into full swing, and Purdue began to feel like home. I've begun to feel more and more connected to TPED and I've discovered that

the new friendships are the most valuable. With bowling after almost every meeting and the numerous social dinners, there was always a way to have fun with other members and strengthen these new relationships.

While I enjoyed all the park visits and opportunities to interact with people in the industry, it was the

little things I enjoyed the most: the tradition of riding Crow's Nest to wrap up Holiday World trips and even putting *Ready to Go* by Republica on full blast when pulling into the Kings Island parking lot. I've come to realize that this club is so much more than a group of people, it's a theme-park, roller coaster, design loving family, and I am happy to be a part of it.

WRITTEN BY:
CHASE DAVIS - PR CHAIR



Looking Back...

A SEMESTER IN REVIEW

We have had so many opportunities this past semester to become more active in the theme park industry, from simply visiting parks to networking with professionals. Our trip to IAAPA provided our members with an entirely new perspective and our park visits allowed our members to connect in ways that simple conversation could never match. Together we endured many early mornings at IAAPA, long car rides to places such as

Holiday World, and even 14 hours in the Cincinnati heat so we could each have our turn on the new Mystic Timbers at Kings Island. But we powered through, because this is what we love!

Whether it be at a trampoline park, a bowling alley, or a theme park, our members always found a way to interact and connect, which is the goal after all, right? And now, as the spring semester begins, we will continue to ride on.



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