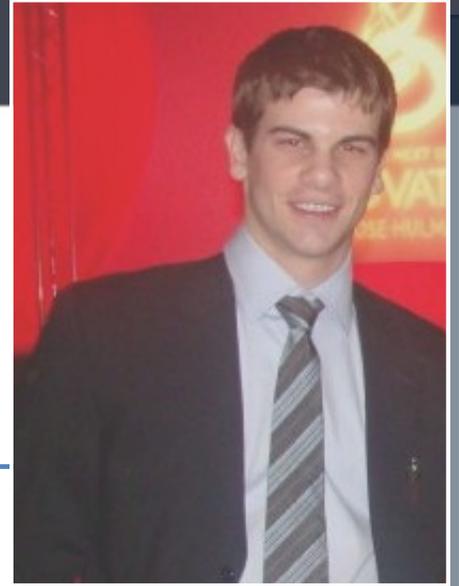


STEM SPOTLIGHT

Ryan Bormann

Regulatory Affairs Specialist II
Wright Medical Technology, Inc.

Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering
Masters of Science in Mechanical Engineering–
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Master of Business Administration– University of Memphis



Q: How did you select your college major?

A: I chose to go into biomedical engineering because I was always interested in automobiles and biology through high school. I decided that I'd like to combine the mechanics of automobiles with the anatomy of the human body and find ways to help people live better lives. Upon the completion of my Bachelor's degree, I decided that there was still more I wanted to learn in college and that I wouldn't be able to learn as much in such a short time if I were to start working. As a result I continued college to pursue my masters in mechanical engineering.



Q: What was the biggest influence in your selection of major/ career?

A: I wanted to go into a field that I knew nothing about and face a challenge. I chose engineering because it offered a chance for hands on learning and promised a competitive financial future with job placement after college.

Q: If you could go back to high school and select any elective course to take that would have better prepared you for college, what would it be?

A: Professionally, if I could go back to high school for another elective course I would take an anatomy course because I believe that would have become very beneficial in my current position. If I could take an elective course that is unrelated to work I would take a foods and nutrition course because it is absolutely critical to your health and wellbeing to have an appreciation of what you're eating.

Q: What is your favorite aspect of your job?

A: Although I don't always get to see it directly, the medical products that I help to make will directly benefit thousands of people for years to come by providing them a better life. These products can allow people to walk again, help burn victims heal faster, stop people from hurting, and can even prevent people from getting hurt. To me, it is a very rewarding responsibility.

Q: How do you/your company make a positive impact on society/our community?

A: My company and I regularly participate in community activities that range from fixing-up the local fire station, to participating in patient support programs, to volunteering at local communities. We believe that in order to grow, you need to appreciate and grow your surroundings as well.

Q: What's the most interesting thing you have done in your professional career?

A: During undergraduate and graduate school I developed a minimally invasive neurosurgical device for a start-up company that has since become their flagship product. If a patient is diagnosed with a certain type of brain tumor, the device I designed can go into the brain and remove the tumor without causing harm to any neighboring tissue.

Q: What makes you get up each morning excited about your profession?

A: I get up each morning because I am directly responsible for allowing my company to legally sell our products in both the United States and internationally. Without me, the company would not be able to sell our products. As a result of my efforts, someone can now walk again and for me that is something worth getting out of bed for.

Q: What advice would you like to share with students who are considering your profession?

A: Don't be afraid of failure. Jump into something that you know nothing about with excitement and enthusiasm. I openly welcome failure regularly because it makes me a better person and it helps me to appreciate the world in new ways. If you go into an engineering profession then I can guarantee that at some point in your life you will fail at something. What you do after you fail is what will make you better, not before.

