

Engineering In Real Life (IRL)



Meet Jorge Cisternas
Engineering Leadership Development Program (ELDP),
Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems

As a recurring feature on Engineering Connect, we're taking a closer look at the lives and stories of our very own Lockheed Martin engineers:

What's your earliest memory of wanting to be an engineer or being excited about engineering?

Jorge: My earliest memory of wanting to be an engineer was seeing my dad working as a computer engineer during my childhood. I still

remember when he got our first computer when I was seven years old - a big and bulky Compaq Presario.

Tell us about your Lockheed Martin career journey.

Jorge: I joined Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems (RMS) as an intern in the summer of 2016. At the end of that internship, I was given a full-time offer to come back in 2017. Since then, I have worked various programs in Orlando, Fla. (systems engineering), Pax River, Md. (flight test engineering) and now in Manassas, Va. (Business Development) thanks to being part of the Engineering Leadership Development Program (ELDP).

What do you do in your job?

Jorge: Currently, I work with the Business Development organization here in Manassas, Va. My job involves coordinating the future business of our corporation by tracking opportunities and seeing them come to fruition.



Post 10K finish at Kennedy Space Center, 2018

Why do you like your job?

Jorge: My job provides me an opportunity to have a hand in helping our corporation win programs which at the same time helps our workforce have meaningful work to do.



Participating in Lockheed Martin's recruiting efforts at College Bowl Competition

When did you first decide to take STEM courses and/or pursue a career in engineering?

Jorge: I decided to take courses in engineering when I was in high school. I always liked math, so I decided to enroll in Advanced Placement Calculus.

What attracted you to Lockheed Martin and what keeps you here?

Jorge: Lockheed Martin attracted me because of its culture and the reputation that we have as a corporation. The people and the work that we do to keep our troops stay safe.

What excites you most about the future of engineering?

Jorge: The future of engineering is bright, and what excites the most is its digital transformation. Lockheed Martin is pushing for digital transformation of many engineering tools and it will be exciting to see these new tools be implemented.



Traveling to my birthplace Patagonia in Chile

What piece of advice would you give to someone in the engineering community who is struggling with the transition of becoming an early-career engineer?

Jorge: Get involved! Whether through employee resource groups (ERGs) or a stretch assignment outside your day-to-day job, make sure to meet different people and try different fields of engineering early on in your career.

Aside from your current field of engineering, what other fields interest you the most? And why?

Jorge: Aerospace engineering has always interested me. It would be neat to see and learn how different airplanes were designed and what led the engineers to choose the final design.

If you weren't a successful Lockheed Martin engineer, what would you be doing?

Jorge: I would probably be working in the mechanical engineering field doing analysis for fluid mechanics or thermal systems.

What hobbies or passions define you outside of engineering?

Jorge: I love to mentor other students to pursue a career in STEM and when I'm not, I love to play soccer and prepare for my next half marathon.



Traveling and sightseeing in Philadelphia



What was the most recent thing you learned in your career?

Jorge: I learned that I need to communicate. Whether it's through email or a quick phone call, it's always best to communicate with your lead about what you are working on and what you will be doing throughout the work week.

What one piece of advice would you give to your past self?

Jorge: Work hard! I think we can always look back at our past self and tell ourselves to work harder in that college class, high school math class or in that assignment that you thought would never get graded.