

Faculty and Staff Testimonials

Spring 2017



College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative



If you hesitate to adopt active learning in your teaching, come and visit our flipped classrooms. You will see small groups of engaged students guided by instructors. All collaborate intensively together. Nobody dozes off or checks emails and social media. Overall students learn much better than in than traditional lectures.

Jean-Pierre Bardet

Dean, College of Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative



The Active Learning Initiative Committee is redefining Engineering Education at the University Miami. The Spring semester has been a rewarding one with overwhelmingly positive feedback from both students and faculty involved in the initiative!

Derin Ural, PhD

Visiting Professor, Coordinator of Initiative

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative



Helena Solo-Gabriele, Ph.D., P.E.

Dept. of Civil, Arch. & Envir. Engineering

The flipped class was team taught with three faculty. The technology available in the class allowed us to split the class into discipline groups and thus tailor teaching specific to our discipline area. As the students progressed with their designs, we were able to then further tailor our teaching/mentoring to sub-disciplines (e.g. bioremediation versus storm water drainage) and eventually we were also able to provide feedback on an individual student project basis.

Another advantage was that the flipped classroom format allowed for integration of student work across disciplines. For example, we were able to facilitate integration of water treatment process design with plumbing which are traditionally designed by separate engineers. Because of the flipped classroom configuration we were able to get the two students working in these areas to work together in class and to provide collective feedback to both of them working on an integrated design.

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative



The Active Learning Initiative made a tremendous impact in our Senior Design course. It increased the connectivity and communication between faculty & students and between students within the multi-disciplinary teams. It engaged and motivated students more than previously used teaching techniques. It is an extremely effective teaching methodology.

Matthew Trussoni, PhD, AIA, PE

Dept. of Civil, Arch. & Envir. Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative



How exciting to work with the College of Engineering faculty as they innovated by embracing “active learning” and “flipped classrooms.” A great group of people, willing to try something new in order to improve learning. Great job!

William Vilberg

Information Technology, Learning Platforms

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative



Using the Active Learning Classroom allowed me to be more creative when designing activities to do during class.

Lectures were replaced with conversations and it was very rewarding to teach to a noisy classroom!

Ines M. Basalo, PhD

Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative



Learning, Innovation and Faculty Development (LIFE) is delighted to support College of Engineering faculty in the implementation of the 'Active Learning Initiative.' Through the guidance of Dr. Derin Ural, we prepared and delivered two 'Flipped Learning' workshops aimed at faculty who would like to try "flipping" part of a course or who would like to expand upon the work they've already started. The workshop offered faculty a practical opportunity to identify tools, resources and teaching strategies to begin adopting a flipped learning approach. LIFE is excited to continue this partnership with the College of Engineering, and promote active learning activities within the classroom.

Gemma Henderson & Nathalie Molina

Senior Instructional Designers, Academic Technologies

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative



Everyone makes changes in their classes. But this group of faculty were doing it together. That added to the excitement and lowered the risk, since everyone was working together to apply the new techniques. They became a community of practice and can lead the way for the entire College.

William Vilberg

Information Technology, Learning Platforms

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative



Flipped classroom format made a significant impact in engagement of students with multi-disciplinary backgrounds and interest areas. It enabled faculty to carryout lectures and in class exercises in Structural, Civil, Environmental and M/E/P & Fire Protection engineering disciplines simultaneously.

For the first time in several years, CAE Graduating class from Senior Design course had no complaints

Esber Andiroglu, PhD, PE, LEED AP

Dept. of Civil, Architectural & Environmental Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative



From the very first workshop, it was clear that the participants were anxious to explore ways to better engage the students and increase student learning.

William Vilberg

Information Technology, Learning Platforms

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative



When we started with the idea of an interactive classroom that would help improve student-student interaction and instructor-students, we had time as a challenge as well as finding an economic solution and allowing us to connect using different systems, after so much searching we decided to use something simple and economic. Almost at the end of the semester we can say that we have achieved our objective and we promise to create more classrooms like this one before the end of 2017.

Francisco Martinez Duarte

Building Facility Coordinator, IT Leader

Student Testimonials

Spring 2017

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

Learning statistics can be very dry if the class consists solely of lecturing. As such, the “flipped classroom” nature of the course helped facilitate discussion and provided for a more enjoyable learning environment.



Ross Milani

Industrial Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

Active learning is a welcome change of pace in modern education. Lecture after lecture can become very repetitive. It is important to diversify how we learn and I truly appreciated the hands-on experience in the flipped classroom. The ability to work within a group and discuss the programming activities during class with the professor helped immensely with my understanding of the material.



Benjamin O'Brien

Biomedical Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

The new classroom was extremely helpful to me since the personal screen was closer and thus unaffected by my nearsightedness. In seeing the fine details of the lectures, I was able to pay better attention and be more involved with the class. The in-class activities we did in our groups also sponsored greater collaboration and development of interpersonal skills.



Diego Cusco

Industrial Engineering, Class of 2017

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

Through the active learning classroom, I developed my skills to become a useful team member and problem solver on the spot. This environment allowed our professor to give us individualized feedback, which was especially helpful when learning how to use MATLAB for instrumentation applications.



Isa Mulvihill

Biomedical Engineering, Class of 2018

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

I Personally believe that the experience obtained on the flip classroom was extremely helpful, since we were able to do different activities at the same time with the technology provided on the room! Real Good Experience! As for senior design, it is the best way to give the class (Because it's a class that requires Interaction.)



Carlo Ciarcia

Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering
(SENIOR DESIGN II) Class of 2017

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

Statistical Quality Control and Quality Management was the first class I have taken in MEA 220, the interactive nature of the classroom was extremely helpful. The assignments given in class allowed us to practice our presentation skills. Being able to sit in our groups and work on activities together helped us bond as well as accomplish activities quickly and effectively.



Jasmine Pattany

Industrial Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

“ My experience was generally positive. Working with classmates to teach one-another the applicative part of the material greatly enhanced my exam performance with less preparation effort on my end. Additionally, it reinforced my knowledge about a topic through explaining it to a group-member. ”



Salman Abuljadayel

Department of Industrial,

IEN512 – Statistical Quality Management

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

The Flipped Classroom offered interactive learning between the professors and students. Not only were we able to display our projects on screen, but the group could visualize what was being talked about.

It was also a great tool when it came to get feedback from professors; as well as an aid when it came to presenting to the class.



Michelle, Alex, Ebone, Jennill, Jessica, Rawan, & Maolin
Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering
Class of 2017

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

Transforming class time into that in which can be shared with your classmates through activities was very beneficial. It allowed for us to immediately work on charts/data/analysis that was explained to us a couple minutes prior. This in turn made homework and exams easier as we were able to connect it back to what was done in class.



Daniela Martinez

Industrial Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

It was great! It helped students to engage more in the class, and pay attention.



Deena Ali

Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering

Class of 2017

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

Flipped/active learning activities was a great experience and got me more engaged during class. I was able to do a lot of learning on my own and with my peers. It helped me to achieve better learning outcomes when learning actively compared to passively listening to lectures.



Ayoub Al Yusuf

Industrial Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

The active learning style increased my confidence in participating in class and improved my communication Skills while engaging in team assignments



Bruna Cossengue

Industrial Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

“We liked being able to put our drawings up on the screen and show the rest of the group”

“It’s a great example of being able to visualize important details that are discussed in class”

“It gives us the opportunity to learn more”



Maurice Gibb Memorial Park, Group 7

Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering

Senior Design Class 2017

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

I enjoyed the different teaching method approached in the MAE 220 classroom. Although the students had issues with casting their laptops and their was often technical issues, I enjoyed the fact that their was often class activities. This also allowed us to include the entire class to cooperate without having to stand in the front of the room which cannot be done in the other class room's set-ups.



Ibrahim Akbar

IEN Senior

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

I loved having the opportunity to work on a team and be able to rely on each other's strengths to create well-balanced projects. I also enjoyed all of the design components of the course, which allowed for an application of the knowledge we gained in class.



Ellery Jones

Biomedical Engineering, Class of 2018

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

Working in groups made me engage in the classroom activities more and helped me to understand the material faster. It helped me be more cooperative with my fellow engineers, which is important to my future.



Mohammad Alkharji
Industrial Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

The format of the class essentially made collaboration mandatory. Our group became very efficient at working together, and by the end of the course organizing our group term project was almost effortless.

Interacting directly with course material everyday also removed some of the burden of last minute exam review.



Zachary Bohl

Industrial Engineering, Class of 2017

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

I thought the interactive learning was a great way for senior design aspects to be explained in a more visual manner in which the entire class or group can participate. I think that this set up allowed for a more engaging class!



Jessica Stefanowicz

Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

Creating a more interactive environment within the Classroom has aided in material retention and allowed a more engaging learning experience



Salman Al Mutawa

Industrial Engineering, Class of 2017

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

Classes were much more engaging, and the layout of the room facilitated the interaction between other students and the exchange of knowledge. The ability to stream our computer screens to the TV allowed everyone to follow what was asked to do and to help each other when there was a question, it was a better and more fun learning experience.



Vitor Hugo Câmara da Silva

Industrial Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

The focus on problem-solving rather than lecturing in class kept me engaged and improved my understanding of the material.



Irene Manning

Department of Chemistry, and MAE 301

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

The senior design was an amazing journey that I was able to get familiar with a professional engineering environment. The expo also assisted in discovery and demonstrated our efforts through the whole year. We worked really hard to make a perfect senior design.



Jian Cheng

Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering

Class 2017

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

With Regards to MEA220 classroom setting,

The classroom's open environment was a breath of fresh air compared to a typical classroom setting. The use of interactive televisions made presentations more visually appealing as well as exciting. The table and chair setup creating an environment conducive to student collaboration, and incentivized open debate.

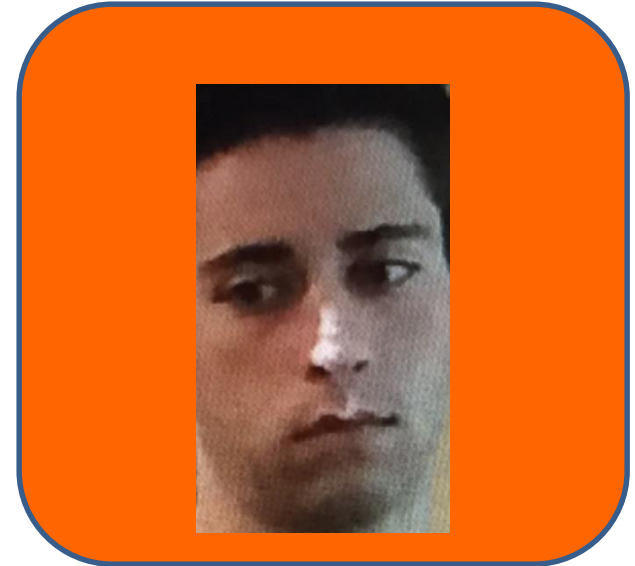
Talal Qadoumi

Industrial Engineering



College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

Great and active learning environment with helpful learning tools and supportive teaching. Very enriching experience and provided great insight into work place activities.



Andrew Rivas

Industrial Engineering, IEN 570

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

The “active learning activities” is a stimulating method of learning. It provides students more opportunities to learn by doing rather than observing. It also provokes more discussion about the class topics as more participation is encouraged than in standard classroom lectures.



Avi Alishaev

Biomedical Engineering, Class of 2017

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

In this course, I found that the interactive learning activities were more useful than the traditional lectures and homework assignments. By working in group functions, I was able to exchange more ideas and understand copious methods or approaches through discussion and analyses for Engineering Management.



Brandon Armstrong
Industrial Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

The active learning classroom provided my classmates and I with the opportunity to experience hands-on learning. I felt engaged during class, and was able to work on solving real, applied problems with a group of my peers. This classroom set up provided us with the opportunity to bounce ideas off of each other, which ultimately helped us learn from each other and grow as engineers.



Colleen Plesac

Biomedical Engineering

Class of 2017

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

I came into the class not knowing what to expect from this new style of learning. I was so used to the traditional lectures and homework assignments that having the opposite in this class was somewhat unfamiliar. However, as the class progressed, I found myself liking the format of the class more and more. For the fact that we are learning from a student's perspective, I found the information easier to learn and understand. For that, I have nothing but high praise for the format of the class.



Justin LaBranche

Industrial Engineering, Class of 2017

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

The methods in which IEN 570 was taught differed from the previous engineering classes I have taken. By having the class taught through discussion, rather than by lecture, it makes the students more invested in learning the material. This is in part because the students are now responsible for researching the material as well as inputting their own personal perspectives on the subject matter.



Joshua Hong

Industrial Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

I found the active learning initiative an enriching experience, as it not only made us think, but also allowed us to discuss with our classmates and learn from them.

In the way it was done in our class, it also enhanced our teamwork skills, which is crucial in the workplace.



Isabela De Souza Lopes

Industrial Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

The overall experience was interesting. I liked how having this kind of class format allowed for more discussion on the topics applied to the real world. However, it might be better off with a class that has a schedule that is more than once a week.



Jonathan Baldessari

Industrial Engineering Department

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

The pre-assigned lectures and videos coupled with solving problems in class really reinforce the material being taught. Smaller projects throughout the semester add relevancy and keep you interested in the class. Overall, the flipped classroom is a very effective way of learning that can be quite enjoyable as well.



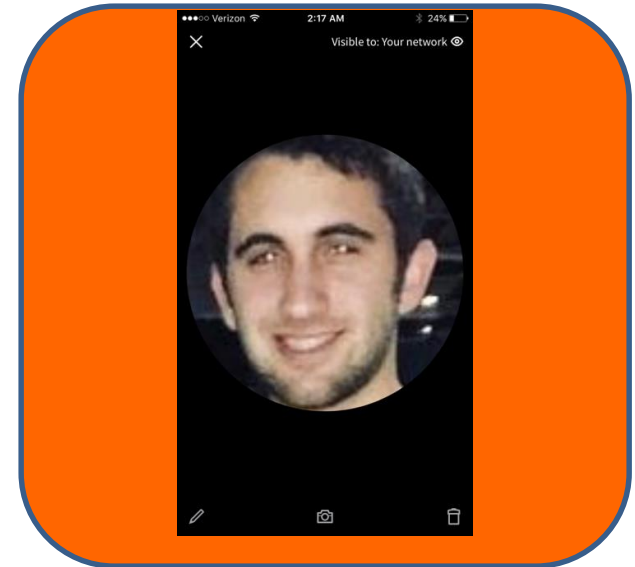
James Frick

Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering,

MAE 301 Engineering Materials Science

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

Throughout the semester in engineering management, IEN 570, I have learned and developed a wide variety of different managerial skills and strategies in an interactive class environment which promoted teamwork that will later be essential in any career. The benefits of having this class operate unlike the traditional lecture class are numerous, especially in the sense that forcing collaboration and discussion in the classroom helps ideas flow better and ultimately better serves the purposes of a class focused on management.



Kent Leonard

Industrial Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

I think this class gave me a good understanding of true schedule of the engineering work. It increased my ability to use the software to describe my ideas in the project. It gave me a good experience for my future studying and working.



Yutao Chen

CAE 403/404

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

I enjoyed the active learning activities in this class. It allows you to learn from other student perspective and apply the knowledge you are learning. This new initiative allows students to learn and understand the topics in a fun and easy way.



Isabel Perna

Industrial Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

I really enjoyed all the group activities we had in IEN 570 class. It made the 3 hour class a lot easier to endure, while it helped me build my teamworking skills. Overall the class benefitted me and increased my knowledge and skills in management.



Paul Jojo Ghartey
Industrial Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

The TV's and new classroom set up allowed our team to work better together. This way we were all able to see what our teammates were working on. It was also helpful during lecture when we split up into three groups. The groups were able to get individual lessons based on our specific disciplines



Shore Construction

Abby Tinari, Maddie Levy, Luis Martinez, Xin Huang, Khaled Aldelaigan, Clay
Wyda, Latifah Salem

Civil Architectural & Environmental Engineering, Senior Design

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

COLLEGE of ENGINEERING



Transforming Lives Through Education, Research, Innovation and Service

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

I am a huge fan of the “flipped” classroom. However, I think it works better for certain subjects. My favorite type of flipped classrooms are math classes because it helps when the majority of the class is spent on solving problems.

At first, I did not think that this methodology would work for this class, but reflecting on the semester I think the structure of this class enabled more learning and exploration of the topic for students. The class discussions were very important and helped me acquire knowledge and tools I could use in the real world.

Some classes in college teach you aspects that can only be used in the classroom or in academia, but this class really prepped me for the workforce. Thank you for taking a chance and teaching this class with a “flipped/active learning” methodology!



Mallory Madfes

Industrial Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

The Industrial Engineering Program at the University of Miami was everything I could have wanted out of a college experience. The faculty is incredibly talented and I had the opportunity to learn not only from professors, but also from fellow students. The program stresses group work and I believe this will benefit me greatly as I get ready to start my career!



Riley Fuhrman

Industrial Engineering, Class of 2017

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

Dr. Miville was well suited to teach this class in a flipped classroom format. Although it was definitely a big change from what I was used to, Dr. Miville did a great job of implementing the style. The biggest challenge to this class style is getting all students in the group to participate on the entirety of the assignment, as most of the times the groups do a “divide and conquer” style to work.



Sam Levinger

Industrial Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

I felt that the open discussion and student presentation format brought out the best learning environment. All of the management skills and tactics we learned can be easily applied to our future occupation. Truly enjoyed the course and will definitely rely on the material as an aid to perform well in a work environment.



Daniel Ali

Industrial Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

For a class like senior design, the Active Learning Initiative was much more useful when working in our different teams and disciplines. It allowed us to cast our work and examples on the monitors instead of working on our computers individually.



Celine Chang

Civil, Architectural & Environmental Engineering, 2017

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

Working in groups has been an excellent experience this semester. I really enjoy the interactive spirit.



Sean Kelly

Industrial Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

I felt that using the flipped classroom initiatives in IEN 570 helped to make us, as students, more involved in course material. Using these methods made it less easy to lose focus in class, and helped us keep a grip on topics as we reviewed them throughout the semester. I think it is a helpful method that is conducive to learning.



Anna Greenhall

Industrial Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

I really enjoyed the classroom learning style used during this course. I felt as though the things we did in class were useful and thought-provoking. The material mostly had topics that require discussion and were really relevant to our careers, so it was good that most of the class time was spent in class or group discussion.



Alyssa Guller

Industrial Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

I enjoyed the mixture of lectures and peer presentations as it made the class more interactive and hands on.

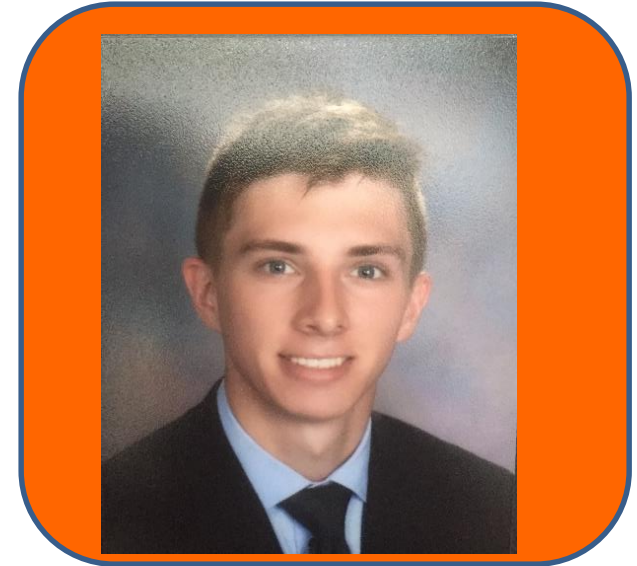


Aida Jonuzi

Industrial Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

The class created a collaborative learning environment. Using an alternate style of learning where students facilitated the lectures.



Andrew Matzelle

Industrial Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

Having the Active Classroom experience was nice because discussions were more engaging and interactive.
Writing the presentations was more work, but it was great for absorbing the material.



Felipe Nunez

Industrial Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

I felt that the Active Learning Initiative helped in learning to work effectively as a group. It provided a conducive atmosphere and layout for higher creative thinking.



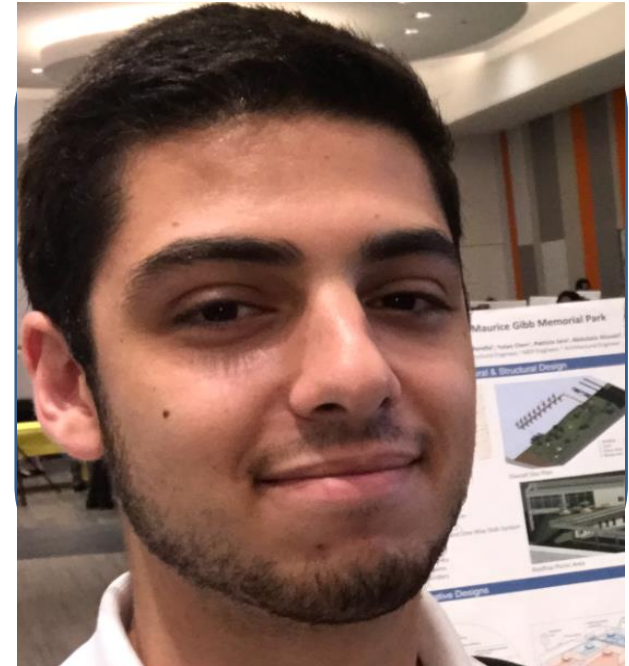
Max Palenzuela

Industrial Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

The flipped classroom created a dynamic that I have never experienced in a lecture. It allowed for students to work together with each other, and Dr. Basalo, to learn how to apply the theories previously learned. Students want to be more hands-on and engaged in their learning, not sitting through lectures of PowerPoint slides they could read by themselves. Dr. Basalo's class perfectly balanced the understanding of theory, and the hands-on applications of that knowledge.

Niko Minasola



Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

MAE301

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

The Active Learning method was very useful for class. I feel students get lost when concepts are not used as they are being learnt. This system, however, ensures that we listen and apply. Personally, it helped me to focus better in class and understand better what is taught.



Santiago Galindez Barreiro

Industrial Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

I really liked working with my group, it helped me learn a lot of things like planning and managing a project. Listening to other groups presentations helped me know other peoples opinions and ways of thinking and handling situations.



Ahmad Ali

Industrial Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

The Active learning methods and techniques are new to me. They were interesting and effective in my opinion. I enjoyed it.



Abdulaziz Abualdouh

Industrial Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

I thought the flipped/active learning activities were a good way for students to be involved in various chapters and participate in the class. The fact that other students present the subject opens up a bridge for discussion as they seem more approachable. However, it did lead to a lot of students not being involved, the same ones would constantly participate. I guess that part doesn't differ from regular classroom.



Dylan Azuelos

Industrial Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

I really enjoyed the active learning activities a lot over the traditional lectures. It allowed us to be able to participate in a discussion and gain a better understanding for the material instead of just sitting and listening for 3 hours straight. It makes the class much more engaging and interesting.



Jessica Chabot

Industrial Engineering, Class of 2017

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

Personally for me, the Active learning method was much more effective and engaging than the traditional lecture method because you feel more involved in the class. Having discussion questions every class made the covered chapter more appealing and entertaining since my classmates do short presentations on the topic.



Carlos Andrés Chonillo
Industrial Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

This semester in IEN 570 I honestly looked forward to go to an almost 3 hour class solely for the fact that it was not boring and the time seemed to fly by. The activities Dr. Miville had us participate in forced us to interact with one another and actually have more of an interest for the topics given that they were real life scenarios. I personally believe that interactive/hands-on based activities and a “flipped” classroom is the only way for students of our generation to learn.



Isabelle Delcea

Industrial Engineering, Class of 2018

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

Because all work done in class was formatted as a group discussion, each student had to analyze the material we were working on. This may have encouraged students to spend more time thinking critically about the material. The student led discussions, with curation from the professor, acted as a way to start conversation and debate within the class which frequently added nuances which may have otherwise gone overlooked.



Zachary Bohl

Industrial Engineering, Class of 2017

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

Active learning made my experience much more dynamic and pleasurable. It would be interesting to see it in software/programming classes



Leonardo de Lucca
Industrial Engineering

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

The flipped classroom created a dynamic that I have never experienced in a lecture. It allowed for students to work together with each other, and Dr. Basalo, to learn how to apply the theories previously learned. Students want to be more hands-on and engaged in their learning, not sitting through lectures of PowerPoint slides they could read by themselves. Dr. Basalo's class perfectly balanced the understanding of theory, and the hands-on applications of that knowledge.

Niko Minasola



Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

MAE301

College of Engineering Active Learning Initiative

The flipped classroom was an innovative way to be able to split up the class into our different disciplines and still collaboratively work off of our individual screens.

Jasmine Perez

Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering

Class of 2017