



Contact JC Park, Techtris Project Manager
Email Techtris.tamu@gamil.com
Website <https://capstone.tamu.edu/capstone-term-spring-2018-fall-2018/techtris/>

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ESET STUDENTS HOST INDUSTRY FOR SEMINAR

Engineering Technology Capstone Students Focus on Ethics, Leadership, & Entrepreneurship

College Station, TX, April 20, 2018— In a time of critical demand from industry, students from Texas A&M University's Department of Engineering Technology & Industrial Distribution hosted a seminar focusing on ethics, leadership, and entrepreneurship—better preparing the capstone cohort for the post-graduation experience.

The undergraduate experience in the Electronic Systems Engineering technology (ESET) Program is based on hands-on experiential learning that includes a significant amount of laboratory assignments and projects. Senior ESET students are required to complete a two semester capstone project to complete their degree. Forming a four to six member team, students conduct product design and development activities as a startup company which includes the application and practice of project management concepts. Teams serve real industry customers and sponsors with oversight from the course director and a faculty technical advisor.

One of these teams, Techtris, is currently working on project BIL for their customer Texas Space, Technology, Applications & Research company (T STAR) and project sponsor, the Mobile Integrated Solutions Laboratory (MISL). As they continue working on their project, which includes extended partnerships with NASA and Octavo Systems, Techtris has sought to solve a specific problem:

"... create a small form factor MISL intelligence layer that utilizes the Linux operating system to be used on either the International Space Station or a T Sat. The MISL layer will be capable of command and control of multiple sensors and measurement devices."

While the ESET capstone experience is highly valued by engineering employers, there is a growing demand for students with exposure and experience in Ethics, Leadership, and Entrepreneurship (ELE) practices—skills that prove difficult to learn in the traditional classroom setting. Accordingly, students from the Techtris team looked for other ways to incorporate these competencies into their capstone sequence.



“I learned more about how I should go about picking a company that will fit my values, especially in regards to these type of issues.”

—Brielle De Anda, SEAL Test Engineer

In order to better practice the ELE skills, Techtris held a seminar hosting guest speaker, Gene Frantz, Professor in Practice at Rice University and Chief Technology Officer of Octavo Systems. The open seminar served as a guided discussion in the development of Mr. Frantz’s ELE skills based on experience as a former Principal Technology Fellow at Texas Instruments (TI) and now as the CTO at Octavo.

As the discussion was conducted, students learned about Frantz’s ethical and leadership challenges at TI as he became the industry spokesperson for DSP technology. Students focused on entrepreneurship as Frantz reviewed his involvement in the development of Octavo Systems, founded in 2013.



“[The seminar] is very useful because you want to get in contact with those people who have been successful in industry and hear about the challenges they have faced... and as a student at Texas A&M you strive to learn as much as you can to do better, if not just as well.”

—Garrett Dupree, Techtris Software Engineer

Techtris is a new tech startup based in College Station, Texas. Founded out of the ETID Department at Texas A&M University, we are focused on the design, development, documentation and delivery of embedded intelligence based product and systems. Our team is dedicated to taking new technological ideas and creating fully functional prototypes just by "Putting the Pieces Together."

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If you would like more information about Techtris, please contact JC Park, Techtris Project Manager at Techtris.tamu@gamil.com.

If you would like more information or have inquiries about the ETID Department, please contact Taylor Phillips-Rodriguez at 979.845.3486 or email at tphillipsrodriguez@tamu.edu.