Five Pre-Pratt Career Tips

1. **Learn about yourself.** In the last few weeks of your undergraduate program utilize the career services office on your campus and its assessment options. Career services offices often offer assessments to help you better understand your personality preferences (e.g. MBTI), interests (e.g. Strong Interest Inventory), values (e.g. values sort activity), and strengths (e.g. StrengthsFinder). On your own, you can reflect on favorite past internship or class project experiences. Why did you like the experience? What role did you play in the project/experience? What skills did you excel in? What positive feedback did you receive? The better you understand yourself, the better you'll understand the industries, companies, and work environments that are best for you. Becoming more self-aware will also help you in preparing for job/internship interviews and personal branding.

2. **Create a resume.** Beginning the MEng or MEM program with a resume already assembled will save you time and allow you to start applying for your graduate internships early. Look for an additional email in the summer to provide you with more information about developing this important document.

3. **Create a list of target companies.** What companies excite you? Creating a list of target companies will help you with crafting a manageable networking strategy to find jobs and internships. LinkedIn (www.LinkedIn.com) is a great resource for researching companies via the “Company Search” tool. LinkedIn allows you to search by geography and industry (e.g. medial devices, internet, aviation & aerospace).

4. **Learn about industries and possible careers.** Are you considering a career in medical devices? Programming? Mechanical design? Not quite sure what you want to do? Two great tips for learning about careers is reading job/internship ads and talking to professionals in those fields via an informational meeting/interview.
   - Engineering and Tech Career Resources: [http://tinyurl.com/dx6y9ga](http://tinyurl.com/dx6y9ga)
   - O*NET (career profiles with info on salary, skills, etc.): [http://www.onetonline.org/](http://www.onetonline.org/)
   - Informational Meeting/Interview Overview & Tips: [http://tinyurl.com/cxqt7kp](http://tinyurl.com/cxqt7kp)

5. **Create your “board of advisors.”** Starting a graduate program can be stressful, so you want to make sure you create a support group of past faculty, staff, internship managers, mentors, etc. to assist you with the transition from undergraduate student to graduate student, and then to new professional. This support group will serve as your “board of advisors” and assist you in making decisions, strategizing, networking, etc. as your grow as a professional. Be on the lookout for others to add to your board of advisors as you begin and complete the MEM or MEng program. To learn more about creating your board of advisors click here: [http://tinyurl.com/bnz3e8a](http://tinyurl.com/bnz3e8a)