

# Intern(al) Insights Week Two: Meet Grace, Nick, and Lizzie

Internal Insights is a series of articles focused on covering the backgrounds, interests, and experiences of IEEE's summer 2024 interns. Through this program, employees will be able to get to know our organization's newest contributors.

This week, I met with **Grace Alto, Nick Palladino, and Lizzie Fuscaldo**. During our conversations, we covered a number of topics, including expanding one's horizons, productive self-management, and working to help others. By reading the following spotlights, you can get to know three of our new employees.

## Grace Alto: Social Media Marketing - Standards

Grace is a rising junior at Lehigh University studying journalism, theater, and marketing. Her academic variety informs her interest in building knowledge and experience, which as she explained, plays into her position.



**Grace:** "I enjoy gaining experience with things I haven't done before. I have social media experience from work at school, but I'd never done anything related to creating tracking links for social media posts, scheduling posts, or looking deeper into engagement metrics to see what works... It's been really interesting to see for IEEE, specifically Standards, what works, and learning how to use these different programs."

In addition to new learning opportunities, Grace appreciates the unique perspective working in IEEE Standards has provided her. As she expressed, her position allows her an internal view of her department's logistics and publication process.

**Grace:** "I see everything that Standards is putting out before it's publicized on social media. It's fascinating... I love learning about the new standards that are being put out... I'm not sure other interns at IEEE get that same view."

As our conversation continued, Grace not only gave me a sense of her recent tasks, but also a description of her final presentation plan. When I asked her about her vision, she made it clear that she wanted to include as much content as possible.

**Grace:** "I think my project presentation will focus on a LinkedIn ad campaign I've been working on. That's going to be the main thing, but I also want to address my work on general social media posting. While I'm working on this project, there's a ton of things that I want to make sure aren't lost in its final content."

Grace is a hard worker who brings her best to everything she sets her sights on. No matter the challenge, her approach is well thought out. Speaking to what would make this summer productive in her eyes, she explained how she'd like her time here to have both an individual and a company-wide impact.

**Grace:** "For me, [a successful summer] would be establishing relationships with people for opportunities in the future, as well as just meaningful connections. I hope to see our metrics and analytics on our social media going up too... Also, I'd really love to see the ad campaign succeed and gain new customers."

Grace's interest in helping our organization combined with her passion for meeting people and building relationships indicates the massive impact she can have at IEEE over the course of her internship. In addition to her professional interests, Grace likes Formula 1 racing, golf, baking, and writing. If you find yourself in Standards, be sure to say hi to its newest employee!

## **Nick Palladino: Educational Technology**

Nick is a recent graduate of the Stevens Institute of Technology. At Stevens, he studied software engineering and computer science, and he is now entering graduate school. In addition to his academic focuses, Nick enjoys playing video games, coding, and cooking. When asked how he ended up at IEEE, he explained how background research informed his decision to apply.

**Nick:** "Through some research, I found out it was going to be mainly project based, and a big thing about software engineering is it's very project-based... It's nice to



get experience with project management. I also heard that the intern program here was really good and I wanted to get a lot out of my internship... I wanted something that was a little more fulfilling than a line of text on my resume."

Although Nick's positive impression of IEEE inspired him to apply, I was interested to see whether

his perspective of his job had changed since its start date. Speaking on his experience so far, Nick highlighted a couple of things that he's enjoyed about his position.

**Nick:** "I've liked the independence I've gotten. I like being given tasks, a window to work on them, and being able to figure out what's important to do and what I should prioritize. Doing work at my own pace helps my efficiency. Being managed by nice people is also really good. It's nice we get that here."

Evidently, the attributes Nick anticipated from his internship have proven to be true for him so far. His self-driven work habits combined with his personability have enabled him to succeed in his position's intersection of independent tasks and communicative, friendly coworkers. Speaking to some of the work he's typically assigned, Nick detailed some of the projects he's worked on so far.

**Nick:** "I work in Educational Activities, and... I work with the IEEE Learning Network. I work on managing and updating its courses, and I'm learning how to add new materials. We've been migrating content from the internet to be hosted here... There's a lot of hosted and discover-only content, so I helped find and update all of the broken links. I've also been working on... a project to produce a free website about the semiconductor chip industry with a rundown of the relevant jobs, fields, and competencies you need to break in the industry."

Through the variety and dedication of his work, it is obvious that Nick's ambition will continue to propel him forward in the professional world. From our conversation alone, I could tell how genuinely and considerately he approaches every situation.



As his time at IEEE continues, there is no doubt he'll continue to positively impact those around him.

## Lizzie Fuscaldo: Educational Activities

Lizzie recently graduated from Gettysburg University, where she studied English. An avid reader and writer; she explained how creativity informs her work at IEEE.



**Lizzie:** "In college, I really enjoyed writing poetry. My senior project was memoir writing, which I loved. I feel like I incorporate that into the work I do here."

Elaborating on the influence her studies and passions have on her professional aspirations, Lizzie discussed the different fields she may pursue a career in. While her short and long-term interests vary, she expressed appreciation for the unique opportunities IEEE provides her.

**Lizzie:** "I really enjoy working here now, and love what I'm doing. Long-term, I'm really interested in archiving and preservation. I hope to go to grad school in regards to that field, but I also love writing, and I'd be happy to continue article writing... In IEEE, it's so STEM education based, which is something I'm not very experienced in, but I still get to spread the word of how these students are changing the world."

Lizzie works in Educational Activities (EA), specializing in program coverage of EPICS. In order to give me a better sense of the role EA and EPICS has in the organization, she elaborated on her position and department.

**Lizzie:** "I'm in Educational Activities. We deal with pre-university education, collegiate education, and general educational material. My role is focused on

universities... The program I'm working with this summer is EPICS. In EPICS, students submit grants to do engineering projects that better communities, be it environmentally or with accessibility. A lot of the work I do is writing articles and making posts regarding those projects."

As my conversation with Lizzie progressed, it became apparent how enthusiastic she is about covering the achievements of astounding students. In an EA team that seeks to support her and make her voice heard, Lizzie's exceptional writing skills enable her to thrive in her assignments. Referencing her appreciation for her department, Lizzie explained the balance of kindness and trust that makes her team special.

**Lizzie:** "I really enjoy my team and everybody in it... There's always a smiling face, and I feel really comfortable here. Everyone goes out of their way to say hi, and just make sure that you have support. At the same time, they're very trusting, so I have my assignments and can do them, and I have the freedom to improve myself and have an individual experience while also feeling like I have support from the people here."

My conversation with Lizzie was fun, interesting, and informative. While her dialogue is indication enough of her exemplary communication skills, her engaging writing further solidifies this. Be sure to check out some of her articles [here](#).

*This article was written by Benjamin Mickulas, marketing and communications intern, Marketing, Sales, & Design.*

