



AIST YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Sam Stone, Process Engineer



What first interested you about learning more about the steel industry?

I was fortunate enough to have connected with a rolling mill mechanical engineer early on in college and he showed me the kinds of projects he worked on. The breadth of different projects just seemed right up my alley. I was a mechanical engineering intern throughout college and every single day at work held something new and exciting.

Describe the coursework and degrees that you have obtained. Did you participate in any of AIST's programs or attend AIST events as a student?

I graduated with a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering from Purdue University in 2017. While I did not attend AIST events as a student, I did join and get involved with the Long Products Technology Committee (LPTC) shortly after graduating. As part of the Young Professionals sub-committee, I was able to connect with undergraduate students at Purdue and educate them on career opportunities in the steel industry.

What things did you do as a student that enhanced your passion or understanding of the steel industry?

Since I was an intern in the summers during college, I was able to center my education on various applications for the rolling mill. I was always trying to apply different school projects to things I had seen or done at work over the summer. As part of the internship program, I was able to visit other rolling mills and scrap yards to get a bigger picture of what the modern steel industry truly is. The sheer size and scope of it all was unlike anything I had ever seen.

Did any AIST programs assist with your career advancement?

The knowledge and networking opportunities from AIST programs have been incredibly valuable to my career. The insight gained from attending AISTech and Long Products Technology Training courses has helped me learn the ins and outs of the steel industry. The discussions at committee meetings have proved invaluable as well.

What advice do you have for students who are curious about pursuing something related to the steel industry?

Get started early! Get involved with AIST, attend career fairs and ask questions. Before actually being a part of it, I had no clue what all the steel industry had to offer. There is something for everyone.

What are your plans for continued involvement in AIST?

Though my tenure as the Young Professional chair for the LPTC recently came to an end, I plan to stay involved with the committee and continue to grow in the steel industry. I will continue to be involved with the LPTC as papers chair as well as attend AISTech and the many other Technology Trainings AIST has to offer.

What do you find unique and interesting about the steel industry? What do you enjoy the most about it?

For me, the most interesting part of the steel industry is how it is evolving every single day. Improved equipment and technologies are coming out all the time. Every day has something new to see or learn and I find that incredibly exciting! I just love the ever-evolving nature of the industry. ♦



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