



national science week

Nathan Campbell, School of Maths and Physics, UTAS *Maths in Engineering*

How did you get interested in your field?

For me it was an easy decision and it happened very early on. I was a big fan of building lego and climbing trees. So I went into the best field for science minded children that like to get their hands dirty – Engineering!

I had two very influential teachers in High School that helped me realise science was just an extension of all the things I enjoyed while growing up. I love what I do – I get up each morning with a smile on my face excited about what I am going to do today.

What did you study at University and why?

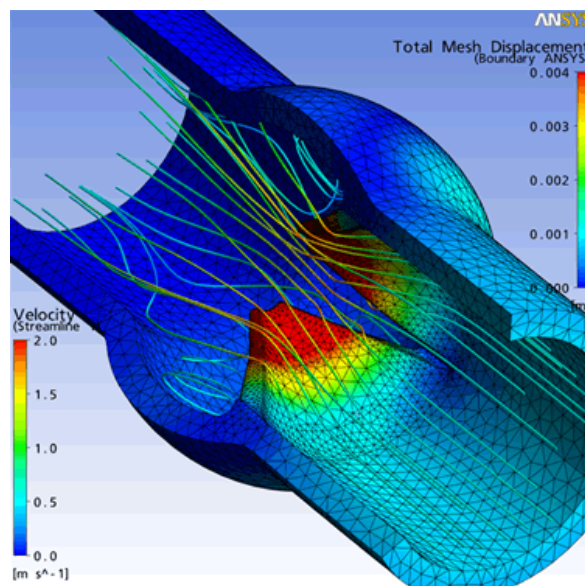
I did two degrees, one in Mechanical Engineering, and the other in Mathematics. Mechanical Engineers design anything at all that moves. That could be anything from stopping the sway of 200-storey buildings in the wind, to designing a space shuttle so that it can re-enter the earth's atmosphere safely. Maths is a very important tool to help engineers design these things so doing a bit more maths has helped me to become a better engineer.

What are your future aspirations?

I am looking forward to heading overseas to work as a consultant on some projects that require engineers to help design them. Engineers are in high demand all over the world and a career in engineering gives you many opportunities to travel and see the sights while you work. Many of the larger companies have offices in many countries. I will finish my extra math's study at the end of this year and I am applying for work at the moment. It's a very exciting time for me.

What do you love about science?

I am a very curious person, and I can apply science to explain all the things I have looked at in awe but not understood. Why do clouds sit in the sky and not sink down to us? Why do massive oil tankers float? I can explain them all with science. Engineers apply the facts that scientists discover from their research to make real world solutions to problems. I find it exciting to develop a solution to an advanced problem using the skills I have learned at university.



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