Michael Gold
Mechanical Engineering
Innovation Fellows Program - University of Florida
Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering

Michael Gold (michaelgold@ufl.edu) is currently a third-year mechanical engineering student pursuing a double minor in computer science and engineering innovation at the University of Florida.

In the Summer of 2023, Michael was given the opportunity to intern at Procter & Gamble in Cincinnati, Ohio as an Associate Scientist Intern. On the dish team, Michael was able to provide insight on critical method development, giving the team an increased an ability to objectively quantify performance across numerous vectors. As a result, the team gained an increased ability to make claims about the advantages of its dish products on their respective packages. Michael currently plans on interning at GE Vernova in Greenville, South Carolina in Summer 2024.

Beginning in his first year of college, Michael began research as a member of the University Research Scholars Program where he qualitatively analyzed engineering students' perceptions and level of understanding of artificial intelligence. After analyzing the results, Michael and his team are currently finalizing the final research paper which will be submitted for publication in an academic journal focused on improving AI education. Moreover, beginning in his second-year, Michael joined another research opportunity. Alongside one of his peers and one of his professors, Michael is currently improving the design and physically assembling a fully functional prototype robot capable of identifying and telling the relative concentration of elements and volatiles present in lunar rocks/regolith. This prototype would be rather novel, as mentors Michael has collaborated with from NASA have said it's light-weight, compact, and cost-efficient design provide benefits large enough to potentially be used on real missions to the Moon and Mars.

In addition to his endeavors in research and industry, Michael is also involved in a variety of academic extracurricular activities at UF. As the Administrative Vice President of the Freshman Leadership Engineering Group, Michael is responsible for ensuring that a safe, inclusive, and tight-knit space is maintained. Michael is also apart of the Engineering Ambassadors, where he represents the College of Engineering on tours he gives to prospective students, and the Engineering Leadership Circle, where leaders in design teams across the college collaborate to find the optimal solutions to broader obstacles to success. Regarding design teams, Michael is currently serving as the co-lead for the Engineers Without Borders: Peru design subteam where the team strives to utilize engineering to give the Maras community in Peru improved access to clean water. Finally, in Solar Gators, Michael is on the aero-body subteam where he works with team members to ensure the solar car design is as aerodynamic as possible.

Beyond his extracurricular involvements, Michael enjoys watching and playing a variety of sports including but not limited to soccer, football, and tennis. Specifically, he is a huge fan of the Florida Gators football team, following their every move year-round. He even cofounded at sports podcast with a few of his friends where recent football, basketball, and soccer news are covered and discussed. In his free time, Michael also enjoys spending time with friends and family, playing video games, and watching movies.