

Thurman Picarelli
Mechanical Engineering Undergraduate Student
University of Florida Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering

Thurman Picarelli is a 3rd year student at the University of Florida pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering and an innovation minor. Thurman is most interested in design and using his skills to run a company in fields such as sustainability, transportation, product development, education, and etc.. His passions include design, ideation, sustainability, marketing, number theory, A.I., systems, education, transportation, and ping pong.



Before Thurman's time at U.F., he was the Senior class president at his high school in Jacksonville, Florida. He was also the president of the Senior Men organization whose focus was centered around community service and team-building projects. He was an integral member of his school's student council, A.V.I.D. program, and dual enrollment program, too.

Outside of school in Jacksonville, Thurman ran a successful solo tutoring business where he would tutor students with an age range between 6 and 18 years old in subjects like mathematics and science. His entire family consists of entrepreneurs/business owners, so it was in his blood.

At U.F., Thurman has excelled in his courses and further involved himself in clubs and organizations during his first year. He has been involved in clubs like Engineers without Borders and Gators for Refugee Medical Relief focusing on helping those in need. During the summer of 2018, Thurman interned at a civil engineering/landscape architecture firm in Jacksonville named Prosser Inc.. There, Thurman learned new softwares such as Civil 3D and Microstation, adding to the list of softwares he's used which includes Solidworks, Matlab, Microsoft Office, Arduino, etc. He also confirmed there that he did not want to work a typical cubicle-style engineering position. Rather, he wants to run/own a company centered around the things he's most passionate about.

In 2019, during the fall of his third year, Thurman joined the Innovation Fellows program where engineering and business students collaborate to pursue an entrepreneurial venture, form a company, and travel to Silicon Valley to pitch their business idea to potential investors. He is currently working to solve the problem of single use plastic containers in homes worldwide.

Thurman also took part in an involved education internship at Study Edge during the fall of 2019. The internship/class, titled Real Life 101, taught us several necessary skills to have as a working adult such as whether to buy or lease a car, how to invest in the stock market, and etc.. Our group was also split into the several focus groups where we tackled an internal company project. My group successfully organized content for free study guides and free textbook material for the prealgebra, elementary algebra, and intermediate algebra courses at Tallahassee Community College, and to be used in the free online OpenStax textbook.

Thurman has found a sincere appreciation for the resources U.F. and Gainesville as a whole offer in regard to the startup community and entrepreneurial spirit. He is working towards using his technical and interpersonal skills to work with great teams to make great things happen within his community and across the world.