



# Sloan Career Cornerstone Center

## Profiles of Electrical Engineers and Computer Scientists



**Daniel Gilley**

**Design Engineer**  
**Lockheed Martin Missiles and Space**  
**Sunnyvale, CA**

### **Education:**

B.S. - Electrical Engineering, Stanford University

### **Job Description:**

Design engineering, working primarily on command and data, handling electronic subsystems for earth orbiting satellites.

### **Advice to Students:**

"Look for internships during their sophomore and junior years. It is a good opportunity to make contacts as well as to gain experience."

### **Video Transcript 1:**

"The aerospace industry does go up and down. It's cyclical and when I was hired in it bottomed out and it was just barely starting to swing back up again and everyone still had a lot of negative memories and the morale was pretty low, in general, when I hired on but the company finally realized that things were gone turn around. It was time for another upswing and they were just starting to hire a few people and I was one of the first of those and it was really interesting coming into the company and having a lot of people still pretty gun shy. They could remember 6 months or a year back when people they'd known were being laid off and everyone was telling the horror stories and it was pretty strange coming in and being all enthusiastic and hearing this kind of darker side."

### **Interview:**

Daniel J. Gilley of Lockheed Martin Missiles and Space has always been fascinated by the space industry. "I grew up watching the satellite down links from NASA and seeing the pictures of the space shuttle and the astronauts." Thus his company has been a good match for him. "This was a company I'd always respected because I was always interested in the jets and planes and things like that." Now he works on numerous projects in the electronic products center. "I've been primarily focusing on space, on satellites. They're mostly earth-orbiting satellites. I work on the command and data-handling electronics that are in the satellites and scattered throughout a lot of programs."

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Although his work is a dream come true, Gilley still had some surprises when he started working. "What I'm doing is different than what I expected. I expected to be solving more calculus problems and more differential equations because that's what you do in school, but really that theoretical background doesn't get applied at least, in my job a lot. There are a lot of parts of electrical engineering that get applied to my daily job, but not the really low level physics and math."

As a result, Gilley advises that students get practical experience before they graduate. "I'd recommend that a student who is interested in the defense or in the space industry really look into projects or courses that might be applicable. I found a project when I was in school that was a satellite project and one of my 'ins' to get in here and it was great fun. We built a small satellite that hasn't been launched yet, but it's probably going to be launched as a secondary payload in the near future. So there are exciting projects like that at a lot of colleges that can make a candidate more attractive to a company."

Gilley also recommends that students look for internships during their sophomore and junior years. It is a good opportunity to make contacts as well as to gain experience. Gilley encourages students to overcome their shyness and pursue the companies. "It's funny because the kind of money that a student would expect is just pocket change to most companies. They would be glad to get something useful out of somebody for the kind of money that would be wealth to most college students."

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