

My name is Yoni Corleto a senior electrical engineering student at the University of Rhode Island (URI). Following my high school graduation I began taking classes at the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) in the fall. I took courses for the engineering curriculum at URI for three semesters at CCRI and then transferred to URI. I am a follower of the Maker movement, the *Kickstarter* technology section and recently the tiny house movement. I am an active church member of *Iglesia Cristiana Peniel* in Newport RI and an amateur soccer player. Recently, I got into volleyball. Someday I will try paintball and scuba diving.

The third year of AOIT gives students the opportunity to engage in what I later came to classify as a primitive form of scholarly research. One may pace him or herself in a certain study to make personal discoveries with the friendly support of the program's network. I am currently interning this summer of 2015 at NUWC where I am engaged in a form of research.

I wish for those who view this bio and who have an interest in the program, even slightly, to highly concern enrolling. There have been many instances within my higher education experience where I have seen material I was introduced to in AOIT. This is an advantage to have. For me, it was until my second semester of my junior year that I got *really* comfortable in the college environment. With this I mean that I found my likes and dislikes; finding the places, methods, people, etc. to make my learning experience *just* right. The factors I mentioned are general to one's learning experience in college. There are different factors in the classroom itself. Neuroscience studies within the past 20 years (approximately to my knowledge) have determined that the "brain pain" one experiences when trying to learn a new subject is due to the brain trying to make neural connections. Many people are discouraged when they have such an experience and automatically label the subject as hard. The reality is that everyone is capable of learning anything; the brain like a muscle works and tires. One should rest when needed. Not over doing it to avoid causing stress; different compared to "brain pain". With time, the brain, like a muscle, gets *stronger*. It is just a matter of time as one's brain makes connections to past experiences, current occurrences, and other sorts of things. Then it makes sense ("Awe"). Now in the case a person, say a first year student in higher education, has good exposure of material being taught in his or her classroom, then it is highly likely he or she will experience less "brain pain" due to already established neural connections. The student will be able to further develop their skills and truly have a more pleasurable time learning. For example, developing study habits that work for his or her self, asking *good* questions in the classroom, etc. I believe people are dynamic; not meant to be static. I have noticed that people, who are diligent (dynamic), gain more. They get things done ("Just do it"?). Certain things are needed in certain times... one thing doesn't always work every single time (sticking to the subject of learning here =] ).

Thus, what AOIT has to offer should be seen as a very attractive learning experience. Not to forget the instructor; Mrs. Awde... The reason why the program has functioned very well is her. All the above is thanks to her. To future students; she is an awesome teacher to befriend. A great mentor too!

To leave on a good note for everyone, including those who have had a bad experience learning in general... It is never late to learn and to just have a good time discovering things. You cannot disagree that having "*awe* moments" in learning is *awesome* (hahaha). I am not saying to go egocentric on the matter or to disregard other things in life. One can make time for it; quit the *bad* habits and you'll see (hehehe). Also, I recommend to students of all ages to seek to have a mentor within their learning experience. Doesn't matter what stage you are in your journey. Do not be afraid to be *picky* with respect to mentors. It is your growth. Mentors are great to have in any field of study and life in general.

As my awesome mentor in college says (and Mrs. Awde =] ),

Cheers! (Celebratory notion intended only)