

James Braun

From: Brussels, Belgium

Studies: Mechanical Engineering

Why did you choose Purdue?

2 Years ago, my supervising professor back in Belgium, Eric Van den Bulck, told me very passionately about how the midwest was the place to be for aerospace and how much he enjoyed his time. When I had the opportunity to come to Purdue, I did not hesitate for a moment.

What is your favorite fact about Purdue?

The breakfast club: I never did it but I keep telling myself that I need to do it one day and try to wake up at 5 AM on a Saturday!

Please briefly describe your research:

I am studying a new type of gas turbine (for airplanes or power plants) in which instead of burning the fuel with a classical spark plug, we use mini-explosions and should be theoretically more efficient than the engines we use now. This new type of engine is called a detonation engine and we try to develop turbines to efficiently extract power from these detonation engines where the flow is very wild, and thus very exciting!

Name one to three words that best describes your work?

Explosions, shock waves, gas turbine engines.

Where do you spend most of your time on campus?

Behind my PC, in the PETAL lab (the Purdue Experimental Turbine Aerothermal lab).

If you have free time, how do you spend it?

Snowboarding in Colorado in winter and leader in the boy scouts in the summer with all my Belgian friends!

Current mobile device/computer:

iPhone 6, Lenovo.

What apps, software, or tools can't you live without?

Whatsapp to stay in contact friends and FaceTime to weekly talk to my mother and sister.

What's your workspace setup like?

My desktop in Zucrow Laboratories with my noise canceling headphones and my freshly brewed coffee imported from Belgium!

What's your favorite to-do list manager?

I would say a combination of pencil and paper, my cellphone and Word on my PC.

Besides your phone and computer, what gadget can't you live without?

My car during winter times when it gets -30 degrees and it is almost physically impossible to take the bike to go to the lab or do groceries.

What do you listen to while you work?

I listen to Belgian radio: PURE FM during the day and MNM during the night.

I'd love to see

answer these same questions.

My professor.

What everyday thing are you better at than most people?

I am very good in providing my colleagues freshly brewed coffee every day, giving them some Belgian chocolates from time to time and make some funny jokes to keep everybody happy at work.

What are you currently reading, or what is the last thing you read (aside from academic reading)?

I read the Belgian news, always exciting!

What's your sleep routine like?

This depends from day to day, I like to work at night as it is quiet in the lab, but I also like to wake up early to have the feeling that I already did a lot of useful things by mid-day.

How do you recharge physically and/or mentally?

By traveling very far away from my office from time to time.

What's the best advice you've ever received?

Switching of my cellphone and email during my holidays.

What is (are) your career goal(s)?

Become a valuable researcher of course, but we can talk about that around a good glass of Belgian beer.

Where can we find you on social media?

<https://be.linkedin.com/in/james-braun-59158993>



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Purdue is centrally located in West Lafayette, Indiana - approximately two hours south of Chicago, Illinois and one hour north of Indianapolis, IN.

Questions? Email gradinfo@purdue.edu

