

Musically ENGINEERING MAGIC

by TYLER MCNULTY

Michael Tschanz, director of design and engineering technology and analysis, has both a musical and an electrical engineering background. He combines both his left- and right-brain thinking in his role at Walt Disney World Resort where he designs and provides maintenance to rides, shows and entertainment systems for Disney Parks worldwide.

Michael and his team work in a virtual space, testing and adjusting proposed plans before they are built or physically tested. This work was recently honored as Michael was inducted into The National Center For Simulation Hall of Fame.

For example, thanks to the team's work, it was possible to add a fifth ride vehicle to Expedition Everest – Legend of the Forbidden Mountain, thus increasing the attraction's hourly capacity and ensuring more Guests can experience the coaster each day. Michael and his team also designed the motion profiles for all the Tower of Terror attractions. "I'll always have a special affinity for Tower of Terror. Employing these techniques proves that these processes and methods pay off."

A classical and jazz piano player, Michael uses his performing arts background as a bridge to communicate between the creative teams who dream up concepts and design and engineering teams who make them a reality.

Working with different partners throughout the Company is a welcome challenge for Michael. Communication can be difficult at times, but he finds it truly special when everyone comes together to achieve a shared goal.

"Everyone says they love working with the people here and that's true, but I think it's even bigger than that," Michael said. "Having the diversity of thought and backgrounds we have here is very exciting."



NAME: MICHAEL TSCHANZ

ROLE: DIRECTOR OF DESIGN
AND ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY
AND ANALYSIS

HOMETOWN: LIMA, OH

YEARS WITH THE COMPANY: 21