Maroon Essay (CSCE):

The Computer Science and Engineering Department discussed the two different majors offered within their department (Computer Engineering and Computer Science) and then briefly explained the difference. The largest separation between the two is that Computer Engineering focuses more on the hardware and communication between different layers of the computer system whereas Computer Science takes a step more so on the side of writing software/taking in data from computer systems. Beyond the majors, the Computer Science department offers a few minors which are very interesting to many individuals outside of the department. After discussing the minors, Mr. Schaefer introduced many of the events and clubs associated with the computer science field, such as: TAMU Computer Society, TAMUHack (which hosts Howdy Hack in the fall and spring), the Aggie Artificial Intelligence Society, and the TAMU Cybersecurity Club. Lastly, they touched on the various job offerings that many Computer Science students find themselves in coming out of TAMU’s program. The median starting salary was just over $80,000 and students were being hired into companies such as Boeing, NASA, Dell, Intel, and HP. My goal following graduation is to begin a career in the cybersecurity field that focuses on network management. To do this, I plan on pursuing a major in Computer Engineering under the Computer Science track with a minor in Cybersecurity and potentially a minor in Computer Science as well. The reasoning for picking this combination of major/minor is so that I can work in network security as I figure the Computer Engineering will give me the best of both worlds in terms of understanding the processes built into circuitry while also the programming and scripting aspect of the software side of things. Then with the cybersecurity minor built in on top of that, I will have a very versatile skillset for managing network security.

White Essay (ISEN):

The Industrial and Systems Engineering department began their presentation by establishing an understanding of the department. From what I gather Industrial and Systems Engineering Technology is focused around the innovation behind the human-machine interface and experience. The presentation covered the different paths of Industrial and Systems Engineering and also the paths of focus that many people go in to. After the initial presentation, there was a few presenters from different research groups, all of which have an Industrial and Systems Engineering degree, who came up and discussed their research projects. One such individual discussed how he is attempting to develop a drone network that can form its own shapes but does not have to be managed by a central computer system, and rather communicate with each other at the local level to move around as needed. He discussed how his tests are mostly successful but involve the drones constantly communicating their special awareness to each other for the drones to build a map of the surrounding area so that they can move appropriately and get in position with one another in the proper shape. His other research projects is attempting to find an accurate model to predict how effective the flu will be in that year by also taking into account human reactions to the news cycles telling them that the flu for that year will be a bad one. Lastly there was a student panel that spent time discussing their focus’ within Industrial and Systems Engineering and also where they plan on taking their careers following graduation.