Few professions face such rapid change and transformation as engineering, so it should come as no surprise that the Johns Hopkins Part-time Programs in Engineering and Applied Science (PTE) are among the fastest growing at the University.

- With education centers around Maryland and in Washington, DC, PTE serves a student body of some 2,200 working professionals in search of academic and professional development.
- More than 400 faculty members from the Whiting School of Engineering, the Applied Physics Laboratory (APL), other divisions of Hopkins, and private and government organizations teach in 13 PTE graduate and three undergraduate degree programs.
- Of its 460 graduate and undergraduate courses in PTE, more than a dozen are offered online.
- Over the past decade, PTE has awarded more than 5,000 degrees.

Impressive as they are, these numbers only tell part of the story. It is the part-time students’ passion and dedication that really tell the tale. Their reasons for going back to school are as far-reaching as the professional paths they seek.

**Keeping Current: Ray Livermore ’02 MSE**

While earning a master’s degree in environmental engineering, 34-year old Ray Livermore ’02 MSE says he took classes at “just about every location” PTE has around the state. The Timonium resident squeezed in classes at the Homewood campus, in Montgomery and Harford counties, and at the Dorsey Center near the Baltimore-Washington International Airport.

The busy environmental engineer is an employee of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in downtown Baltimore, as well as a husband and a father of two. Now that he has completed the program, he doesn’t hesitate to tell people “how good it is to have a normal life again.” Still, he doesn’t regret for a minute the sacrifices he has made to advance his career and grow in his profession. “If you are not up on the latest techniques,” he says, “you will be left behind.”

At the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Livermore earned his undergraduate degree in marine engineering, then went to work at a Naval shipyard in South Carolina, refueling nuclear subs. He later became involved in the cleanup and closing of bases. Thus began his foray into environmental engineering, specifically in the area of toxic and radiation remediation.

His job with the Corps involves the restoration and cleanup of military bases and active or formerly used defense sites where contamination has been found. He and his team of engineers also provide technical consultation for civilian sites that look to the Corps for expertise.

Livermore realized additional schooling would be necessary “to feel more comfortable” in his new field. The PTE environmental engineering program, which many of his co-workers also have completed, seemed like a good fit.

“Engineering is really a core of skills that can pertain to many kinds of problem-solving challenges,” says Livermore. With his PTE degree, he observes, “I feel armed with more knowledge, ready for the new challenges that make engineering really interesting.”

**Energy in Action: Jackie Dvorak**

On one of her two days off each week, PTE undergraduate Jacqueline M. Dvorak drops off her 5-year-old son at kindergarten before settling down to a solid day of studying. Her 7-year old daughter makes it to dancing lessons with the help of her husband, David. Sometimes he’ll take the children to spend a weekend with relatives to give her more time to study. “I have to give my husband a lot of credit,” says the energetic 33-year old.

An engineering technician at the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant in southern Maryland, Dvorak will complete her BSE next spring. She is part of the first undergraduate PTE class to graduate from the Hopkins Southern Maryland Higher Education Center in the nearby town of California.

“A lot of people don’t understand the importance of getting both electrical and mechanical engineering in a single degree,” Dvorak explains. “But it’s a natural for anyone who wants to move...”
“Where Excellence Surrounds You”

That’s the theme of the Johns Hopkins Part-time Engineering Programs in Engineering and Applied Science (PTE). And that excellence can be seen not only regionally but as far away as New Hampshire.

In the past three years, PTE has established 10 partnerships with corporations and other organizations. These programs meet specific objectives while upholding PTE’s rigorous standards. Here are three examples.

- The Navy partnered with PTE to provide graduates of its U.S. Naval Test Pilot School with master’s degree programs in systems engineering or technical management.
- Lockheed Martin partnered with PTE to offer graduate master’s programs in computer science or systems engineering, on site as well as at Hopkins sites.
- Defense contractor BAE Systems in Nashua, New Hampshire, partnered with PTE to offer a Graduate Certificate Program on site.

For more information on the Whiting School’s part-time programs, visit www.wse.jhu.edu/pte/ or call 1-800-548-3647.