



## **Employee Spotlight: Jimmy Rayad, Applications Engineer**

**What is your area of responsibility at Clayton?**

My geographical responsibility is the entire state of California. My duties include application support to our sales team and their customers, as well as pre and post technical support to our customers. I'm also responsible for training our customers as well as making sure our field sales team is up to date on the latest technology our vendors provide.

**How long have you been involved in Factory Automation and describe a little of your past history.**

I have been involved in factory automation for almost 9 years now. I received a degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from the University of California, Irvine and have applied every aspect of it since; from hardware to software. I started tinkering with electronics at the age of 10 when I took apart an RC car my father bought me, and built a functional RC boat out of the parts and foam that I carved and sanded down.

**What do you like best about working at Clayton?**

The best part of working at Clayton is the family environment. Everyone works very hard so that we may all enjoy the fruits of our labor together. The people at Clayton are the friendliest, most outgoing and hardworking people I have ever met and gotten to know. My first internship was with a customer's of Clayton's, in whom I worked, programming PLC's, HMI's and working with drives. I would see Clayton sales people come in and expose us to their products. Upon graduating college, I got hired by a robotics vendor which turned out to have Clayton on their distribution list. So I've been on both ends of a distribution channel.

**What strengths do you bring to this job that makes you a valuable resource to your customers?**

I not only understand the electrical and software aspect of projects, but I understand the physics of the electro-mechanical portion. Some companies have different teams dedicated to each, but when you don't understand how one element can have a great effect on the other, a project can be destined for failure from the start. I bring this knowledge forth to our customers so that they don't have to worry and can rest assured that our solution will not only work, but will be the right one, and last a long time.

**Describe some of your hobbies – what do you like to do outside of Clayton?**

In the evenings, I am most definitely spending any free time I have with the love of my life, the gym. And the rest of the time with my fiancé.

**Do you have a favorite Sports Team?**

Laker fan till my grave and beyond, but if the Clippers have any room on their wagon, I'm willing to jump aboard. Let's just say I'll never stray from any LA teams. So it's hard when you're from LA but your corporate office is in OC. It makes sports quite interesting, and competitive to say the least.

**What is one thing you customers might find surprising about you?**

I love sport shooting and own a .45 caliber Desert Eagle.

*Thanks to Jimmy for sharing a little about himself and we look forward to spotlighting his co-workers in the month's to come.*