Co-op Students Recognized at the 2013 Reception and Dinner

Graduating co-op students were honored at the 2013 Co-op Senior Recognition Reception and Dinner. On Friday, December 6, 2013, the annual dinner was held for the first time in the historic Alumni Hall Ballroom. Students who had completed their co-op rotations received recognition from Gerald D. Holder, U.S. Steel Dean of Engineering, professor, chemical and petroleum engineering. The upcoming graduates attended with their families and guests, along with co-op employers and faculty.

Maureen Barcic, cooperative education director, highlighted the accomplishments of the program for the 2012-2013 academic year. Of note were the 878 active co-op students which represented an 8 percent increase over the prior year. New placements grew by an impressive 18.5 percent.

Ms. Barcic and Dean Holder awarded the 2013 Co-op Employer of the Year to Eaton Corporation. Lisa K. Wise graciously accepted on the company’s behalf and highlighted the strong and beneficial partnership between Eaton and the University of Pittsburgh.

Student awards were also presented. The nomination criteria encompassed strong academics, involvement in the community and/or school in addition to outstanding work performance. Students were nominated by either their department or their employer. The award winners were:

**Co-op Student of the Year**

Hoatian (Howard) Wang
Chemical Engineering, Lubrizol

**Co-op Student of the Year Finalists**

Kevin T. Hough
Mechanical Engineering, Eaton Corporation

David J. Eckman
Industrial Engineering, Heinz North America

**Co-op Student of the Year Honorable Mentions**

Michael R. Doucette, Electrical Engineering, GE Energy Management
Joseph P. Kozak, Engineering Physics, GE Energy Management
Kyra F. Lee, Computer Engineering, Department of Defense

Joshua R. Maskrey, Chemical Engineering, Cardno ChemRisk
Christopher R. Murrett, Industrial Engineering, Logistics Management Institute
Anthony Scot Pulleo, Bioengineering, Bayer
Alexander J. Quinn, Computer Science, Ansys, Inc.
Matthew K. Weschler, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Langan Engineering and Franz Fischer

**Co-op Employer of the Year Award**

Eaton Corporation

Award presented to:
Lisa Wise, HR Manager, Leadership Development Programs

Also in attendance:
Joanne Smith, Experiential Learning Programs Manager
Dianne Davidson, Manager, Leadership Development Programs
Cindy Fisher, Sr. Manager, Talent Management and Organizational Effectiveness
Jessika Fabiano, Campus Manager - University Relations
Katherine Thompson, Campus Manager - University Relations
Eaton Co-op Alumni in attendance:
Karen Bates (formerly Karen Panian), Senior Quality Engineer
Matt Yandura, LDP Participant and Current Quality Engineer
John “Mike” Rovinsky, LDP Participant and Current Lean Coordinator

Almost 350 people were gathered at the event despite snow and freezing rain, again showing what wonderful support co-op enjoys. Cooperative Education takes pride in the students’ accomplishments and values the support of its employer partners.
Eaton Corporation named 2013 Co-op Employer of the Year

Each year the Cooperative Education Program solicits nominations for Outstanding Co-op Employer from faculty and students. We are quite pleased to announce that the Co-op Employer of the Year for 2013 is Eaton Corporation.

We began our program with Eaton in 1990 when Eaton was known as Westinghouse. Westinghouse became Cutler-Hammer, and Cutler-Hammer became Eaton. With the exception of just a few years, we maintained our relationship, and it was always a very good one. Over the last several years that relationship went from very good to great. Students who accept a position with Eaton realize that they will rotate among different areas, and for at least one term they will co-op in a different state. Professional presentations are required from each student at the end of each co-op term.

The audience is Eaton management and university representatives. Eaton also hosted a leadership summit for its university partners during 2013, and representatives from Eaton have presented at our co-op employer panel. Additionally, Eaton hosted a breakout session on enhancing company co-op programs prior to our 2012 co-op fair. Anytime Eaton is asked to help, they step up and are there. Eaton's commitment to the student does not stop at the end of the rotation, but rather, they encourage the students to return to campus and take on a leadership role. During the 2009-2010 economic recession, Eaton went the extra mile to make certain that our students kept their positions, going all the way to the top to ensure their completion of co-op assignments. Over 200 students have co-oped at Eaton since 1990!

Eaton has also been a generous partner to several endeavors involving the University of Pittsburgh and Swanson School of Engineering, particularly our power engineering program.

Lisa Wise accepted the award on behalf of Eaton. Lisa has been instrumental in taking Eaton's co-op program from "very good" to "great."

Howard Wang has been named the National Co-op Student of the Year for 2013 by the American Society of Engineering Education’s Cooperative Education Division

Only one student from across the nation is selected for this honor. We are so proud to recognize Howard as this year's recipient! Howard’s story follows.

Haotian ‘Howard’ Wang hails from China and attending Pitt was his first U.S. experience. He came here with limited knowledge of our customs and our language, but as you will read, Howard made the most of his experience!

Howard spent four co-op rotations with Lubrizol, located in Wickliffe, Ohio. His first term was spent in operations where he ran experiment-scale trials to perform various facts of pilot plant operation; during Howard's second term, he was a focusing team leader working on new specialty chemical development with a cross functional team. The team successfully produced the material for their customer’s field trial. During the third term, Howard was a manufacturing co-op in Deer Park, Texas, and worked solely on a project that resulted in reduced capital expenditures of three million dollars. His fourth term was in supply chain. During that rotation, Howard made a significant impact on scheduling man hour input reductions. Although a departure from a typical chemical engineering rotation, he wanted a rotation that related to his economics minor.

As Lubrizol's first Pitt co-op, Howard paved the way for several other students. Not only that, but he is working on a product realization initiative between Lubrizol and the Swanson School of Engineering that will strengthen that relationship for many years to come.

In addition to his outstanding work performance at Lubrizol, Howard received an honors research assistantship from the Honors College for developing a model experimental system to study wrinkling phenomena. Howard is a two time II-VI Foundation Scholarship Recipient, a recipient of the Won Chiang Scholarship, and also winner of the Lubrizol Scholarship in 2013. His volunteer efforts include peer advisor for the Freshman Leadership Team, Swanson School of Engineering; student mentor at La Porte, Texas Elementary School; volunteer gardener at Painesville, Ohio local food banks; member of American Institute of Chemical Engineers, and member of Tau Beta Pi.

Howard is fluent in Mandarin Chinese and plays the violin, viola, and Chinese flute. He also enjoys basketball, travelling, and golf. Howard graduated summa cum laude in December, 2013 with a GPA of 3.884, majoring in chemical engineering and minoring in chemistry and economics.

In the words of Robert Frost, "I shall be telling this with a sigh somewhere ages and ages hence: Two roads diverged in a wood and I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference."

Howard Wang received the award from Swanson School Acting Dean, Dr. Jeff Holder, and Eaton management. The event was held at the Swanson School of Engineering. To the left are: Lisa Wise (Eaton), Dee Davidson (Eaton), Joanne Smith (Eaton), and Howard Wang. To the right is Dean Holder.
Alumni Hall of Fame: Mike Lalle BSIE ’99

A warm greeting to all of you in the University of Pittsburgh Engineering Co-op Community! I hope that this newsletter finds you well, and it is my pleasure to be able to share some of my life’s experiences with you here. I have always held a firm belief that the opportunity that was afforded to me through my participation in the co-op program has served as an invaluable foundation for my life both professionally as well as personally, and that sentiment has grown as the years have passed.

Looking back now, it’s hard for me to believe that it has been over 16 years since I began my first co-op rotation with UPS, as an industrial engineering student. Because it was my first experience working in any type of professional environment, I didn’t know what to expect. However, it was immediately apparent to me that I had found a company whose values aligned with my own, and people with whom I thoroughly enjoyed both working and interacting—so much so that I’ve remained a UPSSer to this day! My co-op rotations served as a lesson in the perpetual balance of challenging, independent work along with strong mentorship and support. As my career has progressed, I have also been able to utilize the perspective that I gained as a student in the coordination of UPS’s involvement in the co-op program, which is part of my current job responsibilities. My ability to speak to the co-op experience from the vantage point of both student and employer has allowed me to relate to prospective candidates on a personal level, as well as continually evolve our rotational assignments to meet the needs of both UPS and the young engineers that we are helping to develop.

Along with learning how to work and function as an engineer and businessperson, my co-op employment also provided a stability and structure that I feel gave me a head start in the transition to young adulthood. The sciences of balancing work and personal life, managing time and money, planning for the future, and most importantly adjusting those plans as circumstances change, are skills that are always in development—to be enhanced but never mastered. Having the chance to begin developing those skills in earnest at the age of 19 has allowed me to pursue and achieve goals such as marriage, parenthood, entrepreneurship, and countless others with a confidence and discipline that would otherwise have taken many more years to obtain.

With that thought in mind, I would like to close by extending my enduring gratitude to Maureen Barcic and the rest of the co-op administration for all of their hard work and dedication through the years. From their assistance to me as a student, to their support of my efforts on behalf of UPS, they have been tireless and accommodating well beyond the call of duty. For the students who are just entering the program, to the assistance to me as a student, to their support of my efforts on behalf of UPS, they have been tireless and accommodating well beyond the call of duty. For the students who are just entering the program, to their assistance of my efforts on behalf of UPS, they have been tireless and accommodating well beyond the call of duty. For the students who are just entering the program, to their assistance of my efforts on behalf of UPS, they have been tireless and accommodating well beyond the call of duty.

Best regards,
Mike Lalle
BSIE 1999
Hail To Pitt!

Love of Science Is Contagious

Ashley McCray is one busy woman, but she jumped at the chance to spend two days helping young kids get excited about science.

McCray, a college student who works as a co-op for Dow’s Michigan Operations, volunteered at the Dow Great Lakes Bay Science and Engineering Festival at Delta College in Bay County, Mich., in October. On the festival’s first day, more than 2,500 middle school students swarmed the college’s gymnasium and surrounding hallways, where about 30 exhibitors set up a range of demonstrations, experiments and displays designed to show kids the cool side of science and engineering. Dow was the primary sponsor of the event. The festival opened to the public on the second day, and organizers said more 5,000 people passed through over the two days.

“I love this,” McCray said as she showed a gaggle of giggling students how the polarity differences between crayons and paint can result in artistic magic. “I love kids. I love science. I love when people have passion for science.”

Article excerpt reprinted courtesy of Dow. For the entire article, please visit www.dow.com/company/citizenship/stem/articles/2013Dec/Ashley_McCray.htm.

AKJ Industries: A Successful Co-op Partnership

AKJ Industries initiated its Cooperative Education Program with the University of Pittsburgh in 2011. We were seeking bright young minds to help shape our future as a company—individuals willing to take on significant responsibility and step into an integral role within our organization. With less than 100 employees, AKJ can’t afford to waste any resources. The five co-ops we have hired to date have all been asked to take on meaningful, demanding projects that affect our bottom line. These projects challenge students to solve real world problems and force them to approach each one with a cross-disciplinary mindset—maintaining a focus on not only product development, but keeping a mindful eye on the marketability of the materials they are developing. In addition, students are afforded the opportunity to interact with customers during lab demonstrations. AKJ encourages the students to think outside of the box and allows them to explore ideas within a framework of experienced mentorship.

Scott Frankert, a chemical engineering major finishing his second term with AKJ, enjoys “the opportunity to truly make a difference and not be relegated to busy work. Being exposed to every facet of the business, from R&D to marketing, has made the experience with AKJ extremely rewarding.” AKJ is looking forward to continuing the co-op program as it has grown to be an invaluable resource and we look forward to working with more of the bright minds of tomorrow, today!

Evan Anderson (l) and Scott Frankert (r) on the job at AKJ Industries.

“This is a really amazing place to work with a great balance of office environment and field work. The future of the best wireless technologies lies here at Verizon Wireless, and it’s a great time to get involved in such a resourceful and awesome company.”

Mark Bressler
Electrical Engineering
Verizon Wireless
2013 Co-op Certificate Recipients

Bioengineering
Grace E. Owens
Anita Scott Pullo
Anna D. Stuckey

Bioengineering/Electrical Engineering
Marc D. Foster

Civil and Environmental Engineering
Caleb S. Angle
Andrew M. Bayer
James P. Begley
Nicole Bonomo
Adam R. Celmo
Natalie V. Celmo
Berkeley B. Chatot
Trae L. Deni
Edward H. Doyle
Alaina M. Elias
Eric F. Foster
Joseph W. Garofalo
Vincent J. Garofalo
Matthew J. Grasinger

Computer Engineering
Brittany N. Barry
Andrew C. Beers
Eric A. Buescher
Marcus Hayes
Junyang Huang
David James Lang Jr.
Kyras L. Lee
Kai R. Manuel
Sam Musso
Hiral A. Patel
Oscar T. Prom
Charles R. Saracce
Calvin A. Saunders
James A. Trott
Matthew J. Ujevich
Trenton T. Vento
John B. White
Kevin E. Yealy

Computer Science
John M. Hofrichter
Mary Letera
Yiran L. Lin
Scott G. Marnik
Alexander J. Quinn

Electrical Engineering
Shabina S. Abbott
Michael R. Doucette
Derek L. Ebersole
Amanda A. Erhard
Zachary J. Fischer
James D. Freeman
Sofia Gadee Ornelchenko
Kashkhan A. Kannan
Ching Li
Andrew T. Mastele
Robert E. McCarrick
Savoy L. McCullard
Michael P. McIlhenny
Justin J. Moon
Jonathan C. Robochik
Christopher T. Sciscia

Hongyao Shi
Traci C. Smith
Zachary T. Smith
Ian T. Steck
Jonathan G. Stefanak
David A. Steiner
Anthony N. Taveras
Scott W. Thompson
Benjamin J. Tomasulo
Darrah L. Trelaveen
Derrick K. Ward
Ryan M. Waskiewicz
Stephen M. Whaitte

Engineering Physics
Joseph P. Kozak
Jorge C. Torres

Engineering Science
Michael R. Garver

Industrial Engineering
Marco D. Aletto
Eric T. Almes
Lisa A. Buono
Mark D. Clifford
Kate M. Cloonan
Nathan J. Cybak
Rachel C. Dalecki
Dylan B. Davis
David J. Eckman
Vanessa M. Edwards
Jonathan D. Greenberg
Brian R. Ko
Maryem A. Mabrouk
Dominic J. Malloy
Kellen C. McLaughlin
Julie E. Michelin
Christopher B. Murrett
Allison M. Robinson
Taylor R. Robinson
Sarah M. Scherr
Adam T. Schiowitz
Sarah E. Songer
Nathan J. Stockton
Lec Ba Vu
Elissa C. Warmbrand
Courtney J. Waters
Liza J. Whiskey
Shane L. Wighton
Colin A. Williams
Brandon W. Woodward
Lin Wu

Information Sciences
Filipe S. Silvestre

Mechanical Engineering
Bader A. Alnifay
Nicholas P. Andrejow
Jonathan M. Andrews
Joseph A. Arrow
Amine Benbourenane
Scott K. Berkow
Andrew A. Bianco
Edward T. Brady
Jordan C. Burgunder
William G. Butler
Robert L. Cairns
Lance E. Cariss
John J. Conturo
Joshua R. Cygan
Justin C. Daniels
Christopher Alan
Dechmerowski
Andrew J. Dinoco
Jonathan C. Dray
Robert Thomas Dupree
Brian P. Eggen
Noah W. Erin
Tyler M. Ferris
Sabrina George
Matthew M. Goodwill
Joseph D. Grmusa
Robert P. Hasenbein
Thomas J. Heinizman III
Kevin T. Hough
Nikola Hrgic
Brian R. Jackson
Erik M. Jensen
Parag R. Karkhanis
Quinn D. Killough
Jadyn C. Krogh
Tyler A. Kunsa
Jared S. Liebowitz
Andrew B. Lopatka
John T. Maciuca
Megan M. Mandich
Randall J. Marchelletta
Eric J. Matthews
Allison G. McCurdy
Steven D. Mushack
Matthew J. Nezbeth
Nicholas J. Ortega
Joseph W. Parkinson
Matthew B. Plott
Aaron M. Polanski
Amanda M. Raught
Daniel C. Rogers
Aryeh H. Rosenberg
Kathryn A. Saltzman
Matthew T. Sand
David A. Schreiber
Harpreet S. Sembhi
Kyle L. Sherry
Rebecca W. Siegrist
Andrew R. Smith
David J. Uber
George J. Vafeas
Ryan A. Waldron
Stephen E. Watkins

Materials Science Engineering
Ryan S. Bhaggrati

Mechanical Engineering Technology
Andrew S. Churchill
Matthew J. Warnock


Dates to Remember

Annual Spring Co-op Job Fair
February 20, 2014
William Pitt Student Union
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Employer Panel Event (tentative)
Week of September 15, 2014
157 Benedum Hall

Annual Fall Co-op Job Fair
Tuesday, September 23, 2014
William Pitt Student Union
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Co-op Recognition Dinner
Friday, December 5, 2014
For students who have completed their rotations

“My assignment is going better than expected. When I came here I thought I was going to be doing ‘typical’ intern/co-op work, but it has been exactly the contrary. I am working on high level projects that oversee hundred-thousands of dollars of labor, equipment, and processes. I am trusted to do work on my own, but they make it a point to let me know that they know when I ask questions because it means I can only do the same task more efficient the next time.”

Nicolas Sunderland
Industrial Engineering
UPS (United Parcel Service)

University of Pittsburgh
Swanson School of Engineering
Cooperative Education Program
1520 Benedum Hall
412-624-9826
www.engineering.pitt.edu/coop/

Co-op Staff
Maureen Barcic
Director
paub2@pitt.edu

Co-op Staff
Chris Frankovic
Associate Director
caf54@pitt.edu

Tracy Severson
Program Administrator
trs57@pitt.edu