



# ELPE

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND  
PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

FALL 2022

# NEWS

Biannual Publication of the  
**University of Pittsburgh**  
Swanson School of Engineering

## \* Co-op Recognitions

The co-op program at Pitt is fortunate to have strong employer partners and smart capable students. The co-op student of the year and co-op employer of the year recognize the time, effort and commitment these individuals have contributed. If there is a student or employer you feel deserves this award, please submit entries or questions to Chris Ann Frankovic at [caf54@pitt.edu](mailto:caf54@pitt.edu) no later than October 14, 2022. Your submittal can be in email form, or a one-page document stating why you believe the student/ employer deserves the award.

Nominees will be judged on the following criteria:

### Co-op Student of the Year

Ideally, there will be a nominee from each department. Students must be nominated

by either their employer or by their academic department. The student must have the following:

1. An excellent academic record
2. Outstanding work contributions with their co-op employer
3. Volunteerism or contributions to the co-op employer or university community
4. Must have completed all three rotations with S grade

### Co-op Employer of the Year

1. Must have a sustained commitment to the cooperative education program at the University of Pittsburgh
2. Excellent quality of projects and assignments for students



## Welcome Dana Romano

Transferring from Katz School of Business, Pitt Alumni and current student, **Dana Romano**, has recently joined the SSoE Experiential Learning and Professional Engagement (ELPE) team. In her new role as director of career and industry engagement, Dana will coordinate and connect with corporations, alumni, undergraduate and graduate students, SSoE programs, department and individual faculty research, internships, and corporate philanthropy. Dana is also planning to execute life-long engagement for SSoE undergraduate and graduate students by working with the Career Center, Office of Economic Partnerships, and Institutional Advancement.

In her free time, Dana enjoys time spent with family, husband Rob of 29 years, two daughters and a son. Dana also enjoys boating, cooking, and her two furry friends, 100+ lb. Labrador retriever named Ruger and a 200 lb. English mastiff named Jensen.

If you would like to contact Dana, she is in 142 Benedum Hall. Her hours are Monday, Thursday and Friday remote; Tuesday and Wednesday in the office; 8:30-5 p.m.



## Mark Your Calendars



### Expert Advice for Job Fair Success

**Friday, September 16 – Noon**

*Presented by Emerson*

### Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineering Fair

**Friday, September 23 – 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

SSoE Benedum Hall

### SSoE ELPE Fall Co-op/Internship Fair

**Tuesday, September 27 – 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

University Club

*Optional interviews from 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.*

### Nominees Due

**Friday, October 14**

Co-op Student of Year and  
Co-op Employer of the Year

### RoboPittsburgh

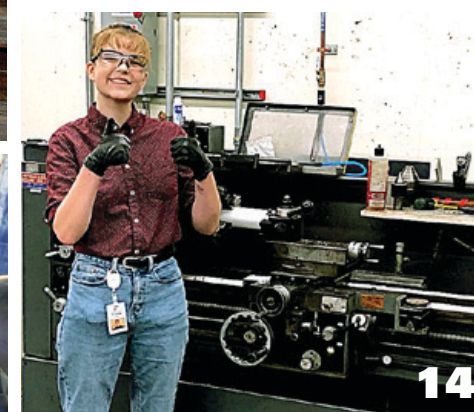
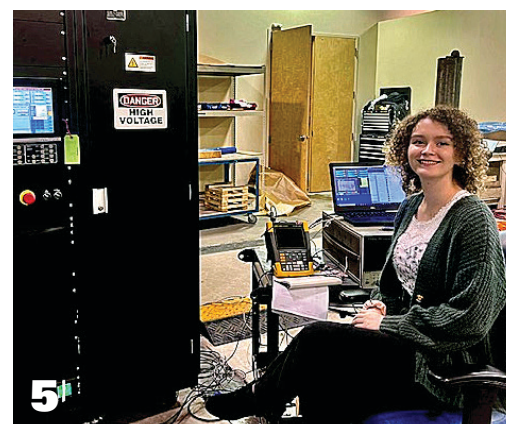
**Friday October 21 – Noon - 4 p.m.**

William Pitt Union Ballroom





# STUDENT >>> EXPERIENCES



1. **Anthony Berardelli**, back row, 1st on left, and Curtiss-Wright co-workers, volunteering at Greater Pittsburgh food bank in Duquesne, PA.
2. "Learning to weld has definitely been a highlight of my co-op experience."  
— **Elisa Fritzsche**, Robinson Fans
3. **Olga Sudokov** is working on a nano-brew in the Samuel Adams Pennsylvania Brewery nanobrewery.
4. **Victoria Michalenko** at American Express in Pheonix, AZ.
5. At Acutronic, **Chloe Hale** assists with creating drawings, data analysis, research, and performs standard tests on machines.
6. **Lucas Ramsey** at Siemens Energy.
7. "I'm part of many different projects at the plant. Two of the biggest ones are improving the line changeover process and reducing calibration frequency." — **Stacey Ngo**, Johnson & Johnson
8. "We are replacing the largest advanced wastewater plant in the world, Blue Plains."  
— **James Clark**, Ulliman Schutte, D.C.
9. **Cheng Yao** is recording the dimension of racks in the warehouse to prepare for a space optimization task at Seimens Energy.

10. I am working in the Tech Transfer and Logistics department within the Preclinical Manufacturing and Process Development department. — **Hallie Maytin**, Regeneron
11. **Vidhya Thiagarajan** on a co-op rotation at Lubrizol this past spring in Deer Park, TX.
12. **Emma Smith** is a process engineering intern at the J.M. Smucker, Orrville plant, where the jams, jellies, preserves, and ice cream toppings are made.
13. **Cara Rosetti** is MIG and TIG welding at Schroeder Industries.
14. "This summer I spent a lot of time on Solidworks designing equipment, dies, and molds for pet treats. I was also able to see some of these through to fabrication, whether on the 3D printer or in the machine shop."  
— **Frieda Jones**, J.M. Smucker
15. **Jinming Zhuang** works independently on a project at Advanced Micro Devices, Inc.
16. As a manufacturing science and technology co-op at Johnson & Johnson, **Colin Landis**, gets to perform chem weigh, blending, and compression of OTC pharmaceutical tablets.



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

*"Co-op is a great way to gain valuable experience and make some real money during school. I would not be where I am today in my career and life without my co-op experience."*



**Spencer Sullivan** is a smart guy and a talented engineer. He took the opportunity to connect with the ELPE office as both an undergraduate and now at a graduate student level.

After graduating from Penn-Trafford High School in 2017, Spencer Sullivan arrived at Pitt in the fall of that same year as a first-year student.

As a student at the Swanson School of Engineering, Spencer majored in computer engineering. During his time as an undergraduate, Spencer completed the co-op program by working a first rotation with Siemen's Energy fall of 2019, and then two rotations with Zoll Lifevest summer 2020 and spring 2021.

While on a co-op rotation in 2020, Spencer got engaged to high school sweetheart and chemical

engineering student, Abby Doyle, and after graduating April 2021, Spencer and Abby got married in May of that year.

But his fast track to his future did not stop there. Spencer then enrolled in the electrical and computer master's program at SSoE. He completed a graduate rotation with Mine Safety Appliances and is currently working at MSA full time, while taking night classes to complete his graduate coursework.

Additionally, Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan are expecting their first child, a daughter, this September.

When asked for advice for upcoming engineering students, Spencer says, "Enjoy your time in school and know that while your GPA may matter to some degree, in the long run a personable, competent, and driven engineer who actually likes their job will always outperform those who only have good grades."

*Spencer Sullivan and Abby (Doyle) Sullivan,  
(Pitt Chemical Engineering graduate 2020).*



**SSoE ELPE office now has a  
LinkedIn page! Connect here!**

**PITT** | **SWANSON**  
ENGINEERING  
COOPERATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM

**engineering.pitt.edu/coop**

## Office of Experiential Learning and Professional Engagement Staff

**Chris Frankovic, Director**

*Co-op & Internships*

*Departments covered: COE, EE, ME, MSE, IE, Physics E*

caf54@pitt.edu | 412-624-9883

**Tyler Kimmel, Associate Director**

*Co-op & Internships*

*Departments covered: BIOE, CHEME, CE, ENVE*

tjk58@pitt.edu

**Alicia Olalde, Director**

*Global Experiences & Engagement*

A.Olalde@pitt.edu

**Dana Romano, Director**

*Career & Industry Engagement*

dar19@pitt.edu