

Pitt Swanson School of Engineering Cooperative Education

in partnership with
School of Computing and Information and
University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, Engineering

Fall 2018 Professional Development Events Series

Co-op employers value skills, abilities, and professional acumen, which is at the heart of our new Professional Events Series. These events will be open to all SSOE freshmen, sophomores, and juniors. Co-op applicants should plan to attend at least one of the events. All programs will be held in Benedum 102.

Wednesday, Sept. 5 Maneuvering Through Job Fairs and the Recruiting Process

Tara Fong, ANSYS
Noon- 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 11 How Important is Related Work Experience Before You Graduate, and the Impact it can have on Your Future

Mike Formica, Entrepreneur in Residence/
University of Pittsburgh Innovation Institute,
Adjunct Professor, CMU
12:30- 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 13 Quality Candidates—What Employers are Looking For

Ada DeFani, Argo AI
12:30- 1:30 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 17 Professionalism Through Your Search and into Your First Rotation

David Gass, FedEx Ground
Noon- 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 2 Advice from the Experts on Resumes and Cover Letters

JoAnne Smith, Eaton
12:30- 1:30 p.m.

Co-opEd

Fall 2018



The library on the campus of Delft University of Technology in Delft, Netherlands

Tuite Earns Fulbright Grant

Logan Tuite (ME) moved almost 400 miles away from Pittsburgh during his co-op rotations with Rolls-Royce Corporation in Indianapolis, Ind. He'll be moving just a little farther than that for graduate school this fall when he attends Delft University of Technology (TU Delft) in Delft, Netherlands.

Tuite earned a Fulbright grant and will be studying to obtain his master's degree in aerospace engineering, with a focus on flight performance and propulsion. He looked into some different options, and decided to apply to the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. He already knew he was interested in TU Delft.

"They have always been on my radar because of their Formula SAE car," Tuite says. "They have the best electric car in the world, and they do some amazing work. I looked into their different programs and facilities and determined that it would be the best option for me."

The University of Pittsburgh was one of the nation's top producers of Fulbright students

and scholars for the 2017-18 academic year, according to the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs,

and Tuite will be one of the next Fulbright students from Pitt. He says his co-op with Rolls-Royce had a lot to do with that.

"My first two managers wrote recommendations for me for Fulbright, which was directly beneficial to me obtaining the grant," Tuite says. "Further, my statement of grant purpose had a heavy focus on my industry experience and the projects I have worked on. The facilities and program at Delft fit in perfectly with the work that I have done on co-op."

Tuite was able to expand his engineering knowledge in a variety of ways during his co-op. He was in three different departments: rotative quality, cold section thermals, and turbine aerothermals. He not only learned more about engineering but he was able to develop his professional skills, as well.

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Logan Tuite

"I learned quite a bit. I learned transferrable skills like succinct and efficient communication, running meetings, and making presentations for managers to bridge the gap between technical specialists and nonanalysts. In terms of technical know-how, I have gained a ton of experience."

—Logan Tuite

Tuite Earns Fulbright Grant

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running meetings, and making presentations for managers to bridge the gap between technical specialists and nonanalysts. In terms of technical know-how, I have gained a ton of experience," Tuite says.

He said his experience at Rolls-Royce was broadening.

"I learned so many concepts and skills during my co-op that I would not have been able to learn just by taking classes in undergrad. It really helped me to expand my knowledge base, my skillset, and my critical thinking."

Tuite has always loved traveling. He spent 10 days in Germany after his senior year of high school, so it's no surprise that he left Pittsburgh for his co-op and will complete his master's degree abroad. Getting outside of Pittsburgh and seeing what other places have to offer is something he recommends to future co-op students.

"Whether people have lived in Pittsburgh their whole lives or moved here for college, I think it is still worthwhile to co-op outside because it is a completely different scenario," Tuite says. "Your co-workers and other co-ops also come from all over, so there are so many different age groups and perspectives to give you ideas of what to do for fun, for work, in your career, etc."

Tuite also established many new connections all around the world while co-opping at Rolls-Royce.

"I have grown my professional network substantially. I worked with people in the U.K., Germany, Spain, and across the U.S. who I am now connected with. I have written reports that are stored in the company's global database, so my name is out there," Tuite says.

As he gets set to embark on the next stage of his college career in the Netherlands this fall, it is clear that getting work experience is something that was important to him and something he thinks every student needs to do.

"I really have enjoyed my time at Pitt, my work with the racecar, and my rotations with Rolls-Royce on co-op," Tuite says. "I don't think there is any reason why everyone shouldn't co-op and get experience in some way. I would not have the skillset and knowledge that I have today had it not been for the work I have done outside the classroom."



Thomas Harrington outside the Tesla factory in Fremont, Calif.

Harrington Driven to Succeed at Tesla

It's not every day that a student lands their dream job right after graduation, let alone while they're still in school. Thomas Harrington (ME) has done just that, co-opping at Tesla Motors, Inc. in Fremont, Calif.

Harrington started his first rotation in January 2018, and will be working for a full year straight, until December 2018. He said he's always known that he wanted to be an engineer, and Tesla was the employer at the top of his list.

"Tesla has always been a dream; I never thought I'd get here," Harrington says. "I'm passionate about continuous improvement and innovation. Tesla happens to be a perfect fit. I lucked out for sure."

Harrington has been working in the production control department. He has worked on design, analysis, and consultation and developed his supervisory skills. He has been able to do a little bit of everything so far, with his main focus on productivity.

"My role within Tesla deals with getting car parts to the assembly line. In some instances, we use autonomous vehicles to transport car parts. I helped to install and troubleshoot one of these autonomous vehicles into a part-delivering process," Harrington says.

One thing he likes is that each day brings something different, including even getting to test-drive each Tesla model.

"At Tesla, every day there is something new to do," Harrington says. "I'm never bored at work. There is as much to do in the field as there is at my computer. I've done everything from design work to managing people. I've also had the opportunity to drive all three Tesla models. The cars are a lot of fun to drive and I've never driven anything quite like them." His leadership and management skills were recognized early on at Tesla. He stood out and

then was chosen as an ambassador for the program and spoke to two groups in July about working as a student at Tesla. The first group was Students Rising Above, which works with low-income, first generation college students who were committed to their education while overcoming extreme obstacles in their lives, like poverty, homelessness, and neglect. The other group was the Boys & Girls Club of San Francisco, comprising

local high school students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

"Connecting with groups like Students Rising Above and Boys & Girls Club has been a very valuable experience; I was able to learn about drive and perseverance from them," Harrington says.

Harrington was selected for the opportunity to be a program ambassador because he showed leadership abilities and worked hard. He also made sure to focus on the little things,

Harrington Driven to Succeed at Tesla

Continued

even something as small as just saying hello.

"I always make sure to stop and say hello or good morning to people I know within the company; it never hurts to be nice," Harrington says.

Harrington hopes to return to Tesla full-time once he graduates in April 2019. For now, he is focused on completing his final co-op rotation.

"Things change at Tesla so fast that I cannot say for sure what I will be working on next week, let alone the next five months," Harrington says.

Whatever comes his way this fall, he'll be ready to hit the ground running.

What Were Co-op Students Up to This Summer?



Patrick Flaherty (ChemE) stands before the Neville Chemical Company plant located on Neville Island near Pittsburgh, Pa.



Zachary Yoder (ME, MSA) (left) and his co-op mentor test out MSA's self-contained breathing apparatus for themselves at the Allegheny County, Pa., Fire Academy.



Sean O'Brien (ME) on his first day of his final rotation with Nissan—this time in Silicon Valley, Calif.



Maria Longo (ME) worked in Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, with the American Airlines Boeing 737.



Nicole Yanouzas (Civil) (right), and a fellow co-op work on roof construction with Baker DC in Baltimore, Md.



Jahari Mercer (IE) finished his final rotation with Harley-Davidson this summer in York, Pa.

Nominations Open for Co-op Student of the Year and Employer of the Year

The co-op program is fortunate to have strong employer-partners and smart, capable students. The Co-op Student of the Year and the Co-op Employer of the Year awards recognize the time, effort, and hard work the parties have contributed. This is the time of the year to think about those outstanding companies and individuals, and to submit nominations for the 2018 awards.

The criteria for Co-op Student of the Year are as follows:

1. excellent academic record
2. outstanding work contributions with co-op employer (students must have three rotations completed)
3. volunteerism or contributions to the co-op or University community.

Ideally, we would like to have one nominee from each department. Students must be nominated by either their co-op employer or academic department. The University of Pittsburgh can select one candidate to represent the University in the National Co-op Student of the Year competition, which is sponsored by the Cooperative Education Division of the American Society

for Engineering Education. The winner will be flown to the annual conference, which will be held in February 2019 in New Orleans, La., to receive this recognition along with a plaque and a \$1000 award.

Pitt has received four national Co-op Student of the Year awards, most recently in 2016, and one national Intern of the Year Award in 2014. The University has had many outstanding finalists, as well.

The criteria for Co-op Employer of the Year are as follows:

1. sustained commitment to cooperative education at the University of Pittsburgh
2. quality of projects and assignments.

The Co-op Employer of the Year and all Pitt Co-op Student of the Year nominees will be honored at our annual recognition dinner, scheduled for Friday, December 7, 2018, at Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall.

Please submit your nomination by Friday, October 12, to Maureen Barcic at paub2m@pitt.edu. Feel free to contact her with any questions about the nomination process.

Dates to Remember

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Wednesday, September 26, 2018
Co-op Mock Interview Event
 Benedum Hall 102
 Noon – 1:30 p.m.

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Thursday, October 4, 2018
Fall 2018 Co-op Job Fair
 William Pitt Union
 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

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Friday, October 12, 2018
Nomination deadline for Co-op Student of the Year
 Friday, October 12, 2018
 Contact Maureen at paub2m@pitt.edu

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Friday, December 7, 2018
Co-op Recognition Dinner*
 Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall
 5 p.m.– 7:30 p.m.
 *for students who have completed all their rotations

Tentatively scheduled for early February. Check back for final date.

Spring 2019 Co-op Job Fair
 William Pitt Union
 10 a.m.– 2 p.m.

Pitt | Swanson School
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 Cooperative Education Program

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