

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

SWANSON SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

KENNETH P. DIETRICH SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH AT JOHNSTOWN

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

SPRING 2012

Student Achievements Celebrated at the 2011 Reception and Dinner

Completing the Cooperative Education Program requires commitment to the program, the employer, and the university. This commitment was recognized at the annual Co-op Reception and Dinner, held most recently on December 9, 2011, at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association in Oakland.

Maureen Barcic, director, detailed the accomplishments of the Co-op Program for the year and Dr. Larry Shuman, senior associate dean of academic affairs of the Swanson School of Engineering, awarded each graduating senior with a certificate of completion.

Co-op students, their families, co-op employers, and departmental faculty and staff shared in the festivities.

Acknowledging their co-op successes, Maureen Barcic and Dr. Shuman bestowed awards to the Co-op Student of the Year, Student Finalists, Honorable Mentions, and Co-op Employer of the Year:

Co-op Student of the Year

Benjamin J. Dunkelberger, an electrical engineering co-op with Convertteam Naval Systems

Co-op Student of the Year Finalist

Stephen S. Holland, bioengineering, Centocor Incorporated

Co-op Student of the Year Honorable Mentions

Andrew G. Collins, mechanical engineering, Emerson Process Management

Erica N. Grasinger, industrial engineering, Giant Eagle, Inc.

Austin D. Healey, chemical engineering, The Hershey Company

John E. Selker, electrical engineering, Ansys, Inc.



Daniel Jacobs and his family at the recognition dinner.



Co-op students Julia Lynch, Elizabeth Danko, Austin Healey, and Rebecca Byrnes.



Farhanah Sheets (CS) and her family celebrate.



Erica Brokaw and her family enjoy the dinner.

Ryan A. Wallace, civil and environmental engineering, Massaro CMS

Co-op Employer of the Year

The 2011 Employer of the Year was awarded to FirstEnergy Corporation. Mark A. Manoleras, director, site engineering, and Renee Spino, recruiting manager, accepted on behalf of the company. Additional FirstEnergy representatives in attendance were:

Carl L. Battistone, supervisor, Nuclear Engineering Programs

Angela M. Durnan, college recruiter

Carmen V. Mancuso, manager, Design Engineering

Joshua D. Marsh, senior nuclear engineer

Mark Perry, supervisor, Procurement Engineering

Doug Reeves, manager, Technical Services Engineering

The Co-op Program would like to thank the students, their families, co-op employers, faculty, and staff for attending the dinner event. Cooperative Education takes pride in the students' accomplishments and values the support of its co-op employer partners.

FirstEnergy named 2011 Co-op Employer of the Year

Each year the Cooperative Education Program solicits nominations for outstanding co-op Employer from faculty and students. This year, one of the names that came up repeatedly, for so many reasons, was FirstEnergy.

We began our co-op program with FirstEnergy back in 2003. Since that time, almost fifty co-op students have been hired by the company, with many going on to full-time assignments upon the completion of their experience.

We know, however, that success is not just about numbers; it is about partnership. The individuals at FirstEnergy have supported the program from the top down. Through good times and bad, FirstEnergy maintained its commitment to our school and program. FirstEnergy has taken steps to ensure successful assignments for our students, including a strong mentoring program and opportunities for our students to travel to different sites and meet with many of the executives. It is a well prepared co-op program!

In addition, FirstEnergy is one of the University's strongest employer partners in our Swanson School of Engineering energy program. Many of our faculty were very pleased to hear that FirstEnergy is being honored as the 2011 Co-op Employer of the Year!



Mark Manoleras, director of site engineering, and Renee Spino, recruiting manager, proudly accept the 2011 co-op Employer of the Year Award from Dr. Larry Shuman.



(l-r) Bob Egolf (Pitt co-op) Mark Manoleras, Joshua Marsh, Carmen Mancuso, Angela Durman, Doug Reeves, Renee Spino, Harold Wilson (Pitt co-op), Meggie Piotrowski (Pitt Co-op), Mark Perry, Carl Battistone of FirstEnergy Corp. All three co-op students have accepted offers of full-time employment at FirstEnergy upon graduation.

Venture - Pittsburgh's Fastest Growing Engineering Company

Venture Engineering & Construction is a multidiscipline engineering firm that provides solutions to customers based in a variety of industries. Venture has completed projects throughout the United States for steel mills, waste destruction facilities, food processing plants, large coal-fired power plants, and landfill gas-to-energy plants.

President and CEO, Dave Moniot, a 1992 chemical engineering graduate of Pitt, founded Venture in 2007 with a total of three employees. Since then, Venture has grown to more than 60 engineers and designers, and has been named the Fastest Growing Engineering Company in Pittsburgh two years in a row (2010 and 2011) and one of the Top 100 Places to Work in Pittsburgh (2011) by the *Pittsburgh Business Times*. Venture currently has offices in Pittsburgh and Las Vegas.

Venture has developed a patent-pending process for the treatment of landfill gas. The gas conditioning skid systems are designed here in Pittsburgh and also manufactured locally by two fabrication shops located in Southwest Pennsylvania. Venture's systems have been shipped to locations throughout the United States and Canada.

Supporting the local economy is part of Venture's business philosophy, so it only made sense for Venture to begin participating in Pitt's Cooperative Education

Program. Venture's manager of engineering, William Wright, is a 1992 Civil Engineering graduate of Pitt and a former co-op student with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Understanding the value of the Pitt co-op experience, and wanting to provide employment to Pitt engineering students, led Mr. Wright and Mr. Moniot to hire Matt Dilulio as Venture's first mechanical engineering co-op student during the 2011 summer term.

Matt said of his experience, "I feel privileged to Co-op at Venture Engineering & Construction. As the number one fastest growing engineering company in Pittsburgh, Venture is headed in the right direction in a market that is rapidly growing. There is no doubt that the people make the company what it is. Everyone at Venture knows the perfect combination of how to treat you as a fellow employee but also as a student. They know you are learning and are always there to answer questions, show you things, and help you learn along the way. It is big enough to be a major player in the industry but small enough that you know everybody's name and can all work together in a great, team-oriented atmosphere. The combination of great people, a great work environment, a leader in a growing market, and deep Pittsburgh roots all make Venture Engineering & Construction a great place to work."

Andy DiFonso, Venture's fall 2011 mechanical engineering co-op student, said, "Venture Engineering has impressed me with their ability to have fun and enjoy a day at the office while still maintaining a positive and productive working environment."

Venture plans to increase their participation in Pitt's Co-op program as continued growth allows.

For more information on Venture Engineering, please visit www.ventureenr.com.



Andy DiFonso (l) and Matt Dilulio (r), the first co-op students at Venture Engineering.

2011 Co-op Student of the Year awarded to Benjamin Dunkelberger

This year's Cooperative Education Program Student of the Year is Ben Dunkelberger of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Ben was in a competitive group of eight Pitt nominees for this coveted award. The criteria for the award include outstanding work performance, academics, and volunteerism. According to the nomination written by Steven Mankevich, chief engineer at Converteam Naval Systems Inc., "Benjamin was selected to represent Converteam as the first co-op sent to the United Kingdom for an extended rotation while working on a sophisticated Virtual Support Room initiative that involved all of Converteam at a global level. While Benjamin was on this assignment, he was able to identify major areas of improvement in the software code that enabled significant savings in manpower and life cycle costs.

Benjamin is currently working on a state-of-the-art solar power conversion system. This next generation of inverter will enable clean, affordable, renewable energy and make large-scale solar farms a reality. He designed a gating and control system, ordered

parts, assembled the hardware, and implemented an IGBT gating strategy to test the performance of the power stack. This project represents the future of Converteam North America and is a critical element that will allow the United States to address its energy needs well into the next century by decreasing its dependency on fossil fuel sources.

Although Ben's academic record and work performance may be easily quantified, surprisingly these are not his most outstanding attributes. To me, Ben's most exceptional traits are his attitude and character. Ben comes to work early every day with a smile and is pleasant and easy to work with. He has completed every assignment given to him, whether significant or potentially mundane, with refreshing enthusiasm."

Ben is also very involved in volunteerism through his church and acts as a men's Bible study leader. Our congratulations to Ben! He competed in the National Competition for the American Society of Engineering Education's Co-op Student of the Year and was named a finalist.



Dr. Larry Shuman presents the Co-op Student of the Year award to Benjamin Dunkelberger.



Steve Mankevich of Converteam (Ben's co-op employer), Maureen Barcic, and Benjamin Dunkelberger.

“On occasion paths will cross with a certain individual where you know success is close at hand. Ben is such an individual. Although still an engineering student, Ben has been able to quickly grasp the real-world problems that we frequently face, apply good engineering principles and concepts, and structure very solid solutions to respond to these challenges. Ben is able to perform at a level equal to that of our full-time engineers. Ben is engaging, confident, and full of energy. Our goal would be for Ben to joins us full time upon graduation.”

Dan Russell, President of Converteam Naval Systems Inc.

History of Converteam Naval Systems

Converteam is a worldwide specialist in Power Conversion engineering with the clear mission to improve and secure customers' process performance while lowering environmental impact. The group provides customized solutions built around three core components: motors and generators, variable speed drives, automation and process controls.

Converteam Naval Systems is the R&D division for North America and also is the only division to possess a Facility Security Clearance enabling employees to work on U.S. Department of Defense classified programs. The North American headquarters is located in Pittsburgh, Pa., having been in business for over 80 years operating under the names of Westinghouse, Cegelac, GEC, Alstom, Converteam, and now General Electric.

“Everything is going great! I love working here!”

*Declan Wilson
Industrial Engineering Co-op
HJ Heinz Company*



2011 Co-op Certificate Recipients

Bioengineering

Stephen S. Holland
Jessica C. Huynh
Tyler J. Madonna

Civil and Environmental Engineering

Jaren P. Bailey
Joshua C. Boots
Caitlin N. Brown
Matthew J. Cardamone
Tiffany M. Chambers
Michael A. Clements
Loren Dalla Betta II
Thomas J.C. Dickey
Erin M. Dunbar
Jaclyn M. Eatherton
Michael R. Hayes
Matthew R. Highlands
David L. Kovac
Taylor C. Massaro
Ryan J. Maurer
Matthew J. McCabe
Michael J. Mish
Zachary D. Pistilli
Paroma Saha
Erik R. Schuller
David G. Shafer
Daniel H. Smilowitz
Ryan A. Wallace

Chemical and Petroleum Engineering

Yasir Arafat
Jason A. Bernens
William D. Bowers
Erica N. Brokaw
Rebecca J. Byrnes
Brett Susan Carly
Erica L. Carson
Raymond A. Chessa
Brittany R. Coleman
Jacklyn C. Conley
David P. Disciascio
Peter N. Garland
Brogan N. Guest
Austin D. Healey
Nathan A. Jackson
Michael J. Kaminski
Timothy J. Keane
Maria C. Kretzing
Kristin L. Kutchak
Victoria Lai

Amy L. Lewis
Christina N. Medaglia
Kate E. Monaghan
Patrick R. Morrow
Julia A. Ramone
Timothy Paul Tallon

Chemistry

Adam L. Burkett

Computer Engineering

Sunsharay S. Chestnut
Jon C. Chmura
Daniel P. Donovan
Joseph S. Durko
Asher G. Finkel
Junchao Hua
Nathan Altay Hunter
Andrew E. Mazur
Joseph S. Mazza
Stephon M. McCoy
Jeremy M. Nelson
Brian J. Quinn
Kristin Roher
Matthew D. Schechtman
Sean W. Schellinger
Jared J. Schmidt
Michael E. Starke
Jeremy M. Thomas
Donald J. Virostek

Computer Science

David M. Baker
Matthew B. Becker
Dustin M. DeMeglio
Steven G. Forrest
Zachary C. Reinhardt
Farhanah Sheets
Justin D. Tozzoli

Electrical Engineering

Opubo T. Agiobenebo
Joseph C. Ates
Brian A. Bair
David P. Bobish
Seth M. Bush
Tyrell S. Cline
Ryan M. Cope
Benjamin J. Dunkelberger
Chad J. Englert
Eric W. Fenton
Jonathan R. Fike
Cody James Hiles

Chad Robert Hirsh
Brent J. Hummel
Lane S. Jones
Dmitry Kalika
Patrick T. Lewis
Jon R. Ohl
James J. Perkins
Jacob M. Porterfield
Nathan R. Roberts
Alexander M. Schaefer
John E. Selker
Vernon M. Smith
Harold R. Wilson
Amber N. Wright

Industrial Engineering

Matthew P. Barren
Jason M. Cotterman
Jeffrey W. Coull
Elizabeth G. Danko
Matthew DiDonato
Eamon T. Drury
Craig J. Esty
Rebecca L. Everett
Julianne Friend
Patrick R. Garner
Jenna L. Gilbreath
Kristin R. Gottron
Erica N. Grasinger
Evan T. Graupmann
Carly G. Havyer
Daniel L. Jacobs
Kerrie L. Kirkwood
Danielle M. Lofurno
Julia M. Lynch
Tayler M. Rothwein
Dustin R. Schreiber
Stephanie E. Small
Rebecca W. Terry
Matthew B. Vitovsky

Mechanical Engineering

Mark D. Almes
Paul S. Balik
Michael L. Belair
Erik E. Benusa
Mary Beth Biddle
Jacob C. Boe
William M. Buono Jr.
James T. Burns
Luby Choi
Andrew G. Collins
Tyler E. Culvahouse

Adam M. Denmead
Stephen J. Denninger
Philip M. Dowling
Robert H. Egolf IV
Akalanka Fernando
Brian P. Finley
Brendan K. Flynn
Daniel A. Franzetta Jr.
Alan J. Fregoso
Jessica A. Gardner
Benjamin S. Gomberg
Kevin R. Hannan
Michael J. Hart
Kolin E. Hundertmark
Tyler A. Karloski
James E. Keefer
Mohamed A. Koubaa
Brittany M. Lange
Jason M. Lockney
Jonathan J. Lui
Scott A. Mang
Michael J. Massimino
Peter M. Mickley
Karl D. Olsheski
Ryan M. Petrina
Meggie C. Piotrowski
Michael Reitmeyer
Ranique D. Roquemore
Nicholas J. Ruff
Steven J. Santangelo
Kameron A. Sanzo
Philip G. Schindler
Oreste V. Scioscia
Randy C. Seiple
Benjamin David Smith
James C. Smoyer
Trevor J. Staab
Mark P. Taylor
John W. Thomas
Trevor J. Thompson
David E. Todd
Hope E. Tremblay
Nicholas B. Vukmer
Urban M. Weinheimer

Materials Science Engineering

Kathryn Grace Beckwith
Renato N. Cozzarelli
Matthew S. Dahar

Mechanical Engineering Technology

Johnathan B. Palmer

Dates to Remember

SWE, NSBE & SHPE Dinner Event
“DinnerView”
Wednesday, January 11, 2012
102 Benedum Hall
6 - 8 p.m.

Annual Spring 2012 Co-op Job Fair
Thursday, January 12, 2012
William Pitt Student Union
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Employer Panel Event
Tuesday, September 19, 2012 (tentative)
102 Benedum Hall
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Annual Fall Co-op Job Fair
Tuesday, September 27, 2012
William Pitt Student Union
8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

“The work I’ve been given has definitely stimulated my thinking abilities. It’s given me a chance to use what I’ve learned in class, so yes it is challenging, but doable.”

*Jacob Vitullo
Civil & Environmental Engineering Co-op
PennDOT*

University of Pittsburgh Swanson School of Engineering Cooperative Education Program

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