University of Pittsburgh
Swanson School of Engineering
School of Arts and Sciences
Engineering Technology, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

WINTER 2009

Kaleigh Muller Named Co-op Student of the Year 2008

Kaleigh Muller of the Department of Industrial Engineering is the Cooperative Education Program's Co-op Student of the Year. Muller was a co-op student with UPS Customer Solutions. During her tenure there, she acted as lead engineer on a layout redesign, taught industrial engineering principles at a local technical vocational school, and worked during her fourth co-op rotation on an international project, where she assisted a European company with the consolidation of its warehouses.

Muller also received a $4,000 scholarship from the Freeman Asia Foundation toward participation in Pitt in China 2008 to examine ethnic relations between Mongolian and Chinese citizens.

In addition, she served as Engineering Student Council president and was active through Tau Beta Pi with Family House. She was selected to work on key research projects at UPMC, taught a summer course through the CARE program, and was a teaching assistant and a marathon runner!

Muller graduated from the Swanson School of Engineering with highest honors, and has accepted a full-time offer with Walt Disney World. The co-op office congratulates her and wishes her the very best!

Our two other finalists for 2008 were:
Eddie Halusic: mechanical engineering, BMW, and
Marcus Gundrum: chemical engineering, Westinghouse.

Our honorable mentions were:
Andrew Bilitski: electrical engineer, G.E. Power Systems;
Bryan Brown: chemical engineer, Washington Penn Plastics;
Lee Dosse: mechanical engineer, Curtiss Wright;
Kevin Shaffer: computer engineer, Compunetix; and
Brian Smith: industrial engineer, FedEx Ground.

Kaleigh Muller (middle), an industrial engineer who completed the co-op program at UPS Customer Solutions, accepts the 2008 Co-op Student of the Year award from Gerald D. Holder (left), U.S. Steel Dean of the University of Pittsburgh Swanson School of Engineering. Stan Sliwoski (right) (BS '87, MS '93), engineering services resource manager, represents UPS Customer Solutions at the 2008 co-op reception/dinner.

FedEx Ground Honored as 2008 Outstanding Co-op Employer of the Year

Each year the Cooperative Education Program at the University of Pittsburgh Swanson School of Engineering honors an outstanding employer for dedication to and support of the program. FedEx Ground was designated as the program's 2008 Outstanding Co-op Employer of the Year.

FedEx Ground has had a long-standing and outstanding relationship with the Swanson School of Engineering's co-op program and the University of Pittsburgh. Through this program FedEx Ground has hired an estimated 40 co-ops and many full-time individuals as well. The company also supports the school's diversity efforts and works with students through senior design projects. FedEx Ground is very deserving of the recognition.

The award was presented at the annual cooperative education reception/dinner on December 5, 2008, at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association in Oakland.

Matthew Berardi (left) (MS '95), managing director, field technology development, accepts the 2008 Outstanding Employer of the Year Award for FedEx Ground from Gerald D. Holder, U.S. Steel Dean of the University of Pittsburgh Swanson School of Engineering.

Co-op Students Celebrate at 2008 Graduate Reception and Dinner

On December 5, 2008, the Cooperative Education Program held its annual reception and dinner at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association in Oakland for students who successfully completed the co-op program requirements.

More than 200 students, family, faculty, staff, and employers were present at the annual event. Gerald Holder, U.S. Steel Dean of the Swanson School of Engineering, presented each student with a certificate of completion.

Kaleigh Muller (industrial engineer, UPS Customer Solutions) was honored as Co-op Student of the Year for 2008. Two other finalists were Eddie Halusic (mechanical engineer, BMW) and Marcus Gundrum (chemical engineer, Westinghouse). 2008 honorable mention nominees were Andrew Bilitski (electrical engineer, G.E. Power Systems); Bryan Brown (chemical engineer, Washington Penn Plastics); Lee Dosse (mechanical engineer, Curtiss Wright); Kevin Shaffer (computer engineer, Compunetix); and Brian Smith (industrial engineer, FedEx Ground).

Holder also presented the 2008 Outstanding Co-op Employer Award to FedEx Ground. Accepting the award was Matthew Berardi (MS '95), managing director, field technology development of FedEx Ground.

Additional FedEx representatives on hand were Gary Burns (MS '91, PhD '94), senior manager, Vision Project; David Grus, senior manager, technology research; Robert Pudlo, vice president, operations technology and systems support; Denise Radocaj, senior human resources representative and engineering and intern/co-op program manager; and Davida Riley-Brown, manager, Pittsburgh recruitment and employee relations.

Damian Mirizio (center) and his parents attended the annual graduate dinner. He received his certificate of completion for his work as a mechanical engineering co-op at MSA in Cranberry.

MSA, The Safety Company is a regular employer of engineering co-ops at facilities in Cranberry Township and Murrysville, Pa. These co-ops cover a range of disciplines (mechanical, chemical, software, electrical, and industrial engineering) and support new product development (NPD), quality, and research efforts to help save lives around the world. In 2008, MSA hired six co-ops from the University of Pittsburgh as full-time engineers. Below are their stories.

John Giancola (BS '08), mechanical engineer, is from New Castle, Pa., and enjoys cycling, running, and jazz music. At Pitt, he was a member of the Emerging Leaders program and Formula SAE. When asked about the engineering experience gained during his co-op assignment, which began in December 2005, Giancola replied, "I have done everything from exposing prototypes to below-freezing conditions, to testing flame resistance, to even designing new test fixtures and everything in between, all while being on my co-op rotations." Giancola works in the fall protection NPD group.

Jeff Harding (BS '07), mechanical engineer, has interests ranging from automotive design and manufacture to photography and camping. Hailing from Zelienople, Pa., he participated in Formula SAE and intramural soccer during his years at Pitt. Harding began his MSA co-op experience in May 2005. He works in the customer solutions group for fall protection. He reviews customer issues, works with customers and with MSA's manufacturing facilities to identify the problem, and then develops a specific solution.

Matt Kopacko, industrial engineer, is from Irwin, Pa., and enjoys playing golf. He was a member of the Emerging Leaders program and the Freshmen Leadership Team at Pitt. Speaking of his co-op experience at MSA, Kopacko said, "I was able to travel to many different MSA locations, as well as work on a variety of different projects. The people that work there are very friendly and make it a great place to work." Kopacko became a staff engineer in December 2008.

Becky Kreke (BS '08), mechanical engineer, participated in the Outdoors Club while at Pitt. From Penn Hills, Pa., Kreke enjoys mountain biking and playing guitar. She began her co-op at MSA in December 2005. Currently, Kreke is a design engineer and a project team leader for an NPD project. She is responsible for the product's technical design and functionality and manages an interdisciplinary team of engineering, purchasing, marketing, and manufacturing associates to develop the product from start to finish.

Grant Myers (BS '08), mechanical engineer, is from Harrisburg, Pa., and enjoys judo and soccer. When asked about his co-op experience, Myers said, "Before the co-op program, I was unsure if engineering was right for me. I started out performing tests for engineers, writing reports, and interpreting test data. Working with engineers I learned about the design process and what kind of work is involved in designing a product. By my last rotation I felt like an engineer, a part of a team here at MSA." Myers works in the fall protection NPD group.

Chris Stevens (BS '08), industrial engineer, is from Munhall, Pa., and enjoys archery and playing guitar. While a student, Stevens worked at the original Primanti Brothers. He spent three rotations as a co-op at UPS before coming to MSA as a summer intern in 2007. According to Stevens, "I enjoyed being in a manufacturing environment as well as the freedoms that you have to solve problems in the manner that you think is best." Stevens works as a quality engineer at MSA. He is involved in six sigma projects, improving product quality and transitioning new products to manufacturing.

What do these students have in common? They are all examples of the success of the University of Pittsburgh co-op program. In just a short time, they have made valuable contributions at MSA. And they would all recommend a co-op experience to engineering students who want to truly understand what an engineering career entails.

University of Pittsburgh students working as co-op engineers at MSA's Cranberry location are (left to right) John Giancola (BS '08), Becky Kreke (BS '08), Jeff Harding (BS '07), and Grant Myers (BS '08). Missing from the picture are Chris Stevens (BS '08) and Matt Kopacko, who are working at the MSA Murrysville location.

Three Rotations in Review: My Out of the Box Experience at MEDRAD

Kelly McCormick
Senior, Industrial Engineering
University of Pittsburgh

I write this article having just delivered my third rotation co-op presentation to the chief executive officer (CEO) of MEDRAD, John Friel. I had worked on several projects during this semester, and I chose to present on the Operations Strategic Planning Process that my group, Advanced Operations Strategy (AOS), launched this year.

> *AOS is a strategic group within Operations, consisting of Industrial, Mechanical, and Software Engineers who helps managers make decisions such as when to transfer assembly lines between plants, where to build new warehouses, etc. Our team was launched at the beginning of 2008, and it has been an exciting and eye-opening year. Our largest project for the year was driving the Operations Strategic Planning Process, which involved facilitating workshops with Operations Leadership to prioritize projects and resources to fit our business case.*

At the end of my presentation regarding my role in helping Operations devise our 2009 operating plan, budget, strategic thrusts, and top 12 objectives, the CEO asked a series of questions, but the final question that he asked was one that really caught my attention: "So, Kelly, does the Pitt industrial engineering department offer a class on strategic planning? What class work have you used to help you drive this project?"

When I really think about this question, the answer is no, Pitt does not offer a class in strategic planning, but you can be sure that Pitt helped me succeed in this project. There is not one specific course that I can point to at Pitt and say, "This class was the driving factor in my success," but rather all of the Pitt industrial engineering undergraduate courses have aided me along the way. The industrial engineering curriculum teaches students to drive for results, solve problems, and be able to communicate outcomes. These skills were invaluable in my three rotations at MEDRAD, which only proved to enhance my education.

The co-op program at MEDRAD gave me the opportunity to take what skills I have learned in academia and apply them to a unique process that I would not have seen without the co-op. I have worked with vice presidents, plant managers, and directors throughout Operations to find out how business works.

This opportunity has been a thousand times more rewarding than I would have expected. I now leave MEDRAD with over a year's worth of practical experience, enthusiastic about returning to school with a new perspective on classes and the industrial engineering field.

MEDRAD is a Pittsburgh-based employer of more than 2,000 individuals at four facilities. MEDRAD is the worldwide leader in manufacturing medical imaging injectors and accompanying syringe and disposables sets for markets in 17 countries.

Bioengineering Student Spotlight

The Cooperative Education Program works closely with all engineering departments in the Swanson School of Engineering. Our newest departmental relationship allows us to work hand in hand with the Department of Bioengineering to help students find relevant undergraduate co-op positions.

These positions combine hands-on experience in bioengineering with the solid fundamentals students need to advance themselves in research, medicine, and industry. The Department of Bioengineering has a long-standing and unique relationship with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and other academic departments at the University of Pittsburgh. Its faculty are shared with these organizations, offering graduate and undergraduate students access to state-of-the-art facilities and a wide array of research opportunities.

Current bioengineering co-ops include:

Nick Apollo: Cook/Myosite

Rayna Nola: McNeil Pharmaceuticals (Johnson & Johnson division)

Nicholas Barone: Dupont (dual degree in chemical engineering and bioengineering)

Pat Vescovi: Sabic Plastics (dual degree in chemical engineering and bioengineering)

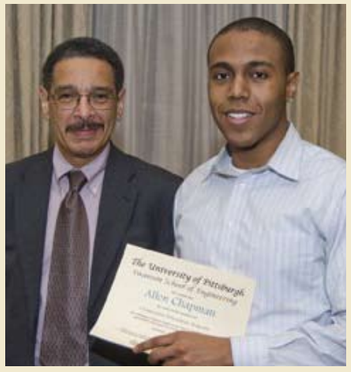
Rob Allen: MEDRAD (one rotation at MEDRAD last summer)

Any employers or students interested in this program should contact Maureen Barcic at 412-624-9882.

Siemens Metals Technologies Grants Opportunities to Pitt Students

Siemens Metals Technologies (MT), located in Canonsburg, Pa., employs more than 1,000 employees who are responsible for Siemens' metals business in North America. Siemens is the world's leading supplier of metallurgical plants for the iron and steel industry and for the aluminum rolling sector. Additionally, Siemens is involved in all processes of the steel industry, including casting, rolling, and finishing. Siemens provides mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, and automation services to steel producers not only in North America but worldwide. The company is responsible for providing customers with a full range of technology, know-how, and services including studies, modernization, turnkey projects, and life cycle support.

Siemens MT has placed several students from the University of Pittsburgh in its co-op program, with some of them receiving full-time positions upon graduation. Siemens MT is looking for Pitt students in engineering, computer science, and technology-related fields. Siemens offers a work culture where innovative ideas are encouraged, diversity programs are embraced, and mentoring and training programs take careers to new heights. To explore all of the career opportunities available, contact the co-op office or visit www.usa.siemens.com/en/jobs_careers.htm for more information.



Allen Chapman (right) and his father. Chapman received his certificate of completion from the Cooperative Education Program at the annual graduate dinner. He completed his mechanical engineering co-op at US Airways.

2008 Co-op Certificate Recipients

Civil and Environmental Engineering
Marie Balestreire
Gina Blake
Brendan Bovard
Michael Bozek
Stephanie Chechak
Caitlin Conte
Andrew Corson
Kellie Fisher
Louis Gualtieri
Gabe Gutierrez
Jeffrey Hopple
Kevin Irvine
John Kleiber
Nicholas Krobot
Thai Luu
Matthew McCool
Daniel McFadden
Paul McKillop
Andrew Mlynarski
Timothy O'Donnell
John Patton
Christopher Priest
Kurt Rogan
Monica Rothermel
Brett Rusnock
Nathan Simpson
Jesse Takosky

Chemical and Petroleum Engineering
Jason Berardinelli
Megan Boerio
Bryan Brown
Benjamin Cowan
Matthew Detzel
Andrew Downs
Adam Glatz
Marcus Gundrum
Michael Guthrie
Jeffrey Heller
Brian Ising
Amanda King
Kenneth Kochman
Kaitlyn Koller
Jamie Mion
Daniel Musser
Emily Olsheski
Christopher Riese
Mattan Rojstaczer
James Sabol
Ryan Vangorder
Vanessa Yochum

Computer Engineering
Sami Al-Qaisi
Christopher Butor
Yamen Domat
Joseph Gualtieri
Walter Impellicceiri
Justin Kircher
Paul Matthew Kohler
Matthew Korytowski
Daniel Lamoureaux
Chase Lavsa
Nicholas Leonard
Duane Littleton
Timothy Mudrick
Sean Murray
Robert Noble
Michael Rothfuss
Kevin Shaffer
Ryan Skoog
Anthony Talak
Zachary James Werner

Computer Science
Jason Makay

Electrical Engineering
Caleb Abraham
Seth Ammer
Derek Anderson
Eric Biel
Andrew Bilitski
Jacob Brunner
Vincent Calfo
Philip Dahl
James Dameron
Mark Dimario
Patrick Duffey
Dana Isaac
Jay Johnson
David Marple
Harrison Molovich
Zachary Nyce
Doug Replogle
Jennifer Robinson
Eric Treffeisen
Chun-min Wang
Brandon Welt

Electrical Engineering Technology
Ryan Yinkey

Industrial Engineering
Paul Bershad
Nicholas Croasdaile
Lindsay Destefano
David Donnelly
Molly Franklin
Joseph Gies
Christopher Janosco
Zachery Jones
Amanda Kirlin
Matthew Kopacko
Colin Matthews
Ryan May
Andrew Moul
Kaleigh Muller
Kelly Murray
Heather Nayhouse
Anne Ottenberg
Tyler Park
Jessica Sanko
Caitlin Seery
Joseph Sidhom
Katherine Skinner
Brian Smith
Aaron Spence
Daniel Spice
Matthew Verduci

Information Science
Christina Morse

Mechanical Engineering
Marc Albert
Edward Antosz
Shane Bassinger
Joshua Beckton
Daniel Berkepile
Jordan Berkes
Patrick Campbell
Allen Chapman
Lee Allen Dosse
Ibrahim Ezelarab
Edward Halusic
Ajay Hari
Nicholas Hill
Kevin Ireland
Matthew Jenkins
Andrew Kumer
Douglas Landfried
John Landreneau
Astrid Layton
Matthew Marcus
Michael McBrearty
Damian Mirizio
Julia O'Rourke
Stephen Pansino
Steven Peiffer
Richard Peifly
Thomas Pournaras
Omar Rahrouh
Matthew Reineberg
Matthew Reynolds
Jason Rogers
Lydia Ross
Clifton Sanders
Joshua Schneider
Robert Siegwart
Gregory Simmons
John Stedje
Marshall Thomas
Matthew Thomas
Joseph Ulrich
Patrick Wolfe
Ryan Wolfred

Materials Science and Engineering
Gregory Scheuring

Mechanical Engineering Technology
Taylor Davis

Cooperative Education Spring Job Fair

Thursday, January 22, 2009
William Pitt Union
10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Job Fair Recruiting Event

Students and employers meet informally. Employers will answer questions and review and collect student résumés. Employers may set up interviews for the afternoon or contact students later in the term.

2–5 p.m.
Optional Interviews

Employers may conduct one-on-one interviews, which they have scheduled during the job fair recruiting event.

Our next job fair will be held in fall 2009. Future fair information and online registration can be accessed through our Web site at www.engr.pitt.edu/coop.

> "(My) assignment is going as expected. Challenging to a high extent at times, and easier other times. McNeil is an excellent company to work for. Co-ops are treated with respect, and brought into the real workplace right away."
>
> *—Christopher Riese*
> *Chemical Engineering Co-op*
> *McNeil Consumer Healthcare*
> *Fort Washington, Pa.*

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