

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

SWANSON SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH AT JOHNSTOWN

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

SPRING 2008

Scott Eshkenazi: Co-op Student of the Year 2007



Scott Eshkenazi (BS '07), an industrial engineer who completed the co-op program at H.B. Maynard, accepts the 2007 Co-op Student of the Year Award from Gerald D. Holder (right), U.S. Steel Dean of the University of Pittsburgh Swanson School of Engineering.

Scott Eshkenazi (BS '07) of the Department of Industrial Engineering is our Co-op Student of the Year. Eshkenazi demonstrated exemplary attributes even before he got to the University of Pittsburgh. As a high school student, he and a friend founded South Florida's first chapter of Kids Can Free the Children. Over a two-year span, they raised enough money to build a one-room schoolhouse in Nicaragua. They were also able to elicit donations from Old Navy, Puma, and Dove soap for the children.

Eshkenazi came to Pitt as a Chancellor's scholar and graduated with a dual degree in economics and industrial engineering in December 2007. He maintained a 4.0 grade point average.

Eshkenazi further distinguished himself as a co-op engineer for H.B. Maynard. He was entrusted with projects that were not often given to students, and he logged hundreds of nights in hotels and thousands and thousands of air miles traveling the country as a consultant for such clients as Pilot Travel Centers and Polo Ralph Lauren.

Eshkenazi also was recently named Outstanding Senior for 2007 by the Pittsburgh chapter of the Institute of Industrial Engineers. In addition, he studied abroad in Spain and toured the world during a Semester at Sea, which gave him an appreciation for people of different cultures. On campus, Eshkenazi worked for the freshman engineering program and was an ambassador for the University Honors College. He also was a teaching assistant for two courses. We wish Eshkenazi the best in the national competition for the Co-op Student of the Year.

Our other finalists:

- » Michael Sachs, civil engineer, Groundwater & Environmental Services
- » Aaron Hughes, computer engineer, Medrad, Inc.
- » Peter Tipton, electrical engineer, National Security Agency
- » Michael Task, materials science and engineering, Crucible Research
- » William Castillo, mechanical engineering, ANSYS, Inc.

Medrad Honored as 2007 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. Medrad, Inc., was designated as the program's 2007 Outstanding Co-op Employer of the Year.

The program has worked with Medrad since 1997 in the placement of co-op students. Over the years, 35 co-op students have been hired by Medrad, and many are still with the company today. Medrad has offered outstanding work assignments to our students in almost every discipline. Students must formally present to the Medrad managers and chief executive officer of the company on their projects and findings each term before returning to school. Medrad's commitment is from the top down and it shows.

This award was presented at the annual cooperative education reception on December 7, 2007, at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association in Oakland.



Susan Wingert (left) accepts the 2007 Co-op Employer of the Year Award for Medrad, Inc., from Gerald D. Holder, U.S. Steel Dean of the University of Pittsburgh Swanson School of Engineering.

The staff of the Cooperative Education Program would like to wish the best of luck to each and every one of our graduates. It has been our pleasure to work with you, and we sincerely hope that your co-op experience has not only provided you with technical and professional knowledge in your field, but also the confidence to take on life after college. Good luck to you!



Curtiss-Wright Co-op Manager Wins Lou Takacs Award

The Cooperative Education Division (CED) of the American Society of Engineering Education is proud to announce that Frank Meledandri of Curtiss-Wright's Electro-Mechanical Division has won the CED Lou Takacs Award.

Curtiss-Wright is a world leader in the design, engineering, manufacture, and service of critical-function electro-mechanical products such as reactor coolant pumps, motors, electrical generators, and secondary propulsors. Most products are used primarily in the navy nuclear and commercial utility industries.

Meledandri, an engineering manager and busy in his own right, took ownership of the co-op program many years ago. With him, the student is first. The assignment must be meaningful and challenging; if there are ever any problems, the student knows there is an open door to Meledandri's office.

Meledandri has had his share of excellent co-op students from the University of Pittsburgh and other institutions as well, but one of the most wonderful

things about him is that he understands that some students deserve a chance, even though they might not have several job offers from which to choose and might not even have the best of grades.

Pitt has been working with Curtiss-Wright and Meledandri since 1991. Through the years, they have hired 96 Pitt co-op students. Another part of the co-op culture at Curtiss-Wright is the end-of-term presentations made by co-op students to management, including the vice president of the company. Students detail their projects and ask questions of the managers. The projects are important and meaningful.

Curtiss-Wright maintained its co-op program even during times when the company was unable to hire after graduation. The company always believed in the concept of students learning through practical application. Now, it is able to offer full-time employment to its co-ops, and the program is expanding. From the top down, the people at Curtiss-Wright have committed to co-op, and much of that has to do with the commitment shown by Meledandri.

About the Cooperative Education Division/American Society of Engineering Education Lou Takacs Award

This award honors Lou Takacs, a longtime employee of E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company, who was a co-op student at Northwestern University. At DuPont, Takacs recruited and supervised co-op students for many years, overseeing the successes of many young people from various schools across the country.

Upon his retirement from DuPont, Takacs joined the staff of the co-op office at the University of Kentucky, where he served as a co-op advisor until his death in 2003. Takacs was a strong supporter of the Cooperative Education Division (CED), having served in many capacities, including chair, and was a recipient of the Alvah K. Borman and Clement J. Freund Awards.

This award began as the Corporate Recognition Award in 2003 and officially was renamed the Lou Takacs Award by the CED Board.

The CED may present this award each year to co-op employers who have made significant, honorable, and meritorious contributions to the promotion of the philosophy and practice of cooperative work in engineering and technology.

The award consists of an engraved desk plaque with the CED/American Society of Engineering Education logo, presented at the CED awards banquet at the annual Conference for Industry and Education Collaboration, with complimentary registration to the conference.

“ I am continuing to enjoy my time here at Railpower. The assignments given to me are either on my level or slightly above. It keeps me on my toes, and I have not received anything that I would consider boring. I was also able to attend an electrical safety training course this month and it was very informative while at the same time being very fun. Yes, fun! This rotation I have been added to a remote diagnostic team whose job it is to evaluate problems that are occurring on a locomotive and to recommend a diagnostic. This allows me to acquire a better understanding of how a locomotive works and what it takes to get certain problems repaired.”

—Matthew Korytowski
Electrical engineering co-op, Railpower Hybrid Technologies, Erie, Pa.

“ So far I have found my co-op extremely beneficial. I have gained a firsthand look into the jobs held in the engineering field. Additionally, I have gained knowledge and experience relating not just to power generation, but to machining, flow, chemistry, physics, ethics, and procedure. Moreover, I have learned a significant amount of domain knowledge pertaining to power generation, its demands, and the need for it in the world.”

—Douglas Tyler Landfried
Mechanical engineering co-op, Siemens PG, Pittsburgh, Pa.

GES Offers Opportunities to Pitt Students

By Chuck Whisman (BS '94)

Over the past 10 years, Groundwater and Environmental Services, Inc. (GES) has placed many University of Pittsburgh co-op students at offices across the United States, and most of those students have become full-time hires upon graduation. GES is a full-service environmental consulting and contracting firm, serving some of the world's most prominent companies since 1985, including many Fortune 100 firms.

During their co-op rotations at GES, students have the opportunity to work on many of the company's innovative remediation projects and patented remediation technologies. Current Pitt co-op students who have recently started their third co-op rotation with GES and have all been involved in many interesting remediation projects include Mike Sachs, Kurt Rogan, Amanda King, and Lydia Ross.

GES recently was awarded prime vendor contracts from Shell Oil and ExxonMobil, increasing expected revenue in 2007 to well over \$130 million and continuing to grow annual revenue, which has averaged over 20 percent per year each of the past five years. GES was ranked in the Top 20 All-Environmental Firms by *Engineering News Record* and won the prestigious Project Merit Award from the *Environmental Business Journal* for its innovative remediation approach in Nassau, the Bahamas, at one of the world's largest brownfield redevelopment sites.

FedEx Ground Prides Itself on Partnership with Pitt Students

By Paul J. Viccaro (BS '79)

FedEx Ground has designed, built, and now operates one of the largest machines ever constructed—a machine the size of North America. That machine is the 500-node network of interconnected facilities that picks up, sorts, and delivers more than 3.5 million packages every day. Those packages are the goods that permit the U.S. economy to function by connecting those who produce a product to those who need the product, and FedEx Ground's network is the machine that allows commerce to happen. It is the job of several hundred FedEx engineers of many disciplines and backgrounds to keep this machine running while expanding its capacity to keep up with people's ever-growing appetite for more stuff—and more stuff quickly—like the Xbox or iPod you just bought.

Civil, mechanical, and electrical engineers design and construct the millions of square feet of buildings and the thousands of miles of conveyors and high-speed state-of-the-art package sorters that are the backbone of the network. Industrial engineers design the network, planning the efficient movement of packages between the 500 facilities by optimizing the millions of miles driven on the nation's highways and roads to deliver the packages as quickly as possible. Electrical engineers and computer science graduates develop the leading-edge technology that scans the labels on the packages, reading both the bar codes and the words themselves, and updates everyone

Co-op Students Celebrate at Graduate Reception and Dinner

On December 7, 2007, we held our annual reception and dinner at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association in Oakland for those students who successfully completed the co-op program requirements.

More than 250 students, family, friends, faculty, staff, and employers were present at the event. Gerald Holder, U.S. Steel Dean of the Swanson School of Engineering, presented each student with a certificate.

We honored our Co-op Student of the Year for 2007, Scott Eshkenazi (industrial engineering, H.B. Maynard). The other nominees for the award were Michael Sachs (civil engineer, Groundwater & Environmental Services); Aaron Hughes (computer engineer, Medrad, Inc.); Peter Tipton (electrical engineer, Department of Defense); Michael Task (materials science and engineering, Crucible Research); and William Castillo (mechanical engineering, ANSYS, Inc.).

via the Internet on the location of the package within just minutes of the packages' being scanned. Electrical engineers and computer science graduates also create and manage the data network that interconnects these facilities and enables billions of information technology transactions every single day.

FedEx Ground was born and raised right here in Pittsburgh and revolutionized the package delivery business with its innovative solutions. It has been growing and thriving for more than 22 years to the \$6 billion company it is today. And FedEx Ground is part of the worldwide \$35 billion FedEx Corporation with operations around the globe. We have had a successful co-op program with the University of Pittsburgh for many years now, and a significant number of FedEx people are Pitt grads—including one who earned Distinguished Alumnus honors in 2003. Engineering the machine of commerce requires smart, technical people with an eye for innovation and improvement—people like Pitt engineering and computer science students. Contact the co-op office to look for all of the opportunities available to you at FedEx Ground.

Paul J. Viccaro (BS '79) earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Pittsburgh and master's degree from Carnegie Mellon University, and is a registered professional engineer in Pennsylvania. He is managing director of the facilities and material handling engineering department at FedEx Ground's corporate headquarters.

Medrad, Inc., received the Outstanding Co-op Employer Award for 2006. Amy Beltz, Ian Buggs, Libby Roll, and Sue Wingert represented Medrad at the reception and accepted its award.

Everyone had a wonderful time mingling, honoring our students, and enjoying some great food. We were all very proud of our co-op students and delighted to give them recognition and thank them for representing the school and the program. It was also a great opportunity to thank the families and companies who helped our students to develop into such fine professionals.

Co-op Student Profile: Matt Shepler

Looking for a meaningful cooperative experience is a little like shopping for clothes; it's important to find something that fits your needs and allows you to express your individuality. For University of Pittsburgh Swanson School of Engineering alumnus Matt Shepler (BS '07), that meant finding a company that would allow him not only to apply his chemical engineering classroom experience in day-to-day situations, but also give him a chance to discover new things that can't always be taught in a traditional learning environment. Shepler found just the right fit at United States Steel Corporation's Clairton plant, a facility just outside Pittsburgh that turns coal into a nearly pure carbon fuel called coke that is used at its North American steelmaking operations.

Initially, Shepler had reservations about co-op experiences in general, but after interviewing at U.S. Steel, he was convinced he would learn invaluable lessons. “My experience at Clairton was excellent,” he says of his time in the chemical recovery section of the plant's Chemicals and Energy Division. “Once I learned about the specific process area I was assigned to, my supervisor encouraged me to get involved in highly technical projects. The work was always challenging, and all of my experiences increased my understanding of what I was learning in the classroom and showed me what I needed to do to prepare myself for life after graduation.”

Shepler was offered a full-time position at Clairton after his December 2007 graduation and is now a management associate in gas handling. He knew full-time employment at U.S. Steel would be a good fit, too. But for him, the upside extended beyond the company's competitive benefits package. “Every day presents different opportunities and challenges, and I love that I'm always doing something different, always being challenged,” Shepler says. “My co-op experience showed me that it's important to be open to development opportunities, and U.S. Steel invests a lot of time into preparing its employees—co-ops, too—to take the next step in their careers. U.S. Steel wants its employees to succeed, and the company gives them the tools to do just that.”

U.S. Steel will have approximately 300 co-op and internship opportunities available nationwide in 2008, and two-thirds of those positions will be in engineering disciplines. Interested students should contact the University of Pittsburgh Swanson School of Engineering co-op office for more information.



2007 Co-op Certificate Recipients

Bioengineering

Kristen N. Berger

Civil and Environmental Engineering

Jason L. Baguet
Benjamin R. Baltzer
Steve A. Bayer
Sarah A. Calugar
Peter M. Daloni
Jennifer L. Dietrich
Clifford D. Eich
Paul M. Endler
Nicholas C. Ervin
Evan J. Fennell
Kathryn E. Fink
Chad M. Ford
Michael A. Hartranft
Sean R. Hreha
Scott D. Hunter
Clinton M. Hyman
Jarret L. Kasan
Mark P. Krajcovic
Matthew W. Lee
Eric J. Maitz
John R. Patterson
Heather M. Pry
Adam B. Reeve
Michael R. Sachs
Angela A. Scanga
Kathleen E. Shannon
Aaron F. Signalovitz
Derrick J. Stanek
Adam R. Walkowiak
David J. Wallner
David A. Weakley II
Brandon R. Yule

Chemical and Petroleum Engineering

Eric P. Angstadt
Jonathan S. Bova
Laura Chessa
Robert F. Christian
Sarah M. Connolly
Jamie D. Costabile
Meghan K. Donovan
Joseph T. Dudas
William R. Dyakon
Jennifer A. Gillett
Zachary M. Heilman
Peter Jarrett
Bradley J. Johnston
Eric D. Kauffmann
Danielle R. Kruse
Michael J. Matthews
Benjamin E. Means

Nicholas C. Means
Michael A. Pettiford Jr.
Matthew A. Shepler
Christopher J. Strahler
Elisa A. Wolinsky
Kristen E. Woodward

Chemistry

Lisa L. Delong

Computer Engineering

Ryan M. Balthaser
Shayne W. Bell
Daniel J. Fisher
Noah S. Gerber
Ryan J. Hallermeier
Aaron C. Hughes
Don P. Koenig
Ryan P. Murray
Sean C. Nagle
Brian A. Oswald
Joshua N. Sorchik
Roman A. Tkachev
Rebecca G. Vereb
Nathaniel A. Wetzel
Curtis R. Young

Electrical Engineering

Adam E. Balawejder
Abhijit Bhattacharjee
James A. Cavanaugh
Matthew C. Clay
Andrew L. Crotty
Thaddeus P. Czauski
Sean T. Dowhy
Michael S. Gitomer
Andrew D. Gordon
Yu Andy Gu
Peter M. Heisey
Justin M. Keogh
William Tyler Krampe
Zachary D. Mazar
Ryan H. McCarty
Gregory M. Mervos
Anton J. Mobley
Lee B. Morrison
Timothy B. Muckian
John W. O'Leary
Jennifer A. Radebaugh
Doug J. Replogle
Stephen J. Rigatti
Eric D. Rosswog
Mark B. Salamacha
Zachary A. Smith
Mark A. Szymecki
Wesley L. Terek
Peter J. Tipton
Jason M. Zsak

Industrial Engineering

Adam J. Baker
Joshua D. Ciampini
Scott A. Eshkenazi
Sasha M. Furdak-Roy
Heather Marie Goetz
Matthew R. Hohman
Andrew W. Hunter
Michael M. Karnish
Ashley M. Leonzio
Amy L. Maletic
Kerry R. McCarthy
Lauren F. McKinney
Tara N. Moyer
Cuong D. (Chris) Nguyen
Shayne James Noe
Stephanie A. Nola
James P. Shields
Julie M. Sobek
Christopher J. Stevens
Robert J. Sweeney III
Ann E. Voltz
Sean T. Zyra

Mechanical Engineering

Steve C. Abrahamson
Christopher T. Beichner
David G. Beverly
Timothy J. Botti
David A. Bucci
Drew E. Buchanan
William C. Castillo
Joseph B. Cornell Jr.
James Coyne
Gabriel M. Dore
Lee Allen Dosse
Scott A. Empfield
Christopher L. Feathers
Scott R. Fischer
Aaron D. Fisher
John E. Giancola
Ashley S. Guzzetta
Jonathan W. Hicks
Christen M. Hydrean
Jay M. Jacobs
Sabrina M. Kasper
Ryan M. Kerr
Jeremy M. Kinard
Rebecca J. Kreke
Todd R. Locker
Matthew V. Marks
Christopher R. McKinney
Jocelyn J. Miller
Joshua R. Miller
Wesley F. Mitchell
Josua W. Mohl
Andrew T. Moore

Grant M. Myers
Christian S. Necheff
Collin C. Otis
Johnathan P. Perdoch
Theodore R. Rader
Sean A. Regina
Joshua D. Relovsky
Matei V. Sarbu
Justin C. Sciulli
Gregory R. Stehle
David M. Weir
Brandon C. Young
Paul Hee Rak Yu

Materials Science and Engineering

Daniel S. Pack
Michael N. Task
Jessica A. Yeager

Mechanical Engineering Technology

Jeremy Ashurst

“I can't speak highly enough about the people at Emerson and my manager, Rick. He has greatly enriched my experience here, as well as my knowledge and understanding for what Emerson is all about. From day one, they've treated me like a full-time employee, a professional, and a friend.”

—Jordan Berkes

Mechanical engineering co-op, Emerson Process Management, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Cooperative Education Spring Job Fair

The Cooperative Education Program at the University of Pittsburgh Swanson School of Engineering is pleased to announce its annual spring co-op job fair on Friday, February 8, 2008 in the 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. Employers will be considering students for summer and/or fall 2008 co-op positions.

2–5 p.m. Optional Interviews

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

We are welcoming approximately 55 employers to our spring fair this year. We will have our next job fair in the fall of 2008. Future fair information can be accessed through our Web site at www.engr.pitt.edu/coop.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM

4178 Wesley W. Posvar Hall
412-624-9826
www.engr.pitt.edu/coop

Co-op Staff

Maureen Barcic, Director
Chris Frankovic, Assistant Director
Janice Brown, Program Administrator