



ELPE

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND
PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

SPRING 2022

NEWS

Biannual Publication of the
University of Pittsburgh
Swanson School of Engineering

* Pitt Intern Student of the Year **Erin Marshall** *Industrial Engineering*



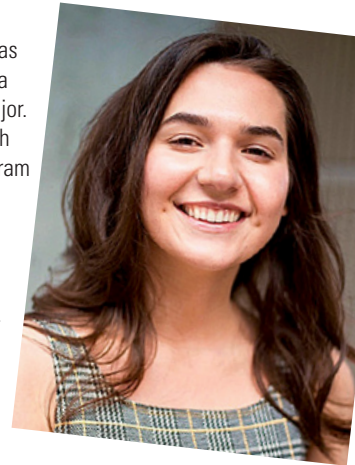
Erin was an intern at West Monroe Partners in their Operations Excellence practice where she worked with a team to develop and analyze a business continuity plan for a multi-billion-dollar utilities company in the event of a cyber-attack. Prior to that, during Erin's sophomore and junior year, she was an Industrial Engineering Co-op at FedEx Supply Chain in their Project Engineering Department. She is the recipient of the University of Pittsburgh's Intern of the year Award and recently the ASEE CEED Intern Student of the Year Award for 2022.

While at Pitt, Erin has been involved in a variety of clubs and organizations, including being the President of the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers, the Executive Vice President of Incline Consulting Group, and the Vice President of Alpha Pi Mu Honor Society. In addition, Erin has been a Teaching Assistant for several industrial engineering classes, a Peer Mentor for freshmen engineering students, and a Co-Chair for the First-Year Engineering Conference. She was fortunate to have the opportunity to study abroad in both China and India. She was runner-up for the University of Pittsburgh's Industrial Engineering Outstanding Senior Award. She will be officially graduating in August of 2022 after spending a semester abroad in London finishing her courses and completing an international internship.

* Pitt Co-op Student of the Year **Emma Ahlgren** *Mechanical Engineering*

The 2021 Pitt Co-op Student of the Year is Emma Ahlgren, a Mechanical Engineering major who took the opportunity to work with multiple employers to find her niche in engineering! She contributed at IBACOS, FedEx Ground, and Boston Scientific.

During her studies, Emma was drawn to Bioengineering as a minor, enhancing her ME major. She is currently involved with UPMC's Artificial Heart program as a Biomedical Technician, which she pursued after her co-op rotation with Boston Scientific's Interventional Cardiology R&D department.



While the pandemic caused a hold on her return to her initial employer, Emma was able to change direction and grow within her co-op experience. Emma explained "My co-op experience has been vastly different from what I initially expected, but I am happy with how it turned out. I have had the chance to work at a variety of companies and industries, and I feel that I was able to bring skills learned from previous rotations into the next one, even though I was not returning to the same place. The opportunity to explore was also extremely valuable; I began my co-op with no clear direction for my mechanical engineering major, and each rotation narrowed my focus to an increasing degree."

Emma is also on the SWE Executive Board, a member of Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society, and an Engineering Ambassador with the Swanson School of Engineering.

Upcoming FAIR Dates

Virtual

February 4 – Noon - 3 p.m.

SSoE Co-op/Intern Virtual Career Fair

In Person

February 9 & 10 – 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

SSoE Co-op/Intern Career Fair Benedum Hall

February 11 – 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

American Society of Civil Engineers Pitt Chapter Fair



✱ Co-op of the Year Finalists



James Bickerstaff
Computer Engineering

James completed his co-op with Alstom in West Mifflin, PA.



Matthew Kart
Bioengineering

Matt worked his co-op rotations with Sanofi Pasteur in Swiftwater, PA.



Sara Kron
Bioengineering

Sara completed co-op with Philips Medical in Murrysville, PA.



Brandon McDermott
Civil Engineering

Mascaro Construction is where Brandon gained his co-op experience.



David Muscarella
Chemical Engineering

Sherwin Williams is where David worked his co-op rotations.



Employer of the Year **American Contracting & Environmental Services**

American Contracting & Environmental Services (ACES) joined the Pitt co-op program with the placement of their first co-op student in summer 2010. Since then, ACES has employed 29 Pitt students in a co-op role. ACES was nominated by current co-op student, George Strish. George says, "ACE, internally, has a well-considered and thoroughly examined approach to co-op rotations... Being a co-op here is its own role in the company. Co-op students are given a capstone project at the beginning of the rotation to finish by their rotation's end, and then students give a presentation to the ACE leadership. Ace has been very beneficial to my professional development. They truly invest in the futures of their co-op interns."

Thank you ACES for your commitment to our Pitt students and for your continued support in Cooperative Education. Congratulations.



Mixing the Old with the New **A Co-op for All Schedules**

To provide as many options as possible to students and employers, the Pitt Co-op program can support alternating rotation co-ops, or six-month rotations. While the intent was to move forward with just 6-months, SSoE Engineering departments can continue with the traditional rotating schedules for employers and students if preferred. Reach out to the ELPE office if you have any questions concerning fitting a co-op into your schedule.

* Employer Profile – Pioneer Power Group

By Shreedhar Shah CEO of Pioneer Power Group

At Pioneer Power Group, (www.pioneerpwr.com), we are always looking for places where we can innovate not only in our industry, but with human capital. This is especially true in how we approach our Co-Op Program at the University of Pittsburgh.

At the start of 2020, we were extremely excited about our new co-op program and the opportunity



to encourage local young talent and invest in their futures. Not only is it an optimal first experience for the students – no matter where they decide to work after graduation, but they bring us fresh insight to our company as well. It's very important that the students get a well-rounded perspective and real-world education during their time with us.

After working through the launch of this program and navigating the complicated waters of the pandemic, both the Pioneer Power Group and the co-ops have reaped the benefits. Students are immersed in a hands-on situation to learn, develop their professional, technical and soft skills, and work in a fast-paced professional environment.

At Pioneer Power, we hope to work to improve our co-ops' experience for each rotation and each member. We are open to receiving feedback from the co-ops and work to provide them with more challenging tasks to help them develop technically and professionally. We are looking for hardworking, talented individuals who want to make a difference. We specifically have designed a series of experiences that deliver exactly that to the students.

The entire team at the Swanson School of Engineering has been tremendous to work with as they have helped guide both us and the students during the process. They are an invaluable source of information and assistance, and we couldn't have done it without them.

Thank you Shreedhar for the positive feedback. If you have questions about Pioneer Power please go www.pioneerpwr.com.



Virtual Alumni Mock Interview Day 2021!

Remember how nervous you were for your first job interview? Wouldn't it have been great to have someone help you through the process – give you tips and encouragement? SSoE Office of Experiential Learning and Professional Engagement, Co-op and Internship Division launched the 2021 Alumni Virtual Mock Interview just for those reasons!

Sixty-two SSoE Alumni volunteered their time and expertise to provide 114 mock interview opportunities for Swanson students on September 22, 2021. Recent and seasoned Swanson Alumni from all over the U.S. and from abroad participated to make this inaugural event a huge success! Many alumni commented that they really enjoyed the opportunity to reconnect with Swanson and Pitt as well as give back to the current group of engineering students. Alumni Zach Pucci, Southern Rockies Operations Manager, Baker Hughes, SSoE 2008, adds that: I think the (mock interview) process is a great idea. It gives the students a point of contact in industry and a quick flavor of the job market and current hiring process. I think it's beneficial for the students to understand how competitive it is out there. Most of the interviews I've been conducting lately are all over zoom calls so that fits well with how this event was set up.

Students from all majors were able to sign up for a mock interview slot and found it a useful opportunity. Richard Aversa, Chemical Engineering, expected graduation December 2023 notes that: The mock interview was an excellent learning experience. My alumni interviewer was professional but welcoming, and answering his questions was great practice. The feedback after the session was extremely helpful. I may have even made a new professional contact!

We look forward to having more alumni and students participate in Fall 2022!

LinkedIn®

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

* Congratulations to SSoE December 2021 Graduating Co-op Students

These students completed three semesters working in Industry. They were awarded certificates and starting this year, were awarded a co-op completion cord to wear at graduation. Departmental ceremonies were held in December.

Chemical Engineering

Anderson, Carla Louise
Bagwell, Michael John
Barker, Sam
Brighton, Tyler J
Ganter, Edward H
Hagmann, Sydney Dazja
Kimer, Maxwell
Mayhue, Kameron Michael
Murphy, Jeremy R
Muscarella, David
Oldenburg, Sarah E
Pezich, Nicholas James
Rattay, Jacob S
Rattay, Luke Andrew
Rebarchak, Sophia
Rizk, Margaret G
Ruslavage, Kayla Leigh
Sam, Aimee M
Schmidt, Zachary M
Slavish, Mykala Grace
Weirich, Gabrielle E
Xue, Kimberly M

Civil Engineering

Amicucci, Paul
Berger, Morgan
Bowser, Brian
Bye, Caleb
Dancer, Rachel
Fisher, Ethan
Gansor, Anthony

Girdich, Rachel
Hackman, Shira
Jones, Julia
Lombardo, Wesley
McDermott, Brandon
Mixa, Nathan
Perel, Ariel
Sepcic, Nicholas
Skomsky, Tyler
Turocy, Stephen

Computer Engineering

Bickerstaff, James
Brooks, Jacob C.
Carl, Jared
Cavanaugh, Joseph
Kaushik, Ramon
Key, Trinity
Kutney, Evan
Lazarchick, Olivia S.
Miller, Wesley
Possessky, Tristan
Rusnock, Alexander
Salha, Omar
Turner, Amber
Zinn, Nolan

Computer Science

Colon, Julian

Electrical Engineering

Brown, Harris
Butler, Dylan
Carpenter, Kent
Gall, Richard
Morton, Daniel
Pyo, Demetrius
Schlea, Joshua

Environmental Engineering

Cumpston, Mary Louise
Espadas, Anya
Ley, Jamie
Willson, Connor

Industrial Engineering

Crouch, Walter
Ferris, Alanna
Gerlach, William
Hannon, Mari
Harvey, Morgan
Hsin, William
McConnell, Anna
McNeill, Adam
Odunlami, Oluyemisi
Parker, Ian
Seeger, Madison
Smith, Katelynn
Todd, Katherine
Watt, Lydia

Mechanical Engineering

Babinchak, Kaitlyn
Barrineau, Mary
Bennis, Evan
Benson, Thomas
Biederman, Matthew
Bogdanoff, Rachel
Donaher, Clare
Dunn, Robert
Fenton, Solomon
Gamble, William
Gergel, Alexander
Gleeson, William
Groff, Amanda
Hershberger, T. Basil
Hirsch, Jeffrey
Hosenyi, Arman
Lennon, Addie
Merkel, Grant
Miller, Ethan
Osburg, Clara
Raible, Nicholas
Salesi, Joseph
Szpindor, Justin
Thomas, Justin
White, Holden
Zheng, Redmond

Material Science Engineering

Fratto, Nicola
Kadar, Blake
Nescio, Megan

ELPE Co-op Honor Cord

December 2021 was the first issuance of the ELPE Co-op Honor Cord.

Honor cords are worn by graduating students to denote an above average achievement in academic and/or extra-curricular activities. Henceforth, students who meet all criteria set by the Pitt SSoE Co-op rules and guidelines will receive an honor cord for successful co-op completion.

PITT | **SWANSON**
ENGINEERING
COOPERATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM

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