

# TICKET TO TAIWAN:

## CO-OP SENDS STUDENT PACKING

By Josh Blair, Russ College External Relations graduate assistant

When Matthew Bauder started a Cooperative Education assignment last spring, he never imagined it would take him to the other side of the world.

Bauder, a junior computer engineering student from Sunbury, Ohio, started his journey at RoviSys, a total process automation company based in Aurora, Ohio.

There, Bauder assisted with a project to develop touch-screen operator controls. “I had to establish communications between devices that weren’t supposed to communicate,” he said. “It was pretty fun because I got to do a lot of research.”

Toward the end of his co-op, RoviSys extended an unexpected last-minute invitation to Bauder. An emergency meeting was held because RoviSys needed a group of workers to help an understaffed customer company.

The destination: Taiwan.

Bauder didn’t take the invite too seriously, though. The plane would be leaving in a week, and he didn’t even have a passport.



Junior computer engineering major Matt Bauder walks the halls of in Stocker Center fall quarter.

But after having one expedited to him, Bauder packed his bags and waved goodbye to the U.S.A. while he joined seven other co-workers for a nearly 24-hour flight to Taiwan. Luckily, he flew first class.

In Taiwan, Bauder worked for Corning Display Technologies, a company that produces LCDs for communication and entertainment. Bauder began by working 10-hour days checking devices to make sure they functioned properly. He then moved on to computers, where he tested sequences and made sure devices started up in order.

Originally, Bauder was only supposed to work in Taiwan for a month. However, because he was doing such a good job, the company asked him to stay another month.

Bauder said he gained a “world of experience” from his co-op. “It opened my eyes in so many different ways. I never imagined I’d be going,” he said.

According to Marty North, Russ College assistant dean for career and outreach programs, Bauder’s interpersonal skills, good personality, sense of humor, and general abilities helped him land his co-op. She said she wasn’t surprised when she found out that RoviSys had sent him to Taiwan. “It’s obvious that they had confidence in Matt,” she said.

From a professional standpoint, Bauder said he learned a lot from working 10-to 14-hour shifts with other engineers and being essentially absorbed in his work. And getting a paycheck helped make those long—sometimes seven-day-a-week—shifts worthwhile.

“It’s an experience that broadens a student,” North said of co-op. “They come back and they’re confident. They find out what they like, where their skills are, and where they might want to focus when they graduate.”

She also noted that students who co-op usually have jobs before they graduate and often start at higher salaries than students who have not participated in the program.

Because he gained so much from his experience, Bauder is already talking with RoviSys about working for them again. “I was grateful that my boss and everyone at RoviSys took a chance sending a co-op over there,” he said. “It’s really cool knowing that they’re willing to take that chance with me.”

**The Russ College of Engineering and Technology’s Cooperative Education Program is an optional, five-year program that combines classroom learning with paid career-related work experience. About 30 percent of Russ College students in their sophomore through senior years, in all majors except aviation, participate, along with more than 240 employers.**



Assistant Dean for Career and Outreach Programs Marty North catches up with co-op student Matt Bauder.