Welcome Back Future Engineers of OHIO

A new academic year, a fresh beginning at Ohio University means looking forward to a new home for the students at Russ College of Engineering and Technology. This summer, construction of the greatly anticipated Academic and Research Center went underway and is set to be completed [insert date here]. A superior building will help with facilitating a better academic experience for students and give them something to look forward to in regards to their future at the University.

Not only were building plans and construction implemented this summer for the College, but also a new program to take into consideration upon graduation was added to the engineering curriculum. Not only meant for engineering majors, the Construction and Engineering Management Certificate is an option that students can explore if they would like something extra to add to their qualifications. The CEM Certificate is the equivalent of adding a minor to your degree.

Interested in looking to complete a co-op? Keep Robbyn Turner Matthews and Kelley Jolley in mind, they are more than willing to help out in jump-starting students’ careers! If you are more interested in getting a student’s perspective from experience, Abbey Hackenberg, Nichole Blackmore, and Colton Shoemaker are just a few of the engineering students who completed successful co-ops this past summer.

Have a great conclusion to the quarter everyone. Study hard for finals in order to achieve the academic success that we all strive for.

-Bridget Peterlin, Editor

Chemical Engineering Major Encourages Co-ops:

Co-ops vs. Internships

Perhaps, maybe you’re an overachieving freshman who is already looking into future career opportunities. Or maybe you’re a junior who is just learning about the benefits of completing a co-op or an internship prior to graduation.

Whatever your undergrad status may be, it is important to learn the benefits of completing a co-op through Russ College of Engineering and Technology and to become informed of how valuable this experience could be in creating a positive future for yourself.

Senior Chemical Engineering Major Bill Wakefield speaks highly of the co-op program at the College and the changes in staff that have been made within the last year.

“Robbyn [Matthews] has changed the co-op plan a little bit. She’s made it pretty laid back,” Wakefield said.

Wakefield recently completed his third term on co-op at Dupont in Parkersburg, West Virginia. Unlike most students who plan to complete a co-op, Wakefield “fell into the opportunity” and took it for all it was worth.

“Because I was able to work for longer terms as compared with an internship, I was given more responsibility and I was able to learn from mistakes in a social fashion,” he said. Wakefield was able to overcome the coined term “intern” and don himself as an “employee” by completing the program.

“I became a site guru because I learned so much while at Dupont,” he continued. “My talent was able to be distributed. Internships don’t allow you to do this in the amount of time that you’re given.”

Not only do co-op programs provide you with more experience in your engineering specialization, but they allow for further networking with professionals and peers.

“As with any industry including engineering, it’s not what you know, but who you know,” Wakefield concluded.

While all experience should be considered a positive one, it is important to look into all opportunities that are available. As engineering majors, you have a whole staff dedicated to assisting you with locating a co-op that is a good “fit” for your skills and interests. Don’t wait until senior year to regret missing possible career prospects. Take the leap and fall—like Bill!
“Unrealistic” Dream Becomes Reality for ISE Senior

If you can’t shoot for the stars, push for the launch pad.

Too often, students undermine their own capabilities and let their dream jobs slip through their fingertips because “it’s just not feasible; someone is far more qualified.” What’s more, it is usually the students who excel in their field who feel that their visions of working for an organization like United Space Alliance (USA) are far from their awaited reality of post-graduate work.

It was no different with fifth-year senior and Industrial and Manufacturing Systems major, Zach Milam, when he began his search for co-op opportunities.

“I never thought that working for USA was realistic,” Milam said. “Once I saw that it was a possibility to earn the position, I pushed really hard for it.”

Last fall, Milam spent his first term of four months with USA in Houston, Texas. He was compelled to earn the respect of USA’s employees with smaller projects and tasks such as attending daily meetings and throwing his two cents in where he felt it necessary.

“[Everyone] was really cool about listening to my input,” he said. “I learned that people in the space industry want to hear new and innovative ideas; that’s how the industry works.”

His second term in Florida proved to be much different. With fellow engineering student and pal Ricky Meyers, Milam was assigned one big project that he would work on throughout his term at USA. In hopes that the company would implement their ideas, Milam and Meyers identified problems with the company’s processes and made recommendations to save the organization money.

Reaching the stars isn’t enough sometimes, but it’s always safe to shoot for them.

Using Social Networks, the Right Way

Employment recruiters these days are doing virtually everything to ensure that their new hires are the best fit for their company. It is not uncommon for employers to utilize technological and social advances in order to do so.

It is important for students to keep in mind that social networks such as Facebook, LinkedIn, and MySpace are not only being used to connect with friends. Employers as well as alumni are using these mediums to find potential employees, keep track of current employees, and make connections for future deals.

In this regard, students may want to think about these points when creating their various profiles:

- Does your default picture accurately represent you as a professional?
- Does your profile provide professional activities and phrases, or are you marketing yourself as an irresponsible potential hire by providing unwise remarks and interests?
- Does your profile readily provide pictures that you would not want a future employer seeing?
- Does your profile contain postings from friends or other connections that may lead an employer to make assumptions about your personality and work ethic?

If you have answered “no” to any of these questions, as a student and future professional, you should strongly consider revising your social networking profiles. Take into consideration that various alumni are logging on and creating their own profiles. Ohio University Alumni have access to view Ohio University student profiles as long as privacy settings are not set properly.

Social networking should be viewed as a beneficial medium for future employment. They are to be used, as advantageous practices for students looking to enter the workforce, not be detrimental to their careers. If you, as a student, are unsure about your social networking profile ask yourself one final question: Would your parents approve of what they see?
Engineering Graduates: Where are they now?
Undergrad experiences at Ohio University

Justin Clark, a 2007 electrical engineering graduate, is quickly moving up in the ranks at his current company, United States Enrichment Corporation. As a Lead Engineer in the Power Operations Department, he is not the easiest person to get a hold of; despite the fact that he graduated from Ohio University about a year and a half ago. However, Career Services at Russ College of Engineering and Technology was able to track him down and talk to him about how he spent his time at OU, and how he was able to achieve his level of success today.

Career Services: Justin, in a few words, could you describe your time at Ohio University as an Electrical Engineering Undergraduate?
Justin Clark: Being an undergraduate was a lot of fun. The engineering professors at Ohio within Russ College were really helpful and gave the students a lot of opportunities which, as an undergrad, was important to me because I was able to discover what sort of work I was interested in, and what types of things I was good at.

CS: What experiences did you take advantage of while at Ohio in order to ready yourself for the “real world” upon graduation?
JC: I actually completed two co-ops while I was at school. During my third year as an undergrad, I worked for Rockwell Automation. During my fourth, I got to experience Honda Manufacturing in Columbus, Ohio.

CS: Describe each of your co-op experiences.
JC: With Rockwell Automation, I worked in the engineering test group, where I performed different kinds of testing for the products that we made there. Honda was a lot different. It was a really neat experience because I got the opportunity to work for two different sections of the company.

CS: What did you do while working in each section of Honda?
JC: Well, while working in the one section, I got to program the robots that actually put parts together within the assembly process. The second section dealt with product development, so I got to work on new model cars. One of the cars specifically that I got to work on before it actually came out into the market was the Acura RDX. I got to drive one around Columbus all summer to test it for corrections. It was cool, a great experience!

CS: How do you think completing co-ops helped you find a job after graduation?
JC: There’s a few reasons! Co-ops help you decide if you’re really working towards something that you want to do and focus on engineering. It helped me narrow my focus so that I knew when I graduated what type of job I was looking for.

CS: From an employer’s standpoint, how do you view co-ops as beneficial?
JC: It’s really great to see a diverse background. When I look for students and I see co-op experience, it automatically shows me that they have good business practice and that they are willing to commit themselves.

CS: In your opinion, what are the benefits of completing a co-op over an internship?
JC: Honestly, I think there are benefits to both, but I have to say that I think co-ops are much more beneficial. A co-op allows you to take on more intense projects and more in-depth work because the employer knows that they have a commitment from you. I look for a long-term commitment from a student, however if you’re looking to graduate on time, an internship is probably what you should be looking in to.

CS: Seeing that you’ve been so far thus far in your career, where would you like to see yourself in the future?
JC: I think it’s all about enjoying what you do. I enjoy the technical nature of my job. I want to be in a position that allows me to play with the technical side of things, but still be involved with people, and fortunately for me, my job at USEC allows me to do just that.
What’s Next?

- Winter Career Fair will take place Tuesday, February 3, from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm in the Baker Center Ballroom.
- The next edition of The Russ College of Engineering and Technology will include the stories:
  - *Why You Should Co-op: The Employer’s Perspective*
  - *ONCA: The Office of Nationally Competitive Awards*
  - *Career Opportunities with the Federal Government*
  - *Technology Etiquette.*

Russ College of Engineering, Dean
Dennis Irwin, Ph.D.