

# SAAST Alumni Newsletter

Fall / Winter 2012



From the Assistant Director, Paige Harker



Having joined Penn Engineering's Summer Academy in Applied Science & Technology (SAAST) in May 2011, I am so pleased to have had the opportunity to work with such a bright and talented group of students, and to hear from so many of you about your latest exploits. We congratulate you on your fine achievements, and hope to continue hearing from you in the future. (See back page for details on how to send us updates.)

But before going any further, I hope you join me in sending thoughts of well wishes to Dara Wathanapaisal, as she pursues her next adventure in Wisconsin. Many of you know Dara as the Program Coordinator for SAAST2010 and interacted with her extensively during and after the application process. I am confident that she will succeed in any venture in which she engages!

SAAST Class of 2010 made its presence felt not only in the halls and labs of Penn Engineering, but with visits to Ewing Cole in Philadelphia, Google in New York City, and NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC, to name just a few. This past summer, SAAST celebrated its sixth year as we welcomed 150 domestic and international students in July, 2011. They were seen working hard late into the evenings in the halls of Towne, Moore and the other buildings of the Penn Engineering quad. They were seen tired, but smiling, too, as they finished the Academy strong, with a sense of pride in their accomplishment.

SAAST has come a long way since its inaugural pilot year in 2005. Beginning with a small subset of Computer Graphics students led by the first student to graduate from Penn's Computer Graphics and Game Technology (CGGT) program, we have expanded to a steady offering of 5 courses – Computer Graphics, but also Biotechnology, Computer Science, Nanotechnology, and Robotics – spanning over half of the outstanding undergraduate and graduate departments at Penn Engineering.

The growth doesn't stop there. Consistent with our mission to provide high school students with the opportunity to explore the great breadth of engineering prior to applying to college, our faculty and staff are now hard at work planning to bring a sixth course – Bioengineering – to our offerings for SAAST in the near future.

Penn Engineering as a school has grown particularly distinguished by its interdisciplinary, cross-school programs such as Management and Technology, Digital Media Design, Biotechnology, and the new Singh Program in Market and Social Systems Engineering. In February 2011, the School broke ground on the \$80 million Krishna P. Singh Nanotechnology Center, which will encourage the collaboration, exchange, and integration of knowledge that characterizes the study of this emerging field, and will combine the resources of both Penn Engineering and the School of Arts and Sciences (SAS).

As Dean Glandt so aptly claims, it is truly a great time to be an Engineer!



## SAAST Scholarship Fund

The SAAST Scholarship Fund makes it possible for us to provide need-based financial aid to qualified students whose families cannot afford to pay the full program fee. We are so very grateful to all of the families who share our commitment to making SAAST available to talented students whose families have more limited resources.

Donations to the SAAST Scholarship Fund can be made online at <http://www.seas.upenn.edu/gifts>

# SAAST Alumni News



**Rohan Shah (ROBO '07)** - is a freshman at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, studying for a BS in Computer Science. He accepted an offer to intern with Qualcomm in San Diego. In addition to this opportunity he is working as a researcher in his freshman year!

**Alex Pietrocola (ROBO'09)** - has been accepted into Drexel's 5-year Electrical Engineering Program and the Pennoni Honors College, with a Presidential Scholarship.

**Benjamin Kazenoff (PROG'07)** - is currently in his freshman year at Brandeis University in Massachusetts.

**John DiMino (ROBO'08)** is a sophomore at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) majoring in Mechanical and Ocean Engineering with a minor in business. He worked at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center in Newport, Rhode Island, researching underwater robotics.

**Cypress Frankenfeld (COMP'09)** - is attending Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering and worked at NASA over the summer.

**Courtney Groh (BIOT'09)** - started college two years early, at Bard College at Simon's Rock.

**Andrea Rivas (BIOT'08)** - is a Biomedical Engineering major at WPI, also concentrating in Biomechanics and minoring in Material Science.

**Erica Chen (GRA'06)** - is finishing her undergraduate degree at UCLA in Materials Science and Engineering, after which she will be pursuing a PhD in MSE at University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

**Arun Swain (NANO'06)** - is a senior at Cornell University majoring in Electrical & Computer Engineering. He completed a Co-op at Intel and worked there full time this past summer. In past summers, Arun participated in the National Nanotechnology Infrastructure Network (NNIN)'s REU program at UT Austin working on organic semiconductor based chemical sensing FETs; an international REU to the National Institute of Materials Science in Tsukuba, Japan to work in the Optoelectronics group on characterizing growth of ZnO films for light emitting applications using X ray photoelectron spectroscopy; and also at Cornell, conducted research in the Organic Electronics Group on electrochemical transistors and in the Solid State Electronics Group, designing ultra low power circuits for wireless blood pressure sensing applications.

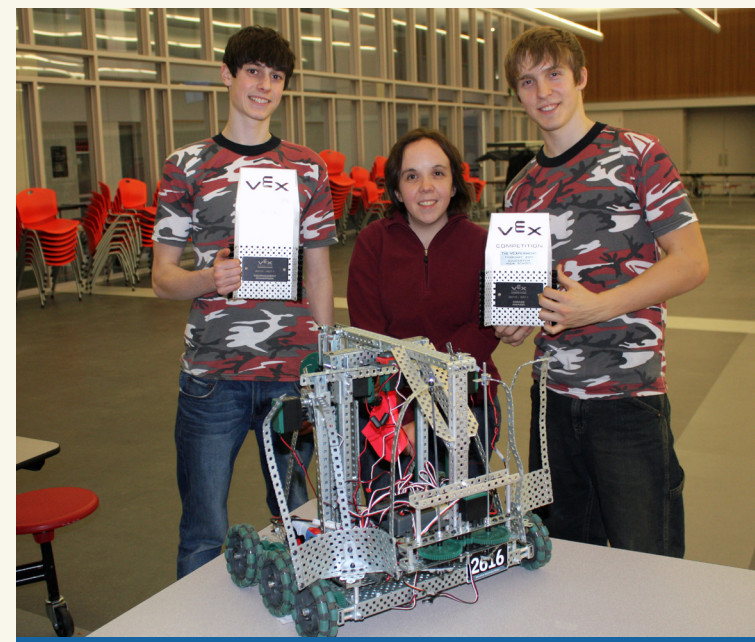
**Samantha Webster (BIOT'09)** - took a Genetics and Human Behavior course at Brown this past summer. She was accepted Early Decision to Dartmouth as a member of the class of 2015. Recently she worked with classmates to conduct caffeine research on how different variables affect the amount of caffeine in coffee through experimentation using High Performance Liquid Chromatography. The team presented their findings at the American Chemical Society Student Poster Session at Temple University and competed in the PA Junior Academy of Science Region 1A Competition. They gave a presentation at the PA Junior Science and Humanities Symposium at Penn State where they won 2nd place.

**Danielle Rubin (BIOT'10)** - has been enjoying her math and science-heavy high school schedule. In November '10 she performed with the 2010 New Jersey All-State Orchestra at the Atlantic City Convention Center and at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

## **Aaron Sirken (ROBO'09)**

- a junior in high school who qualified once again to compete at the Vex Robotics World Championship held in Orlando, April 14-16th, with his team called "Army of Two". He is also the recipient of a Tournament Champion Award and an Excellence Award. Aaron and his teammate started a robotics club at their high school to engage others in the excitement of engineering. The club is currently in the process of building their first protobot.

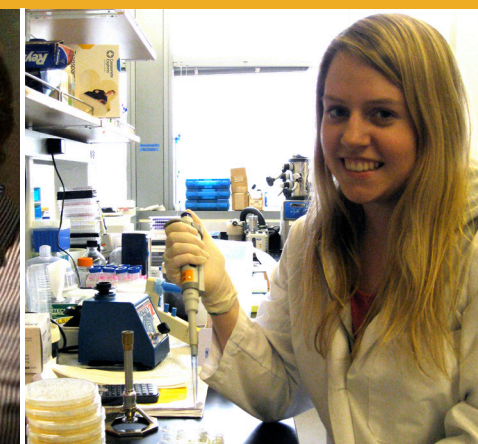
We want to know what's happening with you!  
Submit your updates at :  
<http://www.seas.upenn.edu/saast/alumni>.



Jordan Muse



Bogumil Giertler



Marylise Cieslewicz

**Jordan N Muse (CGRA'05)** - is a senior at Rutgers University majoring in Exercise Science and Sport Studies minoring in Psychology. He is doing an internship at Princeton University with their Strength and Conditioning department. He is the President of the NAACP college chapter. After graduation he plans on getting his Strength and Conditioning as well as Personal Trainer certifications. He is looking forward to pursuing Exercise Science at the graduate level in the near future.

**Bogumil Giertler (COMP'07)** - is completing his junior year abroad at the University College London, where he is researching ubiquitous computing and the effects of awards and game mechanics on the quality of check-in data. Bogumil is an Apple Scholarship winner. He has also worked with SAAST's own Andrew Watterson as a UX intern with a Silicon Valley startup Meebo. He also worked with Numote, a startup in the TV content space, and designed and co-coded the app that eventually won Samsung's Free The TV competition as a People's Choice and raked over \$65,000 in prizes and awards, all while working as a volunteer in an international NGO, known as United World Colleges and spinning two stealth start-ups with college and high school friends.

**Marylise Cieslewicz (NANO'05)** - graduated from MIT in June, 2010 with a BS in Biological Engineering. While at MIT she worked in 3 research labs where she gained co-authorship of two publications. She was also an Amgen Scholar. A week after graduation, she moved to Seattle and started the Bioengineering PhD program at the University of Washington. She is currently working in the drug delivery lab of Dr. Suzie Pun, researching how to target the immune system as a way to treat disease.

**Staci Feigenberg (GRA'05)** - studied Industrial Engineering and Finance at Georgia Institute of Technology, and recently graduated in May, 2011. In July, she began Quantitative Trading for Citigroup, in New York City.

**Pin-Wen Wang (NANO'09)** - is a freshman at Harvard with plans to pursue Electrical Engineering. Since SAAST's Nanotechnology course, she's become very interested in nanoscience; she is currently under mentorship at a nanotechnology-biomimicry lab.

**Naz Belkaya (BIOT '08)** - is attending Johns Hopkins University and majoring in Biomedical Engineering.

**Darryl DeWeese (CGRA'05)** - graduated summa cum laude from the University of Southern California, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Engineering and Computer Science, with a minor in math. He is employed with Google in Mountain View, California. (Link: <http://viterbi.usc.edu/news/news/2011/taking-silver-in.htm>) CS senior Darryl Deweese, who partnered with fellow senior William Everton on the eChecklist application, explains their prizewinning project to visitors

## **Lorenzo Albala (NANO'08)**

- in his sophomore year, and rowing on the varsity crew team at Drexel. In addition to his athletic abilities he has been accepted to the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Ithaca, NY and the CAA research conference at Hofstra for a study on plasma sterilization of surfactant-stabilized microbubbles which he conducted this past summer. He is seeking to finish the first two terms of school well and start his first co-op (6-month internship) experience with thoughts of volunteering abroad for pre-med.





## SIMPLY AWESOME!

Nearly 125 SAAST alumni have matriculated to Penn over the past six years, with a sizable number pursuing their graduate degrees at Penn Engineering!

We want to know what's happened since you graduated from SAAST! Share with us the school you are attending year, your major, awards received, projects in which you are involved (personal and academic), new jobs, and anything else you want to share!



# What are you doing now?

Follow us on Twitter  Join the SAAST Group on Facebook 

Look forward to hearing from you!

Got photos? Email it to us at: [saast@seas.upenn.edu](mailto:saast@seas.upenn.edu).

Send us your updates by going to the SAAST website at <http://www.seas.upenn.edu/saast/alumni>.



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