

SAAST Alumni Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2013



From the Program Assistant Director, Paige Harker

Dear Alum,

SAAST celebrated its eighth year as we welcomed 175 domestic and international students in July, 2012 - a record number!

A premier summer program for high school students, and consistent with our mission to provide high school students with the opportunity to explore engineering from a set of academically rigorous programs prior to applying to college, SAAST students participated in one of five course offerings: Computer Graphics, Biotechnology, Computer Science, Nanotechnology, and Robotics.

The Class of 2012 made their presence felt in the halls and labs of Penn Engineering buildings late into the evenings, as well as at their industrial/professional site visits to: Ewing Cole, Chemical Heritage Foundation, Google, Curious Pictures, 321 Launch, Staples Distribution Center, and Merck & Company.

During Move-in, I was pleased to see the students acclimating quickly to the campus and dorm life, as bonds were formed immediately among their cohorts. These bonds facilitated collaboration when the students started classes the very next day. While the students might have felt overwhelmed at first, and where fatigue may have set in during the 2nd week, they were seen smiling in the 3rd week as they finished the Academy strong, with a sense of pride in their many accomplishments. Parents who were able to attend the closing presentations and graduation ceremony were noticeably proud, and astonished at the high level of achievement their children gained during the program! Our heartfelt congratulations to the SAAST 2012 graduates!

All the best!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paige Harker".

Paige Harker

From our own SAASTer and RTA

"I enjoyed seeing the students get excited about Penn, and I was happy that I got a chance to share their passions and talents. I could relate to where they were and was pleased to see that they felt just like I did when I was a SAASTer. I think we had a great group of students this summer, and I'm glad I had the opportunity to work with them."

- Brian McNeely '10 and 2012 RTA



2012 SAAST RTAs

From Fernando Otero, Merck and Company

"...Merck's tour and Q&A teams were energized by the visit. It is good to know that we may have influenced these young minds in joining the engineering and sciences."

SAAST Scholarship Fund



The SAAST Scholarship Fund makes it possible for SAAST 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 limited resources.

To ensure that SAAST candidates in need of financial support are able to attend the program, please contribute to our SAAST Scholarship Fund.

Donations can be made online at <http://www.seas.upenn.edu/gifts> or via the enclosed form and envelope. Thank you!

SAAST Alumni News



Daniel Abrams (CGRA'06) - I graduated from Penn and now working at United Talent Agency in L.A. If anyone has any interest in working in Media and Entertainment, feel free to contact me!

Matthew Angelo (CGRA'08) - I am attending the University of Central Florida in Orlando. I began at UCF studying Digital Media but have switched to Emerging Media Management and Marketing. Graduate School is planned for Fall 2013.

Elizabeth Bak (ROBO'05) - After graduating from Penn, I am living in NYC working as a Financial Consultant.

Erin Beacham (BIOT'11) - I am a Freshman Penn! I'm majoring in Bioengineering and am very excited to join the Penn community.

Erica Chen (CGRA'06) - Graduated from UCLA with a BS in Materials Science & Engineering. Currently preparing for PhD candidacy at University of Michigan in Materials Science & Engineering as well and working under Dr. Pierre Ferdinand Poudeu developing new materials for Li+ battery cathodes.

Phillip Diffley (COMP'10) - I am attending Harvey Mudd College majoring in Physics or Computer Science. I received a national merit scholarship from Harvey Mudd. I recently finished working on a cool tesla coil.

Ozan Erturk (NANO'07) - Studying at Middle East Technical University MEMS Center. My research project focuses on plasmonic structures for absorption enhancement of broadband IR radiation.

Teddy Frank (ROBO'11) - I am a Senior at Lake Highland Prep HS in Orlando, FL and beginning the college application process.

Edward FUNGER (ROBO'08) - I am a Junior at Penn Engineering majoring in Computer Science. I've been working for a start up, called "GameUp", as a Software Engineer in my "free" time!

Aditi Gupta (BIOT'10) - I'm a senior at The Blake School in Minneapolis, MN. Worked in a lab at the nearby university over the summer, and I'm proud to say that Dr. Fang's lab sessions helped me!

Chirag Gupta (NANO'10) - Working on my own startup, AlumTalks.com!

Mitchell Hung (NANO'11) - I'm excited to be a UPenn Freshman. I'm studying Mechanical Engineering, and hopefully a minor or double major in Music. It's good to be back!

Melih Ileri (NANO'06) - Graduated from UVA's MS Commerce program this summer.

Adona Iosif (CGRA'05) - 1st year PhD student at Carnegie Mellon (CMU), studying Machine Learning. I haven't yet settled on a project, but I'm looking at applying Machine Learning for Health, Education or Public Policy. I've also recently been working on a new program with a few friends at CMU, on Public Communication for Scientists. The program will offer seminars and workshops to graduate students on how to better talk about their work to the general public, the press and decision makers.

Ji Young Kim (ROBO'11) - Cornell University Class of 2016!! Environmental Engineering!

Max Kolysh (ROBO'08) - Studying computer science at MIT. Just finished a summer internship at Groupon in Palo Alto.

Bethany Lennox (BIOT'11) - National Merit Finalist 2012. Will be attending the University of Rochester through the GEAR program in Fall 2012 to major in Biomedical Engineering.

Benjamin Leone (ROBO'08) - I'm a Senior at Worcester Polytechnic Institute working on a dual Robotics Engineering and Computer Science, minor in Electrical Engineering. Looking at graduate school for a Masters and possibly PHD studies.

Samuel Lerner (COMP'11) - A lot has happened since I graduated SAAS last summer in 2011. I was recognized for the Tenth Grade Academic Award for the highest average in my class at Friends Academy in Locust Valley, NY. I have been building on my knowledge of Computer Science since I graduated and am working on creating an Iphone application. I was recently accepted into the Science Honors Program for HS students at Columbia (which meets during the year) and am taking an online course from Princeton University in algorithms.

Rachel Louie (NANO'09) - I'm a Junior at Johns Hopkins U. I'm majoring in Economics and minoring in Entrepreneurship & Management. I'm hoping to go into Design after graduation. This year, I'll be taking art classes at a local art school, graphic/web designing as web/marketing chairs for student groups, and working as a web/marketing intern.

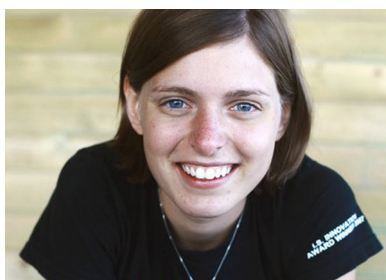
Justin MacIntosh (CGRA'11) - I'm a Freshman at Penn.

Andrew McGrath (ROBO'11) - I'm very excited to be part of Penn's Class of 2016 as a Mechanical Engineering Major.

Meredith Miller (BIOT'09) - I'm a Junior this year at Case Western Reserve in Cleveland. Majoring in Biochemistry doing research involving protein x-ray crystallography. Also varsity cheerleading at CWRU. I received a Presidential Scholarship to attend Case.



Erin Beacham



Adona Iosif



Meredith Miller



Jessica Wolff



Danielle Rubin



Albert Wang



Annie Shin



Claudia Shin



Min Joon So

Alex Pankhurst (ROBO'10) - I started our own FIRST robotics team at my HS. We received the Top Seeded Rookie Team Award at our regional competition. The next year, I continued the program as captain and started another team at a local middle school. I and members of my HS team coached the middle school students and taught them about robotics and teamwork. They placed first in their competition and received the Championship award, qualifying for state competition. I will be studying mechanical engineering in the fall at Brown.

Victor Poesz (NANO'06) - Graduated from Cornell Engineering in 2011. Now living in the SF Bay Area working for Workday (a cloud-based enterprise software company) and having a blast in the Cali sun. Still keep in touch with several of the great friends I met through SAAST!

Danielle Rubin (BIOT'10) - Freshman at Penn in the Jerome Fisher Program in M&T. I am so excited to be here and thank SAAST for convincing me that Penn is the right school for me.

Paras Sanghavi (COMP'08) - Senior at Cornell studying Electrical & Computer Engineering. I'm pursuing a career in embedded electronics and mobile technology!

Sahil Shah (BIOT'05) - I'm an applied mathematician/programmer living in Chicago. Currently, I'm a PhD student in the Dept of Engineering Sciences and Applied Mathematics at Northwestern, where I went after graduating Magna Cum Laude from Columbia in 2011.

Sarine Shahmirian (BIOT'09) - Junior at MIT studying Biology. I'm the Editor-in-Chief of the MIT Undergrad Research Journal and a member of the MIT Ballroom Dance Team. I am hoping to go to medical school after graduation.

Daniel Shanks (ROBO'11) - It was exciting to be back in school at Lake Central High School in St. John Indiana but I miss SAAST and living in a dorm. I'd like to wish everyone a great year and hope that we don't forget the amazing experience we had at SAAST.

Annie Shin (COMP'08) - Completed serving as elected official (Senator) for the student government at UC Berkeley, and summer internship at eBay.

Claudia Shin (NANO'09) - I'm a Freshman at Yale, in the Perspectives in Science and Engineering course, majoring in Biomedical Engineering, with a focus on nanotechnology. After SAAST, I spent my next two summers working at Caltech in the Nanotechnology Group.

Ryan Singh (BIOT'11) - Senior in high school, volunteering at my local SPCA.

Bradley Settle (BIOT'11) - Attending Washington University in St. Louis.

Min Joon So (ROBO'11) - After SAAST, and realizing how fun and intriguing engineering really is, I founded the Engineering Club at my school to share my experience and passion for engineering with my friends. As a result, our team won the third place in PA in TEAMS Engineering Competition. My interest in robotics led me to the Robotics Club, for which I designed a battle robot.

Elif Su Uysal (CGRA'12) - I'm preparing for the SATS and writing my application essays.

Vilan Pavitra (ROBO'11) - Sophomore at the STEM Academy International Baccalaureate School in Downingtown, PA. Using the knowledge I learned at SAAST, my robotics team and I won the Community Award at the VEX World Championship.

Albert Wang (NANO'07) - Graduated from UC Berkeley in Electrical Engineering & Computer Science in 2012, and currently working as an Electronics Engineer at Lockheed Martin in Silicon Valley.

Sean Werner (NANO'10) - Junior at Penn, majoring in Material Science Engineering. Member of the Penn Acting Troupe as their master carpenter-scenery.

Jessica Wolff (ROBO'09) - Sophomore Washington University in St. Louis, majoring in architecture. Still deciding where exactly I want to specialize.

Brianna (Breeze) Wronko (BIOT'12) - Volunteered as a counselor for GEMS at Penn! Interned for two weeks in an immunology lab at CHOP under Dr. Sullivan. I'm also writing my Senior Thesis (for High School) and am so thankful for all I learned at SAAST. Whenever I pass by Houston Hall, I remember the amazing lunches we had there! Miss y'all!

Charlie Wu (NANO'11) - Freshman at Princeton in Engineering.

Jun Xia (COMP'10) - I'm in the DMD program in Penn Engineering.

Daniel Zaharia (CGRA'06) - At Purdue University for a BFA in industrial design. Graduating 2013.

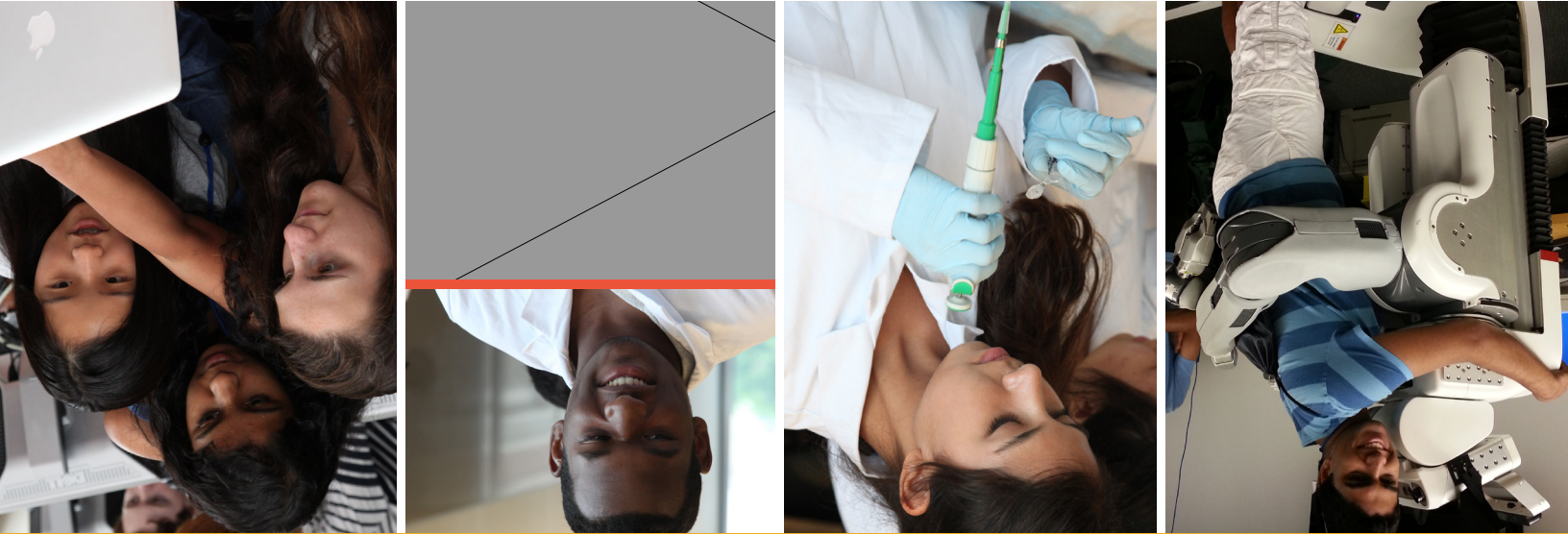
Elizabeth Zorn (CGRA'11) - Attending Brown University concentrating in Computer Science and Art.

“Whassup?”

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!

Send us your updates by going to the SAAST website at <http://www.seas.upenn.edu/saast/alumni>. Got photos? Email it to us at: saast@seas.upenn.edu. Look forward to hearing from you!

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