Dear SAAST Alum,

SAAST will be celebrating its 10 year anniversary in 2015! As Penn Engineering celebrates this “right of passage” into the double digits, we are tweaking our “look” and transitioning our name to Engineering Summer Academy at Penn to emphasize the engineering element of our premier program. During this transitional year, you can still find us by referencing and searching us on “SAAST”!

For the summer 2014 program, we happily welcomed 200 students - another record number! The cohort was comprised of 37 percent female students, our highest to date, and 20 percent from nations outside of the US. Students arrived from all around the globe, from such places as Rwanda, Egypt, Turkey, Italy, Vietnam, China, South Korea, Singapore, as well as from throughout the United States.

This year, students were housed in Rodin College House, and followed the path of previous cohorts by making their presence known in the halls and labs of Penn Engineering buildings late into the evenings. This year’s industry site visits included such places as Google, Facebook, Curious Pictures, Blue Sky, Lockheed Martin, and the Science Center. As in previous years, the bonds formed among the students by the time graduation arrived were palpable as they celebrated their accomplishments with their peers and family. Our heartfelt congratulations to the Class of 2014!

Finally, we LOVE hearing from SAAST alumni, so please continue to send us updates on what is happening in your corner of the world! Go to http://www.seas.upenn.edu/saast/alumni/form.php to submit.

All the best,
Joseph Sun

From the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, Joseph Sun

“it is incredible to participate in the focused, intense learning environment that the students go through in the SAAST program. I get to observe the students academic passions get ignited as they become aware of their potential in Digital Media Design. I enjoy helping students bring their past knowledge and experiences from many disciplines and applying it to a space that blends design, visual art, and engineering.”

Mark Christensen van Langeveld
received his B.S. degree from Brigham Young University in 1985, his M.A. in Design at the University of California Los Angeles in 1990, his M.B.A from Northwestern University in 1999, his M.S.E in Computer Graphics and Game Technology at the University of Pennsylvania in 2005, and his Ph.D. in Computing at the University of Utah in 2009.

The Computer Science class visits FACEBOOK in New York City!

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 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!

The SAAST Scholarship Fund
I am a junior at the University of Maryland, majoring in computer science and working on robotics. I have been involved in the school’s robotics program, and self-learning computer science. I made me realize that engineering/computer science is best suited for me. I am interested in computer vision and machine learning, and intend to apply to a high school research grant program run by Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. On a personal note, I play the starting Libero position for the school’s varsity volleyball team. I have been in for two years. I am a Junior at Temple City High School in Los Angeles.

Christina Reif (NANO’14) – I am a student at Stanhope, studying Computer Science. I spent last summer at the California Nanosystems Institute designing a nanoscale pH sensor, which broke through both my interest in computing and my skills in nanotechnology. I learned from SAAST, I was selected as an Intel Semifinalist for that project. I spent three weeks at Google’s Computer Science Summer Institute.

Angie Yang (ROBO’13) – I am a freshman at Columbia University, pursuing a BS in Computer Science.

Bob Zhou (NANO’12) – I am at the University of California at Berkeley, preparing for a career in Engineering, probably computer science or biotechnology.

Emma Loboff (BIOT’13) – I am an international student here at Tufts, where I have been in the STEM education program since 2012. I teach STEM to local area students through the Student Teacher Outreach Mentorship Program (STOMP). I am an executive board of Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and STOMP (SUW) in STEM. Received National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) award for Aspirations in Computing in the Philadelphia Area.

Sonya Kripke (COMP’14) – I am studying Materials Science and Engineering at the University of Pennsylvania. I am going to school for Computer Science at the University of Pennsylvania. I am fortunate to have been nominated as a National Merit Scholar, National AP Scholar, and Presidential Scholar Candidacy in HS. I am a senior at Tenafly High School, NJ continuing my research at the Stevens Institute of Technology (NCWIT) award for Aspirations in Computing in the Philadelphia Area.

Phoebe Wang (NANO’10) – I am a hardware engineer at Nvidia.

Sean Werner (NANO’10) – Currently in my junior year at UPenn studying Materials Science.

Paul Treadwell (COMP’08) – I left graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with my MS and BS in Electrical and Computer Engineering. I now work at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory.

Miguel Vasquez (CSUS’07) – I am a first year student in the Master’s Program in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology. I am working on a thesis about nanomaterials for the physical component as well as designed PCMs for the internal electronics. I was recently inducted into the Beta Pi National Honor Society.

Pin-Wen Wang (NANO’10) – I am working on a masters in Hispanic Studies.

Elian Baumann (ROBO’14) – I am a senior at Kennett Academy in Walpole, MA. The talks I delivered at the University of Maryland, solidified my resolve to pursue an academic career in computer science. I am a senior at Tenafly High School, NJ continuing my research at the Stevens Institute of Technology (NCWIT) award for Aspirations in Computing in the Philadelphia Area.

Anya Sundaram (BIOT’14) – I am a student at Harvard University in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology. I am a member of the SAAST alumni news team.

Benjamin Gledhill (BIOT’13) – I am a junior at West High School in Berkeley. I was in the SAAST program for two years. I am an engineering student at UC Berkeley. I have been working on a project with the SAAST alumni news team to create a low-cost microfluidic device for the detection of microorganisms.

Abhinav Jain (ECN’14) – I am a senior at Kansas City in Pennsylvania. I was one of the most hardworking and the best students at SAAST. I am doing internships at a dental office. I very miss Penn and all of my SAAST crew!

Xinyuan Pan (ROBO’14) – I joined the Lerner-MIT Student Team, and became one of the software and hardware engineers for our invention project. I started Robotics Club, and a personal project, that is making a low-cost turbidimeter for Environmental Science class. SAAST changed my high school life.

Saumit Iyer (ROBO’13) – I am a sophomore at the Institute of Technology and Civil Engineering Technology major. I am making the best of my time here at Pennsylvania State University. I am a Teaching Assistant at the Department of Electrical Engineering.

Michael O’Donnell (BIOT’14) – I had an amazing experience at SAAST and plan to apply to Penn! After returning to India, I started my 3rd year at Wayzata HS. I plan to play the varsity soccer team.

Trang Nguyen (ECN’14) – I am a junior and just finished organizing a community service project in Hanoi titled the Water Wise exhibition. I also just did a Science Festival at my school, which is the largest event by high schools around.

Erica Katz (NANO’13) – I am a senior and going to school for Computer Science at the University of Texas. I am an active member of the SAAST alumni news team.

Vivian Shen (COMP’14) – I am a senior at Scarsdale HS. I served as a TA at the Computer Science Camp. I started SAAST Robotics Club. I am working on a thesis about nanoscale electronics that I learned from SAAST. I was selected as an Intel Semifinalist for that project. I spent three weeks at Google’s Computer Science Summer Institute.

Theo Brandt (COMP’14) – I am a freshman at Elon University, pursuing a B.S in Computer Science.

Richie Sun (ROBO’13) – I am an international student at Tufts, where I have been in the STEM education program since 2012. I teach STEM to local area students through the Student Teacher Outreach Mentorship Program (STOMP). I am an executive board of Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and STOMP (SUW) in STEM. Received National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) award for Aspirations in Computing in the Philadelphia Area.

Nadezhda Levitova (ECN’13) – I am a senior at the Philadelphia Institute of Technology and Civil Engineering Technology major. I am making the best of my time here at Pennsylvania State University. I am a Teaching Assistant at the Department of Electrical Engineering.

Naomi Mashita (NANO’13) – I am studying mechanical engineering at UC Berkeley.

My SAAST Nanotech program oriented me towards chemical engineering, so I am studying at MIT, majoring in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, with concentration in Nanotechnology.

Abhinav Jain (ECN’14) – I am a senior at Kansas City in Pennsylvania. I was one of the most hardworking and the best students at SAAST. I am doing internships at a dental office. I very miss Penn and all of my SAAST crew!

Xiaozu Shen (COMP’14) – I am a senior at Scarsdale HS. I served as a TA at the Computer Science Camp. I started SAAST Robotics Club. I am working on a thesis about nanoscale electronics that I learned from SAAST. I was selected as an Intel Semifinalist for that project. I spent three weeks at Google’s Computer Science Summer Institute.

Xiaozu Shen (COMP’14) – I am a senior at Scarsdale HS. I served as a TA at the Computer Science Camp. I started SAAST Robotics Club. I am working on a thesis about nanoscale electronics that I learned from SAAST. I was selected as an Intel Semifinalist for that project. I spent three weeks at Google’s Computer Science Summer Institute.

Theo Brandt (COMP’14) – I am a freshman at Elon University, pursuing a B.S in Computer Science.

Anita Sundaram (BIOT’14) – I am a student at Harvard University in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology. I am a member of the SAAST alumni news team.

Abhinav Jain (ECN’14) – I am a senior at Kansas City in Pennsylvania. I was one of the most hardworking and the best students at SAAST. I am doing internships at a dental office. I very miss Penn and all of my SAAST crew!

Xiaozu Shen (COMP’14) – I am a senior at Scarsdale HS. I served as a TA at the Computer Science Camp. I started SAAST Robotics Club. I am working on a thesis about nanoscale electronics that I learned from SAAST. I was selected as an Intel Semifinalist for that project. I spent three weeks at Google’s Computer Science Summer Institute.

Theo Brandt (COMP’14) – I am a freshman at Elon University, pursuing a B.S in Computer Science.

Anita Sundaram (BIOT’14) – I am a student at Harvard University in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology. I am a member of the SAAST alumni news team.

Abhinav Jain (ECN’14) – I am a senior at Kansas City in Pennsylvania. I was one of the most hardworking and the best students at SAAST. I am doing internships at a dental office. I very miss Penn and all of my SAAST crew!

Xiaozu Shen (COMP’14) – I am a senior at Scarsdale HS. I served as a TA at the Computer Science Camp. I started SAAST Robotics Club. I am working on a thesis about nanoscale electronics that I learned from SAAST. I was selected as an Intel Semifinalist for that project. I spent three weeks at Google’s Computer Science Summer Institute.
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/

We look forward to hearing from you!