

SAAST Alumni Newsletter

Fall 2014 / Winter 2015

ENGINEERING

SUMMER ACADEMY at PENN



From the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, Joseph Sun

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



“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!



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 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!

Eilon Applbaum (ROBO '14) - I'm a senior at Gann Academy in Waltham, MA. The skills I developed at SAAST go far beyond the summer. SAAST helped me in the STEM oriented Science classes I am taking right now, and especially in FTC Robotics. I work with a 2013 SAAST graduate, Matthew Wolfman, to bring a strong working environment to our team, 8148. Taking all of these skills from SAAST I am able to contribute more to my team, in and out of the lab.

Christine Cai (BIOT '14) - After SAAST, I taught in a science program called Science Starting Now at a low-funded elementary school. The program was created by a student-run, not-for-profit organization, National Business Science Society, that I have been in for two years. I am a Junior at Temple City High School in Los Angeles.

Angelica "Geli" Du (BIOT '14) - I'm a junior at Crystal Springs Uplands School (CSUS). I play the starting Libero position for the school's varsity volleyball team. On a recently concluded match, I got mentioned in the San Mateo Daily Journal.

Derrick Du (CGRA '14) - I'm a senior at Lynbrook High School and I still recall the wonderful times at SAAST. I developed an application to help other students who want to take the SAT II Chinese subject testing.

Julia Fiksinski (COMP '14) - Besides competing in speech, piano, mathematics, and Academic Decathlon, I've been designing and building a robot for this year's VEX Robotics Competition. I'm also pursuing research opportunities in the ever-growing field of bioinformatics.

Edward Gelernt (NANO '14) - I designed an experiment to test the ability for anti-"bad cholesterol" (LDL) antibodies bound to antioxidants to prevent the development of heart disease. I hope to get lab space to carry out my research over the summer, and intend to apply to a high school research grant program run by Johns Hopkins and Cogito.org to fund my research.

Akshaya Jegraj (NANO '14) - I'm a senior in HS who is applying to engineering schools. One of my top choices is the UPenn, to which I am applying early decision!

Seungchan Lee (NANO '14) - I'm a senior at Tenafly High School, NJ continuing my research at the Seeman Lab in DNA Nanotechnology. I'm a National Merit Semifinalist. I'm also applying to Princeton or Penn LSM early and study interdisciplinary programs in forging nanotechnology, medicine, and global health. I plan to go on into the World Health Organization and reform healthcare.

Jessica Li (ECN '14) - I was named a National AP Scholar and a National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalist. I received a grant from Earth Guardians sponsored by Lush Cosmetics for my water purification project, and was awarded the Ralph Waldo Emerson Prize 2014 from The Concord Review, where I now work as manager of Academic Coaching Service.

Zhengyi Luo (ROBO '14) - I am applying to Penn! I had a great time at SAAST and was inspired by the passionate professor and the TAs. After I came back from SAAST, I took part in China Robotic Championship 2014 and won the Championship! Thanks to my experience at SAAST Robotics. I also became the Best Programmer during the competition! Thanks Penn, thanks SAAST!

Won Woo Nam (ROBO '14) - Created an unofficial Robotics club with my friends. Because I am the only member who knows about C programming, I am responsible for coding in the club. Also, I am taking AP Computer Science this year, so I would say that this year marks the beginning of my coding career. I've also gathered elementary kids in my neighbourhood to spread awareness about the importance of robotics.

Trung Nguyen (ECN '14) - I'm a senior and just finished organizing a community services project in Hanoi called the Water Wise exhibition. I also just did a Talent Festival at my school, which is the largest event by high schoolers around.

Michael O'Donnell (BIOT '14) - I had an amazing experience at SAAST and plan to apply to UPenn! After I returned to Missouri, I started my 3rd year at Waynesville HS. I play for the varsity soccer team.

Xinyuan Pan (ROBO '14) - I joined the Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam, 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!

Saurin Patel (NANO '14) - After SAAST I began marching band again (percussion). I am a state officer in Technology Student Association and my team won first place at TSA nationals for Video Game Design.

Clarie Jay hyun Seo (BIOT '14) - I am a Senior in Kansas City at Pembroke Hill!! I had one of the most life-changing and the best experience at SAAST. I am doing internships at a dental office. I truly miss Penn and all of my SAAST crew!

Vivian Shen (COMP '14) - I'm a senior at Aragon HS in San Mateo, CA. SAAST made me realize that engineering/computer science is best suited for me. I am involved in my school's robotics program, and self-learning computer science. I hope that in the future, I will get into an engineering school and be able to pursue electrical engineering and computer science.

Kaitlyn Son (CGRA '14) - I am a senior at Scarsdale HS. I served as a TA at the Digital Arts Experience (DAE) in New York and for 3D Animation & Modeling, HTML, and Java. I will continue to work on GreaterClick.com, the venture I created to elevate and promote the work of young adults in the field of technology and social impact. I will also be working on the STEM (Systems, Technology, Engineering and Math) program at the Digital Arts Experience to expose young women to career fields in technology.

Federica Spinola (ROBO '14) - In my last year of HS in Geneva, Switzerland. I would love to study engineering, and am going through the UK application process. I continue to do some programming, a knowledge I acquired during my three weeks at SAAST.

Trent Weiss (NANO '14) - I am a senior at Germantown Academy. SAAST helped solidify and further propel my interest in engineering. This year I was inducted into our school's cum laude society, and I am a member of the math and science honors society. I am active with varsity soccer, travel soccer, track, and jazz band.

Kevin Zhang (ROBO '14) - Working on a math/computer architecture project. I'm also working on building my own BASIC programming language interpreter, using finite state automata (for context free grammars) to implement all the features of the original Altair BASIC.

Conway Zhu (NANO '14) - As an extension of my research project on water filtration at SAAST, I am looking into nanotechnological solutions for removing toxic heavy metals from water supplies. SAAST has taught me both the scientific methodology and lab skills that I will apply to my current research at Shanghai University.

Adel Boyarsky (COMP '13) - I am a senior at Cherry Hill HS East. Founded the Women in Engineering club, returning captain of girl's tennis team, Board of Education Representative, and a team leader of the school's VEX robotics team.

Marmik Chaitanya (NANO '13) - Living the IB life. I am drowning in work, with college applications, mock exams, extended essays, internal assessments, SAT preparations, and improving my skill at astrophotography. Being in the relatively less light polluted city of Johannesburg, I am taking advantage of the dark sky to take some quite awesome photos.

Chris Duncan (ECN '13) - I am going to school for Computer Science at the University of Texas.

Sumant Iyer (ROBO '13) - I am fortunate to have been nominated as a National Merit Semifinalist, President of Computer Science Club, and plan to apply Early Decision to the Jerome Fisher program at UPenn.

Eric Sang ho Lee (BIOT '13) - I am studying Neuroscience at the University of Pennsylvania.

Nadezhda Levitova (CGRA '13) - I am a freshmen at the Rochester Institute of Technology as a Civil Engineering Technology major. My first month at college has been amazing!

Akhilesh Mishra (NANO '13) - I am studying mechanical engineering at UC Berkeley.

Wyatt Mufson (NANO '13) - I am a freshman at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, majoring in Computer Science in the McCormick Engineering School.

Najib Muqem (NANO '13) - My SAAST Nanotech program oriented me towards chemical engineering, so I'm studying at the UPenn, majoring in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, with concentration in Nanotechnology.

Indy (Aduj) Rajan (BIOT '13) - I am a freshman in Duke University's Pratt School of Engineering on a Biomedical Engineering track. I have recently become involved in Know Your Status, an HIV awareness group that provides free HIV testing. I play the viola in one of Duke's chamber music groups as well.

Sagar Tikoo (NANO '13) - I am studying Math and Economics at the University of Chicago (Class of 2018). Was awarded National Merit Scholar, National AP Scholar, and Presidential Scholar Candidacy in HS.

Jinming Yu (BIOT '13) - I am attending Georgia Institute of Technology!

Omar Abbasi (CGRA '12) - I am studying abroad in Ireland for a semester as a Computer Science major at UCD. My drawing ability is still embarrassing but marginally better thanks to CGRA!

Margaret Barry (CGRA '12) - I am studying engineering at Brown University and Industrial Design at Rhode Island School of Design with the 5-year Brown-RISD Dual Degree Program.

Abraham Cheloff (NANO '12) - After spending a summer in Israel, I am studying Biology and Biochemistry at Brandeis University in Waltham, MA.

Nick Newberg (CGRA '12) - Enjoying DMD at Penn. Working on a very cool location-based gaming project as well as virtual reality stuff with the Oculus Rift.

Grant Oxer (COMP '12) - I'm a sophomore at the University of VA, pursuing a double-major in Computer Science and Finance. I've joined the International Relations Organization and the Student Council Technology Committee, as well as help start a new club: The Cards Club at UVA.

Chelsea Sue Sicut (BIOT '12) - I am in my the fourth and final year of my bachelor's degree in neuroscience at the Johns Hopkins University.

Megha Srivastava (NANO '12) - I am a freshman at Stanford, studying Computer Science. I spent last summer at the California NanoSystems Institute designing a nanoscale pH sensor, which brought together both my interest in computing and my skills in nanotechnology 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.

Angel Yang (ROBO '12) - 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 Coltoff (BIOT '11) - I am a sophomore in mechanical engineering at Tufts. I teach STEM to local area students through the Student Teacher Outreach Mentorship Program (STOMP). I am on executive boards of Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and oSTEM (Out in STEM). Received National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) award for Aspirations in Computing in the Philadelphia Area (2012-13), National Honors Society, National Merit Commended Student.

Sonya Kripke (ROBO '11) - I am studying Materials Science and Engineering at UPenn SEAS (C'16). I worked in Dr. Agarwal's nanoscale phase-change and photonics research lab, and was a TA at UPenn's PSSI materials science camp for high schoolers this past summer. I am now studying abroad at ETH University in Zurich, Switzerland.

Theodora Pajczkowska (CGRA '10) - I am a senior in Digital Media Design. I spent my freshman summer as an RTA in the SAAST Computer Graphics Program. I'm proud to see so many of my students also attending Penn in the DMD program.

Aaron Sirken (ROBO '09) - I am a junior at the Univ. of Maryland, majoring in Mechanical Engineering and a minor in Technology Entrepreneurship. I did an internship with a startup company where I designed and created CAD models for the physical component as well as designed PCBs for the internal electronics. I was recently inducted into the Tau Beta Pi National Engineering Honor Society.

Pin-Wen Wang (NANO '09) - I am a hardware engineer at Nvidia.

Sean Werner (NANO '09) - Currently in my junior year at UPenn and studying Material Science Engineering.

Paul Finkel (COMP '08) - I just 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.

Alysia Korn (BIOT '08) - I am a first year student in the Master's in Paleontology program at SD Mines and Technology. I am working on a thesis about taphonomy in mosasaurs of the Pierre Shale.

Dimitar Dimitrov (ROBO '07) - I graduated from the Univ. of Cambridge with Distinction in 2013. I joined the Electronic Trading Technology dept. at Bank of America Merrill Lynch in London.

Jelle Straathof (BIOT '06) - I was conferred my Masters in Quantitative Finance at the VU Amsterdam.

Edward Kogan (BIOT '05) - I'm a second year medical student at the Perelman School of Medicine at the UPenn. I'm preparing for clinics in January and for the Philly marathon in November.



Clarie Seo



Adel Boyarsky



Nadezhda Levitova



Sumant Iyer



Sagar Tikoo



Abraham Cheloff



Angel Yang



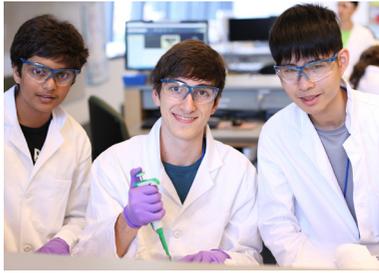
Sonya Kripke



Theodora Pajczkowska



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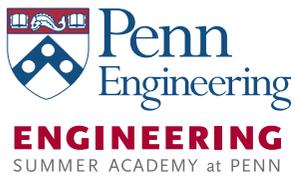


“Whasssup?”

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!



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