

Engineering Student and Alumni Successful Story

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Bill Walker received his Master of Science in Engineering Degree in May 2008

"When I started at Purdue Calumet in 2002 I was recovering from a layoff, single, and in general not very satisfied with my life. When I graduated in May 2006 with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, I still felt something was missing. I had a loving future wife, a supportive family, many high quality friends I met while in school, and a high paying job lined up as a result of an internship I had done between my junior and senior years. My personality is such that I will not settle for second best. I found a passion for computational fluid dynamics (CFD) while working on my senior design project, and knew that if I quit doing CFD I would miss it very much; so I applied to graduate school. Four major projects presented at national conferences, a masters degree, and a new and exciting job involving CFD for a great company have proven that my life is much better than it was in 2002. My current goals are to become a highly successful Professional Engineer, remember everyone that has refused to give up on me, and be the loving husband that Aubrey so truly deserves".

Internship Experience Greatly Benefitted to a Graduating Senior

Joshua Marlow graduated with honor in May 2008. He received multiple job offers and was highly benefited from his internship experience as described in the following:

"Over the past year I have been fortunate to intern with NiSource. NiSource is a fortune 500 company with headquarters located in Merrillville, IN that distributes electricity, natural gas and water in the Midwest and Northeast United States. This internship has allowed me to develop and apply engineering solutions to real problems in the industry. Most college students do not get involved in internships. Why? Internships provide a great learning experience outside of the classroom where only theory may be involved. Internships also help in developing relationships that could result in a job right out of college. In my interviewing processes, every company was interested in what kind of work I did in my internship. Overall I believe my internship as well as a degree in Mechanical Engineering has guided me into multiple job offers after graduation"

Graduate Student Completed his Thesis Research on Optimization for Hybrid Vehicles

Radu Mirsu successfully defended his Master thesis research on April 15, 2008. His thesis topic is on optimization for hybrid vehicles. Fuel efficiency has always been an important task in auto industry. Hybrid vehicles achieve this through the presence of an additional electrical machine which can act as both motor and generator. The combination of the engine and electrical machine makes them each be more efficient than when operating alone. The goal of this research is to build a controller that optimally manages the transfer of energy within the system such that the fuel consumption is minimized. Radu will receive his degree of Master of Science in Engineering (MSE) specialized in Electrical Engineering in May 2008. He Plans to join a company in Germany. Congratulations to Radu.

Two graduate students were recently hired by Intel

Youn K. (Clara) Kim and Kyoung W. (Tyson) Kim came to Purdue University Calumet in Fall 2005 to study Component Based Software Development (CBSD). After the CBSD program, Clara and Tyson decided to pursue a Master of Science degree in Engineering specializing in Computer Engineering.

Clara and Tyson said their research and project development experiences and social activities brought them great opportunities. During the first semester of Clara's graduate studies, she found a very interesting research area, Immersive Virtual Reality, which was a major research topic of Professor Xiao Li (Lucy) Yang's. Clara said she enjoyed the research with Professor Yang. Clara credits Professor Yang for giving her research opportunities at Stanford University in California. Clara also said being an active member of society such as SWE (Society of Women Engineers) encouraged her to be a professional engineer.

Tyson worked as a research student under the supervision of Professor Chenn Zhou. Tyson said having industrial research experience is critical when people are looking for job. He encourages people to work on several projects and to develop their own skill set depending on their future perspective.

Clara and Tyson are now software engineers working for Intel in Santa Clara, California. Clara joined Intel after she graduated from Purdue University Calumet in Fall 2007. Currently Clara is using computer graphics and programming skills to help develop software tools for the Intel design team. Tyson became an Intel employee as an intern in May 2007. After a six-month internship program, he became a full time employee. Now he is using his strong programming skills to help provide stable and perfect testing software.

- Written by Clara & Tyson

College Helped Grad Engineer Career Success

An Article published on the Times, Sunday, January 28, 2007 5:02 PM CST
(http://nwitimes.com/articles/2007/01/28/opinion/guest_commentaries/476441bac75f3e938625726e000f77ce.txt)
by Howard Cohen

In the eyes of Hammond native Bryan Robles, an aerospace engineer at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., the term "the sky's the limit" is too -- well -- limiting.

Brian is twice a graduate from Purdue Calumet, receiving his bachelor's degree in engineering in 2000 and his master's degree in engineering in 2002. Bryan designs rockets for space exploration. At NASA, Bryan is part of the Aerothermodynamics Analysis Group helping design the Ares and Orion vehicles for our return to the moon and, possibly, a journey to Mars.

At Purdue Calumet, Bryan studied computational fluid dynamics (mathematical and computer modeling of the flow of fluids) with Professor Chenn Zhou. He credits what he learned in her classes as playing a key role in every analysis he does as he tries to figure out how to place critical instruments in rockets so they will withstand the tremendous heat of a

trip into space.

In an online interview, Bryan said, "The majority of my design and analysis could not be accomplished without the knowledge gained in my undergraduate and graduate studies at Purdue Calumet."

It takes engineers to design everything from the basics of life (automobile parts, highways, production processes) to our most advanced products (computers, medical devices, robots). That explains the steady demand for graduates of Purdue Calumet's mechanical, electrical, computer and civil engineering programs.

Indeed, there is growing national concern that American universities are not producing enough engineers to maintain our global leadership in innovative technology. Economists Michael Boskin and Lawrence Lau estimate about half of the U.S. economic growth since World War II has been the result of technological innovation. Engineers translate new ideas into things that work.

Bryan credits Purdue Calumet's high-quality faculty who are committed to helping individual students succeed as a big part of the reason NASA has given his work quality and performance as "Superior Excellence" -- a rare distinction.

In fact, Purdue Calumet's engineering programs are rated among the nation's best for universities that offer bachelors and masters degrees only.

During his interview, Bryan responded he truly appreciated the accessibility of the faculty. "They showed a willingness to help people to better understand the subject at hand outside of the classroom," he said.

Like most Purdue Calumet students, Bryan also had the opportunity to spend three semesters as an intern in a manufacturing company, putting his classroom and laboratory knowledge to work in a corporate setting.

Students like Bryan, who dream of making a big contribution to human progress, must prepare themselves with a college education. We are proud that they are able to complete their preparation right here in Northwest Indiana.

Chicago East Side Resident Found his Fit and Calling

HAMMOND, Ind. — Though Steve Naumov is graduating from Purdue University Calumet this weekend, he would like nothing better than to return to campus—as a professor.

The 24-year-old Chicago east side resident, who will receive a degree in computer engineering during Commencement Exercises Sunday (5/20—1:30 p.m.) at the Radisson Star Plaza Theatre in Merrillville, thought he was on a fast track when he graduated from Washington High School in 2001. After all, he had a 4.0 grade point average, was ranked 5th in his class and was eager to begin an exhilarating college experience in preparation of becoming an engineer.

But his higher education fast track and exhilaration gave way to a breakneck pace, thanks to an overly demanding first semester course load at an Illinois institution. Overwhelmed, he dropped out within two weeks.

On the rebound, he decided quickly to enroll at another school that previously had offered him a scholarship. But that school did not offer engineering.

"And engineering is what I really wanted to try," he said, "so I dropped out there before ever attending a class."

He spent the rest of that fall of 2001 trying to plot his future. During that time he spoke with a boyhood friend who had transferred from Purdue University's West Lafayette campus to Purdue Calumet.

"Where in the heck is Purdue Calumet?" I asked him. "He took me on a tour, and I enrolled in January of 2002. It didn't take long before college became an enjoyable experience for me. It was a much different atmosphere; the professors were accessible and caring—very down to earth and sociable." Over the next five years, Naumov also

- made his grades (He is on track to graduate with a perfect 4.0 gpa. "He is an excellent student with excellent verbal communication skills and a team leader with analytical capability," Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering Nasser Houshang said.);

- got involved in student organizations (After teaching himself to design Web pages, he became vice president and webmaster of the university's Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers student chapter.);

- served as a Supplemental Instructor, tutor and laboratory student teaching assistant/instructor for various engineering-related courses;

- willingly spoke/presented to workshops, prospective Purdue Calumet engineering students and other high school groups;

- initiated engineering study groups; and

- served two internships, one as a software engineer with ProLogic, Inc. at the Purdue Technology Center of Northwest Indiana, and the other as a pre-silicon microarchitecture validation intern with Enterprise Microprocessor Group, Intel Corp. of Hillsboro, Ore. (In fact, he plans to return this summer to Intel to serve a six-month, post-baccalaureate internship.);

When the internship ends, he wants to pursue graduate study at the master's and doctoral level in anticipation of becoming a university engineering professor.

"Being a professor is a dynamic profession, he said. "You have to adapt to different learning styles of different students, and that's what I enjoy." It was a difficult road finding my comfort zone as a student. That's why I want to give younger students the benefit of my experience. I'd love to come back to Purdue Calumet to teach engineering."

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CONTACT: Wes Lukoshus SOURCE: Steve Naumov

Campus -- 219/989-2217

Other-- 219/746-0440 773/592-7964

lukoshus@calumet.purdue.edunaumov82@gmail.com

Meet 23-year-old control systems engineer Jennifer Laffoon:

http://www.calumet.purdue.edu/news/success/07-03-15_jennifer-laffoon.html

"Purdue Calumet Alumni Committed to Excellence" honoree, president and chief executive officer at Cardiovascular Systems, Inc.:

http://www.calumet.purdue.edu/news/success/06-07-05_michael-kallok.html

This engineering grad's plan for success led him to NASA:

http://www.calumet.purdue.edu/news/success/04-04-01_bryan-robles.html