



ELPE

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND
PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

CO-OP/INTERNSHIP | GLOBAL | CORPORATE ENGAGEMENT

FALL 2024

NEWS

Biannual Publication of the
University of Pittsburgh
Swanson School of Engineering

CO-OP AND INTERNSHIP

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT Q&A

Nicole Thompson **Civil Engineering Graduate, December 2020**

Co-op Experience: Three rotations with Rycon

Student Extracurriculars: Rock Climbing Team, Phi Sigma Rho,
Outdoors Club, Pitt Climbing Wall

Currently: Civil Engineer, U.S. Forest Service in Sonora, CA

**What projects did you get to work on during your time at Rycon,
and what skills did you gain as a co-op?**

Two projects that stand out from my time with Rycon are the Glasshouse Apartments in Station Square and a Generator Upgrade project at UPMC Magee-Women's Hospital. I saw these projects at very different stages – my time at the Glasshouse Apartments was in the construction phase whereas at Magee, we were in the preconstruction planning phase. I am glad I had these two different experiences, especially since I now work on projects through their entire lifecycle...The preconstruction phase [taught me] how to do take offs and estimates, which inspired me to take an estimating class at Pitt. Any project involving an active facility, especially a healthcare facility, is going to come with unique challenges, and problem solving through those was a valuable experience... I love driving past when I come back to visit and feel very proud to have been part of the Rycon team that made it happen!

Besides co-op, what other experiences at Pitt did you feel were most impactful to you professionally and otherwise?

The single most impactful experience I had at Pitt was starting the Pitt Club Rock Climbing Team with my friends, Sofia Leav and Eric Vance.

continued on next page >>>



Mark Your 2024 Calendars

Experiential Learning Student Panel

Wednesday, September 4

102 Benedum

Mock Interview Days

Graduate Students: Tuesday, September 24

Undergraduate Students: Thursday, September 26

152 Benedum

**American Society of Civil Engineers
(ASCE) Pitt Chapter Career Fair**

Friday, September 27

Peterson Events Center

AIChE Networking Event

Tuesday, October 1, 4:30 - 6 p.m.

102 Benedum

ELPE Co-op & Internship Fair

Wednesday, October 2, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

University Club

**Institute of Industrial & Systems
Engineers (IISE) Pitt Chapter Career Fair**

Friday, October 4, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

102 Benedum

Pittsburgh Robotics Network Fair

Friday, October 11

102 Benedum

**Co-op & Employer of the Year
Nominees Due**

Monday, October 14



* It's that Time of Year!

2024 Co-op Student and Employer of the Year Nominations

We are now accepting nominations for both Co-op Student of the Year and Co-op Employer of the Year for 2024. We appreciate all nominations.

The Criteria for Co-op Student of the Year are:

1. Outstanding work contributions with co-op employer (students must have three rotations completed)
2. Volunteerism or contributions to co-op or University community
3. Excellent academic record

Ideally, we would like to have one nominee from each engineering department, and students can be nominated by their employer or SSoE department. The winner will then represent Pitt in the National Co-op Student of the Year competition sponsored by the Cooperative Education Division through ASEE. Pitt has won nationally seven times and has had many outstanding finalists!

The criteria for Co-op Employer of the Year are:

1. Sustained commitment to cooperative education at the University of Pittsburgh
2. Quality of projects and assignments

Please direct any questions or nominations to Chris Frankovic at caf54@pitt.edu by October 14, 2024.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT Q&A *continued*

Creating a club, especially a club sport, from the ground up was a lot more work than any of us ever anticipated. It was at times humbling, and required us to be resourceful and resilient, as we went from three people with an idea, to leading an entire team to nationals in our first year...It is so awesome to know that other people share your passion and goals, and I am proud of the folks that continue to put in that work. I think that those skills have paid off a lot in what I do at work and in life every day.

Your current position sounds so interesting! How did you decide that you wanted to go into forest engineering?

I happened upon this role by pure luck! I was interested in roles within the public sector and spent a lot of time job hunting on USAJOBS...I didn't know that agencies like the Forest Service hired engineers, so when I stumbled upon the listing, I was happily surprised. I have always loved the outdoors and grew up camping, hiking, and rock climbing. Working on a National Forest seemed like such a great way to be able to pursue both my personal and professional passions...I love my job and the beautiful places I get to work in every day.

Tell me a little about your current role, and what kinds of work you get to do. What are your favorite parts?

Every day is different, which I think is something a lot of civil engineers can relate to. In my role, I get to be more of a generalist. A large portion of our work is putting together road reconstruction packages to support timber sales and other wildfire fuel reduction projects. I see these projects through every phase, from the design, estimate, bid process, and construction. By sticking with a project through its entire lifecycle, I have been able to get feedback and gain a lot of confidence in my engineering skills...My favorite part is learning from my colleagues and learning about the forest. The remote nature of the forest lends itself to a lot of creative thinking and problem solving. We get to consult with soil scientists, archeologists, biologists, and more...I am lucky to have a fantastic team, while small, we manage to do a wide range of projects and help sustain the forest infrastructure for the next generation.

Anything else you're looking forward to professionally, or advice for current Pitt students?

I am on my path to gaining my Professional Engineer license and...I am lucky to have a fantastic network of engineers within the Forest Service to learn from. I also am extremely thankful for my Phi Sigma Rho network...Through PSR, I have so many strong women, at all stages of life and career, that I have been able to lean on for advice, resume help, and friendship, which has been invaluable. To current Pitt students, the connections you form now will help support you as you embark on post-grad life. Invest in extracurriculars and invest in your community!

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Recent computer engineering graduate **Mikayla Bernhard** has taken advantage of the range of domestic and global experiential learning opportunities that Pitt offers, completing two internships with Redzone Robotics and a study abroad experience in Japan. Graduating in April 2024, Mikayla completed a Japanese minor, certificates in Transnational Asia and Asian Studies, and recently started an international rotational program with Mitsubishi.

Mikayla says that her experiential learning opportunities at Swanson helped her determine her skills and interests. She gained firsthand experience in computer engineering at Redzone Robotics, where she began as a general engineering intern in 2022, working on the engineering and testing of a robot designed to enter the sewer system. She worked on the redesign for the 2nd iteration of the robot and assisted with the presentation to recommend the design to the company executives. In addition to this project, Mikayla was able to work in multiple areas of the company throughout her two rotations, gaining knowledge in R&D, debugging, maintenance, and testing.

During the summer of her second internship with Redzone, Mikayla also studied abroad in Japan, where she was able to get out of her comfort zone and study with people from different backgrounds and gain diverse connections in an unfamiliar environment. When she returned to Pitt, she met representatives from Mitsubishi at multiple career fairs and used her internship and international experience to get a job offer that combines her interests. She will be working on a rotational program that includes rotations in rail transport, power systems, diamond imaging, and large-scale video displays. Her last rotation will be back in Japan, and the company will provide private language tutoring in preparation. Mikayla is looking forward to taking advantage of every opportunity the company offers.

Congratulations, Mikayla, on an exciting start to your career!



GRAD STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



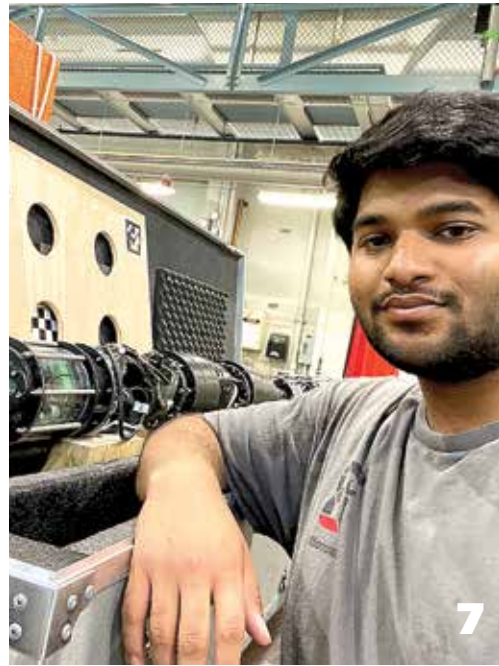
Suraya Rahim is a current MS in Sustainable Engineering student and Teaching Assistant for the Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation and completed an internship at Turner Construction Company in Pittsburgh during summer 2024. As an Engineering Intern, Suraya supported construction projects in a multitude of ways, evaluating the carbon footprint for projects, conducting cost and data analysis on machinery energy usage, and making recommendations for more efficient equipment, while also supporting LEED certification efforts. She shared the following about her internship experience: “My internship at Turner Construction Company was invaluable for advancing my career in construction management and sustainable engineering. I gained hands-on experience in managing the construction processes and project sustainability, honed my skills in cost analysis, steel erection, energy usage evaluation, and LEED certification, and learned to use Procore to enhance project efficiency. This role solidified my technical capabilities and reinforced my passion for sustainable building projects.”

Upon graduation in spring 2025, Suraya aspires to work as a construction management and sustainability engineer, where she can “contribute to advancing sustainable practices within the construction industry.” Suraya has the following advice for fellow graduate students interested in pursuing a co-op or internship experience: “Be proactive in seeking internships that align with your goals, and don’t hesitate to reach out for mentorship. Take every opportunity to learn, network, and take on diverse tasks.”

Congratulations, Suraya, on your continued success!



CO-OP/INTERN >>> EXPERIENCES





9



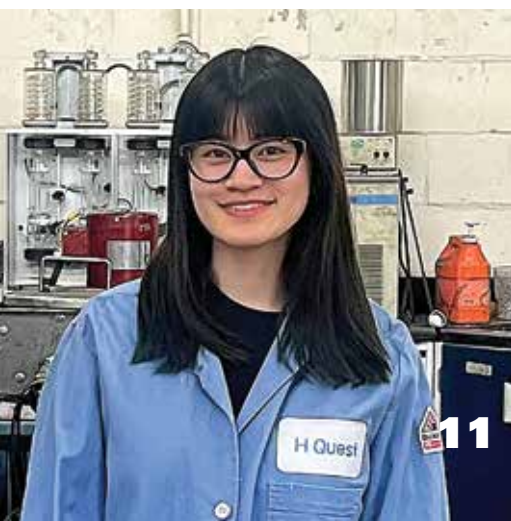
12



13



10



11

- 1. Tyler Bindas** completed three co-op rotations and a developmental internship with BASF. "Participating in the Co-op program at SSoE has been extremely influential in determining the career path I could envision myself in through practical and meaningful work experience...If you are at all interested in gaining work experience before graduating, Co-op is a great opportunity to jumpstart your career interests and grow professionally."
- Mechanical engineering student **Paige Dillon** completed her third co-op rotation with American Airlines this summer on the B737 fleet engineering team! Here she is shown with the B787 GENx engine.
- Graduate Medical Product Engineering student **Nikki Simhadri** co-oped this spring and summer at Advanced Optronics in Pittsburgh. "My experience at Advanced Optronics has been invaluable. Working alongside a group of highly talented individuals, I have had the opportunity to apply and deepen my understanding of the concepts learned during my coursework, turning theory into practice in a truly enriching environment."
- Arjun Bains**, mechanical engineering student, interned this past summer at Fedex Ground in the Material Handling and Facility Engineering department.
- Giuliana Romeo** interned this past summer at Bath & Body Works' corporate and manufacturing headquarters in Columbus, Ohio, working on the research and development team for personal care products. Here she is pictured at the company-wide quarterly business meeting.
- Justin Winslow** worked this past summer for S&B Construction on Pittsburgh International Airport's terminal modernization project. "I've

experienced hands on engineering work by obtaining an internship and continue to learn everyday on the job."

- 7. Aragya Goyal** completed a research internship this past summer with the CMU Robotics Institute, where he developed software for an underwater snake robot (pictured), to let it swim autonomously!
- 8. Jack Oster** completed a chemical engineering internship this past summer at Williams in Salt Lake City, UT.
- "Interning at Caterpillar has been an incredible experience. The design engineering projects I worked on addressed real-world challenges that contributed to my team's goals. Additionally, I had the unique opportunity to travel for a customer site visit and participate in a 'Day in the Dirt,' where I had the unforgettable experience of operating a large dozer!" – **Saipriya Namasivayam**, ME
- Graduate chemical engineering student **Venkatesh Boggarapu**, began a Process Engineering co-op with Carmeuse this past summer in the company's Innovation Center.
- Materials science student **Margo Levenson** completed her second co-op rotation at H Quest Vanguard this summer, working towards the decarbonization of natural gas.
- Seth Blain** worked at Komatsu this past summer in electronics hardware for his 3rd co-op rotation.
- Industrial engineering students **Katherine Gonzalez** (right) and **Rylee Shaffer** (center) completed their second co-op rotations in the Electronic Motion & Controls Division at Parker Hannifin this past spring.



14



15

CO-OP/INTERN >>> EXPERIENCES

continued



16



18



19



17

- 14. Shown here on a job site, chemical engineering student **Rebecca Clark** interned this past summer at Geosyntec in Trenton, NJ.
- 15. **Iyan Nekib** co-oped as a student researcher this past year at Pitt's Human Engineering Research Laboratories. "Working at HERL has been incredibly rewarding. Being able to be a part of this dynamic, collaborative environment, all while engaging in innovative projects made every day exciting and fulfilling."
- 16. Computer engineering students **Ryan Lopez** (right) and **Prashanth Kumaran** (left) co-oped together at Alstom this past summer.
- 17. **Cameron Kiebert** completed an industrial internship at Merck this summer. "My internship experience has been very hands-on and rewarding. I get to see the positive impact that all of the hard work my colleagues and I are making on the people in my personal life."
- 18. Environmental engineering student **Matthew Brancaccio**, writes that "working hard is rewarding." He has co-oped at Atwell, Geo-Solutions, and Geosyntec, where he will be completing his last co-op rotation this fall.
- 19. **Kaylee Uribe** interned this summer at Human Engineering Research Laboratories (HERL) in Pittsburgh. Speaking after accepting the role, Kaylee was "so excited to begin my internship at HERL and see the cross-section of different majors focused on a united goal!"

GLOBAL



Turning Crisis into Compassion During Brazilian Floods

Pitt Engineering Students and Faculty Provided Humanitarian Aid During Study Abroad Program in Southern Brazil

Planning for different circumstances is important when traveling, but how can one expect a natural disaster? Students and faculty from the University of Pittsburgh Swanson School of Engineering faced that challenge head-on when members of Pitt's Exploration of Energy and Electrification Global Experiences program were caught in the catastrophic flooding of southern Brazil.

Within days of their arrival in Rio Grande do Sul on Sunday, April 28, 150,000 Brazilians were displaced throughout Brazil's southernmost state. At the height of flooding in mid-May, the International Labor Organization said that number had skyrocketed to nearly 700,000.

Felipe Junqueira, a senior studying electrical engineering, was born in São Paulo, Brazil, just northeast of the flooding.

"While it is common for tropical cities like Rio de Janeiro or São Paulo to take on a few feet

of floodwater during heavy rainfall, seeing infrastructure fail to the point where bridges collapse, roads are washed out, and power grids shut down are shocking," he said.

Less than a week after their arrival, the runways at Salgado Filho International Airport in the state capital of Porto Alegre were completely underwater, and the program's scheduled activities and site visits around São Leopoldo were canceled.

Witness to Disaster

While waiting for transportation out of the city, program directors Robert Kerestes, associate professor and undergraduate program director of Pitt's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Tony Kerzmann, associate professor of mechanical engineering and materials science, saw how eager students were to help refugees arriving in São Leopoldo.

continued on next page >>>



Important Dates



Trip or Treat

Wednesday, October 16, 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Benedum ground floor

Passport Fair

Tuesday, September 17, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Global Hub, Posvar Hall

Moving the Cities Pitch Competition
October 28 - November 1

Fund your Global Experience

4 - 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 24, Benedum 1145

Wednesday, October 9, Benedum 102

Thursday, November 21, Benedum 102

Global on your Resume Workshop

Wednesday, September 11, 4 - 5:30 p.m.
Benedum 1145

Global Elevator Pitch Workshop

Friday, October 11, 2 - 3:30 p.m.
Benedum 1145

Find your Own Global Co-op/Internship

Tuesday, December 3, 4 - 5:30 p.m.
Benedum 102

continued from previous page

When Unisinos – the program’s partner institution – opened its doors to approximately 1300 refugees on Saturday, May 4, Kerestes and Kerzmann suggested the group aid their relief efforts. The students were quick to lend a helping hand.

Students folded and organized donated clothes, distributed bedding supplies, helped to move furniture, and made themselves as helpful as possible.

Junqueira said it was devastating to know he would be able to go home soon when other Brazilians were still trapped and waiting to take refuge.

“My peers are fortunate to have never experienced the rampant poverty in areas like this,” Junqueira said. “I was one of the only members in our group able to speak Portuguese with the refugees, and it was gut-wrenching to hear them and look in their eyes knowing what little they had was taken away.”

Cassidy Laffey, a rising junior studying environmental engineering, said that it’s one thing to see disasters on the news, but another thing entirely to experience one firsthand.

“The lives of these refugees had just changed forever, but all I could do was bring them a blanket,” Laffey said. “It seems very privileged for me to say the hardest thing I’ve ever done was pull myself together and help out as best I could.”

Unisinos faculty noted the Pitt students’ decision to help was an organic response to the catastrophic events they watched unfold.



Where are Pitt SSoE Global Engineers?

Summer 2024 Edition



- Austria
- Brazil
- China
- Costa Rica
- Cyprus
- Denmark
- Ecuador
- Finland
- Germany
- Iceland
- Italy
- India
- The Netherlands
- Singapore
- South Africa
- South Korea
- Spain
- Sweden

“This kind of decision-making is something we expect to see from undergraduate students,” said Tatiana Louise Avila de Campos Rocha, assistant director of undergraduate affairs at Unisinos. “I know the kind of character Pitt teaches their students, so we weren’t surprised to see them volunteer. Soft skills like teamwork, kindness and empathy are critical in understanding the human condition as an engineer.”

In Dark Times, there is Always Light

The close-knit, supportive atmosphere among the refugees resonated with the students. Justin Winslow, a rising junior studying civil engineering, said he found the selflessness and generosity he witnessed at Unisinos – by volunteers and refugees – inspiring.

“As we were setting supplies on the floor, I flashed back to the COVID-19 situation in the United

States where people would ransack store shelves for supplies,” Winslow said. “But there was no rush or panic to hoard supplies. I could see in the way people acted how much they still cared about their neighbors.”

After securing transportation out of the affected area on Monday, May 6, Kerestes and Kerzmann led the group to Florianopolis where they spent a day at Armação Beach to decompress from the experience. They finished their trip at the Itaipu Dam – the second leading producer of hydroelectric power in the world – in Foz do Iguaçu to round out the program’s purpose of exploring energy alternatives.

“We felt bonded after leaning on each other for support during the humanitarian efforts,” Laffey said. “We all feel extremely appreciative of our lives and the opportunities we have here at home, and we were so grateful to make the most of the last few days of our trip.”

GLOBAL EXPERIENCES >>>



Brenna Baker, MTC 2023

"I am truly grateful I had the chance to take part in Moving in the Cities 2023. I built friendships with students from around the world while also learning how to work together and problem solve. It was an incredibly unique experience that allowed me to challenge myself and prepare for the future."

Matthew Brancaccio, Business, Technology, and Engineering the German Way

"I learned about industrial engineering from professionals who work in the heart of Germany, I felt the essence of German people through their care and their culture, and I discovered that Munich is both an effective and elegant city. I thank the Pitt Global office for paving my way to Munich because I am grateful to have traveled and studied there."



Julia Koma, FAME (French-American Exchange program)

"My study abroad experience with the FAME program was the most incredible five months of my life. I had never been out of the country before, and this program gave me the opportunity to explore numerous cities and immerse myself in new cultures. It was an amazing experience that broadened my worldview and deepened my academic knowledge. I discovered so much about myself and what life can be. I would recommend this program to anyone who has this opportunity."



Duncan Dockstader, Plus3 The Netherlands

"Plus3 was my first global experience and a fantastic introduction to studying abroad. I attended the program in the Netherlands, initially interested in the systems of public transit and urban infrastructure famous of its cities. One of my favorite moments from the program was when we got to visit the FloraHolland flower auction's warehouse in Aalsmeer. Processing thousands of flower orders a day, it was fascinating to get to see the technology and infrastructure that lived behind the crossroads of the tradition of Dutch tulip farming and the realm of business on the international stage."



Simeona Hein, Aalto Science Institute International Summer Research Programme

"One of the best parts of this research opportunity has been interacting with and learning from many international interns, colleagues, and professors. I'm constantly expanding my knowledge both in and out of my research area! I've also loved exploring Helsinki and enjoying the summer weather and the wonderful work culture here in Finland!"



Tyler Kenny, Engineering Perspectives of the Renaissance and Sustainability: Florence

"Studying abroad already offered more than I anticipated, I continue to draw on the skills I developed during the program. It helped me feel comfortable working with new people with different technical backgrounds. I feel confident in my ability to travel to new places by living in a new country, culture, language, etc. It's a unique twist that you can tie your experiences into professional growth and job interviews – meaning you can talk an interviewer's ear off while showcasing how it will make you a great employee."



Ana Compton, Plus3 South Korea

"Plus3 South Korea was nothing short of a once in a lifetime experience. During my time abroad, I deepened my understanding of smart systems and learned to both lead and collaborate in multidisciplinary teams. Simultaneously, the immersion into Korean culture, rooted in respect, has altered my perspective on how to approach personal and professional relationships. I'm overwhelmed with gratitude that I had the opportunity to participate in this program and for having developed long-lasting friendships along the way."

GLOBAL EXPERIENCES

continued



Cassidy Laffey, Exploration of Energy and Electrification: Brazil

“We had the opportunity to volunteer at Unisinos later in the week due to families getting displaced because of flooding. Even though I could not speak with a lot of the volunteers on my own, I still felt connected to them through the service work we were doing together. It made me realize how much bigger the world is than my hometown.”

Noah Makowicz, Craft Brew

“The trip was a tremendous opportunity to establish connections between what was taught in class and the real world (what better place than the brewing capital of the world!). Being a hands-on, visual learner, the tours of the various breweries, museums, hop farms, and local restaurants spanning Belgium refined my flavor palate to countless beer styles and solidified my understanding of the art that is craft brewing. I would recommend this global experience in a heartbeat.”



Amaris Mbuagbaw, Plus3 South Korea

“Participating in this program was an incredible experience. The time I spent in South Korea was extraordinary, offering me a perspective that has not only differentiated me from my peers but has fueled my enthusiasm for global experiences. I learned about the innovative approaches and technological advancements shaping the engineering field. I was inspired by the dedication and work ethic of the professionals I met. This exposure has significantly broadened my understanding of what it means to be an engineer in a global context.”

Paul McPartland, KAIST South Korea Research

“During my experience at KAIST, I worked in the Reactor Physics and Transmutation Lab, modeling the diffusion of Xenon in their Nuclear Thermal Rocket. I also traveled all over South Korea, to Seoul, Busan, and Gyeongju. I had a great time in Korea, and I highly recommend global research to anyone who can take the opportunity.”



Brenda Rae, SERIUS: Engineering Summer Research Internship Singapore

“Participating in the SERIUS research program in Singapore has been a transformative experience, allowing me to build a global network and immerse myself in a vibrant new culture. The opportunity to work under an esteemed professor and leader in offshore oil and gas research has significantly enhanced my academic and professional growth. For students considering global research, I highly recommend seizing the chance to broaden your horizons and gain invaluable international experience.”



Annabella Peretti, Business, Technology, and Engineering the German Way

“As an aspiring patent lawyer, witnessing German engineering up close, not to mention in a global innovation hub, was very applicable to my field of interest, where I would be working at the intersection of engineering, innovation, and law! I made amazing memories, including taking a Bavarian cooking class, exploring Marienplatz, going to an FC Bayern Munich game, and traveling to Salzburg, Austria. I made long-lasting friendships with people from around the world, which is an opportunity like no other that I will cherish forever.”



Nicholas Pho, Empathic Global Leadership for Social Change: South Africa

“During my time in South Africa, I had the opportunity to explore the culture and learn about the social effects of engineering decisions. The program enabled me to connect with South African university students and develop my cultural competency. By engaging with local communities and companies, I witnessed resilience in the people that made the program truly wonderful. It has fostered a sense of community and global citizenship within me. I have grown into a more rounded engineer through my global experience.”

Owen Richardson,

Leadership in the Himalayas

“I have been changed so much by studying abroad. I couldn’t be happier that I had this opportunity to really stretch my thought processes and goals in life.

This reaffirmed and pushed further my goals of helping those within my own community and other countries with abuse, food stability, houselessness, and other critical needs.”



Joseph Rivera,

Exploration of Energy and Electrification: Brazil

“There were so many highlights during this program, but one of them was the amazing group that we had.

Truly amazing people

made this experience unforgettable. Being able to try out all their local dishes was incredible. Of course, being able to experience one of the seven wonders of the world was truly eye-opening and breathtaking. It’s an amazing program for all majors. You’ll learn a lot and will love every second of it. I recommend this program to everyone.”



Peter Wood, Business, Technology, and Engineering the German Way

“What made the German Way so wonderful was the hands-on manufacturing activities and factory visits, and the connection we had with the professors and other German students. I will never forget the

BMW factory – learning how the cars are made and the robotics and manufacturing engineering that goes into streamlining their production. Getting immersed into German culture was also amazing, experiencing many traditional German dishes, festivals/events, and sights, really highlighted the program. Experiencing what it’s like to be a student in Germany and the German culture gave me an experience like no other.”



Emily Stephan, Plus3 Cyprus

“My experience in Cyprus has forever impacted my life. From making new lifelong friends, to trying new things and new foods, and getting to meet international CEOs in the field of engineering. I will always hold these memories with me. The best part was learning about the countries, history, culture, society, and getting to speak with locals. This experience made me want to travel abroad again!”



Dominic Spatola, Business, Technology, and Engineering the German Way



“Business, Technology, and Engineering The German Way took me through industrial engineering lectures, labs in lean manufacturing, and various tours of companies around Munich. In between, I explored and

enjoyed the quaint, quintessentially European culture of Bavaria. This program showed me the connection between the engineering I learn and the companies and world that use it.”

Justin Winslow, Exploration of Energy and Electrification: Brazil

“My time in Brazil through Pitt’s Exploration of Energy and Electrification gave me life changing experiences in terms of culture and engineering. The two-week trip combined with various different cities and places to visit did not disappoint, from the Brazilian steakhouses, learning Capoeira, and visiting the beautiful Iguazu Falls while learning about hydroelectric power. I could truly go on forever about how educational and fun this trip was.”



Luiza Piva Weissmann, Plus3 The Netherlands

I had “the opportunity to enrich myself in the culture and history of The Netherlands through Pitt’s Plus3 Program. We visited numerous global and local companies, and specifically focused on their advances in sustainability measures which they all heavily emphasized as a national standard.”



Kate Verone, Engineering Perspectives of the Renaissance and Sustainability: Florence

“Studying abroad in Italy was a life-changing experience for me. The Engineering Perspectives of the Renaissance and Sustainability: Florence program provided me with a new appreciation for the connection between engineering, sustainability, and the arts. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to learn about my passions with the beautiful city of Florence as my classroom.”

* New ELPE Employees

Casey Gardner, MA

Senior Global Programs Manager

Casey joined the Global Experiences team in May 2024 and assists in building study abroad programs along with advising students on global opportunities.

Office Hours: Wednesday/Thursday/Friday in office;
Monday/Tuesday remote; 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Nora Dougherty, MSc

Global and Engineering Professional Development Consultant

Nora joined the ELPE and Global Experiences teams at the Swanson School in June and is currently working on expanding Swanson's co-op, internship, and research opportunities globally.

Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday/Friday in office;
Tuesday/Thursday remote; 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Kristie Westerlund

ELPE Program Administrator (not pictured)

ELPE's newest staff member just joined in August! In addition to multiple duties, Kristie is student focused with Co-op registration assistance and ELPE event planning.

Office Hours: Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday in office;
Thursday/Friday remote; 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.



»»» **LinkedIn** SSoE ELPE office now has a LinkedIn page!

PITT | **SWANSON**
ENGINEERING

OFFICE OF EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING
AND PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

engineering.pitt.edu/coop

engineering.pitt.edu/global

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