YOU ALWAYS HAVE A HOME AT CIT

The College of Engineering wants to extend warm congratulations to our new alumni!

Students’ continued engagement with the school after graduation has helped CIT earn its reputation as a world-class educational institution, and our future success will hinge, in part, on your pride and support.

You can stay connected to the College of Engineering regardless of where you are in your life or the world for that matter, and here’s how: register with the Alumni Online Community at http://alumni.cmu.edu. On this website you can locate alumni who are far around the globe, search job postings, peruse the event calendar, share personal updates and much more!

Another way to keep up with fellow alumni is through affinity events that are organized around your interests. “Our interests change, taking us in different directions than when we were in school. Affinity events allow alumni to reconnect with each other and the university based on their current activities and aspirations,” says Gretchen Smathers, associate director of development for CIT. To make things exciting, the regional alumni chapters are being revamped and in the next year, look for six new chapters to launch in cities brimming with Carnegie Mellon graduates. “Staying connected to the university community no longer means living in Pittsburgh. By participating in local alumni chapters, people have access to university lectures and can learn about research initiatives,” says Smathers.

Discover the perks of being a CIT grad — visit the alumni website at http://alumni.cmu.edu, and remember, you can be an advocate of your alma mater every day. Tell prospective students, business colleagues, friends, family and everyone else you know about Carnegie Mellon.
CIVIC-MINDED ALUMNAE
Promotes Engineering in Pittsburgh

JoAnn Truchan advocates engineering 24/7. By day, she works for the Allegheny County Health Department as an air quality engineer. When she’s off the clock, she is the president of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), which lets her pursue work she loves, and that is demonstrating to girls that engineering is a great profession.

Truchan (B.S. BME, ChemE, 1996; MPM Heinz School, 2004) has a penchant for getting involved in professional organizations. Prior to SWE, she was chairperson of the Pittsburgh chapter of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) from 2000 to 2001.

Her involvement in AIChE began when she and a group of friends, all in the early stages of their careers, went to local meetings as a way to network. “You hear a lot about networking,” says Truchan, “it’s drilled into your head that you need to network, but how do you do it? I decided that if I become more involved, if I became an officer or volunteered for something that would help me if I was looking for a job.” AIChE provided her more than job leads. “It taught me about how to be a leader and that I am not alone. You have people that you can go to for advice,” says Truchan.

One person who helped her at AIChE was her former ChemE Professor Larry Biegler. “This is what I mean by not being alone,” she says. “Right after I graduated, if you would have suggested that I go back and talk to my professors to get help, I would have thought, maybe not. But now I know they are a resource. They are here.”

Today, Truchan mines her alma mater contacts for her work with SWE. She is comfortable “tapping into the network at Carnegie Mellon to find people who are qualified to speak on interesting subjects.” While SWE members are intrigued with research developments, they also want career advice. Truchan has discovered that “engineers have wonderful technical and computational abilities,” yet many of them lack the skills to network, negotiate a salary or effectively communicate in the workplace.

Helping women enter and succeed in the world of engineering is a SWE objective as is introducing young girls to the field. Truchan finds outreach activities with youngsters especially fulfilling. Citing the “Future Cities” competition for middle school students, she says, “The event gives kids an introduction to engineering. By having students design and build a city of the future, it shows them how engineers touch all aspects of life. Looking at some of the things the kids come up with is exciting. Kids are very creative and not hindered by cynicism. They don’t have the background to know that what they are proposing is impossible at present.”

Future oriented and civic minded, Truchan says, “Pittsburgh is one of the greatest cities, and I’d like to see the city maintain that standard. Maybe we should convey the importance of green practices to the next generation of kids. Going green does not mean just putting solar panels on your roof, it means using fluorescent light bulbs or using ventilation instead of air conditioners. I would like to see young people getting more involved in this.”

With Truchan in the city, it could very well happen.

Meet

MICHAEL RANSOM

Michael Ransom can help you and your business tap into the many opportunities for collaboration available at Carnegie Mellon. He is the Associate Director of Corporate Relations with a focus on the College of Engineering. His mission is to cultivate comprehensive and mutually beneficial relationships between leading companies and the university, particularly with CIT.

There are various ways corporations can forge alliances with the College. An obvious example — and one that has proven profitable for a number of companies such as IBM and General Motors — involves sponsoring specific research projects and building long-term relationships with faculty and departments. Other opportunities include recruiting our talented students, continuing education for corporate personnel, technology transfer, and philanthropy.

If you want to learn more about collaborating with the College of Engineering, contact Ransom by email: mransom@cmu.edu; or call (412) 268-8733.