

2014-2015 CO-OP HALL OF FAME



**Simon J. Alfano**

Class of 2010  
University of Cooperative  
Education Loerrach  
B.A. International Business  
Management

Nominated by  
Prof. Dr. Theodor Karl Sproll,  
Dean  
University of Cooperative  
Education Loerrach

Simon Alfano is a consultant at the top management consultancy McKinsey & Company in Stuttgart, Germany. During his co-op B.A. in International Business Management from 2006-2010, Simon Alfano has been associated with GE Healthcare. At GE Healthcare, Simon Alfano did 7 rotations in Finance, Marketing and Strategy in Germany, the United Kingdom and Singapore. Simon Alfano complemented his international experience with four exchange semesters in Switzerland and France. He received a B.Sc. in International Business Management from the University of Applied Science in Basel and a License Gestion-Economie from the University of Upper-Alsace in Mulhouse. Simon Alfano received an Honour's Degree as best-in-year student in his B.A. and an award for the best-in-year Bachelor dissertation.



**Michael Anthony**

Class of 1984  
Wentworth Institute of  
Technology  
Bachelor of Science,  
Management Engineering

Nominated by  
Dr. Zorica Pantic, President  
Wentworth Institute of  
Technology

Since graduating from Wentworth in 1984 with a BS in Management Engineering, Michael Anthony has worked for several noted companies including Honeywell, Inc., and PRTM Management Consultants, where he served as senior partner of the technology group. He is currently vice president of Cambridge Semantics in Boston. Upon starting his first job out of college at Honeywell, Anthony found that hands-on nature of his education and co-op experience allowed him to immediately excel in the engineering industry. He also now serves as chairman of the Board of Trustees for Wentworth.



**Rebecca Bagin**

Class of 1989  
Drexel University  
BS, Marketing & Human  
Resource Management

Nominated by  
President John Fry  
Drexel University

Ms. Bagin, vice president-human resources, Campbell North America ("CNA"), Global Research & Development and Global Supply Chain, serves as a member of the CNA Leadership Team and leads the HR Business Partner team for the largest division and operating functions within Campbell Soup Company. She is a strategic thought leader and business partner responsible for setting and executing HR strategies. She's held numerous HR positions within and outside of the company with increasing degrees of responsibility and impact. Ms. Bagin completed several Drexel Co-ops including; working in the Estate Department of the Philadelphia law firm Wolf, Block, Schorr & Solis Cohen; as a Buyer Trainee at Filene's in Boston; as a Junior Auditor at Deloitte Haskins & Sells in London; and then with ExxonMobil where she worked in HR researching universities and recruiting.



**Mary T. Barra**

Class of 1985  
Kettering University  
Bachelor of Science in  
Electrical Engineering

Nominated by  
Dr. Robert K. McMahan,  
President  
Kettering University

Mary Barra is the quintessential co-op student success story. In January, 2014, Mary Barra was named the CEO of General Motors and thus became the highest ranking woman in the automotive industry. Mary Barra started her co-op career as an 18-year old Kettering University student working at the Pontiac Motor Division in 1980.

Earning her BSEE in 1985, Mary obtained her MBA from Stanford in 1988 after receiving a GM Fellowship.

Mary is a member of the GM Board of Directors and the Kettering University Board of Trustees.

In 2014, Fortune magazine named Barra among the "50 Most Powerful Women in Business."



**Ivy Chin**

Class of 1992  
Drexel University  
BS, Computer Science

Nominated by  
President John Fry  
Drexel University

Ms. Chin is senior vice president of e-commerce and omnichannel digital at Belk, the nation's largest family owned and operated department store. Prior to Belk, she served as a vice president with QVC.com. Ms. Chin credits her successful career to her co-op experience. At her first co-op with Merck, she learned important skills such as prioritization and time management. When she returned to Merck for her second co-op, she learned team work, communication and interpersonal dynamics. As a result of her co-op experience, Ms. Chin had a strong resume when she graduated and was immediately offered a full-time position in the computer field. To this day, the skills Ms. Chin learned from her co-op experiences are the foundation for her success as a leader.



**Greg Coir**

Class of 1988  
Merrimack College  
Bachelors of Science in  
Business Administration

Nominated by  
President Chris Hopey, PhD  
Merrimack College

Greg Coir is President of Randstad Pharma, a global pharmaceutical and life sciences recruitment, staffing and consulting firm. He began his career in the staffing industry, and in 1993 co-founded Randstad's national healthcare division (Clinical One), which is now branded as Randstad Healthcare. Since, Greg has assumed managerial and executive positions throughout Randstad.

He credits his co-op experience at Merrimack with providing him invaluable exposure to various industries and opportunities, which provided a solid foundation for his professional future. In addition, the ability to live on campus while out on co-op provided a strong balance between the importance of social, educational and professional growth.

2014-2015 CO-OP HALL OF FAME



**Laura Dove**

Class of 1998  
Johnson & Wales University  
Bachelor of Science, Hotel-  
Restaurant Institutional  
Management

Nominated by  
Chancellor John Bowen  
Johnson & Wales University

As the founder of Dove Creative Concepts, an international hospitality consulting firm with offices in London, New York, L.A., Miami, San Diego and Sydney, Laura travels the globe helping hotel and restaurant clients hone their concepts and launch their properties. Since graduating from JWU, she has studied pastry arts at Le Cordon Bleu in London, wine at the International Sommelier Guild and rare wines at Christie's, the prominent auction house. "I love the variety of projects – jumping between the wine world, restaurant world and event planning. You see immediate results with your guests and clients that inspire you to take on another project and strive to make each one grander than the one before."



**Lorisa Dubuc, B.C.Sc**

Class of 2002  
University of Manitoba  
Bachelor of Computer  
Science, Honours (Co-op  
Option)

Nominated by  
Dr. Mark Whitmore, Dean of  
Science  
University of Manitoba

Lorisa has combined industry roles (MOO Print, IBM, Google, Citrix) with research as a PhD in human computer interaction at the University of Cambridge. Supported by prestigious scholarships including Boeing and NSERC she is combining two passions from her undergraduate degree – Computer Science and Psychology – to dedicate her PhD work to Alzheimer's patients, innovating in design research and technology to improve quality of life for those with dementia and their caregivers. Her strategic research at Google produced the first stages of the framework which became 'Circles' in Google+. Co-op was a factor in her success and she promotes it at every opportunity.



**Robert Falcone**

Class of 2006  
Johnson & Wales University  
Bachelor of Science,  
Networking

Nominated by  
Chancellor John Bowen  
Johnson & Wales University

Cyberattacks on U.S. media outlets, banks and corporations have been a big story in 2014 and of particular interest to someone with the skills of Robert Falcone. As a malware research engineer with VeriSign iDefense Security Intelligence Services, he investigates targeted attacks and cyber espionage campaigns. Call it high-level cyber-sleuthing in which Robert tracks down perpetrators by tracing key indicators within malicious files – essentially searching for digital fingerprints. Analyzing targeted email or finding infected "watering holes" – sites that attackers deliberately infuse with malware because they are considered likely to be visited by targets of interest – is as much a passion for Robert as it is a profession.



**Jeffrey B. Gibbs**

Class of 1980  
State University of New York  
at Oswego  
Bachelor of Science,  
Business Administration

Nominated by  
President Deborah F. Stanley  
State University of New York  
at Oswego

Vice President of Internal Audit at Biogen Idec Inc, Jeffrey Gibbs has over 18 years of experience in the pharmaceutical and bio-pharmaceutical industry. Gibbs began his career at Ernst & Young, quickly progressing through a number of highly regarded corporations with his excellent financial skills. Gibbs consistently supports SUNY Oswego students by participating in the Alumni in Residence Program, the School of Business Alumni Symposium, and supporting the establishment of the School of Business Center for Accounting Research and Education. Gibbs is involved in summer internship and co-op programs at Biogen Idec.



**Chris Hermann**

Class of 1970  
University of Louisville, Speed  
School of Engineering  
BSME, Mechanical  
Engineering

Nominated by  
Dean Neville G. Pinto  
University of Louisville, Speed  
School of Engineering

Chris joined Louisville Gas and Electric in 1967 as an engineering co-op, returned for several co-op assignments, then joined the company full time in 1970 as a plant staff engineer. He advanced to plant manager in 1978 and held senior management positions with responsibility for generation, transmission, plant construction and other key business activities.

In December 2000, he became senior Vice President, Distribution Operations and joined the Board of Directors in 2004. Chris retired from LG&E in 2013 after 43 years of service.

Reflecting on his career, Chris said: "I am convinced that the early experience and knowledge gained through my co-op assignments coupled with solid engineering knowledge were critical to my success."



**Natalie Hirsch**

Class of 1996  
Simon Fraser University  
BSc, Kinesiology

Nominated by  
Mr. Andrew Petter, President  
and  
Vice-Chancellor  
Simon Fraser University

Natalie Hirsch is a Project Officer in Operational Space Medicine at the Canadian Space Agency (CSA), involved in exercise and nutrition activities and representing Canada on related working groups, including chairing the International Space Station Countermeasures Working Group. She is the strength and conditioning specialist for Canadian astronauts, providing them with pre-, in- and post-flight exercise support and has received several awards, including a NASA recognition award, for this work. Ms. Hirsch holds a BSc in Kinesiology from Simon Fraser University (SFU), which included co-op work terms at CSA, and a Space Studies Graduate Certificate from the University of South Australia. She has been a wonderful mentor and supervisor for students by providing co-op opportunities in her projects at CSA.

2014-2015 CO-OP HALL OF FAME



Rhonda J. Jackson

Class of 1983  
University of Cincinnati  
Associate of Applied Science,  
Chemical Technology

Nominated by  
Kettil Cedercreutz, Associate  
Provost and Director, Division  
of Professional Practice and  
Experiential Learning  
University of Cincinnati

Rhonda Jackson retired in 2012 from Procter & Gamble after an accomplished 29 year career. She joined P&G's Chemical Division after receiving an AAS degree in chemical technology from UC. Appointed as perfumer in 1997, she became P&G's first African American perfumer world-wide. She managed the technical and creative perfume development responsibilities and enabled category growth in numerous brands - including Febreze - which became P&G's 24th billion dollar brand. She holds 15 patents with nine pending. In 2006 Rhonda became the first African American female to advance within the Technical Career System to principal scientist, a level typically achieved by engineers and PhD's. She served as both a role model and mentor for upcoming African American female technologists.



Tan Sri Datuk (Dr) Hj  
Mustapha Kamal Hj Abu  
Bakar

Class of 1970  
University of Malaya  
Bachelor of Arts in History

Nominated by  
Professor Dato' Dr. Mohd  
Amin Jalaludin, Vice  
Chancellor  
University of Malaya

Tan Sri Datuk (Dr) Mustapha Kamal is currently the Chairman of various companies and sits on the Board of Trustees for various foundations.

In 2013, he initiated the Industry-Academia Collaboration (IAC) Pilot Project, to enhance the marketability and employability of Graduates, for companies located in Cyberjaya. As a result, all 22 UM graduates were offered full time employment by IBM Global Delivery Center.

The concept of the program was shared with the Prime Minister of Malaysia, the National Economic Council and the Education Ministry, as a model that can be used to enhance employability of local graduates.



Cleoie Kirkland

Class of 1978  
Drexel University  
BS, Accounting

Nominated by  
President John Fry  
Drexel University

Mr. Kirkland is president and chief operating officer of PK Financial Group, LLC, an insurance and benefits provider that offers institutional and personal insurance. Previously, Mr. Kirkland was CFO at Caesars Resort in Atlantic City, COO for the Atlantic City Convention Center, and president of AV International, Inc., one of America's largest minority owned insurance brokers. As an auditor during his co-op assignments, Mr. Kirkland was exposed to a variety of senior level managers in different organizations. From this exposure, he learned that there was no "cookie cutter" path for success in business. The co-op experience prepared him for the real world work environment where learning never stops. Throughout his career, Mr. Kirkland has hired and mentored co-op students, continuing to pass on the lessons that he learned from his co-op experience.



Kristen Knouft

Class of 1993  
Drexel University  
BS, Finance and Marketing

Nominated by  
President John Fry  
Drexel University

Ms. Knouft is managing director at Accenture, a global management consulting, technology services and outsourcing company. Previously, she was SVP and chief marketing officer of Procurian, a leading provider of procurement solutions which was acquired by Accenture. She was one of the original team members that launched the company in 2000 and played a key role in its globalization, growth, acquisition and integration into Accenture. Prior to that, she was a leader within Ernst & Young LLP's Post-Merger Integration practice. Ms. Knouft's three co-ops included working for PricewaterhouseCooper as a "traveling consultant" at a General Dynamics plant in Texas, and she also held two positions with Mobil, first in marketing strategy and then in the retail division. At Mobil, she was selected to receive two \$1,000 academic scholarships during each of her co-ops there.



Satu Cahaya Langit

Class of 2009  
Universiti Utara Malaysia  
Bachelor of Information  
Technology, Software  
Engineering

Nominated by  
Prof. Dato' Wira Dr. Mohamed  
Mustafa B Ishak  
Universiti Utara Malaysia

Mr Satu Cahaya Langit decided to join UUM in Bachelor of Information Technology as he believed that UUM provides support and conducive place for studying. He is smart and showed his passion in the subject by winning one silver medal and one bronze medal in Malaysia IT competition, besides listed four times for Dean's award. Upon graduation, he joins Emric, a Swedish based software company in Jakarta and frequently works at the main branch in Stockholm. Though he is busy working as a software engineer, he spends some time with charity organizations focusing on poverty, kids and education. His passion for charity has led him to initiate Indocharity in 2010. His hobbies include traveling, photography and playing music.



Ann Marie Lubert

Class of 1989  
Clarkson University  
BS, Marketing and  
Communications

Nominated by  
Anthony Collins, President  
Clarkson University

Ann Marie Lubert is GM, Simplification and Variable Cost Productivity for GE Healthcare - Global Services. Ann Marie joined General Electric in 1989 on the Distribution and Sales Program. She has held a variety of leadership positions throughout various businesses in the GE Company in GE Supply, GE Intelligent Platform Solutions and GE Healthcare before attaining her current role. She is also the Corporate Recruiting Leader for GE, at Clarkson University - a "volunteer" role that she enjoys immensely. Ann Marie is a graduate of Clarkson University where she earned a BS degree in Marketing and Technical Communications, and an MBA from the University of New Hampshire. She played on the Women's Volleyball and Lacrosse teams and was a member of the Phi Sigma Sigma Sorority.

2014-2015 CO-OP HALL OF FAME



**Hamish Macdonald**

Class of 2002  
Charles Sturt University  
Bachelor of Arts  
(Communication - Journalism)

Nominated by  
Andrew Vann, Vice Chancellor  
and President  
Charles Sturt University

Hamish's esteemed career included periods as a journalist with Channel 4 and ITV in the UK and CNN in the US. In 2006, Hamish commenced work with Al Jazeera as a News Presenter in the KL bureau. He was awarded Young Journalist of the Year at the Royal Television Society Awards in London in 2008. In 2010 he joined Network Ten in Australia as a Senior Foreign Correspondent and in 2012 received a Walkley Human Rights Television Award (Australia's highest journalistic award). He is currently Senior International Correspondent with the ABC Television Network in the US.



**Thamsanqa Caleb Maqubela**

Class of 1994-1996  
Vaal University of Technology  
National Diploma: Marketing

Nominated by  
Mrs Annie Moletsane and  
Professor Irene Moutlana  
Vaal University of Technology

Thamsanqa Caleb Maqubela graduated cum laude in 1996 (National Diploma Marketing), spent 6 months in Australia's CSU (1995) as the first exchange student from VUT. He did his MBA at KDI School in South Korea, Seoul (2002).

He is an author (2013), award winning entrepreneur (2011), organisational turn-around specialist, the CEO of SAGDA ([www.sagda.org.za](http://www.sagda.org.za)) and former-employee of VUT (1996-2003). Mail & Guardian rated Maqubela in the top 100 SA leaders in 2005 and 2006.

Through early exposure to WIL, Mr. Maqubela progressed from selling lollipops to running a R100 million budget organization in 18 years - benefiting over 3000 graduates.



**Thomas Miller**

Class of 1997  
The University of Toledo  
Bachelor of Science,  
Electrical Engineering

Nominated by  
Dr. Nagi Naganathan, Interim  
President  
The University of Toledo

As a Product Development Engineer with Ford Motor Company's Research & Advanced Engineering, Tom is responsible for the invention of new enabling technologies, electrical features and systems for use in global vehicle applications. Most recently, he was awarded the Henry Ford Technology Award for his efforts with Ford's "My Key," smart key technology.

As an undergraduate student, Tom participated in the co-op program at General Electric and was a member of the company's Edison Engineering Leadership program.

He frequently visits the University of Toledo campus to share his experiences with students and discuss trends within the automotive industry.



**Wit Nithisakdadet**

Class of 2001  
Suranaree University of  
Technology  
Bachelor of Engineering,  
Polymer Engineering

Nominated by  
Professor Dr. Prasart Suebka  
(the Rector)  
Suranaree University of  
Technology

Mr. Wit Nithisakdadet graduated with a Bachelor Degree in Polymer Engineering from Suranaree University of Technology (SUT) in 2001. During his study at SUT, he undertook his cooperative education at the Production Department at Thai Toy Co., Ltd. That coop experience enabled him to realize what academic knowledge and skills he had to improve for his career development. Currently, he is the Business Development Manager of SABIC Asia Pacific PTE., Ltd. (Thailand Representative Office). His responsibilities are business development, sales planning and operation including marketing analysis to supply plastic resins to meet the demand of the plastic industry in Thailand.



**David O'Malley**

Class of 1997  
Drexel University  
BS, Economics and Finance

Nominated by  
President John Fry  
Drexel University

Mr. O'Malley serves as chief operating officer of Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company, which has been serving customers for 167 years. He has overall responsibility for the company's operating areas, ensuring a seamless experience for producers and clients. Mr. O'Malley first joined Penn Mutual as a co-op student in 1994 and was assigned to the Investment Department. This enabled him to develop an extensive knowledge in the investment field and paved the way for positions of increasing responsibility including vice president and head of fixed income, chief risk officer, and chief financial officer. He was named COO in 2013.



**Andrew Pennoni, PE**

Class of 1991  
Drexel University  
BS, Architectural and Civil  
Engineering

Nominated by  
President John Fry  
Drexel University

Mr. Pennoni, regional vice president and principal-in-charge of the Construction Services discipline at Pennoni Associates, credits his co-op experience with confirming his career choice, providing valuable experience and knowledge, giving him a head start on the competition, and providing hands-on responsibility in his field. Through co-op, he learned real-life career lessons by interacting in the workplace with successful, well-respected people and observing the habits and characteristics of industry leaders. Mr. Pennoni held co-op positions at Pennoni Associates, the City of Philadelphia and Glaxo Smithkline. His co-op at the City of Philadelphia with the Philadelphia International Airport provided field responsibility on large, interesting construction projects. He was able to see engineering design principals in practice during construction, analyze construction materials properties, and observe construction.

2014-2015 CO-OP HALL OF FAME



**Jill Phillips Ortega**

Class of 1997  
The University of Toledo  
Bachelor of Science,  
Mechanical, Industrial and  
Manufacturing Engineering

Nominated by  
Dr. Nagi Naganathan, Interim  
President  
The University of Toledo

Jill Phillips Ortega has been an employee of General Motors since she began working at the Toledo Powertrain facility as a co-op. She was hired full-time upon her graduation in 1997. Between 2005 and 2007, she served as the quality manager for the Allison 1000 heavy duty transmission and also launch quality manager for the 2-mode Hybrid transmission in Baltimore, Maryland. Jill has worked with GM's sister sites around the world and since January 2013 worked first as the Quality Director and then in February 2013 moved onto the General Assembly Manager for Equinox. As the GA Manager she is leading a new vehicle launch at the Spring Hill, TN assembly plant.



**Sylvia Price**

Class of 1989  
Wentworth Institute of  
Technology  
Bachelor of Science,  
Manufacturing Engineering

Nominated by  
Dr. Zorica Pantic, President  
Wentworth Institute of  
Technology

Sylvia Price, who received a BS in Manufacturing Engineering in 1989 from Wentworth, is director of presales solutions at Pitney Bowes Software, Inc. She is responsible for all presales services across North America and Latin America. She is also on Wentworth's Board of Trustees. She attributes her success as a young woman in the male-dominant field of Manufacturing to the confidence she gained from her co-op experience at Wentworth, and believes "there is no substitute for learning by doing." Her three co-ops taught to her to embrace new challenges and learn and grow from every experience, values she says have been invaluable throughout her professional life.



**Pasquale Rafanelli**

Class of 2006  
Long Island University/LIU  
Post  
M.S. Accountancy, B.S.  
Accountancy

Nominated by  
Jason Cascone, Director of  
Employer Relations  
Long Island University/LIU  
Post

Pasquale Rafanelli, a Valuation Manager at Grassi CPAs in Jericho, NY. Since earning his master's degree in accountancy, with a concentration in information systems, in 2006, he's earned his Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) credential and is a Certified Valuation Analyst (CVA). In addition, he is licensed as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) in N.Y. Mr. Rafanelli's accounting career began with internships at Rose and Associates and Barry Goldberg and Associates. His academic and experiential education was accented with an active and intentional exploration of his interests and career possibilities that led him to this occupational choice outside of the traditional CPA track.



**Ami Richter**

Class of 2001  
University of Waterloo  
BA, Recreation and Leisure  
Studies

Nominated by  
Dr. Feridun Hamdullahpur,  
President and Vice Chancellor  
University of Waterloo

Ami Richter is the Founder and Creative Director for Lug@-- a travel and active living accessory company.

Ami's inspiration to tackle the travel accessories market began during a co-operative work term with the University of Waterloo. Ami continues to support the co-op program by hiring students to help drive her business forward. Ami's entrepreneurial spirit helped grow her business from a handful of bags to an impressive line of smart travel solutions. In addition to supporting the University through engagement activities, Ami contributes to charities such as the Children's Aid Society, Jays Care, SickKids, Andy Roddick and Whole Kids Foundation.



**Mr. Darrell Roberts**

Class of 1974  
Miami Dade College  
Associate of Science,  
Electronics Technology

Nominated by  
Dr. Eduardo Padron,  
President  
Miami Dade College

Darrell Roberts has always had a passion for the Aviation community, since joining the Federal Aviation Administration in 1973. He participated in the MDC/FAA CO-OP Education Program. His 40 year tenure with the FAA has led him to his current position, as the South Florida Technical Operations Manager, with executive oversight over the National Airspace System.

Darrell is an avid supporter of educational programs and serves on MDC's schools of Engineering, Aviation and the Upward Bound advisory boards. He also serves on Broward College's Engineering board and aviation boards at Florida Memorial University, George T. Baker and Experience Aviation.



**Matt Smith**

Class of 1999  
Johnson & Wales University  
Bachelor of Science,  
Marketing

Nominated by  
Chancellor John Bowen  
Johnson & Wales University

Matt started his career in business with a paper route at age 14, then launched a local auto-detailing business a year later. Today, Matt is Dean of Retul University, the international leader in bike-fitting technology and educational programs. Combining two of his lifelong loves, cycling and education, he manages a 12-person faculty on almost every continent and develops programs that will train more than 1,000 bike-fit professionals this year. Matt is also co-founder of the Center for Work Ethic Development, which started with the challenging title, "Bring Your 'A' Game to Work". The organization offers training and certificate programs for teens and young adults built on the values of a strong work ethic.



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advancing cooperative &  
work-integrated education

Back to the main **WACE** website

2014-2015 CO-OP HALL OF FAME



[Dr. Jane Taylor, OAM](#)

Class of 2009  
University of Newcastle  
Doctor of Philosophy (Oral Health)

Nominated by  
Professor Andrew Parfitt, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic)  
University of Newcastle

Dr Jane Taylor is a world-leading expert in the field of forensic dentistry who has provided significant service in Australia and abroad. Jane played a critical role in identifying victims of the Bali bombing in 2002, the Boxing Day tsunami in Thailand in 2004, and the most devastating natural disaster in Australia – the Victorian bushfires of 2009. In recognition of her services, Jane was awarded a medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2003, an Overseas Humanitarian Service Award in 2007 and an Australian Police Operations Medal in 2009. Jane is currently the Associate Professor of Oral Health at the University of Newcastle, Australia, where she has played a key role in introducing a number of regional and international work integrated learning dental services and clinics to assist students in their career-readiness. These community-based initiatives have included an on-campus Oral Health Clinic and an international dental service to villages in remote areas of West Timor.