

2012 and 2013 Graduates Pursuing Full-Time Graduate Studies

27 November 2013, By Kurt DeGoede, Professor of Engineering and Physics

While most of the Elizabethtown engineering and physics graduates move straight into full-time employment, a number of graduates have continued their academic training in full-time graduate programs. In 2011, all 11 of the spring graduates of our engineering and physics programs pursued full-time professional employment. Despite the economic downturn, 100% of those students indicated that they had found full-time employment in their field within one year of graduation. However, over the last two years, among the 45 students that have completed their degrees in engineering and physics, six graduates have decided to pursue full time graduate studies.



Nicholas Seaman (EGR-EE2013) is currently applying to law schools, looking to pursue a career in environmental and constitutional law. “I have been interested in sustainability and renewable energy since high school, and Elizabethtown College has placed a particular emphasis on this as an Electrical Engineering student. Engineering along with law is the perfect path to combine my critical thinking and problem solving abilities with the chance to help people and make a difference in this world.” Fellow 2013 graduate Josh Rowlands (EGR-ME2013) is also finding ways to live out our college mission and use his education to serve others in his first year of study in the Engineering and Management program at Case Western Reserve University. Josh first ventured beyond North America as part of the Etown Senior project team developing affordable PV phone chargers for The Gambia ([Jan2013 site visit log](#)). At Case he is one of the students participating in a program where “CWRU teachers and students will team up with faculty and master’s students from Myanmar in an intensive two-week peer-learning class titled International Engineering Entrepreneurship. The class begins Thursday” ([Cleveland Plain Dealer](#)).

Matt Rice (EGR-ME12) and Miles Wheelersburg (IEM12) also moved into full-time Engineering Management masters programs, Matt at Dartmouth and Miles at Carnegie Mellon. Matt’s team won the inaugural Master of Engineering Management Programs Consortium business simulation challenge. Each team included a student from each of the member schools: Dartmouth, Stanford, Cornell, Northwestern, Duke and MIT. In the competition Matt was chosen by his team to represent the team at the competition debriefing ([Dartmouth Engineer Magazine](#)). At Carnegie Mellon, Miles focus is on Healthcare Information Systems. Last summer Miles completed an internship at the Hospital Corporation of America in Nashville where he helped develop a new online patient records portal. In his final semester, working under sponsorship of MITRE (<http://www.mitre.org>), he and a team of 5 peers used data mining techniques to explore the types of conversations regarding chronic disease taking place on social media websites.

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Russell Speiden and Kelly Seymour (both EGR-ME2012) followed their interest in biomechanics. Russ recently completed a MSE degree in Biomedical Engineering at Cornell University. In 2012 Russell was one of 174 NCAA athletes awarded a \$7500 [Post Graduate Scholarship](#). This scholarship recognizes the combination of athletic and academic excellence from among the 450,000 NCAA athletes across all divisions. Russell found that he was “very prepared for graduate school...able to quickly adapt to unfamiliar subject matter...Etown did a tremendous job refining both my technical engineering knowledge as well as written and oral communication skills.” At Cornell, he was part of a team of graduate students to develop a new intravenous infusion device for developing countries, taking the project from conceptual design work to prototype testing. Russell will undoubtedly be continuing work along similar lines in his new position as a test engineer at the Unilife Corporation in York, PA (<http://www.unilife.com/>). Kelly has followed up her undergraduate research experience with Dr. Sara Atwood, for which Kelly was recognized as having the second-best undergraduate presentation at the poster session for the 2012 biomedical engineering meeting of the ASME with engineering, with graduate studies in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Delaware. Kelly will be defending her master’s thesis, titled *Using Kinetic and Kinematic Parameters to Explain Changes in Gait Due to Cognitive Tasks*, next spring. Kelly reflected “The classroom fundamentals, the support from professors, the experience in tutoring and lab assisting, and the opportunity for independent and collaborative research are all things that Etown provided me that I have continued to use in my current schooling, and I will take with me to my future work outside of academia.”

It looks like we may have a few more students joining this group next fall. Currently, 4 of the 17 members of the class of 2014 are preparing graduate school applications.