

Communications From Our Canfield Scholarship Winners

Here is a brief note from one of our Virg Canfield scholarship winners, Brittany Pentek, as she started her career at the University of Minnesota. Good luck Brittany!

“Welcome Week, a welcoming event for incoming freshmen has been a busy schedule full of fun. After a Convocation including a presentation by the U of M marching band, we had several days of exploration. Presentations were set up by colleges about study abroad options, class expectations, and planning ahead to utilize every opportunity. There was also a day of exploring each of the three base Twin Cities campuses, West Bank, East Bank, and St. Paul. There were mini lectures including my personal favorite, "How to Meet a Cop." It was pretty entertaining as well as informative. Good common sense ideas. ;)

Best fact of the week? The average distance between two classes on the East Bank campus is a mile. Each day a student logs about 5-6 miles in walking between classes and residence halls.

Classes start tomorrow for me. I'll have a better idea of IT and the engineering program after I actually get to sit in a few classes.

I'm starting with 17 credits, Chemistry, Physics, Calc II, a Biomedical seminar, and Global Politics.

Thanks for the support!”

Brittany Pentek

Here is a brief note from another of our Virg Canfield scholarship winners, Connor Hayes, as he continues his career at the University of Minnesota. Good luck Connor!

“Hey everyone,

I just wanted to drop a line and let you know what has happened over the summer and what is happening now. I have completed my internship, which went well, and now I'm back up at the U of M. I once again am working in the Civil engineering machine shop, and so far that is going good too. I've got a pretty busy schedule this semester with 18 credits, my job, and the formula car team, so I don't have too much down time. (!!!! *The Editor.*)

The 2008 formula car went well and we were satisfied with our performance at competition. We finished 36 out of 84 teams, which is decent, but not quite as good as we hoped. A simple improper adjustment on the brake pedal cost us the last event in the competition, which unfortunately is also the event worth the most points. This loss put us in 36 instead of 16th, so it was a big disappointment, but we still learned a lot to help with the construction of the 2009 car.

Each year we must build an entirely new car, so we are going to have a busy school year. I have handed over the position of Vice President, and taken up the role of Powertrain and Controls team leader. With this new position I will be working on less administrative tasks and more on design and construction. As Powertrain and controls team leader I am responsible for the braking system, rear differential, axles, chain, sprockets, steering, and other driver controls such as pedals and shifting. We have begun designing the main systems of the new car already and we hope to have all the components drawn in SolidWorks by Thanksgiving so we can begin manufacturing before Christmas. If all goes according to plan, we should have a running racecar by spring break. We plan on attending the larger competition (about 130 teams) in Detroit this spring instead of the California competition that we attended this summer. I've attached some pictures of the car at competition for you guys to check out if you want. (*See next page.*)

I'll send you another update in a month or two and let you know how things are going. Thanks for everything,”

Sincerely,

Connor Hayes





Connor's Team Picture At The California Trials