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**AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF NEW YORK  
AWARDS 10 UNDERGRADUATE ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Cooper Union Student Wins Top Award**

**NEW YORK, May 24** – The American Council of Engineering Companies of New York (ACEC New York) will once again award \$27,500 in scholarships to undergraduate engineering students attending New York State colleges and universities. Five of the scholarships will be awarded to female students and five to male students. Seven colleges and universities are represented by the scholarship winners.

The highest award of \$5,000 will go to Pavel Nikulin, a civil engineering major at The Cooper Union. The nine additional winners will each receive awards of \$2,500. Selections were made based on the student’s cumulative grade point average, college activities, work experience and an essay.

Presentations of six of the awards will be made today at ACEC New York’s Metropolitan Region’s membership luncheon in the Yale Club to the students attending colleges and universities in the Metropolitan New York area. The remaining four scholarships will be awarded on October 16 at Turning Stone Resort in Verona, N.Y., to the students attending upstate colleges and universities.

The students receiving their awards today are:

**DMJM Harris Scholarship - \$5,000**

- **Pavel Nikulin**, *The Cooper Union, New York, N.Y.* Once intrigued by the idea of becoming an architect, Pavel in time came to realize he was far more concerned with structure than aesthetics and made his choice for civil engineering. With a 3.9 average, involvement in several student organizations and community activities, Pavel is also an avid skier and snowboarder. He is the president of New York Water Environment Association and Vice President of Community Service in the National Society of Collegiate Scholars at the college. His community activities include participating in the Thanksgiving Canned Food Drive with City Harvest, DOROT meal delivery, and beach cleanup with the American Littoral Society. Pavel was born in Moscow, Russia. He is a graduate of Cresskill High School and lives in Cresskill, N.J., with his mother, Nadya Nikulina, and father, Michael Machlis.

### **Thornton-Tomasetti Engineers Scholarship - \$2,500**

- **Mark Sheeran**, *Manhattan College, Riverdale, N.Y.* Highly accomplished inside and outside the classroom, Mark has been called the best civil engineering student in the School of Engineering by the chairman of the Civil & Environmental Engineering Department. He is the recipient of several engineering society scholarships, is a founding member of Manhattan College's student chapter of Engineers Without Borders, is involved in student government, this year as speaker of the student legislature, is active in the Peer Mentor Program, the student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the college's Engineering Council. He is currently a Thornton-Tomasetti Student Scholar and assists students with pure science and writing skills in the Center for Academic Support. A member of the Engineering National Honor Society and the Civil Engineering National Honor Society, Mark is the son of Mark and Joan Sheeran of Goldens Bridge, N.Y.

### **AMA Consulting Engineers, P.C. Scholarship - \$2,500**

- **Elizabeth Townsend**, *The Cooper Union, New York, N.Y.* Elizabeth is a mechanical engineering student with a strong interest in medical science. Last summer, she worked for the Biomechanical Engineering Orthopaedics Research Lab, University of Kansas Medical Center, on early detection of peripheral nerve injuries using high resolution MRI imaging. Her campus and community activities include vice president of Planning for College Success, a mentoring program of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars for youths age 5-16, vice president of the National Honor Society, and head of the Public Relations Committee of the Society of Women Engineers, volunteer work in DOROT, which provides delivery of meals to the homebound, and in Green Places, which involves clean up of parks. A native of Wellsboro, Pa., Elizabeth is the daughter of Dr. Darryl and Mrs. Donna Townsend of Wellsboro.

### **STV Group Scholarship - \$2,500**

- **Mitza Zobenica**, *City College of New York, New York, N.Y.* Most people think it's a long way from professional ballerina to civil engineer. Not Mitza Zobenica. After several years as a performer with the Metropolitan Opera Ballet, the Cleveland Ballet and Ballet Tech, Mitza has traded her ballet slippers for construction boots. The third-year civil engineering major sees similar skills required for both careers: perseverance, strong technical application, problem solving and initiative. In addition to high scholastic achievement, she is a leader in several student organizations--Tau Beta Phi Honor Society, the Society of Women Engineers and the American Society of Civil Engineers. Her summer internship with Rand Engineering PC in New York City garnered outstanding feedback. Mitza also actively volunteers as a mentor to younger students, providing academic assistance or simply offering emotional support to her younger colleagues, and when time permits, she still enjoys teaching ballet. Mitza is the daughter of Milan and Lindsay Zobenica of Parma, Ohio.

### **Earth Tech Inc. Scholarship - \$2,500**

- **Benjamin Schiller**, *City College of New York, New York, N.Y.* For Benjamin Schiller, hard work is not at all daunting. In fact, he thrives on it. This semester alone he is taking 24 credits, participating in numerous school organizations (The American Society of Civil Engineers, the CCNY Engineering Leadership Program, the CE Alumni Group Mentor Program, Engineers Without Borders), putting in 70 hours of volunteer work each month for a variety of community religious-based organizations, and preparing to prequalify for the 2005 New York City marathon. He's also a soccer, softball and ice hockey player. Benjamin enjoyed working in construction for eight years before enrolling to become a civil engineer. Now he is looking forward to becoming a consulting engineer, not only to apply his newly learned skills, but also because he knows he will be working hard on a variety of projects. Benjamin is the son of Jon and Sharon Schiller of Patterson, N.Y.

### **Weidlinger Associates, Inc. Scholarship - \$2,500**

- **Sara Goldgraben**, *SUNY, Stony Brook, N.Y.* Noted by faculty for her diligence, rigor, intelligence and creativity, Sara Goldgraben is distinguishing herself at SUNY, Stony Brook as a star student in the university's new undergraduate biomedical engineering program. She has garnered praise for her work in the research laboratory, studying fluid dynamics at the nanolevel scale as well as multidisciplinary cardiovascular bioengineering. Her numerous academic honors include acceptance, twice, into an NIH-funded summer fellowship program, an NIH-sponsored Minority Access to Research Careers Fellowship, and a Weinig Foundation scholarship for academic excellence, to name a few. She is a member of several honor societies including the Golden Key International Honor Society. Deeply committed to health and the environment, Sara has been involved in the Adolescent Tobacco Undercover Prevention Act program of the Nassau County Health Department and in the Academic Associate Program of the university's hospital emergency room. Sara is the daughter of Janet Reyes of Bethpage, N.Y. and Robert Goldgraben of Sunnyside, N.Y.

The following four scholarship winners will receive their awards at the October 16 evening reception in Verona, N.Y.

### **Langan Engineering and Environmental Services, P.C. Scholarship in memory of Maria Isabel Ramirez - \$2,500**

- **Joseph Schuster**, *Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.* A native of Northbrook, Ill. Joseph is deeply involved in student organizations, community activities and athletics. He is a member of the Cornell Steel Bridge Team, is community service chairperson of the student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineering and provides tutoring services as a member of the Civil Engineering Honor Society. He has volunteered for work at the Ithaca ScienCenter and for Kid's Science Discovery Day at the Mall. In his capacity in the student chapter of ASCE, Joseph worked on the design/construction of a 40-foot span of a

pedestrian bridge for Ithaca High School. His athletic activities include the Varsity Men's Diving Team, Cornell Men's Club Volleyball Team and Intramural Basketball. Joseph is a graduate of Glenbrook North High School and the son of Lyndl and Harry Schuster of Northbrook, Ill.

#### **Western Region of ACEC New York Scholarship - \$2,500**

- **Stacy Green**, *SUNY, Buffalo, N.Y.* Supporting her decision to focus on civil engineering and construction management, Stacy has set her sights on a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and a master's degree in business administration by May 2006. Although carrying an exceptionally heavy academic program, Stacy still finds time to participate in student activities including the MCEER Seismic Design Competition Team, the American Society of Civil Engineers and as captain of the university's intramural volleyball team. Her community volunteer work has included tutoring for Help-Us-Grow and assisting the coach of a high school girl's volleyball team. As a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church Choir, she has sung for shut-ins and has also played piano at a local nursing facility. Her work experience includes a part-time position with Clough Harbour & Associates LLP, an ACEC New York member firm. Stacy is the daughter of Timothy and Nancy Green of North Tonawanda, N.Y.

#### **Mid Hudson Region of ACEC New York Scholarship - \$2,500**

- **Paul Fathallah**, *Union College, Schenectady, N.Y.* Paul Fathallah combines a passion for engineering with a passion for golf. And he definitely walks the walk. In addition to working as an intern with the engineering group at the Acushnet Company (Titleist), he designed and manufactured a high-quality putter as his senior project at the Wheeler School in Providence, R.I. An outstanding mechanical engineering student known for his diligence and hard work, Paul has been active in his college robotics club. He also spent a semester studying in Prague, Czech Republic. Through his work and student experience, Paul has learned the importance of communication, not only in working together with fellow students but also in successfully bringing a product to market. He looks forward to successfully combining engineering and communication skills as a consulting engineer. Paul is the son of Charles and Mona Fathallah of Marion, Mass.

#### **Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc. Scholarship - \$2,500**

- **Kelly Marie Finn**, *SUNY, Buffalo, N.Y.* Ever since Kelly Finn realized that engineering was the career for her, she has worked hard to pursue that goal. After graduating in May 2006, she wants to continue her academic training, working toward a master's degree and possibly a doctorate. Kelly also has an interest in sports, which has taken her in several directions. A member of the student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) of Buffalo, Kelly competes on the ASCE concrete canoe team. She has also trained three special Olympians for road races and has volunteered in several Special Olympics events. For two summers, she worked for the Southern Tier Independence Center

providing in-home care for physically handicapped and mentally retarded children. Last summer and over winter break, Kelly worked for Lockheed Martin Systems Integration as a quality engineer for aerospace systems. She is the daughter of Jeanne Johnson of Kirkwood, N.Y.

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*Founded in 1921, American Council of Engineering Companies of New York is the oldest organization of professional engineering firms in the U.S. A statewide association, its members represent all major engineering disciplines and range from highly specialized solo practitioners to multidiscipline firms employing thousands with branch offices worldwide.*