WE ARE CREATORS, BUILDERS, MAKERS,
THINKERS, INVENTORS, OBSERVERS, PIONEERS, ADVOCATORS,
DREAMERS, NURTURERS, HEALERS, HUMANITARIANS, ENTREPRENEURS,
WRITERS, SCULPTORS, PAINTERS, FILMMAKERS, MUSICIANS, MATHEMATICIANS,
SCIENTISTS, ACTIVISTS, TEACHERS, EDUCATORS, BELIEVERS,
DREAMERS, NURTURERS, HEALERS, HUMANITARIANS, ENTREPRENEURS,
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SCIENTISTS, ACTIVISTS, TEACHERS, EDUCATORS, BELIEVERS.

we are create
rs, build
ers, makers,

we are
architects
artists &
engineers

Peter Cooper gave us a chance to explore our gifts
so that we and our services may become gifts to the world.

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Cover Design by May Anunyarungsun
(Art '12)
With warm regards,

Jamshed Bharucha

Letter from The President Of Cooper Union, Jamshed Bharucha

Dear students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends,

As we approach the holiday season, I want to wish you all a restful break. My first semester at Cooper Union certainly has not been lacking for excitement! During normal times, the first semester for a new president would be time to get to know new colleagues and friends. Alas, we do not live in normal times. Our financial situation and that of our nation requires us to rise to new levels of engagement. I am delighted to see you all engaged. By putting our hearts and minds together, we will see through these difficult times and come out even stronger.

Cooper Union is a special place indeed. Never before have I seen students as committed to their work and alumni as passionate about their alma mater. I know from teaching students from all three schools this semester, that while each school has its own unique character and purpose, there are common bonds that hold us together. I recognize that challenging issues have been raised which trigger complex emotions. Our founders frequently made clear his belief that he welcomed new ideas and vigorous, civil debate. He also was an innovator, constantly seeking new solutions. He founded Cooper Union to enable those without means to benefit from the finest education, so they can better themselves and society. We must always uphold this idea.

Josie and I look forward to seeing you again in the New Year. We will be spending a week in India and then joining Dean Baker and Cooper Union students on their trip to Quebec.

With warm regards,
Jamshed Bharucha

Letter from the Editor

In the old days, a holiday was meant for a gathering of family and friends – to enjoy time together with people that you don’t see every day. A holiday is a time when people should unplug and lighten loads.

Nowadays, a holiday is usually associated with a break from school, time off of work for leisure, the buying of gifts. It is now December, and the holidays are approaching rapidly and many people are looking forward to a break. Many stores use holidays as an opportunity for more business and lower their prices to entice people into buying.

In the old days, a holiday was meant for a gathering of family and friends – to enjoy time together with people that you don’t see every day. A holiday is a time when people should unplug and lighten loads.

The Cooper Pioneer The Holiday Issue: Unity
December 2011

Photo credit: The Cooper Pioneer

December 5th Summit

BY TAYLOR HAND (ART ’12)

Monday’s Summit was, as our gracious hostess said, an “open and broad spectrum of moderate and immediate voices”. The purpose of FREE COOPER UNION! A Community Summit (organized by alumni and open to the public) was to “reframe the debate / reframe the questions / help us work better together”. At the end there was not time for the proposed ‘break-out sessions’, which seemed like an exciting approach to utilizing the energy of a group gathering. Yet the three hours of alumni and student speakers was informative and enlightening, and, honestly, occasionally boring PowerPoint presentations, give me a break.

As the night went on, the crowd dwindled, but, for sure, there were some exciting times. Kevin Slavin (AV ’09) came with a $10,000 check in hand for the contingency pledge drive. Adriana Farmiga (AV ’09) had announced earlier in the evening that there would soon be a pledging website, to consolidate and identify community members who wish to promise to stand in support of the meritocracy with a pledge of a dollar amount. A pledge made at www.freecooperunion.com is made on the condition of the school remaining tuition-free.

What a thrilling venture!

Further, Slavin offered a clear and accessible read of the situation, saying that, “the systemic mistake is believing the sustainable resource is money.” When, in reality, money is a derivative of trust. “The deficit of trust has made the hole unlikely.” He cited some unsettling findings of his own team of forensic analysts, who said of the Cooper Union’s financial reporting, “We haven’t seen anything this fucked up from anyone who wasn’t being deliberately obstructive.”

A current student, after the event, said she was struck by one comment in particular from Slavin, that when he offered his time on stage to Don Blasevics (AV ’81), one of the Alumni Association’s delegates on the Board of Trustees, he declined because he was “prissy to sensitive and confidential information.” She called this “telling” and also reported noticing members of the Board in the audience, looking uncomfortable, whispering, chuckling, and shuffling. However, these behaviors are probably common to all audience members. Barry Drogin’s (EE ’83) performance was riveting, and he called our school’s financial history “a 1000-piece puzzle in white,” crying out, “they can do whatever they want! They can reclassify!”

Counting practice where expenses are classified under different titles each year, making financial statements a mess of entanglement and obscurity. The beloved David Gersten (AR ’91) presented a really very handsome metaphor about the real work we are doing here. Che Perez (AR ’14) gave us a moment at sea to breathe, and Peter Buckley charmed us with tales of Peter Cooper’s political naiveté.

Closing remarks came from CUAA President, Peter Caffiero (CE ’83), who was kind of a bummer. I think he actually said, “I agree with everyone about the value of free tuition or whatever.” He also gave that line about looking forward and not blaming the past. Well, ok, he’s a realist, but he even said, “theoretical worth doesn’t matter”. Yikes.

Let’s close as Kevin Slavin closed, with a reminder of the real resources, infinitely renewable: “transparency, communication, trust, and integrity.”

Slavin offered a clear and accessible read of the situation, saying that, “the systemic mistake is believing the sustainable resource is money.” When, in reality, money is a derivative of trust.

Photos courtesy of Rocco S. Cetera (CE ’99).

If you would like to watch the entire summit, please visit the following link: http://cooperuniontaskforce.com/wiki/tiki-index.php?page=PublicPresentations

DEC 2011
Remembering Astor Place

BY TAYLOR KNOLBLOCK (MCHE '13)

Though most of the students currently enrolled in Cooper Union, and some of the new faculty have not had the pleasure of being inside the old engineering building at 51 Astor Place, it is worth remembering because it is part of the school’s history and it is soon to be demolished. Unlike the three modern structures currently surrounding the Foundation Building, the drafty building blends in to the cultured East Village while students quickly attended their classes and did their work inside of it. Recently, Developer Edward J. Minskoff Equities has closed on a construction loan of $165 million to erect a 450,000 sq. ft tower that was once the Foundation Building while it was still erect on the site of 41 Cooper Square during my first semester at Cooper. I personally liked the old engineering building more than the new building, because of its dusty, utilitarian qualities. It fit well with the misery that engineering core-curriculum caused. As you might have heard, engineering is a very difficult major to stick with, because it is just so inherently tricky, and because there are other easier paths one can take that can lead to a comfortable salary and happy life. When the Fall 2009 semester started, one might have noticed that the New Academic Building gave a sense of inspiration and positivity, which I personally did not appreciate. I would much rather be stuck with, because it is just so inspirational, sense of inspiration and positivity, which I personally did not appreciate. I would much rather be

BY JENNIFER GUIA (CHE'13) AND MARTIN LAWLESS (ME'13)

Walk in and you are surrounded by Asian, Halloween, and Valentine’s decorations with a few Christmas ornaments strewn along the walls. A warm welcome awaits you from none other than Grandma, the elderly Japanese owner of Asian Pub.

She sits down and congratulates you for being the first customer of the day at four o’clock in the afternoon, the beginning of the pub’s Happy Hour. “Free drinks for everyone!” as Grandma hands you the menu, drinks-side up. From the menu, you can choose from a variety of Asian-American cuisine, but the best items are not listed. Burgers for $2, fries for $1.50, drinks for $4, and generic soda free at all times. However, for those chilly, New York days when you start to feel lonely, homestyle, and Cooper has just brought you down, you can get soul-warming noodles in soy-sauce-laden broth with mysterious Asian vegetables and an egg in a bowl bigger than the size of your head, for a mere $3. Nothing could compare.

The thirteen-story Fumihiko Maki designed tower will be another addition to the modern bulwarks surrounding the Foundation building and taking over the East Village. Cooper Union sold the building to Minskoff in 2008.

The demolition of the attached building that was once home to Starbucks, less than two football fields away from the larger, bussier Starbuck’s on Lafayette Avenue, is already complete. Scaffolding and screens have been erected all around the main building, preparing for the demolition.

After the big move from 51 Astor to 41 Cooper Square over the summer of 2009, the New York Film Academy moved in.
**ARTISTS & THEIR PRACTICES: in their words**

**What the heck are artists doing in their studio and what are they curious about?**

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**ANA LIEBERMAN**

**4TH YEAR ART**

My art consists of colorful paintings with specific shapes that interlock. They involve the figure in contortion surrounded by objects in their space.

I’m interested in honesty and reality of what [the artist’s] medium is and its connection to life and its connection to love and desire… and drive. I’m working right now on portraits, but portraits as a way to get to just shape, color, narrative, and humor. For my senior show, I worked with oil paint and porcelain. I use oil paint because of how particular you can get with color… you can make thin colors or thick colors, subtle variations of color. I use porcelain in collaboration with Hannah Wides (senior show partner) to try to make it as smooth as possible like wood, to make it look like what you eat out of as well as what you eat. People can make their own story out of my story and enjoy my desires with their desires.

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**ANONYMOUS, “ALOISIOS P.”**

I’m working with wood, neoprene, wood, neoprene… this sort of a wet suit material, concrete, paper, platinum or silver inks. I’m working on one series of prints that are a combination of photography and printmaking. And the project sort of involves the conversation of analog and digital printing. That’s the 2-dimensional project I’m working on that are flat.

The other stuff is I guess also flat as in the way of the stretcher is but it’s supposed to exist in this sort of 3-dimensional space, and they could be easily paintings maybe? But they’re more of a collage of fabric stretched unto custom made stretchers. They’re flat objects and they’ll be mounted on the wall. They are 3-dimensional but they could work as 2-dimensional pieces that create the illusion of 3-dimensional.

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**AARON GRAHAM**

**3RD YEAR ART**

I’m working with images in Photoshop. I’m interested in how a mark can manipulate space that exists in a photo. Before I was taking other people’s images, so authorship was a question, but now I’m just using my own images so it’s easier for me to question what it is I’m working with, or what it means, what does my process mean. I think it’s interesting the idea of appropriation, but it’s too much to think about.

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**BY YARA ELBOROLOSY (CE’14)**

The financial crisis at Cooper Union has affected everyone involved in Cooper, whether it be student, faculty, or even alumni. With several meetings organized by the student council to discuss the issues and alternate options, the fact that tuition is an option to solving the financial crisis was discovered to be one of the main causes of distress among students.

During these meetings, students bounced ideas back and forth on how to raise awareness of this crisis. One of the ways discussed was using artwork to express the feelings felt by the students here. On the Table: An Exhibition for Free Education was an exhibition held on the week of November 29th 2011 displaying projects from students and alumni. These projects range from displaying “research on the school’s Board of Trustees, documentation of the school’s financials, as well as a range of work in various media that deal with the past, present, and future of the Cooper Union.”

The board of trustees research was an effort to map out the influence of the board of trustees and what they are involved in. The cards each have a picture of the respective member, his or her name, and what else they do outside of Cooper, which for some of them involves working with other schools. The board of trustees is responsible for making investments and assuring a steady income from the interest made from the endowment. President Bhatcha has been very supportive with the students’ attempts to express their frustration and solving this crisis, such as creating a task force. He made it very clear that the last thing he wants to see is a Cooper that charges tuition.

A special section of the exhibition was also dedicated to President Bhatcha’s life and how he became president of Cooper. It also included his educational update for Cooper and how his experiences so far will be able to help him lead Cooper Union.

Other pieces of art displayed how people feel about tuition in general. The phrase “tuition is on the table” has been altered and used by students to express their opinions about it. The poster in the middle has a picture of the pete cooper statue sitting on the table with a price tag of $38,000 attached and has a caption of “pay up sucka.”

As you walk further down the hall, there is a banner that has cooper knitted on upside down, demonstrating how charging tuition at Cooper is the complete opposite of what Cooper represents. On the bottom, it says “We are participants not consumers”, stating that education should not be treated as a material goods that is bought and thrown away later but as something to treasure and play an active role in.

One of the very last pictures at the end of the exhibit was the depiction of Cooper Union as the Titanic and the iceberg being tuition, which will be the death of Cooper Union. Even if Cooper was to survive this crisis by charging tuition, it would change the school entirely. It would lose its mission, to prove that education is a right and not a privilege, and one of the main things that makes Cooper so unique.

As you walked out of the foundation building, one of the most interesting exhibits was right outside. It was a vicious blow up rat, which was approximately 15 feet tall, with its class out. This can be interpreted many different ways, depending on the viewer, from the rat representing the greed caused by money, the destruction of Cooper after charging tuition, and etc. You decide.

**PHOTOS BY SHANE KENNEDY (ART ’12)**

**TITLE ILLUSTRATION**

**BY MAY ANUNTARUNGSUN (ART ’12)**
Faces of Cooper

Who’s who in Cooper. Find out.

Photos by
Jenna Lee (ME ’15)
Marcus Michelen (CE ’14)
May Anuntasungum (Art ’12)
I strongly believe in free education for everyone. When students pay tuitions, the overall quality of this school will go down. Cooper then will be the place for those with money, not for those with knowledge, wisdom, and tenacity.

- Frankie

Cooper Pioneer: How long have you been at Cooper?
Rosa Sagnannnggida: Since 1983 with Frankie.

CP: Were you born in America?
RS: No. I was born in Indonesia. I moved to America when I was 33.

CP: Do you think of the student body as a whole?
RS: I like the students here.

CP: Who’s your favorite professor?
RS: Professor Agraval.

CP: Do you know about the school’s financial situation?
RS: No.

BY MARCUS MICHELEN (CE’14)

Cooper Pioneer: How much of the income comes from the endowment?
Chef: About 10% of our budget comes from the endowment. The remainder of our budget comes from the tuition and fees we charge our students.

BY JENNA LEE (ME ’15)

CP: What is your favorite item at Frankie’s? What is your personal recommendation?
FW: My personal favorite is definitely salmon; eat fish, live long! And I recommend Deviled eggs the most, but all the other stuff are good. I have a lot of ideas in my head, only trying to bring into the lunchbox. I’m thinking about starting Indians three days. I haven’t thought about any holiday menus, but now I’m concentrating more on what to serve for the next Study Break!

CP: What is your work philosophy?
FW: I cook more to make students and Cooper people happy than to make money for myself. So I try my best to keep the price as low as possible, for students can’t afford that much money solely on food. Also, I keep Frankie’s open for longer hours to let students eat within the school building. And I try my best to keep this place clean, enough to get the grade “A” from New York City Inspections. Among seven NYS calculator, none of them has got A. I often donate some of earnings to charities and non-profit organizations, including Cooper Union Athletics Association.

CP: Is there anything you want from students?
FW: I just want to hang out with people and to make new friends. I love people spending time at Frankie’s, so I really enjoy my job. If there’s one thing I want from students is – support Frankie’s. I hope students eat healthy, so when I see them eating something from, say, McDonald, that makes me sad.

CP: Who is your favorite professor at Cooper? Why?
FW: Prof. Wolf – he knows disciplines. He has legitimate rules of his own, and tries to keep it. I like the new president, Jamshed Bharucha. He is very friendly and tries to get closer with students. He is by far the first president who invites students to his own place. I only hope the financial situation to get better for him.

CP: Do you believe in Cooper’s mission/ideals? Any opinion about the recent financial situations?
FW: I strongly believe in free education for everyone. When students pay tuitions, the overall quality of this school will go down. Cooper then will be the place for those with money, not for those with knowledge, wisdom, and tenacity.

CP: Did you go to engineering school?
FW: Yeah. I went to Queensborough and got my associate’s in electronic engineering. Then I went to work for IBM for 8 months, everybody got pink slips. They closed down the plant in Tarrytown. Then I joined the police department. New York City narcotics, undercover. I used to walk around here, in the 9th precinct, and the 40th precinct that happened for 5 years. I left because I got stabbed in my upper right thigh struggling with some guy in the stairs.

CP: Who was the guy?
FW: Some crackhead. I was chasing up the stairs. In the 40th precinct. I’ve been shot at. Never been hit though, because I’m small. The scariest part of being an undercover cop is that you get shot at by other cops because they don’t know who you are. I used to do busts. They sent me into an area, I got on the rooftops for two weeks with binoculars and a camera taking pictures of everyone, looking at their routines. Then I get the confidence to come up to drug dealers and ask them if they have stuff, then you get their confessions. We always went up to the biggest guys. I went to the little guys on the corner and pretended to mess them up and tell them get out of here and tell them ‘if you standing here anymore I’m gonna bust your chops.’

CP: What was the craziest thing to ever happen to you when you were an undercover cop?
FW: I was chasing this guy, it was like two in the morning, he runs down a street, all of a sudden he just turns around with a gun in his hand. He points it right at me, I pull the trigger and it jams. The funniest thing was that we were doing a stake out. I was on the third floor, we took an apartment facing the bus stop. This guy would come from New Jersey, park his car at 149th street and would take the bus down to 140th because we would pull over people with out of state plates. We staked him out for two weeks, his routine: He walked through a park, into a building, with this shopping bag, gets in his car and drives to Jersey. I followed him to Jersey, in Saddle River, New Jersey to his huge mansion where all the money is. When he comes back out from a building, one of the undercover is already on the bus, and he gets on. When he gets to his car, all the cops swarmed him. In the bug was full of drugs and crack cocaine. That was the big stuff in the 90s. I told him he had to change up his routine and get in the game because he was doing the same thing every day and I’d been watching him for two weeks.

CP: What do you think about Cooper’s vision?
FW: Oh, I like it, it’s a good school. I never heard it till I came here. I even used to hang out in Peter Cooper Park, I was like ‘who the hell is this guy?’ to the statue.

BY SOPHIE RAND (BS ’12)
Room 601, Foundation & Room 904A, 41CS
Coordinator, Painting Office

Glenn Gross: One year, we found a whole bunch of lighter fluid and charcoal underneath the wooden floor. People have asked me how to drill a square hole! That was a good one. Basically, the lack of common sense on how to do simple things mixed with great mathematical and engineering tools is quite awesome.

I've had students who are seniors and who are about to graduate and who don't know how to solder anything. One of the seniors said, 'I want to use a saw because I want to cut a piece of material because his mother didn't let him. To me that was interesting because I doubt his employer will appreciate that.'

GG: I'd have to say Professor Cumberbatch because he teaches with a degree of fire and brimstone. He doesn't let you get away with doing a half-assed job. It's too easy for smart people to skate through and not develop their skills.

GG: They're marvelous upon marvelous. That's probably the main reason that most of the staff stay here—only for the students.

AH: I absolutely believe in Cooper's mission and ideals. Education centered on meritocracy and innovation is needed in this climate now more than ever.

AH: I have taken this career path because I like having a balance between serving in a highly active and creative community, while also working in a solitary manner in my art practice.

GG: I've had students who are seniors and I've had engineers who help complement faculties' theoretical teaching with practical experience. They're marvelous upon marvelous.

CP: What do you think about Cooper students? GG: They're marvelous upon marvelous. That's probably the main reason that most of the staff stay here—only for the students.

CP: What advice would you give to Cooper students that are currently enrolled? GG: To not forget the track of common sense and good engineering sense. To not let the mathematics and the wonderful education they're getting detract from their ability to think. Not to Google everything; to use their wonderful minds they were given and do not develop. Just don't copy stuff and rubber stamp it. Common sense is unfortunately missing in a lot of young engineers. Reason through problems; extrapolate.

GG: I had only a few jobs before Cooper. I had a crummy job at a time and developed my skills immensely. They're marvelous upon marvelous.

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GG: I was dissatisfied with the "crummy" job. I consider myself as a non-degreed engineer. I followed programs from initial proposals through engineering development, qualification testing production support and flight tests.
GYNETHA MALTING
Associate Director, Study Abroad Program and Administrative Assistant, Dean’s Office-Albert Nebern School of Engineering

NAB, 2nd Floor

Cooper Pioneer: Where are you from? 
Susan Davidson: grew up in White Plains, NY in Westchester County.

CP: Can you tell me about your educational and professional background? 
SD: I attended Cornell University for my undergraduate and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Educational Psychology.

CH: Y es, it is what attracted me in the first place to study abroad. I wanted to experience local culture and the fond memories I had as a student.

CP: Do you believe in Cooper’s mission/ideals? 
SD: Yes.

CH: The part I enjoy most about my job is helping students achieve their educational goals. I really enjoy working with students and helping them learn about other cultures, seeing other worlds and how life changing the student’s experiences are when they return.

CP: What is your current role in Cooper Union? 
SD: Administrative support for the Study Abroad Program, also I support all aspects of the Engineering Dean’s Office including front desk receptionists, grade liaison, booklets, Order of Engineering ceremony, and secretary to Academic Standards Committee.

CP: What brought you to Cooper Union? 
CH: Early 90’s. I was hired in the Alumni Development Office, working on many projects including grants and was Project Director for an alumni exhibition, Good Work. I then moved to the Architecture School as Associate Director of Archive prior to my current position.

CP: What brought you to Cooper Union? 
SD: I am impressed by all of the faculty members at Cooper.

CP: What did you learn first about Cooper Union? 
SD: In one of my undergraduate school classes! It’s a great story. We were tasked with finding information about interesting colleges and programs in higher education. Completely randomly, I was assigned to look up information about Cooper Union. That was the first time I really learned what it was all about, seems like destiny.

CP: What is your role in Cooper Union? 
SD: I am responsible for every part of the admissions process including recruiting, administrative assistant, Dean’s Office-Albert Nebern School of Engineering.

CP: What is your department’s role in Cooper Union? 
SD: We are responsible for every part of the admissions process including recruiting, administrative assistant, Dean’s Office-Albert Nebern School of Engineering.

CP: What brought you to Cooper Union? 
CH: As a transfer student, I was drawn to a merit based school that would challenge and offer me the best education that interested me the most, and the fact that it was “free” only made it more desirable, hard won, and worthwhile, especially coming from a single-parent, low income background.

CP: When did you start working at Cooper? 
CH: Early 90’s. I was hired in the Alumni Development Office, working on many projects including grants and was Project Director for an alumni exhibition, Good Work. I then moved to the Architecture School as Associate Director of Archive prior to my current position.

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Cooper Pioneer: Where are you from?
JH: I am a part time graduate student while working full time for the past few years. I've been a part time graduate student while working full time for the past few years.

Cooper Pioneer: What is your role in Cooper Union?
JH: I'm the assistant director at the Center for Career Development. When I first started, I was an engineering career counselor and my role is to be the primary point of contact for the engineering students at Cooper and to organize and facilitate various services, events, and programs for the engineering student population in particular.

JH: I'm the assistant director at the Center for Career Development. When I first started, I was an engineering career counselor and my role is to be the primary point of contact for the engineering students at Cooper and to organize and facilitate various services, events, and programs for the engineering student population in particular.

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Cooper Pioneer: When did you first learn about Cooper Union?
JH: Generally, for Cooper in particular, my role is to be the primary point of contact for the engineering students at Cooper and to organize and facilitate various services, events, and programs for the engineering student population in particular.

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Cooper Pioneer: What do you think about Cooper students as compared to other college students in terms of job search and/or dedication?
JH: I think that Cooper students are exceptionally hard working and naturally bright. Cooper students are extremely committed and committed to school and they put a lot of time and energy in everything that they do.

Cooper Pioneer: Which part of your job do you like the most?
JH: I do. I think that one of the things that attracted me to Cooper, and it still is, is Cooper's very unique mission. I think that it's something that makes Cooper a special place.

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Cooper Pioneer: When did you start working at Cooper Union?
JH: I started working at Cooper in September, 2008. I was hired as a graduate student in the summer. I went through the papers and found a class for students, and I was ready to go to school.

Cooper Pioneer: When did you first learn about Cooper Union?
JH: I think that Cooper students are exceptionally hard working and naturally bright. Cooper students are extremely committed and committed to school and they put a lot of time and energy in everything that they do.

Cooper Pioneer: What types of programs/services/resources does the Center for Career Development offer to Cooper students?
JH: I think that Cooper students are exceptionally hard working and naturally bright. Cooper students are extremely committed and committed to school and they put a lot of time and energy in everything that they do.

Cooper Pioneer: Why did you choose this career path?
JH: I think that college is a really valuable experience where people can relate to their potential careers. I think that college is a really valuable experience where people can relate to their potential careers.

Cooper Pioneer: What are your hobbies?
JH: I'm the assistant director at the Center for Career Development. When I first started, I was an engineering career counselor and my role is to be the primary point of contact for the engineering students at Cooper and to organize and facilitate various services, events, and programs for the engineering student population in particular.

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Cooper Pioneer: What is your role in Cooper Union?
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Cooper Pioneer: What is Cooper Union's mission? Why do you find it so important?
JH: I do. I think that one of the things that attracted me to Cooper, and it still is, is Cooper's very unique mission. I think that it's something that makes Cooper a special place.

Helping students identify their professional goals and interests and we work with them throughout the various stages in pursuing those goals.

Cooper Pioneer: What is the difference between Cooper Union and taking in drunk. If they came

Cooper Pioneer: What do you think about Cooper students as compared to other college students in terms of job search and/or dedication?
JH: I think that Cooper students are exceptionally hard working and naturally bright. Cooper students are extremely committed and committed to school and they put a lot of time and energy in everything that they do.

Cooper Pioneer: What should be thinking about in terms of applying to graduate school?
JH: I think that college is a really valuable experience where people can relate to their potential careers. I think that college is a really valuable experience where people can relate to their potential careers.

Cooper Pioneer: What is your role in Cooper Union?
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December 2011

Disappointed

CP: What do you think about the staff and faculty at Cooper?
JR: Well, they all feel like family to me. I can talk to each and every one of them. They all say “hi” to me with a warm smile. I’ve got my angels in the Engineering Dean’s office – Ms. Duarte, Ms. Susie, Ms. Cynthia. They’re all my angels. Don’t forget the guardian of the angels, Dean Simon Ben-Avi, too. Also, I’ve got my angels on the 4th floor - Maureen, Liz, and Maria. Then you get buildings and ground. You got Ms. Deirdre, Ms. Debbie. They’re the ones who are my guardian angels. They always help me out. If it wasn’t for them, I’d probably go crazy. Ms. Debbie was helping me financially getting me overtime or else I’d probably be in the streets. Ms. Deirdre, who gives me words of prayer, gives me websites trying to get me benefits because the guards don’t get benefits. We never had a raise in over 4-5 years. We have guards who have been here for 12 years, making $8/hour and no benefits. That’s why I feel bad.

I have great professor friends like my friend David, from architecture on the 2nd floor. And then I have my friend Vito Guido. Also, Professor Wolf. Me and him and Mike Westbrook got a personal big man bond. And then we got my buddy Mr. Carmelo’s, he’s always giving me words of encouragement. And then we got Dr. Elna, who fills all of the guard’s head-phones and computers because we don’t got the money to fix them ourselves. He’s a Godsent to us.

Then I got my other angels in Cooper are from 30 Cooper Square – Christine Romero and Virginia. Can’t forget my sweetie, Sarah Lerner, who always makes me smile when I see her. She’s just a beautiful person inside and out. And my big D, Dean Baker, who’s my bud. If I don’t mention him, he’d probably just kick my butt.

Don’t forget about Frankie and Rosa. I want to thank them for helping me keep my figure with the chicken sandwiches every day.

And to those of you I forgot to mention, you know who you are, thank you. I don’t have enough room to mention everyone here or else it will look like a phonebook.

CP: What do you think about Cooper students as compared to other college students in terms of quality, personality, and/or dedication?
JR: I think they’re all laid back. I think they take their work seriously, but they really care about everything and everybody. I love them and I turn around and gave him a high five too. Then we both laughed. It was a great feeling.

One time, I was over at a desk and a student came over to give him a high five and he was behind me and said “what about me” and I turned around and gave him a high five too. Then we both laughed. It was a great feeling.

CP: What advice would you give to Cooper students?
JR: Stay in college. I wish I did, but I never had the opportunity. If I had to do this again, I would do it all again because I was working for my mother. I had no choice.

CP: Who is your favorite professor at Cooper? Why?
JR: I can’t answer because I’d be off a lot of peoples’ Christmas list.

CP: What are your thoughts about Cooper’s financial situation right now?
JR: If they had more bake sales, then they might be out of it. But on a serious note, like I said, we have great leaders now. They seem like they’re fixed on the problem and they’re going to focus on the future so the past don’t hit them in the butt again, like it just did.

CP: What are your hobbies?
JR: I used to come home. I used to play cards with my mother. She’d always be waiting for me. She had a streak a while back – she’s now in a nursing home. But back then, she’d always be home. She didn’t like to go out because she was mugged when she was younger so she never trusted outside. That’s why she always stayed inside. Her house was her world. I made her house her world. She has four birds, three cats. She used to love to read love stories. I used to have my sister or- der boxes of them for $10-$15 online to keep her happy. Like I said, that was her world. I gave her what I can to keep her satisfied. When I used to get home and she’s reading a book, she’d jump up and say “wanna play cards?”. And I would say, “okay ma,” and I would smile and go into my room and change and she’d grab her cards next to her lamp and grab her walker and shoot to the kitchen where we used to play.

We used to sit there for hours playing cards. She would tell me about when she was younger. She used to work at a candle factory and everything was made by hand so she would walk back and forth pouring hot wax into these candles. She would telling me these stories about how her father used to come to her work and get money from her job when she was 12 years old. And he used to do the same thing with her siblings. He was an alcoholic and he would go to the bar and drink up the money. So my mother told me that her and her siblings went down to the basement and brought up just from the basement and they all painted his black Model T car. They painted his wheels yellow and they painted eyes in the headlight. They painted flowers on the car. The put big P-signs all over. This was Saturday morning before he woke up (he was hung-over).

When he got up he went out to go out to the bar and he sees his car. This was in Brooklyn, and he was jumping up and down and funny, yelling “Charlit,” which was his wife (my mother’s mother). He yelled “Look who they did to my car. Look what the kids did.” When they did that, it released all of the tension that they suffered from him tak- ing their money. Just to see him get embar- rassed by driving around in that car for two weeks until they painted it again by hand. My mother told me this story hundreds of times, but I never stopped her because I felt that this was her time and it was good. She always felt good telling the stories and I never wanted to stop her from telling them. It was fun. Then I realized why she kept telling them. Because after her stroke and all, she can’t talk or hear now. She’s half paralyzed. She told me so I won’t forget about her and I never will.

CP: I hear rumors that you’re leaving soon James. Is that true?
JR: Yes. I have no choice. I’m financially going in more and more debt. Right now, I’m into debt over my head and I can’t make it with the $300 I’m making a week. My rent went up $100 six months ago, MTA went up 4 times since I got a raise 5 years ago. And there’s no more moving up and there’s no raises in site. They said that if you want more money, you’ll have to go to a different site and I don’t want to leave Cooper like that. If I’m going to leave Cooper, I’ll be another guard somewhere. I don’t want to be a guard no more after leaving here. It won’t be the same anywhere else so that’s why. I want to go into maintenance, cleaning or something. Maybe MTA or some kind of cleaning company.

It puts a big lump in my throat every time I think of leaving here. I think of Cooper as part of my family, but I keep forgetting that I’m an outside contract. So it hurts to leave. I always dreamt about being a guard at Cooper, as part of the Cooper family, but I guess it wasn’t meant to be from this situation. I have so much love and feelings for this place and the people in it. It’d be like losing part of my family. Every time I walk into the building I look at my paychecks, I see the faces of my family be- cause I can’t give them what they need. We have to take money out of bills that we can’t pay now to have holidays for the kids and all. So I want to say thank you to everybody and there’ll always be a place in my heart for each and every one of you. Thanks for the best last 6 years. I’ve ever had in my life. God bless you all and I know Cooper’s in good hands. Happy holidays to all and to all a blessed life!

Thank you.

BY CHRISTOPHER HONG (EE ’13)
'Twas the Night Before Finals at Cooper Union

By Jeanne Rivard, Grandmother of Architecture
Student Alexa Reghenzani (AR '14)

'Twas the Night Before Finals, at this New York college,
Cooper students were praying for last minute knowledge.
Most were quite sleepy, but none touched their beds,
While visions of essays danced in their heads.
Out in the taverns, a few were still drinking,
And hoping that liquor would loosen their thinking.
In their own apartments, students were pacing,
Anticipating the exams they would soon be facing.

Roommates were speechless, their noses in books,
And everyone's comments drew unfriendly looks.
They drained all the coffee, and brewed a new pot,
No longer caring that their nerves were shot.
They stared at their notes, but all thoughts were so muddy,
Their eyes went ablur, they just couldn't study.

"Some pizza might help," students said with a shiver,
But each place they called refused to deliver.
With eyes bloodshot and stomachs grumbling,
They turned towards the door when they heard all the fumbling.

All of a sudden the door opened wide,
And a fat, jolly man ambled inside.
His spirit was joyful, his manner was mellow,
With eyes wide open, he started to bellow,
"No I-Pads or X-Boxes, nor cellular phones,
No books and supplies, or student loans.
Your studying and efforts will reap great rewards,
When you get that degree you're working towards.
Although tonight may look dim and blurry,
Your future is bright, no need to worry.
"So, Cooper students, please take a break,
Enjoy the pizza and chocolate cake.
Some Pepsi and Coke will keep you awake,
Helping to study for those tests you must take."

"On Cliff Notes!
On Crib Notes!
On Last Year's Exams!
On Wingit and Slingit,
And Last Minute Crams!"

His message delivered, he vanished from sight,
But we heard him laughing outside in the night.
"Your teachers have pegged you, so just do your best.
Happy Finals To All, And To All A Good Test."

Welcome back, Emilie Gossiaux
Emilie is returning to Cooper in the fall of 2012. We send her a happy welcome. Listen to her story on Radiolab's episode on Lost & Found, Finding Emilie

KenKen is a Japanese paper puzzle by Tetsuya Miyamoto much like Sudoku, only it involves both math and logic. It roughly translates to "cleverness-cleverness." Go figure. It is now the hot new thing in newspapers, and plenty of books are already available. It is easy to misunderstand the rules at first, but after some explanation, and reading this article, the game makes perfect sense.

The two most common forms of the KenKen puzzle are the 4x4 grid (which contains 16 squares) and the 6x6 grid (which contains 36 squares).
The two most common forms of the KenKen puzzle are the 4x4 grid (which contains 16 squares) and the 6x6 grid (which contains 36 squares). You need to fill every row and every column with numbers 1 thru 4 (for the 4x4 grid puzzle), or 1 thru 6 (for the 6x6 grid puzzle). Puzzle consisting of 5x5 grids, 7x7 grids, 8x8 grids, and even 9x9 grid are also possible -- the larger the grid, the more difficult.
The number in the upper-left corner of the bolded shape made up of squares is the number you need to get by using the operation in the upper-left corner. For example, if it said 4+ in the corner of a two-boxed shape, you could write 3, 1, or 1, 3. You would think that you can also write 2 and 2 (because they also add up to four). But one of the rules of the game is that you can not have a number be repeated in the same row or column. Hence 2 and 2 would not have been possible.
The single-box shape will have a number in the corner, but no operation.

Instructions from Wikihow.com.
The Cooper Pioneer is online. Visit pioneer.cooper.edu.

And from everyone from The Cooper Pioneer, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Thank you.