

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

**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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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 founder 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.

Jessie 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 unify and tighten bonds.

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 make even more money. The holidays are now marked with a sense of materialism and leisure.

At Cooper, the holidays do not dawn upon students until the dark clouds of finals, final critiques, and final projects pass. Because of these dark clouds, the main focus of life is schoolwork and when the semester ends everyone goes their own separate ways. In addition to the dark clouds, the threat of tuition has been an extra and overwhelming pressure from above that has affected everyone in the community.

As many of you know now, tuition at Cooper is still on the table as a "last resort." The joint student assemblies have slowed and tuition is not a common topic of conversation now even though tuition is still on the table. Six weeks ago, the student body was united and fought against this issue and caused many people who were in hiding – i.e. Mark Epstein – to finally communicate with the community. We obtained media attention, we attracted the attention of alumni, we were very unified. The entire community – students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends, and even the board – was together trying to remove tuition from the table. Now, the dark clouds that now loom above us have obscured our sense of unity and darkened our star.

We at the Pioneer wanted the main theme of this holiday issue to be *unification*. Even though we are focused heavily on schoolwork at this moment, don't forget that we are still together. Every member of the Cooper community has a star that shines within them and when we all come together our stars combine to form one enormous bright star. This unification will solve any challenge that looms over the community. This collective star of unity will outshine black hole of the tuition at Cooper. Although we will be apart for the holidays, remember to keep the true meaning of holiday in mind.

I wish you all Happy Holidays.

With warm regards,

Christopher Hong (EE'13)



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 immoderate 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 (A'95) came with a \$10,000 check in hand for the contingency pledge drive. Adriana Farmiga (A'96) 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 unfillable." 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 Blauweiss (A'61), one of the Alumni Association's delegates on the Board of Trustees, he declined because he

was "privy 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 slumping. However, these behaviors were

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!" Reclassifying is the ac-

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 naïveté.

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."



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>

Remembering Astor Place

BY TAYLOR KNOBLOCK
(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 drab beige building blended in to the cultured East Village while students quietly attended their classes and did their work inside of it. Recently, Developer Edward J. Minskoff Equities has closed on a construction loan of \$165 to \$200 million to erect a 430,000 sq. ft tower on 51 Astor Pl. The thirteen-story Fumihiko Maki designed tower will be another addition to the modern bullies 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, busier Starbucks 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.

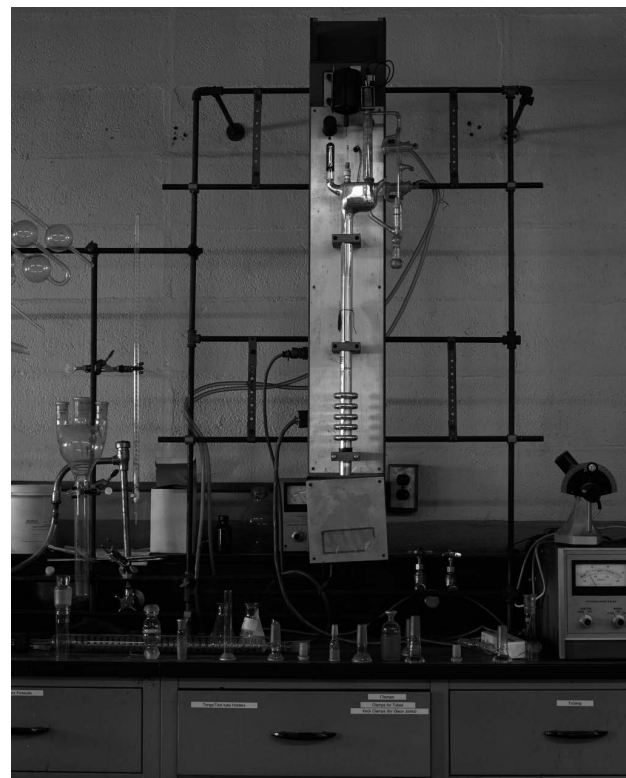


Photo credit: Chris Lent

Freshmen at Cooper in the Fall of 2009 might not have even realized that the building they saw across the street when leaving the dorm was the old engineering building (used for over fifty years), just as I had failed to notice the Hewitt 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 the engi-

neering 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 in the old engineering building,

The thirteen-story Fumihiko Maki designed tower will be another addition to the modern bullies surrounding the Foundation building and taking over the East Village.



Left: Chris Lent

Above: Caitlin Norgard A'09 Copyright 2009



where the surroundings do not try to instill a feeling that was not welcomed considering my current overwhelmed state. But that's just me. To others, the new building may have served as a catalyst, leading to improved academic performance and overall well-being.

An art student who graduated in May 2009 saw the beauty in the minds

But that's to be expected from a school that gives all its students a full-tuition scholarship; it doesn't have that extra revenue stream for bells and whistles, or expansion.

of engineering students. She shared my appreciation of the Engineering School and the engineering building itself. Her name is Caiti Norgard, and her senior show was titled *Nerkin*. Her prints of the classrooms showed classic, utilitarian spaces for learning. The rooms did not try to instill an inspiring



feeling or draw attention to the school for publicity. The desks and tables had the writing and drawings by bored students. The labs had old equipment that was impossible to get good results with. But that's to be expected from a school that gives all its students a full-tuition scholarship; it doesn't have that extra revenue stream for bells and whistles, or *expansion*. Instead of the new flashy building that drove the college deeper into its financial deficit, students should draw their inspiration from the fact that we all were selected out of a huge pool of applicants to get a damned good education and do great things in life. The only true cost of the tuition should be your passion and hard work, and the struggle makes you stronger. That said, let us remember 51 Astor Place, and let's hope the new building to go up by 2013 does not make the East Village seem like another sterile, business district in Manhattan.

Middle Above: Caitlin Norgard A'09 Copyright 2009

Middle Below: Caitlin Norgard Copyright 2009

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

Walk in and you are instantly 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 you 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, homesick, 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.

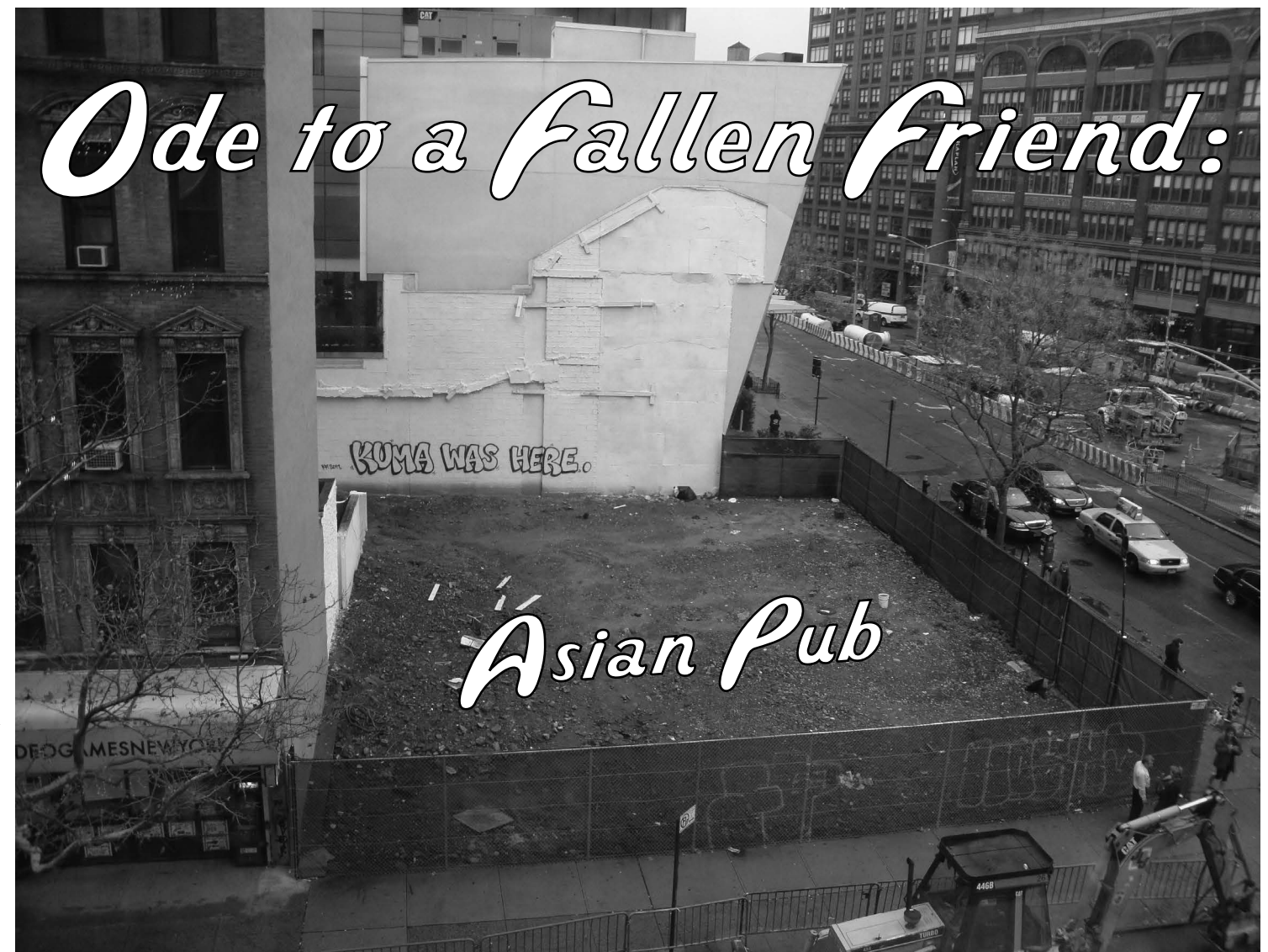


Photo by Martin Lawless (ME '13)

Though many of you may not remember the interior, who could forget the iconic mural located across from Frankie's Kitchen? That painting in itself with its giant hand reaching out has comforted many lone studiers during

the late nights in the lounge.

But alas, this culinary haven where the price of food added to its taste and quality is no more. Last semester, the owners of Asian Pub's building ran into some legal troubles, and since

then, the site has been demolished. The memory of Asian Pub will live on in Cooper's hearts, although nothing else can ever fill the void that it has left. We miss you, Asian Pub, our friend, our deliciously cheap friend.



ARTISTS & THEIR PRACTICES: in their words

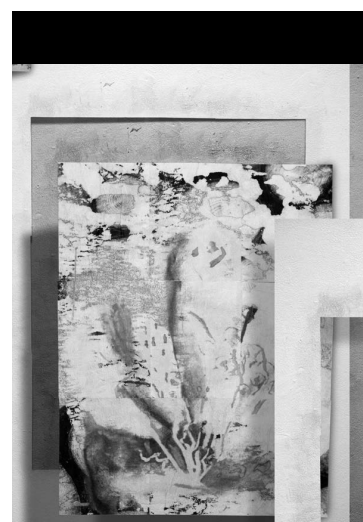
What the heck are artists doing in their studio and what are they curious about?



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) and 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.



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.

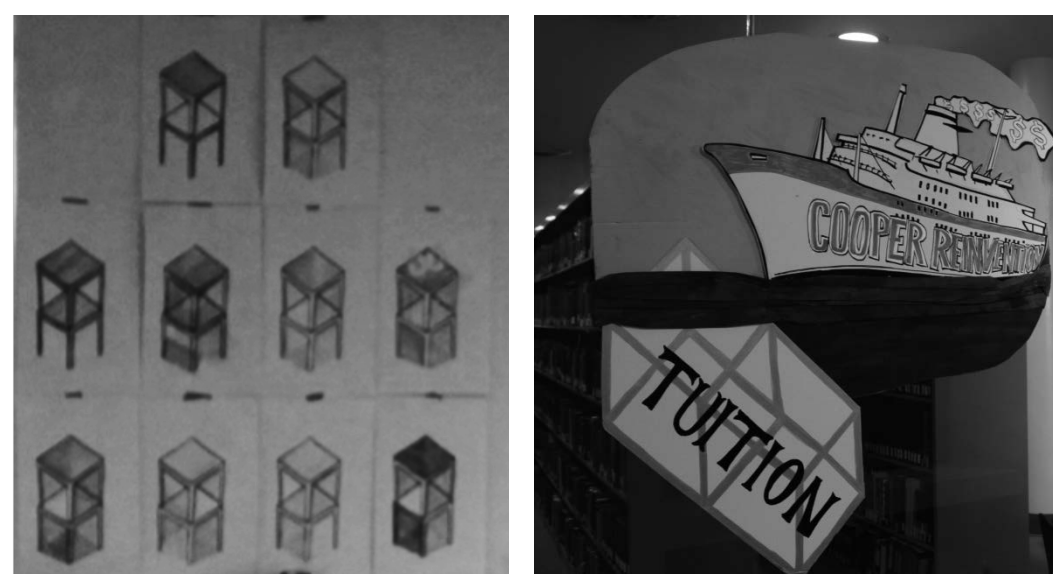
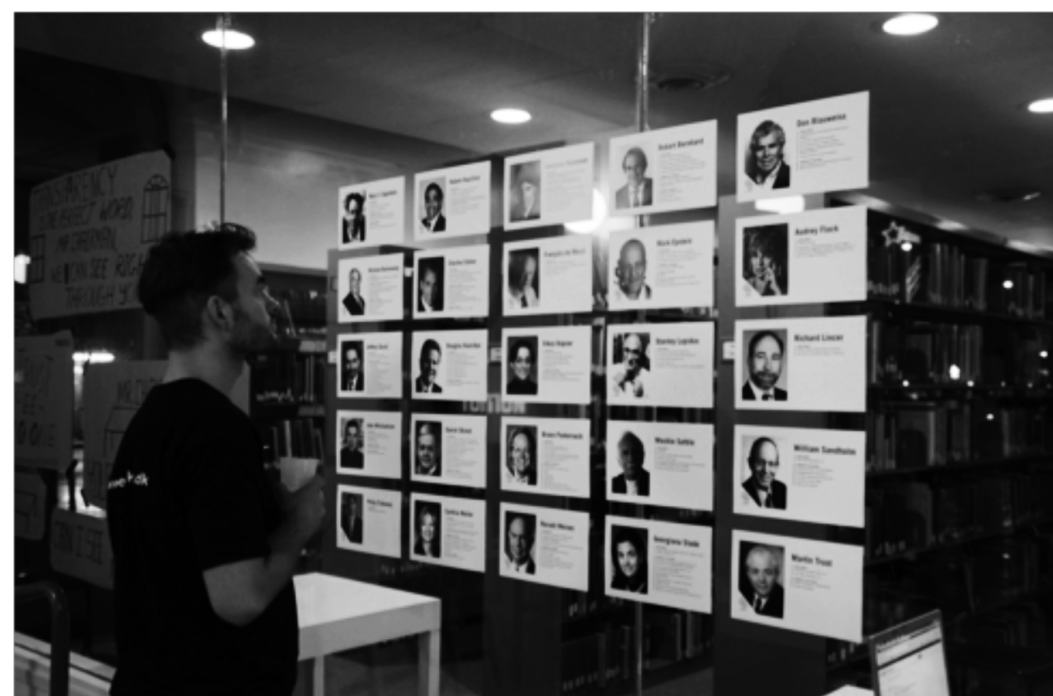
In terms of engineers relating to artists, when they asked a question like why are we making art or what's the purpose of art, it's like we're asking the same question. It's like, "I don't know?" No one has ever been able to figure that out ever, what art is or what's it's about. We're just trying to -- especially as young students, we're trying to work through all of that.



ANONYMOUS,
"ALOISIOS P."

I'm working with 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 onto 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.

Art of TUITION



BY YARA ELBOROLOS (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 Bharucha 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 Bharchua'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 peter 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 union 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 viscous blow up rat, which was approximately 15 feet tall, with its claws 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)



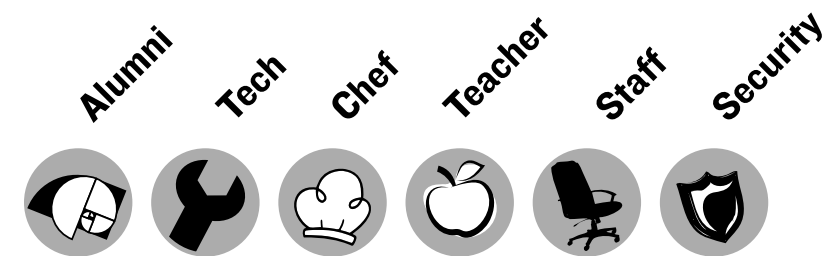
Projects range from displaying "research on the school's Board of Trustees, documentation of the school's financials, as well as a range of work in various media that deal with the past, present, and future of the Cooper Union."





Faces of Cooper

Who's who in Cooper. Find out.



Photos by
Jenna Lee (ME '15)
Marcus Michelen (CE '14)
May Anuntarungsun (Art '12)



FRANKIE

Chef

NAB fourth floor lounge



Full name: Usman H Wibowo

Cooper Pioneer: Can you briefly introduce about yourself?

Frankie Wibowo: My name is Frankie Wibowo and I'm from Indonesia. I used to speak Dutch a little bit because Indonesia was colonized by Dutch for a while. My family is all over the world, including Indonesia, New Zealand, LA, and so on, and they visit me here from time to time. I have served three queens of Indonesia, eight Presidents in America, and five presidents in Cooper.

CP : How did you start Frankie's at Cooper?

FW: I came to the States in 1976 and started working at Cooper from the September. That was the year I went to the first annual ski trip with students, which still is continued. I first worked for the different company, but I accepted the offer from Cooper Union as a cook when the company's lease was expired in 1983. That was the beginning of Frankie's.

CP: How do you choose lunch menus every day?

FW: Basically, they're whatever just comes up to my mind. Cooking is definitely one of my hobbies. Starting from this semester, we started lunch box to supply nice food to students in reasonable price. All our lunchboxes are in same price, regardless of menus. I'm also thinking about serving hot meals starting from January, but I haven't made up my mind yet.

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 Deriyakis the most, but all the others 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 these 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 NYU cafeterias, none of them has got As. 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: Anything you'd like to say to Cooper students?

Achieve the most from your school work, but don't forget to eat healthy. Work hard, and do what you have to do as a student. And by the time you've made enough fortunes after you graduate, please don't forget to give back to Cooper, the place that raised you up. Please, please don't forget Cooper: Cooper needs you all the time.

BY JENNA LEE (ME '15)

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



ROSA

Chef

NAB fourth floor lounge



Cooper Pioneer: How long have you been at Cooper?

Rosa Signamenggala: Since 1985 with Frankie.

CP: Were you born in America?

RS: No I was born in Indonesia. I moved to America when I was 33.

CP: What do you think of the student body as a whole?

RS: I like the students here.

CP: Who's your favorite professor?

RS: Professor Agrawal.

CP: Do you know about the school's financial situation?

RS: No.

BY MARCUS MICHELEN (CE' 14)



DINO

MELENDEZ



EE Lab Tech

NAB 605



Cooper Pioneer: What brought you to the Cooper Union? You mean how I got here?

Dino Melendez: Lemme see, I was retired actually. I owned several business. I was laying up in the Bahamas. George Vadi calls me, tells me there's a job opening here, because I always wanted to work at a school that has engineering so I could pass on knowledge. Plus I like to be around people who know what the hell I'm talking about. So I said fine, I'll come down. I got interviewed by Dean Baum, Simon Benavi, and Fred Fontaine all at the same time. They liked me, they hired me on the spot. Eleanor Baum asked if I could start in March, and started then. I've been here now, for six years. I figured I could pass the knowledge.

CP: Did you go to engineering school?

DM: Yeah I went to Queensboro 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?

DM: 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 scari-

est 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 go 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 confidence. We always went up to the big fish. I went up to the little guys on the corner and pretend to mess them up and tell them to get out of here and tell them 'if I see 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?

DM: 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 hands. He points it right at me, he pulls 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 undercovers is already on the bus, and he gets on. When he gets to his car, all the cops swarmed him. In the bag 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?

DM: Oh I like it, it's a good school. I never heard of 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.

CP: What do you think of Cooper students?

DM: The cooper students are great, that's why I'm still here.

CP: What advice would you give them?

DM: My advice is that when you graduate, don't think it's gonna be easy on the outside, because it ain't. And just follow your gut. Don't take any job that you don't like. Do the

job you love because if not, you're not gonna be happy.

CP: What do you do on the weekend?

DM: I also work as a bodyguard for mostly basketball players. I've been training in Akido for 30 years. I have a test next week. Michael Strahan, a former New York Giant, Drew Barrymore, Lil Wayne, 50 Cent.

CP: Who's your favorite professor?

DM: Oh I love Toby. Toby Cumberbatch. He is so funny. I like him. If I would've known about Cooper, I would've found a way to get in and come here. And I would've loved to have Toby as my professor. He seems like a nice professor, fun professor. He's got his gripes about Cooper Union but he loves it and he's passionate about teaching. Students say hes tough and all this and all that but he's trying to prepare you for when you leave Cooper. Some students don't understand that. Professors are trying to prepare you for what's out there, because they've been out there.

CP: Have you heard about the budget crisis?

DM: Yeah I think it sucks. And that thing about providing tuition goes against Peter Cooper's vision. That's why one day he's gonna get up from the chair in the statue and kick everybody and say "what is everyone doing to my school?!" and he's gonna start swinging.

BY SOPHIE RAND
(BSE '12)



GLENN GROSS

EE Lab Supervisor

NAB 606



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

Cooper Pioneer: What were you doing before you started working at Cooper Union?

Glenn Gross: I had only a few jobs before this. Before Cooper, I had a crummy job during the last recession. Before that, I worked in Defense Avionics for 18 years. I was initially a senior technician and worked my way up through many promotions to senior systems engineer in advanced engineering. I followed programs from initial proposals through engineering development, qualification testing production support and flight tests. I was a project leader on several programs, both internationally and domestically.

The last recession resulted in that company of several thousand engineers having to close its doors. Those days were great times and developed my skills immensely.

I then had to go to the one crummy job as a matter of necessity. I went to Cooper and I am here for 13 years.

CP: When did you first learn about Cooper Union?

GG: I knew about it initially a long time ago when I was in high school at Brooklyn Tech. I heard about it, but I didn't apply. I wasn't really into college.

CP: What brought you to Cooper Union?

GG: I was dissatisfied with the "crummy" job. I consider myself as a non-degreed engineer and this interim job during the last recession was not me, I was very unhappy at that job. Then, I saw "WANTED" in the paper as I wanted out of this interim job, and it was meant to be. As a matter of coincidence my birthday is the same as Peter Cooper's.

ANNA



Coordinator, Painting Office

ROOM 601, FOUNDATION & ROOM 904A, 4ICS



Cooper Pioneer: Where are you from?

Anna Hostvedt: I was born and raised in New York City.

Cooper Pioneer: Can you tell me about your educational and professional background?

Anna Hostvedt: I have worked at the Cooper Union for 17 years. I received my BFA from The Cooper Union in 1993. I began working part time in the Print Shop in 1994 while also working as an artist's assistant. I have focused on painting over the last decade, and have participated in several residencies. My paintings have been exhibited in group shows in New York and London and I am currently represented by Tibor De Nagy Gallery.

CP: When did you first learn about Cooper Union?

AH: I first learned about Cooper Union while in high school through fellow students.

CP: What is your role in Cooper Union? What is your department's role in Cooper Union?

AH: I currently work as coordinator and member of technical support staff in The Painting Office. I help manage the overall duties in the office, and view my role as an interface between students and faculty, working cooperatively with administrative offices. Our office provides technical support in painting and drawing and a variety of equipment for check out. We also assist with exhibitions, and help make sure the classrooms in our area are functioning and orderly. We handle much of the coordinating and safety oversight of the student studios.

CP: Why did you choose this career path?

CP: What is your role in Cooper Union? What is your department's role in Cooper Union?

GG: I am one of 2 technicians who help complement faculties' theoretical teaching with practical experience.

CP: Do you believe in Cooper's mission/ideals?

GG: Yes I do, I wish the administration did.

CP: What do you think about Cooper?

GG: It's a wonderful institution. It has a life of its own. I hope that it goes through this turbulent illness and recovers.

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 lose 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 to develop. Don't just copy stuff and rubber stamp it. Common sense is unfortunately missing in a lot of young engineers. Reason through problems; extrapolate.

CP: Who is your favorite professor at Cooper? Why?

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.

CP: What are your thoughts about Cooper's financial situation right now?

GG: Every business is going through hard times right now. It's not unexpected, especially in an institution as this, where we depend on donations. But I do feel that the administration has

lacked common sense on where to spend their money.

CP: Do you have any interesting stories that you want to tell us?

GG: No, but I would like to say that for myself, one of the biggest errors of my life is that I did not take advantage of schools and pursued a degree. I am a very good engineer, but I would have been a much better engineer if I had gotten my degree. Too smart for my own good. I still might pursue a new career.

CP: So you've been working in the EE labs for a while. What was the craziest thing that you've seen?

GG: One year, we found a whole bunch of lighter fluid and charcoal underneath the wooden bunches. 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 didn't want to use a saw a piece of material because his mother didn't let him. To me that was interesting, because I doubt his employer will appreciate that that excuse.

CP: Did you ever see any explosions?

GG: I've heard that some of the experiments before my time were outright crazy dangerous. I heard that the year before I came here, students were broadcasting microwave power from a magnetron to power a helicopter in the room. It was dangerous levels of EM radiation to put out in the room.

BY CHRISTOPHER HONG (EE '13)

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.

CP: Which part of your job do you like?

AH: What I like most of all about my job is helping students and the challenge of generally making things run well, in particular I enjoy tinkering with furniture and equipment.

CP: Do you believe in Cooper's mission/ideals?

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.

CP: What do you think about Cooper Union as a whole?

AH: Maybe it's corny but I picture Cooper Union as a very large and unusual tree, with deep historical roots, branches being the Schools of Art, Architecture and Engineering, that intertwine here and there, and students as the leaves, flowers and seeds.

CP: What do you think about Cooper students as compared to other college students in terms of quality, personality, and/or dedication?

Maybe it's corny but I picture Cooper Union as a very large and unusual tree, with deep historical roots, branches being the Schools of Art, Architecture and Engineering, that intertwine here and there, and students as the leaves, flowers and seeds.

AH: I am always impressed with the students at Cooper. They are talented, extremely thoughtful, and driven by an inner responsibility to work hard and learn through experience.

CP: What advice would you give to Cooper students?

AH: My advice to students would be to take more notes from your critiques and thoughts while working in classes. Hang on to them as they may come in handy in 10 years in a way you don't expect.

CP: Who is your favorite professor at Cooper? Why?

AH: As a student I learned a lot from Jack Barth, Day Gleeson and David True. But there were so many great teachers. There are professors here now that I didn't know then that I admire.

CP: What are your thoughts about Cooper's financial situation right now?

AH: The financial situation is very upsetting and a serious wake-up call on many levels. I agree with alumni who feel that part of replenishing the shortfall requires building trust through transparency, understanding what went wrong and how new money will be spent. I think we can still do a lot to keep Cooper free and wild.

CP: What are your hobbies?

AH: I have been watching a lot of pigeons and seagulls this fall.

BY MAY ANUNTARUNGSUN (ART '12)



CYNTHIA HARTLING

*Associate Director, Study Abroad Program
and Administrative Assistant, Dean's
Office-Albert Nerken School of Engineering*

NAB, 2nd Floor



Cooper Pioneer: Where are you from?
Cynthia Hartling: Albany, New York.

CP: Can you tell me about your educational and professional background?

CH: I attended SUNY New Paltz, the Istituto d'Arte Statale, Urbino, Italy, and Cooper Union, where I received my BFA. After graduating from Cooper, I held positions at The Frick Collection and Art in America magazine. While in school, I had numerous full and part-time positions including bike messenger, waitress, store manager, and artists assistant to name a few.

CP: When did you first learn about Cooper Union?

CH: In Italy, while studying on an overseas exchange program from SUNY New Paltz, another student in the program told me about Cooper, after I said I was interested in moving to NY to continue my education.

CP: What brought you to Cooper Union?

CH: As a transfer student, it was the idea of 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.

CP: What is your current role in Cooper Union?

CH: Administrative support for the Study Abroad Program, also I support all aspects of

the Engineering Dean's Office including front desk receptionist, grades liaison, booklists, Order of Engineering ceremony, and secretary to Academic Standards Committee.

CP: Why did you choose this career path?

CH: I chose to work at Cooper for its stimulating environment and the fond memories I had as a student.

CP: Which part of your job do you like?

CH: The part I enjoy most about my job is the ability to interact with students and help them with their needs. I also enjoy working to facilitate the Study Abroad Program, which I highly appreciated as a student myself-learning about other cultures, seeing other worlds and how life changing the student's experiences are when they return.

CP: Do you believe in Cooper's mission/ideals?

CH: Yes, it is what attracted me in the first

SUSAN DAVIDSON



Assistant Dean of Admissions

30 Cooper Square, 3rd floor

Cooper Pioneer: Where are you from?

Susan Davidson: I 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.

Then I moved to Washington DC and worked for an organization called American Institutes for Research (AIR) and completed projects related to the "No Child Left Behind" legislation.

In 2004 I was admitted to the Higher Education program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and I attended the program from 2004-2005. (By the way, that was the fall when the Red Sox won the World Series so I attribute my being in Boston to changing history!)

In August of 2005, Dean Mitchell Lipton hired me as the Assistant Director of Admissions at Cooper Union. In 2007 I moved up to the Associate Director of Admissions and in 2009, the Assistant Dean of Admissions.

CP: When did you first learn about Cooper Union?

SD: In one of my graduate 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 brought you to Cooper Union? When did you start working at Cooper?

SD: I started at Cooper in August 2005. I knew I wanted a job in admissions because my interests are working with students through the transition of high school to college. My main interest in grad school was conducting research on college access for underrepresented students. To me, Cooper represents the pinnacle of college access.

CP: What is your role in Cooper Union? What is your department's role in Cooper Union?

SD: We are responsible for every part of the admissions process including recruiting students, receiving documents, reviewing ap-

To me, Cooper represents the pinnacle of college access.



place as a student and it is also what made me want to return and work here.

CP: What do you think about Cooper Union as a whole? What do you think about Cooper students as compared to other college students in terms of quality, personality, and/or dedication?

CH: Cooper is one of kind. I liked, as a student, coming from a SUNY university (which also had advantages), to a smaller, student-faculty relationship. Cooper was far more competitive than any other schooling I had had and motivated/pushed me beyond what I thought possible. It also felt like a small community in a big city, as the staff, faculty, maintenance, Frankie's kitchen, etc. all made it a haven in which to learn-you were not a number, but a person. The students here are one of a kind too, come from diverse backgrounds, volunteer, are independent thinkers, care, and have a strong work ethic.

CP: What advice would you give to Cooper students?

CH: Keep up the hard work, make use of the resources -i.e.-the career center, the writing center, computer centers at Cooper to learn as much as possible during this brief time, also find time to enjoy your

time here too, trying new courses/subject matter. Stay active and involved -with professors too; volunteer at Cooper when you have time-i.e.-phonathon.

CP: What are your thoughts about Cooper's financial situation right now?

CH: It deeply saddens me that Cooper is considering charging tuition. I believe whether you are from a high or low income, or middle class background, it should not interfere with the quality of your education and it is what distinguishes Cooper from all the other schools, making it unique.

CP: What are your hobbies/interests?

CH: I like visiting both historic and art sites, exhibitions, traveling-exploring new parts of the country/world to experience local culture and different landscapes.

BY CHRISTOPHER HONG
(EE '13)

plications and running events. We work closely with the faculty.

CP: Why did you choose this career path?

SD: My passion is helping students achieve their educational goals. I really enjoy working with students and helping them learn about their educational options.

CP: Which part of your job do you like?

SD: I love meeting with students and their families.

CP: Do you believe in Cooper's mission/ideals?

SD: Yes.

CP: What do you think about Cooper Union as a whole?

SD: I think that Cooper has the most challenging curriculum that I have seen or heard about. I think that because we are so small, we really are like a family here.

CP: What do you think about Cooper students as compared to other college students in terms of quality, personality, and/or dedication?

SD: Cooper students are the most dedicated bunch of students I've ever seen. I give you a lot of credit for putting the time into

your studies as you do and for showcasing your work to the world.

CP: What advice would you give to Cooper students?

SD: If you feel like you are starting to struggle in a class, seek help right away! There are many administrators and faculty who are willing to help. My door is always open.

CP: Who is your favorite professor at Cooper? Why?

SD: I am impressed by all of the faculty members at Cooper.

CP: What are your thoughts about Cooper's financial situation right now?

SD: I have faith that the task force will work as hard as they can to determine sustainable solutions to our financial problems.

CP: What are your hobbies?

SD: I am a new runner and I love it! I just completed my second 5K in Flushing Meadows park. I also really like dancing and yoga.

BY ROBIN KUTNER (CHE '13)



PROFESSOR PAUL BAILY



*Engineer Professor
NAB*

CP: What year did you graduate?
1959 with Mechanical Engineering.

CP: Are there any professors that are still here?

PB: That's a good question, they'd have to be much older than me and I'm getting on!

CP: I think I heard that professor Bove was here before you

PB: I think he was here my senior year but I never had him.

CP: How has Cooper Changed?

PB: Well, every fifty years we get a new building. But the students are consistently the same and consistently dedicated and wonderful.

CP: I understand that your mathematical grandfather [his PhD Advisor's PhD Advisor] is the legendary mathematician David Hilbert?

PB: Yeah, my PhD Advisor was Richard Courant. I had met his son and he mentioned that Courant needed a student to work on some notes for a class he was doing and that I might get a PhD question out of it. I don't think I ever finished the notes but Courant was so old and scatterbrained that he didn't notice. I ended up doing my PhD work with him on minimal surfaces which are related to surfaces that you can make with a soap film. And yeah, Courant studied with Hilbert and Hilbert, I would say, is one of the ten best mathematicians of all time. If I had to give a top three, I would say Newton, and then probably Gauss, and then I guess Aristotle.

BY MARCUS MICHELEN (CE '14)

JOLIE HARRIS WOODSON



Assistant Director of the Center for Career Development

30 Cooper Square, 6th Floor (in Student Services)

Cooper Pioneer: Where are you from?

Jolie Harris Woodson: I am from Jericho, Long Island (in Nassau County). I currently live in Inwood, Manhattan (northern most part of Manhattan).

CP: Can you tell me about your educational and professional background?

JH: I have an undergraduate degree from NYU in psychology and urban studies. I have a master of science in higher education administration from Baruch College as well as a master of science in education from Teachers College, which is part of Columbia University. And I am currently a doctoral student at Teachers College. I am pursuing a doctorate in higher and postsecondary education. I've been a part time graduate student while working full time for the past few years.

In terms of my professional background, I have work experience working in undergraduate admissions at NYU and Lehman College, a CUNY college in the Bronx. And

just prior to coming to Cooper Union, I worked at Baruch College. I worked for an alumni mentoring program called Executives on Campus and we paired business students with working professionals for yearlong mentoring relationships. We also set up various guest lecturers so students can get exposure to working professionals.

CP: When did you first learn about Cooper Union?

JH: When I was an undergraduate at NYU, Bill Cosby spoke at an event in Cooper Union in the Great Hall. That's when I first really learned about Cooper. It was the first time I had been on campus.

CP: What brought you to Cooper Union? When did you start working at Cooper?

JH: I was interested in serving a more formal position in career development. I was attracted to the opportunity at Cooper Union because it was a unique place and had a special mission. I started working at Cooper in September, 2008. I just started my fourth year here. It went by so fast.

CP: What is your role in Cooper Union? What is your department's role in Cooper Union? What types of programs/services/resources does the Center for Career Development offer to Cooper students?

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.

In terms of our department's role, the Center for Career Development, which consists of myself, Robert Thill, our director, who manages our department and works closely with the art and architecture students, and Toni Burrell, who is the administrative assistant for our department. Collectively, we work with students to help them better clarify their professional goals and interests and we

I wanted to be able to help students identify their professional goals and work with them to realize them.

work with them throughout the various stages in pursuing those goals.

More specifically, in terms of types of programs/services/resources, we have an online job board, called Cooper Career Connection, we also host various recruiting activities, including career fairs and on campus interviews. We host

alumni student events, including mock interview night and engineering career evening to allow students to interact with alumni who are working in the field in various capacities. There's also a recurring program, CU@lunch, which features alumni speakers, typically art and architecture alumni. They come back and present about their work and professional endeavors post Cooper.

Also, we run various workshops on résumé writing, interviewing skills, pursuing summer research opportunities, as well as information sessions for students who are interested in learning more about things they should be thinking about in terms of applying to graduate school. We also host various



graduate school information sessions and panels where we bring representatives from various graduate schools to talk to students about their various programs. Our

office also offers one-on-one counseling appointments so that students can get individualized attention regarding anything, but often regarding résumé, cover letters, interviews, and the graduate school application process. We also offer various self-assessments as well, including the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, a personality assessment, and the Strong Interest Inventory, an assessment that is geared to help people understand their interest as they relate to their potential careers.

CP: Why did you choose this career path?

JH: I think that college is a really valuable and important experience where people can really explore different interests and think

about the things that are important to them and the ways that they want to contribute to society. I also really enjoy working with students. I pursued career development in particular because I wanted to be able to help students identify their professional goals and work with them to realize them.

CP: Which part of your job do you like the most?

JH: The part that I like the most is being able to work closely with students. The nice thing about Cooper and our office being small is that I get to interact with a lot of students and I get to know a lot of different students in a way that I probably wouldn't in larger schools. At the same time, it means our office is very busy, but we can build connections with students.

CP: Do you believe in Cooper's mission/ideals?

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.

CP: What do you think about Cooper students as compared to other college students in terms of quality, and/or dedication?

JH: I think that Cooper students are exceptionally hard working and naturally bright. Cooper students are extremely dedicated and committed to school and they put a lot of time and energy in everything that they do.

CP: What advice would you give to Cooper students regarding career development?

JH: Generally, for Cooper in particular, my advice is to be disciplined and actually carve out time for career development related ac-

tivities and thinking. That's one of the things that is hard at Cooper because students are so busy and committed to their school work that there isn't much time left over for other things. I would advise students to carve out a few hours each week and devote that time to their career development. That could mean spending time polishing your resume, researching organizations for potential internships/jobs, meeting one of the career advisors in our office, just dedicating time to focusing on thinking about and working toward whatever it is they want to do when they leave Cooper.

The other thing is that none of this is required, so it's up to students to be independent in managing this. Combined with all the other responsibilities that students have, it can be tricky sometimes.

I also advise students to take advantage of different opportunities, not only the ones that come out of our office, but the different opportunities on campus to join professional associations, to go to events, and to be engaged with the Cooper community, in particular, the things that relate to their professional interests.

CP: What are your hobbies?

JH: Being a part time grad student takes up a lot of my time. My own school, my own learning, in a way became a hobby, but I also really like to travel and be active with New York Cares, which is a volunteering organization. I like scary movies and spending time with my husband and our two cats.

BY CHRISTOPHER HONG (EE '13)



JAMES A ROULSTON

Security Officer at Cooper Union

41 Cooper Square (NAB), 1st Floor



Cooper Pioneer: Where are you from?

James A. Roulston: Queens – most of my life.

CP: Can you tell me about your educational and professional background?

JR: I graduated at P.S.93 middle school in Queens and I was ready to go to high school, but I had to drop out early to work to take care of my mom. My father just left us early at an early age. My mother was taking care of us and it was hard for her at the time. I started at a gas station, hot dog truck, ice cream truck, factories.

Then I wound up in a wrecking yard. Went there for the last 15-20 years. I was a foreman there. My job was to cut the motors out of the cars and to load them up onto the trailers. I checked the workers in the morning to make sure that they didn't come in drunk. If they came

in drunk, my job was to send them home. This happened often – about 5 days a week. Then I had to do the same thing at lunch time. I did a lot of role in that day. I did a lot of scuffing those days. Those guys like to drink there.

Then I broke my arm and there were no benefits there. I wasn't on the books or nothing so I had to go on welfare. That was about \$200 a week and \$150 food stamps. I was making \$600-\$700 a week at the wrecking yard, but there were no benefits, so when I got hurt and I laid around the house with the broken hand. My mother said, "Either you get a job on the books because we're not going through this again. This is too depressing for you." Then I went through the papers and found a class for security. It was about \$200.

It was a week long course and at the end, they gave you a certificate and they gave you 20 places where I could get a job. I went down to FJC Security, a security company in Long Island. I went back like 3 times and then they hired me. I didn't have any background so they were hesitant on hiring me. When they hired me, they sent me down here to Cooper Union for special events first.

Then later on there were no more events so they sent me home. Then they called me back and told me that they had an opening for me. They put me in the old Hewitt Building. I worked there for a while. Then I went across the street and worked in the Foundation Building – night shift too. And then I went to the engineering building. I've been over there ever since

until they built the new building and put me back over here, where I started. In another few months, I've been here for 6 years now.

CP: When did you first learn about Cooper Union?

JR: From the security company, FJC Security. They sent me down here to work the events.

CP: When did you start working at Cooper?

JR: I started working at 2006, right before Clinton came to Cooper Union. Clinton came here to speak at graduation.

CP: What is your role in Cooper Union?

JR: To keep students and faculty and property all safe and try to make everybody's life more easier. And if they feel safe here, that means I'm doing my job.

CP: Why did you choose this career path?

JR: Well, this was no choice. It was the fastest way to get back to work. The other jobs required résumés, but I didn't have no jobs that were on the books to put them down. So this was the easiest one, I paid the money and took the class. And I figured they would put me to work, but I had to look round and round. It took me about 2 weeks, but they put me to work.

CP: Which part of your job do you like?

JR: The people. All my friends are all great people here. That's the reason that makes me want to work here. My dream was to work for Cooper itself, not from an outside contractor. I don't think it's ever going to happen though. I submitted in a couple résumés to buildings and grounds, but they never acted on it. They hired other guys, but they were great guys they hired. I'm glad for them all. I think it's like

We have guards who have been here for 12 years, making \$8/hour and no benefits. That's why I feel bad.

what a good friend of mine, Mr. Carmelo, once told me, "if you're too good at your job, it's like a curse, because that's what they see you as." Well I guess that's the kind of luck I got ... because they say I'm a good officer so I guess I'm never going to be in maintenance... (laughs).

CP: Do you believe in Cooper's mission/ideals?

JR: Yeah, I believe in Peter Cooper's ideals. I think that the people they have in charge now are going to make this happen. They're going to keep it that way. The new staff – Jody Grapes keeps things running and the Vice President, T.C. She's strong and a beautiful woman inside and out. She has business smarts and she's not afraid to show her emotions. She gives me a warm smile and a hello James every time she sees me. And then we got the President. He seems to be in everything. He wants to get involved with everything. That's a good sign of somebody who cares. That person's a great guy. He's not shy to say "hi" to you. 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 do you think about Cooper Union as a whole?

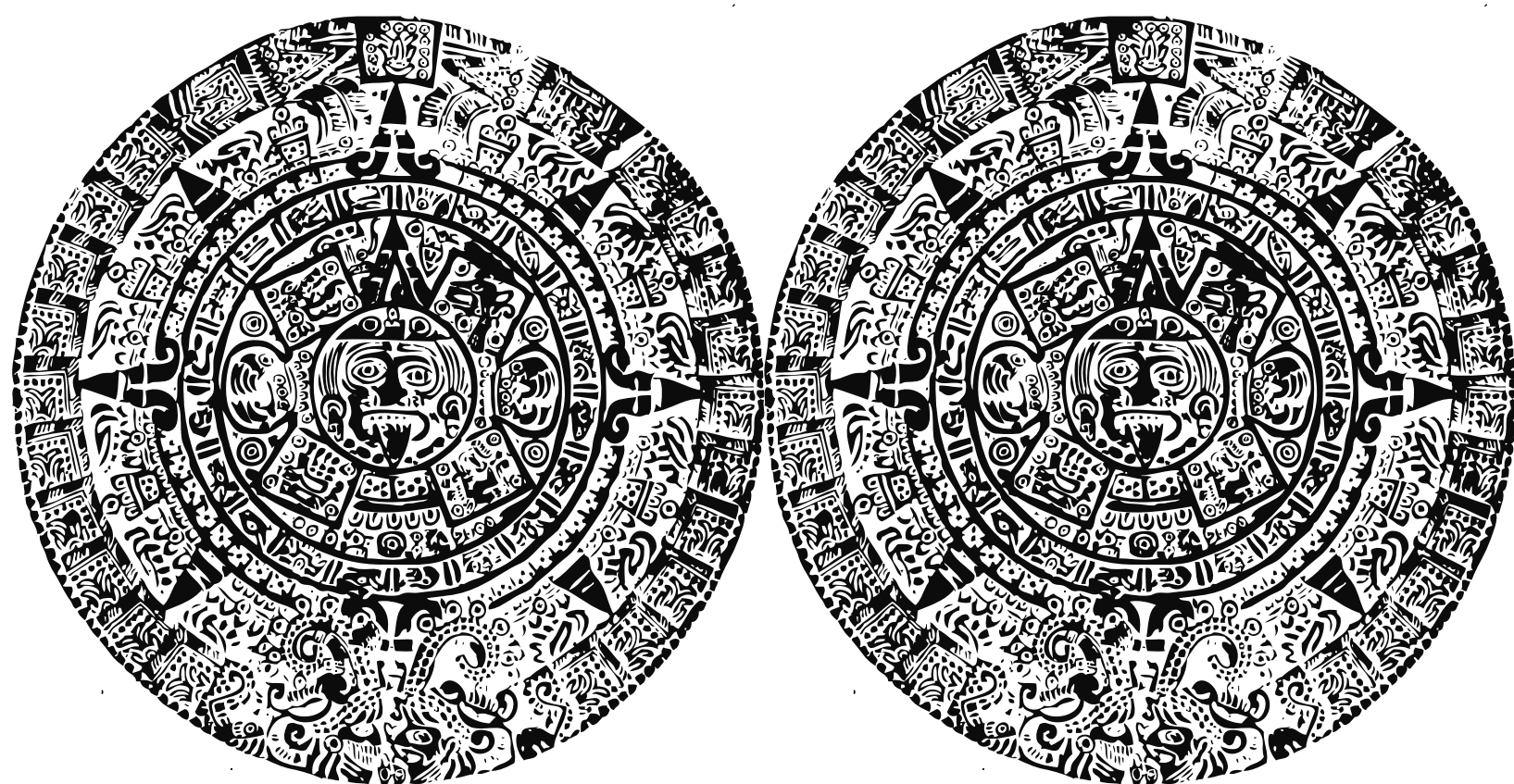
JR: I think it's an awesome neighborhood college. It's always for the people in the neighborhood. There are always a lot of events for the public and I've always got people asking "when's the next public event." And there are people who are always praising the place and I think the students love the place because they're always smiling, giving me high fives and telling me how great they feel and all.

(continued on page 19)

ARE you ready for 2012?

*Tell us your new
year's resolution.
Email it to us*

COOPERPIONEER@GMAIL.COM



JAMES A ROULSTON

(continued from page 17)

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. Daria, 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 got 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, he's always giving me words of encouragement. And then we got Dr. Dino, who fixes all of the guard's head-phones and computers because we don't got the money to fix them ourselves. He's a godsend 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 this 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 myself. They're great kids. They don't curse. If they do, they say "sorry James, I don't mean that." If they find anything, they turn it in. If they find a wallet or laptop, they bring it to the desk unlike some colleges where they disappear and are never seen again.

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 people's 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.

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 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 stroke 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 order 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 from work 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 be 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 paint from the basement and they all painted his black Model T car. They painted his wheels yellow and they painted eyes in the headlights. 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 on the stoop, yelling "Charlit," which was his wife (my mother's mother). He yelled "Look what 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 taking their money. Just to see him get embarrassed by driving around in that car for two weeks until they painted it again by hand. My mother told me this story hundreds of time, 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 me. 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 into 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 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 to be retiring from 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 go home and see my paychecks, I see the faces of my family because I can't give them what they need. We can't go out or nothing and on holidays, 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 would be facing.

Roommates were speechless, their nose 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 ablu, 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 open wide, 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."*



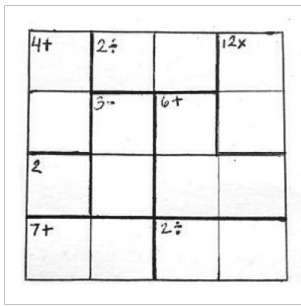
KEN KEN

BY MARCUS MICHELEN (CE '14)

6×	12+		2÷	3÷	1-	2-
		8+				
5	1-		3528×	4	3÷	
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4+		5		3-		4
3-	2÷	4-	6+		48×	2÷

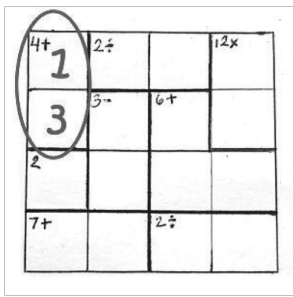
How to play:

KenKen is a Japanese paper puzzle by Tetsuya Miyamoto much like Su-doku, 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.

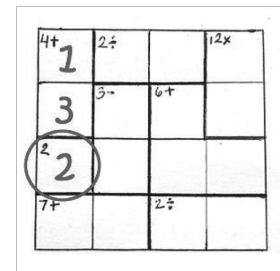


The two most common forms of the KenKen puzzle are the 4x4 grid (which contains 16 squares) and the 6x6 grid (which contains 36 squares).

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.

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 <http://www.radiolab.org/2011/jan/25/finding-emilie/>

COMICS

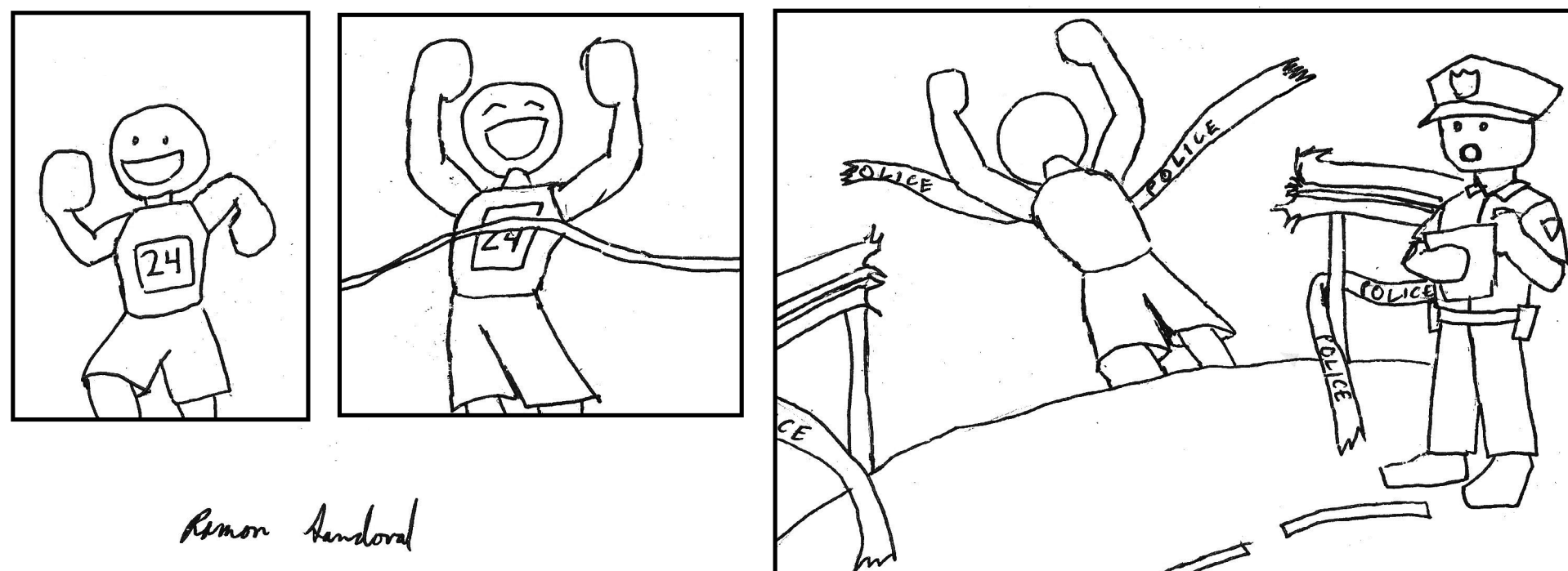
BY RAMON SANDOVAL (EE '12)

Frosty



Ramon Sandoval

The Running Man



Ramon Sandoval

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

Thank you.