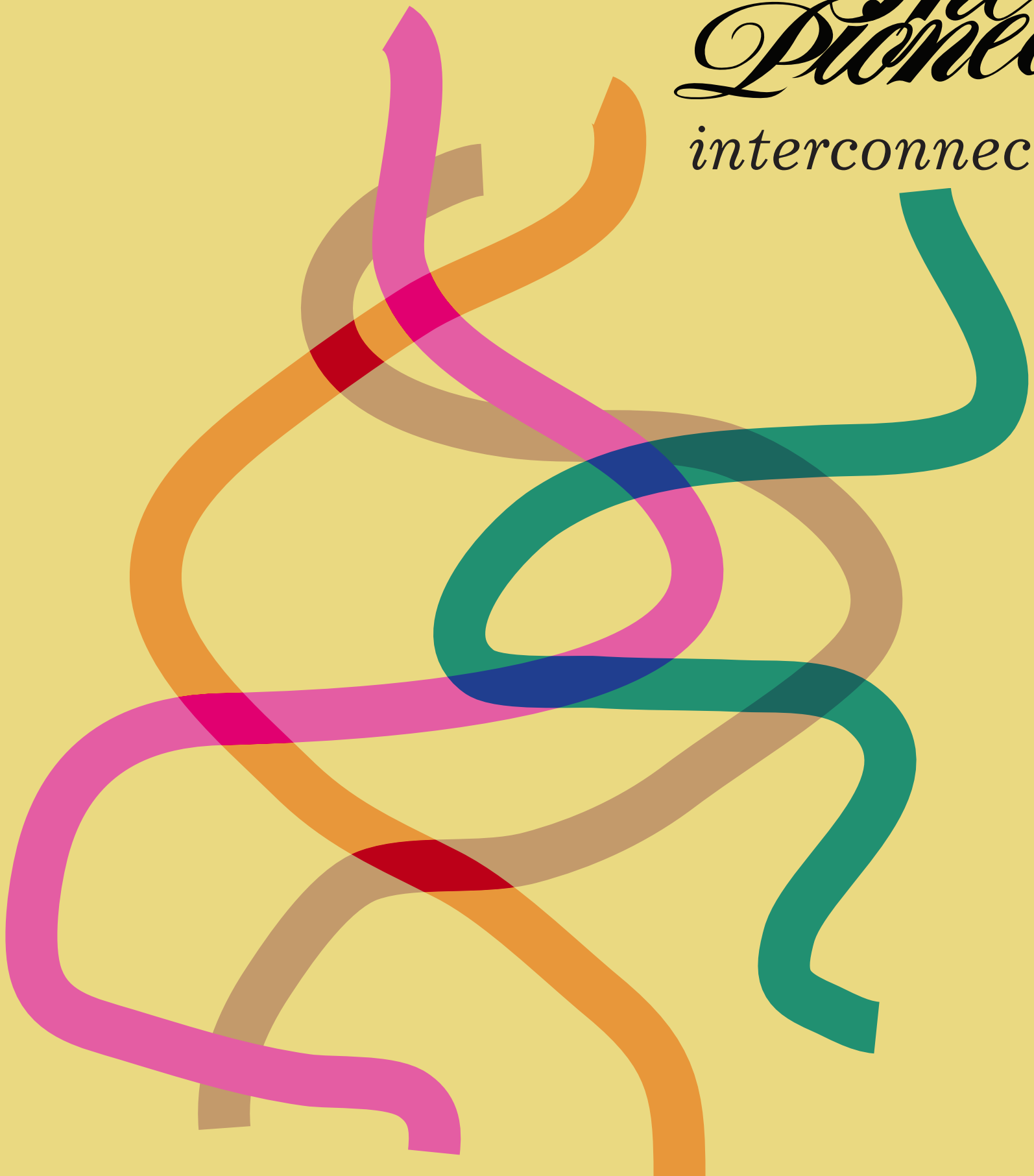


The Pioneer

interconnection





The above photo is by Masha Vlasova (A'12), courtesy of Friends of Cooper Union. Scene from Art Student Council protest at Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony



Photos from the Wreath Laying Ceremony by Jenna Lee (ME '15)
Christopher Hong (EE '13)
James Allister



Wreath Laying Ceremony

MARCUS MICHELEN (CE '14)

Last Tuesday (February 7th), the annual wreath laying ceremony took place in Peter Cooper Square. As with all school hosted formalities, students flocked to the event based solely on the ubiquitous promise that “food will be served”. Many professors attended as well as alumni. At the risk of being hyperbolic and cliché, it’s probably fair to say that everyone in attendance will remember this event far longer than any other wreath laying ceremony.

So there I was: my keyboard was set up as were my fellow musicians with whom I would be performing Cooper Union’s own Alma Mater, Maroon and Gold. A man comes up to the podium to quiet down the audience and to introduce President Bhaurucha. The president made a quick speech which, admittedly, I didn’t pay too much attention to. I looked into the crowd in front of me and noticed everyone holding balloons that said something along the lines of “110 years free” sloppily spray painted from a stencil. There was one gentleman who had a sign that expressed hostility towards President Bhaurucha and Mark Epstein written angrily in red and black marker. I would be lying if I said that I felt that something bad was going to happen but there was clearly hostility in the air. The man’s protest-like stance with a sign to match juxtaposed with the clean and positive speaking of the President made me a little bit uncomfortable.

Shortly thereafter, the president finished his speech. It was then time for the wreath-laying to begin. The wreath was placed on the Peter Cooper statue and there was some applause. The dominating sound, however, was the sound of balloons popping. Nearly everyone who had a balloon in hand popped it. The next few seconds were an awkward silence until someone gave the starting cue to the drummer in which he played a standard snare roll off and we began. I was super focused on playing the punishingly difficult song piano and was staring down

(continued on page 19)

ANONYMOUS DOUBLE YOU

Two separate occurrences happened, independent of each other, at the Cooper Wreath Ceremony gesturing the tuition issue. Students and faculty flocked to the area, where a podium and a band stand were set up to magnify importance. First the square was surrounded by dim gold balloons, whose sporadic but unified noise gave a large wake up call. Words like “110 years free” vanished within thin air, leaving debris of the aftermath, the destruction of what was once there.

The second occurrence happening separately where two female students paying their own respect the Peter Cooper. Standing behind the podium, their top half were exposed -- “Education is your naked right,” a phrase from Three Penny Opera, written on their bodies while the Cooper Union alma mata played. They had their own wreath prepared and during the event, moved them from their shoulders to the base of the monument.

“I am so happy they did that,” said Daniel Harrington. The words “Education is your naked right” may mirror the form, or vice versa, in a literal sense, but this is more than just promoting a quote from a Marxist German musical critiquing capitalism. The nakedness was a perfect camera opportunity, but what is this critiquing? Were these two students just happy subjects of voyeurism?

The gesture was crass and absurd, in a way that is not how we might think of a nude female form, usually represented erotically. But the crassness contrast the happy ceremony (or to expect it to be happy any way) of a smiling president and appreciation speeches served with cupcakes and hot cider.

The tuition debate may seems static, but perhaps things are slipping. The wreath ceremony may not be an intentional gaslighting strategy, but after two sleepy long months spent internalizing and processing the confusion and anguish, the students, faculty, and

(continued on page 19)

LENA TAKAMORI (ART)
JASMINE STEIN (ART)

There are several laws of nature. One these indisputable laws being the beauty and strength of duality. These were illustrated at the turn of the day of February 7th as President Bhaurucha delivered an ostensibly neutral speech despite the numerous strong opinion regarding Cooper Union’s current fiscal and integral situation.

During the ceremony, sandwiched between attentive peers and the animate statue of Peter Cooper, two actions attempted to communicate the thoughts of our student body. Amongst the popping of Ballons reading “110 years free,” two female students stood behind the podium and revealed paper wreaths hung from their necks, draped over thier chests. The written message, “Education is your naked right.” hugged the contour of their bodies.

“The ceremony meant to produce a healthy image of the continuation of Peter Cooper’s legacy, when right now, it’s anything but.”

A quote inspired by Brecht’s Three Penny Opera. Fittingly, the school band began to play the Cooper Union alma mater. The demonstrators are quoted as saying, “We couldn’t let it proceed like business as usual. The ceremony meant to produce a healthy image of the continuation of Peter Cooper’s legacy, when right now, it’s anything but. We wanted to obstruct that image literally with our bodies.”

Despite the distraction there was “cider and cupcakes available inside.” Illustrating the lack of sympathy on the part of Cooper Union’s higher beauracracy. Due to the break between the ideologies of the student and administrative bodies, a structure strong in its duality. One must question if anything will feel natural again.



Christopher Hong (EE '13)

The Cooper Pioneer had a chance to sit down with Jody Grapes recently to discuss the recent raises given to all of the Cooper security guards. In our Holiday Issue (December 2011), James was interviewed as part of a special section called Faces of Cooper and he revealed his hardships due to the low wages working as a security guard.

We've asked Mr. Grapes what pushed FJC to give the security guards a raise. He said that he's been discussing this issue with FJC for a while already. There has been quite a bit of discussion back and forth between Cooper and FJC. FJC has been providing Cooper Union security services for the last seven years and none of the security guards have received a raise in the last five years. A new contract has recently been worked out.

The new contract is a new five-year contract in which all security guards will receive a 5% raise each year for the next five years starting January, 2012. According to Mr. Grapes, the security guards all made an average of \$8.25 to \$8.50 an hour in December 2011. Of course, there were guards who made more than that amount if they have been around Cooper for longer. Thus, the average wage has now bumped up to \$8.66

COOPER UNION'S NEW CONTRACT WITH FJC

Continued from page 4

to \$8.92 an hour. By the fifth year (January 2016), the average wage of the security guards will be \$10.53 to \$10.85. The new contract is due to expire on December 31, 2016.

In addition to the raises, the contract included an unconditional 30-day termination clause. This clause allows either party to terminate this agreement with thirty days written notice to the other party. This is unlike the conditional clause, where, which allows the company to correct any issues within 60 days prior to the termination of the contract. The unconditional 30-day termination clause is a built in safety mechanism for Cooper Union.

What about benefits, like insurance, sick days, etc.? Mr. Grapes stated that he does not know of many details regarding the benefits, but he did mention that FJC does provide some form health insurance. In fact, most employers do not cover all health benefits costs and employees usually have to pay for part of the plan. He said that he asked FJC to contact James with their health insurance plans.

So what does this do with the costs to Cooper? According to Mr. Grapes, Cooper will have to pay FJC more money each year – 5% increase per year. Prices go up over time due to inflation and luckily this increase in costs more or less matches the raise that each

security guard gets annually so it is almost as if Cooper Union gave the security guards a raise.

Is this more cost effective than hiring security guards directly from Cooper? The simple answer is yes. FJC is a management security company they have the resources to run security at Cooper efficiently. Mr. Grapes said, "Our job is to, in the most efficient and effective way we can, provide Cooper Union with the necessary services to serve its mission – to provide students with a top notch education."

Mr. Grapes brought up the fact that there was a large turnover in security guards and this was mostly due to the wages that are lower than average. Due to this large turnover, new security guards would have to be trained, learn new faces, and get accustomed to our policies. Buildings and grounds have polled academic institutions similar to Cooper (in size and location) in New York City to find out what their security guards were getting paid. The average security guard at these institutions earns about \$10 an hour. Because Cooper

Union paid an average of \$8.25 to \$8.50 an hour, it was difficult to obtain and retain talented guards.

Prior to the new contract, Cooper has been on a month-to-month term with FJC, meaning security guards were hired on a monthly need. The old contract with FJC had expired a while ago. Although this month-to-month service saved money for Cooper, it did not retain many guards. But now with the new contract, security guards have received raises and the pay rate will motivate more security guards to take the challenges and demands of Cooper. In the end, we should expect to get better performance from the security guards and better security services. Most importantly, we will be able to retain the talented guards at Cooper.

Mr. Grapes stated, "We're here to do the right thing – get ourselves in a more competitive position because providing security services is extremely important for the safety of the Cooper community."

I would like to personally thank all of the security guards for their good work and congrats on their raises!

ESC Open Meeting

Saimon Shairf (ChE '15)



On February 7th, Engineering Student Council (ESC) had its first open meeting of the semester in room 506 in the NAB. Students received emails about the meeting beforehand and were urged to RSVP. As far as I could tell, there was enough space and food for all the attendees. A few latecomers stood, but empty chairs were available. From inspection, there seemed to be roughly fifteen ESC members. I did not notice any freshmen that were not ESC representatives at the meeting.

Rebecca Long (ChE'12), one of two ESC Administrative Chairs, welcomed everyone. Written on the board was the agenda for the meeting. Andrew Crudge (ME'13), Assistant Administrative Chair, spoke about the first item on the agenda: the 100% Student Donations event. He showed the statistics for donation rate by year and major. These numbers are online for everyone to see at <http://esc.cooper.edu/donations.php>. It

was proposed that the drive be continued and nearly everyone in favor. One attendee suggested emailing those who had not donated in hopes of enticing them to do so, but this idea was quickly put down.

Sharang Phadke (EE'14), as Pioneer readers will already know, is the ESC representative on the Revenue Task Force (RTF). In his brief overview of RTF, he mentioned that the RTF is divided into subgroups with one focusing on available assets and another on new programs. He informed the attendees of the taskforce's website (<https://taskforce.cooper.edu/home>) where the details will be posted regularly. Questions were propelled at him that ranged from tuition to why the yearly deficit is suddenly higher (\$16 to \$20 million as opposed to simply \$16 million). Sharang answered the questions to the best of his abilities.

Andrew Crudge (ME'13), Assistant Administrative Chair, and Kristof Toth

(ChE'14) spoke as student representatives for the Expenditure Reduction Task Force (ERTF), a group that was formed to seek budget cuts.

Further issues raised included Academic Review where the entire school will be reviewed by a third party. Students within each department will be interviewed by President Bharucha. Students interested in giving feedback can speak to the ESC Administrative Chairs, Rebecca Long (ChE'12) and Matthew Wieder (IDE'12) at raralong5@gmail.com and mswieder28@gmail.com respectively. The suggestion that alumni should be recruited to perform the reviews was brought up and quickly dismissed. An Administration Review will also take place which includes workers at

30 Cooper. A consulting group, CDG, will conduct the review and again, alumni cannot objectively perform it. The reviews will cost about \$100,000 per month and many attendees took issue with the price. It was brought up that this money must be spent to cut costs and the potential savings are much greater than the amount spent.

The issue of a Student Survey was also raised. Anonymous student surveys on faculty are currently prohibited by the Teacher's/Faculty Union. It was mentioned that surveys are commonplace in other institutions. The issue of whether these surveys would be effective was raised, but the majority in attendance believed they would be.

Much more was said and

done, but as always, the minutes from ESC meetings are online at <http://esc.cooper.edu/minutes.php>. At the time this article was written, the minutes for this meeting were online and I encourage all our readers that did not attend this meeting to read them. Students may also contact the Administrative Chairs if they wish to see the minutes from Committee meetings. All reasonable requests will be fulfilled.

Of the few very vocal, Andrew Leader (EE'13) stated: "The meeting was a strong demonstration of the commitment that many engineers have toward their school. There should be open esc meetings more often, and certainly, more students should attend." I agree; more students should attend. Many others in the

room shared the same opinion. Certainly, Ben Schenker did: "I'm glad that I went to the meeting, the representatives seemed well informed and very flexible in adapting to what we wanted so as to best advocate for us."

Rebecca Long (ChE'12) was grateful for those that attended: "We thank all the students who came out for the open forum for coming. We were happy to hold such a forum where we could get feedback and advice on issues that are affecting us - such as the financial situation, academic and administrative reviews, and buildings and grounds issues. We hope to see more of our classmates at our next open meeting."

The Sexuality Taboo in Cooper Union's Engineering Society

RYAN CUSACK (CE '15)

At Cooper Union, being gay isn't something people talk about. For those who are gay, it's not something they commonly share with their peers. Despite the significant non-heteronormative population amidst the nine hundred or so students enrolled at Cooper Union, being queer is something that is generally disregarded. It's something that isn't communicated and, as a result, has been repressed within the overall community. In short, being gay at Cooper Union is a taboo.

As a freshman in the school of engineering, it wasn't long before I realized that this taboo on non-heteronormativity existed within the limited social sphere of Cooper Union. Over the past few months I have become acquainted with and even befriended a handful of people who, many over a lengthy amount of time, revealed to me their identification with the LGBT community. On the rare occasions that we would discuss issues related to the LGBT community at Cooper, the overwhelming opinion was that they did not feel comfortable revealing their sexuality within the school and that something should be done about it.

After taking some time to think about it, it only

seemed reasonable to assume that there must be others within the school who share these same views. It was obvious that something needed to be done to unify the LGBT community, and I was extremely surprised that there was not a single established support structure within the school to help achieve this goal. Could it be that the LGBT community was so demoralized and disoriented up to this point that it could not find the means to help bring an end to this state of social instability?

The issue is not just the existence of a barrier between the heterosexual and LGBT community, but the effect that this barrier has had on the LGBT community. The fact that being non-heteronormative is something unspoken among the students at Cooper Union has created an unwelcoming and uncomfortable environment for LGBT students. Although sex itself is not something you generally hear discussed in conversation among the students at Cooper Union, the social environment is still extremely different for those who are heteronormative than for those who are not. Because of social custom and expectation, many people assume that everyone around them is

straight, and that to be anything else is abnormal.

Last month, while enjoying an amazing week in Canada on Dean Baker's annual ski trip, the first steps toward solving this issue took place. While talking to a couple of friends (who prefer to remain nameless) one particularly eventful night over the trip, we began discussing the possibility of establishing an LGBT club at Cooper. And I thought it was a great idea.

Once I returned to American soil, I began the process of creating such a club. The club, which is now officially established, is known as GLASS (Gay Lesbian and Straight Spectrum). Though it is still in the early stages of development, I encourage all who are interested in helping to create a more open and comfortable environment for the non-heteronormative and heteronormative communities to join. The club has great potential to make a difference in the lives of many students at Cooper Union, but change can only take place if we work together in this effort. If you would like to participate in and help shape the future of GLASS, please email cunionglass@gmail.com today.



Review: Au Breve, 51 Cooper Square

ROBIN KUTNER (CHE '13)

I'm no coffee expert, but along with being a college student comes the constant need for caffeine. How convenient it is for us that there is a new coffee establishment – no, not another Starbucks – right inside the NAB! Over the course of a week, I went with my friend A to try out what Au Breve has to offer. The café is officially located at 51 Cooper Square, and its entrance is shared with an art gallery on the west side of the NAB.

Day 1: Before deciding what to get, I asked the barista to explain what some of the menu items were and what the categories “long” and “short” meant. He obliged with no air of pretentiousness. “Long” drinks are made with a shot of espresso but are 12 oz, so the intensity is not as strong. “Short” drinks are for those whose palates can handle the strong stuff; these are espresso shots with slight modifications and are only served in-house. A and I shared a small **spicy hot chocolate** (\$3.50) with a **vanilla marshmallow** (\$1.50). The drink was very chocolatey but not overly rich (like, for example, City Bakery's hot chocolate). It was creamy, not too sweet, and had an interesting spicy aftertaste. A big homemade marshmallow was a great accompaniment for the hot chocolate. We dunked part of it into the hot chocolate, and its sweetness in combination with the not-as-sweet hot chocolate was really good. We ate the rest of the other marshmallow straight up. It had a really good vanilla flavor, as evidence by visible flecks of vanilla bean throughout.

Day 2: A and I needed energy to get some studying done, so we chose went with two caffeine-laden classics: a **cappuccino** (\$3.75) and a 12oz **house coffee** (\$2). I like the taste of coffee but always need to add milk and sweetener. A is the opposite; he drinks it black. He tasted my coffee before I adulterated it and liked it. I agreed; the flavor was good without being too bold. I tasted his cappuccino sans extra sweetener, so it was slightly bitter for my liking, but the creamy frothed milk gave it a great consistency.

Day 3: This time around, we tried the **macchiato** (\$3) and **con panna** (\$3), both of which are “short” drinks. More precisely, a macchiato is espresso with steamed milk, and a con panna is espresso with whipped cream. Neither my coffee buddy nor I had ever tried espresso before. Suffice it to say that I don't think I will ever drink it again. I gave both drinks a fair chance, but I suppose my tastebuds are

Continued on page 7

too unsophisticated to taste anything beyond bitterness. I ended up adding sweetener to the macchiato – much to the barista's chagrin, I'm sure – and it was difficult for me to drink even still. A had the con panna; while he didn't particularly enjoy it, he still found it palatable. I'm sure espresso connoisseurs would be better suited to give an opinion on these two menu items.

Day 4: Because A and I went to Au Breve in the afternoon, I decided to go for an uncaffeinated drink. The **green tea latte** (\$4.25) was beautiful, with a pale green color and “latte art” on top using cream. The flavor comes from matcha powder, and most of the drink is composed of steamed milk, with foam on top. I really enjoyed this drink, but it was

definitely expensive for what it was – mostly milk. A tried the **americano** (\$3) from the “long” menu. An americano is simply espresso with hot water. The flavor was bold, and the drink would probably suit someone who likes the flavor of espresso but not necessarily the intensity.

Day 5: A **mocha** (\$4.25), which is on the “long” drink menu, is made with espresso and steamed milk like a latte but also contains chocolate syrup. Theirs is very good – rich and sweet enough to be a special treat but not overdone. The chocolate has a slightly spicy aftertaste, so I suppose Au Breve uses the same syrup for its hot chocolate and mocha. I highly recommend this drink to people who don't love the taste of straight up coffee as a

way to caffeinate yourself!

We didn't even have the chance to try some of their more fancily brewed coffees. Au Breve has a great menu with lots of choices for coffee enthusiasts, students who just need caffeine, and everyone in between. It is officially the closest coffee shop to Cooper Union, the house coffee is cheaper than Starbucks, the employees are friendly, and the coffee is fair-trade. Au Breve also sell pastries from Moishe's Bakery, some prepared lunch items, and packaged beverages. Finally, they have a “frequent buyer” card; just ten stamps until you get a free beverage. Be sure to show your Cooper ID card for a 10% discount!



On January 29, February 3, and February 4, Professor Alan Wolf held a pinhole photography workshops for architecture and art students. In these workshops, Professor Wolf and some of his engineering assistants worked with these students to build paint can and minty pinhole cameras. This was a special opportunity for students from the two other schools because all Cooper engineering students do some form pinhole photography for physics lab and they have the opportunity to make paint can and minty cameras on special weekend sessions.

A pinhole camera is special because it takes photos without any lens. Instead, a really small pinhole is used as the lens. This small hole projects light reflected from objects to the photo paper inside the pinhole camera. A precise and circular pinhole is necessary to get the best photos.

The two types of cameras built were paint can

Pinhole Photography

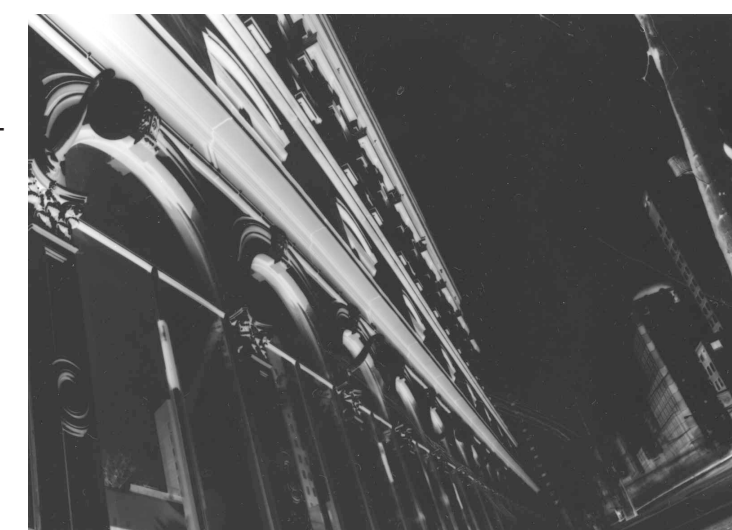
Christopher Hong (EE'13)

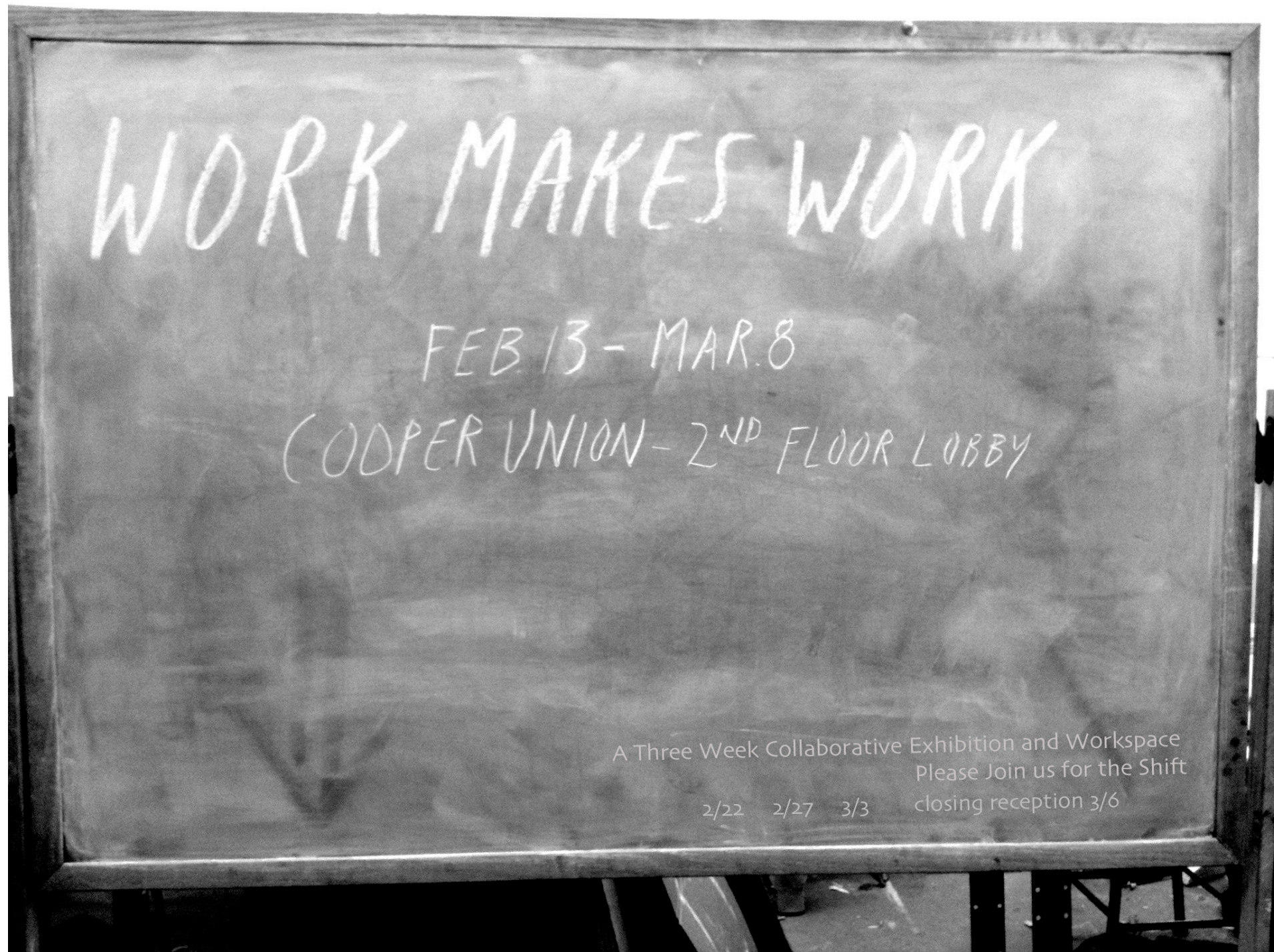


cameras and mintycams. Paint can cameras are made out of an actual paint can with a hole drilled in it to place the pinhole. These cameras use photo paper and can only take one shot at a time. A mintycam is considerably different in which an actual Altoids tin container was used and it takes in rolls of film rather than photo paper. Because it uses film, it can take mul-

tiples pictures.

Students had the choice of building one of the cameras mentioned earlier and are able to keep them. In addition, they got to develop several photos and keep them as well. The following pictures are of students building their cameras and some sample negatives and positives that resulted from the workshops.





Work Makes Work Exhibition

CHRISTOPHER HONG (EE '13) AND
LEE MILBY (ART '12)

Several students from the Art and Architecture schools have organized an exhibition called “Work Makes Work.” The main theme of the exhibition is 10/31/11 – the date when President Bharucha announced to the Cooper community that tuition was on the table. This prompted students to join together to both seek solutions and protest the idea of Cooper Union charging tuition, which took an insurmountable amount of time from the student body and their schoolwork. By the spring semester however, students had spread apart again and the tuition issue quieted down considerably.

“Work Makes Work” is an exhibition that begins on February 13, 2012 with subsequent openings on February 22, February 27, and March 3. On February 13, there will be chalkboards (active documentation sites) brought to the second floor lobby of the Foundation Building where visitors can leave ideas and responses to the theme “10/31/11”. The three shows will contain prints, paintings, and other projects that any visitors can interact with. The first show will initiate the project by responding exclusively to “10/31/11”.

“The initial goal is to draw a collaborative effort of artists, architects, and engineers to try and create a new form of art and design from the more developed reactions we have to 10/31/11. Our goal is to influence other students with our work to continue developing ideas about The Cooper Union and what we produce here.”

The responses will vary in form and perspective- one of the exhibits will be historical, based on single events that changed people’s lives completely. The development of the project will be unpredictable. Coffee will be provided by the coffee club.

The organization by Art and Architecture students recently expanded to Engineering students and some Engineering projects will be showcased in the exhibit, such as the Formula One car and the bridge in LL2 as quite a few artists and architects are interested in what engineers do at Cooper. Currently, there are about 20 people involved with the project and the number may increase in the weeks to come.

Mark Ressler (Arch '14) said, “The initial goal is to draw a collaborative effort of artists, architects, and engineers to try and create a new form of art and design from the more developed reactions we have to 10/31/11. Our goal is to influence other students with our work to

continue developing ideas about The Cooper Union and what we produce here.”

Visit www.workmakeswork.org for more information.

The Cooper Union Volunteer Tutoring Initiative

CATHERINE SANZO (CE '14)

Everyone seems to be familiar with Cooper Union’s current financial crisis -- we are in need of millions of dollars with no definite strategies to acquire the money. Understandably, many students are upset about this and looking for outlets to contribute to finding a sustainable solution. This is tricky, however, with the multitude of courses we are managing and the semblance of social lives we are attempting to hold. The Cooper Union Volunteer Tutoring Initiative is a great resource to manage all three concerns: Cooper Union’s future, education, and fun.

“This is a chance for Cooper Union students from all three disciplines to give back to the local community by mentoring younger children while volunteering”

younger children while volunteering, a great addition to any resume or to a future employer. The tutored subjects will vary depending on what is required by the school- children, and tutors will be asked to meet with

them on a reoccurring basis. The program is designed so that is can work around the busy schedules of Cooper students while still maintaining some regularity by tutoring the same group of children.

So how does Cooper Union’s finances relate to this? Well, even though the students are volunteering their time and effort in tutoring the younger pupils, the goal is to get donors to “sponsor” our work. For example, donors could commit to donating a certain amount of money per hour that we tutor, which will then be fully donated to the Cooper Union to alleviate the financial problems we currently face. Though it might not seem like a large sum of money immediately, the Volunteer Tutoring Initiative estimates that if Cooper students tutor every week for each semester, we can contribute tens of thousands of dollars annually. Also, we believe that this kind

of activity could attract donors who would not normally donate to Cooper but appreciate the club’s mission. This not only benefits Cooper Union directly, but it assists struggling public school students through tutoring and mentoring. Though this is only one vision of the plan to improve the school’s situation, we are open to suggestions as to the most efficient ways to work with the community and achieve our goal of lessening the debt. As Ben Schenker, the founder of the club expressed, “We are trying to do something good while helping ourselves out of Cooper Union’s crisis.”

“We are trying to do something good while helping ourselves out of Cooper Union’s crisis.”

Cooper Union is a unique school filled with extremely gifted and created students. With the combined efforts of art, architecture, and engineering students united by the Volunteer Tutoring Initiative, we have the potential to make a real impact on our school’s deficit and do something that is both personally and communally rewarding. If interested, please contact Benjamin Schenker, me (Catherine Sanso), or Daniel Reichman. All interest on any scale is welcomed and appreciated!

Letter to the Pioneer

Editor, The Pioneer:

I recently read the article “Hiring Un-freeze???” by Christopher Hong (EE '13) in the January 23, 2012 mini-issue, and I would like to clarify some issues as it relates to alumni relations and the Cooper Union Alumni Association. The Alumni Association has been working to significantly reduce our cost to the school, and to “make every dollar count,” even before the full extent of the financial crisis became clear. I repeatedly tell President Bharucha and VP Wittner that the Alumni Association wants to take our fair share of budget reductions to save the school. The two positions that were recently filled (and were written about in the article) replaced three vacancies (including Director of Alumni Relations) that occurred in mid 2011, reducing the former alumni relations staff (now merged into the Development department) from six to five, or a 17% reduction. I also asked that the school cease serving food at alumni association meetings (I apologize to those students in the dorm who used to get the leftovers), and we have worked hard during the last six months to significantly reduce the cost to the school of alumni association events.

However it is clear that alumni must play a significant and sustained role in any solution to Cooper Union’s fiscal problem, and to do that, Cooper needs to invest time and effort, working with the all-volunteer Alumni Association, in reaching out to the over 12,000 Cooper alumni. Many give back significantly to the school, both financially and in other meaningful ways, but we need to reach a lot more, re-establish their connection to the school, and convince them that, just as Peter Cooper and others assisted our education, we need to step up now for current and future generations of Cooper students. (Readers of The Pioneer will be alumni soon enough, so this applies to you too.) We needed a strong alumni relations leader with significant experience at other successful institutions, to work quickly improve and expand our alumni connection. The annual fund, originally begun by the Alumni Association, now raises more than \$2 million towards the schools budget, and needs to do significantly better to help the school achieve financial stability. It only stands to reason that we could not afford, now more than ever, to have the position that manages that process stand vacant. The most cost-efficient way to find the most talented, experienced applicants out there is to engage a search firm. I know it makes an easy target to imply that money spent on search firms, alumni relations and fundraising are frivolous, but building a strong alumni connection to the school is critical to the long term survival of Cooper Union.

Sincerely,

Peter G. Cafiero, CE '83
President, Cooper Union Alumni Association

Grand Staircase Safety Makeover

MARCUS MICHELEN (CE '14)

For the past month or so, rumors were circulating that there a hand-rail was going to be installed down the center of the grand staircase. I was a little bit skeptical because rumors move pretty quickly in Cooper so I decided to ask Professor Alan Wolf, Cooper's Safety Coordinator and Chair of Physics. He was a little bit hesitant to tell me too much at first but gave me a fair amount of background information. He recommended I speak to Vice President Westcott for more information on the issue. On Tuesday, January 31st, I met with T.C. Westcott and she spoke to me about the issue:

Cooper Pioneer: Could you give me a brief history of the handrail situation?

Vice President T.C. Westcott: I'm gonna do the best I can because that building was built before I got here. I joined CU in October 2009 and the building was occupied was occupied in July 2009. Time flies when you're having fun. I think some of the history is that Thom Mayne, who is the architect of the building, is a Pritzker prize winning architect and he had a vision for a place where people could gather. The vision came to life in the Grand Staircase. I can't tell you for sure, I wasn't there. This was a place where people could gather and in fact is an architectural feature. It's not a means of egress, right? So in the case of an emergency, for example people always worry about a fire, the panels are supposed to drop down, and they do they've been tested, so that you wouldn't go down the grand stair in the case of the emergency. You're supposed to use the other stairs. So it was intended to be an architectural feature that was supposed to be a meeting place for students and others where it would be a cross-discipline place. I think that's what the notion was. So the building was built and I think early on there was concern and people were in there and thought "oh my gosh we need another handrail" and the notion was that it wasn't supposed to be a means of egress.

CP: So as long as you've been

here, there have been people who have been trying to get this handrail installed.

TCW: Yes. There have been people who have been trying to get this handrail installed and now I'm happy to report: we are going to install a handrail. I don't know when. I actually met with Thom Mayne in December, we were in the building and I said, "Thom, you know your vision, the vision was that there would be a lot of people there, they'd be hanging out. I mean I don't see a lot of people there sitting on the grand staircase and there's a reason for that. It's not working the way you thought it would work and I think if you give me a handrail that we'll that change." So I have been following up with him, waiting for a design. Once I get the design we'll move forward. Hopefully people will use it, but who knows.

CP: Are we contractually required for Thom Mayne to design it or was he our first choice because of the moral issue?

TCW: You know, I actually consulted with our School of Architecture because we have experts here and I said, "you know what do you think?" They felt that we should first talk to Thom Mayne since it was his original design. Now if Thom Mayne is not responsive, because I am following up on him, I'll have to go to plan B. He was the original designer so the first option went to him.

CP: When approximately do think this will go up?

TCW: My goal would be, not a year. Worst case, in the summer. So I'm looking at three or four months. It depends on what you put in. If its something simple you can get fabricated easily enough, okay. If it's anything too complicated, which is not what

we're looking for by the way, we're looking for simple, clean, easy to install, so the goal should be that, once we get the design, it should be able to be fabricated and shipped depending on when they build it. If it's in upstate New York or Long Island City for that matter, you can get it pretty quickly. So the answer is I don't really know. My goal would be to have it in as short a period of time as possible and I'm thinking for three or four months as opposed to a year.

CP: Prof. Wolf mentioned he was personally thinking about a handrail more along to the side as opposed to the middle of the staircase. Can you speak to whether or not the design will reflect that or is that also up in the air?

TCW: I don't know the answer; I'll have to see the design when it comes. When I talked to Thom Mayne, I said, "look you don't have to put it through the middle, you have to make a safe passage on the side" so we'll see. And by the way, if he doesn't give me a design I like, I don't even have to accept it. Once again, I wanted to give him the first opportunity since he is the designer of the building but hopefully he'll give me something we'll like.

CP: How much will this cost?

TCW: Haven't a clue. I told him very inexpensive because we don't have money. But that

doesn't mean we shouldn't do it. We need to do it at a good price.

CP: Are you worried at all about any issues about students sliding down and whether that will pose another issue?

TCW: I don't know, should I be, student? Hopefully students will use their good judgment and not do that. If someone does, we'll have to go through the judicial process. There is a thing in the code, I think, that talks about doing things that are probably not a good idea. I don't know what chapter, but I'd go to the dean of students and ask her to help me on that.

CP: Prof. Wolf also mentioned that there was an incident in mid-October with a student falling. Would you say that's what set this in motion a little bit more recently?

TCW: It seems like that wasn't the only time that happened. I would say to you, a railing would not have done much to help that situation. We don't want people



to get hurt if you could help it.

CP: Prof. Wolf briefly mentioned that he brought this up to President Campbell formally and he created some type of illusion that there was a team working on this handrail.

TCW: I can't comment on that. I have no idea. I can't comment on that.

CP: Would you say there's any reason why this handrail is being installed now that there's a new president? Is that at all related to the matter?

TCW: You know, I don't really know the answer to that. On the surface it could be easy to say but I think a part of it is being in the building for a period of time and seeing how the staircase was used.

I think that really does make a difference and seeing that it's not being used the way we thought it would be and we should make a change. We do see people that aren't all that confident wanting another handrail so it should be changed. On the surface it seems like an easy answer but it really isn't because we wouldn't know what it would be like at the time. Architects probably have a better sense of this than I do but you look to see how the facility is being used and you modify it based on that.

CP: Have you thought at all, if the Thom Mayne design doesn't work out having a student based design or some type of competition where people design their own handrail?

TCW: You know, I haven't but that doesn't mean I shouldn't. It's something to think about. I'm following up with Thom so I'm

hoping he'll come back with a design we can move forward with and quickly. If it doesn't work out I would consult with the deans before I did that though. I would look to them provide wisdom relative to that.



Credit: Jenna Lee (ME'15)

Got a great idea for
new the handrail?
(we know you do!)

Enter our contest!

This contest is for fun, fame, glory, and prizes!

Entries will not actually be considered for the real handrail design

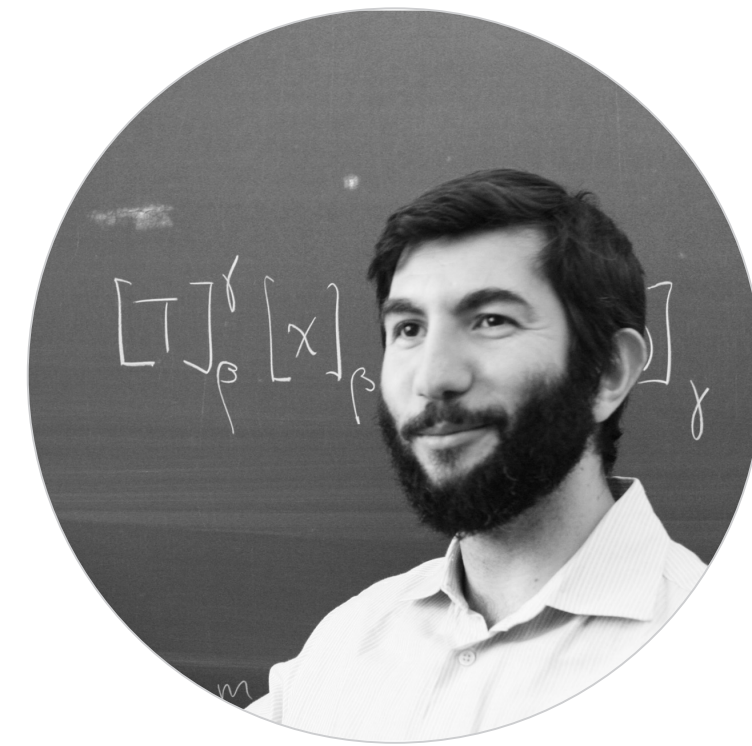
Submit your sketch, design, drawing,
painting, or model by March 6, 2012.

\$50 GRAND PRIZE

2 \$25 Runner Ups

Email it to cooperpioneer@gmail.com
or just slide it under our office door (209)!

Limit one entry per entrant. Please keep the entry within reason and appropriate for our readers. No purchase or payment of any kind is necessary to enter or win. Writers for the Cooper Pioneer may enter, but writing for us does not increase the chances of winning. Writers who enter will not be the judges of this contest for the integrity of this contest. This contest is void where prohibited (i.e. outside of Cooper). Contest begins at 12:01 A.M. Eastern Time ("ET") on 2/14/2012 and ends at 12 P.M. Eastern Time ("ET") on 3/6/2012. All submissions must be sent to cooperpioneer@gmail.com. All late submissions should still be sent. The Cooper Pioneer has the right to cancel this contest at any time. Please do not spam The Cooper Pioneer or else the contest may be deemed void for eternity. One grand prize winner will receive a check for \$50, and two runner ups will receive a check for \$25. Both the grand prize winner and runner ups will have their entry published in the Pioneer. Limit: One prize per entrant. Disclaimer: This contest is not associated with the design of the new handrail. Winning designs will not be considered by Thom Mayne. He will design his own handrail. This contest is only for fun and glory.



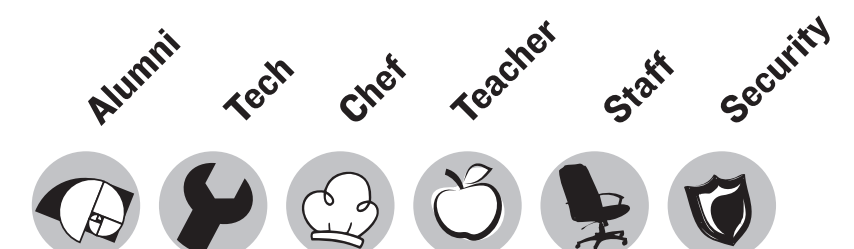
Faces of Cooper

Who's who in Cooper. Find out.

Photos by

Jenna Lee (ME '15)

Toni Burrell provided her own photo.





**STEVEN
SIMON**



Visiting Assistant Professor

Math Department, Office on 2nd Floor

Cooper Pioneer: Where are you from?

Steven Simon: I grew up in Southern Florida, West Palm Beach, about an hour away from Miami.

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

SS: Sure. I went to Yale for my undergraduate degree and I graduated in 20005 as a math major; I had started off majoring in philosophy. I went to NYU for my graduate degree; got my PhD last May and then I came here.

CP: When did you first learn about Cooper Union?

SS: After moving to New York for graduate school in 2006.

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

SS: Cooper Union has a great reputation for having some of the brightest students; I was excited to come here. Cooper gives me enough time to do my research, but I consider myself a teacher before a researcher, so it was a good fit. The students here are amazing and the overall quality of students

here is very high, some of the students being very excellent. It's been pretty good. I was able to talk about very advanced stuff with maybe 20 to 30% of them actually following; which is better than other places. Students here are actually interested in more than just the basics.

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

SS: The main goal of the math department is to give the requisite math for students to be engineers. Personally, I have an Platonic view of math and I try to get the "pure" side of math across to give students a deeper understanding of what math is. Computations must be done, but there's almost always an underlying beauty to the solution that comes from the "pure" part of math.

CP: How much do you like your job at Cooper?

SS: A lot. I would love to stay. I feel I have a pretty good relationship with the students here and they feel free to come and talk to me about any kind of math.

CP: What advice would you give to Cooper students?

CP: Because this is our Valentine's edition of **The Pioneer**, we were wondering if you would be willing to share stories from personal life. Are you married/engaged?

TB: I am neither married nor engaged. I do have someone special in my life.

CP: When and how did you meet him/her?

TB: We met at Pace University through mutual friends.

CP: What do you think about Cooper's financial situation?

TB: My hopes are that Cooper Union will continue to offer all admitted students full tuition scholarships. Cooper is a rare school and to keep the tradition going would be very welcoming in a world where everything changes so often.

CP: What do you think about the student body trying to help resolve the financial situation?

TB: It's great that students are involved and want to be involved with the future of the school they're attending. You invest a lot of years at an institution and you always want the absolute best for it and the students that come after you.

CP: Do you have any closing remarks?

TB: Don't be a stranger to the Career and Athletics Department. I enjoy talking to students and it's always a pleasure when you come by. At Student services we have a nice seating area you can come to lounge and relax. I hope to see more students in our office.

BY CHRISTOPHER HONG (EE '13)

SS: Not really much job advice. My hypocritical advice would be to Relax, have some fun, and stop worrying; grades really don't matter. Unfortunately, the job market is so competitive that it makes students believe that they do. Students here take a lot of courses, that aren't easy,

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

SS: I really can't say; I haven't been here long enough.

CP: Because this is our Valentine's edition of The Pioneer, we were wondering if you would be willing to share stories from personal life. Are you married/engaged?

SS: I am married to Shari Wiseman and we've been married since this past summer.

CP: When and how did you meet her?

SS: I met her in college. We were in the same fake political organization where we debated silly things in a serious matter.



BEN

DAVIS



*Assistant Professor of
Chemical Engineering*
Room 419 NAB

Cooper Pioneer: What is your role in Cooper? What is your department's role in Cooper?

Ben Davis: We are the Chemical Engineering department; we teach students how to design and build manufacturing processes that deal with chemicals, chemistry, and chemical reactions. The capstone course in Chemical Engineering is the process design course. In it, we have students design a chemical plant to make things like ethylene or ammonia or hydrogen. As for my role, I teach the Numerical Methods course and co-teach the process design class. I also teach Separations and two electives – one on Optimization and the other on Sustainability and Pollution Prevention.

CP: Where are you from?

BD: I am from Grand Island, New York. It is an island between Niagara Falls and Buffalo, about the size of Manhattan.

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

BD: My mother wouldn't let me go too far for college, so I went to Cornell for my B.S. in Chemical Engineering and I graduated in 2002. I really liked it there. At that point, I decided I could go as far as I want from home, so I went to UCLA in Los Angeles for my Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering. I graduated from there in 2009. As for my professional background, I worked as a co-op intern with Corning at an optical fiber production facility in Wilmington, NC for a semester. I

realized that I didn't really like working in industry; I liked research better.

CP: When did you first learn about Cooper Union?

BD: I first heard of Cooper when I was in high school but didn't know anything specific. I didn't do any real digging until I was looking for faculty positions. I wanted to teach engineering rather than do research full[-]time. Most faculty at research, R-I, institutions spend 80% of their time with graduate students, writing grant proposals, writing papers, doing experiments, etc. The remaining 20% of their time is spent teaching. I wanted to teach 80% of the time and do research 20% of the time. That's more in line with the way Cooper is and that really attracted me to it.

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

BD: I started at Cooper in the Fall of 2009. As for what brought me here... I was applying for faculty jobs and Cooper Union was the best choice in terms of what I wanted. The quality of students, urban location, expectations of the faculty, etc. were exactly what I was looking for. I actually interviewed in the old building - that was the only time I'd ever been in there. They didn't hate me, and so they offered me the job.

CP: What do you think of your job at Cooper?

BD: I really like it. It's very valuable to me to be able to both teach and learn every day. It's very satisfying to me that you students are so dedicated to learning. At most schools, the challenge for the teacher is engaging the students and getting them to complete the work assigned. At Cooper, the students are enthusiastic and always do everything I ask them to do. This is great and creates a different challenge for me: I have to present a set of things which are meaningful and challenging to everyone at the same time, and I find that really fun.

CP: What advice would you give to Cooper students?

BD: Most of my advisees I tell to get an engineering job after finishing their degree at Cooper. The training you receive at Cooper is very specific and technical. You are trained to be an engineer. I think you are very employable, and if you don't try it out after you're done, it's kind of a waste of the value of your training. If you like working as an engineer, great. If not, you have all sorts of other options, like graduate school, or even law school or medical school.

CP: Can you share a special moment between you and your spouse?

SS: We've shared a lot of funny moments but the most special moment would definitely be the marriage ceremony.

CP: Do you have any closing remarks?

SS: Not really

BY YARA ELBOROLOS (CE '14)

CP: Who is your favorite professor at Cooper?

BD: I ask students who take Numerical Methods with me what their favorite class was. The most students say that Professor Uglesich taught their favorite class, whether it be his Neurophysiology or Modern Physics course. So I think he is the most popular among students. As for my favorite professor, I plead the fifth! I wouldn't want to leave anyone out.

CP: Are you married/engaged/in a relationship?

BD: I am married. My wife's name is Jessie.

CP: When/how did you meet?

BD: We met at UCLA. She got her J.D. there while I was doing my Ph.D.

CP: Can you share a special moment/story between you and your partner?

BD: Well, this isn't really a story, but she always likes to say she was the one who pursued me, which I think is funny because it's not true!

CP: What is your stance on Cooper's financial situation?

BD: I do very much believe in the institution's mission as tuition free. It's something I think is valuable, honorable, and worth keeping. It's part of what attracted me to Cooper; unlike many large universities, Cooper doesn't treat education as a business or a revenue source. Too often, undergraduate programs serve as funding for graduate education and research. Education should be provided to anyone who wants it. In order to keep this, we have some hard decisions to make, involving spending less money and making more money. I'm hopeful in finding a solution to do that without changing the mission or strengths of this institution.

CP: What do you think about the student body trying to help resolve the financial situation?

BD: I think it's admirable that the students are doing their part to support the school; it's a sign of good citizenship. It's important that students acknowledge what is currently afflicting the institution. It's good that Cooper students are involved and helpful. Ultimately, the decision-making comes from the top as far as identifying and implementing the best solutions. But students should be involved and care, and it's clear that they do.

CP: Any closing remarks?

BD: Happy Valentine's Day!!

BY ROBIN KUTNER (CHE '13)



**TONI
BURRELL**



*Administrative Assistant
for the Career Department
and Athletics*

30 Cooper, 6th Floor

Cooper Pioneer: Where are you from?

Toni Burrell: I live in the outer borough of The Bronx.

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

TB: I graduated from Pace University with my Bachelors Degree in Applied Psychology

and Human Relations. Cooper Union is the first professional position I've held.

CP: When did you first learn about Cooper Union?

TB: I learned about Cooper Union in High School from my Geography teacher. She said "If you're good in math and science apply to Cooper Union".

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

TB: The full tuition scholarship also intrigued me because you don't see schools that offer all students full tuition scholarships. I've been working at Cooper Union since August 2007.

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

TB: My roles at Cooper Union as an administrative assistant entails assisting students navigate through our career centers website, to answer inquiries about our services, help to coordinate events and schedule athletic games with Dean Baker.

CP: How much do you like your job at Cooper?

TB: I enjoy working at Cooper Union. It's a great institution that has both great staff members and students.

CP: What advice would you give to Cooper students?

TB: Come to all career events! Try to be involved in as many activities that are offered throughout campus. The undergraduate experience is very important so enjoy it because it comes and goes so quickly.



STAN MINTCHEV

Assistant Professor of

Mathematics

3rd floor, office 310

Cooper Pioneer: Where are you from?

Stan Mintchev: I was born in Sofia, Bulgaria, where I spent my first seven-and-a-half years. After a short (three-week) stint in Seattle, WA (my father was on a scientist exchange program with Seattle's Fred Hutchinson Hospital in '86-'87), we moved to the Washington, DC area. In the late 80's / early 90's, we took turns living in Bulgaria and the United States. I got my US citizenship in the late 90's.

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

SM: I went to high school at the Groton School in Groton, MA. I later completed BS degrees in physics and mathematics at The George Washington University in Washington, DC. I went to NYU for graduate school in mathematics, completing an MS and a Ph.D. at the Courant Institute. I do research in the field of dynamical systems (a mathematical setting for studying time-dependent phenomena), with some applications to physical and biological systems.

CP: When did you first learn about Cooper Union?

SM: I knew of Lincoln's Cooper Union address from my American history class in high school. Several of us looked into the name of this speech and discovered information about the school and its founder; some classmates were New Yorkers and had an "oh yeah" moment. We looked into the college and its admissions statistics and found that it was among the most selective in the country (it came as a great surprise that the admission rates can rival the Techs and the Ivy League). Of course, I did not gain a full appreciation for the institution until I moved to the East

Village for grad school.

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

SM: The reputation of Cooper Union and its talented student body came up frequently during my days as a graduate student. I had several colleagues that had attended Cooper prior to Courant; they spoke wonders of the atmosphere at the institution and the vibrant dynamic between faculty and students. This inspired me to teach a course here as an adjunct instructor during the Spring semester of 2008 (while I was writing my Ph.D. thesis). I started an appointment as a visiting professor with the math department in Fall 2008.

CP: What do you think of your job at Cooper?

SM: I am privileged to have a wonderful academic appointment, one that allows me to teach interesting courses at a high level to talented students, while keeping up some research projects with mathematicians from NYU and abroad. I greatly enjoy being challenged by my students to improve their conceptual understanding. I feel that I am becoming a better teacher in the long run, and I see this as a tremendous positive. I am thrilled to have a job that enriches my life and improves me professionally.

CP: What advice would you give to Cooper students?

SM: This is a good question as a follow-up to the one above. I think Cooper students should think carefully about defining for themselves the difference between "job" and "career." Bright, intelligent undergrads should aspire to having long, productive careers as trained professionals. This has a lot to do with choice and pursuit, but it has even more to do with thinking ahead to life in the profession. Professional satisfaction is huge, and has much to do with whether one feels challenged and improved over time. I think some introspection early on (freshman and sophomore years) can go a long way in the direction of defining a bright career path.

CP: Who is your favorite professor at Cooper?

SM: Respectfully, I plead the 5th on this one (although you should feel free to print this). I have wonderful colleagues, and I would not want to choose favorites among them.

CP: Because this is our Valentine's Day edition of The Pioneer, we were wondering if you would be willing to share stories from personal life. Are you married/engaged/in a relationship?

SM: As of July 16, 2011, I am married to Elizabeth Verostek.

Sidenote: Our anniversary is the same as that of Prof. Davis and his wife (although they got married in 2010). Hmm... Is there a trend

here?

CP: When and how did you meet him/her?

SM: We met in September of 2001, in Washington, DC. Liz was starting graduate school as I was finishing up my undergrad at The George Washington University.

CP: Can you share a special moment between you and your partner?

SM: My wife and I share special moments whenever we are reminded of how well we know each other and how much we love each other.

Liz is incredible at throwing surprise parties. I was on the receiving end of one such, on the occasion of my 25th birthday. She managed to organize my entire NYC friend group into showing up early and hiding out at our apartment in Stuy Town. It had been a rainy Friday in November, and I remember feeling rather melancholic at the thought of a low-key celebration (I love getting together with my friends and celebrating big). Needless to say, I was thrilled when I heard the vigorous "Surprise!" Later that evening, I distinctly recall a moment when our eyes met. Right there and then, we knew that we know each other better than anyone else knows us. Indeed, this moment was special. It was an instant of pure and concentrated happiness.

CP: What is your stance on Cooper's financial situation?

SM: I am optimistic. I think that tough times cause institutions and people alike to reevaluate their goals and to ultimately grow from the experience. History has plenty examples of institutions (both academic and corporate) that have emerged from financial struggles and done well once more. There is no evidence to suggest that Cooper's story will be any different.

CP: What do you think about the student body trying to help resolve the financial situation?

SM: I am very impressed by the student body (and more generally, the alumni) response. I think that students should fight long and hard to keep Cooper Union free. Many of us at the school take great pride in being affiliated with an institution that offers a full-tuition scholarship to all of its students. I firmly believe that education should be free to all, and Cooper Union has managed to realize this for some time. I hope that we continue to stand for this ideal.

CP: Do you have any closing remarks?

SM: Thanks for the interview. Happy Valentines Day!

BY ROBIN KUTNER (CHE '13)



CARMELO PIZZUTO

Senior Maintenance Supervisor

Buildings and Grounds Office

Cooper Pioneer: Where are you from?

Carmelo Pizzuto: I am originally from Palermo, Sicily.

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

Pizzuto: I graduated from the Istituto Alberghiero Professionale e Ristorazione dei beni di Sicilia. I took accounting needed for managing, purchasing for everything needed in hotels. I was interacting with and managing all personnel. I studied about the history and restoration methods of Italian Art. I did Italian cuisine, winery, olive oil pressing, etc. I learned English and French to be able to interact with tourists.

I have been in the USA for 40 years where I am managing to improve my professional background. I got involved in all the different trades of construction. I applied and landed a job as a Building Inspector for the Building Department of NYC. I sold Real Estate. I worked for ten years in my own business in home improvement and restoration.

CP: When did you first learn about Cooper Union?

Pizzuto: Fourteen years ago I heard from a friend of an opening at Cooper Union. I had just sold my business and I was sending my resume to construction companies.

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

Pizzuto: I decided to apply at Cooper Union where I filled a Carpenter position; I gave it a try and loved it. I got my promotion as a Senior Maintenance Supervisor about four years ago when Jody Grapes took the position of Director of Facilities Management and restructured the Buildings and Grounds Department.

CP: How much do you like your job at Cooper?

Pizzuto: It has been a happy marriage with Cooper since day one, I love my work and working at The Cooper Union from the Advancement of Science and Art. When you like what you do you never work a day of your life.

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

Pizzuto: My role is to oversee the day to day operations of the maintenance staff, to coordinate with outside contractors, to supervise the successful completion of minor renovations, and purchase maintenance supplies and replacement parts. My department oversees day to day facilities operations.

CP: What advice would you give to Cooper students?

Pizzuto: Don't be afraid to get your hands dirty. Learn all that you can; never say it is not my job. Your time at Cooper soon will be a remembrance; use the four year of college to build your future, do not throw them away. Remember how many sets of four years you went through already.

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

Pizzuto: I love all the Cooper professors that I interact with. It is a great community.

CP: Because this is our Valentine's edition of The Pioneer, we were wondering if you would be willing to share stories from personal life. Are you married/engaged?

Pizzuto: I have been married for 35 years and still going strong. The secret for a good long marriage is to go home after work. Treat your wife like a wife, lover, and best friend, never take her for granted. Don't forget to bring home flowers for no occasion

CP: Can you share a special moment between you and your spouse?

Pizzuto: Some of our special moments were the birth of our 3 kids and my granddaughter Valentina Sofia our bundle of joy.

CP: What do you think about Cooper's financial situation?

Pizzuto: I really think that Cooper is facing serious financial trouble in a weak economy. Cooper College founded in 1859 has provided free education and has done a tremendous job. Cooper needs probably all the help they could get to restructure their finances and I think that anybody that is getting involved in trying to find a solution together with Cooper is doing the right thing.

CP: What do you think about the student body trying to help resolve the financial situation?

Pizzuto: I think the student body trying to help resolve the financial situation is a good thing.

CP: Do you have any closing remarks?

Pizzuto: Times do change. Do the best you can. Fight for your right but do not be unilateral.

BY CHRISTOPHER HONG (EE '13)

VALENTINE'S COMIC BY UYEN NGUYEN (ME '14)



SUDOKEN

BY MARCUS MICHELEN (CE '14)

4	3+		15+	2	8+	3-		9
9+	360x			7+		6x		1-
		6	80x		48x	4		
12+				945x			12x	
9	5+					12x		8
2+		13+			70x		4-	
24x	11+	9		13+		8	126x	3-
			6x		9			
1	1-			8	4	14+		2

Instructions: This puzzle, as it’s horribly punny title would have you believe, is both a KenKen and a Sudoku.

As a Sudoku, each row and column contains the numbers 1-9 exactly once each. Along with this, each 3x3, shaded or non-shaded box contains the numbers 1-9 once each as well.

As a KenKen, each bolded region has an operator and number in the top-left corner of it. The numbers in each region must add, subtract, multiply or divide (the operator in question) to the value in the top of the box.

And with that, I wish you happy puzzling.

The solution to the KenKen from Mini Issue #7 is below.

1	4	3	2	5
3	5	1	4	2
5	1	2	3	4
2	3	4	5	1
4	2	5	1	3

Call for Entries:
MAKE PETER PROUD
A COMPETITION TO ENVISION THE FUTURE OF FREE HIGHER EDUCATION

Competition Deadline
March 7, 2012, 12:00 EST

Call for Entries
In 1977, Cooper Union alumnus Milton Glaser was asked to help revive the image of New York City in the face of a financial crisis and generally bleak future. His response? Good design and flawless concept. A logo that would boost the morale of New Yorkers time after time and be replicated worldwide.

Think free education makes a flawless concept? Interested in exploring the “good” in good design? Here’s your chance. At a time when student debt outstrips personal debt, at a time when Cooper Union’s legacy of free education is under dire threat, Friends of Cooper Union are now asking all designers, artists, architects, engineers, writers, financiers, investors and people-who-catalyze: what does the future of free higher education look like?

Pitch an ad campaign, a new logo, a new outreach program, an improved financial model - submit any practicable positive idea to Friends of Cooper Union. We’ll highlight and discuss the best ideas on our website, top submissions will be invited to refine their work and present at a public event in April, and the winner will receive a hundred bucks, drinks, and whatever Friends can scratch up in the very near future.

Make Peter Proud.
Think freely. Put some thought into our question. Inform yourself about the promise free education makes and imagine how Cooper Union can keep that promise. Don’t reinvent the wheel - Peter Cooper wouldn’t have “reinvented” something that just needed some creative TLC.

Submission guidelines
Use your own online platform or channel to submit your ideas and we’ll link to you. If your files are less than 20 MB, submit your work to us by email and we’ll blast it on the Friends of Cooper Union flickr page, Vimeo, or YouTube channel.

Registration
Register at www.friendsofcooperunion.org

Questions?
Email makepeterproud@friendsofcooperunion.org

Upcoming Events

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 12, 2012 | 2PM

Peter Cooper's 221st Birthday

Greenwood Cemetery
20th Street and Prospect Park West
Brooklyn, NY 11232

Join Cooper Union alum in remembering and celebrating Cooper and his legacy. We will first meet in the afternoon at the 20th Street and Prospect Park West Entrance, to visit Peter Cooper's grave. In the evening, we will celebrate, as Peter Cooper would, at McSorley's Ale House.

See <http://petercooper221birthday.eventbrite.com/> for more details!

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 21, 2012 | 7PM

Friends of Cooper Union Strategies Pin-up

The Cooper Union
41 Cooper Square Rm LL101
NYC, NY 10003

Presentation of findings from the Breakouts. Register to bring your idea to the table or just come to listen. Open to the public for comment and review. Food and refreshments for all attendees.

See <http://cooperunioncommons.org> for more details!

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 29, 2012 | 7PM

Friends of Cooper Union Strategies Breakout Session #4

The Cooper Union
41 Cooper Square Rm LL101
NYC, NY 10003

Online and in your neighborhood, a facilitated breakout session in New York, as well as Florida, Chicago, and West Coast, hosted by Alumni Regional Reps. Food and refreshments for all attendees.

See <http://cooperunioncommons.org> for more details!

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Wreath Laying Ceremony

(continued from page 3 by Marcus Michelen)
for the entirety of the song. Something got messed up with my stand and my keyboard fell halfway off the stand and into my lap. I missed about a little over a bar while fixing the keyboard and was incredibly disappointed with how I did. We finished the song and the rest of the musicians congregated around the piano.

People were talking about two female students walked less than two feet away from me and took of their shirts in front of the entire crowd. Everyone who got a better view of them than I did said that they had something written on their chest - “Education is your naked right”.

The event finished with everyone speaking to each other quietly. No one formally addressed it and everyone just kind of cleaned up and walked away. There was something very strange about the whole situation. I’ve been thinking about that silence a lot since then and think I finally figured out why we were all so quiet about it. Not a single person was honestly surprised that people were protesting; we were merely surprised that two girls flashed the entire Cooper Community. Sure, they flashed the school but they did it for a reason. I certainly don’t approve of what they did but I definitely approve of why they did it. They probably wanted everyone to start talking about the tuition crisis again. That silence tells me that we’re tired of talking about it. It makes me think that we’ve already accepted defeat.

Part of me wants to write a gigantic rant about how we all need to talk about it more but I don’t think I should have to do that. Yeah, we’re all aware of how bad the situation is. But the worst thing we can do as a group is to stop talking about it. So if we remember anything from the wreath laying ceremony this year, it’ll most likely be the protest-driven flashing. Let’s just make sure we remember why they did that.

(continued from page 3 by Anonymous)
alumni are burnt out from the subject of tuition politics. But the question is, once it slips, can we ever get it back? How much energy do we put in to keep it safe or risk the shock of its disappearance, then try to fill the air of a new balloon? How will Cooper Union be reincarnated if it dies? Will Cooper Union just be something good that happened once in history?

The two events, passive but loud, shocked us. Perhaps we are most reactionary by it, because nothing have happened in a while and we let our guards down. The two events should inspire independent individual or group demonstrations. It will be spring soon, and more demonstrations will come out of the wood works when the sun stays longer.



Photos from the Wreath Laying Ceremony by Jenna Lee (ME '15) Christopher Hong (EE '13)



FRONT COVER BY MAY ANUNTARUNGSUN (ART'12)
BACK COVER BY JENNA LEE (ME'15)