The Pioneer

PHONATHON 2012

JASMINE AHUJA (EE '13)

Cooper Union's annual Phonathon took place during Spring Break, and I recently talked to Joseph McDonald, Director of the Annual Fund and the organizer of this year's Phonathon, about how the event went. This was McDonald's first Phonathon at Cooper, but he has worked to raise money for the Annual Fund at other institutions. McDonald described the event at Cooper as a positive experience.

In the beginning of a typical Phonathon session, he said that "it's always quiet for about a minute or two, and there's a nervous energy in the room, and then you hear dialing...and then before you know it, something weird happens and the room is just bustling. Everyone's on the phone, everyone's talking." The volunteers received a road map of what they should say during a phone call. They started out by introducing themselves as a member of the Cooper community. Then they began chatting with the people they called about their experiences at Cooper. As McDonald said, "Every individual caller does it a little differently. The most important thing about the call is that the caller be comfortable, and that it be a real conversation. That's what works." After the volunteers

Phonathon. Photo by Christopher Hong (EE '13).

established a bond with the people they called, they went on to talk about the importance of Cooper's tradition of charging no tuition. Other institutions also have annual funds, but they are used to make up for the difference between what tuition pays for and what expenses actually cost since tuition does not cover the whole cost. At Cooper, the annual fund is doubly important; the volunteers make the case that donating would be an honorable thing to do, and help support the cause of a free education.

The best outcome of a phone call would be that a credit card payment is made right away. The second

FOCUS

YARA ELBOROLOSY (CE '14)

On Wednesday March 21st, about 20 alumni and a few students came together to discuss potential ideas in assisting Cooper Union with its financial situation at the Friends of Cooper Union Strategies (FOCUS) Group Sessions. At this meeting, nearly every person was given a folder that was titled with a different focus such as the Cooper Union Community. Each folder had several pages filled with all of the potential ideas brought up in previous meetings or e-mailed to members of the group. Each person with a folder went through the ideas, looking for duplicates and discussing the ideas with the other members at their table to ensure the idea was placed in the correct category. A few ideas I came across included starting an alumni mentoring program for both students and other alumni, increasing communication with alumni, and setting up online classes to get Cooper's name out. The ideas overall were pretty good and if they are implemented, we should be seeing some good results. The group is scheduled to meet again next Wednesday (3/28) at 7 P.M. and love hearing from the students.

VERITAS FORUM

The Intervarsity-hosted Veritas Forum took place last Thursday, March 22nd. For more information of this event you can read Intervarsity's own description of the event at http://cooperunionivcf.blogspot.com/2012/03/veritas-forum.html. [photo below from the website]

FOCUS, 3/21/12. Photo by Christopher Hong (EE '13).

TEAM WORLD VISION 5K RUN

REBECCA LONG (CHE '12)

This past Saturday, on March 24th, a diverse group of alumni, students, faculty and staff members participated in Team World Vision's 5K run raising money for clean water in Africa. This money is specifically going to building pipelines and wells in Kenya and Ethiopia. Access to clean water changes the entire community. Children can go to school and women don't have to walk for miles to bring water to their homes. The race was a joint event organized by Cooper's Cross Country Team and Intervarsity Christian Fellowship.

A total of 21 Cooperites finished the race! We surpassed our team goal of $1,000 and raised a total of $1,455. This group included our very own President Jamshed Bharucha, and Professors Mintchev and McGlade of the mathematics and humanities department, respectively. We even had representation from the Development Office at 30 Cooper Square – Mr. Joseph McDonald, who is the director of the annual fund. One artist, Shira Service, A' 14, joined this hoard of engineering

EGG DROP COMPETITION

SAIMON SHARIF (CHE '15)

On Tuesday March 20th, the Annual Egg Drop Competition was held. It was a part of Engineering Week and organized by Engineering Student Council. Six teams, consisting of two or three students, were given one hour to design and create a capsule for their egg. The eggs were dropped from the third floor of the Foundation Building. If the eggs survived – which, unfortunately, not many did – the team was judged on their design's weight and their distance from the bull's eye. Extra points were awarded to teams who had group members from a mix of schools. Nicholas Rendina (ChE'15), David Katz (EE'15), and Daniel Bach (ME'14) won first place. The event was covered by the Daily News [1] and the NYT blog [2].

1. http://www.nydailynews.com/news/cooper-union-engineering-students-compete-construct-a-contraption-egg-breaking-a-fall-article-1.1047820
2. http://eastvillage.thelocal.nytimes.com/2012/03/21/the-day-the-comedians-of-east-village-comedy/

Photos from www.cooper.edu.

Phonathon 2012

(continued from front)

best outcome is that the donor pledges to pay a specific amount of money by mail. The third best outcome is that people pledge to send money, but do not specify an amount. These types of pledges are usually not fulfilled, although McDonald said that people at Cooper are more likely to fulfill them than at most places. The total amount of money raised through credit card payments and specific pledges this year was $290,000. There were 198 unspecified pledges. Based on data from past years, approximately $100,000 can be raised from these them.

However, the goal for the Phonathon was $400,000. According to McDonald, the announcement of Cooper Union's financial crisis played a role in the Phonathon not reaching its goal this year. Over 400 people who normally make a gift during Phonathon made their gift earlier in the year, upon hearing about the crisis, so a substantial amount of money was collected even before the Phonathon. In terms of volunteers, McDonald said that less people volunteered this year than in previous years, stemming from a nervousness of how to address questions about the financial crisis that may come up during a phone conversation.

Even if the Phonathon did not reach its goal, McDonald said that there are plenty of potential donors who have not yet been contacted, and that he will like to extend the event to continue asking for donations. In this way, the Phonathon can reach its goal by the end of the year. As a matter of fact, McDonald supports implementing a new model for the Phonathon, one where making phone calls isn't limited to just one week of the year. After all, in one week, even when there are enough volunteers to fill a room, not everyone who can donate will be called.

5K Run

(continued from front)

students and even helped design the bright orange t-shirts the Cooper team fashionably wore on race day.
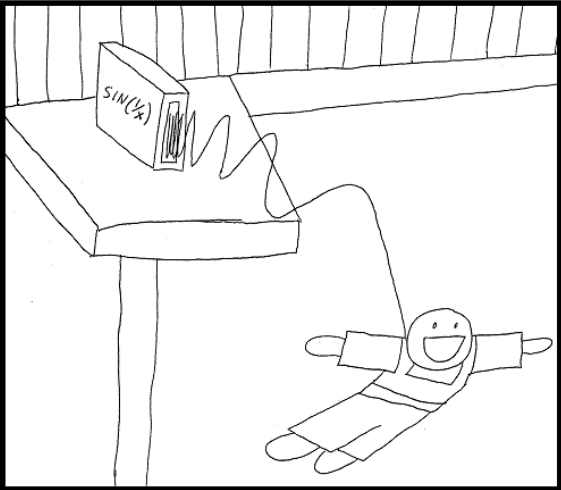
Two alumni were present as well – Logan Yu, ChE'08, who came in with the best time among the cooper team and among the top 5 overall, and Joshua Eng, EE'10, the team's personal photographer. All years and engineering majors were represented. Students who came out for the race are involved in many Cooper activities such as the Zeta Psi fraternity, Engineering Student Council, basketball, cross-country, volleyball, and soccer teams, and Intervarsity Christian Fellowship. This just gives you a glimpse of what the Cooper community is going together to care about people outside of our community, half way around the world. It truly brings out the best in our Cooper community. If you .want to support the team financially, visit teamworldvisiion.org. For more pictures, visit www.cooperunionivcf.blogspot.com.

(Below) Photo by Joshua Eng (EE '10).

Pat your friends on the back for completing the race:

President Jamshed Bharucha
Professor Stan Mintchev, Mathematics Dept.
Professor Sean McGlade, Humanities Dept.
Joseph McDonald, Development Office
Katrina Chalmers, CE'13
James Collins, CE'12
Katie Correll, ME'12
Andrew Crudge, ME'13
Philip Jones, EE'12
Jennifer Li, EE'14
Rebecca Long, ChE'12
Yuta Makita, ME'15
Joe Micheels, ChE'14
Daniel Moreno, ME'14
Dan Quang, ChE'12
Matthew Schoen, ME'12
Shira Service, A'14
Andrew Tallaksen, ME'15
Matthew Wieder, BSE'12
Logan Yu, ChE'08

Phonathon. Photo by Christopher Hong (EE '13).

KenKen

MARCUS MICHELEN (CE '14)

KenKen is a Japanese paper puzzle by Tetsuya Miyamoto much like Sudoku, only it involves both math and logic. It roughly translates to "cleverness-cleverness."

Instructions: Like Sudoku, each row and column must contain the numbers from 1 to 6. 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 next to the number. For example, the "2-" rectangle in the top right corner can be filled in with a 6,4; a 5,3; a 4,2; or a 3,1 (or the reverse of those numbers).

The solution to this puzzle will be released next week. The solution to the KenKen from the Spring Issue is below.

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

I Don't Think It's Even Connected

RAMON SANDOVAL (EE '12)

Cryptoquote

MARCUS MICHELEN (CE '14)

A Cryptoquote is an encoded quote. It is encoded such that each and every occurrence of a letter is substituted with a different letter of the alphabet. Using clues such as frequency of occurrence and placement, the original quote can be found. For instance, the word XBDIKCXXBZ could be deciphered to reveal the word LONGFELLOW.

QNO JKKL QNEYJ DZKSQ HIEOYIO

EH QNDQ EQ'H QCSO VNOQNOC PKS

ZOBEOAO EQ KC KC YKQ.

-YOEB LOJCDHHO QPHKY

Solution to Spring issue cryptoquote:

Any intelligent fool can make things bigger and more complex... It takes a touch of genius - and a lot of courage - to move in the opposite direction.
-Albert Einstein

KenKen puzzle grid:

3÷		7+		2-	
6×		6×		9+	1-
2÷	2÷		8+		
	10+			3×	
11+		18×	6+		3+
1-			3÷		