

# STUDENT'S LIST: A LIST OF PROFESSORS

MARCUS MICHELEN (BSE '14)

Everybody knows about the Dean's list; it typically consists of all the students that have received a 3.5 or higher. The engineering student body's response to the Dean's list consists of, roughly, the highest rated professors from the Engineering School. Without further ado:

- Prof. Michael Bambino
- Prof. Brian Cusack
- Prof. Gwen Hyman
- Prof. Julian Keenan
- Prof. Carl Sable
- Prof. Robert Smyth
- Prof. Alan Tenney
- Prof. Robert Topper
- Prof. Cosmas Tzavelis
- Prof. Leonid Vulakh

According to ESC representative Andrew Crudge (ME '13), this list is the result from ESC's course evaluations. These evaluations were sent out, using non-cooper emails, to all engineering students who registered a non-cooper email address with ESC. According to Crudge, 263 undergraduate students took the ESC course evaluations. This list compiled automatically by averaging the responses to questions that were directly relevant to each professor.

The Students' List from last year was compiled in a different fashion: students were allowed to vote for one professor and the professor with the most votes made the list. Since this year did not require each professor to receive a large amount of votes, the new list contains a few adjunct professors while the previous list did not.

When asked why adjuncts were included on this new list, Crudge said "Adjuncts have always been in the running. In previous years we sent out a poll and asked students to choose one professor, which led to results that were statistically biased against adjuncts, who generally taught fewer students. This year our method is based on average responses, so it theoretically is not affected by the number of students a professor teaches."

Professors Robert Smyth and Cosmas Tzavelis are the only two professors to be listed on this year's list as well as last year's. Additionally, this year sees the inclusion of Humanities professors (e.g. Hyman and Keenan).

For reference, the previous list may be found at <http://pioneer.cooper.edu/cooper-pioneer-volume-91-miniissue-10-march-5-2012/>.



## SPORTS UPDATE

YARA ELBOROLOS (CE '14)

The women's tennis and volleyball teams' season ended in the winter. Judy Wu, a junior civil engineering student currently on the women's tennis team, commented on the women's tennis team's performance: "After weeks of training in South Carolina and Cape Cod, the women's tennis team had an exciting season."

Playing home matches in the US Tennis Center, the team faced strong competitors such as Pratt, St. Joseph, and New Rochelle, and was able to seize victory in the majority of their matches. The women's tennis team hopes for similar successes in the upcoming seasons."

The women's volleyball team also had a pretty good season. They focused on building a strong foundation for their team, which included recruiting and training new girls. By the end of the season, their players grew as a team and truly worked together.

Both the men and women's basketball teams are almost done with the season. Both teams are losing some of their best players because their seniors are graduating, but the new recruits are learning quick and older players are stepping up. The men's tennis and volleyball team's season started up pretty quick and they're excited to play. The men's (and women's) tennis team will be headed to South Carolina in March for training for an excellent start to their season.

*(Recent scores have been reproduced below.)*

2/10/2013  
Women's Basketball @ College of New Rochelle  
21-81 L

2/22/2013  
Women's Basketball @ Kings College  
47-42 W  
Men's Basketball @ Kings College  
52-42 W

## ID SCANNER

SAIMON SHARIF (CHE '15)

On January 23rd, a campus notice was sent to faculty, staff, and students with the subject "A Message About Safety." The email stated that faculty, staff, and students attempting to enter 41 Cooper Square (NAB) would be required to swipe in using their Cooper Union ID card. The same group must show their Cooper Union ID when entering The Foundation Building. Previously, the ID requirement was only occasionally enforced.

*"The change in ID policy is due to a higher frequency of incidents involving outside individuals."*

According to Dean Lemiesz, the change in ID policy is due to a higher frequency of incidents involving outside individuals, previously related to Cooper Union, gaining entrance to buildings. Since older Cooper Union ID had color-coded validation stickers, a swipe policy for the NAB was planned when the building was constructed, but other matters interfered with the installation of the card readers.

## CRYPTOQUOTE

MARCUS MICHELEN (BSE '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.

"LEGSFQDG QHAECGW SDAS DEY NGLEIY  
MAY EL DEY LXYSPEHY ALW E SDELV SDAS EY  
A ZGPU GRQGHGLS JHAQG BXP ES SX OG."

- BGWGPEQX BGHHELE

Last issue's solution:

THE MOST EXCITING PHRASE TO HEAR IN  
SCIENCE, THE ONE THAT HERALDS THE MOST  
DISCOVERIES, IS NOT 'EUREKA!' BUT 'THAT'S  
FUNNY...' - ISAAC ASIMOV

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## KENKEN

MARCUS MICHELEN (BSE '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 "10x" rectangle in the bottom right corner can be filled in with a 5,2; or a 2,5.

The unique solution to the last issue's puzzle is reproduced below. This puzzle contains only one solution, which will be released in the next issue.

5	2	3	4	6	1
3	5	6	1	4	2
2	6	4	5	1	3
4	3	1	6	2	5
6	1	5	2	3	4
1	4	2	3	5	6

2	11+		9+	14+	
40x	6				14+
	13+				
			60x		
18x		4		6÷	10x
	6x				

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Photo Credit: Jenna Lee (ME '15)

## CALL BACK YOUR TANKS

MARCUS MICHELEN (BSE '14)

On Friday March 1, 2013 a few members of the Board of Trustees, along with President Bharucha, spoke before the Cooper Community in the Great Hall. We were treated to a brief history lesson from trustee Michael Borkowsky (ME '61), followed by a Q&A session. The first batch of questions came from a cache of roughly 120 questions that were submitted online by various members of the Cooper Community. The second batch of questions was asked by members of the audience. These questions were moderated by trustee Edgar Mokuvos (EE '78). Also present from the Board of Trustees were Don Blauweiss, A '61; Raymond Falci, ME '86; Thomas Driscoll, ME '77; Francois de Menil, ARCH '87 and, of course, Mark Epstein A '76.

These seven members of the Board of Trustees took their seats at 6 PM, almost exactly on the hour. President Bharucha wasn't there at first. Something felt very off. There are a lot of members of the Board of Trustees, presumably with a fair amount of diversity. Why, then, would they pick seven, white men with glasses in their forties? At the risk of sounding exceedingly snarky, the panel bore more than a passing resemblance to Statler and Waldorf, the grumpy millionaires of *The Muppets*.

I was not the only one to notice the homogenous group of men that sat before the hungry audience; at the forum, Professor Anita Grossman of the Humanities Department said, "Never have I been confronted with a podium that is so entirely male." Mark Epstein responded, with the right amount of humor and self-consciousness, "we're well aware that we're too male and white."

I don't bring up the lack of diversity for the sake of a cheap joke and obvious reference. Clearly, there must have been a reason that these seven were selected, especially since a female member of the Board of Trustees sat in the front row of the audience, not a member of the panel. Looking at the list of Trustees on [cooper.edu](http://cooper.edu/about/trustees) ([cooper.edu/about/trustees](http://cooper.edu/about/trustees)), we see 22 names listed, including Jamshed's. Of these 21 (I omit Jamshed), eleven have degrees from Cooper Union. All eleven are male. The members of the Board of Trustees who spoke on March 1st were all male, yes, but more importantly, they all have degrees from Cooper.

I'm sure many of you are writing this off as a mere coincidence already, so I did a little bit of number crunching. Let's assume that the seven members were chosen randomly from the pool of 21 names; the odds that all seven members chosen were Cooper graduates are approximately .284%, less than 3 in 1000. To me, this shows that these men were chosen largely because of their direct ties to the Cooper Community.

It's no secret that we as students and faculty members have alienated the Board of Trustees. In their own way, I think this choice of having Cooper grads speak is a very well-intentioned attempt to connect with the fairly intimidating Cooper Community more.

Demographics aside, the forum was quite typical. Many fantastic questions were asked, a few repetitive questions were asked and, as expected, Professor Sohnya Sayres calmly and elegantly explained the beauty of the meritocratic nature of Cooper Union. Most familiar, perhaps, were how the members of the Board dodged and avoided questions.

The members represented did not take any kind of responsibility for mass deferring of the Art school's class of 2017, they failed to tell us when real decisions will be made (they have told us that March 6 is an important meeting, however) and, in some cases, the members simply dismissively disagreed with points raised. For instance, a student brought up the lack of transparency in the Board of Trustees and Thomas Driscoll simply responded with "I think there's been a very transparent process."

What else were we expecting? I joked before the meeting that the best case scenario would be the announcement of a large-scale gift and that the worst case scenario would be the announcement of the closure or implementation of tuition at any of the three schools. We didn't get either of those, clearly, but frankly we didn't gain any substantial information at all. Which naturally brings to mind a more complicated question: why even hold this meeting in the first place?

We'd all love to believe that the Board of Trustees would like to hear the opinion of the community before making any dramatic decisions, but it's a little bit late for that. The Board is well aware of what the community feels about nearly everything at this point; I don't know how much that affects the decision that they will eventually reach, but at this point it would be outrageous if they didn't know how the community feels. Given the sheer lack of new content that appeared during this meeting and the choice of all Cooper graduates, this seems like an attempt to reach out to the community gone wrong.

In retrospect, nothing else could have really happened. We're at the point in time where we, as a community, cannot influence the Board's decisions. All we can do is wait. In lofty terms, this meeting was a form of *anagnorisis*: the moment in a Greek Tragedy when the tragic hero is suddenly made aware of his fate. While it may be a reach to compare the troubles of the Cooper Community to a hero in an Aristotelian tragedy, this meeting was nothing but a severe kick back to reality. It was the time we collectively realized that this is really happening. Just like the classic Greek Tragedies, there's nothing we can do about our fate. Whatever happens at this point is completely out of our control.

The only thing we can do is attempt to reach out to the Board of Trustees. Regardless of what happens to the Cooper Union, every single person in the Cooper Community can only better from more secure and real connections between the Board of Trustees and the rest of the community. We've tried to reach out to Board on numerous occasions; many of the questions that students presented before the Board on March 1st were strictly about improving relationships between the Board and the Cooper Community. I know it's a cliché to say so at this point, but the Board is not reciprocating our effort.

As a community, we have to keep trying. March 1st was a day where we tried very hard to reach out and the Board simply gave us nothing. When Professor Sayres beautifully described the appeal of Cooper Union, she stood before the Board of Trustees in an attempt to communicate she believed they did not understand. A friend of mine took a screenshot from the live stream when she was speaking to the Board; the results are quite poignant.



Screenshot Credit: Harrison Cullen (BSE '15)

We see our Sohnya Sayres standing before these power-tie wearing gentlemen. This photo encapsulates the clear and apparent barrier between the Board of Trustees and the Cooper Community, a wall both parties lent a hand to help erect. Visually, it bears much resemblance to the iconic photo of a man standing alone before a column of tanks in the Tiananmen Square protests. It is all too easy to demonize the Board of Trustees as a vaguely fascist, imposing and mechanical group of scary men in suits. We must move past this. These were Cooper grads we met with. They aren't an *extension* of the Community; they are a *part* of the Cooper Community.

There's room on both sides to try harder. Somehow, we need to improve our image of this collection of people. In turn, they need to reach back to us when we reach out to them. Someone has to make the first move; this ball won't get rolling by itself. Let's keep trying to reach out to them. Let's not think about them as Statler and Waldorf, but as our brothers and sisters in the Cooper family. It's all we can really do.

If you'd like to further discuss this op-ed, feel free to email [michel@cooper.edu](mailto:michel@cooper.edu)