On the evening of Friday, November 7, over two dozen Cooper students gathered in the New Academic Building to spend all night hard at work. While this may seem like a common trend among the student body, these students weren’t there to study for midterms or to complete mountains of homework. Instead, they gathered in the Menchel Boardroom for a night of food, programming, and fun. Code B, a mini-hackathon sponsored by Bloomberg and organized by Cooper graduates, began on Friday night and lasted until the following morning. Participants began streaming in around 6:00 PM, greeted by free Bloomberg swag and Chipotle. After they had all gathered and divided into teams made up of up to three members, Christopher Hong (EE ’13, MEE ’14) explained the objectives and rules of the competition. Unlike typical open-ended hackathons, this “uniquely Bloomberg” competition instead had each team work towards one goal: making money. The objective of each team was to develop a program that could trade equity stocks on a simulated stock exchange. “We didn’t come up with a completely new design for something; rather, we were faced with a problem and told to come up with the best solution, making the competition more office-like compared to other hackathons,” said Eli Soffer (EE ’18).
The Cooper Pioneer: What did you do before coming here? Marcus Lay: I obtained my Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from the University of Georgia in Athens, GA. The focus of my research was the electro deposition of compound semiconductors (i.e., GaSe; GaTe) for use in optoelectronic energy conversion applications. I used electrochemical scanning tunneling microscopy (STM) to determine how various electrochemical potentials could be used to grow high-quality crystal structures. STM is an analyzing tool because it allows you to actually visualize atoms and molecules. From these images, you can deduce information about the types of intermolecular forces that are present in these new bonds in the presence of an electrochemical potential. After obtaining my Ph.D., I completed two separate postdoctoral fellowships. The first was a National Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C. It was there that I first began research involving uncovering the redundant electrical properties of single-wall carbon nanotubes (SWNTs). The work centered on developing methods of growing SWNT networks for developing better chemical sensors. SWNTs are ideal for this application because they are exquisitely sensitive to vapors that approach their surface. This is because SWNTs are like a single atomic layer of graphite (called graphene) rolled into a tube; every one of their atoms is a surface atom! So, any change in their immediate environment changes their conductivity markedly, allowing one to make simple “chemiresistive” sensors that merely measure a change in conductivity to sense poten- tially dangerous gases. Next, I served as a Postdoctoral Scientist at the Cooper Union in New York City, there, I worked on chemical sensors and bio sensors for our student body includ- ing tuition scholarships and financial aid. TCP: What are the criteria for the future goals of the Cooper School Fund program? JD: The future goals of the Cooper School Fund Circle are to increase the number of donors, to the level of one of these Cooper Fund Scholars. We want our students to know that there is still the ability to contribute by our leadership donors.

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The Cooper Pioneer: Marcus Lay: I have a postdoctoral fellowship and a focus on molecular electronics. The physical forces that help to guide molecules to assemble into complex two-dimensional nanostructures are extremely crucial to our work. The Cooper Fund was my scents of pride. The leadership in each of the schools selects students to be named Cooper Fund Scholars. Students based on academic accomplishments, leadership, and service to the school. TCP: What are the future goals of the Cooper School Fund program? JD: The future goals of the Cooper School Fund Circle are to increase the number of donors, to the level of one of these Cooper Fund Scholars. We want our students to know that there is still the ability to contribute by our leadership donors.

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