Mechanical Engineering Student Leading the Way

By: Desiré Bennett

Ryan Stanley is the UC College of Engineering and Applied Science Engineer of the Month for April. Ryan maintains a 3.876 GPA in his senior year in the mechanical engineering program while working toward dual Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Mechanical Engineering in the college’s ACCEND program.

Ryan says that a multitude of reasons led to his decision to attend the University of Cincinnati. “The engineering program was noted as one of the best in the nation and engineering is a field in which I became very interested after my math and physics classes in high school,” he said. “I also wanted to branch out from Columbus, Ohio after high school and the University of Cincinnati was a part of the college experience that I wanted.”

During high school, Ryan’s math and physics teachers both recommended that he look into engineering. “I had a strong math and science background up to this point – participating in a Math & Science student exchange in grade school where I would meet twice a week and take math and science courses at another school, as well as being in an accelerated math track in high school,” he said. “After looking at mechanical engineering online, taking a few campus visits, and talking to the ME professors, I thought this major was the best fit for me.”

He says the best thing about the mechanical engineering major is how flexible it is. “A mechanical engineer is rarely limited in the work he or she can do because almost every product or service needs the expertise of a mechanical engineer,” he said. “The knowledge received by mechanical engineers can be applied in a variety of different ways, and also helps communicate with other engineering majors.”

Ultimately, Ryan says, it was the possibility of participating in cooperative education that most caught his attention. “The co-op program stood out to me after being introduced to the school,” he said. “The idea of being able to help pay for my education while gaining valuable work experience for my future resume seemed too good to be true, but yet it was!”

Ryan has completed three co-op rotations at GE Aviation. He says that he learned many things during his co-op assignments, but most notably was how to act and work with other people from
multiple aspects. “In engineering we are mostly limited to interacting with other engineers, and usually only within our own major. The reality of the situation is, however, that you need to be able to communicate with marketing and business majors, law majors, and even nurses and physicians when you begin to work after college,” he said. “Being able to take my knowledge and communicate it to my co-workers in a way they can understand was one of the most challenging but also best learning experiences I had while on co-op.”

He says that his co-op experiences put him in contact with many different mechanical engineers and helped him to appreciate the variety the field offers. “All are doing very different things,” he said. “One of them designs test equipment while another works as a manufacturing operations leader.”

Ryan participates in several extracurricular activities including the College of Engineering and Applied Science Tribunal, Residence Hall Association (RHA) where he served as treasurer, the Student Advisory Committee on the University Budget (SACUB) as a representative, he was a Student Senate Senator, and is currently a member of the University Funding Board (UFB) serving as treasurer.

He is also a member of Delta Tau Delta. “I have been heavily involved within in my fraternity. I have served on the executive board for two years, and being a part of this fraternity has helped me branch out into the other organizations with which I am involved,” he said. “These organizations have helped me learn more about my own personal skills, such as time management and leadership.”

When asked what advice he’d offer to fellow students he said, “work hard on your studies, but enjoy your time here at the University of Cincinnati. Get involved in an organization and take leadership roles,” he said. “These are the best ways to prepare yourself for your future career as they provide you with invaluable experience and problem solving situations.”

After graduation, Ryan plans to work for GE Aviation in the Operations Management Leadership Program (OMLP).