Engineer of the Month for November

By: Desiré Bennett
Photography: Compliments of Cisco

UC Computer Science Student Has the Tools to Succeed

Britney Bogard is the UC College of Engineering and Applied Science Engineer of the Month for November. Britney is a junior maintaining a 3.795 GPA in her fourth year in the computer science program while working toward an entrepreneurship minor with the college of business and dual degrees of Bachelor of Computer Science and Master of Science in the college's ACCEND program.

It was the combination of the ACCEND program, multiple scholarship offers and the potential to participate in co-op work that cemented Britney’s decision to attend UC. “I couldn't pass up the professional opportunities that the ACCEND program brought,” she said. “As far as my perspective in the long run, I love that I can do it now and in such a short amount of time.” She credits the program for the doors it has opened up for her. “My offers for co-op positions tend to be better offers, considering that I'll be graduating with a master's degree.”

Britney has participated in several different co-op experiences including a section with NASA at the Wallops Flight Facility in Wallops Island, Virginia, JC Penny in Plano, TX, GE Aviation in Evendale, OH, and at Cisco Systems in San Jose, CA – one of her favorite co-op assignments. “It was rewarding because I think I have a lot more marketable skills now to apply to a project,” she said.

While at Cisco, Britney worked on a utility to integrate annotation into current client tools. “I was on a research and development team in business collaborations,” she explains. “I was working on Reference Design of a UC Endpoint that integrates video with visual communications.”

Outside of co-op work, Britney is involved in numerous activities. These include the Grace Hoppper Women in Computing Conference, which is a networking seminar that brings together students, professionals and mentors with computing backgrounds, an activity called a “Hack-a-thon,” where Britney works in a community with others to contribute to open source coding projects, and volunteering at the Cincinnati Computer Cooperative.
“The cooperative takes in old computers and they recycle or refurbish them for underprivileged families and sell the computers at a lower price,” she explains. Once the Cincinnati Computer Cooperative sells the refurbished computer to a family, they then set them up with internet access and teach the family how to use the computer. “I basically help by pulling hard drives or taking the computer apart, cleaning and testing monitors and testing computers.”

When Britney’s not busy pulling computers apart she likes to spin fire and belly dance. “It's interesting, sometimes I wonder whether or not I should tell people but usually it's really well received.” Britney is in a performance arts troupe called Dante's Gypsy Circus, of which she attends weekly meetings and performances. “I just make sure it's a priority and it doesn't get lost on my list,” she said.

When asked how she manages to hold it all together when juggling coursework and community involvement along with extracurricular activities, she responds “I really wouldn't be where I am without support from my family in Akron and my friends here in Cincinnati,” she said. “And I also just try to make sure that the things that I would like to do are the things that keep me emotionally-well.”

On top of everything else that Britney is undertaking, she’s also searching for what she hopes to be her last co-op position. “I’m hoping to find one for next summer – that will be a determining factor for my plans after graduation,” she said. “I’d really like to find a home in that company.”

**ENGINEER OF THE MONTH**

As one of the most innovative colleges, the College of Engineering and Applied Science at the University of Cincinnati takes pride in its exceptional students and their successes. “Our vision is to produce outstanding engineers and technologists,” states Interim Dean Teik C. Lim, PhD. “WE ENGINEER BETTER™ starts with our training the next generation and we are proud to introduce a few of our leaders.”

Starting in August and each month this academic year, the college is recognizing one of our upper classmen (junior or senior) as our *Engineer of the Month*.

Each *Engineer of the Month* has demonstrated excellence in the classroom, success in their co-op assignments, and leadership through extracurricular activities on campus and/or in the community. These students have found the balance needed to be leaders and exemplary scholars.
The College of Engineering and Applied Science salutes their efforts and recognizes:

Britney Bogard

Engineer of the Month for November

Junior - 3.795 GPA

Computer Science - ACCEND™ Program