Michael Downing Claims 2012 Honoree in International Co-op Awards
By: Ashley Duvelius

Aerospace and ACCEND and International Co-op Program (ICP) student, Michael Downing, is named honoree of 2012 Outstanding International Co-op Awards Reception. Out of all of the campus majors being awarded, Downing is top of the class.

At the top of the 2012 Outstanding International Co-op Awards list of winners is Aerospace and ACCEND and International Co-op Program (ICP) student, Michael Downing. Downing is the 2012 honoree at the 2012 Outstanding International Co-op Awards Reception, held on May 23rd. The award honors exemplary co-op students in all majors across campus.

During his junior year in high school, Downing was already exceeding expectations when he started working in the Gas Turbine Simulation Lab (GTSL). He continued working in the GTSL with Mark Turner, PhD in aerospace engineering, for the duration of two summers part-time and then two co-op quarters at UC. In addition to his work in the lab, Downing earned money teaching piano during his high school years. Turner remarks, “In addition to being a top-notch engineer, Michael is also an accomplished pianist.”

Downing receives his BS and an MS in aerospace engineering in June and as a student in ICP, Downing has taken the opportunity to travel overseas. He travelled to Mulheim, Germany to work for his co-op employer, Siem’s Energy AG, for two terms. Additionally, he went to Orlando, Florida for another two terms of co-op experience. Downing completed his Siem’s co-op work with Dirk Nuernberger and John Marra of Siemens Energy and Automation.

While doing his co-op quarters, Downing’s been working closely with Turner on research funded by Siem’s Energy AG. His research focuses on simulations of the unsteady flows in a turbine using Computational Fluid Dynamics. Downing has also taken courses to earn his MS in aerospace engineering.

“My education at UC has provided me with the academic skills and opportunities to develop myself as a person and as a professional. The breadth of skills taught will make the transition from academia to being a professional much easier. With private support, I’ve been able to fully realize my educational goals and develop a wider outlook without being hindered by financial strain,” reflects Downing on his academic experience.

The International Co-op Program (ICP) at the University of Cincinnati was originally developed by the College of Engineering to provide its graduates with technical competency and an understanding of foreign cultures, and to better prepare them for engineering careers in the global market. The co-op component is modified to include a six month overseas assignment. An opportunity such as this allows each student to acquire a unique combination of skills which will give him/her a competitive edge in the global job market.