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A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTORS

Dear QUEST Community,

It is with great pride that we bring you QUEST’s inaugural annual report. In the pages that follow, we hope you enjoy reading about our students: where they are traveling, what they are studying, and how they are improving operations on the University of Maryland’s campus and at companies near and far.

This year marked the highest number of QUEST students ever enrolled at the University of Maryland. Moving to two cohorts of 45 students in each admissions class means that there are currently around 270 QUESTees on campus. Although they are only one percent of the university’s undergraduate enrollment, these students make a huge impact on campus. For example, while learning about quality management, process improvement and system design, students in BMGT/ENES 190H, QUEST’s introductory course, completed 18 projects with departments on campus, ranging from the Teaching & Learning Transformation Center to University Recreation & Wellness. By providing valuable insights and recommendations, these students experienced a “close to home” learning opportunity and helped their clients improve their processes.

This year also marks the first time QUEST students have embarked on projects outside the United States. In conjunction with Linköping University and the University of Queensland, QUEST students in the program’s capstone course, BMGT/ENES 490H, worked with international peers to improve ferry operations in Brisbane, Australia and design a waste management facility in Norrköping, Sweden. QUEST is currently planning its 25th Anniversary Celebration. Save the date of October 7, 2017. We invite our alumni, students, parents, corporate partners, and friends to celebrate the program’s history and future at The Hotel, a brand-new facility being constructed in the revitalized city of College Park. You will be hearing more about this event soon.

The QUEST community is based on pillars of intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, professionalism and teamwork. We hope these themes are apparent in the pages that follow. If you have ideas for how the program could continue to improve, we welcome your input. And, as always, we greatly appreciate your continued support. It is an exciting time to be a Terp and an even more exciting time to be a part of QUEST!

Sincerely,

Kylie Goodell King
490H Co-Instructor

Jeffrey Herrmann
Academic Director
490H Co-Instructor

Pamela Armstrong
Associate Director
190H Professor

Emily Kelly
Graduate Assistant

Jessica Macklin
Program Coordinator

Jim Purtilo
Curriculum Review Committee

Gerald Suarez
390H Professor

A NOTE FROM THE DEANS

The University of Maryland strives to discover new knowledge, inspire Maryland pride, transform the student experience, and turn imagination into innovation. The QUEST Honors Program embraces each of these themes and exemplifies the exciting things that can come from multidisciplinary collaborations on campus.

By bringing together students from multiple majors in business, engineering and science, the QUEST community provides an opportunity for students to both learn from and teach one another. The projects these students undertake make a positive impact on the University of Maryland, at firms across the region, and recently, around the world. It is exciting to see this program, which began nearly 25 years ago, continue to grow and improve in providing an excellent learning experience for students while helping bring the principles of quality and innovation to companies in Maryland and beyond.

As the deans of the three colleges whose students participate in the QUEST Honors Program, we are proud of our students and constantly impressed by their accomplishments. The QUEST Honors Program is the result of our best and brightest students working together to learn about innovation, quality management, process improvement and system design. We look forward to more great things to come from QUEST students and alumni!

Kylie Goodell King
490H Co-Instructor

Jeffrey Herrmann
Academic Director
490H Co-Instructor

Pamela Armstrong
Associate Director
190H Professor

Emily Kelly
Graduate Assistant

Jessica Macklin
Program Coordinator

Jim Purtilo
Curriculum Review Committee

Gerald Suarez
390H Professor

Jayanth R. Banavar
Dean, College of Computer, Mathematical and Natural Sciences

Darryll J. Pines
Dean, A. James Clark School of Engineering

Alexander Triantis
Dean, Robert H. Smith School of Business
### 2015–2016 QUEST Students

**260 Students**

### Students by School and College

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School or College</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. James Clark School of Engineering</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert H. Smith School of Business</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Computer, Mathematics, &amp; Natural Sciences</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other*</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Percentages total to more than 100% because some students are pursuing majors in multiple schools*

### Major by Major

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aerospace Engineering</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bioengineering</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business (undecided)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell Biology and Genetics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical Engineering</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Engineering</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Engineering</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical Engineering</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering (undecided)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Protection Engineering</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Systems</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Business</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials Science and Engineering</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations Management</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physiology and Neurobiology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supply Chain Management</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Numbers total to more than 260 because some students are pursuing multiple majors.

### Newly Admitted Students

This year, QUEST received a record number of applications for its incoming cohorts. With the help of our alumni and current students, we reviewed 239 applications, conducted 143 interviews and admitted 90 students in April. We are very excited to welcome Cohorts 27 and 28 into the QUEST community and look forward to kicking off their experience at QUEST Orientation at Camp Letts this summer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applications (the Most Ever!)</th>
<th>239</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interviews</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Students</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**A. James Clark School of Engineering**

- Accounting: 21
- Aerospace Engineering: 8
- Biochemistry: 2
- Bioengineering: 11
- Biology: 2
- Business (undecided): 2
- Cell Biology and Genetics: 1
- Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering: 3
- Chemical Engineering: 5
- Civil Engineering: 4
- Computer Engineering: 12
- Computer Science: 33
- Economics: 11
- Electrical Engineering: 18
- Engineering (undecided): 2
- Finance: 61
- Fire Protection Engineering: 1
- Information Systems: 15
- International Business: 5
- Marketing: 25
- Materials Science and Engineering: 6
- Mathematics: 5
- Mechanical Engineering: 41
- Operations Management: 5
- Physics: 2
- Physiology and Neurobiology: 2
- Statistics: 1
- Supply Chain Management: 19
- Other: 6

**Robert H. Smith School of Business**

- Accounting: 21
- Aerospace Engineering: 8
- Biochemistry: 2
- Bioengineering: 11
- Biology: 2
- Business (undecided): 2
- Cell Biology and Genetics: 1
- Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering: 3
- Chemical Engineering: 5
- Civil Engineering: 4
- Computer Engineering: 12
- Computer Science: 33
- Economics: 11
- Electrical Engineering: 18
- Engineering (undecided): 2
- Finance: 61
- Fire Protection Engineering: 1
- Information Systems: 15
- International Business: 5
- Marketing: 25
- Materials Science and Engineering: 6
- Mathematics: 5
- Mechanical Engineering: 41
- Operations Management: 5
- Physics: 2
- Physiology and Neurobiology: 2
- Statistics: 1
- Supply Chain Management: 19
- Other: 6

**College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences**

- Accounting: 21
- Aerospace Engineering: 8
- Biochemistry: 2
- Bioengineering: 11
- Biology: 2
- Business (undecided): 2
- Cell Biology and Genetics: 1
- Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering: 3
- Chemical Engineering: 5
- Civil Engineering: 4
- Computer Engineering: 12
- Computer Science: 33
- Economics: 11
- Electrical Engineering: 18
- Engineering (undecided): 2
- Finance: 61
- Fire Protection Engineering: 1
- Information Systems: 15
- International Business: 5
- Marketing: 25
- Materials Science and Engineering: 6
- Mathematics: 5
- Mechanical Engineering: 41
- Operations Management: 5
- Physics: 2
- Physiology and Neurobiology: 2
- Statistics: 1
- Supply Chain Management: 19
- Other: 6

**3.68 Average GPA**
In this course, students work in multidisciplinary teams to complete three design challenges. Early projects challenge students to identify a need and design a physical product and mobile app to affect that need, while the final project pairs students with on-campus clients to provide improvements for specific processes. Team SouthQUEST Airlines from Cohort 25 created Gel Air for their initial 190H project. Sahil Sharma, electrical engineering ’18 (Cohort 25), explained, “Gel Air is a gel shoe insert which utilizes the pressure you automatically generate while walking to charge a battery stored inside the insert and then charge your phone.” He said, “Our idea came out of a general discussion on the limited battery power of today’s smart phones.” Sharma’s favorite part of the project was using gel arch supports, washers, metal wiring and an adapted USB jack to build a prototype and wear it during his team’s final presentation.

For their bits-based project, Cohort 26’s Team ConQUEST developed a mobile app that identifies the likelihood of concussion for a user. Jared Hyatt, mechanical engineering ’18 (Cohort 26), says his team saw a need for this app “partially because of personal experience and partially because it is such a misunderstood topic in the sports world.” Many of his teammates had incurred concussions before, so they viewed the app as a way to “help spread awareness about concussions and help educate athletes at a younger age by giving them the tools they need to fight them.”

Team CryptID from Cohort 25 hoped to improve issues regarding identity theft by creating “a system that can not only secure essential transactions, but also keep convenience and simplicity paramount,” said Steven Kurapaty, physiology and neurobiology ’17 (Cohort 25). According to Aditya Mithas, computer science and finance ’17 (Cohort 25), the team’s idea originated from “a common passion for problem-solving and awareness of current events in cybersecurity and authentication.”

The course is unique in giving students the opportunity to reflect about their values, dive into issues they are passionate about, and work together on multidisciplinary teams in pursuit of new possibilities to bring about positive change in the world.

390H: SYSTEMS THINKING FOR MANAGERIAL DECISION MAKING

Having proven to be fertile ground for demonstrating the power of contemplation, imagination, desire and design to influence the future, this course reinforces the importance of leveraging multidisciplinary perspectives in the pursuit of a common aim.

The course is unique in giving students the opportunity to reflect about their values, dive into issues they are passionate about, and work together on multidisciplinary teams in pursuit of new possibilities to bring about positive change in the world.

Cohort 24 students on Team Life Exists After Death found a common passion in creating a service to help people understand others’ experiences by walking in their shoes. The team created a web-based platform that empowers individuals to memorialize their legacy before death. According to Gopal Srivivasan, operations management and business analytics ’17 (Cohort 24), “We wanted to create something to allow people to share ideas or stories about themselves that they want future generations to know and do it in a way that is meaningful to them.”

Cohort 25’s Team CryptID hoped to improve issues regarding identity theft by creating “a system that can not only secure essential transactions, but also keep convenience and simplicity paramount,” said Steven Kurapaty, physiology and neurobiology ’17 (Cohort 25). According to Aditya Mithas, computer science and finance ’17 (Cohort 25), the team’s idea originated from “a common passion for problem-solving and awareness of current events in cybersecurity and authentication.”

“190H taught me so much about the importance of working with a team. I won’t forget our great moments of struggle, laughter, failure and success.”

— Jordan Steiner  
Marketing & Supply Chain Management ’18  
Cohort 26

“190H has been one of the most challenging yet enjoyable classes I have taken at UMD. It encourages me to think bigger than what I now and challenges me to go into uncharted territories with that thinking.”

— Ivey Xia  
Marketing ’18  
Cohort 25

“My educational experience has been greatly enhanced by learning the trade craft of seeing the bigger picture, and I’ve enjoyed learning how to pursue meaningful problems in a dynamic, energizing classroom environment.”

— Christian Johnson  
Computer Science ’17  
Cohort 25
In the QUEST Consulting and Innovation Practicum, 490H, students work together on multidisciplinary teams to help clients address real-world organizational challenges by utilizing the concepts and techniques of quality management, process improvement and system design.

Each project is sponsored by a corporate partner and each team works directly with that client to understand the opportunity, research the industry and the relevant technologies, develop and evaluate possible solutions, and make a final recommendation. This experiential learning activity is a highlight of the QUEST program.

“My 490H team learned how to cope with a pivoting project scope, field concerns from stakeholders and ultimately keep our focus on serving our client.”

“My 490H team learned how to cope with a pivoting project scope, field concerns from stakeholders and ultimately keep our focus on serving our client.”

490H: CONSULTING & INNOVATION PRACTICUM

Hannah Buehler
Global Engineering Leadership & Management ‘16
Cohort 20

Over the past academic year, QUEST students completed 22 projects for 21 companies. These projects, based everywhere from Baltimore to Chattanooga, Tenn., to Brisbane, Australia, provided students with the opportunity to tackle real-world problems and provided companies with tangible benefits in the forms of manufacturing efficiency, time savings and reduced operational costs.

THE ADVISORY BOARD COMPANY

Team Alpha Bet Consulting worked with the Advisory Board Company in fall 2015 to solve the problem of employee attrition by taking what is normally a reactive process and making it proactive by using data. Using a predictive analytics model, they determined the likelihood that any employee would leave the company in the next six months. This allowed the company to offer incentives to retain employees and save an estimated $6.2 million for rehiring.

“This was a cool project because few companies in the world have even attempted to create a predictive analytical model for employee attrition. We were working on a project that was on the cutting edge, dealt with a very tangible issue, and incorporated data-based decision making, a relatively novel concept,” said Yash Mehta, marketing and supply chain management ’16 (Cohort 22).

Kevin Zhan, finance ‘07 (Cohort 12), workforce analytics director at The Advisory Board Company, said he pursued a QUEST project because he understood the high caliber of students in the QUEST program and trusted their mental aptitude and diligence in coming up with a solution. The team provided their client with data-driven facts supporting actual reasons behind employee attrition.

“I was thoroughly impressed with the team’s level of professionalism and project execution, and at times questioned whether they were really college seniors or were experienced consultants,” Zhan said.

ORBITAL ATK

Over the past 10 years, Orbital ATK has been one of QUEST’s most prominent corporate sponsors. Supporting 10 projects, the company has provided QUEST students with a number of exciting learning opportunities ranging from cash forecasting to rocket prototype development.

According to Bryan Kidder, director of communications at Orbital ATK, “We have found our partnership with the QUEST program to be a great value as an independent lens into our operations and approach. Many times we look at issues without observing the obvious and each QUEST team has opened our eyes to answers we have been blinded from seeing.”

This past semester, a team of four QUEST juniors worked with Orbital ATK to evaluate the effectiveness of its marketing strategy. According to Evan McLaughlin, economics and statistics ’17 (Cohort 22), he was attracted to this project because he saw an opportunity to make a real impact on the company.

“In the defense industry,” McLaughlin said, “strong publicity strategy and sales growth are intertwined. We wanted to help Orbital ATK portray themselves in a way that maximized the company’s sales.”
GLOBAL PROJECTS

Thanks to a grant from the university’s Office of International Affairs, QUEST students worked on projects with teammates based in Linköping, Sweden and Brisbane, Australia, this past spring. As part of Maryland’s Global Classrooms initiative, QUEST students experienced first-hand the challenges and benefits that come from working with colleagues across the globe.

“The 490H global projects present a unique experience to better position QUEST students to become our future global business, engineering and science leaders,” said alumnus Steve Kutchi, mechanical engineering ’97 (Cohort 1).

Shmuel Gold, mechanical engineering ’17 (Cohort 23), and Andrew Dicken, computer science ’17 (Cohort 23), worked with Swedish teammates at Linköping University to improve Intralox LLC’s efficiency in receiving parts from suppliers. Dicken was attracted to this project because his ability to make a change to a company improve processes and reduce frustration caused by the current process.

Those sentiments—the value of helping a company improve processes and getting real-world experience—are common to all 490H projects. This project had the bonus of collaborating with teammates who were physically located across the Atlantic.

“I was attracted to the Brisbane CityCat ferry project because I want to work in international assignments relating to chemical engineering after graduation.”

—Joseph Dadzie
Chemical engineering ’17
Cohort 23

Dicken really enjoyed this experience and working with his teammates: “They were extremely knowledgeable about lean production as well as waste management and elimination. They were also fun guys to spitball ideas with and they offered a very different perspective.”

Intralox also saw the value in working with UMD and Linköping students. “As a global enterprise, Intralox is facing opportunities and challenges around the world. We analyze problems and come up with potential solutions that will be sustainable to our different business regions. The international project definitely meets our global profile,” industrial engineer Hao Tan said.

QUEST students Joseph Dadzie, chemical engineering ’17 (Cohort 23), and Alex Huang, mathematics ’17 (Cohort 23), worked with teammates from the Icarus Scholars Program at the University of Queensland to improve Brisbane’s CityCat Ferry system. An agent-based simulation was utilized to recreate ferry operations for morning and afternoon peak conditions. The input parameters and operating procedures for this simulation (travel time between terminals, ferry initial position, docking process, etc.) were obtained from smart card data analysis and interviews with ferry operators. Using this information, alternative routing systems were proposed. Results from the simulation analyses indicated decreased travel time, which enhanced the customer experience of ferry riders.

“I was attracted to the Brisbane CityCat ferry project because I want to work in international assignments relating to chemical engineering after graduation.” Dadzie said. Communication was challenging because of the 16-hour time difference. However, this challenge provided Dadzie and his teammates the opportunity to learn about Australian business and culture in addition to the traffic studies and task management. Overall, this project enhanced his global perspective, which will help Dadzie in projects after he graduates.

Dadzie’s teammates at the University of Queensland, Roy Zhu and Dongho Kang, also commented on their positive experience. “Our communication and teamwork on an international level will undoubtely prove to be invaluable in our careers,” Zhu said.

Kang agreed, saying the opportunity to work with American students on a real-world project has been “the most memorable experience of my life” and one he won’t soon forget.

QUEST TO ASIA

In January, QUEST students in the BMGT4380 class traveled to Asia to experience the contrast between the emerging economy of Vietnam and the developed economy of Hong Kong. The group visited several companies with a focus on design, manufacturing, quality distribution, financial and marketing issues and had a fantastic time exploring new worlds and sampling exotic foods. Additionally, students worked in teams throughout the trip to come up with a product that could be made in Asia and distributed to global markets.

“The academic part of the course was really engaging, but what I enjoyed most was being immersed in a foreign culture and having the opportunity to get outside of my comfort zone and try new things.”

—Patrick Ayerle
Materials Science & Engineering ’18
Cohort 25

“I really learned about the importance of understanding the culture of the region where a business is located. It was cool to see how Asian businesses differ so much from the ones in America.”

—Ryan Wong
Electrical Engineering ’18
Cohort 25
In March, students in QUEST’s Design and Innovation in Silicon Valley elective (BMGT 438G/ENES 489Q) visited firms to study their product and software development processes. After returning to College Park, students discussed the similarities and differences between the processes at the firms, wrote final reports and gave presentations to the QUEST community.

“Learning about the business development processes at these firms opened my eyes to how a finance major could contribute to different kinds of teams.”

Mimi Verdonk
Finance & Arabic ’17
Cohort 24

“It was nice to see how companies like Google and Facebook apply what we learn in our QUEST classes to their own development processes.”

Michael George
Computer Science ’17
Cohort 23

FIRMS VISITED IN SPRING 2016

- Airbnb
- Autodesk
- Cisco
- Compology
- Facebook
- Google
- Infinera
- Intel
- Medallia
- Palantir
- Redfin
- Twitter
With a focus on building, managing and maintaining corporate partner relationships, the QUEST Corporate student committee provides students with career-building opportunities unique to the QUEST program.

“We formed QUEST Corporate to increase the involvement of corporate partners and better the development of QUEST students,” said co-founder Ilan Gold, electrical engineering ’16 (Cohort 22).

The committee’s first event, the QUEST Corporate Networking Event, took place on Sept. 16, 2015, and brought together more than 100 QUEST students and 12 firms. Participating firms included Accenture, Applied Predictive Technologies, Becton Dickinson, Bloomberg, Booz Allen Hamilton, Constellation Energy, Dante, Deloitte, Google, PwC, Thales and Under Armour.

Ricky Wilson, electrical engineering ’02 (Cohort 6), attended as a representative of Constellation. “I thought it was a great event. I really enjoyed being able to talk to students about myself and my company without the employment motivation. It was nice to have a more relaxed environment,” Wilson said.

Continuing its relationship with Google, QUEST Corporate invited students and alumni to Google D.C. to meet and talk with Vint Cerf, one of the “Fathers of the Internet,” on March 23, 2016. Alumni from Cohorts 1 through 20 and current QUEST students attended the event, which was moderated by Danny Laurence, computer science ’14 (Cohort 19).

“Moderating the Vint Cerf talk will hold a spot as one of the best experiences I’ve ever had,” he said.

“Moderating the Vint Cerf talk will hold a spot as one of the best experiences I’ve ever had,” he said. “The best part about the event was seeing the array of people who came out. They are all so different in terms of career and educational experience. It’s events like this that make the QUEST community so strong,” co-founder Andrea Kyeremeh, accounting ’16 (Cohort 22), said. Laurence saw benefits, too: “These thought-leadership talks really bring the community not only together, but also forward. Everyone in that room walked away knowing a bit (or like me, a lot) more about a variety of important and current topics.”

QUEST STUDENT ORGANIZATION

The QUEST Student Organization (QSO) is committed to creating events to engage the QUEST community, including current students and alumni. QSO hosted the QUEST Homecoming Tailgate in October 2015 and brought together students and alumni for a fun day. Brian Bender, accounting ’00 (Cohort 5), helped coordinate the event. “The tailgate was a great way to informally talk to alumni outside of a professional environment and even meet some of their kids,” she recalled. “The atmosphere is always very fun and relaxed so it provides a unique experience for QUEST students to interact with alumni, which is something we can’t get from other programs.”

Dayalan also helped plan the QUEST Student/Alumni Dinner in March with help from Mark Baumgardner, information systems and accounting ’00 (Cohort 5). Seventeen alumni attended and informally chatted with current students over dinner.

Baumgardner said, “I think this was the best student/alumni event I have attended. Everyone was able to move around freely and chat with many different students and alumni. I thought the interaction was excellent!”
### QUEST Alumni Board Members

- **Chairman**: Richard Wilson, Cohort 6
- **Vice Chair**: Linda Rassenti, Cohort 17
- **Treasurer**: Debbie Feinberg, Cohort 1
- **Secretary**: Shirley Han, Cohort 19
- **Mark Baumannruth, Cohort 5**
- **Brian Bender, Cohort 5**
- **Kaila Bhushy, Cohort 16**
- **Ben Brown, Cohort 13**
- **Max Cooper, Cohort 19**
- **Debra Goldschlag, Cohort 20**
- **Elaine Hui, Cohort 18**
- **Danny Laurence, Cohort 19**
- **Josh Kohn, Cohort 18**
- **Ben Kretting, Cohort 7**
- **Steve Kutchi, Cohort 1**
- **Karthik Menda, Cohort 18**
- **John McGahagen, Cohort 16**
- **Stephanie Nguyen, Cohort 16**
- **Stephen Otis, Cohort 4**
- **Vidya Sathyamoorthy, Cohort 16**
- **Masha Sitnova, Cohort 17**
- **Bryan Towns, Cohort 7**
- **Jacyb Wilkowski, Cohort 19**
- **Aditya Yerramilli, Cohort 14**

### QUEST Alumni

The QUEST program has more than 1,000 alumni scattered around the world, 86 percent of whom maintain strong connections with the program. Our alumni engage in quest lectures, host QUEST students on trips to Silicon Valley and Asia, participate in the Alumni Advantage mentoring program, assist with QUEST interviews, sponsor 490H projects and attend various community events during the year. We caught up with a few to see what they’ve been up to.

### QUEST Alumni Highlights:

- **Ori Zohar**, marketing ‘07 (Cohort 12), co-founded Sindeo, a startup mortgage company that creates a better path to homeownership.
  
  “QUEST was one of the most valuable things I did at the University of Maryland. QUEST focuses on how you contribute in a group setting, how you handle complex thoughts, how you collaborate with people across many different backgrounds—and that’s exactly the kind of stuff that I did starting day one of my job,” he said when reflecting back on his time at UMD.

- **Brian Marquardt**, electrical engineering ‘96 (Cohort 1), has held a variety of roles throughout his career at companies including Intel, McKinsey & Company, Sony Pictures and Google, where he currently works as a product manager at YouTube.
  
  He highlights the importance and value of trying many things early on in your career. “You build up excellent judgment from having a variety of experience,” he said. “And when you try something new, no matter what happens, you’ll learn things about yourself.”

- **Amanda Nachman**, business and English ‘07 (Cohort 12), is the founder and publisher for CollegeMagazine.com, a startup that began during her senior year.
  
  The site is the ultimate guide to college, and its contributors include more than 75 college students across the country. It reaches more than 650,000 readers per month.

- **Wail Rifai**, computer science ‘18 (Cohort 26), will be interning as a Java software developer for Lockheed Martin’s Mission Systems and Training team in Orlando this summer.
  
  He interviewed for the position at the BEYA STEM Conference in Philadelphia last February and received an offer within a few hours of his interview. Rifai is excited to work with Java and be able to think like a developer in a language he knows best.

- **Jeremy Krach**, computer science ‘18 (Cohort 25), will be interning in San Francisco this summer as a software engineer at Pinterest.
  
  He will be working on the company’s security team, looking at how to enhance the security of the company from both internal and external perspectives. After working for a large company on the East Coast last summer, Krach is excited to have a new experience at a small company on the West Coast.

- **Miriam Silton**, materials science and engineering ‘18 (Cohort 26), is interning for her second summer at Aberdeen Proving Ground in the Weapons and Materials Research Directorate of the Army Research Laboratory. Silton is specifically working for the Materials division in the Coatings, Corrosion, and Engineered Polymers branch. Last summer, she helped her team run tests for a new adhesive.
  
  This summer, she will be analyzing data regarding joint welding of various metals and acting as the liaison between her team, the Metals team and the Manufacturing team.

  “It really comes down to building relationships with the other teams because if they don’t trust our team and the value of what we’re doing with the project, we won’t be able to work together,” she said.

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Daniel Levine, mechanical engineering ’15 (Cohort 22), will be moving to Seattle to work on conceptual design for Boeing’s next commercial aircraft. He says he is humbled by the opportunity to have a say in next steps for the company as a recent college graduate. Levine interned for Boeing last summer and credits QUEST with helping him land his full-time offer.

At his internship, he worked on the 747 and was tasked with talking directly to the mechanics and liaison engineers on the production floor about what improvements could be made.

Levine said the skills he used from his 390H class, such as empathic design and systems thinking, helped him stand out amongst his peers and eventually receive his job offer.

Halley Weitzman, computer science ’15 (Cohort 21), is moving to Seattle to become a software development engineer at Microsoft.

“I’ll be working on a team focused on Outlook, Office 365 and Microsoft Exchange. I’ll be doing a lot of email analytics, data science and machine learning. A specific project may focus on spam email detection or analyzing how likely users of Outlook are to respond to emails.”

Weitzman has interned at Microsoft for the past two summers and loves “working for a company with such a huge influence on the world.” During her internships, she introduced her managers to concepts she learned in QUEST, including fishbone diagrams and implications wheels. She hopes to stay active in the QUEST community and is interested in pulling together alumni happy hours in the Seattle area.

Ben Hsieh, operations management; business analytics and Spanish language, literatures, and cultures ’15 (Cohort 22), will be moving to Dallas to work at Bain & Company as an associate consultant. “I was hired as a generalist and will be assigned to different cases based on business needs. Most of the work is in strategy and process improvement.”

He attributes his interest in consulting to seeing QUEST Cohort 18 presenting their capstone projects at the 2012 QUEST Conference. Hsieh was an accounting major at the time, but his interests quickly shifted to consulting. He is looking forward to meeting up with QUEST alumni in Dallas with whom he’s connected via the QUEST alumni directory.

Amanda Filie, chemical and biomolecular engineering ’15 (Cohort 21), will be pursuing her doctorate in materials science at the Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

Filie is working in Professor Cynthia Friend’s laboratory, researching the development and application of catalysts to lowering the energy demands of key chemical processes.

Filie plans to take innovation classes, assist in teaching those classes and even pursue an industry internship. “QUEST was critical to developing my desire for innovation and my confidence in dealing with uncertainty. Although I’m nervous to take on a project I’ve never done before, I believe that QUEST has provided me with a unique set of tools for designing and analyzing problems that will be very helpful in my research.”

In total, 70 students from Cohorts 21 and 22 graduated this past May with some very impressive post-graduation plans. We spoke to a few graduates about the exciting career and graduate school plans they have chosen to pursue.
We would like to recognize the following generous donors for giving to QUEST during 2015 and 2016:

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As we prepare for QUEST’s 25th anniversary, your contribution helps us increase the impact of QUEST now and in the future. Make a gift today at go.umd.edu/givetoQUEST.

To discuss unique giving partnerships, please contact Kylie Goodell King, program director of the QUEST Honors Program, at kgoodell@umd.edu.
SAVE THE DATE

QUEST’s 25th Anniversary Celebration

October 7, 2017
5-10 p.m.
The Hotel at the University of Maryland

More details to come.
We hope to see you there!