Two Alfred University senior engineering students honored for co-op experiences
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ALFRED, NY – Two Alfred University engineering students were presented with awards Thursday, Oct. 10, recognizing them for work in their respective co-op experiences.

Amanda Godsil, a senior glass engineering science major from Bergen, NJ, was presented with the McMahon Scholar Award, while Karl Huber, a senior mechanical engineering major from Horseheads, NY, was recognized with the Robert R. McComsey Career Development Center Outstanding Mechanical Engineering/Renewable Energy Engineering Co-op Award.

William Carty, McMahon professor of ceramic engineering and materials science, presented Godsil and Huber with their awards prior to the John F. McMahon Memorial Lecture Thursday.

Godsil, the daughter of Andrew and Viola Godsil, was recognized for her co-op with Owens-Illinois, Research and Development, in Perrysburg, OH, during the fall of 2018. Owens-Illinois is a global leader in the manufacture of glass containers.

“Amanda is a thoughtful, respectful, and conscientious person. She executed well on her tasks, leading one project which went into production – a nice ‘win’ for our team – and providing significant lab assistance to another senior scientist,” said Godsil’s supervisor at Owens-Illinois, Scott Cooper. “Our team found her work to be trustworthy and she interacted well with the technicians in the lab. She grew tremendously in her time here at O-I, which is one thing we look for as a sign of a successful co-op experience.”

Projects Godsil worked on for two of the company’s clients – Tito’s vodka and Patron tequila –

are already in production at Owens-Illinois factories. “That’s not something that all of our co-ops get to say,” Cooper stated.

Huber, the son of Paul and Anne Huber, was honored for his co-op at BorgWarner Morse System in Ithaca, NY, this past spring. BorgWarner is a worldwide leader in the design and manufacturing of automotive chain systems and

components for engine timing, automatic transmission, and four-wheel drive applications.

“Karl is one of the best co-ops we had in recent years,” said his supervisor, Ray Lu. “He has not only completed the objectives of the co-op position, he has also exceeded our expectations in many ways.”

Following the awards presentations, the McMahon Lecture was presented by Susan Trolier-McKinstry, Steward S. Flaschen Professor of Ceramic Science and Engineering and Electrical Engineering at Penn State University. In her lecture, titled “Piezoelectric Films for Microelectromechanical Systems,” Trolier-McKinstry discussed piezoelectric thin films and their use in low voltage microelectromechanical systems (MEMS) for sensing, actuation, and energy harvesting.

Trolier-McKinstry has baschelor’s master’s, and doctoral degrees in ceramic science and engineering, all from Penn State. She is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering, a fellow of the American Ceramic Society, IEEE, and the Materials Research Society, and an academician of the World Academy of Ceramics. Last week, she was inducted into the National Academy of Engineers.

She currently serves as an associate editor for Applied Physics Letters. She was 2017 President of the Materials Research Society; previously she served as president of the IEEE Ultrasonics, Ferroelectrics and Frequency Control Society, as well as Keramos. Twenty-one people that she has advised or co-advised have gone on to take faculty positions around the world.

The John F. McMahon Memorial Lecture Award is presented annually to an outstanding ceramic engineer. The award was created by alumni in honor of the late John F. McMahon, an alumnus, a professor and finally, dean of what is now the Inamori School of Engineering.

Pictured in the photo above are, from left: Mark Zupan, Alfred University president; Gabrielle Gaustad, dean of Alfred University’s Inamori School of Engineering; Karl Huber, Robert R. McComsey Career Development Center Outstanding ME/REE Co-op Award winner; Susan Trolier McKinstry, McMahon Lecture Award honoree; Amanda Godsil, McMahon Achievement Award winner; and William Carty, John F. McMahon Professor, ceramic engineering and materials science, Alfred University.