

ICRI 2015 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

ICRI established a scholarship program to assist qualified applicants who plan to pursue post-secondary education in undergraduate college, university, and vocational programs directly related to a curriculum of study in concrete, concrete repair, architecture, or engineering studies (structural and civil).

For 2015, ICRI awarded a total of \$5000 to five qualified and deserving applicants. The following is an introduction to these five outstanding students—a little bit about who they are and their plans for the future.



ISAAC PITRE

Isaac Pitre was born in Quebec, Canada, and grew up in the small town of Mercier, south of Montreal. As a young boy, he watched his father work on various building projects. When he picked up a hammer and began helping, his interest in construction grew into a passion. Pitre gained further experience through a variety of summer jobs.

Working in a woodshop introduced him to various building materials. His experiences at a construction equipment rental outlet taught him the rules of safety and the importance of finding the right tool for the right job. As a lab technician for a concrete casting supplier, he came to understand the vital importance of foundations. And finally, while working for a general contractor, he learned that teamwork and proper communication are vital to any project.

In high school, Pitre was part of a demanding Student-Athletic program, where he learned about teamwork and time management. He feels that applying those two basic skills were essential to his success as an athlete and as a student. He also realized that he really enjoyed helping others and began to tutor other students in various subjects (to this day, he continues to tutor students at various levels). After high school, he attended CEGEP (a vocational, pre-university program in Quebec Province) for 3 years and obtained a civil engineering technologist diploma. University studies in engineering were a natural progression and he is now a second-year student in construction engineering at the Université du Québec. Pitre will graduate in 2016.

Other significant work experiences have included two mandatory internships. At one with CLP Construction, he found bridge repair and concrete structures very stimulating. He discovered that to build from scratch was one thing; however, repair, specifically concrete repair, takes engineering to the next level. He has found that the challenges and solutions presented with repair are very different. This experience offered him a new perspective on construction and engineering. Pitre is certain that concrete repair is his next step in civil engineering and he feels ICRI and his passion for construction are a perfect fit.

Ejona Hadziu was born and raised in a small town in Albania. She is currently a civil engineering student at Syracuse University (SU) in New York and she will be graduating in May 2016. Since the first semester of her freshman year, she has been involved in many student organizations, such as Chi Epsilon (the Civil Engineering Honor Society), American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Society of Women



EJONA HADZIU

Engineers, and U.S. Green Building Council Students Group at SU. Hadziu was chosen to represent the college of Engineering and Computer Science for convocation and graduation ceremonies as a College Marshall for the class of 2016. She is very excited about the summer of 2015 because she will to intern for J.P. Morgan as a Technology Summer Analyst in New York City. The program will allow her to gain hands-on knowledge by working alongside experienced technologists who oversee and manage the deployment of business-aligned technologies and infrastructure. She also plans to spend the summer preparing for the GMAT exam and graduate school. After completing her undergraduate civil engineering degree, Hadziu will pursue her master's degree in business administration. She believes a master's degree in business will provide her with the appropriate tools to succeed in the construction industry and put her one step ahead of every other recent engineering graduate. She wants to invest in her future and herself by continuing her education after graduation.



GAVIN RINALDO

Gavin Rinaldo is originally from Putnam Valley, NY. He just completed his fifth year at the Georgia Institute of Technology (GeorgiaTech), Atlanta, GA, and received his Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering. He graduated with the highest honors and recently completed his workplace experience through the Georgia Tech co-op program. Rinaldo made the Dean's List in all semesters at GIT and earned Faculty Honors four times in recognition of a 4.0 GPA. He would like to achieve professional certification and LEED certification after graduation. Rinaldo is especially interested in structural engineering and seismic studies. He worked for three semesters at ENERCON Services, Inc., and will also work there during the summer of 2015. ENERCON is a company that offers a broad range of engineering services, but is particularly well known for its work on nuclear power plants. Rinaldo is certain that the experience and knowledge he has gained through this work will be invaluable to his future. He is happy to say he was accepted into the BS/MS program at Georgia Tech and will continue his studies there next semester. He hopes to earn his master's degree in civil engineering in 2016.

Rinaldo is a member of Chi Epsilon (Civil Engineering Honor Society), the Briaerean Honor Society, ASCE (American Society of Civil Engineers), and EERI (Earthquake Engineering Research Institute) through Georgia Tech. He has been a brother in the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity since his freshman year and he served on the Inter-Fraternity Council and as Treasurer. Rinaldo chose Tau Kappa Epsilon because of their dedication to philanthropic activities, and their commitment to academic excellence for all of their members. He enjoys living in Atlanta and, outside of school, enjoys playing soccer, camping, canoeing, and attending Georgia Tech football games.

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JASON GRANT

Jason Grant is a senior at Western Michigan University. He plans to graduate in December 2015 with a degree in civil engineering and is currently working as a Project Manager Intern with ARCO National Construction Company. He grew up in St. Louis, MO. Previously, Grant held internships with The Austin Company, Grant Contracting Company, and The Masonry Institute of St.

Louis. He is proud to say that these internships helped him learn many aspects of the construction industry, including design, quantity takeoff, cost estimating, scheduling, purchasing, and subcontractor coordination. After graduation, he plans to pursue a career in the construction industry and become a Project Manager. Grant feels that the process of taking a project from the estimating phase to the completion phase while being able to manage various subcontractors and meet a schedule is a challenge he hopes to tackle during his career. Maintaining a relationship with the owner throughout the construction process is also something he finds important.

During his 4 years at Western Michigan, Grant played for the varsity soccer team and was team captain in 2013. He also enjoyed being a member of the Mid-American Conference (MAC) Leaders and the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. In 2012 and 2014, he was a member of the Academic All-MAC Team, as well as being named a 2014-2015 MAC Distinguished Scholar Athlete. In 2015, he was named the Outstanding Student in Civil Engineering and was awarded the WMU Robert E. Boughner Outstanding Engineering Student Athlete of the Year award. Grant is an active member of the Tau Beta Phi Engineering Honors Society, the WMU Civil and Construction Engineering Honors Society, and the WMU ASCE Student Chapter.



WALTER CEVALLOS

Walter Cevallos entered the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) Educational Opportunity Program after his high school graduation in 2012 at the age of 16, where he obtained two recognition awards for the highest GPA in mathematics and physics. He has shown dedication and perseverance through his 3 years of college studies pursuing a dual bachelor's degree in civil engineering

and concrete industry management and a minor in business with an overall GPA of 3.5. He was born in the city of Quito, Ecuador, and moved to the United States at the age of 16. Even though his residency in this country has been short, he has managed to learn the English language and adapt to many of the customs and traditions of the American culture. He learned about the concrete industry during his first on-campus job as a Program Assistant. Cevallos learned as much as he could about the biggest companies in the industry and their impact on the economy. He was able to work with the Concrete Preservation Institute, a nonprofit organization devoted to concrete rehabilitation of historical structures at Alcatraz Island in San Francisco, CA. While there, he learned about and performed the actions of the Finance and Asset Manager. Cevallos was also able to participate in a variety of other activities on Alcatraz Island, such as concrete demolition, forming, curing, and structure analysis.

Cevallos intends to continue his pursuit of a master's degree in structural engineering through a fellowship with the GEM program, obtain his PE license, work at a federal government research lab, and eventually get his PhD.

THE NEXT ICRI SCHOLARSHIP
OPPORTUNITY WILL BE IN 2016.