



NEWS RELEASE

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Media Contact:

Melissa Tallman

Community Coordinator

315-269-4205

mtallman@griffissinstitute.org

Advanced Course in Engineering (ACE) Interns Ended Intense 10-Week Program with Capstone Events and Graduation Ceremony in August

Applications for the 2023 ACE program are now being accepted

VERONA, NY — On Friday, August 12, 2022, after a grueling 56-hour Capstone event earlier in the same the week, the 2022 Advanced Course in Engineering (ACE) interns were honored during their graduation ceremony held at the Turning Stone Resort & Casino, in Verona NY.

Approximately 100 friends and family members gathered in the Oneida Ballroom that evening to honor and wish well the 43 ACE interns that completed the 10-week long program.



The ceremony began with the Presentation of Colors and National Anthems of the United States, the United Kingdom and Switzerland, representing the three countries of the 2022 ACE Interns.

During the graduation ceremony, the interns were presented with graduation certificates and ACE coins. Keynote speaker, Col William Young, Graduated Commander of the 350th Spectrum Warfare Wing, spoke to the graduates about courage, accountability, and preparation. “You must know the technology and the preparation, but you must have the courage to make the call, even when you fall short...It’s hard to be mad at someone who owns up to their mistakes...ACE 2022 graduates, the accountability is one you have to own

up to,” said **Col. Young**.

Dr. Michael Hayduk, Deputy Director of Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate and Ms. Heather Hage, President and CEO of the Griffiss Institute, were also in attendance.

Matthew Fisher, from Purdue University, was named 2022 ACE valedictorian.

Earlier in the week, the interns endured a 56-hours Capstone event where they applied their previously learned knowledge to achieve mission objectives in a simulated cyber warfare exercise.

“Over this summer, our graduates have displayed exceptional technical and leadership skills. They have been dedicated to the program and each other, showcasing their willingness to become future cyber leaders,” said **Tiffany DeLuca, Griffiss Institute Intern Program Lead**. “Every year we look forward to this day, as the culmination of their hard work and the beginning of their future, where they will utilize the skills that they have learned to better their organizations and nations.”

The 2022 ACE Capstone played out as a regional rivalry between three powers. Participants had to create a plan to translate operational objectives into tactical actions achieved through kinetic and cyber effects. A rich cyber battlespace provided the fabric to couple the cyber and kinetic domains with the opportunity to attack traditional network enclaves, aircraft, integrated air defense systems, and supply/logistics systems among others. The ACE Team assessed success in the exercise based on the participants ability to achieve their operational objectives while denying the adversary their own. Winners of the Capstone won well-earned bragging rights and the cyber war-training experience of a lifetime.

In 2003, Dr. Kamal Jabbour, ST, Senior Scientist for Information Assurance at the Information Directorate, Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL/RI), in Rome, New York, started the Advanced Course in Engineering (ACE) Cyber Security Boot Camp. The 10-week program educates interns on the science of information assurance and trains them in the art of cyber warfare. The leadership development component of the ACE focuses on problem solving through technical excellence, communication skills, and on-time performance.

The ACE experience is designed with four mission imperatives.

- First, to develop highly competent and credible problem solvers and change agents who can bring order to technical chaos by appropriately framing wicked problems and decisively applying sound technical judgment under complex and uncertain conditions to provide solutions on time.
- Second, to inculcate a warrior ethos by developing “a hardiness of spirit and moral and physical courage” to challenge erroneous paradigms with creative transformational approaches.
- Third, to shape cyber leaders who can exercise competence, commitment, courage, and compassion in leading change through cohesive teams based on mutual trust.
- Fourth, to hone clear, concise, and compelling communication skills enabling cyber leaders to provide purpose, direction, and motivation in fostering a shared sense of purpose and enabling empowered execution.

Applications for the 2023 Advanced Course in Engineering (ACE) program are now being accepted at www.ace-cyber.com/ace/apply. Deadline to apply is December 4, 2022.

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About the Advanced Course in Engineering (ACE) Program

The ACE develops the next generation of cybersecurity warriors, with a particular emphasis on educating future military leaders. The ACE follows the model for the General Electric ACE to transform top civilians and cadets in the Reserve Officer Training Corps into original thinkers, problem solvers and technical leaders. The underlying ACE philosophy is to completely immerse interns in the cyber security discipline through a combination of intense coursework and internship experiences. Each week, interns attend a daylong lecture, given by a domain expert from the military, academia, or industry. They receive hands on training during laboratories on the application of computer security concepts and spend three days a week in cyber security research internships labs. To augment their development, they work as teams to solve open ended, Air Force relevant challenge problems on a weekly basis. The program culminates with a continuous 56-hour training exercise that applies the art of cyber warfare to a multi-domain operational scenario that emphasizes the science of mission assurance. To learn more about ACE, please visit www.ace-cyber.com

About Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate

With headquarters at Rome, NY, the Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate (AFRL/RI) research vector develops novel and affordable Command, Control, Communications, Computing, Cyber, and Intelligence (C4I) technologies. RI is recognized as a national asset and leader in C4I. Refining data into information and knowledge for decision makers to command-and-control forces is what we do. This knowledge gives our air, space, and cyberspace forces the competitive advantage needed to protect and defend this great nation. www.wpafb.af.mil/afri/ri

About Us

Griffiss Institute (GI) is a nonprofit STEM talent and technology accelerator for the United States Department of Defense and an international network of academic, government and industry partners. Since 2002, the GI has served the Air Force, the Mohawk Valley region, and the United States, empowering diverse teams with talent and technology development programs that lead the nation in technical and economic impact. In the past five years, the GI has partnered with Rome Lab to host 271 visiting scientists, employ 823 interns, support 508 local K-12 students with tuition-free STEM Camps during school breaks, and trained 63 startups in defense tech commercialization with 47 graduates of its incubator. Devoted to converging teams and technologies to solve complex national challenges, the GI is proud to enable its international network from its home at Innovare Advancement Center in New York's picturesque Mohawk Valley. Griffiss Institute exists to elevate the next generation of talent and

technologies that enhance national security and economic competitiveness for our region, state, and nation. www.griffissinstitute.org

Innovare Advancement Center is a 150,000 square foot open innovation hub that converges world-class scientific, engineering, and entrepreneurial talent from universities, government, and industry to tackle new challenges in artificial intelligence, machine learning, cybersecurity, quantum, and unmanned aerial systems. Innovare's unique capabilities include highly specialized laboratories for experimentation in quantum communications and neuromorphic computing, 40,000 square feet of high-tech and high-speed communications-enabled collaboration spaces, an auditorium with capacity for over 250 people, an access point to the NY UAS Test Site, and coming in spring 2022 – an indoor unmanned aerial system (UAS) research and testing facility with 110,000 square foot indoor flight testing area - the largest in the United States. www.innovare.org