SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

2014-2015

EDWARD M. NAGEL
DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS
The Edward M. Nagel Foundation was formed in 1992 as a charitable memorial to the memory of Edward Nagel. Throughout his life, he cultivated associations with and respect for people from all walks of life, as well as supporting various community organizations. Desiring to make a special contribution to economically disadvantaged young people who are motivated to get an education, he founded the Edward M. Nagel Foundation in 1992.

The Edward M. Nagel Foundation makes grants to universities, colleges, and or other educational institutions for the purpose of providing scholarship awards to students earning a 3.0 overall GPA in coursework and are majoring in a business-related field.

For more information about the Edward M. Nagel Foundation, visit edwardmnagelfoundation.org.
THE STORY OF EDWARD M. NAGEL

Edward M. Nagel was born in November of 1905 in Wuppertal, Germany. His father, a physician, and his mother raised nine children — Nagel was the fourth son in a family of seven boys and two girls. Despite Germany’s ravaged economy following World War I, his father offered to put each of his children through college. Nagel was interested in business. At age 19, he asked his father only for the fare for passage to the United States.

Arriving in New York City in 1926 and speaking little English, Nagel lived at the YMCA, attended night school, and worked in an Automat restaurant. Through an acquaintance, he landed a job as a coder and decoder with an affiliate of the National City Bank in the heart of Wall Street. When he had saved a few dollars, he bought some stock in a bull market and, fortunately, sold his shares at a good profit only weeks before the 1929 stock market crash.

As a result of the stock market crash, however, Nagel lost his job. He visited his family in Germany and then returned to New York. In the beginning of the Great Depression, Nagel decided to move to Southern California. His first job in Los Angeles was selling bread door-to-door for the Davis Perfection Bakery.

At the end of 1930, a German family invited him to a holiday party. Not wanting to arrive empty handed, he found a German baker, Henry Berkenkamp, who offered a sandwich made with heavy, hand-sliced whole rye bread.

Sensing a good opportunity to make himself independent, Nagel proposed to Berkenkamp they become partners. He also thought that slicing the bread and using cellophane to wrap 10 to 12 thin slices would make the bread more marketable. Within four weeks, the two partners found a shop suitable for their bakery and started the Berkenkamp Baking Company. Their small packages of gourmet rye bread were an immediate success.

During his daily route operations, Nagel noticed a loaf of whole wheat bread called Oroweat bread on display at some retail stops. The bread was excellent, but it was not presented properly and did not attract buyers. Nagel called on Mr. and Mrs. Dreyer, owners of the little Oroweat bakery and offered them a partnership in the Berkenkamp Bread Bakery for distribution rights to Oroweat bread. Combining the activities of the Berkenkamp and Oroweat shops, Oroweat Whole Grain Breads was established.

In 1939, the owners decided to open a plant in San Francisco. The San Francisco Oroweat bakery also flourished; its products were sold as far away as Alaska. By 1972, the company maintained six bakeries in California, Oregon, and Washington for the production of its whole grain breads, flour, and cereal products. In that year, when sales exceeded $45 million and the company employed 1,800 people, Continental Grain Company purchased Oroweat.

After 1972, Nagel looked for new business activities and provided venture capital for a fledging software company. Well into his late 80s, he continued to stay involved in business and offer his expertise as needed.

Edward M. Nagel died in his sleep in 1996, nearing his 91st birthday.
The Catholic University of America
and the Department of Biomedical Engineering
are proud to recognize the
2014–2015 Nagel Scholars

Since 1998, the Edward M. Nagel Foundation has recognized undergraduate biomedical engineering scholars who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, service, and community involvement.

This year’s Nagel Scholars have an average cumulative GPA of 3.87.

Christina E. Butrico
Nicholas E. Civetti
Elizabeth A. Coyle
Allison M. Fasano
Ruby N. Huynh
Timothy H. Keith
Kevin J. Nader
Benjamin D. Pesante
Angeline Premraj
Catherine C. Premraj
Frances A. Tosto
Rachel A. Vierra
Tyler R. Zimmerman
Christina E. Butrico
Christina is from South Plainfield, N.J. She is pursuing a major in biomedical engineering and a minor in chemistry. She has been named to the School of Engineering Dean’s List every semester and serves as the treasurer of Tau Beta Pi, the Engineering Honor Society, and the Biomedical Engineering Society. Cristina is on the women’s cross country and track and field teams, where she was named to the Landmark Conference Academic Honor Roll.

Nicholas E. Civetti
Nicholas is from Germantown, Md. He has been named to the School of Engineering Dean’s List every semester and is a member of Tau Beta Pi and Phi Eta Sigma, the national freshman honor society. In addition, he is involved with the Biomedical Engineering Society, Habitat for Humanity, and MLK Day of Service. He is engaged in stroke rehabilitation research, and hopes to get his master’s degree from CUA following graduation.

Elizabeth A. Coyle
Elizabeth is from Cleveland, Tenn. She is an honors student and is on the School of Engineering Dean’s List. She is the media chair for the Biomedical Engineering Society and a member of Phi Eta Sigma. Elizabeth participates in homeless food runs and is part of Engineers Without Borders and CUA Ballroom Dance. This past summer she worked as an engineering intern at Oak Ridge National Laboratory under the Department of Homeland Security. She looks forward to studying abroad in Hong Kong in the spring.

Allison M. Fasano
Allison is from Horsham, Pa., and has been named to the School of Engineering Dean’s List every semester. She is a member of the Phi Eta Sigma, the national freshman honor society, and serves as the president of the Society of Women Engineers and secretary of the Biomedical Engineering Society. Allison also helps to conduct undergraduate research in biomedical engineering alongside Associate Professor Otto Wilson.
Ruby N. Huynh
Ruby is from Danang City, Vietnam. She received a scholarship from the Department of Biomedical Engineering and has been named to the School of Engineering Dean’s List every semester. She is a member of Tau Beta Pi and the Biomedical Engineering Society and a representative of Vietnamese Students Association.

Timothy H. Keith
Tim is from King of Prussia, Pa. He is a member of The Catholic University of America’s University Honors Program and has been named to the School of Engineering Dean’s List every semester. Tim is also a member of Tau Beta Pi, the Biomedical Engineering Society, and Phi Eta Sigma. He plays on the men’s varsity lacrosse team.

Kevin J. Nader
Kevin is from Hollywood, Fla. He plays on the men’s varsity baseball team and is recognized as a member of the Landmark Conference Academic Honor Roll. Kevin is a member of Tau Beta Pi, the Biomedical Engineering Society, the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, and the Phi Eta Sigma. He has been named to the School of Engineering Dean’s List every semester.

Benjamin D. Pesante
Benjamin is from Wakefield, R.I. He plays on the men’s varsity soccer team and is the president of the Catholic University chapter of Phi Eta Sigma. In addition, Benjamin is on the School of Engineering Dean’s List and a member of the University Honors Program. He is active in campus activities such as the Biomedical Engineering Society, Knights of Columbus, Spanish Club, and Catholic Athletes for Christ.
ANGELINE PREMRAJ

Angeline is from Lanham, Md. She is a member of the Phi Eta Sigma, Tau Beta Pi, and the Biomedical Engineering Society. She has been named to the School of Engineering Dean’s List every semester and is a member of the University Honors Program. Angeline is also a member of Filipino Organization of Catholic University Students and Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers as well as a tutor at the Center for Academic Success. She is in the process of completing both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in biomedical engineering within four years of enrollment.

CATHERINE C. PREMRAJ

Catherine is from Lanham, Md. She has been named to the School of Engineering Dean’s List every semester. In addition to being a member of the University Honors Program, she is a member of Tau Beta Pi, Phi Eta Sigma, the Spanish Club, and the Vietnamese Student Association.

FRANCES A. TOSTO

Frances Anne is from Pittsburgh, Pa. She has been named to the School of Engineering Dean’s List every semester and is a member of the University Honors Program, Phi Eta Sigma, and the Biomedical Engineering Society. Frances Anne is also active on campus as president of Engineers Without Borders (EWB) and as a math tutor with the Center for Academic Success. She is currently working on EWB project with the Washington, D.C., chapter to build a library and computer center for a rural village in Panama. In addition, Frances Anne was a research fellow at Duke University this past summer and conducted research on the lysis mechanism of antibiotics.
The Catholic University of America’s biomedical engineering program has been ABET accredited since 1991, one of the first few programs to receive such distinction. The program offers bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees.

At CUA, students receive an outstanding education that combines academics with strong ethical foundations. In biomedical engineering, small classes are taught by renowned faculty active in research in the areas of rehabilitation engineering and biomechanics, bioinstrumentation and medical imaging, and biomaterials. Hands-on laboratories and design projects combine practical, applied learning experiences with theoretical concepts to reinforce student learning. Most students participate in research and internship opportunities alongside faculty or at one of the neighboring laboratories located in the Washington, D.C., area, such as the National Rehabilitation Hospital, Veterans Affairs, National Institutes of Health, and Food and Drug Administration.

Rachel A. Vierra
Rachel is from Cranston, R.I. She has been named to the School of Engineering Dean’s List, is in the University Honors Program, and was selected for Phi Eta Sigma. Rachel is also the treasurer of the Society of Women Engineers, and a member of the Biomedical Engineering Society, and an engineering peer mentor. She also is active in Relay for Life and with the Campus Ministry confirmation retreat team, and serves as an eucharistic minister at Mass, a calculus tutor, and a volunteer at the Ronald McDonald Family Room at Children’s National Medical Center.

Tyler R. Zimmerman
Tyler is from Durham, N.C. He has been named to the School of Engineering Dean’s List and is a member of the University Honors Program and Phi Eta Sigma. Zimmerman was also a Nagel Scholar for 2013–2014 academic year.
The engineering program was begun in 1896, soon after the founding of The Catholic University of America. Formally established in 1930, it was shortly thereafter renamed the School of Engineering and Architecture until 1992, when engineering and architecture were separated.

Prior to 1950, engineering’s primary focus was on undergraduate studies, as well as graduate programs. Research activity and graduate professional offerings increased steadily after 1950. Today, the school offers bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees in five academic programs as well as a master’s degree in engineering management. The school prides itself on being a small, Catholic engineering school, providing quality education with a personal touch. Students can expect close interaction with faculty, small class sizes, small student-to-faculty ratios, and a faculty dedicated to teaching and research.

The school’s strong ties with local research institutions such as NASA, NIH, and NRL, for example, fosters research collaborations and enables our faculty to bring research experience into the classroom.
The Catholic University of America admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, age, or disability.