Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

STUDENT ENTREPRENEURS

MAE STUDENTS START COMPANIES, WIN COMPETITIONS
Congratulations to our undergraduate student entrepreneurs for their achievements during the 2014-2015 academic year. We encourage entrepreneurial thinking by connecting students to a wealth of opportunities and resources at UB and throughout Western New York.

**Alex Zhitelzeyf**, together with Thiru Vikram (computer science) and Shane Nolan (electrical engineering), founded Buffalo Automation Group, a robotics startup that is bringing driverless technology to recreational boating. The company won the inaugural Buffalo Student Sandbox competition, an innovative economic development contest created by WNY Innovation Hot Spot that pays college students to further their respective businesses during the summer. Since forming last year, the company has successfully tested its technology on a 16-foot catamaran, filed two provisional patent applications and secured thousands of dollars in funding.

**Ansh Pandey** was one of three $1,000 winners in UB's Elevator Pitch Competition. Pandey pitched his idea to form DreaMaker, a 3D metal printing company that can print metal objects of complex shapes and a large range of sizes at an affordable cost. Based on a soon to be patented technology from UB’s Composite Materials Research Laboratory, the technology targets the aerospace, automobile, construction and electronic packaging sectors.

**Oscar (Hanyang) Xu** is co-founder of DaStrong Corp., a tech start-up company that focuses on heat dissipation for electronic devices. The company is part of the Start-Up NY program and in 2014, won the second-place prize of $500,000 in Buffalo's 43North Business Plan Competition.