Over the fall semester, I worked at Anaren in Syracuse, NY. Anaren is actually split into two different divisions: Space & Defense, and Wireless. For my co-op, I worked in the Space and Defense division under Karl Anderson, a senior engineer of the company. Mainly, I updated test procedures for the different parts that the company built. In the process I was certainly exposed to many different software and hardware that are an integral part to engineering. At times, I was also told to create a few presentation slides, graphs, and charts.

Listed as one of the fastest growing companies in Forbes, the company is doing pretty well. In my opinion, one of the key highlights of this company is the people working there. They are a hard-working bunch and are very friendly and very open to help in any way with questions one might have.

When I first heard that I was accepted for a co-op position, I was excited. However, housing presented a problem. I heard about my acceptance in the very late summertime right before school was about to start. It was quite easy to find housing within the Syracuse area, but it was impossible to find someone to sublet my apartment during this time. Most of my colleagues who also had co-ops were interviewed towards the end of spring so they were able to ask far in advance for a sublet so that makes me an exceptional case. What I ended up doing was keeping my apartment and commuting to work. This was quite painful as it was an hour and a half commute just to get to work and the same amount of time back after a day of work.

Training was presented in various ways. Most of my training was provided orally, but the company also utilized videos and various presentations. While my supervisor did give me a lot of background information, most of the training came from my mentors. I had many questions so I would always start by asking my mentors first. If they did not know, then they could always point me in the right direction.

Starting out, I had no idea what to expect. From the description, it sounded like a majority of my time would be spent doing paperwork and I wanted to do more