

Dear Fellow Alumni:

I am writing regarding the formation of the Cooper Union Climate Initiative (CUCI), an affinity group, which is being formed in cooperation with Alumni Affairs, specifically with the mission of alumni supporting Cooper Union students who wish to pursue activities and, potentially, careers related to the climate crisis. A second, collateral mission of CUCI is to enable alumni to tap into a formidable body of literature (e.g., books, articles, etc.) already available so that we can better understand both the problem and the solutions in technology, finance, government, etc. that are already underway.

A clear focus in this initiative is the belief in the brilliance of the Cooper Union student base and their enormous quest for knowledge and the desire to touch the future in a positive way. I have seen this clearly in engaging with the student body in recent years.

I am Marshall Rafal, ChE'63 and together with Lynn Lander ChE'60, a former CU Board Member, have been working with a small group of alums and faculty to initiate CUCI.

Current CU Alumni span decades of graduating classes across Architecture, Art and Engineering. This means that we are young adults, parents, grandparents, and great grandparents or simply citizens of the world in which we live. As such, I believe, we have a great stake in the future of the planet. We also, in aggregate, have a great deal to offer in terms of support for CU students.

We have already focused in on several activities wherein alumni could bring benefit relating to climate to CU students. For example, some of us could help enable **summer internships** through our companies. Also, some of us who have worked in climate could **address interested students regarding careers in climate**.

I should point out that the initiatives described above is just a beginning. With the launch of CUCI there will come, I am sure, other ideas in which alumni can enrich the experience of CU students regarding climate, an issue impacting all of their lives.

Let me emphasize, too, just how strongly the climate crisis brings together all three schools of CU. By way of example, CO2 emissions are influenced powerfully by materials of construction as well as how buildings operate, an issue that is being addressed by both engineers and architects. And, artists have their own unique way of communicating as well in a manner that can raise consciousness relative to this global crisis.

To facilitate aggregating alumni interest, a short questionnaire is being posted along with this email. Whatever your level of interest in CUCI, we urge you to respond. And, should this initiative resonate with you, we would love to have you join CUCI as we seek to bring benefits to our amazing student body.

Sincerely,
Marshall Rafal ChE'63