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Brenda So and Cory Nezin, both graduating seniors in the electrical engineering program, sure do love their chosen discipline. Last year when Brenda So attended Def Con, a huge hacking and cyber security conference held in Las Vegas, a colleague suggested they that since they were there, they might as well add one more thing to their schedule of three days of talks and demonstrations. “My friend said, let’s get our ham radio license. And I thought, well, I’m here, why not?” So, foregoing a Celine Dion concert or a day at the slots, Brenda sat for her entry-level ham radio license. “It lets you transmit on certain bands, but not all,” she points out. Cory Nezin, Brenda’s senior project partner, it’s safe to say, is equally steeped in all things electrical engineering. For one thing, Cory, a native of Freeport, Long Island, earned his master's in the field at the same time as he was completing his undergraduate course work. He says the most influential course he took during his four years at The Cooper Union was EID 101, a course taught by Professor Toby Cumberbatch, for which Cory’s class built RAMESSSES II, a dome-shaped shelter that could be made of inexpensive, local materials for refugees in sub-Saharan Africa. That course demonstrated to Cory that all the abstraction of engineering calculations could have a very real impact on the world. At the same time, he recognized that drawing from different fields could be a great source for advances in electrical engineering.

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