

WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE THEY?

25 IEP students are interning in Europe this spring and one is performing research in Québec!

IEP INTERNSHIPS

GERMANY	MAJOR	COMPANY	LOCATION
Thomas Arbige	Mechanical	Lufthansa Technik	Hamburg
Nicole Baugh	Biomedical	Siemens	Erlangen
Eric Champion	Electrical	DaimlerChrysler	Sindelfingen
Edward Dunning	Mechanical	TRW	Koblenz
Brian Feeney	Chemical	Bayer	Leverkusen
Jeffrey Frost	Electrical	ZF	Schwäbisch-Gmünd
Christopher Gosselin	Mechanical	BMW	Munich
Nathanael Greene	Mechanical	Volkswagen	Braunschweig
Valentino LaScola	Mechanical	Bosch	Stuttgart
Jason Lavigne	Mechanical	Bosch	Stuttgart
Christopher Lawrence	Chemical	Siemens	Erlangen
Frank Maker	Computer	BMW	Munich
Shawn Martin	Electrical	Siemens	Erlangen
Michael Rossoni	Electrical	ZF Friedrichshafen	Friedrichshafen
Brook Sandy	Chemical	Hilti	Kaufering
Gabriel Schwartz	Mechanical	AGFA	Gera
Peter Tavarozzi	Int. Business	TBA	TBA
David Termin	Finance	Schroff	Straubenhardt
James Toczko	Mechanical	Emitec	Lohmar
Anna Wagner	Biomedical	Siemens	Erlangen
SPAIN			
David Braun-Friedman	Comp. Science	CEIT	San Sebastián
Meghan Collins	Biomedical	Siemens	Madrid
Derek Gallagher	Computer	Praxair	Gijón
Cristina García	Civil	Hilti Española	Madrid
FRANCE			
Julie Jette	Mechanical	Renault	Guyancourt
CANADA			
Ryan Cournoyer	Civil	Université Laval	Québec



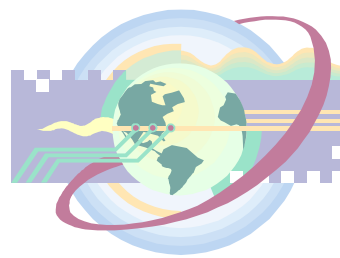
Above: German IEP students in Quedlinburg, Germany (Photo by Anna Wagner)

IEP EXCHANGES

UNIVERSIDAD DE ZARAGOZA

Paul Hutchins

URI welcomes José Martinez from **ITESM's Toluca Campus**, David Zamora from the **Universidad de Zaragoza**, Iván Garrido Mayol and Mario Lopez Calvo from **TECNUN**, Pierre Brossaud from **L'Université d'Orléans**, and Benny Rievers and Arne Thormann from the **Technische Universität Braunschweig** who are here for spring semester 2004!



Calendar of Events

Tuesday, February 24
Texas Instruments Career Fair 1-4 PM in the IEP House

March 4
Spanish IEP student panel, 5 PM in the IEP House

March 15
Peter Olf from Siemens AG speaks in the IEP House

March 15-30
Berlin Photo Exhibit in the Multicultural Center

March 18-23
Grad-level Dual Degree: TU-Braunschweig engineering professors at URI

May 15-29
IEP Study Tour to Germany

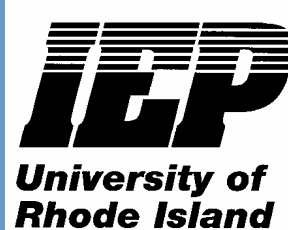
June 27-August 6
Deutsche Sommerschule am Atlantik (German Summer School of the Atlantic)
Get your applications in ASAP!

September 30-October 3
7th Annual Colloquium on International Engineering Education at the Westin Hotel in Providence

International Engineering Program
University of Rhode Island
67 Upper College Road
Kingston, RI 02881
(401)874-4283
iep@etal.uri.edu

International Engineering Program

Winter 2004 Volume 6 Issue 2



GLOBAL UPDATE

Director's Corner Faculty Visit Braunschweig

I have many opportunities to visit partner companies during the year, and they are always interesting. My visit in February to ZF Lemforder Chicago, though, was particularly noteworthy, because it was a brand-new, cutting-edge manufacturing facility, with two of our grads playing key roles. Jonathan Greene '00 and Daryl Hoedtke '00 were given the challenge to work with a team to set up a new plant which will deliver the chassis components, including all-wheel drive and continually variable drive transmission options for the new Ford 500, the fall 2005 replacement for the Taurus. Jon oversees the scheduling and coordination of the many components arriving from suppliers scattered

across many parts of the world.

And Daryl deals with quality issues, ensuring that there are no flaws in the parts arriving in Chicago for assembly. Jon and Daryl have made great use of their cross-cultural communication skills, whether on a daily basis by phone, e-mail, and fax, or when sent to Europe, Asia, or Latin America to meet with their partners face-to-face. It is rewarding to hear from them and their supervisors that their URI education has served them well. It is exciting to see two of our grads playing serious roles in the very high stakes world of global automobile manufacturing. It is also gratifying to note that nine of our grads have gone to work for divisions of ZF, one of the major global players in automotive supply.

As part of its plan to expand the International Engineering Program to the graduate level, a delegation of six faculty visited colleagues at our partner university in Germany, the Technical University of Braunschweig, from January 4-11. The delegation included Professors Godi Fischer, Hamouda Ghonem, Wayne Lee, Harold Knickle, Robert Tyce, and IEP Director John Grandin. Their goal was to visit as many colleagues and research institutes as possible (there are 110 such institutes!) at Braunschweig and to explore opportunities for research and teaching collaboration between the two universities. The next step in this development will be the visit of six Braunschweig professors to the URI College of Engineering March 18-23.

The mutual visits between URI and Braunschweig are funded by a grant from the German Ministry of Education and Labor, which is supporting the development of a Dual Degree Program, through which



Left: URI engineering professors Godi Fischer, Harold Knickle, and Robert Tyce visit the Institute for Aircraft Construction in Braunschweig, Germany in January

The program is being organized jointly with colleagues from Purdue, Georgia Tech, Milwaukee School of Engineering, the German Academic Exchange Service, and the School for International Training and sponsored by several global partner companies and the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation.

Braunschweig and URI students can simultaneously earn masters-level degrees from both institutions. By building a stronger collaboration among the faculty, the flow of graduate students between the two schools will be facilitated, and more students will be able to take advantage of this innovative opportunity.

www.uri.edu/iep

die Nachrichten *Les infos* Noticias

► There is still space available on the 2004 Study Tour to Germany, so get your applications in ASAP. May 15-29 up to 25 IEP students accompanied by URI German **Professors Stephanie Hann and Walter von Reinhart** will visit 8-10 IEP partner companies and the Technische Universität Braunschweig. This is a great opportunity to get to know the place where you will live, work, and study during your year abroad!

► **Benjamin** and **Alexandra** are available for German tutoring again this semester. Stop by the German Language Resource Room (Independence Room 11) during the following times:

Mon., Wed. 10:30-12:30 Ben
Tues., Thurs. 1:30-3:30 Alex

► **Nicole Baugh**, who is currently studying in Braunschweig, shares with us some of her experiences with the German culture:

Being in Germany has been one of the most important growing experiences in my life so far. Coming from the Dominican Republic, I had always been brought up to be very friendly and humble, to think first of others' interests before my own. It was hard for me to get used to the German directness. To me it felt like Germans were being rude. I then realized that this was just part of the German culture. Being honest and direct is valued more than being complaisant.

For example when we first arrived in Germany we had a one-hour stopover in Frankfurt Airport. I was sitting on a stool at a café drinking some tea when two young men came towards me. They were trying to find a place to sit. There was a seat on either side of me so one of the young men asked me if I

could move so they could sit together. At first I was very surprised because he spoke to me in German and because of the way he said it. In the US and definitely in the Dominican Republic the young man would have made a comment about the sitting situation and I would of course offer to move, or he would have asked politely if it wasn't too much trouble for me to move over to the other seat. In this case the young man just plain out said 'Could you move?'. My first reaction was to think this guy was being very rude, afterwards I felt a little embarrassed. I moved over to the other seat and then realized that this was one example of German directness. Since I've been here I've encountered other situations where my being very quiet has annoyed a couple of Germans. Slowly I've learned to speak up and not be afraid to say what I'm thinking or ask for what I want.

As far as classes go, the TU-Braunschweig is very different from URI. At TU-Braunschweig it's more up to the students to learn all the material given in class. There are no tests along the way to help you figure out what is or isn't important for the class. There are also no homework assignments, which is great for your social life, not so good when it's time to take the final. Engineering classes cover a lot more material and are more in depth. It is assumed that you will read over the material and understand what is

going on. If you don't, you have to seek help either by making an appointment with the professor or his assistant. There are no help sessions either. The fact that the classes are taught in German makes it even more complicated, but I'd say that taking classes here has helped me become an independent thinker/learner. I've learned how to find things out on my own and to really understand what is taught in class not just how to punch numbers into an equation and get an answer. This will help me in the long run, not only with the rest of my college career, but also with my job.

So far I'd say my stay here in Germany has been very good. Of course I've encountered a few bumps along the way but in the end I'm happy being here. And anyways who wouldn't want to live in a country where beer is cheaper than water, old ladies make a fuss when you don't wait for the pedestrian green light to cross the road, a 15 Euro plane ticket gets you to nearly anywhere in Europe and where there is so much history you could spend a lifetime just visiting all the monuments and museums?



Above: Nicole Baugh, Michael Rossoni, and Frank Maker at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, Fall 2003

► **Dr. Lars Erickson** has been discussing potential exchange agreements with Université de Technologie de Compiègne in France and with the Université Laval in Quebec. **Professor Peter Wagstaff** of the Université de Technologie de Compiègne (UTC) visited the IEP in November. UTC already has a strong relationship with the TU-Braunschweig and is interested in setting up a multi-lateral exchange between the three institutions.

► A special welcome back goes out to **Christopher Cummiskey**, one of our trilingual IEP students. Chris just returned from his internship with St. Gobain in Cavaillon, France and will complete his undergraduate degrees in Chemical Engineering, German, and French this May. After graduation, Chris plans to stick around to be part of the Masters/Diplom Program with the TU Braunschweig!

TI Career Fair

The Sensors and Controls division of Texas Instruments, Incorporated will be holding a Career Fair on **February 24**. The event will take place in the IEP House from 1-4 PM. TI S&C, located in Attleboro, MA is currently looking to fill Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Design positions, as well as positions in Technical Sales Marketing for any engineering background. They also have internship opportunities. The program layout will be as follows:

- 1 PM—Presentation on Texas Instruments
- 2-4 PM—Resume Critique and Break-out Discussions on Engineering Careers at TI S&C with

► Looking for a summer internship or permanent job with a French company? Check out the Forum USA French Job Fair April 3-5, 2004 at the Hyatt Hotel in Cambridge, MA. For more information go to www.forumusa.org.

► **La Causerie**: Improve your French conversation skills every Monday from 2-3 PM in the Hoffman Room, Independence Hall.

► **Summer Study in France**: The University of Orleans, France, and l'Ecole Polytechnique d'Orléans are offering an interesting option this summer.

The university's Intensive French Language and Culture Course is from July 1 to July 22 and includes 4 different difficulty levels. In addition, this summer they are offering an engineering module as part of that summer school *uniquely for URI IEP students*. In other words, if 3 or more students sign up for the summer school, they will add some (fun) engineering labs to the courses and some visits to companies in the area. They did something similar for us 5 years ago and it was a big success. Several URI students got to visit companies such as Thomson CSF, where surface to air missiles are made, and conduct some fun labs in French such as with holographs. These experiences are an easy introduction to the vocabulary and culture of French engineering.

The summer school is appropriate for anyone currently in FRN 104 or beyond.

If you are interested, you can contact Dr. Hammadou for more information and **Dr. Hammadou** or **Dr. Erickson** for an application form.

► **Dr. Robert Manteiga** traveled to Spain over winter break. While there he met with **Hermán Carrasco** from Italcementi, a major cement company worldwide, who is interested in hiring Spanish IEP students as interns. Dr. Manteiga also met with **Pilar Serrano**, a former exchange student from the *Universidad de Zaragoza*.

► **Attention all Spanish IEP Students**: There will be a panel discussion on Thursday, March 4 at 5 PM in the IEP House. Returnees from internships and study abroad in Spain and Mexico will talk about their experiences. There will be students who interned in Spain, students who studied at the *Universidad de Zaragoza*, and students who studied at the *Tec de Monterrey* in Mexico. Come and hear what they have to say. This is a great opportunity for those of you who are planning to study/work abroad in the future.

► **La Tertulia**: Practice your Spanish at 3 PM every Wednesday in the International Center.

Alumni Updates

► **Adam Simonsen '99** is Marketing Director for Haestad Methods, the world's largest provider of water resources software, and also serves as Chairman of the Waterbury Young Republicans, and is a commissioner on the Waterbury Civil Service commission.

► Congratulations go out to **Tobias, URI-TU-BS exchange '01-'02**, and **Andrea Caporrella Krause** who were married April 10, 2003 in Miami Beach, Florida. *Herzlichen Glückwunsch!*

► **Paola Perez '02** has completed the ZF Management Trainee Program and is now at ZF Lemforder Corporation in Lancaster, South Carolina.