

congratulations Graduates!

Seventeen IEP students graduated this May and two will graduate in August! This group of grads has secured employment or enrolled in such graduate programs as:

MIT—Master of Science Program in Mechanical Engineering
Mercedes Benz USA

RI Department of Transportation

Texas Instruments, Inc., Sensors & Controls Division

Tulane University Law School

URI-Braunschweig Dual Degree Program

URI-MBA Program

Yale University—PhD Program in Biomedical Engineering

We wish them all success and happiness in their future endeavors!

May 2004

Spanish

Andrés Almonte
Jaime De La Zerda

French

John Coughlin
Ryan Cournoyer
Timothy Crothers
Christopher Cummiskey
Nevan Hanumara

German

Aaron Butler
John Colwell

Jennifer Cotugno
Christopher Cummiskey

Scott Herold

Jonathan Koenig

Maria Kunhardt

Derek Martowska

Joshua May

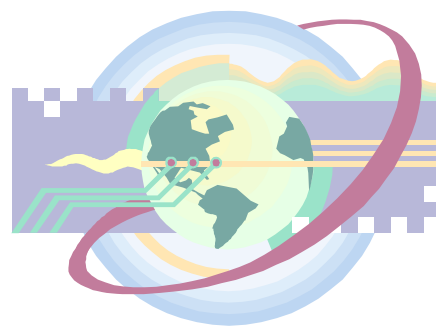
Pros Reun

Robert Zeuge

August 2004

German

Ryan Corbett
Benjamin Wesley



Announcements and Events

► There is space available in double rooms in the IEP House for the spring 2005 semester. Send an e-mail to Erin Papa at epapa@etal.uri.edu if you are interested.

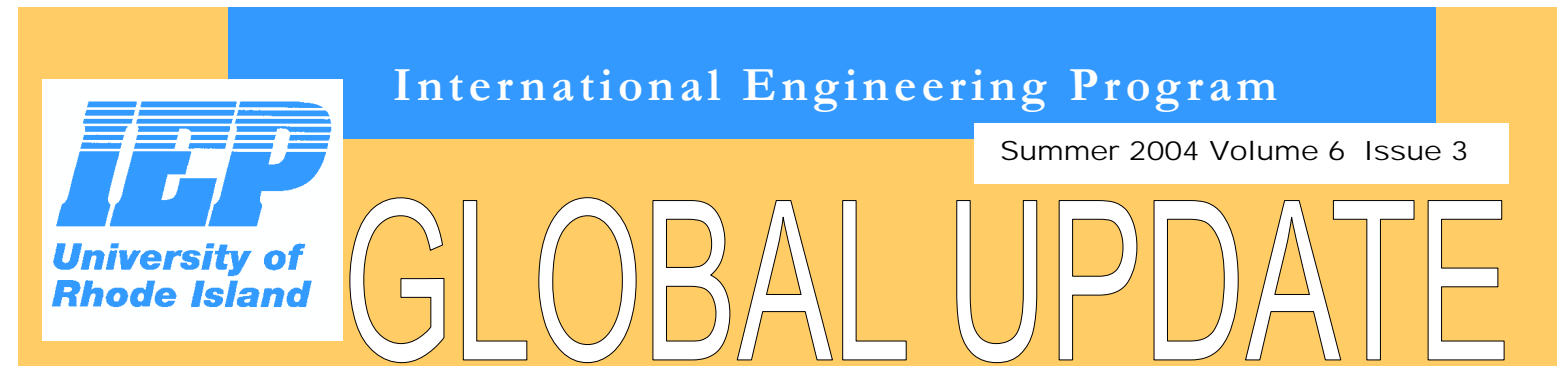
► Friday, June 25: Annual IEP Advisory Board Meeting at the IEP House

► June 27—August 6, 2005: *Deutsche Sommerschule am Atlantik*—German immersion program takes place in the IEP House.

► The fifth group of graduate students from the Tec de Monterrey—Toluca Campus recently completed a course in Flexible Manufacturing Systems with **Dr. Manbir Sodhi** at URI in the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering. The group resided at the IEP House and learned about U.S. culture first-hand with help from their mentors **Elizabeth Glatt** and **Erin Papa**.

► Approximately 20 exchange students will be arriving from Germany and Spain during the second half of August. If you are interested in hosting them for a few days and/or picking them up at the airport, send an e-mail to

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



Director's Corner IEP Director Earns

National Award

1998 grad Rick D'Ambrosca began the IEP as a transfer student from the Community College of RI and a former pipe-fitter and welder from Electric Boat. His studies of German and Industrial Engineering took him to Germany for a semester at Braunschweig followed by an internship at Hoechst AG. Feeling at home in the European climate, Rick returned to marry his Czech sweetheart Re-



Above: Next Generation IEP? Rick D'Ambrosca's daughters, Anna and Maria, riding a carousel dating back to 1876 near their home in Prague.

nata, moved to Prague where he is now a father of two children and the Owner and General Director of a furniture manufacturing business with over 120 employees at plants in the Czech Republic and Romania (and soon in the Ukraine). Rick's obvious success is due to his own hard work, tenacity and entrepreneurialism, but the IEP takes pride in having opened some new doors for him.

Jesse Schneider (1994 ME grad) did not begin the IEP until his senior year, when I told him it is never too late to start. After taking German

that year and subsequent intensive courses at the URI German Summer School and the Goethe Institute in Germany, we sent him to do two internships at ZF Friedrichshafen. Jesse then went to work for a German firm specializing in exhaust systems, and that experience led him to DaimlerChrysler in Detroit. After marrying Laura, his Italian girlfriend whom he had met at the Goethe Institute in Germany, he then was transferred as a Senior Mechanical Engineer for DaimlerChrysler to the California Fuel Cell Partnership in Sacramento, where he also serves as a member of the Department of Energy Hydrogen Safety Panel. Jesse uses his German every day in conversation with his boss and other colleagues at DaimlerChrysler AG in Germany. Here again we have to compliment Jesse as a hard worker, but the IEP takes pride in having helped to make some of these opportunities possible. Our slogan, *Preparing for the Global Workplace*, should perhaps be modified with an additional claim: *We Change Lives!*

Right: A delegation of faculty from the TU-Braunschweig with their URI hosts at Robert Ballard's undersea robotics lab at the URI Bay Campus.

It has recently been announced that IEP Executive Director John Grandin will receive two awards this year associated with his work for the IEP. The URI Foundation has selected him to be this year's recipient of the URI Administrative Excellence Award, which will be presented at the Fall Convocation in September. In July, he will travel to Costa Mesa, California to receive the Michael P. Malone Award for Leadership in International Education from the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC). We can be proud that the IEP is receiving such attention among higher education leaders at both the local and national levels.



The IEP has many additional awards and accomplishments to celebrate:

- ♦ Joshua May (Mechanical/German) - Presidential Excellence in German
- ♦ Meghan Collins (Biomedical/Electrical/Spanish)—National Society of Women Engineers Scholarship
- ♦ Meghan Bellows (Chemical/German)—Goldwater Scholarship
- ♦ Christopher Piecuch (Physics/Math/German)—Goldwater Scholarship
- ♦ IEP—5th Annual Minority Engineering Banquet Award for Support and Dedication to the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE)

Where in the World?

Four Spanish IEP students will be taking off this summer to begin their IEP internships abroad!

Name	Major	Company	City
Carmenis Cabrera	Industrial	Texas Instruments, Inc.	Aguascalientes, Mexico
Ana María Hagan	Civil	Hilti Española	Madrid, Spain
Paul Hutchins	Civil	Grupo Garza Ponce	Monterrey, Mexico
Hostos Monegro	Computer	ZF	Toluca, Mexico



www.uri.edu/iep

A Summer in the Life of an IEP Student

From Ana Franco . . .

Hello Everybody!

For those of you who don't know me, I am a Mechanical Engineering and German student currently working at DaimlerChrysler in Auburn Hills, Michigan. I got the opportunity to work for DaimlerChrysler after attending the National Technical Career Conference for the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers in Chicago this past January. An hour interview at the career fair, followed by an offer letter a month later, got me to Auburn Hills, Headquarters of the DaimlerChrysler Corporation, the second largest automotive corporation in the US along with General Motors and Ford.

I'm working for the Body Hardware Components Team in the Vehicle Engineering Department, which means I'm dealing with all the exterior components that activate and power window regulators and doors. The main responsibility as a team is to incorporate the best design practices into these parts by working closely with vehicle platform engineers, component suppliers, hardware test labs and our assembly plants. It has only been three weeks since I've been here and I have not only learned about different Chrysler practices, but about the automotive industry as well.

Okay, but enough about my work, this is obviously not all I do! After work I have a chance to network with other interns from all around the country and even the world. We usually go out and explore Detroit and the metropolitan area. Having the opportunity to work for DaimlerChrysler this summer will definitely benefit my career goals since I intend to intern for DaimlerChrysler in Stuttgart, Ger-

many when I go abroad in the fall. For any future IEP students reading, or just anybody who would like more information on DaimlerChrysler or some of my experiences in Michigan, do not hesitate to contact me at ktafranco@mail.uri.edu. Enjoy your summer, because I sure am!

From Drew Brodeur (Chemical Engineering and French) . . .

Dean Vandeputte emailed me one day last spring and told me that he was nominating me for the Victor J. Baxt scholarship. It is a 2-year scholarship given by Teknor Apex in honor of Victor J. Baxt. The scholarship is supposed to be accompanied by an offer for a summer internship for both years that the student is receiving the award. Unfortunately, the economy was very unstable last year and they were not able to offer me a position. However, the HR director encouraged me to ask again this year and when I spoke with him in early April he surprised me by saying that they would take me for the summer! I scheduled an orientation for early May, and then I learned more about what the job entailed.

Teknor Apex produces plastics and polymer technology. They manufacture such things as garden hoses, rubber tires, and plastics/polymers for use in a wide variety of objects. The finished product shipped to the customer is comprised of small pellets of the plastic, which can then be melted down and molded or extruded to form any number of things. The company headquarters, production facility, and physical testing lab are all located in Pawtucket, RI, but I decided to work elsewhere.

A second plant owned by Teknor

Apex is in Hebronville in Attleboro, MA, about 5 minutes away from the headquarters. This facility contains the analytical lab and chemical testing equipment. They are equipped to handle customer complaints, specific customer requests, and intra-company requests, and have a good amount of resources devoted to research and development as well. I am working with someone on a project involving the synthesis of plasticizers (chemical compounds that make ordinarily rigid plastics more elastic or malleable) from organic



Dr. Grandin with Josh May at the College of Engineering Commencement ceremony May 23, 2004

compounds. This mainly entails the reactions of organic acids with alcohols to create an organic ester (used as a plasticizer) along with water as a byproduct. Being exposed to such a professional chemistry lab environment has helped me learn more in-depth about what a career in a chemical field could lead to. Also, I really enjoy working with small scale reactions and chemicals to create better processes. Oftentimes, we chemical engineers do surprisingly little work with chemicals in our engineering courses! Overall, this has been an extremely valuable experience so far, and I know that I will be so much better for it when September rolls around again!

From Josh May ('04 Mechanical

Engineering and German) . . .

Greetings from Alabama! My name is Josh May, and I am 1,200 miles from Rhode Island working for Mercedes-Benz US International. Down here in the Yellowhammer State they produce the M-Class SUV, and it's actually the only place in the world where it is produced. Soon they will begin production of the new Grand Sports Tourer too, as well as the next version of the M-Class. It's really amazing for me to be right there in an OEM assembly plant. I'm very interested in production systems and to see everything first hand is awesome. One-piece flow, standard work, takt-time, it's all there and being put to good use.

Another great thing about working at Mercedes-Benz is that I get to use my German language skills every day. There are a ton of Germans at Mercedes-Benz, and they are almost all eager to exchange languages, something I have come to greatly enjoy, and something afforded me by the IEP.

Lastly, my position as a Supplier Quality Engineering intern has shown me that Supplier Quality Engineering is not something that I would want to do as a career (too much paperwork). That's okay though, I think that knowing what you don't want to do is sometimes just as important as knowing what you do want to do. You guys (I refuse to say y'all!) have a good one,

Josh May

From Hostos Monegro (Computer Engineering and Spanish) . . .

Hello All,

I am going into the last year of the program, and will be leaving for an internship with ZF in Toluca, Mexico this August. I am currently living in New York City and intern-

ing at Goldman Sachs, where I have interned for two straight summers now. Goldman Sachs is the leading global investment banking firm on Wall Street. We have 50 offices in 20 countries, represented by 150 nationalities, and speak over 84 languages. This summer I am working on a very educational and demanding project. It is demanding in the sense that I am applying a lot of programming knowledge I have learned in school in a much larger capacity. I am designing and implementing an on-line system for all of Goldman Sachs employees worldwide to sell and purchase items. It will work just like Ebay works, but without the auctioning (this is against company policy). On my first day of work this summer I met with the business manager in charge of deciding on the functionality of the system to brief me on the requirements, specs, etcetera of the project. After understanding what the final implementation should do, the rest was up to me. I decided to build the system using the following technologies: Java (language used to implement the majority of the system), Struts (framework for Java), Velocity pages (instead of HTML), Sybase (the database management system to store all the content of the system), SQL (language used to communicate with the database). My initial stage of design was the class architecture of whole system, which took me about two weeks to complete. Now in the third week of implementation, I am happy to say that I am now coding. I have already learned a great deal of new technologies, and still have more that I will be using for this project. Upon finishing this project in August, I will be presenting it to a large group of interns and their respective managers to showcase what I have done this

summer.

My work hours are 9:30-6:30, but I am enjoying this project so much, I am always in by 8:00 and never out before 7:00. At times I find that I get completely lost in my work and just lose track of time. I have to admit that it took me some time and some very frustrating days to get to this point in the project. This project is much larger than any project I have done before on my own. I am also making sure to enjoy all that NYC has to offer. I usually go out with co-workers or other interns after work for dinner or drinks. On weekends I try to go to the many museums, parks, night clubs, lounges, shopping areas, and all the other great spots of the city.

Other IEP students are interning in the U.S. this summer with the RI Department of Transportation, ZF North America, Schroff, Inc., and the Naval Undersea Warfare Center.

Alumni Updates



▶ **Christina (Petersen) Smith '01** recently began a new position as a Product Manager for Viega NA, a German company in the HVAC industry.

▶ **Ines Walther '03**, who came to URI originally as an exchange student from Braunschweig in 2001, completed her M.S. in Ocean Engineering in December and recently began working for Heller and Johnsen, a geotechnical engineering consulting firm located in Stratford, CT.

▶ All the best to Erica and **Jason Frost '00** who were married on May 22, 2004. Jason also accepted a new job with Draexlmaier as a Process Development Engineer in Duncan, SC.

▶ Congratulations go out to Kristy and **Donald D'Ambrosio '00** who were married on June 9, 2004! Donnie is an engineer at Raytheon Corporation in Portsmouth, RI.