



WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE THEY?

Has one of your classmates disappeared? 21 IEP students are currently interning in Europe. All but 3 of them preceded this 6-month experience with a semester of study at one of our partner universities abroad.

GERMANY	En. Major	Company	Location
Elizabeth Andrade	Civil	Preusse Baubetriebe GmbH	Hamburg
John Colwell	Chemical	Hilti	Kaufering
Gregory Couturier	Ocean	Institut für Wasserbau	Braunschweig
Christopher Cummiskey	Chemical	Agfa Laborgeräte	Gera
Bassem Dib	Chemical	Bayer	Leverkusen
Johnathan DiMuro	Chemical	Institut für Verfahrenstechnik	Braunschweig
Peter Dobratz	Computer	SAP	Karlsruhe
Daniel Flyntz	Mechanical	ZF Friedrichshafen	Friedrichshafen
Ilgin Hasbora	MSIS	SAP	Karlsruhe
John Kelly	Electrical	Siemens	Munich
Christopher Lepore	Mechanical	Emitech	Lohmar
Michael Lilligreen	Mechanical	TRW	Koblenz
Karey Long	Civil	Züblin	Stuttgart
Joshua May	Mechanical	Hilti	Liechtenstein
Colin McDonald	Ocean	Phillip Holzmann	Bremen
Peter Phelps	Mechanical	Supfina	Schapbach
Eric Sargent	Mechanical	BMW	Munich
Rachel Starr	Biomedical	Siemens Medical	Erlangen
SPAIN			
Hayden Fleming	Chemical	Praxair	Beasain
Dara Swanson	Civil	Praxair	Gijón
FRANCE			
Matthew Kane	Computer	STMicroelectronics	Grenoble

started hanging out with Americans. As *Continued from page 3:* ...time went on, I picked up a lot of new words and now I can joke around just as much as my friends do.

Of course, there are a lot of differences between German and American culture. The largest difference for me is the food. Germans have their big meal during lunchtime and just have a sandwich or soup for dinner. Speaking of sandwiches, I even found that American sandwiches are different from the ones I used to eat at home.

So far, I believe that I have experienced a great deal of the American culture. My friend invited me to come over to her grandfather's house for Thanksgiving. It was interesting to see what American family feasts are like. I also went to an American family's house for Easter.

Right now I am at a point in my life where I have to start thinking about my future. Realizing that I would enjoy working in a coastal area building

structures that protect people and property from waves, floods and the like, I decided to apply to the graduate program in Ocean Engineering. A couple of days ago I received my letter of approval from the Graduate School, which means that I will be able to study at the University of Rhode Island for another year!

My time at the University of Rhode Island has been very successful so far. I have received good grades in my courses and even outside of studying, I was able to contribute a great deal to the international exchange. I started playing Lacrosse for the school's Club Sports team, and all the girls on my team seem to be excited to learn about a different culture. And on my part, I am especially excited to go on all of the trips to play against other schools, since it gives me a good opportunity to see a lot of different parts of the country. I highly encourage every other student to study abroad!

Now Accepting Applications!

German Summer School of the Atlantic 2002

June 23 — August 2

- Intensive German language instruction at all proficiency levels
- Fully accredited courses in German language and culture
- German-only environment with extensive extracurricular program
- Pleasant total-immersion atmosphere near Rhode Island's beach resorts
- A summer learning community—at the IEP House!

For more information, contact Professor Norbert Hedderich

hedderich@uri.edu
(401)874-4710

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



International Engineering Program

Spring 2002 Volume 4 Issue 2

GLOBAL UPDATE

A Message from IEP Director John Grandin

"Where are you going this week?" I am not sure if the question was from a colleague, a student or my wife, but it did underline the reality to me that the IEP grows each year in stature and demand as a national model. In February, I was invited to Sarasota, Florida to an ASEE (American Society for Engineering Education) meeting, where I was both a plenary speaker and a workshop presenter on international internships. In March, I was asked to discuss the IEP within the context of globalization at a conference on that topic in Toronto, Ontario. Then, in April I was honored to speak as a member of the Executive Panel at the Southern Automotive Manufacturing Conference hosted by BMW in Greenville, South Carolina. A week later, I joined my colleague Robert Manteiga in spreading the word about the IEP at the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in New York City. And later this month, I will be visiting Union College in Schenectady, New York to help them launch their own variation of the IEP.

Many of us were, of course, busy on the national level last semester as well. Our Fourth Annual Colloquium on International Education in November brought 170 education and business leaders to Rhode Island to strengthen our initiatives for a more globally educated engineer. The colloquium, which involved many members of the IEP and included workshops on the teaching of languages to engineers, fund raising, and internship program development, places URI and the IEP at the heart of a significant national movement. Thus, we are already very busy with plans for the **Fifth Annual Colloquium**, to be held October 24-27 this year.

Leadership - Theme of Keynote Address



Recognizing that global engineering education is intricately involved with the larger issue of leadership, Siemens Corporation COO Dr. Klaus Kleinfeld (picture to left) chose that very topic for his keynote address at the Fourth Annual Colloquium on International Engineering Education this past fall. As the 43-year old head of Siemens in North America, with almost 100,000 employees, Dr. Kleinfeld has certainly earned the right to speak about leadership.

The following are some of the principles highlighted in his address:

- **"Raise the bar!"** Continually challenge yourself to deliver outstanding performance, without losing sight of the details.
- **Let each and everyone count**, but do not lose your personal independence or integrity.
- **Be a Team Player:** Realize that no one individual is perfect, but a team made of several individuals can be perfect!
- **Be a Self-Starter.** It's easier to ask for forgiveness than for permission. On the other hand, seek advice and don't drill holes below the water line!
- **Respect your colleagues!** Be a good listener. Be tough on issues and friendly on people.
- **Attract the best employees**, nurture and develop them systematically.
- **Focus on the customer**, but keep a watchful eye on the competitor.
- **Work hard**, but leave time to play hard too!

Liberty for the IEP!

To say that the IEP is blessed by an active Advisory Board would be an understatement! The Board Chairperson, Heidi Kirk Duffy, and her husband David Duffy have donated their sailing yacht, *Liberty*, to the URI Foundation as a means of support for the International Engineering Program. Currently on the market, the proceeds from the 72 foot vessel will be used to expand the IEP residential community.

Specifically, the Kirk Duffy donation will enable the IEP to purchase the present home of the Chi Phi fraternity at 61 Upper College Road. Once renovated, the new building will then double the capacity of the current IEP House which is widely recognized as a model learning community for IEP students and faculty. The two-building complex will then be dedicated as the Heidi Kirk Duffy Center for International Engineering Education.

Broadening My World

Eric Sargent is from North Kingstown, RI. He is a mechanical engineering and German major In the fall semester 2001 he studied at our partner university in Braunschweig and is currently an intern at BMW in Munich:

I never knew what to expect from joining the IEP, but after holding several internships before coming to Germany, I recognized that as an engineer in today's workforce, it is nearly impossible to escape the reality of a global marketplace. I also saw the program as an obvious leap in the right direction for what I want to do with my life after graduation, which is to work for BMW. The majority of mechanical engineering students and actual engineers have some sort of fascination with automobiles and/or motorcycles, and I am no exception. I want to make it my life's work.

I clearly made the right decision by joining the IEP because I am now doing my internship at the FIZ (Forschungs- und Innovationszentrum = Research and Innovation Center) of BMW here in Munich, Germany and am confident that it will help in my becoming a permanent associate. The general idea

of my project deals with the development, modeling and simulating of a hydraulic power steering system for the successor of the current 7series, the flagship of BMW. While my project is further specified I am working on other related tasks, such as formulating equations for various hydraulic pump systems.

My position here was set up in part by one of my former mentors from BMW Manufacturing Corp. in Spartanburg, South Carolina, where I completed a 3-month internship during the summer of 2001. The work there was also extremely rewarding. I had many varied responsibilities throughout the summer but the one that remained of highest priority dealt with the front axle carrier of the Z3. This led to an investigation of the individual part and sub-system design tolerances for the newest Z3, which was at that time top secret. I was able to gain experience with single part and complete body measuring methods. The list of valuable things that I learned is almost endless. All in all, I felt that it was the most comfortable working en-

vironment that I had ever worked in and was able to learn a great deal.

An unexpected part of my internship there was that I was also able to obtain some German cultural hints and "forewarning" due in part to the fact that my colleagues were from Germany. Language-wise I found myself unable to converse with my German co-workers, as I would have liked; I had not yet quite reached that level of communication in



German. But after having studied in Braunschweig for a semester and just the short time I have spent here in Munich, I am confident that I could go back and contribute to those conversations that I missed out on. Studying in Braunschweig for a semester played a key role in my "fitting-in" here in Munich. I

learned much more than I could have ever anticipated, not just with language skills but also cultural differences and standards that just cannot be learned in a typical class room setting. There are definitely things that I miss back home in the US, but that is to be expected. On the other hand, there are things here that I have learned to love and wonder how I'll live without when I am home. I have also gained a profound appreciation for

little things that I previously took for granted – such as Mountain Dew! One of the most valuable things my experiences in Germany and with the IEP have taught me, is that being open minded is an essential requirement for anyone studying abroad; without that you will never learn to appreciate where you are and what you are experiencing.

Experiencing other cultures is one of the extraordinary aspects of the program, and if possible should not be limited to just that of the country one resides in. I have seen places here in Europe that I would probably never have been able to see if not for this opportunity awarded to me by the IEP. The best way to describe it would be to briefly share with you my Christmas vacation. I spent some time back home with my family in RI for Christmas and then it was right back here to Europe. I spent New Years in Paris by the Eiffel Tower, then flew to Ireland for a stay in the Temple Bar area and celebrated in typical Irish partying style. Next it was off to London for a short one-day stopover on my way to Stockholm. After hanging out in Sweden for some time, we flew back to London for another one-day stopover. I ended up returning to Paris for several more days and I eventually made my way back to Braunschweig after almost a month of traveling. That is something most people will not be able to do and I will never forget it.

Matt @ France

For the past two and a half months, I've been living in Grenoble, in southeastern France right near the Swiss border, and working at the local STMicroelectronics site. I am in the Set Top Box division, which designs components for the insides of cable modems and the more advanced cable boxes which are becoming more common. So far, things have been going well.

There are several aspects of French culture that are slightly different from the US, such as /la bise/, the kiss on both cheeks as a greeting; the lack of a sales tax; and pervasive public transport. It also seems that in France, people drink far more and much stronger coffee than in America. Fortunately, I have completely avoided driving, which is quite a bit more fast paced here; my only time in a car was when my landlady drove me to the doctor's office about a week after I got here. By the way, being sick 5000 miles from home is not recommended.

My work is fairly straightforward. I am working on a portion of one of ST's products in development. Right now, it involved coding in VHDL and func-

tional verification of my circuits using a simulator. Later on, when the functionality has been successfully tested, I will be performing timing analyses. The biggest hurdle here has been waiting for specifications, and then going back and changing my design to fit newer versions of specifications. I have been told that this is not unusual.

Nearly all the people I've met here have been extremely friendly. I live in a boarding house with several other French students, which gives me the opportunity to meet people outside of work. I've made friends here both at work and at my house. Soon I will take advantage of Europe's excellent railway network to visit places. French workers have many holidays in May, so I will do my best to enjoy those long weekends.



Matthew Kane is a Computer Engineering and French major from Cumberland, RI.



Hangin' in Spain

Spain. I chose to study there mainly to improve my Spanish. I felt that I did not have the skills necessary to communicate and express myself clearly in a work environment. Studying in Zaragoza helped me gain the confidence I was looking for and also gave me a great learning experience outside the classroom.

Through my classes, I met people from all over the world (Japan, Sweden, England, Germany, and Mexico) who were also studying there. I learned about different worldwide customs from them while we all learned about the culture of Spain. I had more free time when I was in Zaragoza than I do now and this gave me the opportunity to explore the city, spend time with my friends, and travel around the country.

Working has given me a different view

of the Spanish lifestyle. Besides being able to practice my Spanish for ten hours every day, talking with my coworkers (including some interns from Spanish universities) has helped me learn more details about Spanish culture. In addition, the company lunches are delicious!

Being part of the IEP is a decision that I will never regret. Studying and working abroad is an incredible experience that I would recommend to anyone. Studying a foreign culture in a classroom does not compare with actually living in it!

Dara Swanson is a Civil Engineering and Spanish major. She is from North Kingstown, RI.



Even the Sandwiches are Different!

My name is Ines Walther. I am studying civil and ocean engineering at URI this year through the exchange program with my home university, the Technical University of Braunschweig. I applied to study at the University of Rhode Island because I wanted to find out what Ocean Engineering courses are like, and what life in the United States is like.

I find that the American university system is completely different from the German one. In the beginning I found it very hard to keep studying every day. There is no homework in Germany, so at first glance it seems to be less work. Right now I believe that I prefer the American school system because the

students constantly practice what is taught in class, instead of going to class and then taking a huge final exam at the end of the semester, like we do in Germany.



I have been to the United States frequently, and this is probably the reason why I did not have too many problems with the language when I first arrived here. Of course, there were moments when I did not even understand what was going on. To give an example, during my second weekend here: A friend that I just met in class invited me to a barbecue to meet his other friends. They were talking and joking around and I realized for the first time, that I was doing great in just understanding and talking about daily matters but when it came to slang terms, I did not understand anything. However, that was about the time when I

