

WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE THEY?

17 IEP students are interning in Europe this spring and one is performing research in Québec! Our first group of IEP students is off to ITESM in Mexico already and three more students will be studying in Spain!

IEP INTERNSHIPS

GERMANY	MAJOR	COMPANY	LOCATION
Aaron Butler	Electrical	ZF	Friedrichshafen
Ryan Corbett	Chemical	Hilti	Kaufering
Jennifer Cotugno	Civil	Hilti	Kaufering
Kaylen Haley	Biomedical	Siemens	Erlangen
Scott Herold	Civil	Züblin	Stuttgart
Jonathan Koenig	Mechanical	DaimlerChrysler	Sindelfingen
Maria Kunhardt	Civil	Züblin	Stuttgart
Diane Martin	Comp. Science	Netzpiloten AG	Hamburg
Derek Martowska	Civil	Preussebau	Braunschweig
Mark Nadolny	Int. Business	Siemens	Hamburg
Pros Reun	Computer	Siemens	Erlangen
Coral Siligato	Civil	Bayer	Leverkusen
Benjamin Wesley	Mechanical	BMW	Munich
Robert Zeuge	Mechanical	Emitec	Lohmar
SPAIN			
Andrés Almonte	Mechanical	CIDAUT	Valladolid
Jimmy De La Zerda	Electrical	Miramón Empresa Digitala	San Sebastián
FRANCE			
Nevan Hanumara	Mechanical	ZF Boutheon SA	St. Étienne
CANADA			
Tim Crothers	Civil	Université Laval	Québec

Meals By Mark

LOWER LEVEL OF THE IEP HOUSE

2003 SPRING SCHEDULE

OPEN MONDAY—FRIDAY

BREAKFAST \$4

7:30 AM—9:30 AM

LUNCH \$5

11:30 AM—1:30 PM

DINNER \$7

6:00 PM

- ADVANCE NOTICE NECESSARY FOR EXTERNAL PARTIES OF 5 OR MORE.

- 11-MEAL PUNCH CARDS FOR THE PRICE OF 10

CHECK THE MENU DAILY ON THE WEB

JUST CLICK ON THE KNIFE AND FORK ICON



IEP EXCHANGES

ITESM, MEXICO

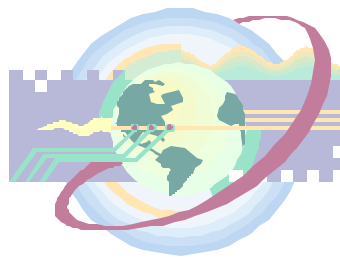
Ana María Hagan
Cristina García
Nell Rios

UNIVERSIDAD DE NAVARRA
(TECNUN), SAN SEBASTIÁN, SPAIN
Juan Salas

UNIVERSIDAD DE ZARAGOZA
Carmeris Cabrera
Sonia Gaitán

URI welcomes Carlos Vazquez from ITESM's Toluca Campus, Javier Palacios from the Universidad de Zaragoza, and Laurianne Pichon from L'Université d'Orléans who are here for spring semester 2003!

www.uri.edu/iep



Calendar of Events

Tuesday, March 18
Spanish IEP Fall 2003 exchange applications due

Thursday, May 15
Final applications due for Spring 2004 internships—all locations

May 18-June 1
IEP Study Tour to Germany

May 25-June 21
Industrial Engineering Graduate Students from ITESM's Toluca campus at URI for a one-month course

May 26-29
IEP Advisory Board Meeting
Munich, Germany

June 22-August 1
Deutsche Sommerschule am Atlantik (German Summer School of the Atlantic)
Get your applications in ASAP!

October 23-26
6th Annual Colloquium on International Engineering Education

More events to come!

International Engineering Program
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Kingston, RI 02881
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International Engineering Program

Winter 2003 Volume 5 Issue 2

GLOBAL UPDATE

Building Upon My Identity in Aguascalientes

The following is an excerpt from a report by Spanish IEP student Freddy Batista after his first month as an intern with Texas Instruments Mexico from August 2002-January 2003 . . .

To date, my experience here in the city of Aguascalientes has been terrific. Here in the third smallest state of Mexico, I have found a life that I've always envisioned. Although I have always known that places like this existed, I have never had the opportunity to actually live in such a place. An anonymous person might read this and think; "This person is making a great big deal out of living in Mexico, a third world country?" Well, yes! All my life, I have classified/identified myself as a Hispanic, simply because I was born in the Dominican Republic and lived there until I was six-years-old. However, growing up in Rhode Island, and basically only receiving formal education in the English language, has hindered my ability to utilize the language that associates me to the ethnic group that I identify with the most. This is why I find Aguascalientes so valuable; it is a place where I am building upon my identity, while pursuing my professional development.

Successful people always talk about how fortunate and blessed they feel about having achieved their personal goals or about having the opportunity to accomplish them. If one thing implies the other, I too am successful because I feel very fortunate

up the adaptation process. The idea was to put me in a position where I would be exposed to the entire range of workers in the Sensors & Controls plant. This way, I could get a good feel for the logistics of operation, meet operators, supervisors, manag-

ers, and contractors, and practice my Spanish.

The entire process of moving from home to a different country, without any professional experience, can seem somewhat overwhelming and in reality, it certainly is difficult. But the key to all of my happiness here in Mexico has been my personal experience outside of the plant. During my stay here, I've made some really good friendships with co-workers and with their friends as well.

Thus far, I've been invited to a wedding, a "Sweet Fifteen" (*quinceañera*), a couple of birthday parties and many get-togethers. I have also joined the TI Mexico bowling league . . . For the three-day weekend that celebrates the Independence of Mexico on September 15-16, I have plans to spend some time in Puerto Vallarta with a friend I met outside of TI. Please keep in mind that I've only been here for little over a month!



Above: IEP student Freddy Batista with Harim Vargas, his boss from TI Mexico, at el Picacho in Aguascalientes

to have this Computer Systems internship with Texas Instruments Mexico. At the moment, I am concluding my assignment with the Telecommunication section of the Systems Department. This one-month-term assignment was given to me with the intentions of speeding



IEP House Is Home Sweet Home

Simon Varacca, our exchange student from L'Université d'Orléans, an electrical engineering major, reflects on life in the IEP House.

In a few words I am going to share with you my experience about the IEP House. There are 3 main reasons why I chose to study abroad for a whole year. The first reason was to improve my English, the en-



gineering language. Secondly, I wanted to keep an open mind and make many new friends. Lastly, I wanted to work, to have fun, and to live in the American way all at the same time.

Why did I pick URI? That's a good question. I could have gone to Miami, Dallas or New Orleans... but I chose URI. I wanted to discover New England, as it seemed to be the most European part of the USA. Furthermore, I love the show *Ally McBeal*, and URI was the closest place to Boston !! The characteristics of RI, grains of sand on the beach, gave me the will to come. I was sure this trait must have had an influence on Rhode Islanders, and I have to say that I have guessed well. Here there is a special kind of proximity between people, a simple atmosphere where human interaction is really important, and a relaxed way of life unlike large agglomerations.

And finally, how I ended up in the IEP house....

For many years URI and my Uni-

versity have had a unique partnership, and one of my friends who had previously visited, told me: "You will like your experience in URI no matter what, but if you live in the IEP house you will enjoy everyday that you will spend there." He added: "Above all, Mark, the cook, is a genius, and is nearly as good as my mother!" You know, when a French compares a "cuisine" with his mother's, we are working close to perfection. You could also assume that for the French, "cuisine" is very important. This last argument was good enough to make me apply for a room and board in the IEP House.

My friend was definitely right. We live here, in a family

spirit, with many brothers and sisters. Your roommate is like your twin brother. We even have twin beds...everyone pays attention to each other, we have many activities together...

I am a member of my University Council [in Orléans] and I have already had an interview with the President. He was charmed by the idea of a real international house, going farther than just the international studies, with a real integration in the host country is key. Living under the same roof is definitely a nice way to succeed in this ambitious goal. From my point of view, the IEP House may be a perfect illustration of the American term "Home Sweet Home".

Lucky to be in the IEP

The subsequent passage is an update from Greg Taylor (2002 grad). . .

Where am I? I frequently ask that question of myself. Well the answer is, I am living in Osnabrück, Germany. I relocated here in November with ZF Lemförder Corporation: Heavy Truck Division to train and to perfect my German. I will be living here for 2 to 3 years, at which point, I will be transferred to a sister plant in South Carolina. In the meantime, I will be slowly taking on the responsibilities of an engineer. I will be working on designs for all US Heavy Truck accounts processed in the Dielingen, Germany plant.

Some of you may be interested to know how exactly I ended up here. Well, it was a dream come true. Since I graduated in May, I had been searching for a job that had to fit two guidelines. First, it had to be in a field that I would enjoy working

in; secondly, I wanted to have some kind of contact with German. . . Through some bit of luck, my resume found its way to South Carolina, and I was called to interview for a job there.

After my first interview, they found a great position for me and called me down a week later for a second interview. I began working there at the end of September and made the move to Germany a month later. One thing that I have discovered is that we are all very lucky to be in the IEP. I also believe that the companies are more than happy to employ us.

Since I will be here for a little while, let me know if you will be in the area! My girlfriend, Amie, and I have recently moved into a new apartment that is walking distance to the center of the city and has a beautiful view. Any questions can be emailed to: greg.taylor@zf.com.

Alumni Updates

The following is an update from Jesse Schneider (1994 grad) . . .

DAIMLERCHRYSLER

I have been working for DaimlerChrysler since 1998- transferred to California at the end of 2001. Currently my assignment is as the senior mechanical engineer on the DaimlerChrysler (DCX) Fuel Cell project at DaimlerChrysler RTNA (Research and Technology North America). This small office is located inside the "California Fuel Cell Partnership" in West Sacramento, California. There are 5 people staffed in the office. Currently, it is the only thing like it in the world - with 8 OEM's competitors (Original Equipment Manufacturers) under one roof working towards a common goal...bringing fuel cell vehicles to market!

The DCX office that I am working in is actually a subdivision of the DaimlerChrysler AG's Fuel Cell Group. Therefore, I am able to utilize German in my daily work between daily teleconferences with our parent company to conversations with Opel (GM) and Volkswagen at the partnership.

My main focus in this position is a vehicle test engineer for our F-Cell vehicles, but there are also opportunities for public outreach events. We wear a lot of "hats" in the partnership. In addition to our responsibilities for our companies, we spend a portion of our time working for this organization. One of my jobs I have had this past year was as the safety team co-chair (I share the leadership with an engineer from Toyota).

But, alas this assignment is not forever. This job is limited until

2004 +/-, and thereafter my wife and I will be moving back to Germany...

If you would like to know more about the CaFCP you can log onto www.cafcp.org or for DaimlerChrysler: www.dcx.com.

ZF INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT TRAINEE PROGRAM

During a recent conversation with Jon Greene (2000 grad), who is currently employed by ZF in Detroit, we learned more about the ZF International Management Trainee Program. Jon, along with Michael Schroff (2000 grad), began the program in the Fall of 2001. It is a 15-month program which accepts a group of 10-15 trainees (engineers and business professionals from all over the world) each year. Each trainee completes four assignments at four different ZF locations (three within Germany and one Auslandseinsatz). Throughout the 15-month period the trainees also attend seminars and complete a group project.

Erik Anderson (2002 grad) and Paola Perez (2002 grad) are currently participating in the ZF International Management Trainee Program. The following is an update from Erik. . .

It has been about two and a half months since the last time I was in the USA. From then until the end of January, I worked on finishing up my first project in production at ZF in Passau (I started in Passau mid-October). At the beginning of this month I transferred down to the main headquarters in Friedrichshafen. I will be working until the end of April for ZF's automatic transmissions for cars division. My

department is in testing, and is responsible for measuring systems (sensors) on the test stands for the transmissions, test vehicles, and also for the transmissions themselves. Here my project involves a study on replacing analog oil pressure sensors with digital sensors. Once the systems are set up, I will be able to run tests on a transmission with the new sensors on test stand. If there is enough time, I may also have the chance to participate in a live test on a test vehicle as well. Very cool! While working here I am living with a French colleague in the trainee program in a "vacation apartment." It has been very good for me because in Passau I was alone, plus we have had a lot of fun living together.

This past week I was away with the other trainees, taking part in a workshop on self-improvement as well as work on our group project. Our group project involves building both new internet as well as intranet websites for the trainee program. It was good to see the other trainees again, and also to get further along on the group project.

I am also in the process of finding my international project. I am currently focusing my efforts on getting a project in Spain. I hope that I will be able to practice my Spanish, a language I have not had any classes in since starting college. I am working on getting this project with ZF Sachs, a large division that ZF bought just over a year ago. The main advantage of Sachs is that it has a large global presence, and offers many possibilities.

