The University Host:

Just after we arrived there was a three week intensive German language course which really knocked off a lot of the rust from the summer. It was a lot more intense than the German classes at URI. During these classes I met most of my friends for the following semester. They were all exchange students who wanted to learn German so speaking only German with them was fun and easy to maintain.

During the semester, the classes weren’t so concentrated which gave a lot more time for Sports, meeting up with friends, and most important, TRAVELING! My favorite course was Technical German Vocabulary because I could learn how various mechanisms and systems work which enhancing my German skills. This was useful during my internship.

Life in Your Country:

At first it took some time to adjust to life in Germany, especially waiting at crosswalks for green before I cross, instead of simply looking both ways before crossing. Once I settled into a rhythm, it was quite nice. I could meet up with friends and partake in activities I enjoy. There was a bouldering gym just up the road from the student housing in which I met up with friends and met new people with similar interests.

SKYLOCET:

Your Company

I completed my internship at Skylocet, a company that designs and manufactures equipment for industrial and sport climbing.

For my project, I was tasked with designing a new assisted braking belay device for rock climbing. When finished, this device will be added to Skylocet's product line.

The Project:

This project gave me the most hands-on experience on the design process. Because my project wasn’t a high priority, I was able to have the total responsibility of leading my own project without the pressure of due dates, which touts a great learning environment. I found out what works and what doesn’t. After drawing up a concept I thought might work, I would then construct a functional model out of wood to really test and refine the design. Loyal as valuable as the successful ideas were the lessons from the ideas that didn’t work.

Impact:

Completing the internship at Skylocet was one of the biggest steps for my future. I gained valuable experience in the field that I wish to pursue as a career.

In addition to helping me acquire a job in the future, it allowed me to feel sure about my decision for choosing this industry over another.

Even more importantly I have a greater appreciation for people in the US for whom English is a second language. It was sometimes hard when I couldn’t express myself exactly how I wanted to, and I could always switch to English if I needed to. The way I will perceive intercultural experiences in the future will definitely be positively affected.

Some IEP students, alumni, and company hosts will further exhibit their involvement in the IEP at the 19th Annual Colloquium on International Engineering Education: Preparing the Global Workforce, to be held November 3-4, 2016 in Newport. You are all cordially invited.

Please also mark your calendar for the IEP’s 30th anniversary reunion on June 3rd, 2017 on the Kingston campus. As is in its beginning in 1987, the ideas of our founder, John Grandin, are alive and well in the IEP community and central to our mission and continued growth.

Best wishes,

Sigrid Berka

International Engineering Program
University of Rhode Island
61 - 61 Upper College Road
Kingston, RI 02881

sundaramj@my.uri.edu

FALL 2015: Study Abroad at Technical University of Darmstadt
SPRING 2016: Internship at Skylocet
Development of new climbing products

Dear friends,

The summer months featuring our IEP immersion German and Chinese summer schools have come to a conclusion. 46 enthusiastic IEP 5th years returned from their year abroad, and the next generation of 69 excited 4th year IEPers just left for their educational adventures in Europe and Asia. Our IEP Living & Learning Community is filled again with a familiar "buzz" of anticipation for the new school year.

In this global up-date, I would like to share a few selected posters created by our returnees from their sojourns abroad. Hopefully, they will give you a good impression about the vitality, breadth and depth of an IEP experience.

The University Host:

The University of Calabria is the first and one of a small number of residential university campuses in Italy. Its buildings are situated along an amazing suspension bridge that I would walk along daily to get to my classes and the laboratory. Every morning I enjoyed the most beautiful view of the rolling hills below then attended my lectures with friends. The classes were mostly taught using PowerPoint or lecture materials. My friends and I would study together and spend our evenings hiking, enjoying local concerts, visiting the local pubs and ice cream shops. There were sporting and musical events constantly hosted by the university itself for entertainment as well.

The Project:

The University of Calabria
SPRING 2016: Research in my field of Mech & Industrial Biomedical Engineering
University of Calabria

ITALIAN INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING PROGRAM

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SPRING 2016: Research in my field of Mech & Industrial Biomedical Engineering
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The Project:

The University of Calabria
SPRING 2016: Research in my field of Mech & Industrial Biomedical Engineering
University of Calabria
The TU Braunschweig Host:

While attending the TU Braunschweig during the Winter 2015 semester, I participated in several German language instruction courses. In these courses, we discussed grammar, culture, and history, and technical terminology. I also had the ability to sit in on a few engineering courses while at the university, including a geotechnical engineering lecture. The modus operandi of the TU Braunschweig is fundamentally identical to that of an American university. Perhaps the largest difference is the amount of responsibility that students must assume for their own coursework. Homework and exams were never mandatory, but entirely necessary for comprehension of the material. Overall, my experience at the TU Braunschweig was a positive one, and served as a perfect environment to further improve my engineering and German language skills.

Life in Germany:

The city of Braunschweig in Lower Saxony is very interesting in both a historical and recreational sense, offering everything from antiquated churches and buildings to laser tag, go-carts, and modern shopping malls. Its efficient train and bus system make it extremely accessible. Bakeries and supermarkets are ubiquitous, and enabled me to easily access reasonably priced food and drinks. Braunschweig is a fantastic city!

The Project:

This internship was particularly interesting because I never had one specific project. Instead, I often had several smaller projects at a time, each taking approximately three weeks to complete. I started by drawing overhead wire diagrams (Schaltplangruppen) on station diagrams, and also assisted in the completion of track blockage reports (Streckenbereichsberichte), and attended several meetings pertaining to the construction process. Several topics were discussed at these meetings, such as the types of machines that needed to be used and what site access infrastructure needed to be built. At the end of the internship, I switched project management software, and I was in charge of the transferal process for my department.

Impact:

In the age of internet communications, companies on opposite sides of the world are closer than ever before. Commerce is globalizing, and the IIP has prepared me to enter the global marketplace.

Through the IIP Program, I have learned to speak the German language fluently, this opening doors to jobs in Germany, Austria, and even Switzerland! It has made me a better professional as well as a better person, as I am able to compete in a competitive global job market. I have learned an incredible amount about the construction process and the nature of the industry as a result of my internship at DB E&C, providing me with background knowledge that is absolutely imperative for all civil engineers. Through these extremely important experiences, I have also developed personally as a result of the program. I have lived out of my comfort zone for an extended period of time, which has made me responsible, cautious, and adaptable to any environment. I look forward to my bright future, and I have the IIP to thank for it!

John Paquet

German International Engineering Program

SPRING 216: Internship a b c d of e

John_paque2@my.uri.edu

Life in Germany:

Full of comfort, surprises, and adventures at every corner – Braunschweig and Erfangen are both wonderful, unique cities that have a lot to offer. Whether relaxing with a coffee, admiring nature, or strolling through the streets, German cities and towns urge to be explored and, most importantly, enjoyed.

Siemens Healthcare:

Siemens has been producing top innovation and ingenuity in medical devices and systems for over a century and continues to do so as one of the foremost technical companies in the world.

The Project:

In one project, I used lithographical procedures to assemble microfluidics for blood analysis with two glass microscope slides, laminating them with epoxy sheets, baking to strengthen adhesion, exposing micrometer-high channels for blood flow onto the slides, and developing after exposure. In another project, I analyzed the effect of various concentrations of PVP, a long-chain polymer that improves the flow profile of blood, in solution with buffer on the healthiness of erythrocytes to determine the optimal concentration. In addition, I analyzed the flow of magnetic nanoparticles through microfluidic structures that lead to single-file flow of the particles, resulting in improved analysis.

Impact:

This year has been nothing but incredible – the wide range of experiences I received from living, studying, and working in Germany have without a doubt made me a more open-minded, diverse, adventurous, and self-confident individual. I now feel much more prepared for what the future has in store – further studies, a career, and simply life in general. This year has really opened my eyes to the world, and I can’t wait to explore and to experience more of it in the years ahead.