Going the Extra Mile: URI Engineers in the Global Workplace

URI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
INTERNATIONAL REUNION
Connect with fellow alumni & celebrate the 25th anniversary of the IEP!
Technische Universität Braunschweig Packetstrasse 11 Saturday, May 5, 2012 2 pm - Registration 3 pm - Alumni panel & speeches 5 pm - Buffet Dinner Registration is 25 Euros Please RSVP by April 28 Register online at advance.uri.edu/alumni/events/calendar
For more info contact Katie at zimmermannk@uri.edu 

House Update
This fall the Heidi Kirk Duffy Center welcomed over 73 residents including 23 international students from 7 different countries! Living at the HKD Center has provided our IEP students with a supportive living and learning community, not to mention the best food on campus. While we are sad to see so many of our international exchange students leave after the fall semester, it means that we have openings for the spring. If you or someone you know think they might be a good fit for IEP Housing, please contact Angela Graney (agraney@uri.edu or 401-874-4926). 

Alumni Updates
Andrew Dasilva ’11 GIEP/CVE is an Environmental Engineer at Arcadis and is working mainly on environmental remediation projects in the New England area.
Kelly Cook, ’11 URI/TUBS dual degree master student in MCE, successfully defended her thesis on November 28. Congratulations, Kelly!
Jens Hupka ’98 MCE (TUBS) recently accepted a position as Director in the Program Management Office at Zygotech in Middleton, CT.
JT Isherwood ’11 GIEP/BSE recently accepted a position as an engineer at MTU AENA in Rocky Hill, CT.
Megan (Bellows) Peterson ’06 GIEP/CHE, After receiving her Ph.D. from Princeton she is now a Senior Member of the Technical Staff at Sandia National Laboratories in the San Francisco Bay Area.
Matthew Reuter ’08 GIEP/MCE is a project engineer at PROMAN GmbH, an EPCM contractor for the oil and gas industry located in Düsseldorf, Germany. He was also recently nominated to the Board of the Emerson Global Users Exchange.
David Spencer ’07 (Dual Masters) is now a Senior Process Engineer at Schott.
Andrew Valainis ’10 SIEP/CVE just moved to Montana to complete an American term with Energy Corps.
Martha Ziolkowski ’10 FIEP/CVE is a Pipeline Engineer at Subsea 7 near Paris, France.

Thank You to Carmeris Cabrera ’05 SIEP/CVE, Neil Petracza ’99 GIEP/MCE & Alan Sadler ’86 MCE from Sensata Technologies who visited the IEP for special recruiting presentations this October.

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Distinguished Guest Lecturer: Karl Kaiser
Adjunct Mechanical Engineering Professor and advisor of dual master SIEP students, Constantine Anagnostopoulos, speaking to Professor Kaiser after his lecture on the European Union.
URI Foundation Donor Recognition Brunch 2011

This year’s URI Foundation Donor Recognition Brunch was indeed a source of pride for the IEP. Executive Director Sigrid Berka and IEP senior Colleen Grinham ’12 GIEP/CVE were speakers at the annual event on Saturday, November 19.

Excerpt from Colleen Grinham’s speech:

“My year abroad in Germany was a great experience because I really solidified my second language, I saw 13 different countries, and I was able to gain real-world experience in a field of engineering that has become [my] passion, water waste.

After spending a year abroad, and over three years at URI, I am here, at the Foundation Donor Brunch, speaking to all of you about opportunities I took advantage of. There are so many opportunities out there: financial opportunities like grants and scholarships, travel opportunities which enrich your life through language and culture, or internship opportunities that can put you ahead in your field, URI has great opportunities to offer. I was fortunate enough to find and seize them, and now I look back on my time here at URI with fondness and know that I left no stone unturned.

However, opportunities like these aren’t just handed out. They require hard work, passion, and people willing to arrange for these opportunities to be possible. I would not have had the same experience in college if I did not have the financial support from the College of Engineering in my fourth and fifth year along with the personal support and my centennial scholarship from the University.”

The Rhode Island Language Summit was a resounding success. Sponsored by The Language Flagship and co-sponsored by the IEP, representatives from industry, government organizations, and education strategized on how to meet RI’s workforce demand for skilled foreign language speakers.

Tom Wroe, CEO of Sensata Technologies, gave an impressive speech on the need for foreign language proficiency in the global workplace. We can’t say it any better than he did...

"...Language skills . . . have a critical role to play in the development of a truly globalized workforce. The challenge we face as business people, as educators and as government leaders is to make sure that Rhode Islanders have the skills and mind-set they need to successfully meet demanding increases from the global marketplace as well as the demands from an increasingly diverse and multilingual clientele in Rhode Island."

Tom continued with a number of examples on how language skills are essential to their 24/7 around-the-globe business operations, as they are to many other companies, as well as government agencies, and educational institutions in the state.

“In one recent case, close cooperation and excellent execution by employees in Shanghai and Europe enabled Sensata to win a new Gasoline Direct Injection business at a major European automaker with a joint venture in China. That cooperation began with regular communication between team members, a lot of late evening and early morning conference calls and a business strategy that was focused on global solutions.”

14th Annual Colloquium

Thank you to Brigham Young University for hosting a great Colloquium! This year’s focus, “Educating Global Leaders”, was woven throughout the presentations and discussions. Industry representatives brought insight on what they value in graduates, which included much mention of leadership. During our afternoon visit to BYU’s campus we were able to hear first-hand from students and faculty about classes and projects that foster leadership and citizenship, domestically and abroad.

Sigrid Berka, John Grandin, and Katie Zimmermann attended, with Sigrid and John presenting and running workshops.

John presented highlights from his brand-new alumni case study book and contributed to the “Getting Started” workshop. Sigrid ran the Strategies and Sustainability for Experienced International Programs workshop. Katie manned the IEP booth for the Grand Information Session and was able to do a high school visit to Park City High School.

Please join us for the 15th anniversary of the Colloquium on International Engineering Education November 1-3, 2012 Newport, RI