Notes From Abroad: Love of Water, Engineering is Match Made in France

My name is Martha Ziozkowski, and I am an ocean engineering and French language major in the IEP. I have been in Marseille, France since January in- terning with GEOCEAN, a French engineering company that constructs marine equipment (oil and gas piping, resolving ocean dredging issues, and deep wa- ter search of sunken objects). I am about to complete this internship and gradu- ate from the IEP. But I don’t want to leave. My internship has been too fun! I recently attended the Sea PACA (Provence Alps Cotes of Blue) meet- ing in La Seyne-sur-Mer, France. The deep, dark-blue Mediterranean Sea surrounded me outside the office windows—which is perfect because I am an avid swimmer, doing laps in the sea every morning in Marseille. At this meeting we discussed new test sites in the waters, how to transport ma- chines efficiently, and the impact of government financing. At a table of 60 men and 4 women, I held my own, speaking French and feeling included. At the beginning a sheet of paper was passed around. On it we wrote our contact information. Half-way through the meeting someone passed out photocop- ies of the paper. I found the idea brilliant! It’s the equivalent of the Bible to me. I now have access to the most important actors in marine energies in France. Not that I needed it, though. During the lunch break some important men in the field approached me. “Hey, Martha. Come here,” one said to me in French. “If GEOCEAN isn’t smart enough to hire you after your internship, let me know. I’d like you on my team, full-time.” The Alps out one window. Job op- portunities coming in through the next. I could get used to this. Now off to Paris! My employer just said he’s sending me to the next global meeting. Alone. To represent the company. What an experience of a lifetime.

SAVE THE DATE! IT’S CLOSER THAN YOU THINK

The 13th Annual Colloquium on International Engineering Education will be held on November 4-7, 2010 in Newport, Rhode Island. The Collo- quium is the perfect opportunity to meet international engineering educa- tion colleagues and share new ideas. It is also a venue for graduating seniors and alumni to meet potential employers.

For more information or to register, visit: uri.edu/iep/colloquia/2010

Chinese Flagship Program Welcomes New Director

Increased enrollment and popularity to study Chinese brings new, dedicated direction to an IEP partner program.

The Chinese Language Flagship Program, part of the national consor- tium recognized for propelling stu- dents to superior level proficiency in a foreign language, welcomes Wayne Wenchao He as Associate Professor of Chinese and Director of the Program.

In this new position Dr. He will teach various levels of Chinese and culture courses and promote the Flagship Pro- gram on URI’s campus and elsewhere.

“I am honored to be a part of these growing programs, both of the Flag- ship and the IEP,” Dr. He says. “Com- ing from a big city to Kingston will be a change, but URI staff all seem kind and supportive. I’m excited!”

Dr. He comes to URI after a distin- guished career at the US Military Acade- my at West Point, and 12 years teaching Chinese at NYU. At West Point Acade- my he was Officer in Charge of five lan- guage and culture immersion programs in China. At NYU he set-up their first-ev- er Nanjing. China program in 2000, and

And it is a real pleasure working with our IEP students. They are the very best. In addition to going the extra mile toward two degrees, they graduate with higher GPA’s, have higher graduation rates, and are better informed about cultural practices than their peers who do not study abroad, according to findings from the GLOSSARI (Georgia Learning Outcomes of Students Studying Abroad Research Initiative).

Many projects and challenges lie ahead of us, with the 13th Annual Colloquium on International Engineering Education taking place November 4-7 in Newport, RI. I am grateful to lead and move this great pro- gram forward. My excellent URI colleagues, dedicated students and the strong support of our alumni, companies, IEP board and friends have made for an easy transition.

Please be sure to share your ideas and suggestions with me. And enjoy the rest of your summer!

~ Sigrid Berka
35 IEP graduates in cap and gown changed profession this spring, from undergraduate to job seeker, employee, or master’s degree student. Over half have landed jobs in engineering fields across the United States—and most with international companies. Others were accepted into Master’s and Ph.D programs.

But for those still in limbo, persistence, hope and a stellar resume via the IEP make these URI graduates cream of the crop. “I’ve had interviews with Volkswagen in Chattanooga, Tennessee to work in their new plant as an engineer,” recent graduate Phil DaSilva says. “In fact, after my first interview, while sitting in the airport waiting to return home, they called and asked me to go on our effort to raise 3 million dollars, to keep this fund in mind to make the IEP independent of state budgetary fluctuations. The message on June 5 was clear: the IEP identity is strong and long-lasting. Let’s keep it that way. Many of you know first-hand how the IEP offers personal and professional gain and how loyal we feel to each other. So it is important to keep our database of over 350 alumni up-to-date and available to each other.

Even though now formally retired, I will do my best to stay in touch with you and to support the IEP team. I recently joined Facebook as a means of staying in contact with the 260 members of the IEP page! And I am connected with 150 of you through Linked In. Let’s all do what we can to keep each other posted and to network with the powerful IEP family. Enjoy the remaining summer months.

Sincerely,

John Grandin, Director Emeritus

Thank you. Yes, you!

Hello IEPers.

Talented, Diverse Graduates Enter Workforce Equipped with Necessary Skills

As bilingual, culturally savvy, experienced engineers, these IEP 2010 graduates are in demand by companies and collegues and now employed or accepted to top graduate school programs:

- Jeffrey Bernard, engineer at PraXair in Tonawanda, NY
- Colleen Black, engineer at Technip, a French company in Houston
- Michael Barlow, engineer at Supfina Machine Company in Rhode Island
- Sheila Danesh, a Masters of Science student at MIT
- Shawn Drew, second internship at BMW in New Jersey
- Justin Freeman, graduate assistant and Ph.D student at Purdue University
- Patrick Hartnett, Ocean Engineering MS and MBA student at URI
- James Lospaluto, engineer at Supfina Machina Company in Rhode Island
- Krystofer O’Leary, engineer at Electric Boat in Connecticut
- Jarrod Pierce, engineer at Pentair in Rhode Island
- Alex Pytka, dual degree masters student at URI/TU-BS in Civil Engineering

Congratulations to IEP Graduates of 2010!

- Roman Alferos: MCE & French
- Michael Barlow: MCE & German
- Jeffrey Bernard: CHE & Spanish
- Christopher Bessin: CHE & German
- Rebecca Boduch: BME & German
- Conrine Buchbinder: CHE & German
- Jeremy Brunyansatu: CHE & German
- Colleen Black: OCE & French
- Juan Cano: MCE & French
- Scott Carlson: MCE & German
- Sheida Danesh: MCE & German
- Philip DaSilva: MCE & German
- Cory DiPietro: CVE & Spanish
- Robert Dirkos: MCE & German
- Joseph Giancaperso: MCE & German
- Patrick Hartnett: CVE & German
- Olufunmilayo Jeyo: CVE & German
- Kusempi Temlilouwa: MCE & German
- Andrew Valainis: MCE & German
- Jarred Serpa: MCE & German
- Jarrod Pierce: MCE & German
- Alexander Reeb: CHE & German
- Jarred Serpa: MCE & German
- Andrew Valainis: MCE & German
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- Andrew Valainis: OCE & Spanish
- Sebastian Zalewski: MCE & German
- Martha Zikowski: MCE & French

China is the New “It”

As an Asian nation on the move, China is a growing market for URI graduates. From May 1-5, URI’s President, Dr. Dooley, and Vice President for University Advancement, Dr. Sigrid Berka, travelled to China to meet with university leaders, Corporate Relations Director Michael Byrnes, and IEP Advisory Board member Michael Byrnes, and Coordinator of the Chinese Language Flagship Program, Erin Papa went on a 10-day trip to China. Why? To get to know the URI partner universities and expand existing exchange programs and company networks. “It was impressive to witness first-hand the enormous changes in the Chinese Higher Education system,” Berka says after returning to the US. “The Chinese universities are now partly ranked by the percentage of international students they enroll. This presents the URI System with the starting point to establish dual degree programs benefiting both institutions.”

The visitors were equally embraced by old and new partner companies eager to employ Chinese-speaking US engineers able to work across two different cultures. The URI delegation visited SinaCorp in Changzhou, ZF, Bayer, and Continental in Shanghai; and Motorola, HengTian, and State Street in Hangzhou. One highlight of the trip was meeting URI students in action in labs and design offices, and meeting those host companies, and meeting those exchange students from Zhejiang who had studied at URI. All Chinese hosts were very generous with their time. They invited us on tours and culinary adventures—a tremendous show of hospitality during a whirlwind trip!

Dooley: China is Now

Excerpt from President Dooley’s blog while in China. This is exactly the kind of experience that is so valuable educationally, and that I believe should become a distinguishing feature of undergraduate education at URI. There are numerous and appealing opportunities for the University of Rhode Island in China. Our students who gain the capability to engage China, and understand its language and culture, will be exceptionally well prepared to succeed in a global economy, in a global society, where China will play an increasingly important role.

Our visit to China, while rewarding, was also sobering. If the United States will continue to play an increasingly important role. Our visit to China, while rewarding, was also sobering. If the United States will continue to play an increasingly important role.

Visit the URI Facebook page for more details.

International Education Program

In April, President Dooley, IEP Director Sigrid Berka, Mechanical Engineering Professor Zongqin Zhang, IEP Advisory Board member Michael Byrnes, and Coordinator of the Chinese Language Flagship Program, Erin Papa went on a 10-day trip to China. Why? To get to know the IEP partner universities and expand existing exchange programs and company networks. “It was impressive to witness first-hand the enormous changes in the Chinese Higher Education system,” Berka says after returning to the US. “The Chinese universities are now partly ranked by the percentage of international students they enroll. This presents the URI System with the starting point to establish dual degree programs benefiting both institutions.”

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