Alumni Updates

Congratulations to the following alumni on their achievements:

Eric Butkus (GIEP ’09) has just started as a Project Manager with Clinical Dynamics Corp. in CT. He is working on developing a hybrid blood pressure monitor with a calibration/validation tool for a Phase 2 grant with the Center for Disease Control.


Walter Giratis (’93) is a Senior SQA Manager at Symantec Corporation in Waltham, MA where he works on enterprise messaging security applications. He resides in North Smithfield with his wife Celeste and two children, Alcyan (9) and Ian (7). When he is not working his day job he can be found making improvements around their small farm of chickens, turkeys, ducks, rabbits and coming soon—glamorous goats and a pony. If any old classmates would like to get together over a Kaffee oder Bier please contact him at walter.giratis@gmail.com.

Dennis Heaphy (GIEP ’09) has just been accepted to the Engineering and Operations Management Development Program with BMW in South Carolina.

Advisory Board member and alum Tobias Lührig recently came back to URI to present about “Doing Business in India, with India” at the 2009 URI Honors Colloquium on Demystifying India.

Josh May (GIEP ’04) and his wife, Kelleth, an Advisory Board member and alum Tobias Lührig recently came back to URI to present about “Doing Business in India, with India” at the 2009 URI Honors Colloquium on Demystifying India.

Jesse Schneider (GIEP ’94) is the director of research and development with Proton Motor Fuel Cell GmbH in Puchheim, Germany.

Taylor Spalt (SIEP ’08) and Alex Reeb (GIEP ’09) both have graduate assistantships at Virginia Tech.

Global Update

University of Rhode Island International Engineering Program

June 5 – IEP Alumni Reunion

On Saturday, June 5, the IEP and URI will host its first grand reunion celebration for all graduates of the IEP. Plan to start the day with a reception and lunch on the URI campus. Meet President Dooley and other URI administrators and faculty, make new friends and renew your ties with IEP classmates and alumni from the entire history of the program. Spend the afternoon together, before convening again that evening at the elegant Dunes Club in Narragansett to mark John Grandin’s retirement.

June 5 – Retirement Party

We hope you will attend the June 5 reception, dinner, and program at the exclusive Dunes Club on the beach in Narragansett, following your afternoon on campus. Join with faculty, friends, supporters, Board members, former exchange students and fellow IEP alumni. Plan to celebrate the program together and to support this event, which will help the program endow the IEP Executive Director position, guaranteeing its permanence in the university structure. Stay tuned for the details of this evening and watch for a formal invitation in the mail.

Welcome Tony Amante Schepers as IEP Coordinator!

The IEP is pleased to welcome a new member of the team. Tony Amante Schepers will begin work in Kingston in February as the IEP Coordinator, the long awaited position to pick up many of the responsibilities formerly carried out by Kathleen Maher. Tony graduated from Western Michigan University with majors in Spanish and Public Policy. He has extensive experience in study abroad, marketing, and public relations, and most recently helped to develop Panrimo, a study abroad provider with programs in Europe, Asia, Latin and South America. Tony is a published writer, speaks Spanish, and feels especially at home in Buenos Aires. He is eager to bring his skills and background to a program allowing him to work more directly with students. At the IEP, he will be asked, like each of us, to do a broad variety of things, but with initial focus on marketing and outreach. Welcome Tony!

IEP Global Update

IEP STUDENTS CHIPS IN

The IEP is very thankful to Kristopher Cuellette (with the help of Roman Alferos and Jarrod Pierce) for ordering and assembling two brand new IEP computers. These computers are located in the basement of the IEP House, and are FREE for the IEP Community to use!

These IEP students spent more then 10 hours of their own time on this project! So if you see them around, please feel free to thank them for their hard work!

HEIDI KIRK DUFFY CENTER NEWS

Ever wonder what is was like to live in the IEP/1I House? Here is what resident Sam Matus has to say:

Living in the TI House for two years and being a part of the IEP community have helped me to mature and improve emotionally, socially, and academically. All of my best friendships, my motivation and my academic support have come from my peers and mentors in the IEP. Even when I looked at colleges in high school, the IEP quickly emerged as my top choice."

Are you interested in living in the IEP or TI House for the 2010-2011 academic year? Download the application at www.uri.edu/iep or stop by one of the IEP offices to pick up an application!!
The IEP sent 41 students abroad this year!

**Germany**
- Andrea Baldwin
- David Caouette
- Wendy Costa
- Patricia Coutts
- Andrew DaSilva
- Drew Davis
- Patrick Eads
- Sara Eldinge
- Shawn Fineout
- Karolina Gaide
- Amy Gibson
- Brian Grenon
- Jeffrey Hanson
- Corey Marchetti
- Manuel Muller
- Dylan Murphy
- Sotharam Muth
- Steven Stavoung
- Katherine Tivin
- Mason Wilson IV

**Spain**
- Ryan Andrews
- Eric Collette
- Josh Haggyter
- Nathahn Kando
- Grace Lynch
- Sam Matus
- Chelsea Meier
- Sarah Schlafter
- Marc Tetreault

**Dual Degree Masters Students**
- Kevyn Bollinger
- Keely Cook
- Bradford Lefoley
- Jason Miller
- Rachael Browning
- David Fennessey
- Joseph Hackman
- Sara Manteiga
- Taylor Marge
- Martha Ziokowski

**France**
- Ben Adams
- Juan Cano
- David Fennessey
- Joseph Hackman
- Ben Adams
- Juan Cano
- David Fennessey
- Joseph Hackman
- Ben Adams
- Juan Cano
- David Fennessey
- Joseph Hackman

**China**
- Keyan Bollinger
- Keely Cook
- Bradford Lefoley
- Jason Miller
- Rachael Browning
- State Key Lab of Fluid
- Power Transmission and Control Zhejiang Univ.
- Joseph Hackman
- Sharp Trust LLC
- Total
- Total
- total
- Total
- Geoclean
- Apxi XXI
- Ibiaa Energia
- Robotikin
- Ibiaa Energia
- B&J Adaptacions
- Fatronic
- Pierburg Spain

The following is from Joe Hackman who is currently studying in China:

> Studying engineering and Chinese at the same time was at first very overwhelming, but now I find it very rewarding. My Engineering classes both allow me to learn new Chinese vocabulary and have allowed me to make friends with many of my Chinese classmates to practice Chinese.

> Living like a Chinese student and learning how things are done here is both an extremely interesting experience, and an intensely rewarding one. I feel that I have learned a significant portion of the required vocabulary, and my understanding improves every day, but it also grows apparent that the varied language backgrounds of Chinese professionals will be a huge barrier to overcome, not only here, but in my future career as well.

> I hope to come back from this program with a new lexicon of technical Chinese. I want a good understanding of my fellow engineers from China. I want to understand the Chinese workplace and what a college degree from a Chinese university really means. Perhaps most importantly, I have gained a lot of friends here so that even when I return to America, I will never be far from the pulse of China.

**IEP Associate Director Dr. Sigrid Berka receives the Federal Republic of Germany-German-American Friendship Award**

On Friday, December 11, 2009, Consul General Friedrich Loehr visited URI on behalf of the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to honor the accomplishments of Sigrid Berka with a German-American Friendship Award. This award not only recognizes Sigrid’s past achievements, but also her quick start and hard work at URI on behalf of the IEP. The ceremony, held at the Alumni Center, was attended by students, faculty, and board members of the IEP.

Dr. Berka receiving the award from Consul General Loehr

Consul General Loehr speaking of Dr. Berka’s achievements

Friedrich Loehr also took advantage of this date to introduce a very special exhibit on the Berlin Wall which may be seen in the Texas Instruments House through January. Entitled Freedom Without Walls, the photographs depict the jubilant crowds that gathered on both sides of the Berlin Wall 20 years ago to celebrate the opening of the border crossings between the eastern and western parts of the city. The tearing down of the symbol of the Cold War and political oppression led to national unity for Germany less than a year later. IEP students contributed to the spirit of the afternoon by building their own symbolic Berlin Wall and then tearing it down together, as the photos show.

Student-built wall at the December 11 program

Students break down the wall they built

Pres. Dooley, Consul General Loehr and Dr. Grandin

**12th Annual Colloquium on International Engineering Education**

The IEP’s 12th Annual International Colloquium on International Engineering Education was hosted by Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, this year from October 22-25. John Grandin and Sigrid Berka both presented various aspects of the IEP model in Thursday’s Getting Started workshop. John also chaired a session on Friday, Moving Forward on the Newport Declaration, a follow-up to last year’s NSF-supported Summit on the Globalization of Engineering Education held in Newport. Three IEP students, Sheida Danesh and Robert Dircks from the GIEP and Jeff Bernard from the SIEP did an excellent job as ambassadors for the program. Sheida and Jeff served as URI representatives on the Saturday student panel together with their peers from Georgia Tech, Iowa State, and the University of Cincinnati. Robert, Jeff and Sheida also presented posters about their research and life abroad during the Information Fair on Friday, as well as Sigrid’s Sunday workshop on Transitioning into the Global Workplace.

**Globalization Personified**

In this photo, Loren Eckardt gives us a new understanding of globalization. Loren graduated in May 2009 with degrees in German and Ocean Engineering. He then went to work for Beluga Shipping GmbH in Bremen, Germany. In this picture we see him on assignment as a project engineer in Tianjin, China. The locomotive, manufactured in China is being shipped by Loren’s company to Cuba! The global economy is complexly intertwined, but, as we see here, IEP grads are uniquely ready to handle it!