Chinese Winter Immersion

Chinese Winter Immersion this January not only immersed students in intensive culture and language studies, but also in an additional foot of snow! In spite of a snow day and some intense New England weather, 23 URI students of Chinese took advantage of their winter recess to develop and refine their language skills. Living, learning, eating, and sleeping in Chinese is a great way of keeping up skills for the next semester.

Alumni Updates

Erik Anderson '02 and his wife Anita welcomed their first child, Melissa Jane Anderson, on January 1, 2011 at 3:04 am German time.

Mike Bartow '10 is a Mechanical Engineer at Supfina Machine Co. in North Kingstown, RI.

Jeff Bernard '10 is a Process Engineer in the Project Execution department at Praxair at the Praxair Technology Center in Tonawanda, NY.

Mike Bessette '08 married Andrea E. Mackowitz on June 5, 2010 in Providence. They reside in Manchester, CT with their new puppy, Litty. Michael is a CIPT EC Coordinator & Project Engineer at MTU Aero Engines in Rocky Hill, CT.

Daniel Fischer '02 has been promoted to Product Manager at Siemens Health Care in Erlangen, Germany.

Brad Fontenault '08 GIEP/MCE was married in July 2010.

Igor Garcia is an engineer with Pratt & Whitney in CT, working on propulsion. His son is now 9 months old.

Zack Karas IEP '08 GIEP/MCE was married in July 2010.

Filip Losowski '09 is a Sales Project Manager at Supfina Machine Company. Adam Muratori '09 is an Electrical Engineer with Applied Radar in Rhode Island.

Jesse Schneider '94 is now working as a Requirements Manager for alternative propulsion, storage, & refueling with BMW AG. He still resides in Munich.

Meghan Soens '05 SIEP/ELE/BMD, has been promoted to Product Manager at Siemens Health Care in Erlangen, Germany.

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In contrast, Stuttgart provided a glimpse of ranges from aeronautics to mining, ship-trying to cover this vast collection, which square meters, you could be busy all day 50 exhibition areas covering some 47,000 technology, from their origins to the present day. In experience the world of science and technol-is the delight of anyone who wants to ex-

culinary places gave many of the students a first introduction to Bavarian cuisine com-

In Munich our good IEP friend at BMW, Eckhard Hommrichma, made it possible for the group to see the unique BMW technical details of this collection of 400 cars, motorbikes, and priceless machinery. Every era of touring car is present in the collection including an old DTM Schnitzer racer from the time when the series was based on production cars.

Munich’s Marienplatz, Stachus, and its many churches and public places are best conquered by walking, and as a reward, its culinary places gave many of the students a first introduction to Bavarian cuisine complete with Schweinshaxen and Weisswurst.

As Matt Zimmerman ’01 GIIEP & OCE approached the end of his studies in the IEP, he was faced with the decision that all graduates face: what next? Looking back he says that he had two choices: go out and look for a job or turn what he was already doing into a job. He had been collaborating on a project with Dr. Jim Miller (OCE) developing a fore-

FarSounder, the company that grew from Zimmerman and Miller’s project is now an international leader in marine electronics. Based in Warwick, RI, it currently produces two models of for-
ward facing 3-D sonar: the 360° coverage underwater while on anchor and also provides navi-

gation sonar while the vessel is under-
way. Their website boasts videos of the 3-D sonar in action.

What are some of the highlights from your time in San Sebastián?

The highlights so far have definitely been making friends from all over the world and se-

What is your advice for fellow IEPers?

I’ve come to learn that the more I speak, and the more I make mistakes, the more I learn. Yes, I’ve felt dumb or silly in some situations, but it’s all part of the learning process. So don’t be afraid to make mistakes, and don’t be scared to ask questions. Everyone who I’ve met in Spain has been so nice so far, and I can’t wait for another semester there!

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cial product.

FarSounder, the company that grew from Zimmerman and Miller’s project is now an interna-
tional leader in marine electronics. Based in Warwick, RI, it currently produces two models of forward facing 3-D sonar with maximum ranges of 440m and 900m. They have also just released a diver-detection system. Using fixed-in-hull sensors, it allows for 360° coverage underwater while on anchor and also provides navi-
gation sonar while the vessel is under-
way. Their website boasts videos of the 3-D sonar in action.

FarSounder has had contracts in nu-
merous countries including the Nether-
lands, Australia, Japan, and China. They also have distributors around the world, so Zimmerman uses his language skills on a regular basis. He says that “Custom-
ers, stylists, and boat captains really appreciate being able to communicate with you in their native language. I use my French most often (on a weekly ba-
sis), followed by German.”

Zimmerman says that his education with the IEP has proven to be invaluable, both pro-
fessionally and personally. His year abroad with the IEP was split between studies at the Université d’Orléans in France and an in-
ternship at SAP in Karlsruhe, Germany. His experiences through the IEP are great as-
sets as the VP of engineering for a company with so many international connections, and have also inspired him as a life-long world traveler. Outside of the travel he has done for FarSounder, Zimmerman’s favorite des-
tinations include Thailand, Morocco, Hondu-
ras, and Japan.

FarSounder’s success has not gone unno-

ced in its home state. In summer 2010 the Providence Business News honored Zim-

merner on the PBN Forty under Forty list and FarSounder Inc. received a 2010 PBN Innovation Award.