Great next! URI was awarded a 25k grant by the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund. This is the second grant the Spanish IEP has won!

This academic year URI will be collaborating with SENA Centers in Barranquilla – the National Training Service in Colombia on a new and exciting cross-cultural project called “Sustainable Prostheses - An All inclusive Approach to Designing in the Americas.” The primary goal of this program is to create a new model of global cooperation between faculty and students from the United States and Colombia in collaborating on the creation of sustainable prostheses that will have a socio-economic change. Sharing the complimentary expertise in sustainable prostheses engineering, joint teams across the two Americas will create affordable prostheses engineering solutions to address the enormous need for prosthetics in Colombia and the US.

Both teams at URI and SENA are led by two faculty members and include four students of diverse background and disciplines. The URI team includes four students of biomedical, mechanical, and electrical engineering – Laura Parra (ELE), Christian Witcher (MECE) and James Gannon (ELE) are Spanish IEP students and are already conversing with their team mates in Colombia in Spanish. Furthermore, Conhav Akoiwala (BME) joined the team, and solid his 3-D Printing expertise that he will be teaching to his team mates. We are very pleased that our students will be guided and taught by our professors Kunal Manikodiy, Assistant Professor of Electrical, Computer & Biological Engineering, and Manori Sohdi, Professor of Industrial & Systems Engineering. SIEP Director Silke Scholz is providing the program management and cultural component at and beyond URI. Last but not least – and most importantly – our teams also include four Colombian upper extremity amputees who will take an active part in the creation of the very prostheses that they need.

Our project will include four key activities:

1. We start with cross-country and virtual teamwork in this spring semester and learn about the needs and specifications for prosthetics of the four amputees.
2. In June we will welcome the SENA Team at URI to work on the creation of prosthetics while performing a Designathon. We are excited that they will be living in our URI Houses for two weeks!
3. In August, it is our turn to travel, work and study abroad in Barranquilla. For two weeks our students will be fine-tuning the prostheses together with their colleges at SENA. The four amputees will receive a new prosthetic arm.
4. Finally in November, we will present our model and project jointly during our 2017 Colloquium on International Engineering Education in Arizona in the fall.

This is the year of diversity in the SIEP, and we are happy to welcome Colombia as a new location and opportunity of professional development for our global engineering students. Please stay tuned for more news regarding this exciting project.


Winter J-Terms 2017 to Germany and Japan

This year’s Study Tour 2017 “Germany Today: Science, Technology, and Culture” was generously funded by the Max Kade Foundation, and led by Sigrid Berka and Anett Geithner; our DAAD Lecturer. Aside from visits to the German Parliament, High School visits, and Maximilianeum Theater students were introduced to new companies such as Vattenfall, Philips and Porsche. We owe a great thank-you to our J-term trip and the generous sponsorship of companies such as Vattenfall, Philips and Porsche.

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**Experiences from Abroad**

**Michael Logar, SIEP/ME**

By the end of February, most of our students abroad have moved to a new city to begin their six-month internships. Here are a few of their experiences and expectations.

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**Michael Logar, SIEP/ME**

Michael Logar, participating in Bow tie Automotive Challenge in Munich, Germany.

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**Alex Jenkins, CIEP/ME**

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**Craig Smith, SIEP/ME**

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**Zachary Tiang, CIEP/ME**

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**Adam Nabb, SIEP/ME**

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**Alex Jenkins, CIEP/ME/Chinese Flagship Beijing, China**

"As part of the Chinese IEP I am spending a six month period at Beijing AouRiTe Science & Technology Company where my main responsibilities include translating technological journals and user manuals from English to Chinese. My goal for the internship is to expand my engineering vocabulary with the hope that by the end of my internship I’ll be able to have thorough technical discussions with my Chinese colleagues. Apart from my classes and internship, I’ve found a loving community in Beijing. Upon my arrival I joined Beijing’s co-ed elite Ultimate Frisbee Team, Big Brother. During New Year’s Eve I coincidentally met, board member of the IEP, Clay Pell. Even 6000 miles away from home I still can run into friends of URI!

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**Brenno Ribeiro, GIEP/MCE**

"My experience in Germany has been nothing but amazing. Weissach, Germany

Brenno Ribeiro visiting Altstadt Frankfurt.

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**Craig Smith, SIEP/ME**

Santiago, Chile

During the fall semester I studied at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso where I completed six courses. My courses ranged from Structural Engineering and Civil Engineering to the study of systems in a sustainable city. After the semester I moved from Valparaíso to Santiago where I worked with a consulting firm in the energy and Powertrain sector. I was using Six Sigma techniques and learning from many different people and experiences which will make me a better engineer.

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**Michael Logar, SIEP/ME**

Patagonia and explored the ski slopes in the Valparaso and Vida del Mar area of Chile.

I am very excited to learn from people and get involved in a project. I am also excited to improve my Spanish language skills in a work environment.

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**Craig Smith in Cataratas La Paz, Alajuela, Costa Rica**

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**Zachary Tiang, CIEP/ME**

Hangzhou, China

"My name is Zachary Ting (Chinese name: 滕志浩) and this semester I have the honor of working at Hangzhou Architectural Design & Research Institute Co., LTD (杭州建筑院)." I am continuing my stay in Hangzhou at the 5th Working Division that has worked on a project titled Hangzhou Green Office Park Masterplan (Office Park 杭州绿色办公楼). Currently my work involves green design pre-assessment. The designs created have to follow a specific green architecture guideline for the city of Hangzhou. I am working closely with other professionals in collaboration with the government. It is similar to the third party verification system known as LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) in the US. I review plans and designs to make sure everything proposed is in the assessment standards for green building. It is very interesting to see the difference in standards between China and the US and where the differences come from. The climate, availability of materials, and population factors are all vastly different in China and is reflected in the green assessment standards. Another interesting challenge is that Chinese differences are exciting and forces me to improve my technical vocabulary in Mandarin. I am excited for the challenging work!"

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**Michael Logar, (right) and Ibrahim Brown (GIEP, MCE) next to a wind tunnel at the Institute of Energia and Turbomachinery, Munich, Germany**

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**Adam Nabb, SIEP/ME**

Huuraco, Puerto Rico

"I will be completing a six-month internship with Bard Shannon Ltd, a division of Bard that develops, manufactures, and markets medical technologies throughout the world. Bard Shannon Ltd is located in Huracao, Puerto Rico. I am excited to be here because Bard was the first SIEP student to complete my internship in Puerto Rico. Previously, I had completed a summer internship with Davol Inc. in Warwick, which is another division of Bard. My position in Puerto Rico is an engineering coop in the Business Excellence department. The position requires me to coordinate the manufacturing of the entire company and work with all of the products that I worked with while in the US as a SIEP intern.

Within the Business Excellence department, I will be working closely with support groups such as labeling, packaging, and quality assurance. Due to the large number of products that Bard produces will be used within the human body, scientific and proper handling is crucial. I will guide and execute continuing improvements within my area, using Six Sigma techniques and lean manufacturing theory as a basis for changes.

I am excited to work with the company from a completely different point of view, while continuing to improve my Spanish skills and learning more about Bard and the business. I am excited for the challenge of working in a Spanish speaking country and adapting the numerous languages differences between Spanish (where I studied for six months) and Puerto Rico."