This year’s colloquium was sponsored jointly by the DAAD, the Asia Institute and URI. It had close to 180 registered participants, a good representation from industry, and a variety of formats engaging the audience, such as International Cafés, workshops, and parallel break-out sessions. President Dooley delivered an inspiring dinner keynote, and the audience congratulated us on “our far-sighted President,” his commitment to international education, and his call for the need to further invest into programs that strengthen our presence in an interconnected global world and a diverse campus community. Equally well received was William Murray’s keynote speech who –as CEO of TeknorApex – gave an insightful presentation on how important global acquisitions within and outside the U.S. suddenly challenge the management of a local company to think globally and to adjust quickly to new cultures, be it in the south of the US, in China, Germany, or elsewhere; and therefore there is need for technically skilled, culturally sensitive, and linguistically flexible employees.

The Industry Roundtable featured strategies in which companies in New England use their university relations through programs like the IEP (Shimadzu, MA, Hexagon Manufacturing Intelligence and Taco Comfort Solutions, RI) as well as the German dual educational model (Trumpf, CT) to educate a manufacturing workforce for the future. Another highlight was the alumni panel for which we could engage among others our own French IEP graduate Sarah Korenig (Pratt & Whitney) shortly before she gave birth to her IEP baby (see alumni updates).

The trademark poster session also featured many of our 5th year IEPers from all programs who took advantage of showcasing their ‘year abroad’ experiences and could network with student and faculty representatives from universities around the world, companies, and government organizations in various languages.

Welcome Manabu Takasawa!

Prof. Manabu Takasawa has been appointed Director of the Japanese IEP.

As our efforts intensify to develop a full-fledged Japanese IEP we are happy that Manabu Takasawa started as its director this fall. Manabu has been a Professor of Music at URI since 2001 and is also a renowned concert pianist. In college he mainly took math & science courses, but then his musical career took off. He loves diversity in his work and has already met with our contacts from Waseda, Kyushu, and Okayama university as well as several Japanese companies in the area. Welcome, Manabu!

Welcome New Baby

Italian IEP/Director Michelangelo LaLuna and his wife Daniela Roma just welcomed their adorable newborn Alfredo Maria (3,300 kg and 54 cm.) to this world.

Save the Date!

International Engineering Program Reunion
Saturday, June 3, 2017 Kinghorn Campus
Mark your calendars now for the 2017 IEP Reunion! We’ve set the date and are beginning to make plans for our Kingston Campus celebration. Look for more details in the months to come. For more information, please contact Angela Graney, Assistant Director, IEP Living Learning Community.

Save the Date!

With the prospect of having a government come into power in January which is increasingly looking inward, the core work of the IEP guided by the mission of internationalizing our engineering students has become all the more urgent and important. This Fall, we have 68 IEP/IBPers abroad, including a pioneering group at TU Darmstadt, which fosters the kind of cultural exchange the IEP is all about.

Silke Schulz, (Spanish IEP director), Kunal Mareekodya (Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering), and I applied for another grant from the 100,000 Partnership in the Americas Initiative on “Sustainable Prostheses Design” to expand our Spanish IEP collaborations to Colombia. At the same time, we organized a 2nd BMW Day@URI with our GIEP alumni Erich Sargent and Dennis Heaphy to bring the latest innovative drive-technology to campus (see insert). We have helped from our new Fiscal Clerk, Dawn Yeaw, who is a valuable addition to the IEP team. Welcome Dawn!

We are also involved in a larger strategic planning effort with the Department of Modern and Classical Languages & Cultures under the leadership of its new chair, Karen DeBruin, to get an International Studies & Diplomacy Program off the ground. The IS&D is a dual Bachelor degree modeled after the IEP through which students would combine a major in a foreign language with a major in Political Science or Economics. It will include a year abroad – studying and interning in a government agency, bank, or international development agency. We are utilizing this larger context – which the Provost and President are excited about – to keep up excellent enrollment in the languages and build on successful dual degree models to increase our global presence.

With the help of a small local alumni committee, the Alumni Association and the Foundation we have begun preparing the 35th IEP Anniversary Reunion which will be held on Saturday, June 3rd from 3–7 p.m. at the Alumni Center. Under a tent on the lawn. Campus tours (both walking and by bus) will be offered at 2 p.m. They will highlight the new science buildings and the construction site for the new engineering building. A short speaking program with Deans Brownell and Wright, a few alumni and recent graduates will also be included. Please mark your calendar!

As we continue to plan our milestone 30th anniversary celebration, we are elevating our fundraising efforts to enhance the John Grandin IEP Directorship Fund. A new network of IEP volunteer Class Agents will be reaching out to each IEP class of graduates. As part of this initiative, Dr. Grandin and I will each match the first and second $5,000 received from alums. We encourage you to support this endeavor by making your own contribution and help set the pace for transformational support of the IEP. You may visit our unique giving page on the URI Foundation website created specifically for the IEP. For assistance you can contact Francesca Bishop, Assistant Director of Annual Giving for the URI Foundation at 401-874-2207. You can also visit matching gifts to see if your employer can double or triple your support to the IEP.

Dr. Sigrid Berka, Executive Director

A cheerful German IEP group in front of the Braunschweig Schloss Arkaden
This year’s cohort abroad is finishing their semesters in their respective countries. Here is what they are saying about the experience after a few months.

**Micah Kittel, Michael Logar, and Yelena Randall**

Valparaíso, Chile

"This academic year we have been gifted with the opportunity to live and study abroad. We are in the process of finishing up our school semester here at La Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso and gearing up to start our professional internships. A few weeks ago we were lucky enough to have the chance to follow in Charles Darwin's footsteps along the beautiful hiking trials of Parque La Campana en route to summit Cerro La Campana. The hike was a challenging four hour climb to an altitude of 1,960 meters, with an incredible view awaiting for those lucky enough to make it to the top. Cerro La Campana lies within the coastal mountain range of Chile, which provides gorgeous views of both the mighty Pacific to the west and the Andes mountain range to the east. Hiking here in Chile as a team has helped strengthen our friendships and introduced us to many new friends from both near and far..."