THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING PROGRAM

Meeting of the
Advisory Board

June 15, 2018
Naples, Italy
Dear Members of the IEP Advisory Board,

The academic year 2017-18 has been a mixed blessing for the IEP. Soon after our 30th year Anniversary on June 3rd, 2017 in which he still participated, Hermann Viets, the great entrepreneur and then Dean of the College of Engineering, passed away unexpectedly. Hermann played a significant role in launching this innovative program with John Grandin three decades ago, and will be dearly missed. The summer continued with the good news that Dr. Niko Tracksdorf accepted our offer to serve as the German IEP coordinator, and has been of invaluable help to the German IEP both in terms of program management, internship placements and with respect to introducing innovative German preparation courses and high school outreach (see East Cranston High School article, in the appendix). Niko will join the German faculty in Fall 2018 and become Associate Director, German IEP. Furthermore, Angela Graney was promoted to Associate Director for Business and Administration, managing the human resources and the administrative structure in addition to the LLC. Angela has been with the IEP for over 10 years and has proven time and again to be a crucial part of our team. These changes have allowed me to focus on fundraising, strategic planning and assessment.

In the Fall, the IEP team devoted its efforts to raising the quality of all programs, one of the goals in our new 5 year strategic plan which we put together with the planning committee -- thanks to Paul Croce, Mike Byrnes, John Grandin, Tobias Lührig and several IEP directors. We put more emphasis on preparing our out-going cohort cross-culturally. With the help of a grant from the Carnegie Foundation, we were able to test the entire cohort of 76 IEPers’ intercultural development (through the internationally validated Intercultural Development Index (IDI) tool - whose outcomes, in turn, informed our own pedagogical tools and guided interventions. We will compare scores when the cohort returns in August and test the next generation. We also aligned the IEP’s efforts to foster increased foreign language proficiency by contributing both to the department’s proficiency initiative and redesigning our own internship courses – taught by our faculty while IEP students are abroad - to improve linguistic and cultural learning and to have maximum impact on integration in the local culture. We saw the need to create interventions and student learning guided by our directors and faculty since research has shown that studying abroad does not necessarily lead to automatic learning in these areas. We piloted two rounds of OPI-c and STAMP 4S testing with 30 volunteers per language program, and will analyze the results this summer.

In April, after 30 years of chairing the IEP Advisory Board, making invaluable inroads into the German corporate world, and leading the board in its giving efforts, one of the IEP’s biggest champions, Heidi Kirk Duffy decided to retire from the Board. During the nine years of my leadership of the IEP I have counted myself as extremely fortunate to get to know Heidi and benefit from her unwavering devotion to and enthusiasm and support for the IEP. We have always relied on her expert judgement and advice, not to mention her cheerful and up-beat personality! We are all sad to see Heidi leave but grateful to still have her ear and eager to continue to share news about the program with her. Thank you, Heidi, for all you have done as our chair and advocate. We are very much looking forward to celebrating you on July 24th at the President’s house!! Please read John Grandin’s celebratory piece about Heidi on p. III.

In the meantime, we were fortunate to secure a new chair for the board, URI engineering alum and TeknorApex President Bill Murray. Bill has already had a positive impact on creating internship opportunities in Suzhou, China, and shared his corporate expertise at a previous Colloquium in Newport. We are looking forward to having a CEO of a local global company at the helm who is simultaneously serving on the President’s and College of Engineering’s Advisory board. Welcome, Bill!
Good news university-wide:

• In the Fall, a new Dean of Arts & Sciences, Jeanette Riley, joined URI. We are excited to work alongside her to strengthen our innovative program (see her bio on page IV). Also, as recommended by the global task force and global steering committee on which I have served for many years, URI is going to hire a Vice Provost for International Initiatives. The candidates who visited campus all were in awe of the IEP and its uniqueness and leadership position in international education. Our search committee just made our recommendations for the final candidates to the Provost, who all have the vision and experience needed to move URI’s comprehensive internationalization efforts significantly forward.

• I recently presented on the educational impact of dual degree graduate programs at research universities at the University of Albany’s AIEA Forum, and came across an interesting statistics with regards to our current dual master program with TU Braunschweig/TU Darmstadt: not only do those students contribute significantly to the globalization and diversity of our campus; they also have a profound impact on COE research and the URI graduate school: they make 20-22% of URI’s master in engineering and one year MBA degrees. Some of our earliest graduates who have now joined schools of engineering abroad still publish papers with their URI faculty mentors from decades ago!

• This year’s huge cohort of IEP/IBP/ICSP seniors studying abroad (76) as well as the seemingly never ending line of IEP super seniors graduating (60) – the largest class ever – which Ray Wright and I sent off during this year’s commencement ceremony is a testimony to the high retention rate of the IEP! I hope that you will enjoy reading some of the success stories and stats in this year’s Annual Report!

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere thank you to Italian IEP director Michelangelo La Luna for putting so much effort into every single detail of organizing what I hope will be a very enjoyable board meeting in Naples! I look forward to congregating and meeting many of you in Italy!

Best Regards,

[Signature]
A Tribute to Heidi Kirk Duffy

By John Grandin

Sometimes it is easier to stick our heads in the sand rather than admit to the inevitable. But rather than hide from Heidi Kirk Duffy’s decision to step down from her role as Chairperson of the IEP Advisory Board, we need to embrace her and thank her and celebrate what has been accomplished in these three decades.

Heidi has been Chair since the inception of the Advisory Board thirty years ago. Definitely in tune with our idea, Heidi right away saw the need for internships in Germany and immediately contacted friends and associates in Germany who could help. Before long we found ourselves in close contact with major players in German industry who saw value in preparing young American engineers for the rapidly evolving global workplace.

With Heidi’s encouragement and help, the program was able to take off and reach levels we hadn’t really dreamed of. Heidi set the tone and the level of commitment, and she graciously hosted many of our partners from business and industry, but also from appropriate consulates, foundations, and government, thereby helping us to be respected and valued in Providence, Washington, Berlin and beyond.

Heidi was recognized by URI as early as 1995 when she received an honorary Doctor of Humanities for her service to higher education. In 2000, the German government honored her with its highest civilian award, the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, First Class. And there was more. In 2001, Heidi donated her sailing yacht to the URI Foundation, enabling the IEP to purchase a second building now known as the Texas Instruments House. URI responded by naming the two-building complex the Heidi Kirk Duffy Center for International Engineering Education.

We would like to express our heartfelt thank you to Heidi Kirk Duffy, charter member and chair of our IEP Advisory board since its beginnings in 1988. Who would have thought that the IEP would take on its current dimensions? Who would have thought that engineering and German could evolve to include French, Spanish, Chinese, Italian, and Japanese? It helped enormously that Heidi was there as a steady beacon of support, both morally and fiscally, through all the many decisions. It helped enormously that Heidi became our friend in this process that went by so fast. We can be comforted by the fact that Heidi will remain close by and that our friendship can continue.

Thank you Heidi!!!
Welcome Dean Jeannette Riley

A heartfelt welcome to our new Dean of Arts & Sciences, Jeannette Riley, who joined URI this past Fall and has already proven to be a strong supporter of the languages and the IEP.

Dean Riley comes to URI from the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, where she served as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. As a scholar, Dean Riley’s research and teaching focuses on post-1945 American literature, contemporary women’s literature, and feminist theory. She is the author of Understanding Adrienne Rich and has been published in numerous refereed journals. She earned her Ph.D. in Contemporary American & British literature and literary theory from the University of New Mexico and her Master’s and Bachelor’s degrees in English from University of New Hampshire, and Colby College, respectively.

Dean Riley recently approved significant funds for language proficiency testing and faculty training which is critical for the IEP’s goal to improve quality in this area as stated in our 2018-2023 strategic plan. She also included a Japanese, Chinese and Latin American position into her strategic re-investment requests to the Provost over the next three years. Hopefully, they will be accepted and allow us to develop a Japanese major as well as cover curricular needs in the Chinese and Spanish sections.
The IEP Advisory Board Welcomes a New Chairperson

It gives me great pleasure to be able to announce that Bill Murray, President of TeknorApex in Pawtucket, has accepted to serve as the new chairman of the IEP Advisory Board.

Bill is a URI Mechanical Engineering alum (B.S. in Mechanical Engineering `78) and received an MBA from Bryant University in `96. He presently serves on the President’s as well as on the College of Engineering Advisory Council and received the Deans Award from the College of Engineering in 2014. Bill has already been a strong supporter and advocate of the IEP. His keynote speech at the 2016 Colloquium on International Engineering Education in Newport on expanding a local R.I. company nationally and globally earned high praise from the participants. Bill has also mentored one of our Chinese Flagship & Chemical engineering students and provided him with the Victor Baxt scholarship and local to global internship opportunities from sophomore year on all the way through his present internship at TeknorApex in Suzhou, China.

Under Bill Murray’s leadership, the Pawtucket, R.I. based compounding company recently expanded projects in Germany, Tennessee and Rhode Island. It purchased PTS GmbH in Steinsfeld, Germany in 2016 and is planning to break ground this summer for a new plant in Rothenburg which will start production by the end of 2019.

Welcome to the Board, Bill! We hope the IEP will inspire you to expand into Latin America and Japan as well!
International Engineering Program
Administration 2017-2018

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Dr. Niko Tracksdorf
Coordinator of the German IEP
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tracksdorf@uri.edu
Enrollment Figures 2017-18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breakdown by Major*</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>Percentage of Total IEP-Serviced Students:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IEP (Declared EGR)</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>83% Total Engineering Students Serviced by IEP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IEP (Wanting Engineering)</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBP (International Business Program)</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>8% Total Non-Engineering Students Serviced by IEP**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICSP (International Computer Science Program)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other**</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate (Dual Degree Masters)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0% Total Graduate Students Serviced by IEP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Students Serviced by IEP</strong></td>
<td><strong>448</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other includes 11 non-engineering students who want to double major in a Language and another major (such as Computer Science) who are dedicated to going abroad and following the IEP model.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IEP Undergrads (Declared Engineering)*</th>
<th>URI College of Engineering Undergrads*</th>
<th>% of COE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>372</td>
<td>1543</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*IEP numbers reflect enrollment collected Fall 2017. COE numbers reflect enrollment collected in Fall 2017 as head count of majors publicly reported by the URI Office of Institutional Research. Both numbers do not include Wanting Engineering designation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IEP/College of Engineering Demographics</th>
<th>IEP # (372)</th>
<th>% of IEP</th>
<th>COE # (1543)</th>
<th>% of COE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>110 30%</td>
<td>335 22%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>262 70%</td>
<td>1208 78%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity***</td>
<td>Represented Groups (White, Asian)</td>
<td>296 80%</td>
<td>1242 80%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Underrepresented Groups (Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian, 2+ Races)</td>
<td>61 16%</td>
<td>197 13%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residency</td>
<td>In-State Rhode Islanders</td>
<td>212 57%</td>
<td>948 61%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Out of State</td>
<td>157 42%</td>
<td>557 36%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Out of Country</td>
<td>3 1%</td>
<td>38 3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship Recipients</td>
<td>Centennial or University Scholarships</td>
<td>259 70%</td>
<td>Data unavailable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talent Development</td>
<td></td>
<td>12 3%</td>
<td>Data unavailable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* IEP numbers reflect enrollment collected Fall 2017.

***IEP numbers and percentages based on 357 who self-reported ethnicity. COE numbers and percentages based on 1439 who self-reported, not including Non-Resident Alien designation.

Percentages may not add up to 100%, as they are rounded to the nearest percent.
## 2017-18 Enrollment Figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Engineering Discipline</th>
<th>IEP #</th>
<th>% of IEP</th>
<th>COE Total # of Majors</th>
<th>% of COE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biomedical</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial &amp; Systems</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>426</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocean</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undeclared B.S. in Eng.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentages may not add up to 100%, as they are rounded to the nearest percent.

![IEP Distribution % by COE Majors 2017-18](chart.png)
## Enrollment Figures
### By Language Track

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total # of Students Serviced by IEP</th>
<th>German IEP</th>
<th>Spanish IEP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>191</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IEP Undergrads in COE (Declared EGR)</strong></td>
<td>171 90%</td>
<td>74 89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IEP Undergrads Wanting Engineering</td>
<td>2 1%</td>
<td>2 2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBP (International Business Program)</td>
<td>8 4%</td>
<td>4 5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICSP (International Computer Science)</td>
<td>3 2%</td>
<td>3 4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Dual major following IEP model)</td>
<td>5 3%</td>
<td>-- --</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate (Dual Degree Masters)</td>
<td>2 1%</td>
<td>-- --</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IEP Undergrads in COE (Declared EGR)</th>
<th>IEP #</th>
<th>% of IEP</th>
<th>IEP #</th>
<th>% of IEP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Islanders</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out of State</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out of Country</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>By Engineering Discipline*</th>
<th>IEP #</th>
<th>% of IEP</th>
<th>IEP #</th>
<th>% of IEP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biomedical</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial &amp; Systems</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocean</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undeclared B.S. in Engineering</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentages may not add up to 100%, as they are rounded to the nearest percent.
## Enrollment Figures
### By Language Track

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total # of Students Serviced by IEP</th>
<th>French IEP</th>
<th>Chinese IEP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>62</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IEP Undergrads in COE (Declared EGR)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Female</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Male</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Rhode Islanders</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Out of State</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Out of Country</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>By Engineering Discipline</strong></td>
<td>IEP # % of IEP</td>
<td>IEP # % of IEP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Biomedical</td>
<td>10 20%</td>
<td>5 14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Chemical</td>
<td>8 16%</td>
<td>5 14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Civil</td>
<td>5 10%</td>
<td>3 8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Computer</td>
<td>2 4%</td>
<td>7 19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Electrical</td>
<td>5 10%</td>
<td>7 19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Industrial &amp; Systems</td>
<td>1 2%</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Mechanical</td>
<td>9 18%</td>
<td>5 14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ocean</td>
<td>10 20%</td>
<td>3 8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Undeclared B.S. in Engineering</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>1 3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentages may not add up to 100%, as they are rounded to the nearest percent.
## Enrollment Figures

### By Language Track

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total # of Students Serviced by IEP</th>
<th>Italian IEP</th>
<th>Japanese IEP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- IEP Undergrads in COE (Declared EGR)</td>
<td>27 (84%)</td>
<td>14 (70%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- IEP Undergrads Wanting Engineering</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- IBP (International Business Program)</td>
<td>4 (13%)</td>
<td>1 (5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- ICSP (International Computer Science)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>4 (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Other</td>
<td>1 (3%)</td>
<td>1 (5%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| IEP Undergrads in COE (Declared EGR) | 
|------------------------------------|---------|
| - Female | 10 (37%) | 2 (14%) |
| - Male | 17 (63%) | 12 (86%) |
| - Rhode Islanders | 13 (48%) | 11 (79%) |
| - Out of State | 14 (52%) | 3 (21%) |
| - Out of Country | -- | -- |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>By Engineering Discipline</th>
<th>IEP #</th>
<th>% of IEP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Biomedical</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Chemical</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Civil</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Computer</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Electrical</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Industrial &amp; Systems</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Mechanical</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Ocean</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Undeclared B.S. in Engineering</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Percentages may not add up to 100%, as they are rounded to the nearest percent.
Enrollment & Graduation Figures

IEP Enrollment over the past 10 years

<table>
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IEP Graduating Seniors (2008-2018)
# 2018 Internship Placements

76 students completed international internships in the 2018 calendar year:

## China
1. Sam Browne  
   Teknor Apex  
   Suzhou
2. Jun Yu Lu  
   ZF  
   Shanghai
3. Mollie Quinn Alger*  
   Central European Fund  
   Nanjing
4. Huagen Guo  
   Biomedical Imaging Lab ZJU  
   Hangzhou
5. Samuel Ng  
   Biomedical Imaging Lab ZJU  
   Hangzhou
6. Zengkun Long  
   BMSER Xieneng Technology  
   Hangzhou
7. Madeline Wagner*  
   Hengtian Insgima  
   Hangzhou
8. Brandon Pettit*  
   Lean In China  
   Beijing
9. Kenny Cordoba-Llanos*  
   Chen Lu International Skating Center  
   Beijing
10. Kevin Conroy  
    Institute of Geotechnical Engineering ZJU/ Offshore Risers & Pipelines  
    Hangzhou

## France
1. George Acker  
   Laboratoire Electromécanique de Compiègne  
   Compiègne
2. Samantha Angell  
   Sixense Soldata  
   Nanterre
3. Josiah Atkin  
   UTC Terres Inovia Laboratoire  
   Compiègne
4. Michele Colangelo  
   Laboratoire UTC TIMR  
   Compiègne
5. Jonathan Cummings  
   Aperan  
   Amilly
6. Carlos Diaz  
   Société Générale  
   Fontenay-sous-Bois
7. Jacques Dorval  
   IHU-Strasbourg  
   Strasbourg
8. Reid Elleman  
   Enercap  
   Lyon
9. Chelsea Fox  
   Dassault Systèmes  
   Vélizy-Villacoublay
10. Ian McElroy  
    CGG  
    Massy
11. Gianna Morrongiello  
    Biotrial  
    Mulhouse
12. David Silverstein  
    Federal Mogul  
    Crépy-en-Valois

## Italy
1. Giovanni Grande  
   SIDAT  
   Trofarello
2. Michael Videtta  
   GOM  
   Perugia
3. Michael McWeeney  
   Hexagon Italia  
   Grugliasco
4. Samantha Falkowsky  
   Taco Italia  
   Vicenza
5. Hannah Waters  
   ZF Italia  
   Arco di Trento
6. Christopher Bianchi  
   Manini Prefabricati  
   Assisi
7. Alyssa SanAngelo  
   Hexagon Italia  
   Grugliasco
8. Drew Lachapelle  
   Laboratorio Grandi Modelli Idraulici  
   Rende
9. Caroline Opeko*  
   IMAS  
   Mariano Comense

## Japan
1. Paris Jones*  
   Hokkaido System Science  
   Sapporo

## Spain & Costa Rica
1. Nathan Callanan  
   SEAT S.A.  
   Martorell
2. Dunkle Gabrielle  
   ECOS Canarias  
   Las Palmas
3. Jose Giboyeaux  
   CIRCE  
   Zaragoza
4. Abagail Hunter  
   Era7  
   Granada
5. Sierra Obi  
   Vidal Vademecum  
   Madrid
6. Laura Parra  
   Boston Scientific  
   Coyol (Costa Rica)
7. Hannah Willey  
   IH Cantabria  
   Santander

* International Business or International Computer Science student
### Germany

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*International Business or International Computer Science*
Internship Figures

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Yr Total Cum
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International and Domestic

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Abengoa (Sevilla)
Aerodata (Braunschweig)
Aifa (Leverkusen, Gera)
Aicon 3-D (Braunschweig, Meersburg)
Air Liquide (Jouy-en Josas-Cedex)
Air Nostrum (Valencia)
Alakaluf (Punta Arenas)
Apia XXI (Santander)
Applied Materials (Alzenau)
Arup (Madrid)
Astilleros de Santander A.S (Astander)
AUDI (Ingolstadt)
Aviso (Gera)
Axiva (Frankfurt)
Baird & Associates (Santiago)
Bard Shannon, Ltd. (Humacao, Puerto Rico)
BASF (Ludwigshafen, Chile)
Bayer (Leverkusen)
Bayer (Regensburg)
Bayer Technology Services (Shanghai)
Beijing Ao Rui Te Science and Technology Company (Beijing)
Beinbauer Group (Büchelberg)
Beiersdorf AG (Hamburg)
Benteler (Paderborn)
Bernard Energy Advocacy (Brussels)
Biomedical Imaging Lab (Hangzhou)
Biotrial (Mulhouse)
Blaupunkt GmbH (Hildesheim, Germany)
BMSER Xieneng Technology (Hangzhou)
BMW (Munich, New Jersey, South Carolina)
BMW Motorsport (München)
Böhringer Ingelheim Microparts (Dortmund)
Boston Scientific (Costa Rica)
Bouygues Construction (Marseille)
BP Mineralöl (Gelsenkirchen)
Bruker Biospin (Wiessemebourg)
B&J Adaptaciones (Barcelona)
Caterpillar (Mannheim)
CEIT (San Sebastián)
Central European Fund (Nanjing)
CEREMA (Compiègne)
CGG (Paris)
Chen Lu International Skating Center (Beijing)
China Council, Promotion of Peaceful Reunification (Beijing)
CIRCE (Zaragoza)
Codelco (Santiago)
Communication Technologies Research Group (Zaragoza)
Continental (Hannover, Regensburg)
Coplan (Eggenfelden, Regensburg)
CREG Catalysis, Molecular Separations & Reactor Engineering Group (Zaragoza)
Daimler (Sindelfingen, Stuttgart, NJ, MI)
Dassault Systèmes (Vélizy-Villacoublay)
DB Cargo (Mainz)
DB Engineering and Consulting (Hannover)
DB Netz (Frankfurt)
DB Schenker (Mainz)
DB Systel (Frankfurt)
DB Systemtechnik (München)
Deutsche Bahn (München, Berlin, Minden, Kassel)
Deutsche Bahn Engineering & Consulting (Hannover)
Draeger Medical (Lübeck)
École des Hautes Études en Santé Publique (Rennes)
ECOS Canarias S.L. (Las Palmas/Gran Canaria)
Emitec (Lohmar)
ENERCAP (Lyons)
Ennera (Ibarra)
Era7 (Granada)
Ewag GmbH (Solothurn)
Experimentierstation Obstbau (Schlachters)
Fashion Power (Hangzhou)
Fatronik (San Sebastián)
Federal Mogul (Crépy-en-Valois)
Feng Logistics Company (Hangzhou)
Fraunhofer-Institut für Schicht- und Oberflächentechnik (Braunschweig)
Gamesa S.A (Bilbao)
General Motors (Zaragoza)
Geocéan (Marseille)
Geotecnia Ambiental (Valparaiso)
GKN Driveline (Zumaia)
GOM (Perugia)
Grupo de Biomateriales (GBM) (Zaragoza)
Grupo de Ingeniería Oceanográfica y de Costas Universidad de Cantabria (Santander)
Grupo de Investigación de Sistemas de Transporte (GIST), (Santander)
GTM (Batiment)
Hangzhou Architectural Design & Research, Ltd. (Hangzhou)
Hasbro (Hong Kong & Shenzhen)
Hexagon (Barcelona, Quingdao, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Wetzlar, Weinheim, Gougl)
Higer Bus Company (Suzhou)
Hilti (Germany, Liechtenstein, Spain)
Hochtief (Essen, Hamburg)
Hokkaido System Science (Sapporo)
Hope Global (León)
Hutchinson (Auxy)
IAV (Gifhorn, Sindelfingen)

Note: Companies marked in bold are new this year.
Internship Partners 1990-2018
International and Domestic

IAVF Antriebstechnik AG (Karlsruhe)
Ibaia Energía (Beasain, Ibarra)
IDOM (Bibao, Zaragoza)
Indaber Ibiza (Ibiza)
Infineon AG (Munich)
Infremer (La Rochelle)
Ifremer Service PRAO, La Seyne sur Mer

IH Cantabria (Santander)
IHU (Strasbourg)

IMAS (Mariano Comense)
Inomed (Emmendingen)
Insigna HengTian (Hangzhou)
Institut für elektrische Messtechnik, (Braunschweig)
Institut Hospitalo-Universitaire de Strasbourg (Strasbourg)

Institut Polytechnique de Grenoble (Grenoble)
Instituto de Hidráulica Ambiental (Cantabria)
Johnson & Johnson (NJ, São Paulo)

King Marine (Valencia)
KOB (Kaiserslautern)

Kolbenschmidt Pierburg (Neckarsulm, Abadiano)
Kraft Foods (Munich)

KS Fototechnik (Wuppertal)

Lean In China (Beijing)
Leica Camera (Solms)

Lemförder AG (Spain, Germany, South Carolina)

LMS Imagine (a Siemens business) (Lyon)
LMU ArchañBioCenter (München)
 Logic Solutions (Nanjing)
Lufthansa Technik AG (Hamburg)

Lur Geroa (Irurzun)

Mahr (Göttingen)

Manini Prefabbricati (Assisi)
Marum (Bremen)

Maurer Söhne (München)
Maxon Motors (Sexau)
Medincell (Jacou)
Meyer Werft (Papenburg)
MTU (Hannover, München)

National Lab of Secondary Resources (Hangzhou)
Novacare (Concepción)

Núcleo Biotecnología Curauma (NBC) (Curauma)

NYNAS (Hamburg)

Oakwood Asia (Hangzhou)

Offshore Pipelines and Risers (Hangzhou)
Osram Opto Semiconductors (Regensburg)
Pedelta (Barcelona)

Pentair Electronic Packaging (Quingdao)

Pin AN Insurance Company of China, Ltd. (Nanjing)
PolyIC (Fürth)

Porsche (Weissach)
Praxair (Spain)

Preusse Baubetriebe GmbH (Hamburg)

Price Waterhouse (Frankfurt)

Puerto Santander (Santander)

Puerto Ventanas (Quintero)

Q-Das (Braunschweig)

Renault (Guyancourt)

Rhodia (Clamecy, Lyon)

Robert Bosch GmbH (Stuttgart)

Robotiker (Zamudio)

Rhodia (Paris)

Saint-Gobain (Cavaillon, Avignon, Germany)

Salzgitter (Salzgitter)

SAMTACK (Barcelona)

SAP (Karlsruhe, Montreal)

Schneider Electric (Montpellier)

Schroff GmbH (Straubenthal)

SEAT (Barcelona, Martotell)

Sensata Technologies (Aguascalientes, Changzhou)

Sentinel Tech (Tianjin)

Shimadzu (Kyoto, Japan)

SIDAT (Trofarello)

Siemens (München, Erlangen, Madrid, Berlin)

Siemens HealthCare (Erlangen)

Sixense Soldata (Nanterre)

Skybotec (Neuwied)

Sky Deutschland (Unterföhring)

Société Générale (Fontenay-sous-Bois)

State Key Laboratory for Chemical Engineering (Hangzhou)

Subseamechatronics (Las Palmas, Gran Canaria)

Supchina (Rhode Island, Schapbach)

STMicroelectronics (Grenoble)

Taco Italia (Vicenza)

Tecnalia (Derio, San Sebastian)

Tennet Offshore (Lehrte)

Teknor Apex (Suzhou)

Texas Instruments (Aguascalientes)

Tianjin Normal Univ., Materials Science Lab (Tianjin)

Thermochemical Processes Research Group (Zaragoza)

Toray Plastics (Lyon)

Total (Paris, Pau)

TRW (Alfdorf)

ULPGC (Las Palmas de Gran Canaria)

UniCredit (Hypovereinsbank) (München)

VAM/Becker Bau (Kiel)

VDO Automotive AG (Villingen)

Vidal Vademecum (Madrid)

Volkswagen (Wolfsburg)

Worwerk & Co. (Wuppertal)

Worldline (Lille)

ZF (Germany, Spain, France, USA, Mexico, China, Italy)

Zhejiang Communications Construction, Ltd. (Hangzhou)

Züblin AG (Stuttgart)
**Exchanges**  
**German IEP**

### Technische Universität Braunschweig

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### Technische Universität Darmstadt

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*Includes dual-degree masters students (Does not include short-term visitors.)*

---

**Total # of Students Exchanged to both German Universities** = **793**

---

GIEP student Michael Eggleston running a race with his fellow co-workers in Darmstadt
### Exchanges

**French IEP**

#### Université de Technologie de Compiègne - UTC

<table>
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* Includes other majors

---

*FIEP students in Paris*
# Exchanges

## Spanish IEP

## Universidad de Zaragoza - UNIZAR
(Spain)

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Total # of Students Exchanged: **40**

## Universidad de Cantabria - UNICAN
(Spain)

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Total # of Students Exchanged: **33** and **21**

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*SIEP student Abigail Hunter in Sevilla in 2018*
Exchanges
Spanish IEP

Universidad de Navarra - TECNUN
(Spain)

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Pontificia Universidad Cathólica de Valparaíso - PUCV
(Chile)

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</table>

*SIEP student Laura Parra exploring Costa Rica, the country of her 2018 internship.*

*SIEP students Hannah Willey & Ellie Dunkle in Spain.*
Exchanges
Chinese IEP

Zhejiang University
(Hangzhou, China)

<table>
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*Includes other majors

Students in China during a J-term trip in January 2018.
Exchanges
Italian & Japanese IEP

University of Calabria (Calabria, Italy)

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Waseda University (Tokyo, Japan)

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Photos submitted by Alyssa San Angelo, who was in Italy for the 2017-2018 academic year.

JICSP student, Paris Jones (left) with friends from Waseda University in Tokyo. Paris is the first student to study at Waseda University, followed by an internship at Hokkaido System Science.

Photos submitted by Alyssa San Angelo, who was in Italy for the 2017-2018 academic year.
Chinese Language Flagship Partner
Program Highlights

URI Chinese Language Flagship Program Highlights
2017-2018 Academic Year

Highlight

Chemical Engineering & Chinese Flagship senior Samuel Browne received the prestigious Boren Scholarship for his capstone year in China in 2017-18. Boren scholarships are an initiative of the National Security Education Program (NSEP). Sam is the Flagship program’s 2nd recipient but the first engineering student who received the award. Sam is also the recipient of the Teknor Apex Victor Baxt scholarship (2016-18). Sam has interned with Teknor Apex for two summers and is currently doing his six-month internship with the company in Suzhou. Sam was also chosen for the University Excellence Award in Chinese this Spring.

Electrical Engineer & Chinese Flagship senior Jun Yu Lu is currently interning at the ZF Shanghai Research Center. 21 Chinese Flagship students (7 IEP, 15 IBP) who just finished their freshman year are busy in the Chinese Summer School at URI, directed by Qingyu Yang.

Chinese Flagship 2017 Cohort- 31 students in total,
29% COB; 23% A&S; 19% COE

Number of Students

- Arts and Sciences, 7, 23%
- Business Administration, 9, 29%
- Engineering, 6, 19%
- Environment & Life Sciences, 3, 10%
- Health Studies, 1, 3%
- Undeclared*, 5, 16%
**IEP Chinese Flagship Scholars by Cohort (Year Entered)**

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<td>2010 Cohort: MCE</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 Cohort: N/A</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012 Cohort: BME, MCE</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013 Cohort: CHE (2), CMP (3), CVE</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 Cohort: BME, CMP, ELE, OCE, UND (2)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 Cohort: BME (2), ELE(2), UND (1)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Cohort: BME (2), OCE, CVE, UND(2), CHE, MCE (2)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Cohort: CHE (2), ELE (1), MCE (2), OCE (1)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Students (both Flagship and IEP) in China during a J-term trip in January 2018.*
Graduates
December 2017 - August 2018

IEP Graduates through 2018: 608
German: 408
French: 60
Spanish: 112
Chinese: 21
Italian: 6
Japanese: 1

Other graduates serviced by the IEP in 2018
Madeline Wagner (Chinese IBP)
Lukas Baumgartner (German IBP)
Kayla Lombardi (German IBP)

IEP graduates with Sigrid Berka and Lars Erickson at Commencement (May 20, 2018).
Financial Support

The income from the houses of the Heidi Kirk Duffy Center supports not only the maintenance of both the IEP and TI houses, but also 3 full-time staff positions (salary & fringe). The income is from residents’ rent payment during the academic year, and from several summer programs.

This summer we are home to 15 German Summer School students and staff, 25 Chinese Flagship Immersion students and instructors, and 51 Taiwan Institute students as well as other IEP students taking summer classes.

While we strive to keep the cost of living at the HKD affordable for students, we typically increase our price in line with Housing and Residential Life. For the 2018-2019 academic year, we will increase the cost to live here by 2%.
Cumulative Honor Roll
(as of April 1, 2018)

Over $500,000
Heidi Kirk Duffy & David Duffy
ZF Friedrichshafen AG
Max Kade Foundation

$150,000 - $500,000
Annette Kade Foundation
Van Meeteren Foundation
Texas Instruments
Hasbro, Inc.
Sensata Technologies

$75,000 - $150,000
TRW Corporation
Praxair, Inc.
Thomas Wroe, Jr.
Robert C. and Judith A. Ayotte

$25,000 - $75,000
Schroff, Inc./ Udo Schroff
Brown & Sharpe Manufacturing Co.
Bacou USA
John and Carol Grandin
Hilti AG
Siemens Corporation
William and Pauline Silvia
Tonya McBride
Boxer Family
Deutsche Bahn
Hexagon Metrology Inc./Hexagon Manufacturing Intelligence

$2,000 - $25,000
W&H Corporation
BMW Manufacturing Corp.
Supina Machine Co. Inc.
Lufthansa German Airlines
Frank and Lynn Curtin
Ewag Corporation
Draexlmaier Automotive of America
Joseph O’Hearn and Barbara Brusini
Pentair, Inc.
James Hopkins
Gabriel Lengyel
Richard Vandeputte
Rick D’Ambrosca
Vincent DiPippo
Patrick Tunney
Sigrid Berka/Thomas Kniesche
Walter Giraitis

Gary Baker
Hubertus Christ
Laurie Burger
Michael Byrnes
Michael Mueller
Tobias Lührig
Dissemination & Awards

Awards & Honors:

**Berka, Sigrid** applied for funding from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for the J-term study tour and was awarded $11,477. She also applied for renewed funding through the Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft and was awarded $25,878 from the ZF company and $6,000 from the Van Meeteren Foundation; from the Max Kade Foundation, NY, she applied for and received $36,000 for the dual master’s program, $30,000 for the German Summer School, $ 20,000 for the J-term to Germany, $15,000 for the Max Kade Distinguished Lecturer, and $5,000 for the Max Kade floor. Sigrid along with faculty in CHE & OCE applied for a $300,000 NFS IRES track I grant. Hopefully it will be funded for 2018-2019!

**Berka, Sigrid** served as external reviewer for the DOE UISFL grant “Expanding Expertise on China and International Entrepreneurship Education at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI)”, PI: Jennifer Rudolph (February 2018).

**Erickson, Lars**, was named Chevalier (or Knight) of the Ordre des Palmes Académiques. The award recognizes his outstanding achievements at promoting the study of the French language and culture (February 26, 2018).

**Erickson, Lars** was invited to be an external reviewer of Northern Arizona University Department of Languages for their annual report (October 2017). NAU has modeled their International Global Programs (IGP) after URI’s International Engineering Program.

**Hedderich, N. (with A. Geithner).** Applied for and received grant from the German Embassy, Washington D.C. in the amount of $2,250 for the Fall 2017 German Campus Week Project.


**La Luna, Michelangelo** was awarded the “Premio Cetraro Cinema e Televisione Italiani nel Mondo, 23-24 giugno 2017,” (International Award for the Promotion of Italian Culture in the World), Cetraro, Italy, 2017. The award was given by “Accademia Terra Calabra” in collaboration with Region Calabria and City of Cetraro.

Publications:


Dissemination


Presentations:


Papa E., Berka, S. et al, testified at the R.I. House Finance Hearing of the bill on the World Language-Dual Language Immersion Act 2018-H-7436. The bill would establish a dual language program fund and create a position at RIDE to lead in the efforts to expand multilingual learning opportunities to all, hosted by RIFLA.


Brownell, W., spoke at the National Security Education Board Meeting, June 4th, 2018 in Washington, D.C. She was on a panel with Utah Senator Stephenson, a state representative from Indiana and faculty member from Wisconsin. The meeting is chaired by the Assistant Secretary of Defense. Main goal of the panel was for the panelists to convince the board to appreciate the value of language study and invest more funds into the study of strategic languages.


La Luna, Michelangelo, Organizer and moderator of “Celebrating Dacia Maraini’s Writings and International Women’s Day.” Academic Talk and Discussion with Dacia Maraini. Introductory remarks by: Jeannette E. Riley, Dean of Arts and Sciences; Rosaria Pisa, Director of Gender and Women’s Studies. Guest speakers: Susan Amatangelo, College of the Holy Cross; Sole Anatrone, Wesleyan College; Ombretta Frau, Mount Holyoke College; Tommasina Gabriele, Wheaton College; Erica Moretti, FITNYC; Lori J. Ultsch, Hofstra University. University of Rhode Island, (Pharmacy 170), February 26, 2018.

La Luna, Michelangelo, Organizer, together with Angela Pitassi, of “The agency of translation: the EU legal recognition of non-binary gender people,” talk by Professor Giuseppe Balirano, University of Naples “L’Orientale”, Department of Literary, Linguistic and Comparative Literature Studies. Introductory remarks by: Patricia Morokoff, Assistant Dean, College of Arts and Sciences. Followed by a panel discussion by the following URI faculty: Peter Covino, Associate Professor of English; Susana De Los Heros, Professor of Spanish; Michelangelo La Luna, Professor of Italian; Rosaria Pisa, Director of Gender and Women’s Studies. University of Rhode Island, Chafee 273, April 18, 2018.


Tracksdorf, N., “German-Engineering at the University of Rhode Island” High School Outreach Presentation. Cranston East High School, Cranston, RI, April 24, 2018.


SIEP Director, Silke Scholz, with students at the 20th Colloquium on International Engineering Education

Colloquium Steering Committee - including John Grandin (IEP Executive Director Emeritus), Sigrid Berka (IEP Executive Director) and Angela Graney (IEP Associate Director) at the 20th Colloquium on International Engineering Education
Student Awards

**Boren Scholarship for Critical Language Studies**
Salita Daraphet (CIBP), Emily Hadfield (CIBP)

**DAAD Undergraduate Scholarship**
Timothy Boyd (GIEP)

**Freeman Asia Scholarship**
Dylan Kennedy (CIEP)

**FISITA Bursary**
Nathan Callanan (SIEP), Patrick Curtis (GIEP), Zachary Iwuc (GIEP), Joseph Jacobs (GIEP), Benjamin Lee (GIEP)

**DAAD Ambassador Scholarship**
Katie Brown (GIEP)

**UAS7 Study and Internship Scholarship**
Eleanore Genovese (GIBP)

**NASSTRAC (National Shippers Strategic Transportation Council) Scholarship**
Eleanore Genovese (GIBP)

**TU Darmstadt Excellence Scholarship**
Brian Caferro

**Beatrice S. Demers Foreign Language Fellowship**
Julian Andriulli (JIEP), Elliott Anderson (FIEP), Salita Daraphet (CIBP), Sandra Deeb (FIEP), Kelly Domogala (SIEP), Elliott Engleman (FIEP), James Gannon (SIEP), Nina Gardner (SIEP), Emily Hadfield (CIBP), Kimi Harrington (FIEP), Justin Hayes (SIEP), Robyn Johnson (SIEP), Mark Keenan (GIEP), Maeve Story (GIEP)

**University Excellence Award in Biomedical Engineering**
Jake Morris (SIEP)

**University Excellence Award in Mechanical Engineering**
Michael Palmer (GIEP)

**University Excellence in Chinese**
Sam Browne (CIEP)

**University Excellence in French**
Ian Kanterman (FIEP)

**University Excellence in German**
Michael Palmer (GIEP)

**Ayotte Family French IEP Award**
Michele Colangelo (FIEP), Sandra Deeb (FIEP)

**Kenneth Epstein Scholarship**
Amilcar Beganza

**John Grandin Scholarship Award**
Magda Flores Umanzor (SIEP)

**Hasbro Scholarship**
Keara Cole (CIEP), Mateo Efstathopulos (CIEP), Andy Jiang (CIEP), Dylan Kennedy (CIEP), Zou Long (CIEP), McKensie Sherlock (CIEP)

**IEP Scholarship Award**
Max Bliss (SIEP), Renee Gordon (GIEP), Maeve Story (GIEP)

**Shawn McBride Scholarship**
Brian Donough (GIEP)

**William & Pauline Silvia Scholarship**
Amilcar Berganza (SIEP)

**Wroe Family Scholarship**
Dylan Kennedy (CIEP)

**Otto Dornberg Award**
Renee Gordon (GIEP), Greg Morgan (GIEP)

**Barbara Woods Memorial German Studies Award**
Michael Eggleston (GIEP), Cody Kwasniewski (GIEP), Mark Keenan (GIEP), Ian Wylie (GIEP)

**Frank L. Woods Memorial Scholarship**
John Gimler (GIEP), Diondra Stubbs (GIEP)

**Mexican Book Award**
Micah Kittel (SIEP)
Alumni Spotlight

URI Alumna Wins National Environmental Engineering Award

Maria Briones helping villagers in Panama construct a water storage tank.

By Neil Nachbar

Maria Briones, who graduated from URI’s International Engineering Program (IEP) in 2014 with bachelor’s degrees in Civil Engineering and Spanish, recently received the W. Brewster Snow Award, presented annually by the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists (AAEES) to a civil engineering graduate who has demonstrated academic excellence, interest and enthusiasm in the study of environmental engineering. Briones is completing her master’s degree this semester in Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of South Florida (USF). She received her award at a ceremony at the National Press Club in Washington, DC on April 19.

University Excellence Award in Doctoral Research

Jun Yan, a 3+x URI/ZJU dual degree alum who earned his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering in 2017, has won the University Excellence Award in Doctoral Research. Jun is currently an Assistant Professor at Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering (Concordia University) in Montreal, Canada.

We are extremely proud of these impressive accomplishments!
The University of Rhode Island recently celebrated the anniversary of one of its most unique and successful programs, the International Engineering Program (IEP).

More than 140 alumni, faculty and staff joined the program's founders at URI's Alumni Center to reminisce and celebrate the program's milestone.

The five-year program enables students to graduate with a Bachelor of Science in engineering and a Bachelor of Arts in a language, while also completing a semester of study and a semester of internship abroad.

In 1987, the IEP started with six students and one language (German). Thirty years later, 405 students have enrolled in the program, 668 internships have been completed, and there are six languages offered.

“When we started the program, we never thought it would go for 30 years and certainly had no idea that it would grow the way it’s grown,” said John Grandin, the IEP’s first director.

Grandin joined the faculty at URI in 1970 as an assistant professor of German. It wasn’t until 16 or 17 years later, that he developed the framework for the IEP with Hermann Viets, the new dean of Engineering at that time.

“I always thought the idea of combining professional studies with an undergraduate degree in a language made a lot of sense,” recalled Grandin.

Grandin and Viets shared the story of their first IEP conversation with the anniversary event audience. According to the long-time colleagues and friends, the conversation was very informal and may or may not have taken place while indulging in a couple of German beers.

“We talked about how things are becoming very international,” said Grandin. “Nobody was talking about globalization then, but things were getting international and this was impacting engineers. I felt nothing was being done in higher education to prepare engineering students to work internationally.”

After tossing various ideas back and forth, the dean and the professor soon developed the basic framework of the program, which included five years of study, two degree and an internship abroad.

“For someone to have the vision 30 years ago that the world was going to need people to go into the global workforce and move seamlessly between different cultures was forward thinking,” remarked Sarah Koenig, a 2007 IEP graduate. “Coming from a multi-racial family, I lived it every day, but for someone to foresee how it could apply to the business world is something special.”

French IEP graduate Koenig, who works as an industrial manager for Pratt & Whitney, a United Technologies Corporation, is one of several IEP alumni who met their spouse while a student in the IEP.

Once Grandin and Viets established the structure of the IEP, the next step was to find the necessary resources to develop the program.
“I submitted a grant request to the United States Department of Education,” recollected Grandin. “We received a pretty big amount for those days, which gave us the money we needed to travel abroad, line up internships, set up special classes for the engineering students and develop recruiting materials.”

Setting up internships was a team effort between Grandin, Viets and Heidi Kirk Duffy, the chairperson of the IEP advisory board.

“We worked closely with the German consulate in Boston,” said Grandin. “Hermann knew some companies who did work in Germany, I knew some German companies who did work in the United States and Heidi had some contacts in Germany who she approached quickly and aggressively.”

In 1992, Richard Vandeputte joined the dean’s staff as the assistant dean of Engineering. He was immediately impressed with the IEP.

“I thought it was an excellent idea to combine a language with engineering and an internship abroad,” recalled Vandeputte.

According to Vandeputte, a comment made by a member of an engineering accreditation team that visited URI spurred the expansion of the IEP.

“We were promoting the German IEP at the time and one of the comments made by the accreditation team was that if it’s really an international program, maybe you should have more than one language represented,” said Vandeputte. “I said to myself, ‘yes, of course.’ I spoke French, my parents were French, I was an engineer, so I thought, why don’t I try to start a French IEP.” With Grandin’s support, Vandeputte started the French IEP later that year.

The German and French programs set the stage for others to follow. The Spanish program was created in 1999 and Chinese in 2006.

When Grandin decided to retire in 2010 at the age of 70, he was very concerned about finding the right person to take over the program and enable it to flourish.

“We needed someone who understood the language curriculum and understood the engineering curriculum,” said Grandin. “Interdisciplinary studies can be tough to accomplish in higher education. You run into a lot of obstacles.”

In Sigrid Berka, URI not only found a capable successor to Grandin, but someone who has taken the program to unprecedented success.

Under Berka’s leadership, an Italian IEP was added in 2013, directed by Professor Michelangelo LaLuna, and a Japanese IEP is on the way with the first pioneering student researching/interning in Japan in 2015-2016 and a minor in Japanese established in 2016.

Once all of the students who are currently enrolled in IEP graduate, the number of alumni will surpass the 600 mark.

While the number of graduates and the success rate of the program are impressive, Berka is especially proud of the relationships that are formed along the journey and the personal growth each student gains.

“As IEP directors, we have nurtured these students for five-plus years as our advisees and shared with them the initial excitement of their study abroad experiences,” said Berka. “We have supported them with scholarship and internship applications, steered them through difficult hurdles abroad, and enlisted them as our ambassadors upon their return.”
Berka has witnessed how much the students are transformed by the study abroad component of the program.

“You see how they have matured, grown and changed as a person, and that they come back with expectations for a fuller life,” commented Berka.

That sentiment was evident at the 30th anniversary event, where alumni reunited with those they went to school with and shared their experiences with those they met for the first time.

“When I see my protégés after several years of being out in the real world at a reunion such as this, it amazes me what has become of them, what stories they have to tell, and how fond they still are of the IEP directors and their peers, with whom they shared ‘the best year of their lives,’” said Berka.

For many IEP graduates, their experience in the program not only influenced their path as professionals soon after graduating, but many years later.

Upon graduating from the IEP in 2008, Michael Raiche worked as a design engineer and manufacturing engineering for MTU Aero Engines, Germany’s leading engine manufacturer. After seven years, he felt like it was time for a change.

“I wanted to move from jobs where I was a process-taker to those where I could be a process-maker and an MBA would allow me to do that,” said Raiche. “This lead me to the Harvard Business School. The experiences I gained through the IEP and work abroad uniquely positioned me as a business school candidate. I believe my resume, skills and experiences, along with an exceptional letter of recommendation from Dr. Grandin, were the reasons I was accepted.”

Having graduated from Harvard this year, Raiche now applies his engineering background and newly acquired business skills at Fluke, a multi-national corporation headquartered in Everett, WA, which manufactures, distributes and services electronic test tools and software.

Raiche credited the IEP for his success and personal growth.

“The IEP pushed me outside of my comfort zone and gave me the confidence to succeed anywhere,” stated Raiche. “I’m thankful for the impact it has had on my life and for making me who I am today.”
The East-German connection

By Jen Cowart

At Cranston High School East, there's a lot of German going on.

Signs in the hallways advertise an after school club which touts learning about Germany and its language and culture.

Meanwhile, just down the road at the University of Rhode Island, the International Engineering Program (IEP), a five-year, dual degree program in which students major in an engineering or business discipline and a foreign language and then study abroad for a full year their fourth year, attracts a large number of students each year, many of whom study German and travel abroad to Germany.

Recently, the students in the German club at East and students in the IEP program at URI had the opportunity to connect, due to the efforts of East's Business/Special Educator Baerbel (Barbara) Tully and URI's German professor, Niko Tracksdorf.

Tracksdorf and four of his IEP students, Brenno Ribeiro, Mkrtich Arslanyan, Catherine Cronin, and Alison Otto, spent two hours at Cranston East in the media center, showcasing their respective mechanical and electrical engineering programs and their experiences living abroad in Germany for a year each, while they went to school for the first half of that year and worked in internship programs for the second half of that year.

A visual presentation was running as the East students filled the media center, showcasing images and highlights from Germany as seen from above.

Tracksdorf began the session completely in German, running it as if he would be running his German 101 classes, to show the students that it's not as difficult to begin learning German as students might think.

He greeted every single student with a handshake and spoke to them in German, stating "I am," and his name in German, and having them repeat the introduction and state theirs as well, as a means of showing them how to introduce themselves if they were in Germany. He then split the class into four groups, having them count off in German and handed out softballs that the students could toss back and forth between the members of their groups, practicing names and introductions as they did.

"Now you can introduce yourselves in Germany, whether on a train or in a supermarket," he told the students.

Continuing the session in an interactive manner, Tracksdorf then had the students use their phones to participate in an activity as they watched various images shown on the screen and then had to log in on their phones as to whether or not they thought the person, place or thing shown was from America or from Germany.

"I want you to leave here having learned something, that some things that may seem obviously German or obviously Chinese, may not be so," he said.

The four URI IEP students then began their portion of the presentation, sharing their experiences of their year in Germany with the group.
They showed photos from their year abroad and talked in depth about their job experiences, housing experiences, and the many, many opportunities they had for travel beyond Germany. Tully also described her own experiences with her native country and some of its attractions and celebrations, such as Oktoberfest, which she described as a 16-day celebration that includes rollercoasters, food, drink, and traditional dress.

The students described Wiehnachtsmarkt, a Christmas market that takes place for one month at a time, in many locations throughout Germany.

“As a student you can travel to all of the markets,” said Cronin. “They have mugs at each one and people collect the mugs. There are vendors and shopping and spiced wine and waffles with Nutella.”

The students described favorite travel experiences within Germany such as trips to Berlin, Frankfurt, Hamburg, and Munich. They also described their other travel experiences such as trips on a high-speed train to Paris or visits to Prague, Bratislava, Lucerne, London, Venice, Ireland, Edinburgh, Rome and Barcelona. In addition to the benefits of visiting new places, all of the students agreed that meeting new friends abroad and learning how to be independent in a new place were invaluable benefits to their experiences as well.

“Getting lost is the best part of all,” said Arslanyan. “You find so much cool stuff when you get lost.”

They encouraged the students at East to expand their horizons in college and to try new things they may not have considered before. “Definitely put yourself out there and try new things,” said Cronin. “Make great memories. Find your favorite place. Find your niche.”

The URI students discussed their internships, which were at places like Porsche, IAU and ZF, and the students described some of the engineering work that they did there, as well as things like computer programming, project management and presentations, all being done in German.

“We were all competent enough in the language to get started, and to get around, but using it every day made us get more proficient while we were there,” said Cronin. “Every day you’re still learning. There are programs at URI before you go and there are programs at your host school to help you get ready and feel more competent.”

The students also noted that the German citizens were more anxious to practice their own English on the American students than they were to have the Americans speak to them in German.

The four students had nothing but rave reviews to share with the students at East and encouraged them to consider the IEP program at URI when the time came for college explorations and decisions.

“The classes are fun and interactive and although they’re challenging, you’re well-prepared,” said Tracksdorf. “We walk you through it step by step in order to get you where you want to be in this program, and yet we help you to be independent also. We want you to try things on your own, but if you need help we are right there to help you.”

He reminded the students that as high schoolers now, a place like Boston might seem far away, and a new place to explore, but he encouraged them to think even more globally.

“Europe and all the world is open to you now,” he said. “As you grow, your mentality changes and you begin to think about the worldwide, global community. Now, so much is global, we have an international mindset. Our URI students stand out because of their international experiences.”
Rhode Island and Colombian Institutions Team Up to Build Affordable Prosthetics

Author: Melody Young, Higher Education Intern, 100,000 Strong in the Americas

Laura Parra, a University of Rhode Island (URI) senior, always wanted to return to her home country of Colombia to give back to the community in some way.

Never did she imagine she would be able to fulfill her dream so early in her career and through such an amazing project. This year, the biomedical engineering student participated in a cross-country collaboration between URI and SENA (Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje) Centro Nacional Colombo Alemán at Barranquilla in Atlántico, Colombia, to invent affordable myoelectric prostheses for amputees in the US and Colombia.

Parra is part of the Spanish International Engineering Program (SIEP), one of URI’s unique five-year programs to earn two bachelor degrees, a bachelor of science in an engineering discipline and a bachelor of arts in a foreign language.

A component of these globally focused programs is a full year abroad, with a combined study and internship experience.

However, the prostheses project did not fulfill the abroad component, and instead established the groundwork for future student and faculty exchanges that will meet curriculum requirements. Such exchanges are already being scheduled for 2018.

In March 2017, URI’s proposal on “Sustainable Prostheses - An All Inclusive Approach to Designing in the Americas” won a $25,000 grant from 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund (100K) in a grant competition promoting study abroad in the fields of engineering, physics, geology, and geophysics, funded by ExxonMobil Corporation and SENA.

By then, URI and SENA’s collaboration was already underway.

The two schools paired up their students to form four teams, each designing a prosthetic for a different patient. The teams researched and prepared for their in-person collaboration via virtual communication under the guidance of four instructors, two from each school.

Although they struggled with the language barrier, their teamwork and the Colombian students’ jokes formed rapport in their interactions.

In late June 2017, the SENA group traveled to URI to participate in a Designathon for brainstorming patient-focused prosthetic designs. The schools’ mutual exchange of technical and academic methodologies equipped the teams to tackle this ambitious project.
The SENA group contributed their methodology of design thinking and participatory design and their expertise in 3D printing with various materials while the URI group brought their knowledge in programming sensors to the table.

On July 6, the Designathon concluded with a special presentation at the Schneider Electric campus in West Kingston, RI. “The event went very well and it was great to present the first accomplishment of the project: The Design of the Prosthetic and the results of the collaborative Designathon and Design-Thinking-Process in an international context,” said Silke Scholz, SIEP director and one of the URI faculty involved in this project.

“We decided not to turn this into a competition as each patient’s story and need is equally important.”

Two months later, the URI group made their way to Colombia to synthesize the prosthetic models using SENA’s equipment. The teams were able to personally meet the patients after communicating virtually since the project’s first stage.

At the end of the almost three week workshop in Colombia, the teams presented the prosthetic prototypes to the four patients.

URI junior James Gannon, an electrical engineering major, said of his interactions with his team’s seven-year-old patient, “I have a younger brother and sister, so working with [the patient] really hit home.”

For the final stage of the project, one team of students presented their research at the 20th Annual Colloquium on International Engineering Education. Gannon and his SENA partner Jairo Orduz represented URI at the colloquium.

“The overall response was very positive because . . . not only was this project collaborative, with students having an important role, but they were part of the activities every step of the way,” Scholz reported.

“Presentations are usually given by professors and administrators of programs. It was very interesting for the audience to hear and see the [students’] perspective during our joint presentation.”

This 100K grant helped URI develop SIEP once again, just as a similar grant in 2014 facilitated the establishment of a new partnership with a Chilean academic institution.
URI French professor honored by French government

KINGSTON, R.I., Feb. 26, 2018—Fifteen years ago, Lars Erickson, a scholar of French with a passion for science, became director of the French International Engineering Program at the University of Rhode Island.

Over the years, he’s seen the program grow from 20 to 70 students, many of whom have interned at highly-respected French companies. Some students have even gone on to earn their doctorates at French universities.

Now the French government is saying, merci.

Erickson has been named a Chevalier (or Knight) of the Ordre des Palmes Académiques.

The award recognizes his outstanding achievements at promoting the study of the French language and culture.

The Consulate General of France in Boston will present the award during a ceremony at URI in the spring.

“It’s an honor to be recognized by France,” says Erickson. “I’ve worked hard at sharing my passion for France and for French with my students. It’s a pleasure to do something I love every day.”

Erickson joined URI as an assistant professor in 2001, becoming a full professor in 2014. He received undergraduate degrees in French and chemistry from Hamline University in Saint Paul, Minn., and his doctorate in French from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

He wrote his dissertation about scientific essays in 18th-century France, and has published widely on 18th-century French literature, with a focus on scientific and technical knowledge.

In 2003, Erickson became director of URI’s French International Engineering Program, a five-year program in which students obtain degrees in French and engineering. Students spend a year abroad, studying at the Université de Technologie de Compiègne for six months and then interning at a company in France, also for six months.

Erickson established the exchange program with the French university and has also cultivated relationships with French companies, including Total and Saint-Gobain. His “French for Engineering” textbook will be published in the spring.

“Our French engineering program is unique—and successful,” he says. “In fact, we’re seeing incredible growth in our entire French program at URI. We’re very proud of that.”

Napoleon I created the award as an honorary title to recognize members of the University in 1808. Later, the award was extended to foreigners and French people living abroad who have contributed to French education and culture.

JoAnn Hammadou-Sullivan, also a URI professor of French, received the award in 2017, and Joëlle Rollo-Koster, a URI history professor and a native of France who specializes in the late European Middle Ages, was honored in 2016.
URI engineers find science, joy, beauty in roller coasters

KINGSTON, R.I., Feb. 12, 2018—He likes fish, she likes meat. He’s a physics guy, she’s into biology. He sleeps late, she doesn’t.

But Emily Orr and Greg Morgan have one thing in common: roller coasters. The University of Rhode Island students—and a couple since high school—are leaders in the Theme Park Engineering and Design Club, a student group heading into its second year on campus.

Most of the members are engineers, but you don’t have to be an engineer to join. One member is studying accounting. The only requirement is an interest in roller coasters that goes beyond the occasional joy ride on a summer day.

“We tackle everything from the physics of roller coasters to the design of the ride,” says Orr, club president and an industrial and systems engineering major. “We take a lot of field trips too. You can imagine. It’s fun.”

With thousands of theme parks throughout the United States and world, the demand for engineers to design, build and maintain rides is growing. Morgan and Orr hope to find jobs in the field after graduating—Orr next year, Morgan in two years.

“I’d be doing something related to engineering—and something I love,” says Morgan, an International Engineering Program student with a focus on mechanical engineering and German. “What could be better than that.”

Founded two years ago by another German IEP student, Zachary Davies, the club has about 20 members who meet once a week to talk shop and work on designs for ride competitions at colleges and theme parks nationwide.

So far, the students have submitted three designs—including one to Cornell University’s annual “Theme Park Engineering Design Competition”—and although they haven’t won anything the experience was invaluable.

They designed a roller coaster ride for Cornell that used 3D LED screens to mimic a train crash in a haunted station.

“We wanted to make something spooky,” says Orr. “I think that helps with the thrill.” Physics is the engine of a roller coaster—and this has fascinated Morgan since he was a kid riding Nitro at a Six Flags near his home in New Jersey. Using a pulley system, a roller coaster climbs to the top of a hill, and as it falls it speeds up and creates kinetic energy, which carries it through the remainder of the ride, he says.

“It’s the engineers’ job to analyze the forces—friction, wind, weight load—to make sure the roller coaster can get through the entire track without stopping,” says Morgan.

Translation: The job of a roller coaster engineer is to make sure the carts can handle turns, loops and inversions without falling off the track. The engineer also keeps passengers safe by accurately measuring the force on them. “That’s known as g-force,” says Morgan.
Raised in Roxbury, N.J., two hours from New York City, Orr and Morgan were friends in middle school and started dating as juniors at Roxbury High School, bonding over their mastery of math and science. Early on, they knew they wanted to be engineers. They both applied to URI, but didn’t tell each other, agreeing to keep the college process separate.

“We wanted to do what was best for both,” says Morgan. “If we ended up at different colleges, we’d keep it going long distance.” But parting wasn’t necessary.

They landed at URI and are now entering their third year together in college as a happy couple. Sophomore year they turned cartwheels when they saw a flier about the club, and signed up. Both were lifelong fans of theme parks and roller coasters, although Orr was a bit skittish as a kid about the big-drop rides. Morgan was not.

“I loved them—the thrill,” he says. “Pretty wild.” When Davies went to Germany this semester to study, he asked the duo to take over. Club members expect to submit a design to the next Cornell competition in the spring and are reaching out to theme parks for private tours of their engineering facilities—and perhaps a peek at the roller coasters’ control room.

“These tours are a great way to see firsthand what we can expect to work with in the future,” says Orr, “and also learn what goes into making the rides.”

Morgan is so keen on roller coasters he hopes to get an internship in paradise: Intamin in Liechtenstein, one of the largest manufacturers of roller coasters in the world.

“I love the idea of creating things and figuring out how they work,” he says. “I’m just doing it with roller coasters.” The academic adviser of the club is German-born Niko Tracksdorf, who joined URI last June as coordinator of the German International Engineering Program.

He, too, is an enthusiast of the ride. He has been on more than 200 rollers coasters and hopes to bring his course, “Achterbahn—The Thrill of German Engineering,” to URI students soon.

“The next time you’re on a roller coaster remember that they’re not just thrilling rides,” he says, “but also engineering masterpieces.”

For more information about the club, email Orr at themeparkengineering@rhodysenate.org. The club meets Tuesdays at 5 p.m. at the International Engineering Program House on Upper College Road.
KINGSTON, R.I., April 16, 2018—First the lump, then the chemo. Ian Kanterman was too young to understand the gravity of his cancer, but he could see how it was ravaging his 5-year-old body.

He lost his appetite, and his hair. When the time came to go back to school, he wore a bandana to cover his bald head. The kids teased him, and while that bullying could’ve created an angry young man, it didn’t.

“Having cancer taught me to live fuller and more,” says Kanterman. “I try to make the most out of everything put in front of me.”

Kanterman has been celebrating life since he arrived at the University of Rhode Island from Brick, N.J., a working-class community near the Jersey shore.

This spring, he’ll graduate from the five-year French International Engineering Program, with degrees in biomedical engineering and French. “URI has been terrific,” he says. “It helped me grow as a person and student.”

His mother discovered the lump while she was changing him into his pajamas after he fell asleep on his parents’ bed one night. The diagnosis: non-Hodgkin Lymphoma, a cancer that starts in the lymphatic system. Only days later, the spirited boy with a toothy grin and curly blond hair was on an operating table having a cancerous tumor removed. Two more surgeries and two years of chemo ensued. In the middle of his treatment, he suffered a stroke, paralyzing some of his left side, but he recovered fully and was able to return to school. The bandana he wore was black decorated with green aliens.

“I learned that bullying is cruel and misguided,” he says. “They didn’t know any better, and we became friends later.”

The illness spared his beautiful mind, and he excelled in high school, deciding to attend the same college as his big brother, Cameron, a biology major at URI.

Kanterman was leaning toward computer engineering, but at accepted students’ day a professor introduced him to biomedical engineering.

A light went off: “I could help people, maybe even a cancer patient.” Things looked even brighter when he learned about the International Engineering Program, which would give him a chance to study and work abroad.

He left his shyness in the halls of Brick Memorial High School. First off, he participated in URI’s Leadership Institute, where he met other budding campus leaders.
That led to his involvement with the Student Alumni Association, which led to becoming a tour guide, which led to being an orientation leader, which led to raising money for cancer patients through the St. Baldrick’s Foundation, which led to where he is today: loving—and loved by—friends he expects to remain close to for life.

He’s an excellent student, making the Dean’s List with a grueling course load that has included everything from electronics to cell biology and physiology.

Last academic year, he studied at the Université de Technologie de Compiègne in France and interned at the Institute of Image-Guided Surgery in Strasbourg, creating a prototype for a device that quickly treats the blood pressure of trauma patients.

He helped pay for his studies with scholarships from the Lester J. & Marie T. King Memorial Scholarship, awarded annually to a student in the College of Engineering who demonstrates academic excellence and financial need, and the Beatrice S. Demers Foreign Language Fellows Program.

“It was a phenomenal experience,” he says. “I got to work with people from Italy, Ireland, the Netherlands, Argentina, Spain and Japan. It was exhilarating.”

One of his most exciting projects at URI is nearly finished. For his senior capstone project, Kanterman and two other engineering students created a silicone wrist that simulates the 28 pulse patterns used in traditional Chinese medicine to diagnose various diseases. Kanterman envisions it as a teaching tool for Western doctors.

“It's pretty neat,” he says. “We used all the skills we learned in college to develop this. It’s very fulfilling.”

Kanterman has already been accepted to the University of Twente in the Netherlands to earn a master’s degree in biomedical engineering, specifically, neural and motor systems. The university is considered one of the country’s top technical colleges.

“The URI experience has taught me to be bold, brave and grateful,” he says. “URI has been a home away from home, and a haven of learning and self-discovery. I wouldn’t trade the experience for anything.”
Commencement 2018: URI engineering undergraduate studies in Chile, Spain

KINGSTON, R.I., April 13, 2018—Daniel Levesque’s father had a wish for his son as he was battling prostate cancer: Stay close to home.

Levesque did, but his dad never got to see him off. He died five days before Levesque’s 18th birthday and two months before he enrolled at the University of Rhode Island.

This spring, Levesque will graduate from the five-year Spanish International Engineering program with degrees in Spanish and mechanical engineering, and a minor in leadership studies. He knows his dad would be proud; his mother has assured him of that.

“I’m glad I stayed nearby,” he says. “I absolutely love URI. It has given me an incredible family. I’ve met friends I’ll keep for life.”

As a boy in North Kingstown, he spent his days hanging out with his best buddy and dad, Dennis Levesque, a contractor who built houses and the Fenner Hill Golf Club, where Levesque worked on the grounds. “We were close,” says Levesque.

A gifted math and science student at Bishop Hendricken High School in Warwick, Levesque knew early on he wanted to study engineering in college and that he’d find a school near his dad. “All my teachers said I should look into engineering,” says Levesque. “I liked to problem-solve. It seemed like a good fit.”

Only days into his freshman year he knew he was in the right place. He appreciated his challenging engineering classes and also discovered a talent for leadership after participating in URI’s Leadership Institute. Over the years, he’s developed those skills, most recently as a teaching assistant at the Center for Student Leadership Development, where he organizes student retreats and workshops.

Study abroad has expanded his global awareness. During a high school trip sponsored by the Catholic Church, Levesque built a house atop a mountain in Peru and volunteered at an orphanage. The experience piqued his interest in world travel.

During winter break of his sophomore year at URI, he spent 15 days in Valparaiso, Chile, designing a sustainable energy system for a fish market. “It was my first time using Spanish as a technical language,” he says. “It was an eye-opener. I learned I needed to learn and grow quite a bit.”

After three semesters back at URI, he went overseas again, this time to the Universidad de Zaragoza in Spain for six months, taking language and engineering classes, all taught in Spanish.

After that, he interned, also for six months, as a project manager for SEAT, an international car manufacturer in Barcelona. The experience changed his life. Barcelona was a vibrant, culturally-rich city, and he met engineers from all over the world. “I made a ton of friends, who were mostly German, which was hilarious.”

One memory he’ll never forget is a soccer game in the jam-packed Barcelona stadium between Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain. Barcelona won. “When Barcelona scored in the 94th minute the crowd went so crazy they recorded a small earthquake in town,” says Levesque.
Student Profiles & Awards

URI biomedical engineering students create wrist pulse simulator

KINGSTON, R.I., March 26, 2018—University of Rhode Island engineering students want to take your pulse—28 different ways.

The students are creating a silicone wrist that simulates the 28 pulse patterns used in traditional Chinese medicine to diagnose various diseases.

Ian Kanterman, Mackenzie Mitchell and Jake Morris will present the “Wrist Pulse Simulator” to the Undergraduate Design Competition of the Northeast Bioengineering Conference March 28 at Drexel University in Philadelphia. “This project reminds us that science and medicine are universal,” Kanterman says, “but done in various ways.”

Most are familiar with the Western way: A health care worker places two fingers on a patient’s wrist to measure one thing: heart rate. In traditional Chinese medicine, pulse diagnosis using three fingers with different compression pressures is a more developed process, a tool practitioners use to detect diseases, like liver failure.

Training a practitioner to find all those pulse patterns on one person can be difficult, if not impossible.

The silicone wrist created by the URI students solves that problem by mimicking the pulse points, and it also provides a valuable teaching tool.

The team is building off two years of research by previous URI engineering students.

Ying Sun, professor in the Department of Electrical, Computer and Biomedical Engineering, says the idea for the capstone project came from Dr. Mona Boudreaux, a veterinarian in Illinois and sister of URI engineering professor G. Faye Boudreaux-Bartels. Boudreaux uses traditional Chinese medicine to treat animals and told her sister about the difficulty of detecting pulse patterns, even in animals.

“We thought it sounded like a great idea to pursue for a project that can help people,” says Sun. “It’s highly technical, but also unique, and can be very useful as a teaching tool and for research.”

Pulse taking is an ancient technique in Chinese medicine. Thousands of years ago X-rays to produce pictures of the body’s inside didn’t exist. Pulse diagnosis was a way to evaluate the body’s internal organs.

A caregiver rests three fingers over the wrist’s radial artery. Each finger rests on a section of the pulse, with the caregiver searching for pulse length, depth and quality.

A pulse that feels straight and long can reveal liver disease. A pulse that can only be felt by pressing to the bone indicates that the illness is deep inside the body. A pulse that feels deep and soft signals a blood deficiency.

Mitchell, of Coventry, who will graduate this spring with degrees in biomedical engineering and German in the International Engineering Program, says the project fits her career goal. She hopes to become a naturopathic doctor, blending natural medicine with conventional diagnosis and treatment.
“This capstone project aligns perfectly with my passion for naturopathic medicine,” she says. “My team and I set out to modernize one practice within traditional Chinese medicine—pulse diagnosis.”

To learn about the 28 pulse patterns practitioners must rely on other caregivers to describe the patterns. “As you can imagine,” says Mitchell, “this leaves far too much room for interpretation and a lack of standardization.”

The simulator, she says, will give specialists the credibility they need to regulate and even popularize a practice that is growing as people seek more natural ways to diagnose and treat illnesses.

When the wrist pulse simulator is connected to a power source, the first pulse pattern begins to play. Three electromagnetic pushers—called solenoids—on the wrist move up and down to imitate the 28 most common pulse patterns in traditional Chinese medicine.

With an app, users are able to cycle through 28 settings, one setting for each pulse. Practitioners-in-training can use the wrist to study the different pulses, taking time to notice the subtle differences among them.

“Our project is still in the early stages of development, and in the future the wrist will need to be tested by practitioners,” says Mitchell. “Each pulse drawing must be tweaked until practitioners agree on how each pulse should feel. It may take years to develop a product that can be put on the market, but our prototype provides an excellent starting point.” Kanterman, of Brick, N.J., who will graduate this spring with degrees in biomedical engineering and French in the International Engineering Program, says the project bridges the gap between Western and Eastern medicine. He says it also gave him a chance to put to use what he’s learned in the classroom. “This project has allowed us the opportunity to develop our skills as engineers through the use of new software and smartphone applications,” he says. “Capstone is an important step for us as engineers to use our knowledge and skills gained over the years to produce something concrete. It’s a manifestation of all our hard work.”

Morris, of South Kingstown, who will graduate this spring with degrees in biomedical engineering and Spanish in the International Engineering Program, says the project is preparing him for a career in biomedical engineering: “Not only does this project motivate me to be the best engineer I can, but it also has given me new and exciting ideas and experiences that I know will play a huge role in my future as a biomedical engineer.”