

THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF RHODE ISLAND  
INTERNATIONAL  
ENGINEERING  
PROGRAM

Meeting of the  
Advisory Board

June 5, 2020

Virtual Meeting



# Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Members of the IEP Advisory Board,

The 2019-2020 “Coronavirus crisis year” will certainly be one to remember. Its impact on the IEP has been unprecedented: Never before had we recalled an entire cohort of 53 students home, interrupting their internships around the globe - the highlight of their year abroad. Never before had we ended up with a nearly empty International Living & Learning Community by the close of the Spring semester, with no programs running in the IEP houses during the summer. Never before have we been so uncertain about what the Fall semester will look like both at URI and at our partner universities abroad. Yet following the lead URI provided through emergency health directives and virtual teaching/learning coachings, our students, faculty and staff quickly rose to the various health, academic and managerial challenges, turning the second half of the Spring semester into a productive endeavor. I cannot overemphasize the increase in intensity that we all were faced with, and wish to express my sincere gratitude to our Deans, faculty, staff and students for their ingenuity, their flexibility and for giving their very best! Thank you for jointly tackling those challenges and walking this extra long mile with us!

To allow the fifth year returnees to graduate in May, the IEP faculty adapted our internship courses to cover two semesters’ worth of curriculum in one. In an effort to reintegrate all students from this affected cohort, we invited them as experts into our ongoing language courses, to virtual reentry meetings, and to preparation sessions for their younger peers, so that they would feel valued and reassured in the midst of their personal chaos following their involuntary recall. We also innovated upon URI’s virtual 2020 admission webinars and hosted two of our own, where we focused on synchronous interactions between prospective students, IEP directors and IEP ambassadors while also integrating returned IEP students. In close cooperation with international partners and the OIE, we are now working with a Plan A and B for the generation who plans to study abroad in 2020-21, and have created online alternatives to the cancelled summer schools in Calabria and Berlin.

To assist with filling the new-found gap in students’ lives, we were able to secure several local internships through our alumni network as well as research positions – funded by Dean Wright (thank you!) – in COE faculty labs. Additionally, addressing an urgent need in the community, we directed returnees to volunteer opportunities such as the ventilator project in the Memorial Union. IEP staff Angela Graney and Melissa Schenck analyzed the unexpected expenses associated with the students’ early return. This allowed us to advocate for scholarships generously funded by the College of Engineering totaling an impressive \$38,000 which helped our students immensely. Again - many, many thanks to Dean Wright! As is evident from the 2020 Study Abroad & Internship Survey, the students highly appreciated all these combined efforts. In close coordination with University leadership Angela Graney managed to keep the ILLC operational until mid-May, giving ten students a home who had no place else to go. She was faced with many difficult decisions including giving a 25% refund to students choosing to leave because of the crisis. While this decision was a financial hardship to the ILLC, it was absolutely the right call.

On another note, I am happy to report several positive developments: this Fall we hosted Distinguished Visiting Prof. Erwin Tschirner from the University in Leipzig, supported by a matching grant from the Max Kade Foundation and A&S. Aside from teaching two upper-level courses in German, he significantly moved the Modern and Classical Languages Department’s proficiency initiative forward by engaging faculty and students in lectures, research based course development and over ten workshops. This Spring several new members have joined our IEP Advisory Board who have been instrumental in helping with various aspects of moving the IEP forward: Professor Nicola Massarotti of the Università degli Studi di Napoli “Parthenope”; Gianfranco Milani, Managing Director of Grastim JV, Napoli; our alum Erik Anderson who works for the IAV company in Gifhorn and IEP alum Dave Rego, President of PI (Physik Instrumente) in Auburn, MA.

Welcome aboard the IEP!

My 30K grant application to the Japan Foundation came through as well and is in support of a new Japanese lecturer, Nahoko Collis from Brown University, who will be starting at URI in Fall 2020. Aside from this new grant the IEP raised a total of \$168,392 in grants and private donations in FY '20. Our new and complex credit-based proposal which allows for more transparency and equity in the workload adjustment for the directorship positions, was accepted. (Thank you, Dean Riley, for your additional investment of 25.5K per year for the IEP!) This year's round of intercultural competency assessment through the IDI showed that our efforts of increasing the students' general cultural preparation -- raising their awareness of their own cultural identity in order to better notice and navigate the culturally unfamiliar, yielded strong results. The group profile of the cohort preparing to go abroad showed the majority transitioning to the stage of "Minimization," a step further towards an intercultural mindset, a stage that many of the previous cohort only reached after seven months spent abroad.

In the midst of this Spring's sudden disruptions and uncertainties brought upon us by the global pandemic, our 60 graduating seniors in the Class of 2020 finished extremely strong: in A&S, the University Excellence Award winners in ALL language majors (Chinese, French, German, Italian and Spanish) went to IEP graduates!! In COE 50% of the University Excellence Award winners (those in BME, MCE, ISE and OCE) were garnered by IEPers, with two students winning double awards in languages and engineering (FRN & OCE and SPA & ISE)! Three out of eight Nelson B. White awards also went to IEPers. Might I surmise that by juggling a rigorous dual degree curriculum as well as through the personal and professional growth resulting from a year spent fully abroad, IEP students have been exceptionally prepared for navigating uncertainties with creativity, choosing the right balance between safety and risk, persevering in the face of unexpected hurdles, and cultivating a leadership attitude that comes with an overall broadening of one's mind and perspective on life?

Cordially,



Sigrid Berka

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# International Engineering Program Administration 2019-2020

**Dean Jeanette Riley**  
**Dean, College of Arts &  
Sciences**  
University of Rhode Island  
Kingston, RI 02881  
jen\_riley@uri.edu

**Dr. Lars O. Erickson**  
**Director of the French IEP**  
*Professor of French*  
(401) 874-4702  
lars@uri.edu

**Dean Raymond M. Wright**  
**Dean, College of Engineering**  
University of Rhode Island  
Kingston, RI 02881  
rmwright@uri.edu

**Dr. Iñaki Pérez-Ibáñez**  
**Director of the Spanish IEP**  
*Professor of Spanish*  
401-874-2670  
ignacioperez@uri.edu

**Dr. Sigrid Berka**  
**Executive Director, IEP**  
**Director of the Chinese & German IEPs**  
*Professor of German*  
(401) 874-4700  
sigrid\_berka@uri.edu

**Dr. Michelangelo La Luna**  
**Director of the Italian IEP**  
*Professor of Italian*  
(401) 874-5968  
laluna@uri.edu

**Ms. Angela Graney**  
**Associate Director for Business &  
Administration, IEP**  
(401) 874-4926  
agraney@uri.edu

**Dr. Manabu Takasawa**  
**Director of the Japanese IEP**  
*Professor of Music*  
401-874-2790  
takasawa@uri.edu

**Mr. Bill Koconis**  
**Senior Director of Development**  
College of Engineering  
401-874-5682  
bkoconis@uri.edu

**Dr. Niko Tracksdorf**  
**Associate Director of the German IEP**  
*Assistant Professor of German*  
401-874-2361  
tracksdorf@uri.edu

**Ms. Melissa Schenck**  
**Coordinator, IEP**  
(401) 874-4712  
schenckm@uri.edu

# Enrollment Figures 2019-20

<b>Breakdown by Major*:</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Percentage of Total IEP-Serviced Students:</b>			
<b>IEP (Declared EGR)</b>	<b>353</b>	90%	Total Engineering Students Serviced by IEP	361	92%
IEP (Wanting Engineering)	8	2%			
IBP (International Business Program)	13	3%	Total Non-Engineering Students Serviced by IEP**	33	8%
ICSP (International Computer Science Program)	9	2%			
Other**	11	3%			
Graduate (Dual Degree Masters)	0	0%	Total Graduate Students Serviced by IEP	0	0%
<b>Total Students Serviced by IEP*</b>	<b>394</b>				

\*\*Other includes 11 non-engineering students who want to double major in a Language and another major who are dedicated to going abroad and following the IEP model.

<b>IEP Undergrads (Declared Engineering)*</b>	<b>URI College of Engineering Undergrads*</b>	<b>% of COE</b>
<b>353</b>	<b>1580</b>	<b>22%</b>

\*IEP numbers reflect enrollment collected Fall 2019. COE numbers reflect enrollment collected in Fall 2019 as head count of majors publicly reported by the URI Office of Institutional Research. Both numbers do not include Wanting Engineering designation.

<b>IEP/College of Engineering Demographics</b>		<b>IEP # (353)</b>	<b>% of IEP</b>	<b>COE # (1580)</b>	<b>% of COE</b>
<b>Gender</b>	Female	108	31%	378	24%
	Male	245	69%	1202	76%
<b>Ethnicity***</b>	Represented Groups (White, Asian)	261	77%	1241	82%
	Underrepresented Groups (Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian, 2+ Races)	77	23%	277	18%
<b>Residency</b>	In-State Rhode Islanders	199	56%	858	54%
	Out of State	147	42%	722	46%
	Out of Country	7	2%		
<b>Scholarship Recipients</b>	Centennial or University Scholarships	231	65%	Data unavailable	

\* IEP numbers reflect enrollment collected Fall 2019.

\*\*\*IEP numbers and percentages based on 338 who self-reported ethnicity. COE numbers and percentages based on 1518 who self-reported, not including Non-Resident Alien designation.

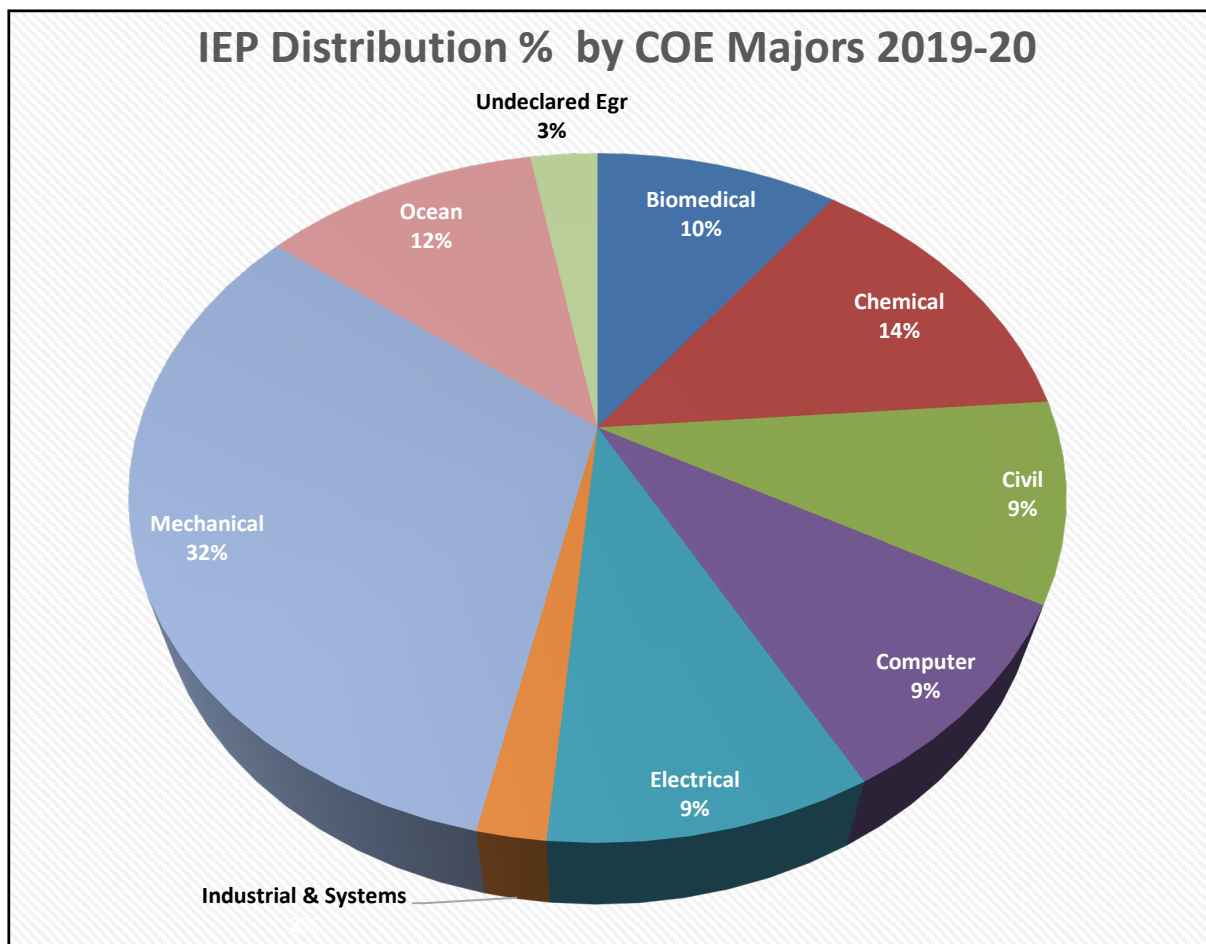
Percentages may not add up to 100%, as they are rounded to the nearest percent.

# Enrollment Figures 2019-20

By Engineering Discipline	IEP #	% of IEP
• Biomedical	36	10%
• Chemical	48	14%
• Civil	33	9%
• Computer	32	9%
• Electrical	33*	9%
• Industrial & Systems	7	2%
• Mechanical	114	32%
• Ocean	41	12%
• Undeclared B.S. in Engineering	10	3%
*Accounts for a student who is a double major in ELE & CPE		

COE Total # of Majors	% of COE
183	12%
155	10%
208	13%
142	9%
129	8%
54	3%
471	30%
145	9%
93	6%

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





# Enrollment Figures By Language Track

## 2019-20 Enrollment Figures By Language Track

	German IEP		Spanish IEP	
<b>Total # of Students Serviced by IEP</b>	<b>156</b>		<b>95</b>	
• <b>IEP Undergrads in COE (Declared EGR)</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>94%</b>
• IEP Undergrads Wanting Engineering	2	1	4	4%
• IBP (International Business Program)	6	4%	--	--
• ICSP (International Computer Science)	4	3%	1	1%
• Other (Dual Majors)	3	2%	1	1%
• Graduate (Dual Degree Masters)	--	--	--	--

<b>IEP Undergrads in COE (Declared EGR)</b>	<b>IEP #</b>	<b>% of IEP</b>	<b>IEP #</b>	<b>% of IEP</b>
• Female	24	17%	43	48%
• Male	117	83%	46	52%
• Rhode Islanders	82	58%	47	53%
• Out of State	55	39%	41	46%
• Out of Country	4	3%	1	1%
<b>By Engineering Discipline*</b>	<b>IEP #</b>	<b>% of IEP</b>	<b>IEP #</b>	<b>% of IEP</b>
• Biomedical	8	6%	9	10%
• Chemical	20	14%	13	15%
• Civil	11	8%	14	16%
• Computer	7	5%	8	9%
• Electrical	11*	8%	8	9%
• Industrial & Systems	2	1%	2	2%
• Mechanical	72	51%	15	17%
• Ocean	7	5%	16	18%
• Undeclared B.S. in Engineering	4	3%	4	4%

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

\*Accounts for a double major in ELE and CPE

# Enrollment Figures By Language Track

## 2019-20 Enrollment Figures By Language Track

	French IEP		Chinese IEP	
<b>Total # of Students Serviced by IEP</b>	<b>49</b>		<b>30</b>	
• <b>IEP Undergrads in COE (Declared EGR)</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>83%</b>
• IEP Undergrads Wanting Engineering	--	--	1	3%
• IBP (International Business Program)	2	4%	1	3%
• ICSP (International Computer Science)	--	--	2	7%
• Other (Dual Majors)	2	4%	1	3%

<b>IEP Undergrads in COE (Declared EGR)</b>	<b>IEP #</b>	<b>% of IEP</b>		<b>IEP #</b>	<b>% of IEP</b>
• Female	24	53%		8	32%
• Male	21	47%		17	68%
• Rhode Islanders	21	47%		14	56%
• Out of State	24	53%		10	40%
• Out of Country	--	--		1	4%
<b>By Engineering Discipline</b>	<b>IEP #</b>	<b>% of IEP</b>		<b>IEP #</b>	<b>% of IEP</b>
• Biomedical	8	18%		4	16%
• Chemical	5	11%		4	16%
• Civil	4	9%		1	4%
• Computer	3	7%		5	20%
• Electrical	2	4%		5	20%
• Industrial & Systems	2	4%		--	--
• Mechanical	8	18%		5	20%
• Ocean	13	29%		1	4%
• Undeclared B.S. in Engineering	--	--		--	--

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

# Enrollment Figures By Language Track

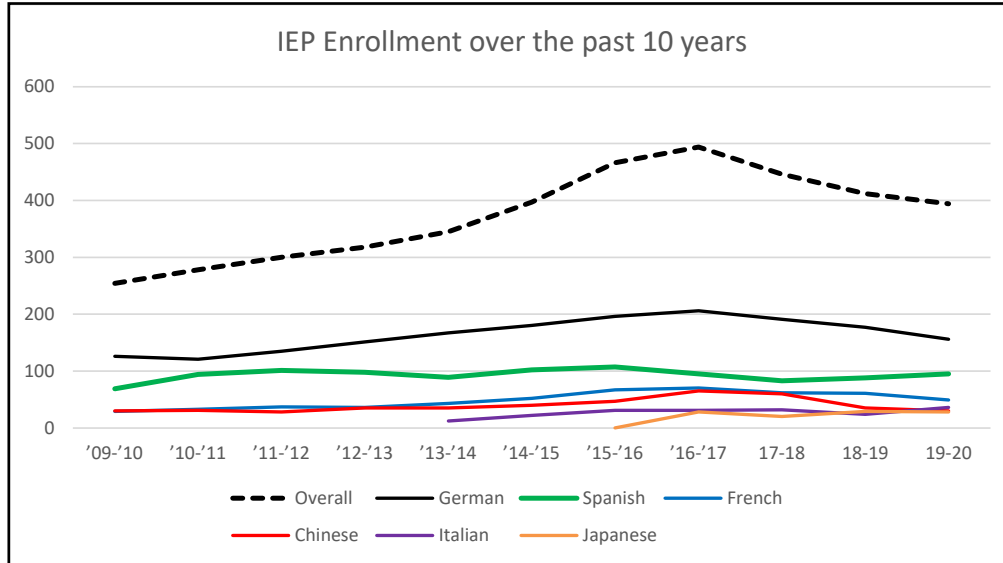
## 2019-20 Enrollment Figures By Language Track

	Italian IEP		Japanese IEP	
<b>Total # of Students Serviced by IEP</b>	<b>36</b>		<b>28</b>	
• <b>IEP Undergrads in COE (Declared EGR)</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>82%</b>
• IEP Undergrads Wanting Engineering	--	--	1	4%
• IBP (International Business Program)	3	8%	1	4%
• ICSP (International Computer Science)	--	--	2	7%
• Other (Dual Majors)	3	8%	1	4%

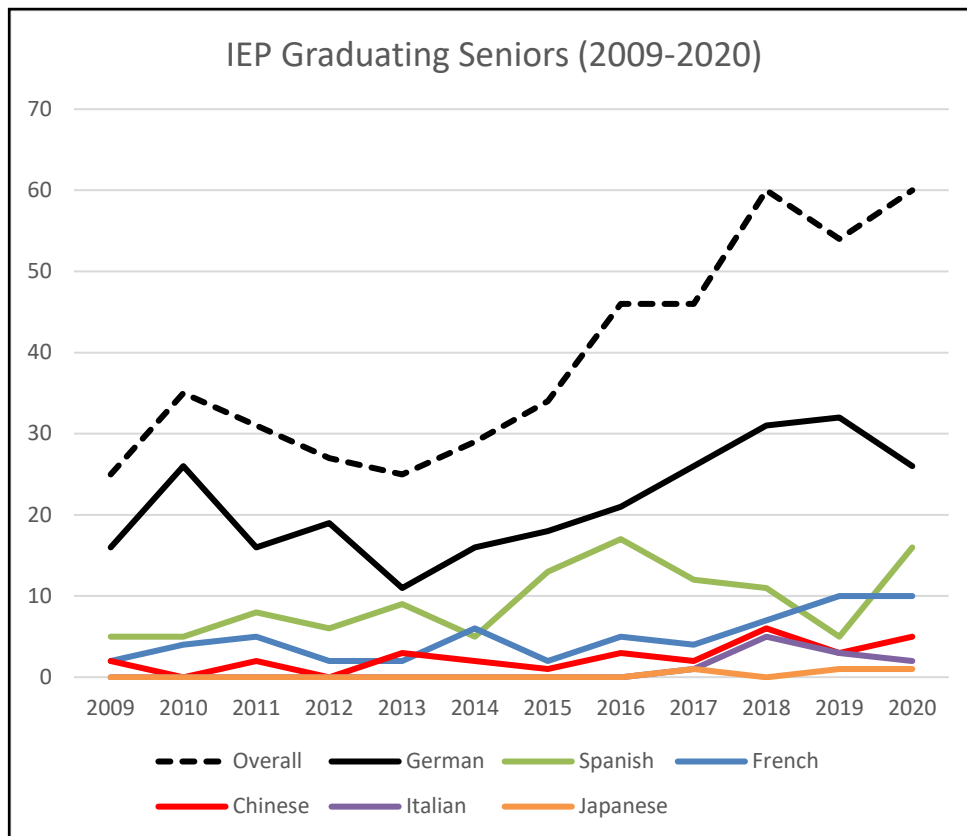
<b>IEP Undergrads in COE (Declared EGR)</b>			<b>IEP #</b>	<b>% of IEP</b>
• Female	7	23%	2	9%
• Male	23	77%	21	91%
• Rhode Islanders	15	50%	20	87%
• Out of State	15	50%	2	9%
• Out of Country	--	--	1	4%
<b>By Engineering Discipline</b>	<b>IEP #</b>	<b>% of IEP</b>	<b>IEP #</b>	<b>% of IEP</b>
• Biomedical	5	17%	2	9%
• Chemical	3	10%	3	13%
• Civil	2	7%	1	4%
• Computer	2	7%	7	30%
• Electrical	3	10%	4	17%
• Industrial & Systems	--	--	1	4%
• Mechanical	10	33%	4	17%
• Ocean	3	10%	1	4%
• Undeclared B.S. in Engineering	2	7%	--	--

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

# Enrollment & Graduation Figures



	'09-'10	'10-'11	'11-'12	'12-'13	'13-'14	'14-'15	'15-'16	'16-'17	'17-'18	'18-'19	'19-'20
<b>Overall</b>	254	278	300	318	345	397	466	494	448	414	394
<b>German</b>	126	121	135	151	167	180	196	205	191	177	156
<b>Spanish</b>	69	94	101	98	89	102	107	95	83	88	95
<b>French</b>	29	33	37	36	43	52	67	70	62	61	49
<b>Chinese</b>	30	31	28	35	35	40	47	65	60	35	30
<b>Italian</b>					12	22	31	31	32	24	36
<b>Japanese</b>							0	28	20	29	28



# 2020 Internship Placements

**53 students were placed in international internships  
in the 2019 calendar year:**

## China

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| 1. Biomedical Imaging Lab, ZJU                              | Hangzhou       |
| 2. General Electric   | Suzhou         |
| 3. Institute of Polymerization and Polymer Engineering, ZJU | Hangzhou       |
| 4. Apex Technologies  | Taipei, Taiwan |
| 5. Penn Group Renewables                                    | Taipei, Taiwan |

## France

- |                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| 1. EDF             | Chatou     |
| 2. IHU-Strasbourg  | Strasbourg |
| 3. Total           | Paris      |
| 4. Lab Simard, UTC | Compiègne  |
| 5. IHU-Strasbourg  | Strasbourg |

## Italy

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| 1. Physical Chemistry and Applied Materials Lab (PCAM), UNICAL | Rende      |
| 2. Grastim   | Naples     |
| 3. Hexagon Manufacturing Intelligence                          | Grugliasco |
| 4. Grastim   | Naples     |
| 5. Laboratorio di Genetica, UNICAL                             | Rende      |

## Japan

- |                                       |                 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Toray / Niigata University         | Tokyo / Niigata |
| 2. Nippon Advanced Technology Co.     | Tokai           |
| 3. Hexagon Manufacturing Intelligence | Hamamatsu       |
| 4. Shimadzu                           | Kyoto           |

## Spain

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| 1. Epic Power   | Zaragoza      |
| 2. CEIT / Tecnun  | San Sebastián |
| 3. Dept. de Ciencias y Técnicas del Agua y del Medio Ambiente Lab, UNICAN | Santander     |
| 4. Opel   | Zaragoza      |
| 5. Ennera   | Ibarra        |
| 6. 3PBio  | Noáin         |
| 7. Opel   | Zaragoza      |
| 8. Dept. de Ciencias y Técnicas del Agua y del Medio Ambiente Lab, UNICAN | Santander     |

# 2020 Internship Placements

(continued)

## Germany

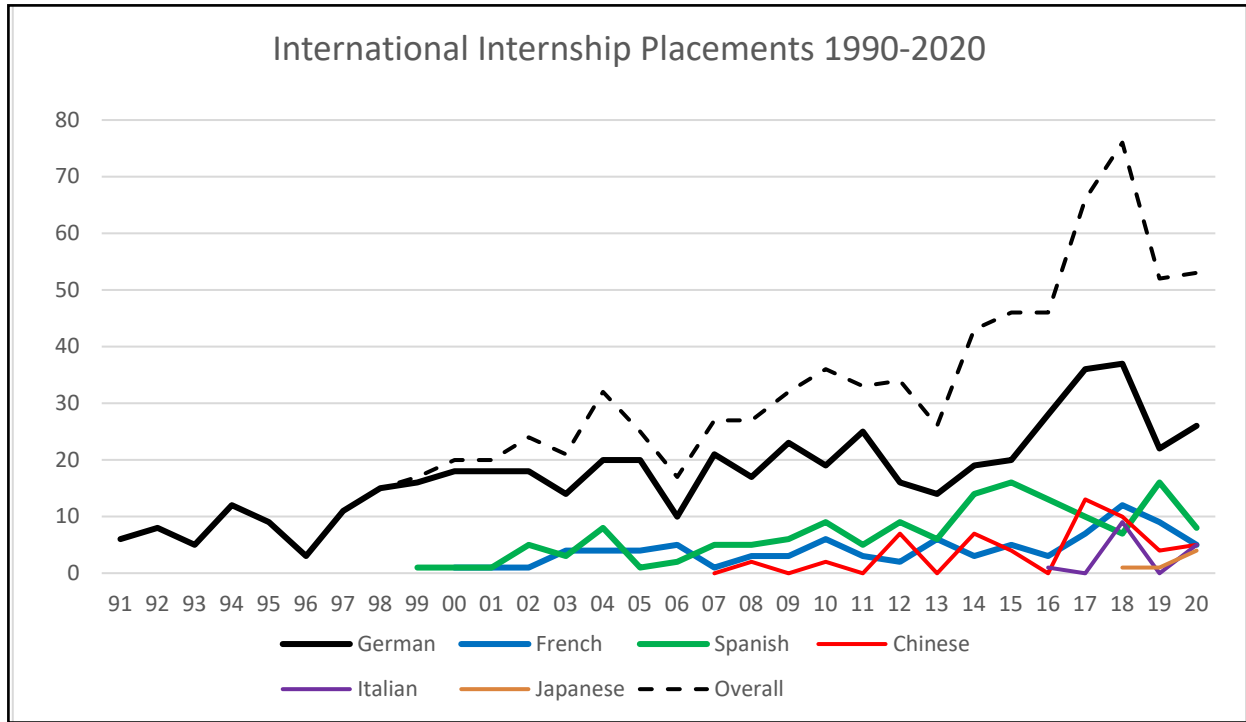
1. MTU
2. Siemens
3. ZF
4. BASF
5. IAV
6. Bischof + Klein
7. Nynas
8. IAV
9. Bischof + Klein
10. Institute of Automotive Management & Industrial Production, TUBS
11. MTU
12. Daimler
13. Machine Learning and Data Analytics Lab, U. Nürnberg-Erlangen
14. ZF
15. IAV
16. Marum
17. Siemens
18. BASF
19. IAV
20. Siemens
21. Ke Kelit
22. IAV
23. Nynas
24. Coplan
25. Raytheon Anschutz
26. Etalon

- Munich
- Munich
- Friedrichshafen
- Ludwigshafen
- Berlin
- Lengerich
- Hamburg
- Gifhorn
- Lengerich
- Braunschweig
- Munich
- Stuttgart
- Erlangen
- Friedrichshafen
- Gifhorn
- Bremen
- Munich
- Ludwigshafen
- Braunschweig
- Erlangen
- Linz, Austria
- Gifhorn
- Hamburg
- Regensburg
- Kiel
- Braunschweig



2020 German J-Term students and staff during a site visit at Merck

# Internship Figures



	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'00	'01	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11
<b>German</b>	8	6	8	5	12	9	3	11	15	16	18	18	18	14	20	20	10	21	17	23	19	25
<b>French</b>											1	1	1	4	4	4	5	1	3	3	6	3
<b>Spanish</b>										1	1	1	5	3	8	1	2	5	5	6	9	5
<b>Chinese</b>																		0	2	0	2	0
<b>Yr Total</b>			8	5	12	9	3	11	15	17	20	20	24	21	32	25	17	27	27	32	36	33
<b>Cum</b>	8	14	22	27	39	48	51	62	77	94	114	134	158	179	211	236	253	280	307	339	375	408

	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	'20													
<b>German</b>	16	14	19	20	28	36	37	22	26													
<b>French</b>	2	6	3	5	3	7	12	9	5													
<b>Spanish</b>	9	6	14	16	13	10	7	16	8													
<b>Chinese</b>	7	0	7	4	0	13	10	4	5													
<b>Italian</b>					1	0	9	0	5													
<b>Japanese</b>					1	0	1	1	4													
<b>Yr Total</b>	34	26	43	45	46	66	76	52	53													
<b>Cum</b>	442	468	511	556	602	668	744	796	849													

# Internship Partners 1990-2020

## International and Domestic

3P Biopharmaceuticals (Noáin)  
 Abengoa (Sevilla)  
 Aerodata (Braunschweig)  
 Agfa (Leverkusen, Gera)  
 Aicon 3-D (Braunschweig, Meersburg)  
 Air Liquide (Jouy-en Josas-Cedex)  
 Air Nostrum (Valencia)  
 Alakaluf (Punta Arenas)  
 Apia XXI (Santander)  
**Aplex Technologies (Taipei, Taiwan)**  
 Applied Materials (Alzenau)  
 Arup (Madrid)  
 Astilleros de Santander A.S (Astander)  
 AUDI (Ingolstadt)  
 Aviso (Gera)  
 Axiva (Frankfurt)  
 Baird & Associates (Santiago)  
 Bard Shannon, Ltd. (Humacao)  
 BASF (Ludwigshafen, Santiago)  
 Bayer (Leverkusen)  
 Bayer Technology Services (Shanghai)  
 Beijing Ao Rui Te Science & Technology Co.  
 (Beijing)  
 Beinbauer Group (Büchlberg)  
 Beiersdorf AG (Hamburg)  
 Benteler (Paderborn)  
 Bernard Energy Advocacy (Brussels)  
 Biomedical Imaging Lab (Hangzhou)  
 Biotrial (Mulhouse)  
**Bischof + Klein (Lengerich)**  
 Blaupunkt GmbH (Hildesheim)  
 BMSER Xieneng Technology (Hangzhou)  
 BMW (München, NJ, SC)  
 BMW Motorsport (München)  
 Böhlinger Ingelheim Microparts (Dortmund)  
 Boston Scientific (Coyol)  
 Bouygues Construction (Marseille)  
 BP Mineralöl (Gelsenkirchen)  
 Bruker Biospin (Wiessemembourg)  
 B&J Adaptaciones (Barcelona)  
 Caterpillar (Mannheim)  
 CEIT (San Sebastián)  
 Central European Fund (Nanjing)  
 CEREMA (Compiègne)  
 CGG (Paris)  
 Chen Lu International Skating Center (Beijing)  
 CCPNR (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)  
 Deutsche Bahn (München, Berlin, Minden,  
 Kassel)  
 DB Cargo (Mainz)  
 DB Engineering & Consulting (Hannover)  
 DB Netz (Frankfurt)  
 DB Schenker (Mainz)  
 DB Systel (Frankfurt)  
 DB Systemtechnik (München)  
**Departamento de Ciencias y Técnicas del  
 Agua y del Medio Ambiente (Santander)**  
 Division of Medical Bioengineering (Okayama)  
 Draeger Medical (Lübeck)  
 École des Hautes Études en Santé Publique  
 (Rennes)  
 ECOS Canarias S.L. (Las Palmas de Gran  
 Canaria)  
**EDF (Chatou)**  
 Emitec (Lohmar)  
 ENERCAP (Lyon)  
 Ennera (Ibarra)  
 Epic Power (Zaragoza)  
 Era7 (Granada)  
**Etalon (Braunschweig)**  
 Everis (Barcelona)  
 Ewag GmbH (Solothurn)  
 Experimentierstation Obstbau (Schlachters)  
 Fashion Power (Hangzhou)  
 Fatronik (San Sebastián)  
 Federal Mogul (Crépy-en-Valois)  
 Feng Logistics Company (Hangzhou)  
 France Energies Marines (Plouzané)  
 Fraunhofer-Institut für Schicht- und  
 Oberflächentechnik (Braunschweig)  
 Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing  
 Engineering and Automation (Stuttgart)  
 Gamesa S.A. (Bilbao)  
**General Electric (Suzhou)**  
 General Motors (Zaragoza)  
 Geocéan (Marseille)  
 GeoCiclos (Viña del Mar)  
 Geotecnia Ambiental (Valparaíso)  
 GKN Driveline (Zumaia)  
 GOM (Perugia)  
**Grastim (Naples)**  
 Groupe ADP (Paris)  
 Grupo de Biomateriales (GBM) (Zaragoza)

**Note: Companies marked in bold are new this year.**



# Internship Partners 1990-2020

## International and Domestic

Grupo de Ingeniería Oceanográfica y de Costas (Santander)  
 Grupo GIST (Santander)  
 GTM (Batiment)  
 Hangzhou Architectural Design & Research, Ltd. (Hangzhou)  
 Hasbro (Hong Kong, Shenzhen)  
 Hexagon (various locations in Germany, Spain, France, USA, China, Italy and **Japan**)  
 Higer Bus Company (Suzhou)  
 Hilti (Kaufering, Schaan, Madrid)  
 Hochtief (Essen, Hamburg)  
 Hokkaido System Science (Sapporo)  
 Hope Global (León)  
 Hutchinson (Auxy)  
 IAV (**Berlin**, Braunschweig, Gifhorn, Sindelfingen)  
 IAVF Antriebstechnik AG (Karlsruhe)  
 Ibaia Energía (Beasain, Ibarra)  
 IDOM (Bilbao, Zaragoza)  
 Ifremer (La Rochelle)  
 Ifremer Service PRAO (La Seyne-sur-Mer)  
 IH Cantabria (Santander)  
 IHU-Strasbourg (Strasbourg)  
 IMAS (Mariano Comense)  
 Indaber Ibiza (Ibiza)  
 Infineon AG (München)  
 Inomed (Emmendingen)  
 Inigma HengTian Software, Ltd. (Hangzhou)  
 Institute of Automotive Management and Industrial Production (Braunschweig)  
 Institut für Elektrische Messtechnik (Braunschweig)  
 Inst. of Geotechnical Engineering (Hangzhou)  
 Institut für Grund und Bodenbau (Braunschweig)  
 Instituto de Hidráulica Ambiental (Cantabria)  
 Institut Hospitalo-Universitaire (Strasbourg)  
 Inst. of Hydraulic Structure & Water Environment (Hangzhou)  
 Inst. of Micro-/Nanotechnology & Precision Engineering (Hangzhou)  
**Inst. of Polymerization & Polymer EGR (Hangzhou)**  
 Institut Polytechnique de Grenoble (Grenoble)  
 Intamin Amusement Rides Int. Corp. Est (Schaan)  
 IQE (Zaragoza)  
 Johnson & Johnson (NJ, São Paulo)  
**Ke Kelit (Linz, Austria)**  
 King Marine (Valencia)  
 KOB (Kaiserslautern)  
 Kolbenschmidt Pierburg (Neckarsulm, Abadiano)  
 Kraft Foods (München)  
 KS Fototechnik (Wuppertal)  
 Laboratoire Electromécanique de Compiègne (Compiègne)  
**Laboratoire Simard (Compiègne)**  
 Laboratoire TIMR (Compiègne)  
**Laboratorio di Genetica (Rende)**  
 Laboratorio Grandi Modelli Idraulici (Rende)  
 Lean In China (Beijing)  
 Leica Camera (Solms)  
 Lemförder AG (SC, Spain, Germany)  
 LMS Imagine (a Siemens business) (Lyon)  
 LMU ArchäoBioCenter (München)  
 Logic Solutions (Nanjing)  
 Lufthansa Technik AG (Hamburg)  
 Lur Geroa (Irurtzun)  
**Machine Learning and Data Analytics Lab (Erlangen)**  
 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)  
 Nikola Motor (Stuttgart)  
**Nippon Advanced Technology Co. (Tokai)**  
 Novacare (Concepción)  
 Núcleo Biotecnología Curauma (NBC) (Curauma)  
 NYNAS (Hamburg)  
 Oakwood Asia (Hangzhou)  
 Offshore Pipelines and Risers (Hangzhou)  
**Opel (Zaragoza)**  
 Osram Opto Semiconductors (Regensburg)  
 Pedelta (Barcelona)  
**Penn Group Technologies (Taipei, Taiwan)**  
 Pentair Electronic Packaging (Quingdao)  
**Physical Chemistry and Applied Materials Lab (Rende)**  
 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 (Puchuncavi)  
 Q-Das (Braunschweig)  
 RATP Group (Paris)  
**Raytheon Anschutz (Kiel)**  
 Renault (Guyancourt)  
 Rhodia (Clamecy, Lyon)

# Internship Partners 1990-2020

## International and Domestic

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 (Straubenhardt)  
SEAT S.A. (Barcelona, Martotell)  
Sensata Technologies (Aguascalientes, Hangzhou)  
Sentinel Tech (Tianjin)  
Shimadzu (Kyoto)  
SIDAT (Trofarello)  
Siemens (München, Erlangen, Madrid, Berlin)  
Siemens HealthCare (Erlangen)  
Sixense Soldata (Nanterre)  
Skylotec (Neuwied)  
Sky Deutschland (Unterföhring)  
Société Générale (Fontenay-sous-Bois)  
State Key Laboratory for Chemical Engineering (Hangzhou)  
Subseamechatronics (Las Palmas de Gran Canaria)  
Supfina (RI, Schapbach)  
STMicroelectronics (Grenoble)  
Taco Italia (Vicenza)  
Tecnalia (Derio, San Sebastián)  
Tennet Offshore (Lehrte)  
Teknor Apex (Suzhou)  
Terres Inovia Laboratoire (Compiègne)  
Texas Instruments (Aguascalientes)  
Tianjin Normal Univ., Materials Science Lab (Tianjin)  
Thermochemical Processes Research Group (Zaragoza)  
TokenInsight Consulting (Beijing)  
Toray Plastics (Lyon, **Tokyo**)  
Total (Paris, Pau)  
Trumpf (Ditzingen)  
TRW (Alfdorf)  
ULPGC (Las Palmas de Gran Canaria)  
UniCredit (Hypovereinsbank) (München)  
VAM/Becker Bau (Kiel)  
VDO Automotive AG (Villingen)  
Vidal Vademecum (Madrid)  
Viessmann (Allendorf)  
Volkswagen (Wolfsburg)  
Volkswagen Nutzfahrzeuge (Hannover)  
Vorwerk & Co. (Wuppertal)  
VP et Green Ingénierie (Paris)  
Worldline (Lille)  
Yanmar (Saint-Dizier)

ZF (various locations in Germany, Spain, France, USA, Mexico, China, Italy)  
Zhejiang Communications Construction, Ltd. (Hangzhou)  
Züblin AG (Stuttgart)

# Exchanges German IEP

## Technische Universität Darmstadt

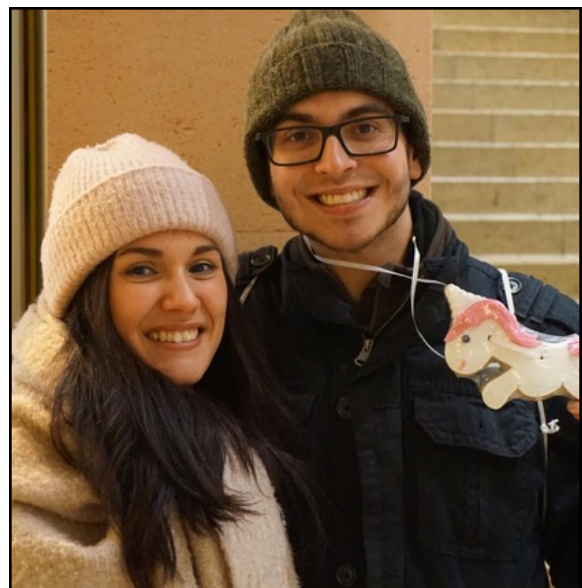
	URI to TU-DA	TU-DA to URI
AY 2016-17	8	0
AY 2017-18	7	6
AY 2018-19	6	4
AY 2019-20	4	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>15</b>

## Technische Universität Braunschweig

	URI to TU-BS	TU-BS to URI
AY 1995-96	5	5
AY 1996-97	9	9
AY 1997-98	13	12
AY 1998-99	14	12
AY 1999-00	15	16
AY 2000-01	13	13
AY 2001-02	20	25
AY 2002-03	15	15
AY 2003-04	21	16
AY 2004-05	21	16
AY 2005-06	12	14
AY 2006-07	24	14
AY 2007-08	22	13
AY 2008-09	24	22
AY 2009-10	25	14
AY 2010-11	28*	16
AY 2011-12	14	10
AY 2012-13	15*	12
AY 2013-14	20*	15
AY 2014-15	22*	17
AY 2015-16	30	16
AY 2016-17	27	20
AY 2017-18	29	15
AY 2018-19	17	14
AY 2019-20	22	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>367</b>



German IEP student Renee Gordon taking advantage of some downtime to explore during her 2018-19 year abroad in Germany.



Josh D'Ambra, GIEP, and his TUBS tandem partner became close friends during his 2018 study semester at TU Braunschweig

# Exchanges French IEP

## Université de Technologie de Compiègne - UTC

	URI to UTC	UTC to URI
AY 05-06	2	3
AY 06-07	2	3
AY 07-08	3	3
AY 08-09	4*	4
AY 09-10	6	3
AY 10-11	3*	6
AY 11-12	6*	3
AY 12-13	7*	3
AY 13-14	3	7
AY 14-15	5	4
AY 15-16	3	5
AY 16-17	7	4
AY 17-18	12	5
AY 18-19	9	6
AY 19- 20	5	6
<b>TOTAL</b> # of Students Exchanged	<b>77</b>	<b>65</b>

\* Includes other majors



*FIEP ambassadors Sandra Deeb and Lindsay Pisapio visit Normandy during their 2018-19 year abroad in France*

# Exchanges Spanish IEP

## Universidad de Cantabria - UNICAN (Spain)

	URI to UC	UC to URI
AY 04-05	2	-
AY 05-06	-	-
AY 06-07	1	-
AY 07-08	2	-
AY 08-09	4	-
AY 09-10	2	1
AY 10-11	-	2
AY 11-12	3	2
AY 12-13	3	7
AY 13-14	3	2
AY 14-15	3	2
AY 15-16	5	2
AY 16-17	3	2
AY 17-18	2	1
AY 18-19	4	2
AY 19-20	3	1
<b>TOTAL # of Students Exchanged</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>24</b>

## Universidad de Zaragoza - UNIZAR (Spain)

	URI to UZ	UZ to URI
AY 00-01	-	2
AY 01-02	2	2
AY 02-03	4	2
AY 03-04	-	3
AY 04-05	-	3
AY 05-06	-	-
AY 06-07	1	-
AY 07-08	-	-
AY 08-09	3	1
AY 09-10	6	2
AY 10-11	3	2
AY 11-12	4	4
AY 12-13	3	2
AY 13-14	3	3
AY 14-15	6	-
AY 15-16	3	7
AY 16-17	2	6
AY 17-18	4	2
AY 18-19	3	4
AY 19-20	2	-
<b>TOTAL # of Students Exchanged</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>45</b>



SIEP student Oliver Hazard meets up with 2018-19 UNIZAR tandem partner Ana during the Fiestas del Pilar in Zaragoza, Spain in October 2019.



Magda Flores Umazor, Spanish IEP, attends an FC Barcelona game while abroad during 2018-19 year in Spain.

# Exchanges Spanish IEP

## Universidad de Navarra - TECNUN (Spain)

	URI to TECNUN	TECNUN to URI
AY 02-03	1	-
AY 03-04	1	2
AY 04-05	-	2
AY 05-06	3	-
AY 06-07	-	1
AY 07-08	-	1
AY 08-09	-	1
AY 09-10	2	2
AY 10-11	3	-
AY 11-12	2	2
AY 12-13	-	1
AY 13-14	8	2
AY 14-15	2	4
AY 15-16	3	3
AY 16-17	2	3
AY 17-18	2	4
AY 18-19	5	4
AY 19-20	3	3
<b>TOTAL # of Students Exchanged</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>35</b>



*SIEP's Max Bliss tours the Incan Trail at Machu Picchu while abroad in Chile during 2018-19 academic year.*

## Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso - PUCV (Chile)

	URI to PUCV	PUCV to URI
AY 14-15	5	2
AY 15-16	2	2
AY 16-17	3	-
AY 17-18	-	-
AY 18-19	4	-
AY 19-20	-	-
<b>TOTAL # of Students Exchanged</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>



*SIEP student Kelly Domogala explores Morocco while abroad during her 2018-19 year in Spain.*

# Exchanges

## Chinese IEP

### Zhejiang University (Hangzhou, China)

	URI to ZU	ZU to URI
AY 06-07	-	-
AY 07-08	2	1
AY 08-09	-	-
AY 09-10	7*	8
AY 10-11	1	2
AY 11-12	8*	8
AY 12-13	-	-
AY 13-14	7	6
AY 14-15	3	2
AY 15-16	-	4
AY 16-17	9*	5
AY 17-18	5	3
AY 18-19	3	1
Ay 19-20	2	-
<b>TOTAL # of Students Exchanged</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>40</b>

\*Includes other majors



*Dylon Lo, Chinese IEP, out to dinner with his ZJU classmates during his 2019-20 study semester in Hangzhou.*

# Exchanges Italian IEP

## University of Calabria (Calabria, Italy)

	URI to UNICAL	UNICAL to URI
AY 15-16	-	-
AY 16-17		
AY 17-18	8	5
AY 18-19	-	-
AY 19-20	3	-
<b>TOTAL</b> # of Students Exchanged	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>

## University of Naples Parthenope (Naples, Italy)

	URI to Parthenope	Parthenope to URI
AY 19-20	2	-
<b>TOTAL</b> # of Students Exchanged	<b>2</b>	-



*Evan Arnott, Italian IEP, at Gruppo di Oliviero Rossi Lab (UNICAL) doing research on bonding agents of roads.*



*IIEP's David Guevara and Jonathan Dealmeida both won €500 scholarships in a competition sponsored by the energy/oil company Q8. Their innovative submission involved deploying energy-absorbing tiles in Naples' metro stations to power ticket kiosks and turnstiles.*



# Exchanges Japanese IEP

## Kyushu University (Fukuoka, Japan)

	URI to Kyushu	Kyushu to URI
AY 19-20	1	-
<b>TOTAL # of Students Exchanged</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>

## Niigata University (Niigata, Japan)

	URI to Niigata	Niigata to URI
AY 19-20	2	1
<b>TOTAL # of Students Exchanged</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>



*Jason Valdes, Japanese IEP, visiting Shikisai no Oka, a flower farm in Furano-Biei, Hokkaido, Japan.*

## Okayama University (Okayama, Japan)

	URI to Okayama	Okayama to URI
AY 18-19	1	1
AY 19-20	1	-
<b>TOTAL # of Students Exchanged</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

## Waseda University (Tokyo, Japan)

	URI to Waseda	Waseda to URI
AY 17-18	1	-
AY 18-19	1	1
AY 19-20	-	2
<b>TOTAL # of Students Exchanged</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>

# Cumulative IEP Giving Honor Roll (as of May 1, 2020)

## **Over \$500,000**

Heidi Kirk Duffy & David Duffy  
Max Kade Foundation  
ZF Friedrichshafen AG

## **\$150,000 - \$500,000**

Annette Kade Foundation  
Hasbro, Inc.  
Sensata Technologies  
Texas Instruments  
Van Meeteren Foundation

## **\$75,000 - \$150,000**

Robert C. and Judith A. Ayotte  
Praxair, Inc.  
TRW Corporation  
Thomas Wroe, Jr.

## **\$25,000 - \$75,000**

Boxer Family  
Frank and Lynn Curtin  
Deutsche Bahn  
Hexagon Manufacturing Intelligence  
Hilti AG  
John and Carol Grandin  
Gabriel Lengyel  
Tonya McBride  
Schroff, Inc./ Udo Schroff  
Siemens Corporation  
William and Pauline Silvia

## **\$2,000 - \$25,000**

Gary Baker	Lufthansa German Airlines
Sigrid Berka	Tobias Lührig
BMW Manufacturing Corp.	Michael Mueller
Winnie Brownell	William Murray
Barbara Brusini	Joseph O'Hearn
Laurie Burger	Pentair, Inc.
Michael Byrnes	Supfina Machine Co. Inc.
Hubertus Christ	Patrick Tunney
Rick D'Ambrosca	W&H Corporation
Vincent DiPippo	Raymond Wright
Draexlmaier Automotive of America	Richard Vandeputte
Ewag Corporation	
German American Cultural Society of RI	
Walter Giraitis	
James Hopkins	

# Recruitment & Retention 2019-20

## **Overview**

When asked last fall what led students to choose IEP, some freshmen indicated that more personalized IEP activities played a role in their decision. As such, this year the IEP worked more closely with Admissions staff to aid in its recruitment efforts. Though URI's new "Engineering the Future" and "Like a Ram" Days, IEP staff and students were able to connect with students who specifically were on campus to learn more about becoming engineers. When URI Admissions began offering virtual information sessions to prospective students due to the outbreak of COVID-19 this spring, IEP played a role in all four College of Engineering sessions and even hosted two of its own. In regards to retention, having received some events funding through the College of Arts and Sciences, program staff were able to host social events that encouraged students to bond with and learn from international students and older peers, feeling more comfortable to ask for advice and maintaining/cultivating their motivation to continue participating in the program.

A total of nine student ambassadors worked with IEP staff and directors this year, attending such events as: Open Houses, IEP Freshmen Orientations, a Freshmen Social, high school visits, lunches with prospective students during Like a Ram days, community-building activities like an IEP Trivia and an IEP game night open to both IEP students and international students, and a livestreamed "Ask the Ambassadors" info session. During the IEP virtual Admissions webinars, the students shared their experiences with prospective students and enthusiastically engaged with the audience during the related Q&A sessions. In addition, they also worked to create a few "Ambassadors Tips" videos and to assemble resources that students could use to engage with their studied languages/cultures outside of the classroom. Some have even expressed interest in participating in language activities over the summer with their younger peers in the program.

## **Offsite Visits Completed**

Wachusett Regional High School	Holden, MA	Melissa Schenck
West Warwick High School Career Fair	West Warwick, RI	3 alumni
Pentucket Regional High School	West Newbury, MA	1 alumnus, 1 student
Mt. Pleasant High School	Providence, RI	Melissa Schenck, Dir. Iñaki Pérez-Ibáñez, Prof. Vinka Craver
Classical High School	Providence, RI	Melissa Schenck, Prof. Tatsushi Fukunaga (JPN) 3 alumni, 1 ambassador
Rogers High School	Newport, RI	Melissa Schenck, 4 alumni
Cranston High School East	Cranston, RI	Melissa Schenck, Dir. Lars Erickson, Chuck Watson (COE Diversity) 2 alumni, 2 ambassadors, 1 student

# Recruitment & Retention 2019-20

## Offsite Outreach Impact Statement from Laretta Lunghi, Language Department Chair at Cranston High School East:

*They thought that the presentation was interesting. They hadn't considered a career choice in conjunction with language learning and were not aware of the number of programs that include a language learning component. The URI representatives shared their personal experiences with our students and that resonated with them. Prior to the presentation, some had thought about studying abroad. However, they didn't think that it would be possible financially. Chuck told them about financial aid and other resources/possibilities that are available at the University. That was a real plus for the students who come from modest backgrounds. They really enjoyed talking with him. They found him to be very open and sincere, and enjoyed the personal touch he and the students provided.*



*Spring '20 visit to Cranston High School East - left to right: Josh D'Ambra, Laura Parra, Chuck Watson, Lars Erickson, Preston Steele, Renee Gordon, Cristian Witcher and Melissa Schenck*



*J-Term participants mingle with alums and current students from IEP and TUBS at El Parco Pizzeria in Braunschweig, Germany.*

## **J-Term 2020 - Piloting New Strategies**

While reformulating the preparation process for students going abroad in their fourth year, the IEP piloted some new ideas and activities with this year's outgoing German J-Term participants. Students participated in cultural identity exploration activities, learned how to frame cultural observations more objectively, and were encouraged to take a more active role in their own intercultural development. While abroad during these two weeks, participants engaged openly with program staff in Q&A about what they were seeing, and together tackled cultural challenges they faced (ie. eating vegan in Germany). Some sought to establish contacts with Germans that they could keep in touch with through social media following their return. Other students were even observed learning to play regional games with others they met and having long discussions with locals about stereotypes and cultural differences, learning both about themselves and the individuals they met. In addition, to address students' reported need and desire for more personalized vocabulary on prior IEP surveys, they were tasked with creating and maintaining their own vocabulary lists on a daily basis, which could include interesting phrases, technical words and local expressions. Each day, students came away feeling like they had learned something. These tasks, among others, appear to have led to higher than expected IDI gains, the establishment of a German Club at URI, increased interest (especially from the freshmen in the course) in participating in IEP events and even living in the ILLC! Our hope is that strategies such as these will lead to increased retention and not just of these J-Term students, but also program-wide when deployed on a larger scale.

# Student Awards

## **Beatrice S. Demers Foreign Language Fellowship**

8 IEP/IEP-affiliated students received the prestigious Demers in 2020!

## **University Excellence Award in Biomedical EGR**

Dylan Kennedy (CIEP)

## **University Excellence Award in Industrial & Systems EGR**

Kelly Domogala (SIEP)

## **University Excellence Award in Mechanical EGR**

Mark Keenan (GIEP)

## **University Excellence Award in Ocean EGR**

Sandra Deeb (FIEP)

## **University Excellence Award in Chinese**

Zachary Smith (CIEP)

## **University Excellence Award in French**

Sandra Deeb (FIEP)

## **University Excellence Award in German**

Maeve Story (GIEP)

## **University Excellence Award in Italian**

David Guevara (IIEP)

## **University Excellence Award in Spanish**

Kelly Domogala (SIEP)

## **French Studies Excellence Awards**

Lindsay Pisapio (FIEP)

## **Robert & Judith Ayotte Scholarship**

Raymond Turrisi (FIEP)

Lindsay Pisapio (FIEP)

## **Teodoro Raffaele Diaco Excellence Scholarship**

David Guevara (IIEP)

Brian DuBois (IIEP)

Evan Arnott (IIEP)

## **Otto Dornberg Award**

Austin Clark (GIEP)

Eric Gardiner (GIEP)

Kyle Stewart (GIEP)

## **German-American Cultural Society Award**

Matthew Cecchini (GIEP)

Anastasia Paralicci (GIEP)

## **John Grandin Scholarship Award**

Julianna Martinez (FIEP)

## **Hasbro Scholarship for Chinese IEP/IBP**

Dylon Lo (CIEP)

Alex Cerullo (CIEP)

Jordan Beason (CIEP)

Mary Palys (CIEP/Flagship)

## **Shawn McBride Award**

Brian DuBois (IIEP)

## **William & Pauline Silvia Award**

Gianni Figueroa (SIEP)

## **Sharon Wallace Award**

Kayla O'Connor (GIEP)

## **Nelson White Award**

Computer Engineering – Timothy Boyd (GIEP)

Industrial & Systems Engineering – Robyn

Johnson (SIEP)

Ocean Engineering – Lindsay Pisapio (FIEP)

## **Barbara Woods Memorial German Studies Award**

Samantha Adams (GIEP-O)

Rachael Bjorn (GIEP)

Jeff Kimmerlein (GIEP)

## **Frank L. Woods Memorial Scholarship**

Frankie Marrone (GIEP)

Steve Sullivan (GIEP)

Sinna Vaughan (GIEP)

## **Wroe Family Award**

Rebecca Meyers (GIEP)

Monika Neal (GIEP)

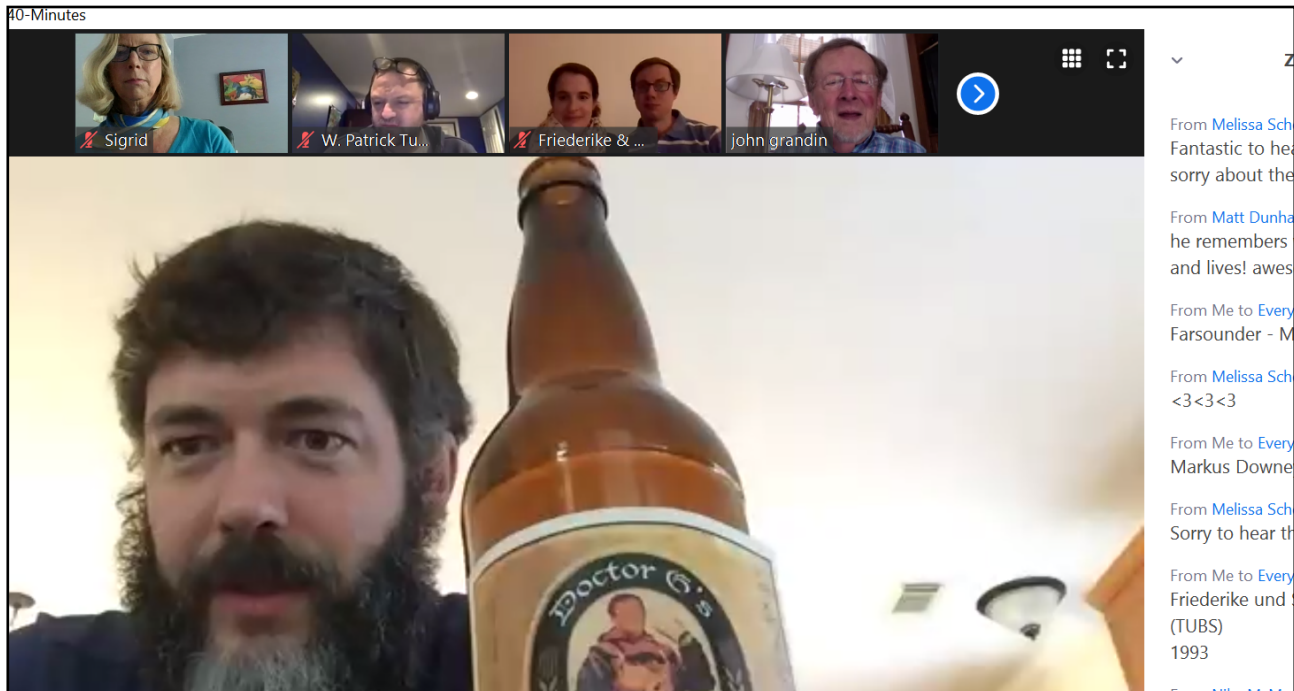
Anastasia Paralicci (GIEP)

Brendan Winne (GIEP)

# APPENDIX

## Dr. John Grandin's virtual 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday

In lieu of the planned 275<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations of TU Braunschweig on June 11<sup>th</sup> and an alumni get-together on June 12<sup>th</sup> where we would also have celebrated John Grandin's 80<sup>th</sup>, we organized a surprise virtual toast to the beloved founder of the IEP. Friends of the IEP and 25+ IEP alums, some dating back to the very first generation of graduates from '93-'94, joined in from Germany, CA, CT, FL, MA, MI, RI, TX and shared their favorite memories, anecdotes, photos, greetings and toasts to Dr. G. /Dr. G's IEP Program:



### **A Note from Alum Nika McManus for Dr. John Grandin's Birthday - 05-22-2020**

The work, the details, the relationships and the possibilities that the International Engineering Program prepares these global students for is infinite!

Dr. Grandin, Professor Emeritus of German, Director Emeritus and Founder of the International Engineering Program has helped numerous students receive an excellent, unique, one-of-a-kind global education with the University of Rhode Island and with Technische Universität Braunschweig!

Dr. Grandin has been working non-stop to provide the students with the security, the knowledge, the experience and the education the students are proud of, and are respected for!

The prestigious awards Dr. Grandin has received, the relationships Dr. Grandin has established and the support Dr. Grandin has provided helped and inspired the students reach their challenging goals and dreams!

We are all deeply appreciative and forever grateful to Dr. Grandin!

With gratitude,  
Nika McManus

*\*Please also view the [YouTube video](#) Melissa Schenck put together for this occasion with photos of John and other IEP staff and alumni throughout his years with the IEP!\**

## International Internships Cut Short, but URI Students Return with Valuable Experience

KINGSTON, R.I. – June 1, 2020 – When the University of Rhode Island switched to remote learning in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was a huge adjustment for students and faculty. For students who were studying abroad at the time, it meant a premature end to their international experience.

The 53 students in URI's International Engineering Program were studying and working in eight countries in Asia and Europe when they were brought home to the United States a few weeks into the spring 2020 semester.

### Making the Best of the Situation

While it was impossible to duplicate the experience of a six-month internship at a global company while immersed in a foreign culture, IEP Executive Director Sigrid Berka scrambled to find internships locally for the students for the remainder of the semester or during the summer.

“When the students were abruptly recalled from their internships abroad, I turned to our advisory board, IEP alumni and engineering faculty to place the students into internships and research positions so that they could continue their work in the United States,” said Berka.

The responses from the board members, alumni and faculty led to several internships, despite some companies experiencing hiring freezes at the time.

“It was heartwarming to see the overwhelmingly positive response by our alumni and faculty to find internship and research opportunities for our students,” said Berka.

Although they were only abroad for the semester of study and a few weeks of interning, the engineering students gained the valuable cultural experience of studying and working in new surroundings while using a language they learned at URI.

A few of the students shared their experiences.

### Kayla O'Connor

**Majors:** Chemical engineering and German

**Internship:** Four months of research at Fraunhofer Institute for Surface Technology while studying at Technical University of Braunschweig in Germany. Also placed at BASF in Ludwigshafen, Germany, for six-month internship, but could not complete it.

**Hometown:** Pascoag, Rhode Island

“I grew so much more while abroad than I ever thought I would,” said O'Connor. “Learning and living in the German and



*GIEP students pose in front of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin. Left to right: Monika Neal, Rebecca Meyers and Kayla O'Connor*



*Kayla O'Connor visited the Rathaus-Glockenspiel in Munich with fellow GIEPers Aaron Hertzler (L) and Nicholas Akers (R).*



European culture was eye-opening in every aspect. Unlike just visiting a place for a short time, we truly got to live in Braunschweig and explore all corners of the city.”

At Fraunhofer IST, O’Connor worked in the atmospheric pressure plasma processes department.

“It was my first time using plasma to conduct experiments,” said O’Connor. “My internship began with a lot of research on producing hydrogen through plasma conversion to use as a source of renewable energy. Through my research, I found studies involving methane and different alcohols, which because of their high hydrogen to carbon ratio, were desirable to use in this sort of reaction.”

O’Connor also learned what the German work ethic is like.

“They are very time oriented and when it is said that something will be done by a certain time, that is what is expected,” said O’Connor.

### **Oliver Hazard**

**Majors:** Electrical engineering and Spanish

**Internship:** Worked at CAF Turnkey & Engineering/ Ennera, studied at University of Zaragoza in Spain

**Hometown:** North Smithfield, Rhode Island

“I met many people from different parts of Spain,” said Hazard. “I learned about their views on world issues, culture and their values. I became much more aware of how others think and it helped me gain a more open mindset.”

Hazard worked with the engineering team in the energy division of CAF TE Ennera to calculate the performance of the solar plant.

“We created a graphic to display the plant’s performance, as well as other parameters to the client,” said Hazard. “Plant performance is important because at the inception of the project, the client and company agree contractually to a certain rate of production. If this is not met, the company is financially responsible to reimburse the client for the lost production.”

The experience taught Hazard about the business and engineering aspects of renewable energy, a subject that had influenced his decision to enroll in the electrical engineering program at URI.

“I learned what makes a solar plant financially feasible and what is expected from the developer,” said Hazard. “I also learned about the different technologies used in solar energy and which solar solutions make sense for a particular project.”

### **Scott Breault**

**Majors:** Mechanical engineering and German

**Internship:** Worked at ZF Friedrichshafen AG, studied at Technical University of Braunschweig and the Institute for Vehicle Technology in Germany

**Hometown:** Milford, Connecticut

Long before Breault traveled to Germany for his internship, he was excited about the



*Oliver Hazard, SIEP, visited the island of San Juan de Gaztelugatxe, located along the Bay of Biscay in Spain.*

opportunity that awaited him.

“Back when I was still in high school, I learned about URI’s German International Engineering Program when I saw a flyer of a student who was interning at BMW,” said Breault. “I fell in love with URI’s Kingston campus, as well as the idea of marrying my passions for cars and innovation.”

Once in Germany, Breault relied on a strong support system to make the adjustment to a new culture.

“Luckily, I had tremendous support from URI, a great group of friends and a roommate who moved to Germany in 2015 from Ukraine,” said Breault. “My roommate and I bonded over the challenges of learning the language and the intricacies of daily life.”



German IEP’s Scott Breault at a flea market in Braunschweig, Germany.

## **David Guevara**

**Majors:** Mechanical engineering and Italian

**Internship:** Worked at Grastim JV, studied at Università Degli Studi di Napoli Parthenope in Italy

**Hometown:** Lincoln, Rhode Island

Like O’Connor and Hazard, Guevara also did an internship related to renewable energy.

Guevara worked for Grastim JV, a company which specializes in energy management. The company owns and manages cogeneration plants in multiple countries.

Cogeneration, otherwise referred to as combined heat and power, is a method of producing energy that is much more efficient and environmentally-friendly than energy produced at a traditional power plant.

“I was in charge of logging the time that the engines were running and when they weren’t,” said Guevara. “I also recorded the reasons behind any down time.”

Of course, a stay in Italy would not be complete without indulging in some great Italian cuisine.

“I learned so much about the Italian culture, but my favorite experience might be learning how to cook multiple authentic dishes from one of my friends whom I met in Italy,” Guevara.

## **Landing on Their Feet**

Thanks to a lead provided by Samantha Meenach, associate professor of chemical engineering at URI, O’Connor found temporary work upon her return at Bradford Soapworks in West Warwick, Rhode Island.



David Guevara, Italian IEP, in Rome in front of the Altar of the Fatherland, a national monument built in honor of Victor Emmanuel II, the first king of a unified Italy.

“I’m working as a lab technician in the application lab to help formulate and press new soap formulations that are being sent to Bradford’s clientele before being set for production,” said O’Connor.

Hazard and Breault both landed internships at the German company PI (Physik Instrumente) in Auburn, Massachusetts. David Rego, who graduated from URI’s German IEP in 1999 is the vice president of sales and general manager. When Berka asked if he could place some of her students, he gladly obliged. He also agreed to join the IEP Advisory Board.

“PI makes precision motion equipment for a wide variety of industries,” said Breault. “I look forward to building upon my engineering skills and hopefully I’ll get to use my language skills by connecting with colleagues at their headquarters in Germany.”

When Guevara returned to the United States, Berka connected him with URI Professors Mohammad Faghri and Constantine Anagnostopoulos to assist in their research on microfluidics.

“I conducted research on paper-based actuators for point-of-care diagnostics,” said Guevara. “Paper-based diagnostic devices are becoming more and more popular every year because of their ease of use, portability and low cost.”

Since Guevara couldn’t gain access to the lab at URI, his role mainly consisted of searching for related literature online.

### **Helping with the Coronavirus Response**

Some students who weren’t assigned internships at companies joined URI engineering faculty in battling COVID-19. A few of those students included:

**Vanessa Kamara**, biomedical engineering and German IEP, worked with Associate Professor Kunal Mankodyia on his efforts to build respirators and ventilators with the URI Rapid Responders team of scholars and companies

**Alexis Charpentier**, electrical engineering and Spanish IEP, conducted research with Professor Manbir Sodhi, on using 3D printing to aid the rapid response efforts

**Aaron Hertzner** and **Jeffrey Kimmerlein**, who are both mechanical engineering and German IEP students, joined Associate Professor Tao Wei on the Ventilator Project, a statewide effort to collect and refurbish sleep apnea machines for use in hospitals.



## **Asian Pacific American Heritage Month: Highlighting Asian American Engineers**

May 11, 2020 – Sarah Koenig is Deputy Production Chief, Industrialization at Pratt and Whitney. She is responsible for the industrialization of key configuration changes on the Next Generation Product Family (NGPF) Regional Jet family of engines. She earned her BS Industrial Engineering and BA French from the University of Rhode Island and her MBA from Carnegie Mellon University. Sarah is a SWE Lifetime member.

### **Tell us about your background: Where are you from, what attracted you to STEM?**

I was born in South Korea and adopted by an American family when I was an infant. I grew up in New York, went to college in Rhode Island, and then moved to Connecticut for work. My interest in engineering was first sparked by my high school physics class– it was the first science that really clicked for me, and I loved it. As I learned more about engineering, I realized what a good match it was for my methodical approach to things.

### **What has been the biggest obstacle you’ve overcome to be where you are today?**

Believe it or not, it was my own fear. When I first started in my career, I was afraid to disagree with others, either because they might get angry at me or because I might be wrong. Over time, I learned to trust my instincts, and speak up. If they got mad at me, so what? As long as I was objective and factual, it wasn’t about them personally. I gained confidence in my knowledge and experience, and knew that even if I was wrong, that my position was made to the best of my ability, and it could be an opportunity to learn.

### **What has been your personal experience as a (double) minority in STEM? What (good or bad) surprises have you encountered?**

Early in my career, I experienced more adversity based on my age than my gender or ethnicity. I still experience it to some degree today, since I look younger than my actual age. I have experienced comments such as “I’ve never worked for an Asian before” and “I didn’t know that you were Asian” (thanks to the increasingly virtual world that we work in across the country and world) like it was going to be a factor in how things would be moving forward. For the most part, I have been lucky to have co-workers and managers who believe that my gender or ethnicity does not affect my performance.

### **What’s the best thing to happen since you became involved in SWE?**

The friendships! My closest friends (who are also my most trusted advisors) are all people I’ve met through SWE. No matter what personal or professional problem I may be facing, I know that there is someone in my SWE network who I can turn to for help, advice, or a sympathetic ear. I have several SWE friends who no longer are local (or never were), but we make an effort to see each other whenever possible, whether it be at the annual conference or elsewhere. What may have once been a solo business trip dinner becomes a time to catch up over good food and wine!

### **What’s it like to be an engineer in your field?**

I have often suffered from Imposter Syndrome because I have spent my career in quality, supply chain, and operations, and never worked for the engineering organization at my company despite having an engineering degree. My engineering training provides me with a methodical approach to problem-solving the many challenges that present themselves and allows me to understand the more technical problems in order to offer better solutions or calculate the impact on my work. I rely on my ability to work cross-functionally more than my technical abilities, most days.

## Battery Research Leads German Student to URI, Earns Master's Thesis Award

*Research on lithium ion batteries was recognized by URI's Graduate School*

KINGSTON, R.I. – May 8, 2020 – Lukas Duwe learned a great deal about lithium ion batteries while earning his bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering at the Technical University of Braunschweig in Germany.

Curious about the electrochemical properties of batteries, Duwe decided to pursue a second master's degree in chemical engineering at the University of Rhode Island through URI's dual master's degree program with TU Braunschweig. When Duwe arrived at URI in 2018, he found himself in an unfamiliar environment, but one that was very welcoming.

"Everything was new to me, but I received so much support at URI," said Duwe. "Thanks to everyone at the Graduate School, the Office of International Education and the chemical engineering faculty, I never felt like I was on my own."



On his first day of school, Professor Arijit Bose showed Duwe where he would be conducting his research. "I remember Professor Bose showing me all of the characterization tools and the battery laboratory," recalled Duwe, who lives in Dresden, Germany. "From that moment, I couldn't wait to start my research." Duwe decided to do his thesis project on an "All Solid Lithium Ion Battery for Safety and Stability."

The project required Duwe to develop a lithium ion battery in which the traditional organic liquid electrolyte was replaced with a solid polymer electrolyte. Solid polymer electrolytes are non-flammable and have reasonable mechanical rigidity. The goal was to overcome the safety issues that plague existing batteries.

"The challenge for Lukas was to develop a processing strategy that would allow the solid polymer electrolytes to maintain their integrity, while allowing for good contact between them and the active materials in the electrodes," said Bose, who served as Duwe's thesis advisor. "Lukas developed several alternate schemes and eventually determined which one was the best."

Bose was impressed that Duwe was able to complete all of his research in one academic year.

"It's a great testimony to Lukas that he did all of this in the time he had at URI, with very limited guidance from others," said Bose. "His comprehensive research is an important contribution to the rapidly evolving field of solid lithium ion batteries."

Duwe's research earned him the 2020 Excellence in Master's Thesis Research Award from the URI Graduate School.

"It feels great to be acknowledged for the hard work I put into my thesis," said Duwe. "This would not have been possible without the great mentoring and advice I received from Professor Bose, the support of my research partner, Michael Molinski, with whom I spent endless time in the lab, and of course all my other fellow students and the entire faculty, who were always happy to help."

Bose had high praise for his advisee.

“Lukas was by far the top student in my class,” said Bose. “His thesis is the best master’s degree work that I have had the pleasure of supervising in my 37 years at URI.”

Duwe graduated from URI in the spring of 2019. He recently began working as a sales and proposal engineer at ITM Linde Electrolysis in Germany. The newly incorporated company provides global green gas solutions on an industrial scale.

“I want to help shape how the world uses sustainable energy, ideally by applying my background in electrochemistry, while learning more about the market and economic environment,” said Duwe. “This challenging position can combine what I’ve learned with what I hope to learn in the future.”

## Five URI students awarded prestigious NSF graduate research fellowships

KINGSTON, R.I. – May 18, 2020 – Five University of Rhode Island students have been recognized by the National Science Foundation as Graduate Research Fellows, a distinction that includes funding to cover three years of their graduate education plus an annual \$34,000 stipend.

Selected for the honor are Megan Guidry of Luling, Louisiana, who will enroll as a doctoral student at URI in the fall; Michelle Hauer, a doctoral student from Chicago, Illinois, studying oceanography; Justin Hayes, a chemical engineering and Spanish major from South Kingstown, Rhode Island; Alexa Leone, an ocean engineering major from Hillsborough, New Jersey; and Elaine Shen, a doctoral student from Houston, Texas, studying marine ecology.

### Justin Hayes

“It was a great feeling because I had spent well over 100 hours researching and talking to faculty about the fellowship and then writing, rewriting, and rewriting the proposal over a six-month span,” said Hayes, a Department of State Gilman Scholar who spent last year studying in Spain as part of URI’s International Engineering Program. “The fellowship will allow me greater flexibility in picking a research group, and I will be able to be more creative in developing my own research project.”

While he isn’t yet certain what specific research he will undertake in graduate school, he expects it will be genetic engineering for applications related to the gut microbiome, bioplastics or pharmaceuticals production. He hopes to eventually start his own biotechnology company related to his research.

*Since 1952, the National Science Foundation has funded more than 50,000 Graduate Research Fellowships out of more than 500,000 applicants. Forty-two fellows have gone on to become Nobel laureates.*



## URI students use downtime to help during pandemic

by Lynzi Delucci, NBC 10 NEWS – April 17 2020

“My hobby is kind of taking apart things and fixing them up,” University of Rhode Island senior Aaron Hertzler told NBC 10 News.

Hertzler found a good way to use his hobby on Friday along with some other students whose semesters were cut short.

“I don’t really have anything else going on other than some online classes so I figured this would be a great way to do my part in the community,” fellow senior Isabella Silverman said.

Hertzler and Silverman decided to volunteer their time collecting, cleaning, and handing-off around 50 donated c-pap and bi-pap machines.



“They come in here, they get sanitized and basically binned into different types,” R.I. Commerce Corp. Director Pete Rumsey said.

Then, they get refurbished with new tubing into backup ventilators, available to distribute to local healthcare facilities to combat COVID-19.

“So basically, making them as like new as possible,” Rumsey.

“You can consider them as lower grad ventilators,” electrical engineering professor Tao Wei said.

Wei showed NBC 10 the space the university has provided for the project.

“What we need to do is just reprogram these machines and provide necessary pressure at a given time to the patients, so that’s what we’re doing here,” Wei said.

The plan is to have these available in a matter of days, for those who need it.

“It’s a resource crunch and this is a plan B,” Hornstein said.

The project is the brain child of Hornstein, a Providence resident, who said he’s happy to see his vision come to life.

“It’s really heartwarming to see folks who want to help.”

*The Ventilator Project is continuing to collect machines at different locations, including fire stations. For more on where you can drop yours off and if your machine is appropriate to donate, click [here](#).*