

Engaging with Spain and Chile

Our new Spanish IEP Director Silke Scholz hit the ground running, with trips to Spain and Chile for company, partner university and student visits.



Silke Scholz, with Paula Montaña and Andrés Dodman at Geotecnia Ambiental in Valparaíso, Chile.



Silke Scholz and Luis Arriba at Hexagon Metrology in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain.



Visiting with IEP students in Chile: Katie Brown and Jack Clark.

Meeting with representatives at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso (PUCV) in Chile. L-R: Mónica Ramos, Marcos Avilez, Silke Scholz, Luis López and Nicole Reinoso.



With IEP students in Spain: Cara Nunez and Sean Marran.



Residents in the IEP Living & Learning Community celebrated the end of the semester with a festive holiday party, complete with a Secret Santa gift exchange, games and an ugly sweater contest. This occasion also marked the debut of the IEP House living room's beautiful new Persian rug, generously donated by the Silvia family.

Happy Holidays from the IEP!



IEP LLC Halloween pumpkin carving, always a hit with our visiting international students.



IEP students climbing to the top!

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THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING PROGRAM

Global Update

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Director's Notes

Dear Friends,

At the end of the year I'd like to update you on the latest IEP news & developments:

From September 18-21 we had the honor of hosting President Jürgen Hesselbach of the Technische Universität Braunschweig on campus for the first time and introduced him to faculty and students involved in our dual masters and MBA programs and to American football viewed from President Dooley's suite. Shortly after, we welcomed our new Assistant IEP and Spanish Director Silke Scholz, who speaks three IEP languages and joined us from our corporate partner Hexagon Metrology. With her trademark enthusiasm and determination to get the job done, Silke hit the ground "flying" to Europe and on to Latin America all within one month, and has gained much new ground already in placing our large group of Spanish IEPers. Silke will join Vinka Craver traveling again in January to take a group of SIEPers to Chile for the "Spanish IEP Sustainability Project and Study Tour," which is subsidized by Megan Echevarría's Partnership in the America's grant.

A second J-term, led by Lars Erickson, will introduce French IEPers to Parisian culture and partner companies Total, Technip, Schneider Electric and Vinci Construction. The German J-term, newly conceptualized by DAAD lecturer Anett Geithner and also accompanied by our new German lecturer Shawna Rambur, will add to the trademark German company visits the experience of a Fassbind-



President Jürgen Hesselbach and President David Dooley signing the new dual masters/MBA agreement.

IEP Welcomes New Assistant Director



Silke wears many hats! Our new IEP Assistant Director Silke Scholz is also serving as Director of the Spanish IEP. Here pictured: Silke during her recent trip to Chile with Carlos Herrera (Puerto Central in San Antonio) and Ximena Sanhueza (Plaspak in Buin).

er play in the Berlin Maxim Gorki theater, the investigation of electro-mobility in the Ministry of Transportation and Digital Infrastructure as well as much exploration, blogging and video-recording in small student groups.

Congratulations to Angela Graney, our IEP LLC Assistant Director who was on maternity leave this Fall with her new baby Violet. We look forward to seeing Angela back managing the IEP houses in January! Congratulations also to Lars Erickson who competed for and secured a one-year sabbatical which he will spend at our partner institution in Compiègne, UTC, on the "Preparation of URI's French International Engineering Program Students."

We were honored to have our own Amandine Gatali (Spanish & Civil Engineering '15) mentioned as a trail blazer in strengthening American competitiveness in Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker's December 9th White House address at the "Summit on Study Abroad and Global Citizenship" – her journey from Rwanda to URI and on to studies in Spain and her internship in Chile exemplifies how the IEP sets our students on the path of "deepening their cultural fluency," of "finding common ground" and picking up the "rhythms of daily life and nuances

of other cultures."

With respect to the IEP advisory board we are excited to have won Clay Pell as a new board member – Clay speaks Chinese, Spanish and Arabic, and spent time abroad in China, Spain and Argentina and thus is a great role model for our own students' pursuit to gain profound new perspectives and make connections around the world. Many educational initiatives proposed in Clay's gubernatorial campaign this year such as the hope internships, language leaders, international connections and career and technical opportunities align extremely well with our own mission. Last but not least, please don't forget to raise your New Year's champagne glasses to our Dean of Engineering Ray Wright who ran his own tireless and successful campaign to get a \$125 million bond approved by R.I. voters to revamp our engineering complex at URI! Students and faculty will find a much improved engineering infrastructure in the near future with exciting new buildings, labs and spaces conducive to interdisciplinary team work and out-of-the-box thinking.

I wish you all joyous holidays and a very Happy New Year!

–Dr. Sigrid Berka
IEP Executive Director

The Journey of a Business Visitor at URI

Strong partnership between DB and URI by Friederike Vollenberg

My journey as the first DB Business Visitor at the University of Rhode Island began in mid-September. For me, coming back to URI has been a reunion with a special place. Five years ago I graduated from URI within the Dual Degree Program between TU Braunschweig and URI. That year abroad filled me with lots of memories of both academic and personal experiences. After graduation I worked for a non-profit organization in Germany for one year before I joined Deutsche Bahn AG in 2010. At that point in time I did not know about the strong partnership between DB and URI. In 2012, when they both signed their cooperation agreement, the Business Visitor Program was added – a three-month program in which a DB employee comes to URI to do research and to represent Deutsche Bahn on campus in order to promote career possibilities to German speaking students.



As the first DB Business Visitor to URI, Friederike represented Deutsche Bahn AG at events throughout the semester..

As the first Business Visitor, I have been honored to fill the past three months with my own ideas since I was starting from scratch. In retrospect, that was great! I organized nine events for International Engineering and International Business Program students as well as those of other majors. I attended the Engineering and Technology Career Fair in the Ryan Center and the Fall Internship and Job Fair in the Memorial Union, always accompanied by my two small ICE-Bobby-Trains, brought from Germany to attract students to one of the world's leading passenger and logistics companies. One Sunday afternoon IEP House residents got the chance to take part in an ICE-Bobby-Train-Relay in the parking lot behind the IEP House. Four teams of three students each raced against each other and answered tricky questions about DB. I gave the trains to the IEP as a gift, so students can still enjoy a ride! Furthermore I introduced DB to the students going abroad next year at the German IEP Pre-Departure Orientation, and for the Braunschweig students I planned an informal evening at the Mews Tavern. I organized a DB information event and offered a workshop on how to write a German resume, followed by over twenty individual appointments with students revising their resumes. Overall the feedback of the students was very good and they were grateful for the time I spent with them.



IEP House student residents participating in an ICE-Bobby-Train-Relay.

In November I participated on a panel at the 17th Colloquium on International Engineering Education in Providence. My presentation on New Frontiers in Industry–Academia Partnerships: The DB-URI Business Visitor Model was very successful; a lot of people came up to me at the poster fair afterwards in order to find out more about DB and the Business Visitor Program.



Friederike shared her expertise at the 17th Annual Colloquium on International Engineering Education in Providence.

My research under Professor Manbir Sodhi in the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering focused on Deutsche Bahn's contributions to sustainable transportation. I gained new insights which will help me in my future work.

Another highlight of my three-month stay at URI was teaching a German conversation class. It was great to work with students on their German skills.



Students from Friederike's German conversation class.

I was even invited to the President's office to tell President Dooley about my experience at URI. That was a remarkable moment – representing Deutsche Bahn in front of URI's highest official.

The final event I organized was a day trip to the German Center for Research and Innovation (GCRI) in New York City. Four Braunschweig students had the chance to tour the German House and to meet Dr. Josef Blank, CEO & President of DB US Holding Corporation, in order to get to know more about the international business activities of DB. In the evening we attended a panel discussion of "Green Logistics" and a networking reception.

Overall the past three months have been a wonderful experience – living in the IEP House, working with students to explore DB, doing research, attending Kaffeestunde and setting up different types of events. I thank the University of Rhode Island and Deutsche Bahn AG for this opportunity to be a Business Visitor. I hope DB will be welcoming a lot of URI students in the future for internships and jobs – after all, a job at Deutsche Bahn is: A job like no other.

Auf Wiedersehen ;-)



The 17th Annual Colloquium on International Engineering Education

This year's Colloquium, set in Providence, Rhode Island on November 6 - 8 brought leaders in education, industry and government together for panels, presentations and keynotes centered on the theme of *New Frontiers*. In addition to welcoming visitors from around the world, the IEP was well-represented through faculty, staff, student and alumni participation. We thank everyone who contributed to the success of this year's conference and look forward to seeing you again next year in New York City!



Keynote speaker Lee Tablewski, Director of the 100,000 Strong for the Americas Innovation Fund, with URI faculty and Spanish IEP students who interned in Chile with the help of funding from the grant. L-R: Vinka Craver, Erik Simpanen, Kenneth Betzold, Amandine Gatali, Lee Tablewski, Megan Echevarria.



Keynote Cheryl Merchant, President/CEO of Hope Global, with colleagues from Hope Global, along with IEP Executive Director Sigrid Berka and URI Dean of Engineering Raymond Wright. Hope Global was a company sponsor for this year's Colloquium.



Hexagon Metrology colleagues, among them IEP Chinese & Computer Engineering alum Christian Marks '13. Hexagon was a company sponsor for this year's conference.



Keynote Utah State Senator Howard Stephenson shared strategies for implementing dual language immersion in K-12 schools. Shown here with URI President David M. Dooley.

Round Table with Dean of Global Studies at WPI Richard Vaz, Vice Provost for International Education at NAU Harvey Charles, DAAD Director Nina Lemmens, Jacobs University Bremen President Katja Windt and former Obuda University President Imre Rudas.



Joe Hackman, the first Chinese & Computer Engineering IEP graduate, spoke about how his career at INTEL was jump-started due to his experiences in the Chinese IEP. L-R: Sigrid Berka, Joe Hackman, Erin Papa and John Grandin.

Alumni Profiles



Nicholas Putnam
Transmission Calibration Engineer at ZF Friedrichshafen AG
(*12 Mechanical Engineering / German)

Nick at ZF Friedrichshafen AG.

After graduating from the IEP, I joined ZF Friedrichshafen AG in the ZF International Trainee Program. In many ways, the program shares a similar aura with the IEP: You meet a lot of people from all around the world, you spend significant time abroad and things move fast. It was a natural next step after the IEP. The program is set up in four projects: the first two in Germany, the third one abroad and the last one back in Germany. Each project was at a different location, in a different branch. I did projects in R&D (Simulation), Logistics, Plant Operations (in Beijing, China) and Supplier Management. The Trainee Program was also a great way to procrastinate the decision to live in Germany or the US. I now live in Friedrichshafen. My job is to tweak the transmission control software for each type of vehicle. My team optimizes shift quality and shift strategy while coordinating directly with our customer, Fiat Chrysler Automotive. A lot of my time is spent in our test vehicles, making changes and testing them in real time. Deciding to enroll in the IEP in 2007 has led me to where I am now, and I am happy to be a foreigner living in Germany working in the automotive industry.

Nevan Hanumara
MIT Research Scientist
(*04 Mechanical Engineering / French)



Nevan at the 17th Annual Colloquium on International Engineering Education.

The International Engineering Program provided an outstanding personal growth and professional training experience that imparted a global perspective and competence outside my native comfort zone. Irrespective of language focus, an IEP graduate is equipped to boldly step off a plane anywhere in the world and integrate successfully or simply enter today's inescapably global and diverse engineering workplace. The latent IEP effect encouraged me to develop friendships all over the globe, lead MIT events on 5 continents, and conduct joint research with colleagues in the Netherlands and also uniquely equipped me for my current position as an MIT Mechanical Engineering Research Scientist and Program Manager of the Tata Center for Technology + Design, which supports graduate students and faculty engaged in hands-on projects to develop solutions to challenges facing resource-constrained communities in India. It was a privilege to contribute some insights from my experience with the Center to this year's IEP Colloquium as a participant in the Asia/Australasia working group and I am equally proud of both my institutions!