

## Alumni Updates

**Mike Barlow '10 GIEP/MCE** and **Rebecca Boduch '10 GIEP/BME** married in July 2015. Rebecca works for Organogenesis and Mike works for Supfina.

**Dan Belbey '13 German/Global Business Management** finished his Masters in International Business and Logistics at the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences in Hamburg, Germany (also a partner university to URI) in April 2015. In July he began a full-time position in the Global Leader Development Program in Supply Chain with BMW Manufacturing Co. LLC in Spartanburg, SC. The program will take Dan on assignments within logistics and supply chain to departments in Germany, South Africa, and China.

**Sonja-Lara Bepperling '05 URI/TUBS Dual Masters** currently resides in Zürich, Switzerland. After 10 years of graduating from URI/TU BS, she was able to visit URI again and spent time with friends over Thanksgiving. This was a very special time, as she could show her husband Martin where she studied and lived during her time at URI. She writes: "I enjoyed the stay in Rhode Island so much. It always feels like coming home."



Sonja and Martin Bepperling at Beavertail Lighthouse, RI.

**Joshua Clements '02 GIEP/CHE** celebrated the birth of his daughter on July 10, 2015. He currently works at Amgen Inc.

**Christopher Cummiskey '04 GIEP/CHE** celebrated the birth of his second child, William Hamilton Cummiskey, on November 18, 2015. He is currently assigned to ExxonMobil Qatar Inc. as a Project Advisor in Doha, Qatar.

**Sheida Danesh '10 GIEP/MCE** and **Robert Dircks '10 GIEP/MCE** married on June 11, 2015. Sheida says: "Thanks, IEP for bringing us together!"



Rob and Sheida's wedding on June 11, 2015. Six and a half years after they met in Germany, both in the GIEP/MCE program.

**Lindsey (Hopkinson) Dillon '02 German/International Business** recently married, purchased a house, and started a new job as the Marketing and Communications Manager for the Boston office for Fraunhofer CSE in Boston.

**Caitlin Hurley '12 FIEP/CHE** defended her French Ph.D. thesis on September 3rd at the CEA-Saclay. The CEA is the Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives, or the French Atomic and Alternative Energy Commission in English. The dissertation is entitled, "Kinetic study of hydrogen-material interactions in nickel base alloy 600 and stainless steel 316L through coupled experimental and numerical analysis." She recently moved to Helsinki, Finland, where she accepted a permanent position as a researcher in nuclear reactor materials at VTT, the Technical Research Centre of Finland, and will



Caitlin Hurley traveling in Ghent, Belgium.

be starting at the beginning of November. Caitlin writes: "It is a big change moving from France to Finland but so far things are going well. I am very sad to have left France, but excited to start this new adventure. VTT works often in collaboration with the CEA so I hope to have the opportunity in the future to continue working with some of my old colleagues and continue practicing my French! I have started to learn Finnish, too; it is a very interesting and complicated language and I hope to one day "master" it or at least be able to communicate with ease."

**Manuel Muller '15 URI/TUBS Dual Masters** successfully defended his URI Masters thesis in Mechanical Engineering, "Enzymatic and Enzyme Inhibitory Activity on a Paper-Based Lateral Flow Device."

**Meghan (Bellows) Peterson '06 GIEP/CHE** and husband Luc are happy to announce the birth of their first child, Madeline Charlotte Lee, on August 25, 2015. Meghan works at Sandia National Laboratories and lives in Livermore, California.



Madeline Peterson, daughter of Meghan (Bellows) Peterson, at 3 months old.

**Meghan (Collins) Soens '05 SIEP/BME** will be relocating to Paris, France in January 2016 with her husband and daughter. Meghan accepted an internal promotion to European Group Manager, Marketing for the Endoscopy division at Boston Scientific. Meghan has spent the last 5 years working in a global capacity there, based out of Boston, and working with customers and sales reps across the U.S., Europe, and Asia. She is also serving on the IEP Advisory Board.

**Taylor Spalt '07 SIEP/MCE** finished a 7-year stint with NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, VA and in December 2015 started with Lockheed Martin in Newport, RI. He says it's good to be back!

**IEP Alums: share your updates with us!**  
<http://web.uri.edu/iep/alumni-updates/>

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## THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING PROGRAM

# Global Update

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### Director's Notes

From Dr. Sigrid Berka,  
Executive Director



This Fall, we had the great pleasure of having Max Kade Distinguished Visitor Hannes Krauss - a retired German scholar from the Universität Duisburg Essen - teach a literature course *From Zero Hour to Unification* as well as our *Conversation and Composition* course. He integrated very fast into our team and embraced RI culture. We were sad to bid him farewell last week.

In the beginning of October the IEP participated in the celebration of *25 Years of German Unity* during German campus week, mainly organized by DAAD lecturer Anett Geithner and our intern from Munich, Kyra Babuska. It featured a student essay competition on the topic "Germany and Me," a German film festival, and a timely interdisciplinary panel on the European refugee crisis. Also the new German Consul General in Boston Ralf Horlemann chose URI as the first destination for a university visit.

In November we hosted a delegation of six faculty and administrators from the Technische Universität Darmstadt. The purpose was to meet face-to-face with our colleagues in engineering and compare curricula for the new dual degree program we will be launching with TU Darmstadt in the Fall of 2016-17. The agreement is based on our trusted TU Braunschweig dual degree, and will help accommodate the growing number of German IEP students as

### Japanese IEP on the Horizon



Sigrid Berka and Masako Hoyo at Shimadzu with Ryuji Nishimoto, General Manager, R&D Analytical & Measuring Instruments, Tsuyoshi Tsuchibuchi, General Manager, Spectroscopy & Measuring Instruments, and Mengxi Shen, from HR.

well as increase the number and diversity of incoming graduate students.

Congratulations to Italian IEP director Michelangelo La Luna, who secured a year-long sabbatical in 2016-17 to write a book on teaching Italian for engineering and business! He also won Consul General Nicola De Santis' help with facilitating visas/work permits for future interns in Italy. A first IIEPer, Sam Karnes, has happily started his studies at the University of Calabria this Fall.

On another positive note, LLC Assistant Director Angela Graney received the Staff Excellence Award from the College of Engineering during this year's holiday party. Congrats to Angela for the well-deserved award!

I just returned from an amazing trip to Tokyo and Kyoto accompanied by Japanese Lecturer Masako Hoyo and our specialist on Asian History, Timothy George. We followed up on President Dooley's lead to develop an exchange with "the Harvard of Japan," Waseda University. Impressed by the IEP and the fast growing Japanese program at URI, Waseda is looking forward to exchanging the first students in 2017-18 and to a steady pipeline of engineering students

coming their way. Waseda was selected by the Japanese government as a top Global University and is developing innovative modules to stay competitive in the internationalization process. We were also warmly received by a large team at Toray Industries, both at headquarters in Tokyo and at the Mishima plant where we toured the impressive film and polymerization departments and secured the commitment from general manager Toshihiko Hiraoka to welcome future JIEP interns in his plant. The visit to the Shimadzu Corporation in Kyoto was equally successful, and we won't forget their impressive showroom with state-of-the-art equipment from high speed video cameras to medical imaging machines and sensors detecting cancer cells, to devices measuring everything from the crispness of an apple to potential toxins in drinking water.

As operations at URI and elsewhere in the world slow down, I wish you all a wonderful holiday and an energetic start to the New Year! Please keep the IEP in mind when making your charitable gifts this season.

Best wishes,  
Sigrid

## Highlights from Fall 2015

On their visit to Japan in December, Sigrid Berka and URI Japanese lecturer Dr. Masako Hoye visited Toray Industries Mishima plant.

*Pictured right: In front of a part of the Dreamliner made out of light-weight carbon fiber engineered by Toray that reduces weight by a third, and thus fuel consumption.*



Drs. Berka and Hoye also visited URI student **Ethan McClure '17 ELE & Math**, who is spending the Fall semester doing research on invisibility clouds calculating how light breaks around organic matter in Professor Nobuhiko Nishiyama's lab at Tokyo Tech. He had to read up on Einstein's theory of relativity to understand the math behind this challenging project. Ethan quickly fell in love with Tokyo, a city that never sleeps, and is cooking up tamagoyaki (an everyday breakfast dish) and sukiyaki (a fancy culinary specialty) in his international dorm. It was surprising to hear how smoothly he communicates with appropriate tone and Japanese mannerisms after this short period of immersion, and how eagerly he has embraced the Japanese culture. His goal is to pass the 2nd level JPLT (Japanese proficiency language test). He will then do a six-month internship at Shimadzu in Kyoto on a team developing the next generation of mass spectrometers. We are confident that his enthusiasm for the Japanese way will break ground for many more JIEPers to come.

*Pictured right: Masako Hoye, Sigrid Berka, and Ethan McClure at Tokyo Tech. Far right: Masako Hoye and Ethan explore the culinary shopping district near Tokyo Tech.*



*Pictured below: Max Kade Visitor Hannes Krauss, Kyra Babuska, and Norbert Hedderich at the poster exhibit during German Unity Week.*



For the 25th anniversary of German reunification on October 3rd, the URI German program hosted a week-long celebration on campus. Events included a German Short Film Festival, a "25 Years German Unity" Poster Exhibit, and an "Expert Panel on the European Refugee Crisis" (pictured left) moderated by Sigrid Berka, featuring panelists Ric McIntyre (Economics), Michael Honhart (History), Katrin Jomaa (Political Science), and Norbert Hedderich (Languages).



*Above L-R: IEP Ambassadors Minh Pham CIEP, Joe Sullivan GIEP, Arielle De Souza FIEP, Sean Marran SIEP, Katie Brown SIEP, Amanda Junkins FIEP.*



*German IEP 5th year ambassadors Ian Calise and Joe Sullivan visited a German class at North Kingstown High School.*



*Representing the IEP at the URI Study Abroad Fair in September: 5th years Ian Calise GIEP, Amanda Junkins FIEP, Kaitlynn von Dettum CIBP, Sean Marran SIEP, and Jessica Havas SIEP.*



*Below: A great turnout for our IEP bowling event at Old Mountain Lanes in Wakefield.*

Our IEP student ambassadors have been hard at work this semester representing the IEP at on- and off-campus events. In November, they organized a successful bowling event for 3rd and 5th year IEPers and international students, to build community. They also visited local high schools starting with their alma maters. German IEP 5th year Ian Calise visited engineering classes at Moses Brown, and Spanish IEP 5th year Katie Brown organized a group visit to North Kingstown High School which included presentations to engineering, Spanish, and German classes. The ambassadors are also assisting IEP directors by developing study abroad handbooks and talking about their experiences at preparation meetings for the students going abroad next year.

## 2015 Grads: Where Are They Now?

Six months after graduation, we checked in with some of our 2015 IEP grads who are already off to great engineering careers.

**Preston Steele '15 SIEP/BME** is the R&D Engineer for CREmedical, a startup medical device company founded by Dr. Walt Besio at URI. He is one of two full time employees in the company, which builds a new type of EEG system using the tripolar concentric ring electrodes Dr. Besio invented. The systems they build are based around an alternative electrode design that Dr. Besio invented years ago which has 3 concentric sensing elements instead of just one. By taking the differences of the signals on each ring and amplifying them with their preamplifier, they are able to see a much cleaner signal of the brain's underlying electrical activity. Preston says: "I feel that we could help a lot of people with this technology because the signals from our system are much cleaner and more accurate representations of what is actually happening beneath the scalp, and cleaner signals could mean better diagnostics in the future." A specific area that the company works in is epilepsy and improved seizure detection and potential nullification by injection of an equal and opposite signal. Preston has been working with testing the systems to assure functionality as well as conducting some proof of concept experiments to quantify the system's performance. One of these experiments, for example, was to compare their sensor with a regular disc electrode and show that the tripolar design attenuates more of the muscle artifact than the disc electrode. Besides system testing, he says he has also been learning all the steps involved in getting a startup off the ground.



*The CREmedical team: Dr. Walt Besio, Rachel Bartels, and Preston Steele.*



*Jack Heaslip points to a Zeppelin over the Friedrichshafen harbor in southern Germany.*

available to everyone and not just included in cars. There are also some side projects that I work on that have to do with urban mobility as well as car safety systems that are on the leading edge of the connected and intelligent car."

**Jack Heaslip '15 GIEP/MCE** was offered a position to return to ZF, the company where he had completed his IEP internship in Germany. He now works in the ZF Thinktank in Friedrichshafen, developing ideas and concepts for pushing ZF into new product types outside of the normal area of the automotive supplier. Jack says: "I am given the opportunity to be as creative as possible with thinking of new things that ZF could use. I have just finished building and designing the hardware for a prototype for a smaller Car2X concept that would be

**Mike Caneja '15 SIEP/ELE** works for Robert Bosch LLC as an Electrical Engineering Professional Development Trainee. He is completing four 6-month rotations around the country and internationally in different sectors of engineering and different divisions of Bosch. Currently, he is on the tail end of his first rotation at Bosch Security Systems as a Project Manager and Component Engineer at the R&D facility in Lancaster, PA. Bosch Security Systems designs and manufactures high-end security cameras that are used in many government and commercial settings including: the Pentagon, outside the White House, Navy ships, various departments of transportation, etc. In February he will start his second rotation in either an Automotive Electronics plant in Madrid, Spain or a corporate/R&D site as a part of the Live Sound group in Burnsville, MN. Mike says: "I owe my current professional successes to my beginnings in the IEP and hope that all is well with everyone in the program and that this program continues to develop and create successful, international engineering professionals!" He has already been an alumni ambassador to the IEP, recruiting the next generation of IEP grads for trainee positions at Bosch. "I look forward to hearing from future students and helping them start their careers as you at URI have helped me!"

## Welcome, Xiaoyan Hu!

We are happy to welcome Chinese lecturer **Xiaoyan Hu** as our new Assistant Director of the Chinese IEP! Xiaoyan came to URI as a Confucius Institute instructor from our partner institution Zhejiang University (ZJU) in 2011. She became a lecturer in the Department of Languages in 2013 and has been instrumental in the development and growth of the Chinese Language Flagship Program. Xiaoyan is excited to strengthen the Chinese IEP curriculum by using her experience in developing proficiency- and project-based methodologies tailored to students' engineering domains. As an alum and former instructor at ZJU, Xiaoyan has strong relationships with administrators and instructors through which she will be able to improve processes affecting the CIEP student experience during their semester abroad.



*Xiaoyan Hu has been appointed Assistant Director of the Chinese IEP.*

## Save the Date: Colloquium 2016

Please join us for the **19th Annual Colloquium on International Engineering Education**, hosted by the URI International Engineering Program, November 3-5, 2016!

The Colloquium returns to Newport, Rhode Island at a new venue: the Newport Harbor Hotel & Marina, with harbor views in downtown Newport. Book before September 1, 2016 for room rates of \$107 for stays between Nov. 1-7 (book soon to request an ocean-side room!).



Conference registration opens later this fall. Check for updates at <http://web.uri.edu/iep/colloquium/> and contact Sigrid Berka at sigrid\_berka@uri.edu to join the Colloquium email listserv for announcements.

We look forward to seeing you in Newport next year!