

Director's Notes



Dr. Sigrid Berka,
Executive Director

Greetings from URI, where the IEP is still going strong! While language programs in other US institutions have been discontinued at a worrisome pace, the IEP has been crucial in driving language major enrollment and as a model of interdisciplinary engineering education adapted by several other URI colleges and a dozen institutions nationwide. Since its visionary launch by Dr. John Grandin in 1987, we have continued to move forward in new directions.

Already in full swing in Berlin is a new German-STEM Immersion Summer School, directed by Dr. Niko Tracksdorf. In February we had a successful delegation visit led by TU Darmstadt's President Jürgen Prömel. He and President Dooley were inspired by the potential of the relationship and subsequently established a significant joint fund to aid in future collaborations. A visit by TU Braunschweig's new President Anke Kaysser-Pyzalla will take place in October – right after the ribbon cutting of our state-

of-the-art engineering building! Parthenope University in Naples will receive the first Italian IEPers this fall. Meanwhile from a group of four JIEPers, the largest cohort to be sent to Japan so far, three will represent the first generation studying at Niigata and Kyushu Universities, and one will return to Okayama University.

Honoring IEP Excellence



President David Dooley shakes Dr. Berka's hand during the URI Foundation's 2019 Excellence Awards ceremony.

This spring, both the IEP's former and current Executive Directors were recognized for their exemplary work within the program.

On May 15th, the URI Foundation presented its 2019 Excellence Awards, recognizing distinguished achievement among faculty and staff. At this ceremony, Dr. Sigrid Berka was awarded the Administrative Excellence Award. This followed an April 11th celebration at Carnegie Hall in NYC where she received an Excellence Award from the DAAD



President Dooley presents Dr. John Grandin with an honorary degree in engineering at URI's undergraduate commencement on May 19, 2019.

Alumni Association for Educational Exchange.

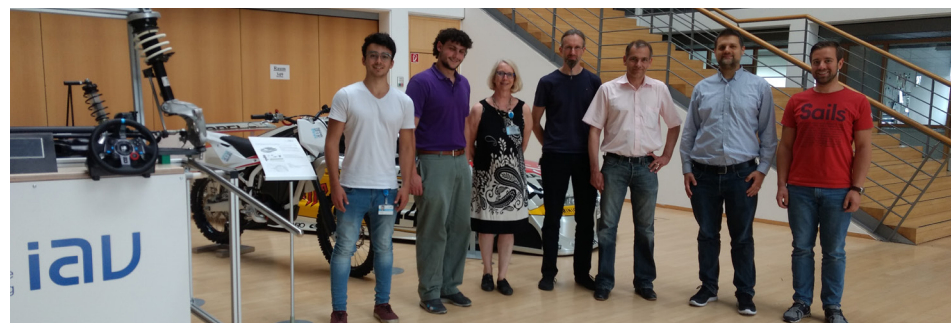
Former IEP Executive Director Dr. John Grandin was awarded a new distinction for his service at URI. At this year's commencement, Dr. Grandin received an honorary doctorate from the College of Engineering.

Congratulations again to both Drs. Berka and Grandin on their recent accomplishments!

We are also fortunate to be able to rely on our dedicated alumni network in RI and worldwide. Alums have supported the IEP this year by participating in high school outreach, recruiting events, reunions and the Annual Colloquium, and even from within their own companies. Sarah Koenig (FIEP) and Filip Losowsky (GIEP) joined alums Eric Sargent, Martha Ziolkowski and Kristen Riley on the IEP Advisory Board this year. We are grateful for our dedicated deans, faculty, board and our alums' growing support. May all of you enjoy more highlights on the ensuing pages.

~Sigrid Berka

GIEP interns Sirin Perez and Samuel Noymer with Dr. Berka, GIEP alums Erik Anderson and Brian Kintz, and IAV colleagues. Due to Erik's initiative, IAV has hosted 31 IEP interns to date!



Alumni Feature:
Filip Losowski
'09 IEP Grad & New IEP
Board Member
GIEP / Civil Engineering



What was your biggest takeaway from participating in the IEP?

The personal and professional growth that comes with the IEP's strategic curriculum, the great friendships I made in the program, and the cultural connections that allowed me to view the world from different perspectives. I would not be the person I am today without the IEP.

Describe your work at Supfina.

I am an operations manager currently responsible, alongside my colleagues, for translating the strategic vision of our managing directors into practical, actionable pieces, which can include ensuring the efficient processing of orders for our equipment through all departments, developing company-wide policies and programs, and managing corporate finances and investments.

How did being in the IEP help you to launch and develop your career?

Although the network of companies and professional relationships is what ultimately landed me at my current company, the foundational balance between hard and soft skills – engineering acumen and cultural and linguistic insight and intuition – helped set me apart.

As an alumnus of the program, what has led you to invest your time in furthering IEP efforts?

Considering the rapid pace of change in our industry – manufacturing – and an increasingly, globally-interconnected world, I believe the IEP's demanding program is one of the best ways to prepare a student for a career. IEP graduates not only represent thriving under pressure but also embody the values and emotional intelligence needed for complex and often uncertain paths to success. These traits mean my colleagues and I not only strive to hire IEP graduates, of which we have many,

Cultivating the Next Generation of IEP Students



A mix of IEP students, staff, alumni and board members at Cumberland High School

visit request was submitted through a new link on our website, staff worked with these individuals to tailor their schedules to their interests. In turn, they were able to speak with IEP directors and other URI faculty and staff, pick the brains of current students, and have lunch with exchange students living in the IEP LLC. In addition, many shadowed classes, learned about seniors' capstone projects, and toured technical labs both on and off campus. This combination of activities provided a more comprehensive overview of what the IEP really is about and gave attendees a more tangible feel for the benefits of participating in the program.

For the continued success of a long-standing program such as the IEP, finding innovative ways to connect with new generations of prospective students must always remain an important initiative. During the most recent academic year, the IEP connected with high school students in a variety of ways. Though different in nature, each form of recruitment relied on the expertise and experiences of the IEP community to generate student interest.

One way in which students learned about the program was through visits by IEP representatives to several schools. While each of these visits followed a slightly different format, the goal of all of them was the same - direct engagement. High school students and their teachers had the opportunity to speak with IEP staff, ambassadors, students, alumni and board members one-on-one, in small themed groups or during panel discussions, with their questions providing the guiding force behind conversation. In this way, these informative sessions were more personalized and interactive in nature.

Another method used was to invite those who are interested in the program to URI to meet with IEP representatives. After a

but also inspire me to help cultivate future IEP candidates through outreach activities, such as the Cumberland High School visit earlier this year. Most importantly, I want to give back to the program that helped me grow while empowering IEP students to face a quickly changing industry with confidence.

What advice do you have to current and/or future IEP students?

Passions manifest themselves in many forms. When you begin to take an active role in growing yourself both personally and professionally, those passions will begin to manifest in areas of your life where you may have least expected. The IEP is one of the best opportunities for taking advantage of that growth.

Attendees of the annual IEP Advisory Board meeting tour the new engineering building



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Scenes from Abroad: 2018-2019



JIEP student Julien Andriulli enjoys a traditional Japanese breakfast



IEP students studying in Spain met up with GIEPers in Munich, Germany during last year's Oktoberfest



SIEP's Sabrina Montana in Zaragoza, Spain with Dr. Fernando Cacho Bailo (IQE) and Dr. Miguel Menendez Sastra (CREG/UNIZAR)



SIEP student Abagayle Hilton visiting the Atacama Desert in the northern portion of Chile



Students in URI's new German-STEM immersion summer school in Berlin on an educational excursion to MTU in Munich



View from FIEP student Sandra Deeb's office at French Energies Marines in Brest, France

Graduation 2019

Between August 2018 and August 2019, the IEP will have graduated 54 students, bringing the total number of IEP graduates to-date to 662!

Graduation by the numbers:

2019 Total: 54
Total Graduates as of 2019: 662

By Language:

Chinese: 3
French: 10
German: 32
Italian: 3
Japanese: 1
Spanish: 5

By Engineering Program:

Biomedical: 4
Chemical: 9
Civil: 6
Computer: 1
Electrical: 6
Industrial &
Mechanical: 20
Ocean: 7

14 of these students have an additional minor or major!

IBP/ICSP: an additional 4 graduates serviced

2019 Dual Master's/MBAs from TU Braunschweig/TU Darmstadt: 14

Male: 67%
Female: 33%

RI students: 59%
Out-of-state: 41%

Average GPA of May 2019 graduates: 3.27

In 2018-19, global internships were completed at a total of **43 different companies** and laboratories across **7 different countries!**



A group of TU Braunschweig and TU Darmstadt dual master's students who graduated last summer participated in this year's commencement



Three of a kind - siblings with a trio of differing international double majors! Sigrid Berka with Mitchell Golde ('19 GIEP/ELE - left), Leah Golde ('20 JIEP/ISE - middle), and Claire Golde ('18 CHN/CS - right)

IEP show of force - all students shown here standing in line waiting to cross the Keaney stage are members of the IEP!



French IEP Director Dr. Lars Erickson and Dr. Sigrid Berka with some of the IEP graduates following the COE ceremony

Alumni News: What's New?

Rachael Browning ('11 CIEP/CHÉ) and her husband welcomed their baby boy to the world in January 2019.

Amanda Junkins ('16 FIEP/BME) writes: I have been promoted to Client Project Manager at the headquarters of medical technology company, Mentice. Moving into the research and development team is very exciting and rewarding. I will be part of a skilled team building software and creating new simulation training interfaces for surgical procedures, which will enhance the practice of physicians across many disciplines. All the while, I'm still enjoying living abroad in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Meghan (Bellows) Peterson ('06 GIEP/CHÉ) and her husband Luc are happy to announce the birth of their second child, James Allan DeWitt, on March 29, 2019.

From **Bill Seites-Rundlett ('12 GIEP/CVE):**

I am currently pursuing my PhD in Civil Systems at the University of Colorado Boulder, studying hurricane evacuations



James (right) with older sister Madeline (left)

and disaster risk reduction. While at CU, I have affiliated myself with the Mortenson Center in Global Engineering to continue my passion for working in international settings. Through the Mortenson Center, I have set up a position with the IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) in Manila, Philippines to assist with typhoon recovery and disaster management this upcoming summer. I would encourage any IEP graduates thinking of pursuing a graduate degree to consider CU Boulder and the Mortenson Center as a pathway to an international career path. I am thankful for my undergraduate experience with the IEP, which prepared me to work in a foreign country, using a non-English language, and sensitive to cultural differences. I would love to hear from anyone with questions or comments about my work!

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