

Congratulations to the 2014 IEP Graduates!



IEP grads (L-R): Emily Serman, Maria Briones, Alex Pryor, Paul Pabon, Christina Liese, Aaron Zarenski, Daniel Spader, Nicholas DelGreco, Billy Machado

German	
Christopher Bessin	Ocean Engineering
Lauren Boltz	Chemical Engineering
Whitney Clark	Chemical Engineering
Nicholas Delgreco	Industrial & Systems Engineering
Brian Grenon	Electrical Engineering
Stephen Iwuc	Chemical Engineering
Christian Liese	Biomedical Engineering
William Machado	Mechanical Engineering
Paul Pabon	Computer Engineering
David Powers	Mechanical Engineering
Alexander Pryor	Civil Engineering
Anthony Ragusa	Ocean Engineering
Emily Serman	Civil Engineering
David Spader	Mechanical Engineering
Farid Topchiev	Chemical Engineering
Aaron Zarenski	Mechanical Engineering

Spanish	
John Adley	Chemical Engineering
Maria Briones	Civil Engineering
Brad Clark	Ocean Engineering
Richard Higginbotham	Civil Engineering
Alec Kaija	Chemical Engineering

Chinese	
Christian Marks	Computer Engineering
Sarah Wood	Ocean Engineering
Melissa Holdgate (IBP)	Global Business Mgmt.
Brian Kennedy (IBP)	Supply Chain Mgmt.
Ashley Labrie (IBP)	Global Business Mgmt.
Ben Howard (IBP)	Global Business Mgmt.

French	
Kayla Belanger	Chemical Engineering
Christian Faria	Mechanical Engineering
Michael Gardner	Ocean Engineering
Benjamin Jacques	Chemical Engineering
Zachary Lorusso	Computer Engineering
Edward Thomas	Chemical Engineering

IEP grads Kayla Belanger (FIEP), Christopher Bessin (GIEP)



IEP Distinguished Scholars 2014

Once again, IEP students were extremely competitive in winning big scholarship awards that will help fund their year abroad. This year's awardees, set to study and intern abroad in the 2014-15 academic year, include:

DAAD Undergraduate Scholarship:

Joseph Rocchio (GIEP)

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship:

Max Gutierrez (GIEP)

Beatrice S. Demers Scholarship:

Ian Calise (GIEP)
 Arielle De Souza (FIEP)
 Mike Ferrari (CIBP/Flagship)
 Alex Giannankos (German Dual Masters TUBS/URI)
 Lucas Hanson (GIEP)
 Amanda Junkins (FIEP)
 Paul Kintz (GIEP)
 Ian Mace (GIEP)
 Norman Ross (SIEP)
 Joe Sullivan (GIEP)
 Elizabeth Wynn (GIEP)

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Global Update

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Director's Notes



Dr. Sigrid Berka, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

This special issue highlights IEP internship experiences, and I would like to acknowledge the wonderful help from our own alumni in the placement process.

Erik Anderson (MCE & GIEP '02, dual master's URI/TUBS '09) leads the group, having connected 11 interns and 2 permanent hires with automotive supplier IAV in Gifhorn. Through Erik's determination, fast action, and excellent understanding of the students' backgrounds, they fulfilled their automotive passions at IAV.

Tobias Luehrig (TUBS MCE & URI MBA '89), now CEO of Beinbauer Automotive in Buechberg, made it happen that the internship process—complete with overnight stay at his residence, interviews at the company, internship offer, and apartment hunting—only took two days! All interns have full responsibility and a real impact on company performance.

Many other alums deserve praise for giving back to the program by reaching out to us to recruit their younger IEP peers, amongst them **Kelly Cook (dual master's '11)** at Siemens, **Loren Eckardt ('09)** at TenneT Offshore, **Pete Alberg ('98)** at Hilti, **Scott Carlson ('10)** at Hexagon Metrology, **Kristen Riley ('94)** at The BioProcess Institute, and **Sebastian Ungerland (TUBS/URI '09-'10)** at VW, for SEAT in Spain. The IEP is proud of our strong alumni network!

--Dr. Sigrid Berka

Notes from Abroad: In Their Own Words



SIEPers at Gaudi Park in Barcelona, Spain (L-R): Kevin Drumm, Erik Simpanen, Dana Demers, Amandine Gatali, Nick Bodell-Kudla, and Chris Capuano



CIEPer Sarah Wood in China.

"The most cherished memories I have of studying at UTC were meeting and getting to know a very tight-knit group of international friends who came from all around the world. Together, we commandeered a small kitchen for ourselves and cooked, shared language lessons, meals, and treats of all flavors and shapes, and above all nurtured a more global perspective on society and intercultural relations. I can say with confidence that at times as many as three to five languages were spoken at once in our little kitchen which we tenderly dubbed "La Petite Cuisine."

--Jonathan Young, French IEP

"My most memorable experiences this year were: taking in the wonder of La Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, doing improv comedy in Spanish with the theater club at Tecun, and relaxing on the beach with my coworkers in Puerto Vallarta. This year has been exactly what I expected, in that I realized before it started that I had no idea what to expect. When you immerse yourself in another culture, there is no way to know what will happen, no matter how many classes you've taken or books you've read."

--Kevin Drumm, Spanish IEP

"Living in Germany has exceeded any expectations I had before; I am even considering coming back after my studies and living and working in Germany for a while. I never thought I would feel this way about Germany; I figured I would be homesick for a while, but since first stepping into Germany, it has become an ongoing adventure. The fun never stops and I look forward to each and every day here."

--Jonathan Aguire, German IEP

"The first time I came to China four years ago I remember thinking it was strange that drinking hot water was popular, and that on sunny days everyone carried umbrellas. I also had never seen so many people on bicycles or E-bikes before in my life. However, I realize now that I drink hot water every day and I have my own bike and I often don't notice when someone has his or her umbrella out. Simply, I am now comfortable with many of the things I once didn't understand and like things I originally disliked. Now in China, I am not homesick at all and I know that is because being here I don't feel uncomfortable or confused, I now understand what it feels like to be fully immersed."

--Sarah Wood, Chinese IEP

French IEP Internships Abroad



Jonathan Young
French & Mechanical Eng.
Internship: Toray Films Europe (Lyon, France)

I began my internship with Toray Films Europe with a summer's worth of experience at Toray Plastics America. The company is situated in Saint Maurice de Beynost, not far from Lyon. The first few weeks were daunting and I had to adapt to learning the French counterparts of many technical terms I had become accustomed to in English over the summer. My coworkers are very enthusiastic and friendly and enjoy sharing French and English lessons with me.



The hardworking engineers here have been nothing but helpful in my integration into the company and I am very thankful for the opportunity to intern in France with a business that is well-aligned with my capabilities and experience. My colleagues gladly teach me both technical aspects of their work as well as cultural pleasantries and French ideals. To live well is to eat well, and French gastronomy is well-known to be refined and delicious. Aside from working hard, French culture focuses largely on building lasting human relationships between friends and coworkers. A firm handshake is a proper greeting each morning, and sometimes kisses on the cheeks for close friends.

Hicham Benjelloun
French & Mechanical Engineering
Internship: CGC (Paris, France)

I was really lucky because CGG is one of the biggest companies specialized in equipment for geophysics. It is based in Massy, right next to Paris so I commute every day from central Paris. I'm in the Research and Development for Land Monitoring team. My internship is based on developing a new sensor that would be able to be incorporated in a humid environment, like Saudi Arabia for example. It is really interesting and I'm loving it. Everyone is really helpful and it is an ongoing project that is open to every possible idea and so I'm free to research any opening I see fit.



One of my most memorable experiences this year is the day I went to do the interview for this internship. I think I pretty much aced it, which I was not expecting at all. When they called me for the interview, I thought I was never going to get it given the fact that it is such a big company. Therefore I prepared the interview in a reasonable manner and I went there completely relaxed, thinking I had nothing to lose. It really paid off because my tutor, who was conducting the interview, said that he would take me right away and that almost never happens. So that was the happiest day this year because I got one I never would of expected.

Working every day for this company made me think that that is what I want to do right after graduation. It has been a memorable experience and I wish for everyone to have this opportunity. It made me realize a lot of aspects about myself that I didn't know, and it has reaffirmed me as an engineer.

German IEP Internships Abroad



Jack Heaslip
German & Mechanical Eng.
Internship: ZF (Friedrichshafen, Germany)

I live in Friedrichshafen in southern Germany on Lake Konstanz. This is a small town with 58,000 people and almost all of these people work for one of three companies:

ZF, Zeppelin, MTU. These three companies have been around for a very long time and all were started right here in Friedrichshafen. Friedrichshafen has an amazing view of the Swiss Alps, which are right across the lake from me. I joined a local rowing club to keep up on my training for when I come back to URI in the fall. I work out with the German rowing club here six days a week after work and will be racing with them a little later in the summer.

I work in advanced research and development for personal car transmissions. What that means is I am working on the front edge of the industry to develop more efficient transmissions as well as hybrid transmissions. ZF mainly designs car transmissions for BMW, Audi, Land Rover, Maserati, some GM cars, Rolls-Royce (Phantom), Dodge trucks, Aston Martin, and Jaguar. I have been working on writing a program to help find the best overdrive standing gear ratio for different engine sizes within the BMW group. I have been given a new project to help design a prototype transmission that will be on the test stand in the next couple months.



Eli Lamothe
German & Mechanical Engineering
Internship: AUDI AG (Ingolstadt, Germany)

I live in Ingolstadt, located in southern Germany in the center of Bayern, about an hour north of Munich. It has about half the people as Braunschweig, but still a fairly large city. In order to move into my new place, I rented a car to bring all of my things with me, not to mention the great experience of driving on the

Autobahn with no speed limits. Through AUDI's apartment database, I found a gorgeous place to stay. I have a very large room, a balcony, and just about everything I could possibly need.

I am working in the Research & Development Department for Air Conditioning Systems and HVAC Control. My project deals with seat selective climate control. I am researching whether or not it is possible to save energy when air only blows onto occupied seats, while maintaining the same level of comfort. I was recently able to test a car in a climate wind tunnel and with a computer was able to see various temperature aspects of the car such as air outlet temperature, heat exchanger temperature, etc. Being able to work in a wind tunnel was an awesome experience as well as just seeing the amount of work that goes into the climate systems of a car.

My most memorable moments have been traveling around Europe. I have traveled to Austria, the Netherlands, Great Britain, France, the Czech Republic, Ireland, and all over Germany. My two favorite trips would have to be when I went to Prague and when I went to Austria to ski the Alps. Skiing the Alps has been something I wanted to do since I started skiing and was yet another one of the unforgettable experiences during my travels.



Spanish IEP Internships Abroad

Erik Simpanen
Spanish & Biomedical Engineering
Internship: Novacare Medical (Concepción, Chile)

I am working with Novacare Medical, a company that sells medical equipment to all regions of Chile, as an Imaging Specialist. We just recently started selling imaging equipment and my job involves not only understanding our equipment from an engineering standpoint but also building relationships with the manufacturers of our products all over the world. These international relationships have me contacting companies located in Japan, China, and Switzerland and conveying this information to the salesmen here in Concepción. This international, professional contact is something I can definitely see myself doing in the future.

In Chile, as well as Spain, I had to adapt to the cultural norms that come with studying and working in another

culture. This is not something that can be taught but must be learned through experience. For example, a kiss on the cheek or a handshake at the beginning and end of every workday was definitely something that at first seemed very strange. Now, it's a normal part of my day.

It is very relaxed here and I really enjoy the work. The other employees are very helpful and understanding when I am trying to convey my ideas in my not-quite-fluent Spanish. Being an international student is one thing, but working in a foreign city, for me, is something different. To be part of a professional setting in another language is one of the best ways I practiced Spanish. I learned words that I have never needed to use before and made international connections I hope to keep for the rest of my life.



Amandine Gatali
Spanish & Civil Engineering
Internship: Geotecnia Ambiental (Valparaíso, Chile)

I am working at a geotechnical and environmental company that deals primarily with mines around Chile. I have been working on a project dealing with a closing copper mine and how to make sure that the environment is well cared for and all environmental rules are followed and the community around the area is cared for.

When I arrived in Valparaíso, I had really no idea what to expect and I have many memorable moments learning the culture and exploring the country, learning about the native population and going on some great adventures like hiking, mountain biking, river rafting, and river boarding.

This year has exceeded my expectations. I was surprised how very different each culture really is and just how people who are very different from you can be so open to share and understand. I was surprised by the constant warmth of people and their willingness to teach you about their language and traditions. It has definitely been a blast to learn how different the world really is and just how great it is to explore every part of it.



Kevin Drumm
Spanish & Mechanical Eng.
Internship: Hope Global (León, Mexico)

León, and Mexico in general, is totally different from Northern Spain. It has been very interesting to see how the stereotypical Mexican "I'll do it tomorrow" attitude can be quite real, at times.

In fact, it's fairly normal to be late for social engagements. In the workplace, however, there is no messing around. As an intern, I work a minimum of 50 hours per week, and the majority of the other office workers stay later and often work on weekends. But don't get me wrong, I am loving my experience here. Working at a manufacturing company with many production line workers has put me in the perfect situation to practice my Spanish.

In Spain, and here in Mexico, I've found that just about any professional engineer needs to know some English. Many of the production line workers, however, only speak Spanish. I am also learning a lot about how a large corporation works and enjoying my project, as I am doing product design, which is exactly what I wanted. I am designing parts for new cars, so everything that I'm doing is being used thousands of times over. Also, I've been changing cutting programs currently in use by the company to reduce waste, and I've already saved the company thousands of dollars every year.



Chinese IEP Internships Abroad

Sarah Wood
Chinese & Ocean Engineering
Internship: Offshore Pipelines and Risers Inc. (Hangzhou, China)

I work at a company called OPR (Offshore Pipelines and Risers). My boss is a wonderful, funny man who is so happy to have me here. Currently I am editing two books he and his Ph. D. students have written. One covers the plans created by OPR for pipe integrity and the other book's topic is pipeline construction. I also help with proposals for the company and help my boss prepare for conferences. I had the opportunity to help my coworkers with their English, once even giving a seminar on how to write technical papers in English.

Working on these two books has given me a lot of knowledge on pipeline construction. It is nice to know that down the road I will be able to recognize or understand things that I had no prior knowledge of. I also like that a lot of engineering topics I have already learned show up within these books.

I have gotten to know the locals around my apartment, like the corner store cashiers and the pharmacists who help me when I go into the store and struggle to describe the medicine I need. I also love that the women at the coffee shop down the street helped us pay our bills online the first few times. I generally feel a sense of comfort and community where I live, which makes me feel like a real adult, not just a student living abroad.

