

## 19th Annual Colloquium on International Engineering Education: Preparing the Global Workforce

This year's colloquium was sponsored jointly by the DAAD, the Asia Institute and URI. It had close to 180 registered participants, a good representation from industry, and a variety of formats engaging the audience, such as International Cafés, workshops, and parallel break-out sessions. President Dooley delivered an inspiring dinner keynote, and the audience congratulated us on "our far-sighted President," his commitment to international education, and his call for the need to further invest into programs that strengthen our presence in an interconnected global world and a diverse campus community. Equally well received was William Murray's keynote

speech who –as CEO of TeknorApex – gave an insightful presentation on how acquisitions within and outside the U.S. suddenly challenge the management of a local company to think globally and to adjust quickly to new cultures, be it in the south of the US, in China, Germany, or elsewhere; and therefore there is need for technically skilled, culturally sensitive, and linguistically flexible employees.

The Industry Roundtable featured strategies in which companies in New England use their university relations through programs like the IEP (Shimadzu, MA, Hexagon Manufacturing Intelligence and Taco Comfort Solutions, RI) as well

as the German dual educational model (Trumpf, CT) to educate a manufacturing workforce for the future. Another highlight was the alumni panel for which we could engage among others our own French IEP graduate Sarah Koenig (Pratt & Whitney) shortly before she gave birth to her IEP baby (see alumni updates).

The trademark poster session also featured many of our 5th year IEPers from all programs who took advantage of showcasing their "year abroad" experiences and could network with student and faculty representatives from universities around the world, companies, and government organizations in various languages.



Deans Brownell and Wright



Mitchell Golde, Dr. Pinkelman & Prof. Hampe, TU Damstadt



URI, DAAD, & Asia Institute dignitaries & scholars

## IEP Staff Updates

### Welcome Manabu Takasawa!



Prof. Manabu Takasawa has been appointed Director of the Japanese IEP.

As our efforts intensify to develop a full-fledged Japanese IEP we are happy that Manabu Takasawa started as its director this Fall. Manabu has been a Professor of Music at URI since 2001 and is also a renowned concert pianist. In college he mainly took math & science

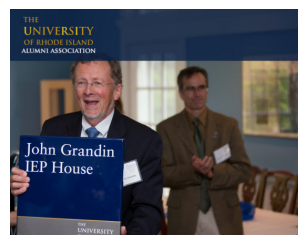
courses, but then his musical career took off. He loves diversity in his work and has already met with our contacts from Waseda, Kyushu, and Okayama university as well as several Japanese companies in the area. Welcome, Manabu!

### Welcome New Baby



Italian IEP Director Michelangelo LaLuna and his wife Daniela Roma just welcomed their adorable newborn Alfredo Maria (3,300 kg and 54 cm.) to this world. The family will be back in the U.S this summer after Michelangelo returns from sabbatical.

## Save the Date!



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International Engineering Program Reunion

Saturday, June 3, 2017  
Kingston Campus

Mark your calendars now for the 2017 IEP Reunion! We've set the date and are beginning to make plans for our Kingston Campus celebration. Look for more details in the months to come. For more information, please contact Angela Graney, Assistant Director, IEP Living Learning Community.

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING PROGRAM

## Director's Notes



Dr. Sigrid Berka, Executive Director

With the prospect of having a government come into power in January which is increasingly looking inward, the core work of the IEP guided by the mission of internationalizing our engineering students has become all the more urgent and important. This Fall, we have 68 IEP/IBPers abroad, including a pioneering group at TU Damstadt, which fosters the kind of cultural exchange the IEP is all about.

Silke Scholz, (Spanish IEP director), Kunal Mankodyia (Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering), and I applied for another grant from the 100,000 Partnership in the Americas Initiative on "Sustainable Prostheses Design" to expand our Spanish IEP collaborations to Colombia. At the same time, we organized a 2nd BMW Day@URI with our GIEP alums Eric Sargent and Dennis Heaphy to bring the latest innovative drive-technology to campus (see insert). We have help from our new Fiscal Clerk, Dawn Yeaw, who is a valuable addition to the IEP team. Welcome Dawn!

We are also involved in a larger strategic planning effort with the Department of Modern and Classical Languages & Cultures under the leadership of its new chair, Karen DeBruin, to get an International Studies & Diplomacy Program off the ground. The IS&D is a dual Bachelor degree modeled after the IEP through which students would combine a major in

Global Update

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## Largest Group of IEP Students Abroad in China, France & Germany



A cheerful German IEP group in front of the Braunschweig Schloss Arkaden

a foreign language with a major in Political Science or Economics. It will include a year abroad - studying and interning in a government agency, bank, or international development agency. We are utilizing this larger context – which the Provost and President are excited about – to keep up excellent enrollment in the languages and build on successful dual degree models to increase our global presence.

With the help of a small local alumni committee, the Alumni Association and the Foundation we have begun preparing the **30th IEP Anniversary Reunion which will be held on Saturday, June 3rd from 3–7 p.m. at the Alumni Center**, under a tent on the lawn. Campus tours (both walking and by bus) will be offered at 2 p.m. They will highlight the new science buildings and the construction site for the new engineering building. A short speaking program with Deans Brownell and Wright, a few alums and recent graduates will also be included. Please mark your calendar!

As we continue to plan our milestone 30th anniversary celebration, we are elevating

our fundraising efforts to enhance the John Grandin IEP Directorship Fund. A new network of IEP volunteer Class Agents will be reaching out to each IEP class of graduates. As part of this initiative, Dr. Grandin and I will each match the first and second \$5,000 received from alums. We encourage you to support this endeavor by making your own contribution and help set the pace for transformational support of the IEP. You may visit our unique giving page on the URI Foundation website created specifically for the IEP. For assistance you can contact Francesca Bishop, Assistant Director of Annual Giving for the URI Foundation at 401-874-2207. You can also visit *matching gifts* to see if your employer can double or triple your support to the IEP.

I would like to thank our faculty, students, alums, international partners, and board members for your strong support of and involvement in the IEP and wish you and your families Happy Holidays!

–Dr. Sigrid Berka

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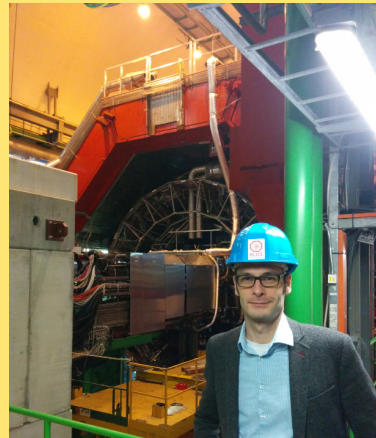
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## Highlighted Alumni

### John Ellwood



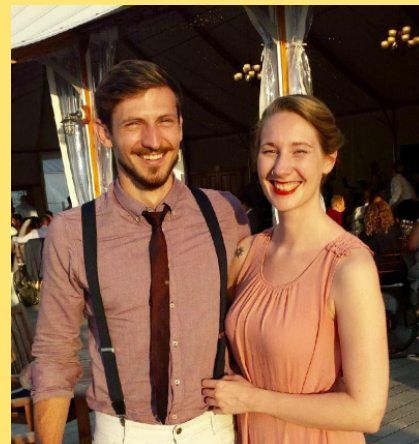
Alum John Ellwood visiting the ATLAS detector in Switzerland

John Ellwood currently works as a development engineer for Siemens Healthcare GmbH in the Nuremberg region of Germany. The path to his current location starts with his undergraduate studies in mechanical engineering and the German IEP. This was followed by the German Dual Masters, in which he spent one year at URI and the following year at the TU-Braunschweig. This turned out to be a very long "year" abroad, as he is still living in Germany. Here he stayed at the Institute for Machine Tools and Production Technology, where he ultimately completed his doctoral studies. His focus was in the area of

precision assembly. When he finally completed college, he started working at Siemens Healthcare, in the production of detectors for computer tomography scanners. Within his current role he deals with projects within Europe and Asia. He attributes his success in this role to the intercultural sensitivity that he learned in the IEP.

### Alex Giannakos

I jumped into the IEP by starting a master's project around developing a paper based diagnostic chip under the guidance of Professors Mohammed Faghri and Constantine Anagnostopoulos. While completing the research and coursework at URI, my time was also divided into working within the international office and into learning German in large part at URI's German Summer School. This was where I met an interesting teacher named Vanessa who would become one of the biggest



Alex Giannakos and Vanessa Isemann (German teacher at the Deutsche Sommerschule at URI for many years)

sources of linguistic and motivational support as I continued my studies at the TU Braunschweig in Germany. After the initial course work at TUBS, I completed an internship at Volkswagen where I worked at the intersection of project management, automotive design, and engineering. Following this, I jumped into the second master's thesis at the Institute for Engineering Design (Institut für Konstruktionstechnik) which was centered on the application of additive manufacturing (3D-printing) within the automobile industry.

As I have now defended my thesis, I would like to send out a big thank you to the people and friends who supported me along the way, especially fellow TUBS/URI dual masters Hanno Teiwes and Jan Eilbrecht for showing me the ropes of the German University system. Both they and my girlfriend, Vanessa Isemann, played a significant role in my learning of German and in the successful completion of the Dual Master's IEP in mechanical engineering.

## Postcards From Abroad

This year's cohort abroad is finishing their semesters in their respective countries. Here is what they are saying about the experience after a few months.

### Micah Kittel, Michael Logar, and Yelena Randall Valparaiso, Chile

*"... This academic year we have been gifted with the opportunity to live and study abroad in Chile. We are in the process of finishing up our school semester here at La Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso*



*and gearing up to start our professional internships. A few weeks ago we were lucky enough to have the chance to follow in Charles Darwin's footsteps along the beautiful hiking trails of Parque La Campana en route to summit Cerro La Campana. The hike was a challenging four hour climb to an altitude of 1,980 meters, with an incredible view awaiting for those lucky enough to make it to the top. Cerro La Campana lies within the coastal mountain range of Chile, which provides gorgeous views of both the mighty Pacific to the west and the Andes mountain range to the east. Hiking here in Chile as a team has helped strengthen our friendships and introduced us to many new friends from both near and far".*

### Zachary Tiang, Pedro Raposo, Suzanne Bates, Colin Lescroart, Matthew Freeman, Minh Pham, Lisa Li, and Mingxing Fei Hangzhou, China



*"...This year we've had the opportunity to spend a year in beautiful Hangzhou, China where we're finishing up our semester studying and getting ready for our internships. Here we are, our first day in China walking around the historic and breathtaking wonder of West Lake. Thousands of people visit the lake every day to try and capture its beauty in photos, paintings, and even poems."*



## Happy Holidays From IEP Housing

We were excited to welcome 75 students in the IEP Living Learning Community in the fall semester. We had our largest number of exchange students, many of whom participated in cultural activities.



We continued with our German and Spanish Mentor program, which was piloted last year. Our three German mentors (Thomas Nagy, John Paquet, and Alex Tsoukalas) and our Spanish mentor (Chris Salazar) plan events to improve language skills and familiarity with the culture of Germany, Spain, and Chile. They studied and worked abroad last year, so they have also been very helpful in preparing younger students on what to expect when they go abroad.



A Christmas Special with Stollen & fruit punch and screening of *Die Feuerzangenbowle* will conclude our German Movie series this fall. With this, we wish you a very happy and joyful holiday season!



## Alumni Updates



**Alexandra Dempsey '09 FIEP/EEC** married Corey Bruneault on September 17, 2016. (Photo 1)

**Arielle De Souza '16 FIEP/OCE** attends ENSTA ParisTech's masters program in Maritime engineering specializing in offshore energies engineering in Paris, France. De Souza will be starting a 6 month internship with Total SA in La Defense, Paris. The focus of the work is to develop simulations to consider the ice conditions, mechanisms and performance of ice interactions, as well as the various operational parameters that influence the performance of marine and offshore structures. (Photo 2)



**Mike Bessette '08 GIEP/MCE** and wife Andrea are happy to share the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth "Ellie" Nora Bessette, this past May. (Photo 3)



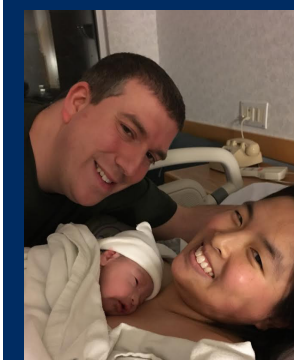
**Kaylen Haley '04 GIEP/BME** and her wife are happy to announce the birth of their daughter Quinn this October. (Photo 4)

**Jon '04 GIEP/MCE** and **Sarah Koenig (Gabryluk) '07 FIEP/ISE** welcomed their son, Matthew Wistum Koenig, on November 23. He was 6 lbs, 5.2 oz., and 19.75 inches long. The new family is doing well! (Photo 5)



**Lindsey Dillon '02 German/International Business** and husband, Jim, are happy to announce the birth of their first child, Jakob James Dillon, on December 1st 2016. He was 9 lbs 4 oz and 21 inches long. (Photo 6)

**Erin Papa '01 GIEP/CVE** has been consulting with Mt. Pleasant High School's Pre-Engineering Program to assure for equitable and linguistically appropriate access for all students, and particularly Spanish speakers. The aim is to articulate this program with the IEP, and they were thrilled to recently be able to connect the students with **Kevin Drumm ('15 SIEP/MCE)**, who is currently serving in the Peace Corps in Morropón, Piura, Peru as a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Volunteer.



**Daniel Danckert '12 GIEP/CHE** was recently engaged to his girlfriend Maria Charbonneau while on vacation in southern Germany. Dan proposed at Neuschwanstein Castle in Bayern. They are currently planning a 2018 wedding.

**Adam Greenberg '08 SIEP/MCE** and Nikki are proud to announce the birth of their son, Isaac Miller Greenberg.



**Loren Eckardt '09 GIEP/OCE** celebrated the birth of their son, Aaron Aiden on November 7th. He and his wife, Diana, first met during his exchange year while he was studying at TU Braunschweig in 2007/08. From 2010 onwards Eckardt has been employed as a project manager for the company TenneT Offshore GmbH.