

Number 9 - Fall 2003

EUROTECH NEWSLETTER



News and Information About the
Dual-Degree Program in German
and Engineering at the University
of Connecticut

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Our New Co-Director
in the School of Engineering

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What's EUROTECH?

A Short Description by Richard P. Long

The EUROTECH Program is designed to help prepare the engineering student for working in the world-wide marketplace by offering an opportunity to experience first hand the practice of engineering in another industrialized country. This program features:

- Engineering coursework leading to a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering.
- German coursework leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree in German.
- A six-month engineering internship with a firm in a German-speaking country.

The EUROTECH Program is open to students in each of the undergraduate engineering programs at UCONN: Chemical, Civil and Environmental, Computer Science, Electrical and Systems, and Mechanical Engineering.

A knowledge of German is not required to begin this program.

The student successfully completing this program will have more marketable degrees with a strong background in the principles of engineering and practical international experience.



Marcelle Wood, Co-Director,
EUROTECH

Was ist EUROTECH?

Ein kurzer Einblick

Im Rahmen des EUROTECH Programms erwerben die Studenten zwei Abschlüsse. Zum einen erhalten sie den B.A. in Deutsch, zum anderen den B.S. in Ingenieurwesen. Desweiteren gehört zum Abschluß des EUROTECH Programms auch ein halbjähriges Praxissemester in einem deutschsprachigen Land, wodurch die Studenten zum einen Arbeitserfahrung auf ihrem Ingenieursgebiet sammeln und zum anderen auf einen immer mehr internationalen Arbeitsmarkt vorbereitet werden.

Das EUROTECH Programm verbindet von Anfang an das Studium der deutschen Sprache mit einem Ingenieurstudium aus dem Bereich Maschinenbau, Bau- und Umweltingenieurwesen, Elektrotechnik, Informatik oder Chemieingenieurwesen.

Jeder qualifizierte Student aus dem Bereich der Ingenieurwissenschaften kann dem

Programm beitreten. Vorkenntnisse in Deutsch sind nicht notwendig.
(Übersetzung Johann Hofmann)



Eurotech students in the
Heidelberger Schloss

Marcelle E. Wood

Assistant Dean and EUROTECH Program Co-Director for the School of Engineering

I joined the university in 1985 after serving 21 years in the U.S. Naval Submarine Force. I received my B.S. in mechanical engineering from Auburn University and an M.S. in mechanical engineering from UConn. I was Associate Department Head of the Mechanical Engineering Department from 1987 through December 1999. I subsequently became Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Education in January 2000 and assumed the position of EUROTECH Co-Director in July of 2001. I have been involved in the EUROTECH program since it was established in 1993.

It has been an exciting year for Connecticut and her sister state Baden-Württemberg. In November,

Trinity College hosted a reception celebrating the 10-year anniversary of the Baden-Württemberg – Connecticut Higher Education Exchange Program. Since 1991, over 840 students and 55 faculty members have participated in the Exchange Program. Currently, 60 Connecticut college students are enrolled in German universities and 30 German students are attending Connecticut higher education institutions.

Five of the 60 Connecticut students currently in Germany are UConn EUROTECH students participating in internships or studying at German universities.

EUROTECH FACULTY ADVISORS

John Enderle:
Robert Coughlin:
John Ivan:
Lester Lipsky & Ruth Ungar:
John Ayers:
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Biomedical Engineering
Chemical Engineering
Civil & Environmental Engineering
Computer Science & Engineering
Electrical & Computer Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Metallurgy & Materials Engineering

EUROTECH PROGRAM UPDATES

NEWS IN BRIEF

The following students have recently graduated with a BS in Engineering and a BA in German Studies for which they also did at least one internship in Germany:

An Huynh
Chris Halfmann
Peter Bonzani
Michael Leary
Alex Wu
Brett Beauregard
Aaron Spearin
Alex Peslak
Aaron Skewes

The following students have recently graduated with a BS in Engineering and a Minor in German Studies; most of them have also completed internships in Germany:

Pal Pocsi
Alex Trestmann
William Papale
Brian Harris

These students are completing or have recently completed internships and study abroad in Germany:

Jeremy James (Fraunhofer Institut/Universität Stuttgart)
Lindsay Amidon (Fraunhofer Institut/Universität Stuttgart)
Alex Peslak (Siemens)
Pete Bonzani (Siemens)
Adam Nogiec (Siemens)
Padma Srimatkandada (Boehringer-Ingelheim)
Chris Halfmann (Compton Corporation)
Aaron Skewes (Fraunhofer Institut)
Alex Stepanoff (Fraunhofer Institut)
Marek Dolata (Siemens)
Jessica Zimmerlin (Fraunhofer Institut)

These students have participated in Summer Study Abroad:

Aaron Hebenstreit (Universität Stuttgart)
Martin Huber (Universität Ulm)

These EUROTECH students participated in the Baden-Württemberg Exchange:

Lindsay Amidon
Jeremy James
Jessica Zimmerlin

We would like to thank Renate Seitz, the director of the Baden-Württemberg Exchange Program in the Connecticut Department of Higher Education, for providing generous financial support to our study abroad students and for helping them in numerous other ways such as finding housing.

These EUROTECH students received scholarships at the 2002 and 2003 Annual Engineering Banquets:

Andrew Skewes and Jessica Zimmerlin (Bayer)
Kara Mogensen and Marko Cavarkapa (Rydz)
Peter Bohnenkamp (Dominion Nuclear CT)
Ian Rumsey (Charles H. Coogan, Jr.)
Lindsay Amidon (Dominion Nuclear CT)
Peter Bohnenkamp (Dominion Nuclear CT)
Alex Peslak (Eta Kappa Nu)
Stephanie Iacodoro (GE International Systems)
Mary Ann Chesery (ASME Hartford Section)
Craig Jordan (John DeWolf)
Jessica Zimmerlin (Pratt & Whitney Engineering Diversity Program)

Daniel Neilan (Sikorsky)
Caroline Rupp (United Technologies Corp. Academic Merit)
Marek Dolata (CT Infotech Scholarship)
Kurt Doughty (CT Innovations Technology Scholarship)

The following students are members of Engineering Honor Societies:

Jessica Zimmerlin (Omega Chi Epsilon)
Alexander Peslak (Eta Kappa Nu)
Mary Ann Chesery (Pi Tau Sigma)

In May 2001, EUROTECH Co-Director Friedemann Weidauer took 15 first and second year EUROTECH students on a study trip to Germany. For this trip we received generous funding both from the Connecticut



Trumpf Inc. in Farmington, CT:
A Plant visit by UCONN students

Department of Economic and Community Development through our Advisory Board member Costas Lake and, as in previous years, from the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service). Details about the trip you can find in the School of Engineering Newsletter *Frontiers* (Vol. 13:2, Winter 2002) at <http://www.engr.uconn.edu/SoE/PDFfiles/FrontiersWinter2002.pdf>.

Another group of 14 students went to Germany in May 2003 where we visited the German companies Mahle, BASF, DaimlerChrysler, Bosch and HaRu, the Universities of Freiburg and Heidelberg and the Fraunhofer Institut in Stuttgart. Again, the trip was partially funded by a grant from the DAAD.

In December 2001, information on EUROTECH was prominently displayed during the "German Month" at the Connecticut State Assembly.

As every year, EUROTECH was well represented at the 4th and 5th Annual International Colloquium on International Engineering Education in Warwick, RI, in October 2001 and 2002. At last year's 5th Colloquium, EUROTECH graduate Alex Peslak represented EUROTECH on a panel of students reporting on their work abroad experiences.



Fraunhofer Institut Stuttgart:
New Coating Technologies

Dr. Holger Schlüter, Trumpf-USA, presented on corporate-college cooperation, and Friedemann Weidauer presented on the structure of our program. As background information on international engineering programs you can refer to Friedemann Weidauer's article in *The Journal of Language for International Business* (published by Thunderbird—The American Graduate School of International Management) Vol. 12, No. 1, 2001 (pp. 37-50): "Educating Engineers for the Global Market: Challenges and Solutions."

Our EUROTECH classes that focus on German for engineers featured guest lectures by our corporate partners:

- Christian Callegari (Siemens)
- Peter Olf (Siemens)
- Holger Schlüter (Trumpf)
- Günther Schubert (PTR Precision Technologies)
- Wilfried Meier (Sikorsky)
- Klaus Voos (Index)
- Peter Winkler (Mahle)



Ready to enter the clean room at
Fraunhofer Institut Stuttgart

In April 2002, Trumpf USA in Farmington, CT, hosted a group of EUROTECH students who were accompanied for the first time by dual degree students in Business and German Studies as a first step towards building an EUROBIZ program modeled after EUROTECH. Presentations were both of a technical nature as well as on how a German company does business in the US. In December 2002, a group of EUROTECH students visited the PTR—Precision Technologies in Enfield, CT, and was given a tour of the company by Dr. Günther Schubert.



Wind Energy Farm
on the Autobahn

Our EUROTECH graduate assistants this year are Christian Slamka from the University of Karlsruhe and Elmar Grandel from the University of Applied Sciences Regensburg.

With the help of our graduate assistants we have generated databases on all German companies in Connecticut and of all German High School teachers in this state which can be made available on request.

How I became an International Engineer

by Pete Bonzani

I had just finished up at Manchester Community College and started at the University of Connecticut in September of 1998. I started as a Chemical/Materials Engineering student and knew that I had three years of "core" courses ahead of me. I still needed the language requirement, so the question now was: What language? I thought "What would be useful as an Engineer?" One language that quickly came to mind was German. Why German, you might ask? Well, because many engineering-based firms are either German owned or have subsidiaries here. So, German it was!

After going through my first two weeks of a foreign language (even in high school I didn't take one!), a visitor came to our class, Prof. Richard Long of the Civil Engineering department. "For you Eurotech students here is some information", he said handing me a handbook of sorts. I asked him, "Excuse me, I don't remember signing up for anything and what is Eurotech?" I would get my answer soon enough!

After learning what Eurotech was all about, I weighed my options. For one, engineering alone was a full-time chore. So why bother taking on more work? The answer was simple. Employers today look for what sets you apart from the next candidate. What better way to do this than taking on another degree! It shows that you can multitask and work towards multiple goals at once, which gives you an edge over the average graduate in a highly competitive job market like today's, as well as the "bilingual" component so lacking in today's college graduates that companies desire.

After working through the first year of both engineering and German courses, I was ready for summer. It so happens that every two

years the Eurotech Program sets up a study trip to Germany. I thought, what a great way to start off a summer and see what Europe was like. The study trip was a two-week "sampling" of German Industry, culture, schools and beer. While a great experience in itself, it would prove only to be a taste of things to come...

After completing my Junior year (which all of you engineers know is real fun!), I decided that it would be a good idea to "lighten the load" for my senior year. I chose to attend the University of Rhode Island's "Deutsche Sommerschule am Atlantik" in Kingston. This was a six week hyper-intensive course in which you could complete a whole year's worth of classes! In my opinion, the DSSA was the best way to improve my language outside of being in Europe itself. Only German was spoken 24/7 and my language level jumped to a point where I finally began to be able to hold a conversation and even watch TV in German, and it was a real lot of fun too!

After a true engineer's senior year (long sleepless nights doing homework in the lab and later at the bar), graduation came. I graduated in May of 2001 and was ready to go! But wait, aren't I forgetting something? I seem to remember as part of the Eurotech program, students are required to do an internship in a German-speaking country...

In April of 2001, just before graduation, I agreed to join Dr. Walter Fix and Dr. Wolfgang Clemens on the Integrated Plastic Circuits research group for Siemens AG in Erlangen, Germany. I departed in June for what would turn out to be one of the most enjoyable experiences in my life.

Arriving in Germany I did not know what to expect. What I found was a great country with lots of culture and fun things to do. My internship was phenomenal and extremely interesting. I expected the whole "make coffee and clean test tubes" and the reality was anything but! I worked on electrically conductive polymers and even developed a new insulator, for which I now have a joint EU-German patent! Not only the work, but my free time

was remarkable, too. I visited over 20 cities in eight countries, with enough experiences to write a book on! The amount of culture, language practice, new friends made and work experience gained was staggering, not to mention the fun I had. It was without a doubt the best combined experience of my entire life.

After coming home and settling



Pete Bonzani and friends at the Oktoberfest

in, I started to search the job market. I found a great position with a great company here in Connecticut. I am a research Engineer with Advanced Fuel Research of East Hartford, working closely with many high-tech firms such as Siemens-Westinghouse, NASA and United

Technologies on high temperature thermal barrier coatings and FT-IR based measurements of materials. I believe very strongly that both the internship in a foreign country as well as my language competency greatly helped in the consideration to make me an offer.

So now here we are at the end, right? Wrong, this is only the beginning! For me, completing the Eurotech program opened many doors in the present and into the future and for you as a student in this program it can and will do the same. Even though it is a lot of work, in the end it is well worth it. Imagine what stories you will be able to tell...

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the following groups and individuals without which this would not have been possible: Herr Franz Ploteny, the Eurotech, Chemical and Materials Engineering and German departments at UConn, Siemens AG, the Siemens IPC-Team, Advanced Fuel Research, the staff at URI at the Deutsche Sommerschule am Atlantik, Ruth Nentzel, Dr. Wolfgang Clemens, Dr. Walter Fix, Prof. Friedemann Weidauer, Prof. Richard Long, Prof. Robert Weiss, Carlos Franco, Edwin Obiri, Jongmin Ha, and my friends and family, especially Louis Tavano Sr. and Frank J. Bonzani

What I did on my Summer Vacation

by Aaron Skewes

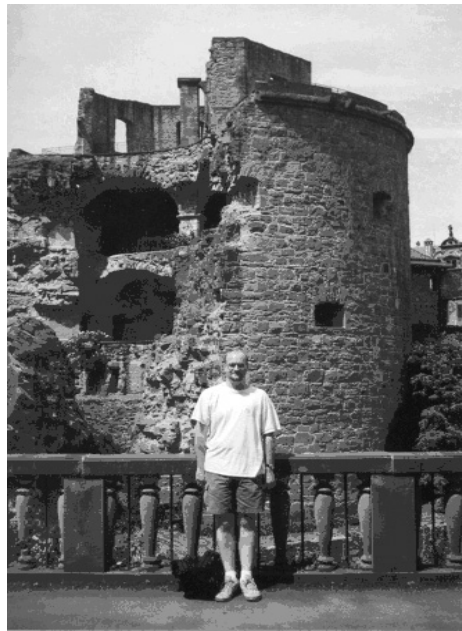
The Eurotech program provides many unique opportunities to its students. One of these is the chance to do a coop in Germany. This summer I had the opportunity to do practical training at the Fraunhofer Institut Produktionstechnik und Automatisierung (Fraunhofer IPA) in Stuttgart, Germany. The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft is the leading organization among institutes of applied research in Europe. At present, the organization maintains 56 research establishments at locations throughout Germany with subsidiaries in the USA and Asia.

While at Fraunhofer IPA, I contributed to three different projects. All were interdisciplinary

and helped to develop my engineering skills. The practical training in Germany is very well structured. For German students, it is a requirement in the degree process and involves professional level work. This gives Eurotech students an important advantage as we are guaranteed a placement in a company that will utilize us as engineers and not copy and coffee makers.

To compliment my Praktikum at Fraunhofer IPA, I chose to enroll in the Internationale Sommersprachkurse offered by the University of Stuttgart which was paid for through a grant I received from the Baden-Württemberg exchange office. This is a four-week intensive German language course

for international students. The summer language course combines traditional classroom training with activities and excursions to provide broad exposure to the German language and culture. One of the best features of this language course was the other students. I met people from all over the world and I had a lot of fun with my classmates on the many trips we took. While in Stuttgart, I lived in the student housing at the University of Stuttgart. Unlike at UConn, the dormitories are inexpensive and provide kitchen facilities. All the rooms



Aaron Skewes in Heidelberg

are "singles" and quite adequate in size. I recommend this option, as you will meet many people at the dorms and it will be impossible not to improve your spoken German.

For more information on the Baden-Württemberg exchange programs, contact:

Baden-Wuerttemberg Exchange
 Department of Higher Education
 61 Woodland St.
 Hartford, CT 06105
 Tel. (860)947-1303
 Fax. (860)947-1310
 Email: germany@ctdhe.org

EUROTECH

by Alex Peslak

My work experience for Eurotech began at a yearly meeting with the recruiting officer for Siemens. I asked if there were any positions available in the fiber optics field, and that summer I found myself in the Siemens Student Program interning in Boca Raton, FL, in the Optical Communication Networks Department at Siemens.

There I tested, analyzed, and researched an Optical Communication System capable of a 3.2 Tb/s data transmission rate. I made great contacts and lasting relationships with several of the employees and other interns there. I actually ended up working with some of them later in Germany.

After this internship, I flew right to the Siemens Research & Development Advanced Technologies Department in Munich, Germany, where I did a co-op for 4 months. I tested optical lab equipment and developed drivers and software for obtaining and analyzing data. I also helped other employees with the newly acquired Optical Communication System that I had previously tested and worked with. I met people from all over the globe. I now have contacts in 6 out of the 7 continents (it's difficult to meet someone from Antarctica).



The "Fringe Benefits" of working in Germany Part I

Not only was my work experience educational and exciting, my leisure time was a

blast as well. I can remember one weekend when the whole department went skiing in the Alps near the Austrian border where the snow is unbelievable. I didn't think that it was possible to have so much fun with your co-workers. I stayed in Germany an extra month just to go snowboarding in the Alps. Another memorable experience was the Oktoberfest. My Irish roommates and I had the times of our lives. I have never seen so many people together at once having a good time. I also visited many of my friends that I had met in Florida. This gave me the chance to see the rest of Southern and Western Germany, Leipzig, and Berlin. I also had the chance to travel to England and Austria.

The Eurotech Program



"Fringe Benefits" Part II:
 Alex Peslak in Munich

provides an excellent international work and life experience, and provides many opportunities after graduation. I graduate in December 2002, and will apply to the Siemens Graduate Program. This is the next step after the Siemens Student Program and will give me more work experience and place me all over the world for the next 2 years, and hopefully longer.

Thanks to the Following Firms and Individuals for Their Support

Firms Providing Internships in the USA to our Students

Bayer Corporation
Index Corporation
Lenze Power Transmission
MAN Roland
Pratt & Whitney Aircraft
Roto-Frank
Siemens
Trumpf Incorporated
The Torrington Company

Firms Providing Internships in Germany

Bayer AG
Fachhochschule Regensburg
Fraunhofer Institut
Hüttinger Elektronik
Maschinenfabrik Reinhausen GmbH
Siemens AG
Trumpf GmbH & Co.
The Torrington Company
Compton Corp.
Boehringer - Ingelheim

Guest Lecturers during the past year

Peter Olfs (Siemens AG)
Peter Winkler (Mahle Inc.)
Richard Long (UConn)
Holger Schlüter (Trumpf Inc.)
Roman Solecki (UConn)
Christian Callegari (Siemens)
Wilfried Meier (Sikorsky Aircraft)
Günther Schubert (PTR-Precision Technologies)
Klaus Voos (Index Corp.)

Equipment Contributions
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Mahle Cylinder
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PTR-Precision Technologies
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Financial Contributions
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Lenze Power Transmission
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Sikorsky Aircraft
The Torrington Co.
Trumpf Inc.
United Technologies Corporation
Thomas Gianni
Colin Green
R.P.Long
Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development

The EUROTECH Program thanks all the members of the Advisory Board for their time and effort on our behalf. We likewise thank the firms for encouraging their representatives to interact with our program.

Special thanks to Renate Seitz of the Connecticut Department of Higher Education and Sally Innis-Klitz of the Study Abroad Office for

assistance in placing the EUROTECH teaching assistants and interns.

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An International Program in Engineering

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For additional copies of this newsletter, back issues, or for more information on EUROTECH: An International Program in Engineering, please contact either of the directors, or click on the order form found on our homepage:

www.enrgr.uconn.edu/EUROTECH



EUROTECH students at a reception in the Baden-Württemberg State Assembly. Eurotech student Chris Lavelle is holding the original charter of the Connecticut-Baden-Württemberg Sister State agreement.

Visit EUROTECH on the World Wide Web
www.engr.uconn.edu/EUROTECH