



Global Internship Program



Fun Cultural Experience

German culture (and specifically Bavarian culture) includes many unusual salutations reserved for specific occasions. The one I was most confused by was "Mahlzeit", which seemed to come up as a sort of "hello", but only between the hours of 11AM and 1PM and only in the workplace. After a week or two of puzzlement, I finally realized that it means "mealtime" and is a greeting reserved for lunchtime (it's short for "blessed mealtime").



Relation to Your Major

Thermodynamics and heat transfer are two foundational ingredients in mechanical engineering, and a power plant is the ideal place to study and understand both these subjects. During my time there, I was able to literally walk through all of the steps required to convert raw coal and trash into power, and I saw firsthand the problems that the mechanical engineers face. Also, my work with the digital control systems team gave me the unique perspective to understand how all of the components are controlled and their associated challenges.

Chris Dugan

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Employer: Stadtwerk München

Location: Munich, Germany

When: Spring - Summer 2018

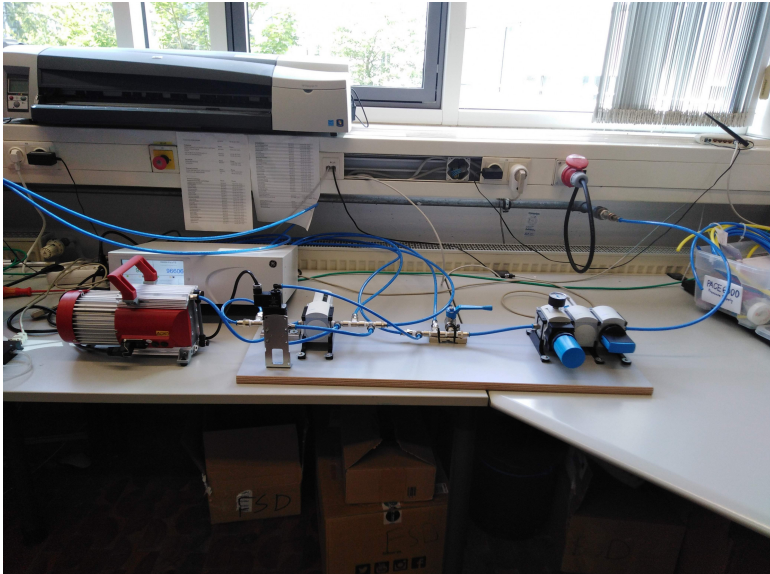
Summary

I worked with the digital systems and control team at a coal- and trash-burning power plant in Munich. While there, I helped renovate the plant's control systems by reviewing new electrical block diagrams, assisting with programming of the automation processes, and verifying that new devices and actuators were installed properly.





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Stephanie Gangwish

Major: Aerospace Engineering

Employer: TUM PREP

Location: Munich, Germany

When: Summer 2019

Fun Cultural Experience

The funniest cultural experience I had was teaching English words to my coworkers. Although they spoke English fluently, some only knew the German word for some items and concepts.

Relation to Your Major

I worked in the flight system dynamics lab, which is directly related to aerospace engineering.

Summary

My task was to integrate a pitot tube into a simulation environment. Working with a team of graduate and post-doc students, the pitot tube was successfully integrated.





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On our first day, my internship buddies and I attended a traditional Maori welcome ceremony hosted for us, and I was elected "speaker" of our group! I didn't know what to say, so I led our ceremonial procession through the city veery slowly so I could think. Apparently, I performed so well that I caught the attention of film crew. Now there is an interview of me floating around in a kids TV show somewhere in New Zealand.



Relation to Your Major

Although I didn't get to further my graphic design or CAD-ing skills (the tools of Architecture), I did get to learn about the workings of the sustainable building industry and experience behind-the-scenes practice (the rules of Architecture). With a little bit of ambition, I was able to maximize the resources available to me, undertook training, and am now licensed as a green-building professional in New Zealand in the fields of new-construction and urban planning. I plan to apply the skills I learned into my future projects here at Tech.

Alejandro Ruck Vega

Major: Architecture

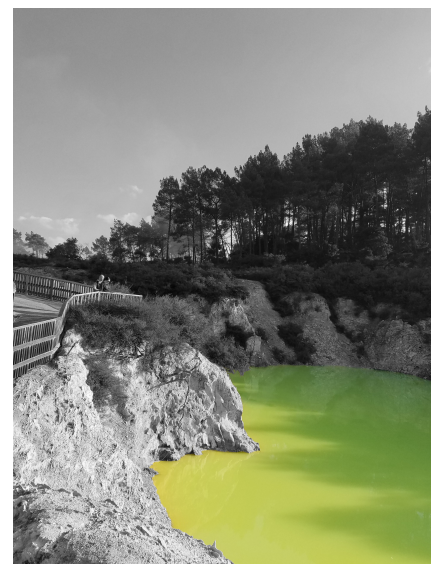
Employer: New Zealand Green Building Council

Location: Auckland, New Zealand

When: Summer 2019

Summary

Green Building Councils are companies around the world that set sustainable development benchmarks for their respective countries. At first, the company had me doing basic tasks: Cut and stack papers, check documents for grammar and formatting, etc. However, by seeking opportunities and proactively exploring the facets of the NZGBC, I discovered major issues with a set of their industry standards that they had missed. I asked to engage in an effort with my supervisor to fix them, and by the time I left I had re-developed and published the New Zealand Green Building Council Innovation Challenges.





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Madrid during the summer is full of festivals and celebrations that are weeks long. I was able to experience the festival of San Isidro where the local Madrid citizens would don their traditional outfits and celebrate their saint. I was also able to experience the city-wide UEFA Champions League celebration and Gay Pride Festival. All of these celebrations showed a different side of the culture of Madrid.

Relation to Your Major

Although my research was not focused on International Affairs in particular, I was able to connect my research to concepts in my major. I now know that I intend to further my research and to incorporate the concepts I studied into my future investigations. This internship has helped me narrow down my interests and discover a new passion for technology.



Emili Sabanovic

Major: International Affairs

Employer: Dr. Oscar Gallego

Location: Madrid, Spain

When: Summer 2019

Summary

I worked with the Georgia Tech Alumni, Dr. Oscar Gallego, as his research assistant. I conducted research on artificial intelligence, the internet of things, big data, data science, machine learning, and blockchain for his upcoming book, The Digital Hero.

