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I. Kick-off the 5th Transatlantic Program in Berlin

The TAP team is looking forward to kicking off the Transatlantic Program 2009 with the 10-day Immersion Seminar in Berlin on May 23rd. The Seminar will provide the participants with intensive language instruction and valuable cultural training to help them prepare for their respective internships at companies and organizations throughout Germany. In addition, the program will provide insight into a wide range of political, economic, and cultural topics including the 2009 Elections in Germany and the EU, the 20th anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall, and environmental sustainability. Some highlights in Berlin include visits to the German Reichstag (seat of the German Parliament), the Auswärtiges Amt (Federal Foreign Office), and BMWi (German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology). In addition, a daytrip is planned to Dresden, where the group will be visiting VW's "Transparent Factory" and the IHK Dresden (local Chamber of Commerce) among other things, as well as one to Hamburg, where we will visit the headquarters and manufacturing facility of Airbus and learn about an innovative concept promoting integration and vocational training at the Café Oktober.

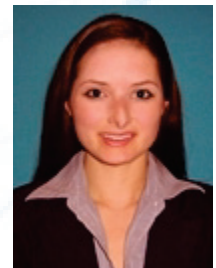
Insights of TAP Participants before their Trip to Germany

The TAP team is always interested in insights of our participants, especially when it comes to the upcoming trip to Germany. We prepare the Immersion Seminar to make it an excellent experience for the participants and prospective Ambassadors. However, before the plane leaves the U.S., we want to know what is going through the minds of our current participants. So we asked Kaitlin Moore and Richard Lonneman for their thoughts. Kaitlin studies Physics, German, Mathematics, and Sustainability Studies at the University of Michigan. She will soon start her internship at the Auswärtiges Amt (Federal Foreign Office) in Berlin. Richard is completing his major in Finance and Accounting at the University of Minnesota. He will work for Horváth & Partners GmbH, a consulting firm in Stuttgart.



TAP: What does it mean to you being part of the Transatlantic Program 2009?

Kaitlin Moore: *I am excited to be a part of a dialogue between Germany and America that is fostered through the Transatlantic Program. I think this year's group of participants is highly motivated toward that end, and I am proud to be a contributor.*



Richard Lonneman: *This program provides the means to return to a place where I feel at home. While the program creates a great community and eases the transition into German culture, I am wonderfully anxious for my internship in Stuttgart. I expect it to be demanding, due to the difficulty of the language and culture. But, like my study abroad experience, the larger the challenge, the greater the reward. I studied in Germany with no support of any American or German institution; it became the best experience of my life.*

TAP: What do you hope to bring back to the US from your internship experience in Germany?

Kaitlin Moore: *I am excited to bring back the professional experience and connections I will make working at the Auswärtiges Amt in Germany. I hope to gain a better understanding of my field - renewable energy - and the policies Germany has implemented therein.*

Richard Lonneman: *It is my goal to build my professional German network, while interning in Stuttgart. I want to return having developed strong relationships with program participants, who share my passion for Germany, and with German professionals, who may remain lifelong colleagues.*

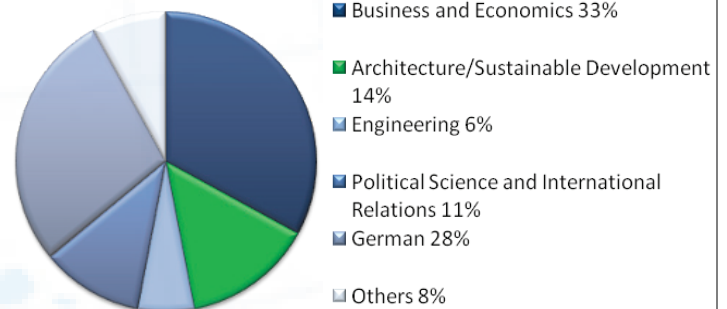
TAP: Thanks for the interview and enjoy your stay in Germany.

II. Work Hard and Smart – the Placement Companies

Every year the TAP team and our partner InWEnt put a lot of effort and thoughts into the placements of our students. This year we are really excited about the great companies that will host our participants. Again we have companies from different fields throughout Germany: Airbus, Auswärtiges Amt, Bertelsmann Foundation, Bremen United States Center, Commerzbank AG, Desertec Foundation, Deutsche Gesellschaft Club of Rome e.V., Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut, Erich Rohde GmbH, Glor Music - Stromenger Consulting Allinvest Services GmbH, Goldmedia GmbH, Horváth & Partners GmbH, Househam Architects GmbH, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V., Max-Planck-Institut für ausländisches Recht und Völkerrecht, NCB Informationstechnik, SAINT-GOBAIN Sekurit Deutschland GmbH & Co. KG, Schaller Architekten BDA RIBA, ssv Architekten BDA, U.S. Commercial Services, and Z_Punkt GmbH. To see who is placed in which company, please visit our website at www.transatlanticprogram.org

III. TAP 2009 Goes Green

Applications for this year's Transatlantic Program came from a number of universities throughout the United States. The accepted students are drawn from a variety of fields and concentrations. As in 2008, the majority of TAP 2009 students come from the fields of Business and Economics. For the first time this year we are pleased to welcome many students whose studies focus on issues of sustainability and who hope to pursue a career in related fields such as sustainable development.



IV. TAP Represented at MERLIN Awards Gala 2009



From left to right: Sabine Klensch, Lara Gallant, Mandy Herrmann

The Transatlantic Program and our sponsors Komet of America and WHU were well represented at the 2009 MERLIN Awards Gala in Downtown Chicago. The gala is a signature event of the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest, Inc. (GACCoM). Every year winners of the MERLIN Awards for excellence in German American business are announced. The winners include German American companies located in the Midwest, which demonstrated overall excellence, dedication to quality and the achievement of extraordinary results in 2008. Find more information about the winners and the event on GACCoM's website: www.gaccom.org.

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