

2007

For the third consecutive year a delegation of 25 students selected from universities and colleges across the United States traveled to Germany this summer to gain in-depth knowledge about German politics, economy, history, and culture and to complete subsequent two- to six-month internships with German companies.



The TAP 2007 group, TAP 2007 organizers, and representatives of Rostock Business and Technology Development GmbH in front of a wind turbine wing at the wind power plant developer Nordex AG in Rostock.

Transatlantic Program

For the third time the Transatlantic Program (TAP) organized by the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest offered a group of 25 select U.S. students the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to gain practical work experience in a total immersion environment in Germany.

Business, engineering, and international relations students from renowned schools, such as Washington University in St Louis, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, Duke University, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, and the College of William and Mary were carefully matched to internship positions of 2-6 months duration throughout Germany in their respective fields of study. The students are currently interning at well known companies and organizations, such as adidas AG, Kern & Stelly Medientechnik GmbH, iglo GmbH, Siemens AG Power Generation, Schwan-Stabilo Cosmetics GmbH & Co. KG, Commerzbank AG, Berlin Partner GmbH, The Federal Foreign Office, Ecologic GmbH, Continental Teves AG & Co. oHG, Ogilvy & Mather Werbeagentur GmbH among others.

Unique to the Transatlantic Program is the Pre-Internship Immersion Seminar in Berlin, a

ten-day program consisting of interactive German language-building activities, intercultural training, a "living and working in Germany" seminar, and, most of all, meetings and discussions with high-ranking representatives from German business and politics. Highlights of this year's Immersion Seminar included visits to the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, Daimler-Chrysler AG, the Federal Foreign Office, the Container Terminal and HafenCity in Hamburg, Nordex AG Wind and Power Plant and Biopetrol Rostock GmbH in Rostock.

During their internships in Germany, the TAP students get together for a midterm seminar in Cologne for a second intercultural training session focused on their internship-related and personal experiences and a midterm internship review. After completion of the program, participants become part of the Transatlantic Program Alumni Network which helps to strengthen the ties between former participants and to keep them involved with the German-American business community. The alumni also act as ambassadors for Germany in the United States and share their newly-gained knowledge and understanding of Germany with fellow Americans in order to help enhance transatlantic relations.

2007 TAP Participant

"During my internship as an engineering intern at **Schwan-Stabilo Cosmetics GmbH & Co. KG** in Heroldsberg, Germany, I have conducted research on pigment processing techniques. [...] I really enjoyed learning about particle dispersion techniques for large and small scale applications. Experimentation for up-scaling is very important economically to reduce unneeded large scale production as well as to reduce the number of trial runs on new equipment. Having only interned for major raw chemical producers, it was certainly a different and rewarding experience to be involved in product development and production."



Laura Harvey from Louisiana, TAP 2007 and current Alumni Co-President of TAP 2007 at Schwan-Stabilo Cosmetics GmbH & Co. KG in Heroldsberg where she is currently interning.

2007 TAP Participant

Alina Zakharchuk from North Dakota and participant of the Transatlantic Program 2007, is not yet a Transatlantic Program alumna, but already has some great news to share. She recently found out that she has been accepted to a PhD program in Political Science at the George Washington University. "I have included the Transatlantic Program in my resume and also mentioned my forthcoming summer experience as an intern for the Auswärtiges Amt (Federal Foreign Office) in the personal statement. I do believe that those references to the Transatlantic Program substantially improved my chances of being chosen to that prestigious university among over 350 other well-qualified applicants."



TAP 2007 participant Alina Zakharchuk in front of the Auswärtiges Amt (Federal Foreign Office) in Berlin where she is currently interning.

The alumni meet once a year in Chicago for a program reunion. Many of them stay closely in touch with their fellow alumni and the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest, who continues to work with them through Career Services and their ties to the German American business community. One example of a former participant who used this experience to springboard to a transatlantic career is Brian Conner, TAP 2005: "The Transatlantic Program helped open the doors to my future through my internship. I now work full-time for my former internship company and I couldn't be happier!"

The German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest works with a variety of partners and sponsors on the Transatlantic Program, primarily the University of Illinois at Chicago, who conducts the German language classes in Berlin in cooperation with two teaching assistants from the Humboldt University, Berlin, and InWEnt GmbH in Bonn, Germany, who is responsible for the internship placement process in Germany. Additionally, the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG), the Goethe Institute Chicago, and a large number of universities and colleges and lan-

guage associations throughout the U.S. are a tremendous support in promoting the program. The German government has been the main sponsor through the European Recovery Program (ERP) Special Funds since 2002, when the Transatlantic Program first started out as a week-long trip to Germany for Young Professionals. This support has continued as the program expanded, beginning in 2005, into its current form as an internship program for U.S. students. Furthermore, DaimlerChrysler Corporation has been generously sponsoring the program since 2003 and Berlin Partner GmbH joined as a sponsor in 2006. The program is now being gradually transferred to full private support. As such, TAP welcomes more corporate sponsors to complement the increased contributions to be made by the participants themselves. The 2008 program application process is currently underway. The deadline for students to apply to the 2008 program is October 23, 2007. ■

For more information on the program and sponsorship opportunities, contact Sabine Klensch at klensch@gacom.org or visit our website: www.transatlanticprogram.org

Discussion with representatives of DaimlerChrysler AG about their latest automotive projects as well as current developments in the field of biodiesel, one of Germany's most popular alternative fuels.

