

Global Ingenuity 21

By: Carolyn Pelnik (ChE '13)

In May 2010, the first ever Volkswagen-sponsored Global Ingenuity 21 (GI21) program was launched. Our group of 17 Rodman Scholars, in conjunction with six students from the Technische Universität Braunschweig, met in Braunschweig, Germany to engage in a cross-cultural engineering think tank. The think tank was focused on developing a solution to a question faced to us by



A pre-departure meeting at the Volkswagen headquarters in D.C.

Volkswagen's Electronics Research Laboratory: "How can information from the Internet be safely transmitted to a driver?"

After several brainstorming sessions and many attempts at breaking down such a broad question, we eventually arrived at the concept of an Environmentally-Conditioned Information Parsing System (ECIPS), which we presented to Volkswagen at the conclusion of the ten day think tank. Through ECIPS, we proposed that internet data could be fed to a driver in "sips" which would be filtered based on a set of personal preferences and on geo-spatial data provided by the car's physical surroundings at any given moment. Our environmentally-dependent system not only increased the safety of the driver, but also used the Internet to link the car to its

physical location in a novel way.

We spent a few days in Dresden during the think tank, and following the final presentation to Volkswagen, we traveled to Berlin for several additional days. Our experience tackling an engineering design problem in a cross-cultural setting re-defined engineering for us in ways that we could not have anticipated when entering the program. All of us became more comfortable with the chaos that can so easily ensue when a large group of people from different backgrounds, of varying skill sets, and of diverse mindsets tackle an extremely general problem. We flew home from Germany much closer with each other, with changed perspectives, and with countless indescribable memories!

Catching the Trade Winds: A Tale of Four Study Abroad Programs

By: Natasha Singh (SE '11)

Mark Twain once wrote, "Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away



Natasha during her semester in Hong Kong

from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

It is this passion for exploration that has motivated me to study abroad. Some might even say I have become addicted to it. I have integrated four education abroad programs into my undergraduate experience – the London School of Economics Summer School, a January term in Argentina, a semester at the University of Hong Kong, and most recently, the Rodman Global Ingenuity 21 Program.

I am particularly lucky to have been able to incorporate a full semester exchange into my undergraduate education. Living in a foreign city, especially one as metropolitan and diverse as Hong Kong, was an exhilarating, fulfilling experience. My notions of communication, education and

globalization were challenged. I was forced outside my comfort zone, and



An excursion to the Great Wall of China

in doing so, developed a better sense of self. There is no doubt that both my academic path and extracurricular involvement at the University has been shaped by education abroad.