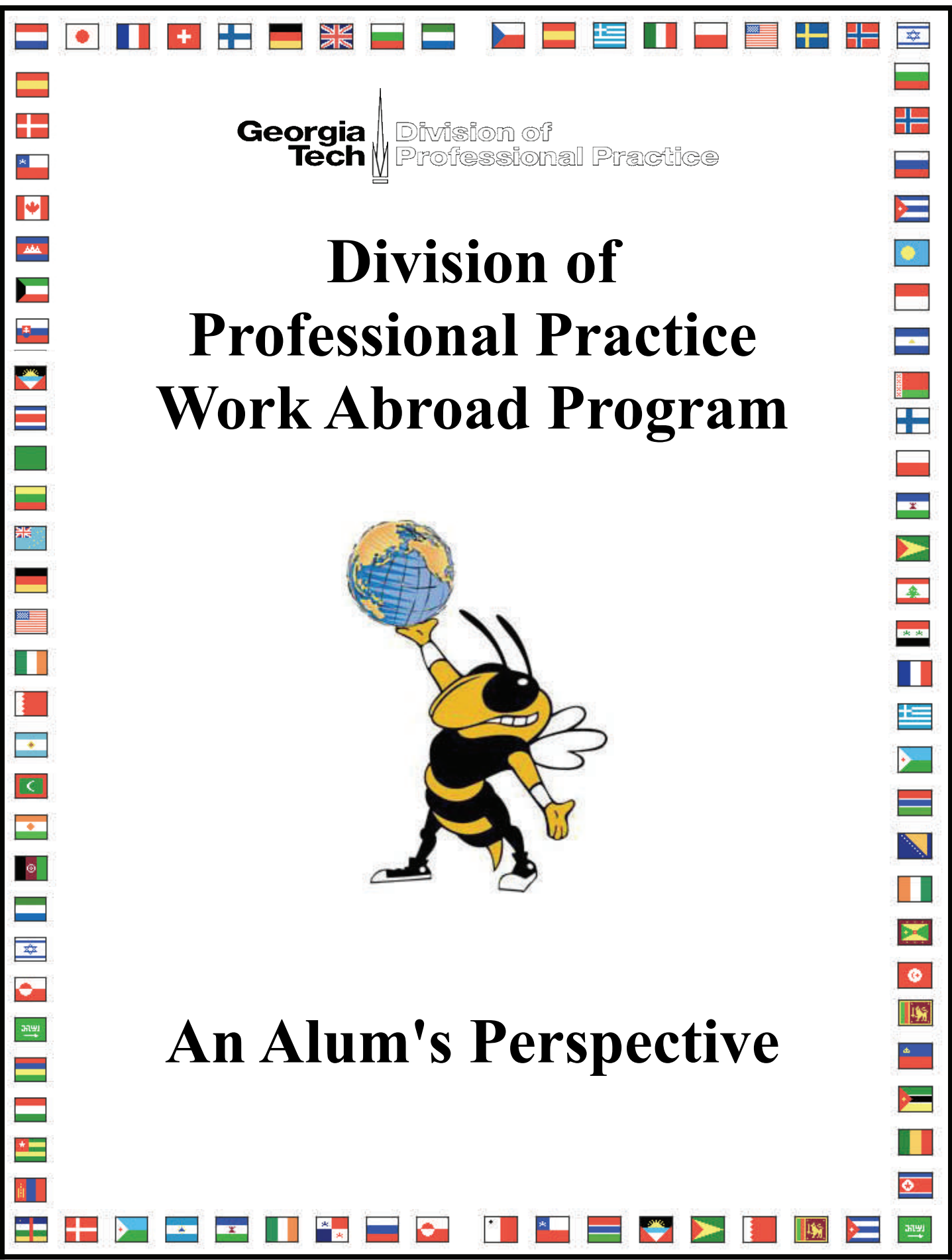


Georgia Tech  Division of Professional Practice

Division of Professional Practice Work Abroad Program



An Alum's Perspective





Name: Pieter Vismans
 Major: Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
 Work Abroad Employer – Siemens, AG (Munich, Germany)
 Current Employer: Celanese Corporation (Global Rotational Position)

The seven months that I spent working for Siemens, AG in Munich, Germany as a Georgia Tech Work Abroad student gave me the chance to witness a different business culture which then paved the way to an international career path. I am currently a Chemical Engineer in an R&D Rotational Program at Celanese Corporation, a global chemicals company. Throughout the next two years, Celanese Corporation will provide me the opportunity to rotate every six months through a variety of job responsibilities and locations, starting at the corporate headquarters in Dallas, TX. After these rotations, I will move to Frankfurt, Germany to work with a process development group and then to Nanjing, China for another six to twelve months before returning to the United States. This opportunity was offered to me because of my international background and work experience.

Laboratoire French Bio



Name: Michael “Travis” Mitchell
 Major: International Affairs; minor: French
 Work Abroad Employer: Laboratoire French Bio (Peage de Roussillon, France)
 Current Employer: Global Health Action (Decatur, Georgia)

Through Georgia Tech’s Work Abroad Program, I interned at an international company in rural France trying to export to the Anglophone world. That experience gave me the opportunity to perfect my French, which I now use on a regular basis at my job. Working overseas provided me with hands-on experiences in a business environment, and gave me the opportunity to apply my theory-based knowledge that I had accumulated in my classes to a real-world global setting. I felt as though I had an advantage going into my interview over the other candidates, not only because of my practical experience but also my willingness to try new ventures and openness to other cultures. Working abroad during my tenure at Georgia Tech was absolutely critical in securing my job in the international non-government organization for which I currently work. My employer was searching for someone who had dealt with people of various backgrounds and who could handle themselves in a multitude of settings while remaining calm, yet confident.

Ideal Standard Wabco Industria E

SIEMENS

Name: Drew Glaser
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Work Abroad Employer: Ideal Standard Wabco Industria E (Brazil)
Current Employer: Siemens, AG (Atlanta, Georgia)

Without a doubt, working abroad in Brazil was THE most valuable experience I had at Georgia Tech. After getting placed there in summer 2005, I decided one summer was not enough and made it my goal to find another internship for summer 2006. Professionally, I feel that I now have the confidence to adapt to and excel in any unfamiliar situation. I figure if I can do this in another country, then any challenge I face in my own country and language will be easy. Personally, my life completely changed after going to Brazil. Since my two internships, I have returned to Brazil four times to visit the great friends I made there. I also built on my knowledge of the Portuguese language that I started to develop in Brazil and am now fluent. I have even taught Portuguese at the Atlanta International Language Institute. Since college, I have been working for Siemens in the Engineering Leadership Development Program. Most of my work has been in Atlanta, but I've had the opportunity to travel all over the country as well. No international travel yet, but being a German company that does business all over the world, I'm sure that in my future, there may be international career opportunities available to me.

Leading.


THE LINDE GROUP

SIEMENS

Name: Phillip Carpenter
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Work Abroad Employer: Linde Engineering (Munich, Germany)
Current Employer: Siemens AG (Amberg, Germany)

Working overseas in Germany for Linde Engineering was one of the best career decisions I have made throughout my life. While abroad, I was able to observe and interact with many people who quickly and happily shared their culture, work, and language with me. My experience actually confirmed my decision to change my specialty in engineering which I fully appreciated once I returned to Georgia Tech. Working in Germany, I also had the opportunity to grow as an individual and learn how to deal with a variety of situations that I may not have had to work through if I had not left the country. I enjoyed my experience so much in Germany that I now work for Siemens AG in Amberg, Germany where I am being trained to become a product expert. After two years in Germany, I will then return to Georgia and continue to work for the company. I look forward to expanding on my international career in the future and feel that I will have the opportunity to do so as I have the language skills and the international experience, which makes me an ideal candidate for international opportunities.

