GEORGIA TECH – AREVA : UG PROGRAM
TESTIMONIALS

Ryan LOBER – BSNRE..........................P.2-3
Marc PARE – BSME.............................P. 4
**This program is comprised of two parts, a fall study abroad term at Georgia Tech Lorraine, and a Spring/Summer work abroad term with AREVA.**

**GT Lorraine is located in Metz, France close to the boarder. The school is still growing but provides more courses than you could want to take, and is one of the few study abroad locations geared towards mechanical engineering (this is not to say there aren’t plenty of other course opportunities as well). The town of Metz is conveniently located for trips into the east of Europe, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, etc, and is only an hour by train from Paris from where you can fly to virtually any place you desire.

The courses are designed so that you have Friday off each week and this leaves plenty of time to explore all that Europe has to offer. When your not out of town, Metz has a cool downtown region with good night life, restaurant, museums and so forth.**

**As for AREVA, around about the halfway mark of the semester, I met with some representatives to discuss my internship opportunities. I was given a list of all available internships and some time to pick out my main choices. They had opportunities all over France, but I was set on working in Paris so I picked my top five from the listings at La Defense, and a couple of weeks later we set up one last interview to finalize the details before I went home for Christmas break. At the interview, I decided with my advisor which internship matched me best and the rest is history.**
I have only been working at AREVA for about a month now, but I can already say that it has thus far been one of the best experiences of my life. The work environment is professional but relaxed, and all the people I know could not be nicer. I went into this venture, a bit apprehensive because my level in French, but everyone here is quick to help and many of my conversations are in a kind of fran-glaise.

My French is still far from great, but living and working in France has significantly improved my language abilities. In addition to gaining new language skills, I am learning a lot about engineering in the real world. The project I am working on requires me to use numerical methods such as, finite element analysis, in concordance with analytical methods, to determine the mechanical integrity of structures on the new EPR. Next week I am being sent to Lyon for 4 days of finite element training, and hopefully some sight-seeing.

Besides the work and study aspects of this program there is also a huge cultural aspect to it. I have become good friends with some of the other interns.

Being a Football fan I decided to join the company rugby team (the next best thing) and have fallen in love with the sport. I live in the Fondation des Etats-Unis in a place called Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris, which is basically just a giant housing area for students and young workers. Since I arrived there in January I have met tons of new people from all over, in addition to some architecture students from Tech, and because there are so many young people living together in a city like Paris, there has yet to be a dull moment. No matter what type of person you are or what piques your fancy, there is something for everyone in this city, and working here has made me feel like I am truly a part of it.

If you are reading this and considering applying, I urge you to do so, it has really been a lot of fun, and after having spent some time here, I think that the only thing better than living in Paris, is working in Paris, because you can afford to live in a city as cool as Paris.
I worked for the Instrumentation and Controls division of AREVA Nuclear Power. It is quite the opportunity to get to work in a French office in the heart of La Defense, Paris. My French is improving, and I get the chance to be involved in a company that is playing a big role in the energy industry.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of this internship is that I am working in a French office in conjunction with a German branch of the company on a contract for Chinese clients. During the course of a normal day I hear French, English, German, and Mandarin!

The academic environment at Georgia Tech Lorraine, as well as my studies at the Université de Technologie de Compiègne prepared me well for the internship.