

**CHALMERS**

# TraineeReport 2007

Chalmers Engineering Trainee Appointment Committee

42nd Annual Issue



# Where we have been

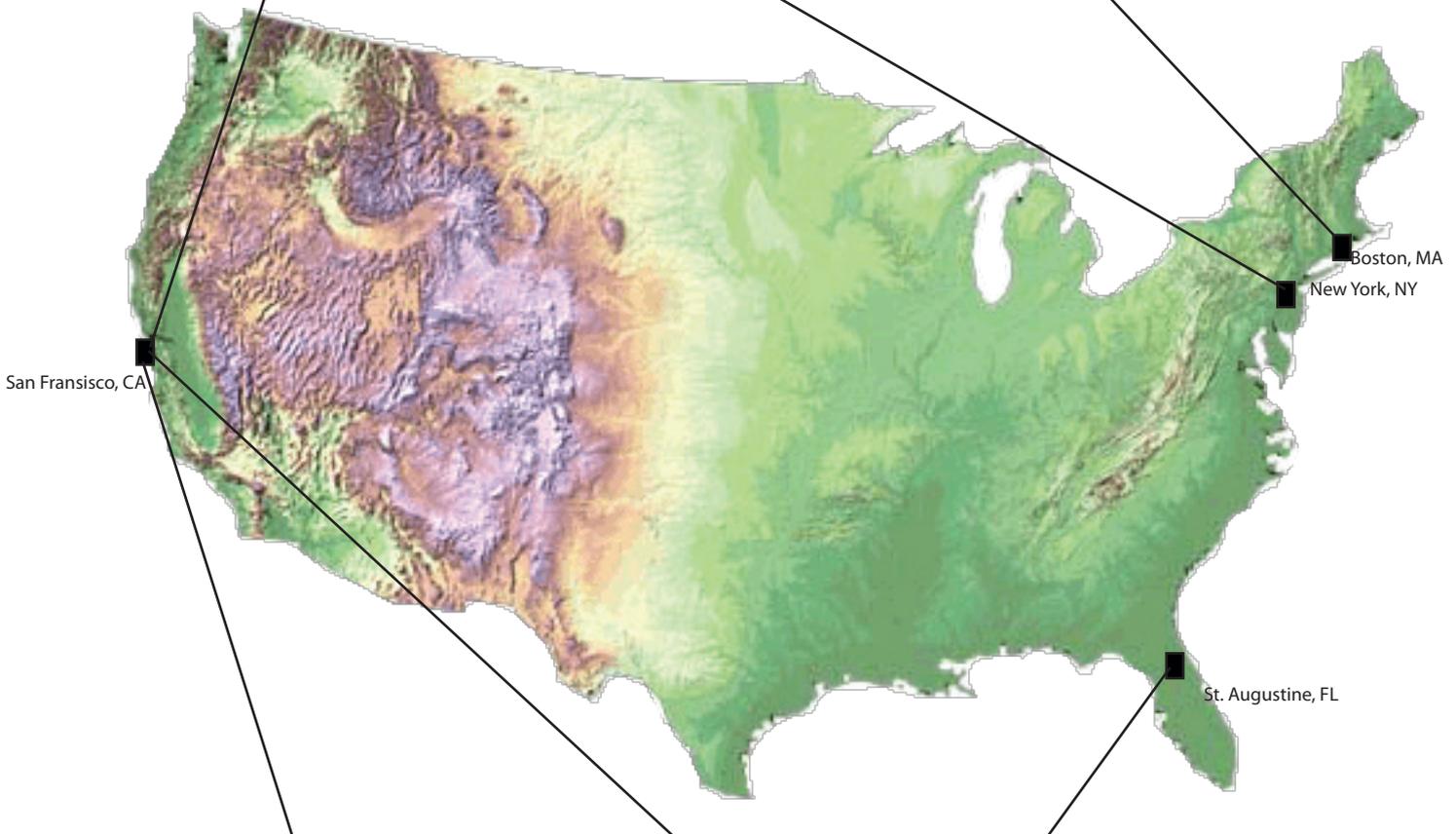
Christoffer Hedbrandh  
WMware Inc  
20-21



Joni Paananen  
Rodale Electronics Inc  
14-15



Marcus Elmer  
Sunnex Inc  
10-11



Andreas Hallingström  
Mercedes-Benz  
22-24



Marcus Bengtsson  
RO Associates  
16-17



Shadi Kajevand  
Amerden  
18-19

# CETAC

CETAC is a Student committee at Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg, Sweden. It was founded in 1966 and is devoted to make practical training in North America possible for its members.

Each year, members of CETAC, studying Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, Engineering Physics or Information Engineering go to North America to gain practical experience in their fields of study at companies and universities. The board and members of the committee all contribute in different ways to make it all possible by planning the trip, securing training positions, obtaining visas etc. In this we are helped by the American Scandinavian Foundation.

In the summer of 2007, after a year of hard work, the members of CETAC started their trainings at companies in different parts of the US. Some went to California, some to Florida and others to Boston but the whole trip started off in New York. This experience has been the adventure of a lifetime for all of us in CETAC.

You are now holding the official report from the members of CETAC 2007 in your hands. We all wish you a happy reading!

Shadi Kajevand  
Editor-in-chief



The board of CETAC 2007, from the left:

- Jens Hultberg, Chairman
- Shadi Kajevand, Editor
- Jonas Alm, Director of Advertising
- Raphy Thomas, Appointment Manager
- Markus Bengtsson, Appointment Manager (\*)
- Andreas Hallingström, Treasurer

(\*) Not in the picture



The members of CETAC 2007

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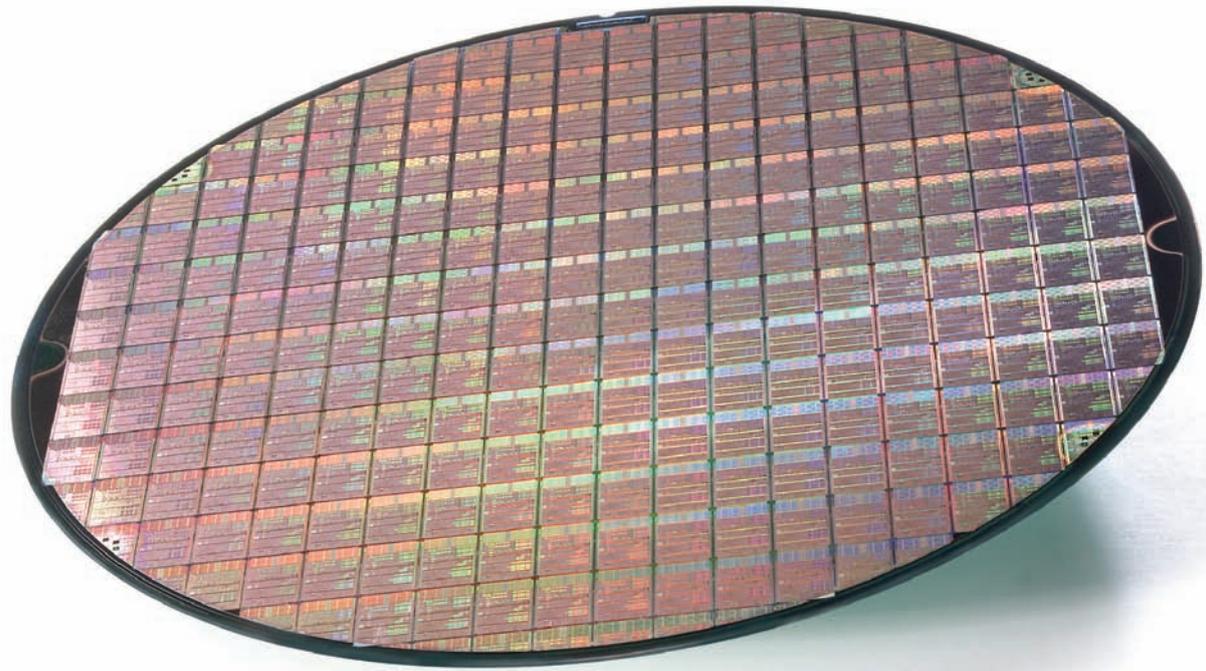
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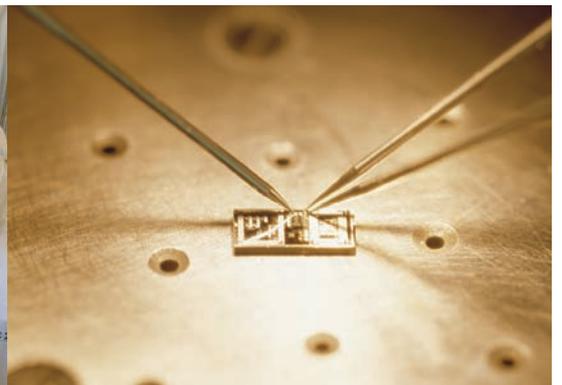
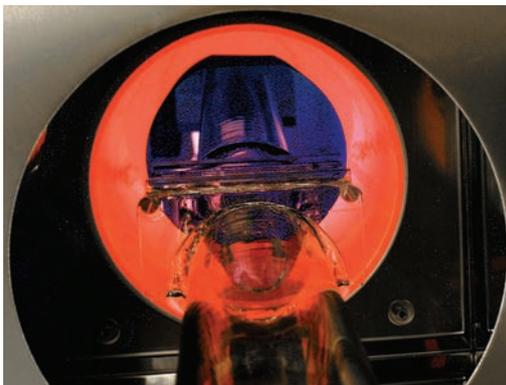
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# MC2



# Contents

- 1 Letter from the editor
- 5 About CETAC and how to apply
- 6 An Apple Like No Other
- 12 Testing life on Long Island  
Joni Paananen at Rodale Electronics Inc., New York
- 16 An Amazing Time in California  
Marcus Bengtsson at RO Associates, California
- 18 Summertime in Florida  
Shadi Kajevand at Amerden, Florida
- 20 A Summer in NorCal  
Christoffer Hedbrandh at VMware Inc., California
- 22 Driving the American dream  
Andreas Hallingström at Mercedes-Benz., California
- 25 Samples of a Summer in the USA
- 26 The Boston Trainee Party  
Marcus Elmer at Sunnex Inc, California
- 29 The American-Scandinavian Foundation
- 30 CETAC Alumni
- 31 Thank you  
To the people who helped make this happen
- 32 Index
- 33 The chairman is speaking



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# Vill du praktisera en sommar i USA?

Varje vår antas en ny styrelse och nya medlemmar till CETAC. Är Du intresserad av en erfarenhet och upplevelse för livet? Håll då utkik efter anslag om antagningen till CETAC 2009!

## CETAC

CETAC är en ideell kommitté vars syfte är att ordna kvalificerade praktikplatser i USA för studerande vid civilingenjörsprogrammen Datateknik (D), Elektroteknik (E), Teknisk Fysik (F) och Informationsteknik (IT) på Chalmers Tekniska Högskola. Kommittén har funnits sedan 1966, och sedan dess har hundratals chalmester fått möjligheten att åka iväg till nordamerika för att göra praktik. Medlemmarna i CETAC har alla studerat i minst tre år på Chalmers då de reser över till USA, vilket garanterar de amerikanska företagen en hög kunskapsnivå hos teknologerna. Själva kommittén består endast av teknologer, som både förmedlar praktikplatserna och ordnar med alla praktiska detaljer i samband med resan. För detta samarbetar vi med The American-Scandinavian Foundation. Vår verksamhet är helt beroende av ekonomiskt stöd från svenska företag.

## Praktik i USA eller Kanada

Våra amerikanska arbetsgivare är av skiftande storlek och natur. Medlemmar i CETAC har under åren arbetat hos företag som till exempel Siemens, NASA, Apple, Intel, Microsoft, Silicon Power Corp, Merlin Engineering Works och SUN Microsystems. Vi lägger stor vikt vid att praktikplatserna är kvalificerade ingenjörarbeten. I regel varar praktiken åtta till tolv veckor men en del stannar i upp till ett år. Är man i slutskedet av sin utbildning så kan man till och med

få möjlighet att göra sitt examensarbete i USA. Praktiken ger inte bara goda arbetslivserfarenheter, utan dessutom ett värdefullt kulturellt utbyte.

## Medlemskap

För att bli medlem i CETAC skall du studera på D, E, F eller IT, samt vara svensk medborgare eller ha permanent uppehållstillstånd i Norden. Vid ansökningsstillfället måste du även uppnått minst 50 poäng på din utbildning, och under det kommande året uppnå sådana studieresultat att du är studiemedlemsberättigad. CETAC är föreningen för dig som är motiverad och beredd att lägga ned tid och engagemang för att få ut något extra av din studietid.

## Att söka styrelsen

CETAC 2008 kommer under läsperiod tre att söka medlemmar till styrelsen för CETAC 2009. Den nya styrelsen antar sedan ungefär 25 nya medlemmar under period fyra. Styrelsen består av sex personer. Ordföranden organiserar arbetet, håller kontakten med the American-Scandinavian Foundation och hanterar visumansökningarna. Kassören lägger upp en budget, deklarerar och fakturerar företag vid annonsförsäljning. Efter vistelsen i USA skriver alla var sin reseberättelse. Dessa sammanställs sedan i vår tidning, Trainee Report, som du nu håller i din hand. Redaktören har till huvudsaklig uppgift att

utforma tidningen men framställer även broschyrer, affischer och andra trycksaker. I styrelsen ingår också en annonschef som administrerar bidragsinsamling och annonsförsäljning samt två jobbchefer som kontakter amerikanska företag och letar efter lämpliga arbetsgivare.

## Att vara medlem i CETAC

Medlemskapet i CETAC bygger på såväl personliga arbetsinsatser som arbete i grupp mot ett gemensamt mål. För att kunna finansiera resan till USA och andra omkostnader samlar man som medlem in bidrag och säljer ett antal annonsplatser i Trainee Report. Annonsförsäljningen inleds på hösten med en resa till Stockholm. Under denna resa besöks intressanta företag där medlemmarna får presentera både sig själva och CETAC. CETAC har ett brett kontaktnät med företag, vilket medlemmarna kan utgå ifrån under annonsförsäljningen. Under hösten anordnas även en säljkurs och en CV-kurs för CETAC:s medlemmar. Att vara medlem i CETAC är ett stort engagemang men det ger samtidigt en unik möjlighet till en givande avlönad praktik i USA eller Kanada och många nya vänner från både den egna och andra sektioner. Så ta chansen och sök du också!



Tag gärna kontakt med oss om du har några frågor!  
[www.cetac.se](http://www.cetac.se) - [info@cetac.se](mailto:info@cetac.se)

# An Apple Si

**One year of work. One year of preparations. One year of anticipation. The time had come to embark on what we had all been longing for. The time had come to set sail, literally speaking, for one of the largest urban areas in the world, the great metropolis of New York City, the Big Apple.**

As a greatly multi-faceted city, New York is not only notoriously well-known for being the dominant global financial center, housing the New York Stock Exchange and NASDAQ, but also for its cultural wealth. It is a city of many nationalities. People from around the world have brought their piece of the New York puzzle into place and helped created one of the most interesting, vibrant, and vivid cities on the planet.

Following in the footsteps of previous CETAC members, we were to spend roughly a week in New York; exploring the city, meeting with the American-Scandinavian Foundation, and to basically get off to a good start before continuing our separate journeys to our trainee positions for the summer, or for some, the remainder of the year.

Upon arriving at the JFK airport, one of the busiest airports in the world, me and my fellow travelers spent a few minutes eagerly eyeing the new environment we had stepped into. We soon found our way out of the airport and into the stream of yellow cabs and black, lavish limousines. Without further ado, we popped into one of the

cabs and got to our hotel, conveniently located on 42nd Street, close to Times Square.

When we later on that evening strolled down the streets of New York, my initial impression slightly differed from my expectations. The streets were crowded with latin-americans, wearing bling-bling and XXXXL outfits, having a bit of gang touch to some of them. But, where were all the caucasian-looking New Yorkers? We were later told that this particular day of the year sports a Puertorican festival in the city. An evening where all non-latin-americans keep away from the particular neighborhoods that we so enthusiastically had walked through on our first evening.

The following day commenced at an all-American diner; the Theatre Row Diner. We went with a somewhat traditional American breakfast: pancakes with syrup, butter, and sausages. From there we moved on to getting our first donut at the Dunkin' Donut shop. Having satisfied our stomachs, our minds were



# The No Other

By Andreas Hallingström

next. There were a lot to see and discover, but so little time. We decided to go with the flow and turn onto the most interesting-looking street we saw. This practically took us around the majority of the city, and on the way we got to see sightings such as the Chrysler building, Empire State building, and United Nations headquarters. Fortunately, the UN headquarters were open on the particular day we walked by it, giving us the chance to see the center from the inside.

Another big tourist attraction in the business district is the remains of the towers of World Trade Center, now termed Ground Zero. Judging from the size of the construction area, it is somewhat incomprehensible how humongous the towers must have been.

In addition to CETAC, our sister organization USA STP was also present in New York during our stay. And together, we met up at the Scandinavia House on Park Avenue one day to meet with the amazing Tatiana and Jean of the American-Scandinavian Foundation. Apart from a small seminar and lots of miscellaneous tips, guidance, and a great lunch with Tatiana and Jean, we were also generously given tickets

for the Circle Line boat tour around Manhattan.

The tour was quite giving and with the very charismatic tour guide, the time passed quickly as the boat rounded the island of Manhattan. The island that Peter Minuit purchased for an insignificant amount of money from the Native Americans in 1625. On the tour we also got a close-up view of the Statue of Liberty on Liberty Island. The statue was often the first glimpse of America seen by the numerous immigrants arriving in the United States from Europe. The statue itself originates from France, however, and was presented as a gesture of friendship from France to the United States.

With New York really being the nerve center of the American nation, as a leader in manufacturing, foreign trade, commerce and banking, and a lot more, it comes as no surprise that the city provides enough interest to get anyone to like it for one reason or another. And having had a taste of what a true apple tastes like, most people tend to take another bite. And so will I, and most likely my fellow travelers in CETAC. ■



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**Coordinator:** [mikael.fogelstrom@mc2.chalmers.se](mailto:mikael.fogelstrom@mc2.chalmers.se)

## Microwave and Photonics Engineering

Microwave and photonic technology form the backbone of all modern high capacity communication and information systems. The growth rate of communication needs has been extraordinary during the last decade, and there is still an urgent need for improved communications in large parts of the world. The future development of electronic based communication systems will have a profound impact on social and economic progress for many years to come. The programme offers a thorough knowledge of photonic and microwave based systems and components.

**Coordinator:** [piotr.starski@mc2.chalmers.se](mailto:piotr.starski@mc2.chalmers.se)

## Microtechnology

The area of Microtechnology represents one of the future industrial growth fields in Europe. In this programme students acquire a knowledge base demonstrated by the possibilities to design and package micro-devices and systems in the MC2 cleanroom facility. This knowledge is crucial for bridging between research results and the design of new products. The students will upon completing the programme understand fundamental challenges and issues in physics, electrical engineering, mechanics and materials science related to this subject. The programme is manifested by a large degree of hands on laboratory work and "design and build" exercises in many courses throughout the programme.

**Coordinator:** [johan.liu@mc2.chalmers.se](mailto:johan.liu@mc2.chalmers.se)

## Further information

**Master's Programmes at Chalmers:**

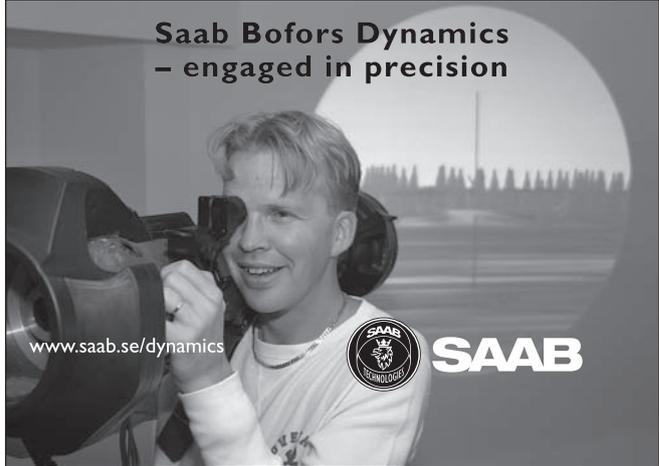
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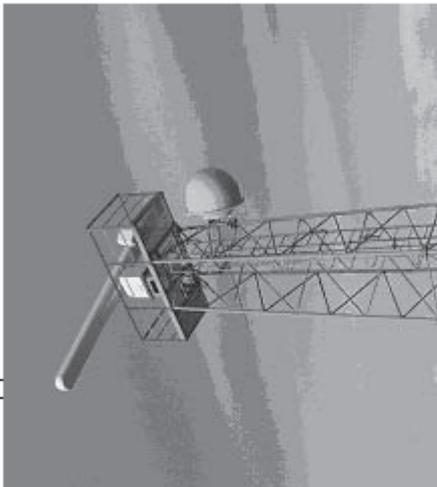
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RELAXING AT LONG ISLAND

## Testing life on Long Island

After spending about sixteen hours on planes and airports I came out of JFK Airport on the Fourth of July. About a month later than most CETAC members, but it did seem appropriate to arrive on Independence Day. After an hour on the train I had traveled east on Long Island to Smithtown, where I was going to live the next four months.

Smithtown is located on Long Island, about 70 km to the east of New York City. When I arrived I was a little nervous, because I had been unable to call my landlady, Sheryl, to confirm my arrival. Luckily she was waiting for me on the train station and greeted my heartily. I wasn't much of company, because the trip had really drained me of energy, but we did go

to the supermarket so that I could stock up on some essentials.

We arrived at Sheryl's house, where I was going to live in a rebuilt garage. I had agreed to rent it sight unseen, but I was pleasantly surprised. It was a cozy apartment with lots of ceiling space, and Sheryl had even supplied me with a bed, other furniture and kitchenware.

I had a bite to eat and crashed into bed. I was jet lagged and had a long day ahead of me, as I was going to work the day after.

In the morning I felt strangely alert, considering I only had slept one night after the transatlantic flight. Probably due to sleeping like a log for nearly twelve hours, and being somewhat nervous for my first experience in the world of engineering outside

of my education. At 8:30 am my boss, Vince Maida, drives up on the driveway to pick me up for my first day. He is practically a neighbor to where I lived, so he was kind enough to drive me to work for the first week.

I got introduced to everyone in the office, and got started with my work. It turned out that my tasks would be fairly varied. Rodale Electronics manufactures electronic equipment mainly for

military use. My main assignment was to work with the testing of this equipment, which included differing tasks.

My first assignment was to implement software, which would interface to existing test software, easy-wire. Easy-wire did the actual testing of the hardware and my software would take the test data and create a test report that could be printed as a

### JONI PAANANEN

**Age:**

25

**Majoring in:**

Computer science and Engineering

**Best US experience:**

Dropping my yaw when walking around in New York

**"I was jet lagged and had a long day ahead of me"**

proof for that test having been performed for that specific unit. This was going to be the project that would take up the majority of my time at Rodale. It was a boost for my self-esteem using my theoretical knowledge, and getting a usable piece of software that users were happy with.

My other main project was to write an assembler program to test an LED-display. I was a little hesitant before starting, because I hadn't written assembler since my first years of my education, which was some years ago and that experience was limited. I however soon realized that my knowledge wasn't deeply buried, and it was easy to learn the new information that was related to the specific processor I was going to use. I really noticed how my education had prepared me to quickly adjust to new situations that I have had limited experience with.

Other than these two projects I would help with actual testing of units, set up test stations and be an overall computer nerd that helped where needed. I really liked the diversity of my job. I never really got tired of any one assignment, and I got experience in both high level software development and low level hardware, reading circuit board diagrams etc.

As it turned out, a friend from home, Elsa, was doing her internship not too far from where I lived. She was going to have a late midsommar-party. Midsommar (midsummer) is a holiday celebrated in Sweden, and we were going to be about 20 Swedish interns meeting up for this party. It was really fun to meet all the people, and the neighbours probably thought we were crazy, singing songs and dancing silly dances.

A couple of weeks later I got an invitation from Elsa to go white water rafting with her company. I could of course not say no to that, so I got on the train and headed for Nyack, where she lived, again. From Nyack there would be about two hours of driving, but since Elsa worked for Volvo we were driving brand new cars, which made it a fairly pleasant ride, listening to music and talking about this and that.

Arriving at our goal we had to sign a waiver, and got into an old school bus to be dropped of upriver. A couple of us had never been white river rafting, so we were a little nervous of what it would be like. Were we going to risk life and limb going down the river? When we got into the water we could see that our fears were exaggerated. The river was mostly a gentle stream, with the occasional faster spot here and there. It wasn't exactly an adrenalin booster, but the great weather and friendly people made for a great day. We got into our childish mode and spent



**ME AND SHADI**

the time bathing, splashing each other and generally messing around. Our behaviour better matched people ten or more years younger, but it was great fun.

After not seeing her for two months, my girlfriend Shadi came to visit me after finishing her internship in Florida. I had really missed her, so I was definitely happy to see her. When she came I took some time off and we

went sightseeing in New York City. Manhattan is really an incredible place, where it feels you have to keep your jaw hitting the ground from time to time. The massive buildings and impressing architecture meant that you could spend hours just walking around. Another absolute favourite was the Metropolitan Museum of Art. We spent hours there, but still it sometimes felt as you rushed through it, and

you wished you could spend some more time to admire the artwork from all over the world. A really gripping part of our New York tour was looking at Ground Zero. One can't really comprehend the scale of the disaster and destruction. When everything was a little too overwhelming, I really liked going into Central Park. A park of that scale in the middle of Manhattan is a beautiful thing, and even although there was something happening all the time, it was very much a relaxing place.

I would really like to thank all the kind people at Rodale Electronics for making this trip possible for me, and helping me during my stay. ■

**"It was a boost for my self-esteem..."**

## RODALE ELECTRONICS

**Employees:**

~20

**Hosting Trainees:**

2003, 2004, 2006 and 2007

**Business Area:**

Development and manufacturing of Electronic Warfare Systems

**Web site:**

[www.rodaleelectronics.com](http://www.rodaleelectronics.com)



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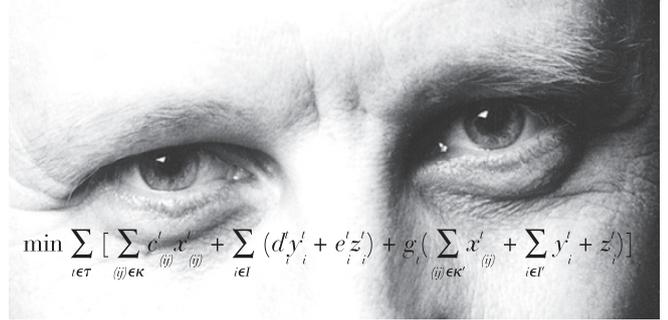
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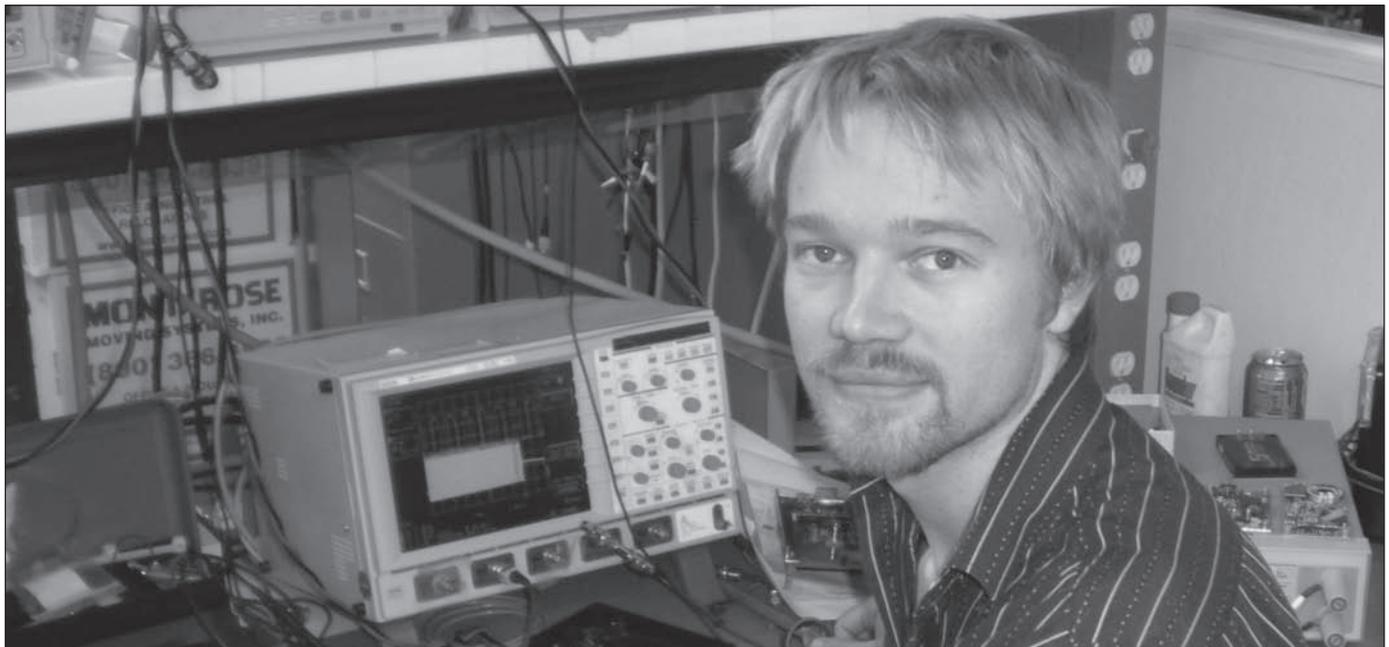
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ME AT MY WORKBENCH

## An Amazing Time in California

After the first week of adventures in the Big Apple, the time had come to continue the trip to the west coast and San Jose. Tired after the flight, I finally stepped out of the airplane in San Francisco. Meeting me at the airport was my supervisor, the CEO of RO Jack McDonal, and an engineering colleague, Mark Passeu, who would take me to my apartment. When I arrived at the renters' office they kindly but strictly told me that they do not take any credit cards and that they needed a check or cash for me to pay the first rent and the deposit. After trying to get a check from a several banks in the neighborhood, but without any result we started to visit ATMs to get cash. Just the fact that I should take out a lot of money made me very stressed, and in the middle of all action I forgot my credit card at the machine. We had to go back and look for it. Luckily, there was a guard outside the bank

### MARCUS BENGTSSON

**Age:**  
24

**Majoring in:**  
Electric Power Engineering

**Best US experience:**  
The view from glacier point in Yosemite.

that had heard people talking about what they should do with the card and he made them turn it in to the manager of the bank. With a lot of cash and my credit card in my wallet, we headed back to the renters' office to get the apartment keys. When we arrived, lightning struck from the bare sky. It hit me hard. The apartment I thought I had rented from Sweden was furnished. This was not the case. It was unfurnished. This was one of the few times I wanted to lay down and die. Fortunately, Mark was kind enough to let me stay at his house over the weekend until I could find somewhere else to live.

Everything happens for a reason. This little accident actually made me have a better American experience. I finally ended up housing with a woman named Nancy Lane, and her three cats Felix, Ellis and Lysee. She has been taking me to different places and introducing me to very nice people. Most of them are salsa dancers, so that has been a big thing that I have learned. What drew me in were the complex rhythms in the music and all the friendly people.

The company that I decided to spend time with this summer and fall was RO Associates, an old company founded in 1963. The

main focus of the company is within power electronics – i.e. power factor correctors, power supplies and most importantly, converters. The thing that makes RO's products special is that they are convection cooled. There is no need for a fan, because of the heat created by losses in the circuit is transferred away through the metal circuit board and to where the unit is mounted. That makes their products good in places where there is not enough room for a fan and floating air. Examples of such areas are vehicles, industrial, military and network applications.

When I arrived at RO, the exact plans for my 6-month stay were not yet determined. I was able to choose a project that I thought would be fun and go from there. After first

**"This little accident actually made me have a better American experience"**

getting to know the company a little better by sitting beside Mark and watching him work, I got my own project. It was to do a new and improved design of the uV48-12, a DC/DC converter with 48V input and 12V output and a power dissipation of 275W. The goal of the new version was to have more power, higher efficiency and be cheaper to produce. Work-wise it made me look at a lot of datasheets to see which component would fit the best in my design, then look at the price and see if it was affordable.

A tricky thing that I had not experienced before is that all component manufacturers have their own standard and test conditions, which makes the comparison of two similar components impossible so. It's best to take both components and put them into your circuit and see which is better. Since it was a complete design I was going to do and not just the power circuit, it took quite a lot of time. For example, I optimized safety systems like over voltage, over current and temperature protection systems. When the first prototype of the new unit uV48-12-164 was built, we realized that a new metal pcb would be needed. That became my next project: to draw the metal board design with all copper layers and part placements. This was something I had never done before, but I found it to be a great challenge. It was just the thing I needed and I learned a tremendous amount from it. After the board design was finished and after waiting for the ordering and shipment of the prototypes to verify my design in production, I got my third and last project. This project was bigger than the other two, and consisted of making the engineering plan of the design of all new -164 models. In total, about 10 new models needed to be redesigned to new higher power and efficiency standards. Basically, it was the 24 and 48 volt models that needed to be done, but also a few 300 V input models. The planning itself was hard because it is very dependent on costumers and the models they want to have sampled. These are things that I am not used to taking into account. The amount of work and how much the product brings to the company is important. Once the planning was done, the work began. The design of new inductors and transformers were needed in a few new designs.

On the fourth of July the Americans celebrate Independence day, and everybody that is in U.S. participate in the celebrations. The day for me consisted of a lot of relaxation, but when the sky started to become dark, the fireworks started. I celebrated at one of Nancy's salsa friend's house up on a hill with a lot of good food and wine.

In the middle of July, my girlfriend came to visit me. First we took a day to explore San Francisco sites such as Fisherman's Wharf and Coit Tower. Then we said farewell to the city life and headed to our first stop which was the Sequoia National Park, with its large Redwood trees and nice nature. One of the things we saw in Sequoia was the Grand Sherman, the largest tree in the world, volume wise. After the big trees, the trip continued to the coast and Highway 1 with more scenic viewpoints. The coastline there is magnificent. It feels like you are in a movie driving beside the Pacific Ocean just waiting for a car chase. After a cold bath in the Pacific, the

**"It was just the thing I needed "**



**ME AT A BEACH ALONG HIGHWAY 1**

trip continued on to another large National Park, Yosemite. It's a magnificent park and the view from glacier point is one of the best I have ever seen. As always, when you are away from work, time goes by fast and reality eventually catches up to you. The vacation was over all too soon and it was time to head back home.

Something fascinating about California is that everything seems to be just a few hours away. If you

want to sunbathe, you have the coast. There is also skiing five hours away up in Lake Tahoe during the wintertime. I think that is one of the reasons that so many people want to live here, and that makes it expensive. Finally I want to thank everybody that has made the experience that I wanted and found. I thank Jack, John and Mark at RO for an unforgettable experience and for their invaluable time supporting my career. And Nancy for trusting me so much that she left me alone in her house for 10 days only two weeks after we met. THANK YOU ALL! ■

## RO ASSOCIATES

**Employees:**

~15

**Hosting Trainees:**

2000, 2001, 2004 - 2007

**Business Area:**

Power Electronics

**Web site:**

[www.roassoc.com](http://www.roassoc.com)





## Summertime in Florida

I arrived in Florida a sunny morning; the weather was so hot that I had to sit down a couple of minutes to catch my breath outside the airport.

I was picked up at the airport by my roommate who drove me to the place where I was going to work the next two months. I was introduced to the staff and started working..

After work we arrived at the village where the apartment was. When I had left my bags in my room I went out to explore the village. It was really beauti-

### SHADI KAJEVAND

**Age:**  
24

**Majoring in:**  
Computer Science and Engineering  
**Best US experience:**  
24 hour bus ride from Florida to New York.

ful, just like a vacation resort with a pool, gym, lots of flower decorations and a big lake outside my window with big turtles in it. Wherever I walked I could see small lizards heating themselves in the sun. In Florida you can't manage to go anywhere without a car, and I had a car but not a drivers license. All my life I had gone everywhere by bus but now I had to drive to work every day.

The first week my mother who lives in Dallas visited me in Florida. She also helped me prepare for the license test. The test was easy and I passed the first time I did it.

After a week in I got invited to my boss Roland and his wife Pat's home to celebrate the Swedish mid-summer. Almost all the Amerden staff was there and it was a nice evening with a lot of laughter.

My project was to develop a web application for Amerden. With this web application the customers

would be able to buy products from Amerden online. The other main function was to serve as a new main website for the company.

I had experience in developing large web applications so it was easy to get started. The difficult part was to make the system work with the already exist-

**"and I was on my way to New York"**

ing database in the company. I also asked how the staff wanted the website to look and which functionalities were necessary.

The final result was a website where the Amerden costumers could buy products, get information and ask questions to the staff.

After two months had passed I went to New York to visit my boyfriend Joni who also was a member of CETAC. The last day Roland gathered all the staff in the lunchroom and we all said goodbye. I even got goodbye presents from everyone. Dick that worked at Amerden drove me to the bus and I was on my

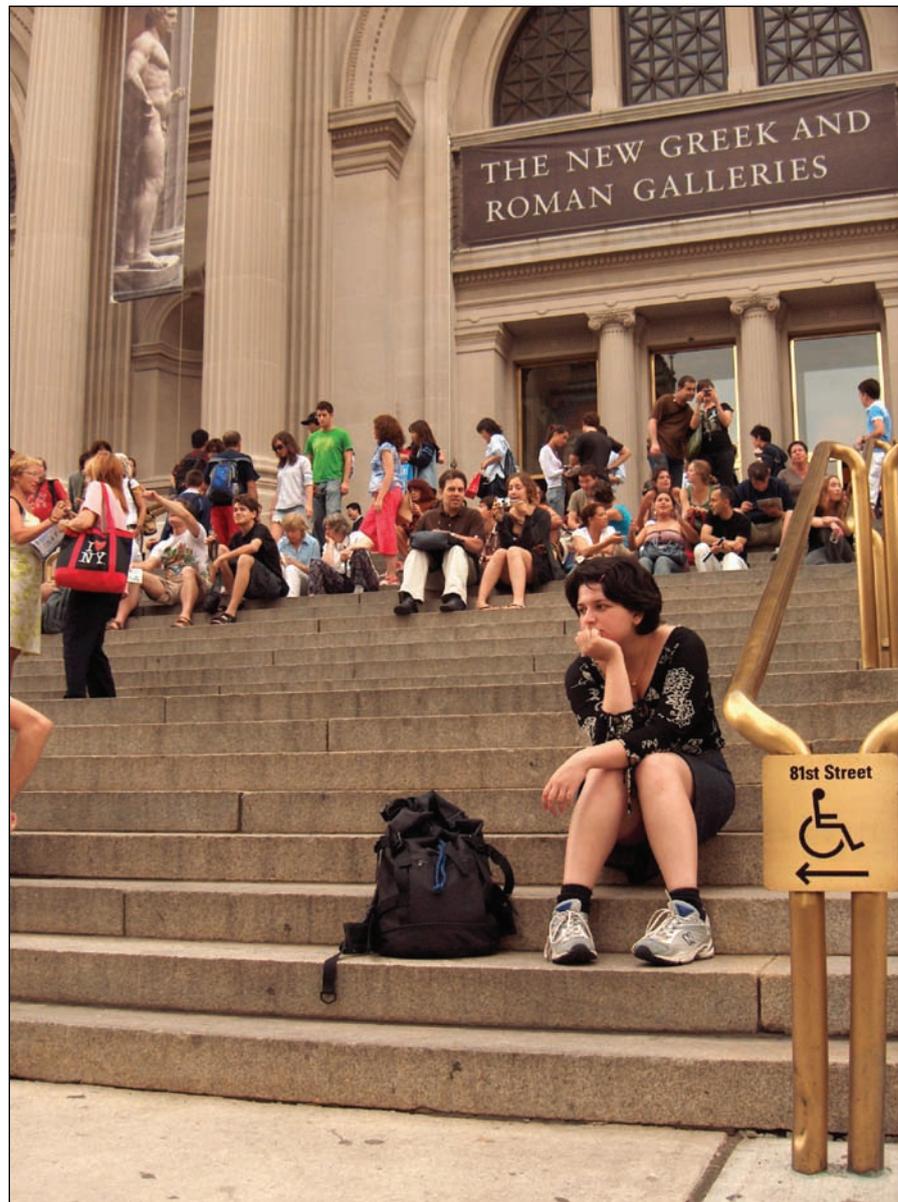
way to New York.

I had decided to go to New York by bus; it was a 24 hour ride. The reason was that I wanted to see more of USA and be environment friendly at the same time.

There were a lot of different persons that took the bus; the bus station in Jacksonville, Florida was small and not that fancy. As I went further and further up the country the bus stations were bigger and nicer. When I arrived to the end station in New York it was almost as big as an airport.

I talked to all kinds of people on the bus and got a lot of friends. First I talked to a couple from Jamaica who had come to USA for vacation. I also got to know a physician from Bosnia, a man who was retired from the US military and liked my name so much that he was going to suggest it as a name for his granddaughter. I also met an American woman who accused me of taking her wallet and called me "bitch". She got really nice though when I found the wallet on the floor.

A week after I arrived to New York me and Joni went to Manhattan to see many of the amazing sights there. The first day we went to Governors Island, a small Island where members of the American coast guard had lived and worked. From there we could see the whole of Manhattan, and it was amazing. The buildings were huge and it looked like the whole island could sink into the ocean any minute. Later that evening we went to the restaurant where "When Harry Met Sally" was shot, and enjoyed some great sandwiches.



WAITING FOR JONI

We went to the Metropolitan museum which was amazing; it was so interesting to see all the different pieces of art from so many different ages and cultures. Just walking in the streets of Manhattan was also nice.

There were so much to see and you could never get enough of watching all the impressive buildings. Central Park was so beautiful; Me and Joni recognized a lot of places that we had seen in different US movies that we had seen in Sweden.

The atmosphere was warm and friendly, nobody cared about what anybody else looked like. Noone judged you and everywhere you went somebody cracked a joke. New York was my absolute favorite place that I visited in the US.

After two weeks in New York I went to visit my mother and uncle in Dallas.

**"The atmosphere was warm and friendly"**

Dallas was all that I expected it to be, large landscapes with cows grazing in fields that stretched out as far as you could see. We also went to Dallas downtown to visit the place where John F. Kennedy had been shot. I also visited many of the large

malls that Dallas is known for.

I had a really good time on USA this summer and I want to thank my boss Roland and everyone at Amerden for making that possible. ■

## AMERDEN

**Employees:**

7

**Hosting Trainees:**

2005, 2006 and 2007

**Business Area:**

Automatic guided vehicles.

**Web site:**

[www.amerden.com](http://www.amerden.com)



## A Summer in NorCal

After nine hours of staring at a wall, the airplane finally landed in New York. Despite the late hour and jet lag, the city had to be explored. There appeared to be some Puerto Rican festivities as the streets were packed with partying people carrying Puerto Rican flags. I learned later that Ricky Martin and Jennifer Lopez had paraded down 5th avenue that same evening only a few blocks away. NY truly is a crazy city where everything moving at a high pace. Someone told me that this is why Central Park is of such great importance for New Yorkers. It's a surreal feeling to enter this oasis in the middle of the concrete jungle and to see the skyscrapers surrounding you. The 2.5 miles of park had to be conquered as a compensation for all the hamburgers, pizzas, doughnuts, pancakes and ice cream that had been consumed.

The moment I stepped out of the airplane at San Francisco International Airport I could feel a difference from the hectic lifestyle in New York. In the customs in NY we had been greeted by a guard who explained to us that we were now in America and that we

should move our lazy backsides and give him the custom declaration. So when arriving at the west coast I didn't know what to expect. The difference was clear. People weren't as stressed; they were more relaxed and took their time. I suddenly felt much more at home.

VMware had provided me with a very good housing guide to help newly arrived find a suitable place to live. It was explained that Palo Alto is a little pricy, but I still wanted to find a hotel near work in which to stay the first week. My timing was unfortunately not very good as this was also graduation week at Stanford University which is very nearby, and the only hotel I could find charged \$107 a night! But luckily, VMware is not only a successful company but also a very generous one, so I knew that my account balance would recover. Another intern I met who was just leaving as I arrived had been there for one and a half year, told me he had had an average monthly raise of \$200!

After a few days of mostly relaxing in the pool, it was time to go to work. I put on my suit and tie and left home early in the morning for my first day of work. My enthusiasm brought me there before even the receptionist arrived, but after a little wait I was in the orientation room among the 50 new hires VMware has every week! After an introduction and having had astounding numbers explaining VMware's growth, I was lead to my office and shown around the building. I can't remember the number of people that literally stopped and starred at me and my suit but there were many. A manager stopped, laughed and asked me if it was my first day. I nodded and he told me that "here even the managers wear shorts".

It's an understatement to say that I got the attitude wrong by coming in early and wearing a suit. At VMware everyone wears shorts or jeans and sneakers and most don't come in before nine.

There are quite a few Swedes at VMware. Someone told me we have the Swedish manager of QA to thank for that. When I arrived there were five other Swedish interns there, all current or former students at Chalmers. Most agree that the work they initially get is not very challenging. However, if you give a good impression by working hard and showing your ambition, it is possible to advance. One of the interns I talked to was in QA for only a month and was then moved to R&D. Here I would like to offer

**Age:**

24

**Majoring in:**

Computer science and Engineering

**Best US experience:**

Riding the mechanical bull at The

a few words of comfort to the students who question if they are skilled enough to come and work in Silicon Valley. As one of the few computer science students that don't do much computing in the free time, I did what my instincts told me not to do. Now I'm here, and I manage.

In the summer of 2007, VMware had almost 200 interns. Approximately once every other week there was some kind of intern event. Some events were more fun than others. For example we went to see a ball game, the Tech Museum and participated in a very elaborate puzzle hunt. Another interesting thing about VMware is that they have various "Tech Talks". These are lectures on subjects relating more or less to VMware products.

I have the manager of fellow CETAC member Andreas to thank for introducing us to the Young Scandinavian Club. This is a club for people with some kind of relation to Scandinavia and their guests. They arrange many events most of which take place at their cabin at Clear Lake in the summertime. This is something I very much recommend, should you come here. I had only been here a week when it was midsummer and I found myself partying with 200 fellow Scandinavians. This was a great way to get to know people and to get help settling in.

One thing I didn't expect to be surprised by was the huge number of cars in this country. I always knew there were many cars here; still I was surprised of a few things. I was walking down the street in Palo Alto and I felt like I was the only person there. Soon I realized that I was not alone and that there were other people there, only they were sitting in their cars. I walked by a small lonely store by the street

and expected it to be empty because I couldn't see any people around, but it was full. The first and obvious thought was that the people here must be extremely lazy but it didn't take many days for me to understand that you really need a car to get any-

where. I got the idea to walk to IKEA one day. I had looked it up and it didn't seem too far. I walked there, checked it out and then I thought I'd take the bus back. I asked a woman that worked there from where the bus left and she gave me a strange look in return and went to ask her colleagues. No one had any clue. I went looking for it some more, and after having asked many more people and received equally many strange looks I gave up and started walking. Soon after that I bought a car and got my very own California drivers license (which involves answering a few multiple choice questions and driving around the block).

Currently, I'm working at VMware until December, but I'm hoping I can have my stay extended, as I like

**"I asked a woman that worked there from where the bus left and she gave me a strange look in return"**



WAKEBOARDING AT CLEAR LAKE

it very much here. If I stay, I will move from Mountain View to San Francisco, which is about an hour away. In the city, there are so many more things to do. San Francisco is definitely the city with the most character I have ever been to. When you walk up the hills, you wonder why anyone would ever build a city

here. There are so many land marks and tourist attractions. The weather is not always great, but even the weather is different in different parts of the city. There are always crazy events going on here. I went to Power to the Peaceful not long ago and thought that was one of the strangest things I'd ever seen. I now know better as I just came home from the Folsom Street Fair. I'm not sure if this is a good or bad part of the San Francisco culture, but now I really think that nothing is ever going to shock me again. All in all, the visit to the US so far is a memory for life, and there is more to be expected. ■

## VMWARE INC

**Employees:**

3000+

**Hosting Trainees:**

2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007

**Business Area:**

Virtual infrastructure software.

**Web site:**

[www.vmware.com](http://www.vmware.com)





AT WORK.

## Driving the American dream

Backed by a great deal of eagerness and enthusiasm I left Landvetter airport and Sweden behind me as the airplane slowly climbed the sky. Not until this very moment had I really grasped that what lay ahead of me was a half a year long journey that would forever change my life - I was on my way to the sunny west coast of California. The Mecca for tech-savvy engineers and worshippers of the sun!

After an intermediate landing in Amsterdam, the airplane finally touched down on American soil. This was it. After months of preparation and paper shifting, back and forth between me, my employer, the U.S. embassy, and the American-Scandinavian Foundation in New York, I had finally arrived at the American continent, my place of residency for the remainder of the year.

To kick-off the adventure in the best possible way, me and my fellow CETAC friends had planned a short stop in New York. A stop with an agenda packed to its limits.

Touching down at the JFK airport and traveling the 15 miles into

the heart of the city I was amazed by its majestic skyline. But as I came to learn, the city of New York, the Big Apple, is characterized not only by its enormous skyscrapers but also by the diversity of its people. Every imaginable culture and religion is represented here and each has had its own influence in forming all aspects of the city.

And as we made our way through the dense traffic from the airport, we got a glimpse of how a fraction of those intermingled cultures shined through on the streets and lifestyle of the N.Y. inhabitants. Of course observed from within one of the notoriously well-known yellow cabs!

Apart from exploring New York on our own, we met with the American-Scandinavian Foundation (ASF), the organization that assisted CETAC with getting all visas in order. We also had the chance to spend a few hours with the good folks in our sister organization USA STP. Though our stay in New York was

just amazingly fun, the time had come to put on our traveler's shoes again and hit the road to our next stop: California!

Arriving at the San Francisco International Airport, the first thing that struck me was the laid-back attitude people greeted us with. In contrast to the busy, things-have-to-happen-right-now style we were initially faced with on the JFK airport in New York, this was definitely more appealing.

Having absorbed portions of the new lifestyle and regained our senses, me and my roommate-to-be, Christofer, were faced with a minor problem of logistics. But as we stepped outside the doors to the airport, we found that the solution to our problem was conveniently parked right outside, in the form of a blue SuperShuttle van. Said and done, we got into the blue beast and took off to the city of Palo Alto, beautifully located in the heart of Silicon Valley.

## ANDREAS HALLINGSTRÖM

**Age:**

24

**Majoring in:**

Computer Science & Engineering

**Best US experience:**

the sun set over the mighty Grand Canyon



**NATURE AND ME SHOWING OFF.**

For the first week of my time in California, I stayed at the Super 8 Motel, arranged by the kind people at the HR department of Mercedes-Benz. As I later found out, that particular Super 8 Motel was close to legendary, as almost every intern before me had stayed there for one or several days before finding their own place of residence.

After having acquainted me with the surroundings of Palo Alto during the weekend, the big day had arrived – my first day at work! But ouch, I had forgotten to decide on a time with my boss! So with no prior time arrangement, I dressed up in my slack pants, shiny shoes, shirt and tie and headed off to work. A few minutes to eight, I arrived at the entrance and reception of the office. The place was more or less empty. Had I come to the right place? I was later told that people usually get in around 8:30 to 9 o'clock, so until then I sat down and waited. Shortly after, my boss Anders arrived, and without any further ado, he gave me the grand tour of the office and introduced me to my fellow-workers in the team I was assigned

**“The state of California has a great deal of adventures to embark upon”**

to; the CICE team – Connected Infotainment and Consumer Electronics.

The CICE team is centered around research and advanced engineering activities for connected audio/video, consumer electronics device integration, and connected navigation. Products such as the iPod integration kit and the latest Mercedes-Benz and Google collaborated project Search & Send, has originated from this team.

From what I had read and heard from previous CETAC members, working as an intern, you are most commonly appointed a certain task with which you work, for the whole period of your internship. In my case, this has been the direct opposite. I have worked on projects ranging from the creation of material to support business cases, create presentations, do concepting and prototyping, as well as field testing. Doing work within all these different areas, I have been given a greater picture of the whole process of the phases involved in taking an idea from the drawing board to a finished

product. And with the talented set of individuals in the team, my time spent on different projects have been very rewarding, and there has always been someone around to ask for help when need be.

Most of my work so far has been in the context of streaming video. The area of streaming video revolves around a set of competing key players on the market, utilizing different technologies to reach the same goal of providing solutions for viewing streamed video content, such as broadcasts from TV stations, within the car. This line of work has been quite varying and has involved everything from programming to field testing. I have also had the opportunity to do some concepting to flush out some plausible directions for implementing a flexible software architecture for a vehicle hardware module.

But the internship has not only been about work. The state of California has a great deal of adventures to embark upon. For instance, Anders early on introduced me to the Young Scandinavians Club in the Bay Area. It is a club for everyone of Scandinavian descent, anyone who has lived in Scandinavia or pretty much anyone who feels Scandinavian-ish and

has a strong urge to join. My first encounter with the club was up at the club's cabin at Clear Lake, during the midsummer party. It is all about having fun and meeting great new people. And of course, to get a great tan while doing so!

I have also been fortunate enough to have had both a good friend and my lovely family come visit me. As I had not really explored the state of California up until then, this presented a great opportunity to do so.

Without blinking, we rented a mid-size car and got on the road. First stop was the beautiful Yosemite national park to the east of San Francisco, not far from the border of Nevada. Apart from the great nature sightings in Yosemite, we also experienced a quickly changing weather condition, starting with pouring rain, followed by hailstorm and a temperature drop, resulting in snowstorm.

Still amazed by the weather phenomenon in the park, our trip went on to the entertainment capital of the world – Las Vegas! The city has become one of the world's most well-known centers for gambling, shopping, and entertainment-seeking people in general.

Walking down the Las Vegas Strip, a four miles long section of the Las Vegas Boulevard South, I was completely dazzled by how immense everything was; the enormous and lavish hotels, all the flashing lights and the number of fortune-seekers putting their last belongings on a single game on the roulette. There surely is nothing small in Vegas. I bet "Bigger is better" has got to have been every architect's motto while drawing the buildings now located on The Strip.

Leaving Vegas, also known as Sin City, I had lost a shocking \$2.5 on the slot machines and flooded my camera with photos of everything that had come in my way. From Vegas, we traveled further south-east, over Hoover Dam, to reach our ultimate destination of Grand Canyon. The canyon is an extensive gorge carved by the Colorado River million of years ago. The Colorado River has also been made famous by being the supplier of most of the water for Las Vegas.

When leaving the canyon, we were struck by the possibility of also being able to visit Los Angeles before heading back home. Although quite the detour, we all agreed it would pay off. And it sure did! We got to see the famous Hollywood sign, stroll down the waterside of Santa Monica Beach and visit the luxurious neighborhoods of Beverly Hills.

My stay in the U.S. and the internship at Mercedes-Benz has so far been a fantastic experience. I have



ME AND MY SISTER AT SANTA MONICA BEACH IN LOS ANGELES.

had the chance to meet and work with very kind and greatly talented people from who I have learnt a lot. I have also had the chance to meet a lot of new friends outside of work who have made my stay here most pleasant. First and foremost I owe a lot of gratitude to my manager Anders who has been very

supportive and great fun to work with, all my other co-workers and fellow interns at DaimlerChrysler (none mentioned, none forgotten), all the great folks in the Young Scandinavians Club, and last but not least, all my good friends in CETAC. This time would not have been the same without you all! ■

## MERCEDES-BENZ

**Employees:**

~40

**Hosting Trainees:**

2007

**Business Area:**

Automotive.

**Web site:**

[www.dcrtna.com](http://www.dcrtna.com)



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A WELL-DESERVED BREAK FROM THE OTHERWISE HARD WORK OF DRAWING 3D-MODELS OF THE DIFFERENT LIGHT PARTS.

## The Boston Trainee Party

When I look back on the many experiences of the past summer, it's hard to say anything and leave out strong adjectives like 'fantastic' or 'overwhelming'. The fantastic opportunity of coming to a whole new part of the world and be offered a challenging work as an engineer is a technical student's adventurous dream. The fact that I was also given a brand new rental car made it possible for me to travel more than 9,000 km within the two months I spent in the US, and see the great surroundings of the New England area.

The initial vacation in New York was a pleasant kick off, but since I was the only one of the four traveling CETAC members that dared to stay on the east coast, we said good bye to each other after a week of many impressions, and without knowing anything but the street address of my future workplace, I set sail for Boston. At this point, I didn't know that I eventually was going to end up in a nice apart-

ment in central Boston with two female students, so I had no idea what the city would look like or where I would be able to find shelter. When I got to the Boston bus station late friday afternoon, I bought a map and asked for hostels or cheap hotels in the vicinity of my workplace (which proved to be half an hour drive to the west of Boston). A bypassing tourist guide helped me book a room at a motel, which was the only place available during a weekend with a big baseball game coming up.

After that, I managed to grab the last commuter rail going westbound for the day, all the time getting more and more worried about where it would take me. After approximately half an hour, I stepped off on the platform best matching the name I was given, only to be welcomed by a rather desolate place looking very different from the skyscrapers and tall buildings I've just said good bye to. After dragging my two 20 kg suitcases to the nearest house and in-

troducing myself as 'a lost swede', I got the number to a local taxi firm and a cab picked me up and drove me to the motel. The motel wasn't much of a living, more looking like a bordello, but after the weekend I got a reply from the two female students I previously had contacted, and I got the available room

in their apartment. So began my summer in Boston.

**"The motel wasn't much of a living, more looking like a bordello"**

After the initial uncertainty, everything worked out to its best. The apartment was great and also, as previously

mentioned, inhabited by two goodlooking students. My room had a bit of a funny smell from the last renter, who nicely had been asked to move out because of her annoying habit of hiding her eight cats in the closet. Apart from that, the room had everything I needed, and the fact that I was living with two native "Bostonians" solved many newcomer-related problems. The area I lived in was close to both Boston University and Harvard, which made it to a

### MARCUS ELMER

**Age:**

24

**Majoring in:**

Engineering Physics

**Best US experience:**

Climbing Mount Washington.

attractive place for students to live in. The whole area had a familiar and youthful touch to it with cozy cafés and moderately priced restaurants, and a friendly party was never far away during nighttime. The distance by foot to “The Boston Commons”, which is the bostonian equality to “Central Park” in New York, was approximately 20 min and took you right into the core of Boston. If you didn’t feel like walking, which very few of my american friends did, you could always take the tram, more commonly known as “the T”. As a matter of fact, the T was the very first subway in America, and many other inventions were also first introduced in Boston. Boston is a very historical and, by american standards, old city. The city architecture is far from the grid-like layout used in for example New York, and more like the european standards with irregular roads and differently sized blocks. Once you’ve learned were to go, the city offers abundant oppurtunities of high class attractions and shopping malls.

When I finally found my way to the right address on my first day of work, after two wrong turns down a road with an identical name and parallell to the one I sought, I was greeted by my employer, Marcus Jacobson, and introduced to the office and shop staff at Sunnex Inc. My assignments the first week included strength tests, transformer classification and optimization of a bulb housing. My employer and the chief engineer had in advanced prepared different projects, and solving practical problems at an engineer level was greatly rewarding. Parallell to practical product development projects, I was assigned to work with a 3D-drawing program called SolidWorks. The firm was expanding in the Medical Lights section and needed consistent and accurate drawings of the many parts used in their light assemblies. The project suited me perfectly. Making a parts-database, which I later on could use to assemble bigger constructions, greatly simplified the company’s online presentation of the lights and could also be used to visualize and test customized lights. For me personally, the experience of learning a modern CAD-program will without a doubt be most useful when applying for jobs in the future.

Perhaps the single best thing about my in general amazing summer in America was having my own car. The company I worked for provided me with a free rental car throughout the summer, and I certainly took advantage of the freedom it offered. The first weekend, me and my two roommates decided to take a trip down to famous Cape Cod. There we enjoyed freshly boiled lobsters, swimmied in the ocean and went to cozy (but in a way strange) Provincetown. I had before the summer promised to

**“solving practical problems at an engineer level was greatly rewarding”**



**CLEANING CORN WITH MY RELATIVES IN NEW JERSEY (NOTE THE BEAUTIFUL CAR IN THE BACKGROUND).**

pay my far-away relatives in Philadelphia a visit, so the next weekend I saddled up in my car again and took the long journey down to Philly. Google maps (which proved to be a friend in need during my travels) made a pretty good estimation of the travel time (about 6 hours), except for one thing: the gruesome traffic lines of New York. I thought I knew the meaning of traffic lines from before, but obviously I didn’t. I was stuck in the northern outskirts of New York in a 10-lane highway for a good 4 hours before I finally made it up on the “George Washington Bridge”, entered the state of New Jersey and could continue in a reasonable pace. Later on, I realized that if you at any time were standing in line for something in the three states surrounding New York, you could be sure to see a sign a couple a miles away with “190 exit - NYC” written on it, or something similar regarding New York. Apart from that, I had a wonderful time downstate sunny New Jersey and my relatives threw me a big family reunion party with over a hundred people attending. In fact,

I liked it so much I returned to their summerhouse in beutiful Cape May only three weeks later. Cape May is a popular vacation place out by the coast in southernmost New Jersey, and surfing and swimming by the beach of Cape May a whole weekend was great.

When I look back, I realize that I used almost every weekend to embark on new adventures and explore the northeastern area of USA; some alone, some with my roommates and some to meet up with swedish friends. This article is much too short to tell all of those stories; for example the classical swedish midsummer’s eve in New York, the fantastic (and extremely long) trip to the Niagara Falls, the time when I met up with a classmate and climbed the top of the tallest mountain in the northeastern area, Mount Washington, and so on. This summer was an amazing experience that will be remembered for life, and has already inspired me in searching for new adventures, perhaps in the form of a job as an engineer in America. ■

## SUNNEX INC

**Employees:**

~20

**Hosting Trainees:**

2004 , 2006 and 2007

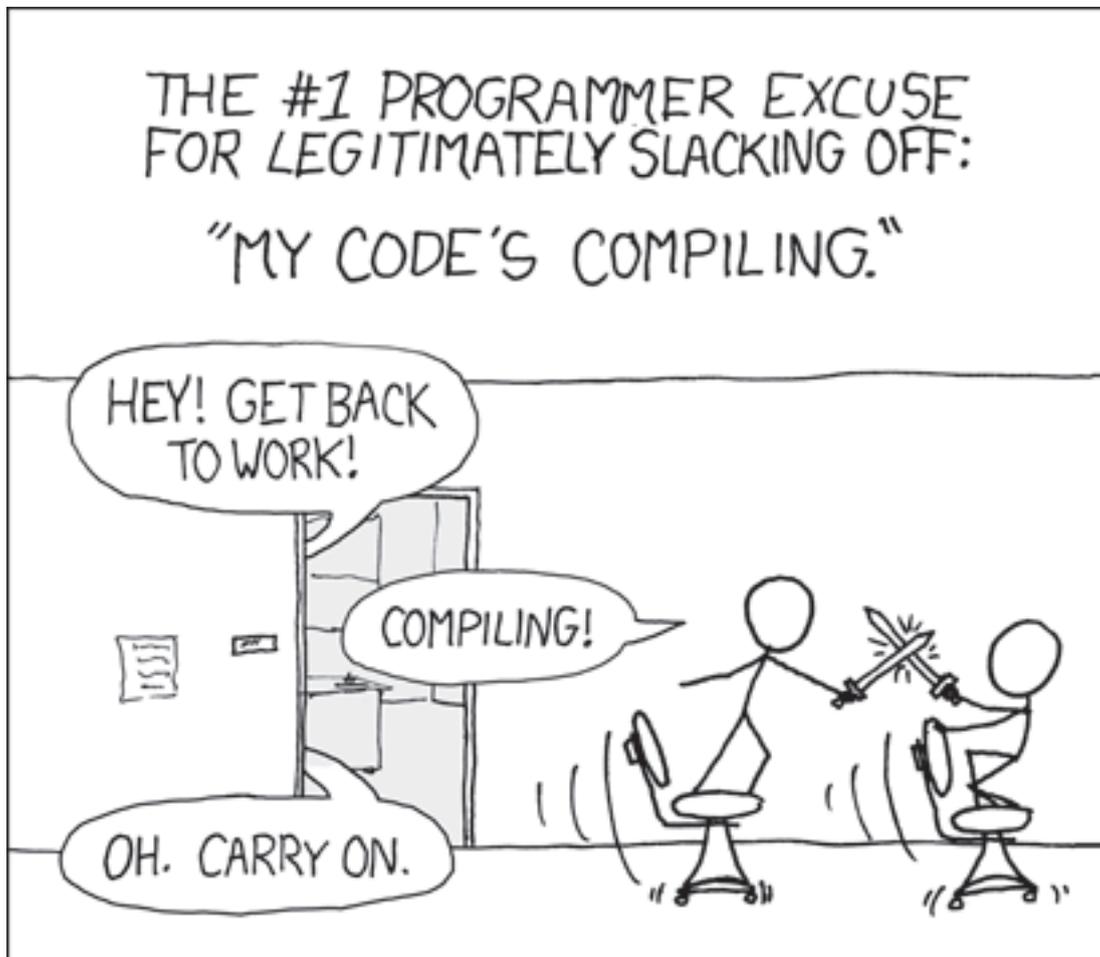
**Business Area:**

Halogen Lighting and Machine Mounts

**Web site:**

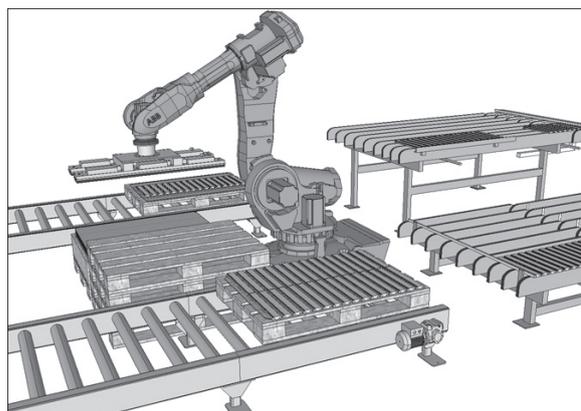
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# The American-Scandinavian Foundation

Every year at the beginning of June I get quite excited preparing for the orientation, which the Training Department at the American-Scandinavian Foundation hosts in Scandinavia House – the Nordic Center in North America.

After months of email correspondence and preparation, the ASF welcomes thirty or so members of CETAC and the USA trainee committees to introduce them to the United States and give them some essential information on the program as well as help them prepare them for their internships. This is the best part of my job because at the orientation I finally get to meet all the members in person.

Committee members show up bright, early, excited but mostly tired from sightseeing in New York City the night before.

I understand that the arrival in the United States is the culmination of months-long work and great efforts to raise money, finding placement and filling out applications. That is why, together with the Director of the Training Program Ms. Jean Prah, I try my best to help you in every way. Some may already know that every student coming to the United States for an internship needs a visa and that

is where the Foundation comes in. The American-Scandinavian Foundation is designated by the U.S. Government as an Exchange Visitor (J visa) program sponsor for on-the-job training and internships.

professional experience. Most firms have an established relationship with the ASF as well as Chalmers University and are enthusiastic to host a highly motivated, skilled individual who is eager to learn and

contribute to the particular company's growth.

Members not only experience professional growth during the summer in the United States but also evolve personally. On final reports members mention how much they enjoyed themselves, how many friends they made and how many things and people they got to see and meet. It is fascinating to read the accounts of accomplishments



Jean and I make sure that the position is appropriate and meets program requirements; we issue the U.S. Government documents that make it possible for you to come into the United States and obtain this internship and receive income. Through our program we strive to promote cross cultural exchange and understanding between the people of the US and Scandinavia.

After the orientation is when real work awaits you. All members spread across the entire country to their respective firms where they receive a valuable

during such a short time span.

It has been a great pleasure to work with this group, however small, because of the vast energy they brought to the program. The positive feedback we continue to receive is well worth the effort.

We at the Foundation wish you continued success in your future endeavors.

**Tatiana Pashman**



## *Words of experience*

**Most students** work hard to get through all the courses taught at Chalmers, it is tough – and it should be tough. Even so, many graduates argue that while piling up knowledge is important, another aspect of university studies is the possibility to meet fascinating people, realize the value of hard work, and gather up in, or maybe even head, interesting and rewarding organizations.

**CETAC's members** are doing exactly this. They have decided to walk the extra mile; to squeeze out something more from their time at Chalmers than just course material. For a whole year, they work to gather enough funds to help each other getting to America and to find and get accepted to internships at American high-tech companies. After a year of blood, sweat, and tears, the majority of CETAC's members are greatly rewarded.

**Talking from my own experience**, I recognize the year working with CETAC, and the time spent in North America, as equally important as any course ever taught throughout my education. In fact, the people and companies I got to know in America, as well as some of my CETAC friends, have shown to become vital stepping stones when embarking on my career. I know for a fact, that lots of other members can say the same.

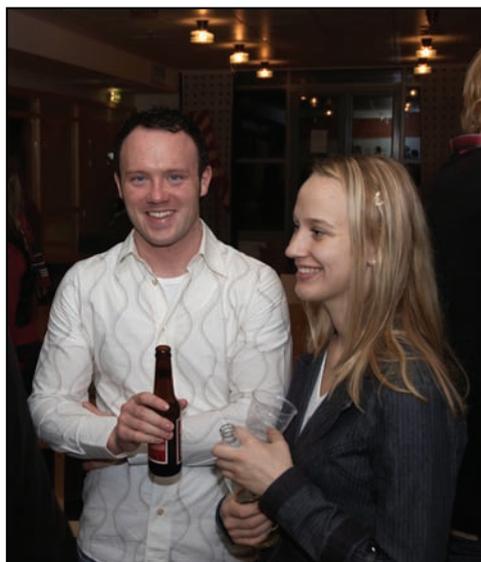
**No wonder** many of CETAC's old members want to stay in touch with each other and to help even more students to become part of the organization.

Aside of being a fruitful platform for socializing and networking between CETAC's many alumnis and to govern and conserve CETAC's proud traditions and achievements, a key mission of CETAC Alumni is to constitute an empowering force supporting CETAC.

**As the organization** all the way since 1966 has been one of Chalmers' primary sources of qualified work experience, it is no surprise many of CETAC's earlier members today holds key positions throughout Swedish and American industry. These people, of whom many are members of the alumni network, are integral in helping future generations of CETAC to prosper and grow – just as many generations have done before them.

**Marcus Johansson**  
Chairman of CETAC Alumni

**p.s.** All alumnis and members of CETAC 2008 are invited to CETAC Alumni's traditional winter gathering in Gothenburg January 26th. Stay tuned for more details!



# *Thank you!*

All of us in CETAC 2007 would like to express our deepest gratitude to the following companies and persons, who all contributed in helping us making our American dream come true.

## *Our Trainers:*

Amerden  
Mercedes-Benz  
RO Associates  
Rodale Electronics  
Sunnex  
WMware Inc

## *Financial Contributors:*

TeleVäst AB  
Swedish Match AB  
Studentlitteratur  
Kapro i Karlskoga AB

## *And:*

Marianne Annbrink, Study Counsellor, Computer Science & Engineering  
Jean Prahll and Tatiana Pashman, The American Scandinavian Foundation  
Peter Lundin, Head of the Computer Science & Engineering Program  
Martin Cederwall, Head of the Engineering Physics Program  
Lena Peterson, Head of the Electrical Engineering Program  
Elisabeth Ericson, Study Counsellor, Engineering Physics  
Paula Edwardson, Study Counsellor, Electrical Engineering  
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Karin Markides, President of Chalmers  
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Birgitta Sahlin, Kilroy Travel  
Chalmers Career Service  
CETAC 2006  
CETAC 2008

# Index

<b>A</b>		<b>R</b>	
Ageto	8	Ranatec Instrument AB	11
Alps Nordic AB	14	RO associates Inc.	16
Amerden	18	Rodale electronics Inc.	12
American-Scandinavian Foundation, the	29		
Aros electronics AB	14	<b>S</b>	
Ascom Tateco AB	14	Saab Bofors Dynamics	10
Atlet	10	SEW-Eurodrive AB	8
		Shell Raffinaderi AB	11
<b>B</b>		Sisaco AB	8
Banverket HK Sektion Elkraft	8	SKI - Statens Kärnkraftsinspektion	10
		Strålfors AB	10
<b>C</b>		Sunnex Inc	26
Cegumark AB	25	<b>T</b>	
CETAC	5	Teamster	28
CETAC Alumni	30	Trilogik Konsult AB	11
		Thank you	31
<b>D</b>		<b>V</b>	
Daloc AB	10	VMware Inc.	20
Dometic AB	10		
<b>E</b>			
Eaton Holec AB	15		
Elforsk AB	34		
<b>H</b>			
Helukabel AB	14		
<b>J</b>			
Jeppesen	15		
<b>L</b>			
LB-Elkonsult AB	10		
Leybold Vacuum Scandinavia AB	4		
Logistema AB	15		
<b>M</b>			
Mercedes-Benz	22		
<b>N</b>			
Nanoscale Science & Technology	2,9		
NET	10		
Nibe Industrier AB	15		
<b>P</b>			
Progressive Marketing AB	15		

*We proudly present,*

# THE PRESIDENT OF THE CETAC

School teaches us for life, but most things we learn from life. The education at Chalmers University gives the students a fantastic foundation to stand on in life but it is from our own experiences we learn what really matters. On this page I will give some of my own personal views on education, engineering, CETAC and related matters. I hope you will enjoy it!

## THE ENGINEER AND THE SOCIETY

I am an optimist and convinced that humanity will solve all the problems it is, and ever will be, faced with. The solving of these problems, however, requires skilled engineers who cannot only see to technical aspects but to political, economical and environmental ones as well. The engineer must be able to take into account the larger issues and not only the narrow problems. For this we need engineers with a broad education including humanities as a complement to their deep technological knowledge. We will need engineers who have a profound understanding of and respect for different countries, cultures and systems. This knowledge cannot be taught, only learned through own experiences. I believe that our members get experiences like these during their stay in the USA.

I believe that a great deal of our future development will happen through young and highly educated people who has learned the ability to interact over national borders as well as the field borders.

## TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS

I believe the knowledge and the insights that CETAC members get under their stay in the US in the long run will lead to stronger bounds between Sweden and the USA and thereby contribute to increased trade and prosperity for us all. For over a century Swedish engineers have been going to the United States to work, learn and teach, thereby strengthening the technical knowledge of both our countries. I think that CETAC members build on this tradition in a very nice way.

## ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

During this year we have seen some changes in our organizational and practical circumstances. The greatest difference is that we are now housed in a newly renovated building in the middle of the Chalmers Campus. It has taken several years but now we finally have a really nice place to be.

When you read this paper the committee of 2008 is already well on their way with the long and, at times, difficult work that leads towards their much longed-for goal – a position as a trainee at an American company. As a matter of fact, they have even contributed to this paper, which has been compiled by their editor Johan Lundström. I think he has done a great job!



The members of CETAC 2008 have already shown proof of great ambition and go-ahead spirit, two qualities that I am sure will be of great use for both themselves and their future trainers and employers.

## THANK YOU!

On behalf of the board of CETAC 2007 I would like to express our greatest gratitude to all that has helped us in achieving all this; the board of CETAC 2006 as well as all previous committees, our American trainers, our financial contributors and the American-Scandinavian Foundation! I would also like to send thanks to my fellow CETAC members for their support and hard work.

*Jens Hultberg*

## **ELEKTRA-programmet stödjer elkraftteknisk forskning**

ABB, Elforsk (elföretagens gemensamma forskningsbolag), Banverket och Energimyndigheten driver gemensamt ett elkrafttekniskt forskningsprogram benämnt ELEKTRA. Bakom Elforsk står de elkraftproducerande och elnätdrivande företagen i Sverige, som Vattenfall, E.ON, Fortum, Svenska Kraftnät, Göteborg Energi mfl.

Programmet omfattar forskningsprojekt inom traditionell elkraftteknik såsom forskningsprojekt inom elkrafttekniska material och elmotordrifter, men även inom nya områden med tillämpning av ny kunskap från andra områden, till exempel informationsteknologi, bioteknologi, rymdvetenskaper, komplexa system mm.

Programmet finansierar för närvarande ca 35 forskarstuderande på ett antal institutioner på CTH, KTH, LTH, HVV, LTU och Uppsala Universitet. Avsikten är att långsiktigt stärka konkurrenskraften hos elföretag och tillverkande industri, och samverkan mellan industri och forskarstuderande stimuleras.

### **Även för elkraftteknologer!**

Programmet beviljar också stipendier för elkraftteknologer för att täcka de merkostnader som uppstår vid examensarbete som genomförs utomlands, speciellt inom det elkrafttekniska området.

Det kommer att behövas fler forskarutbildade inom elbranschen och industrin!

Funderar du på att börja forska, ta kontakt med din elkraftinstitution.

