





# TRAINEE REPORT

2017

52<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL ISSUE

**cetac**

CHALMERS ENGINEERING TRAINEE  
APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE

# BLI MEDLEM I CETAC

CETAC är en ideell förening vars syfte är att ordna praktikplatser i USA och Kanada för teknologer från E, D, IT, F och TM oavsett ekonomisk bakgrund. Vi kan stoltsera med tidigare arbetsgivare som till exempel NASA, Tibco Spotfire, Bracket, Apple, Intel, Microsoft, VMWare, Ericsson och SUN Microsystems. Praktikplatserna varierar från en sommar till ett helt år. Vissa blir till och med kvar i Nordamerika eller kommer tillbaka igen efter de har tagit sin examen! CETAC lägger också stor vikt vid att praktikplatserna är intressanta och kvalificerade ingenjörsarbeten för varje enskild medlem.

Praktiken ger inte bara goda arbetslivserfarenheter men också ett värdefullt kulturellt utbyte. Kulturell förståelse och erfarenhet är något som efterfrågas allt mer i det globaliserade näringslivet. Förbättrade språkkunskaper i engelska är också jätteviktigt då ingenjörers kommunikativa förmåga är av stort värde för företag idag men också att för att företag har engelska som koncernspråk.

För att bli medlem i CETAC skall du studera på E, D, IT, F eller TM samt vara svensk medborgare eller ha permanent uppehållstillstånd i Norden. Vid ansökningstillfället måste du även ha uppnått minst 75 hp på din utbildning, och under det kommande året uppnå sådana studieresultat att du är studiemedelsberättigad.

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. Vill du söka en praktikplats till sommaren 2019 så är ansökningstillfället för detta våren 2018. Som medlem är man aktiv knappt ett år innan avresa och får chansen att lära känna teknologer från andra sektioner. Missa inte chansen att uppleva ett spännande och lärorikt äventyr!

Om du har några frågor, tveka inte skriva till oss på [info@cetac.se](mailto:info@cetac.se) eller läsa mer på [CETAC.se](http://CETAC.se)



## EDITOR'S NOTE

As I write this, most of the members of CETAC 2017 are still in North America, enjoying their internships while escaping the cold and wet autumn in Gothenburg. Me, I'm still reminiscing over the warm summer evenings in Washington D.C.

This magazine, the 52nd annual edition of Trainee Report, holds travel reportages from our 12 members. Here you will read about Chalmers students working as Engineers, Software Developers, Scientists and Project Managers, at various locations in the United States of America.

An internship with CETAC means more than just a great work experience. As an intern you have the possibility to discover another culture, meet friends for life or maybe meet your future spouse (yes, that has actually happened!). North America holds many hidden (and not so hidden) gems, no matter if you want huge cities, cute towns, beautiful nature or just want to see something different than Chalmers.

Thank you for picking up this magazine, I truly hope (and believe) that you will enjoy reading it. And who knows, maybe you will be in a future version of this magazine?

**Johanna Renman**  
Editor in chief  
CETAC 2017

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The board of CETAC 2017



The members of CETAC 2017



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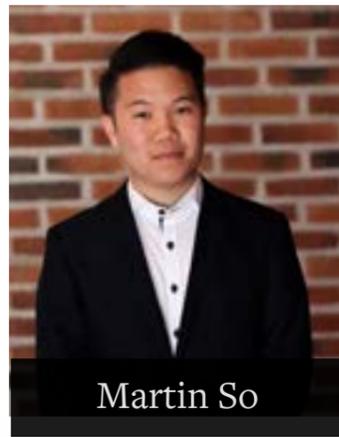
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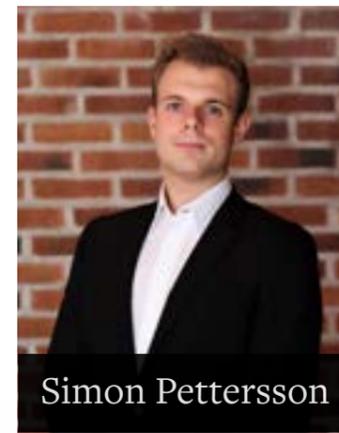


Michelle Tran Luu



Martin So

*Delphi, Kokomo*



Simon Pettersson

*BISON, Boston*

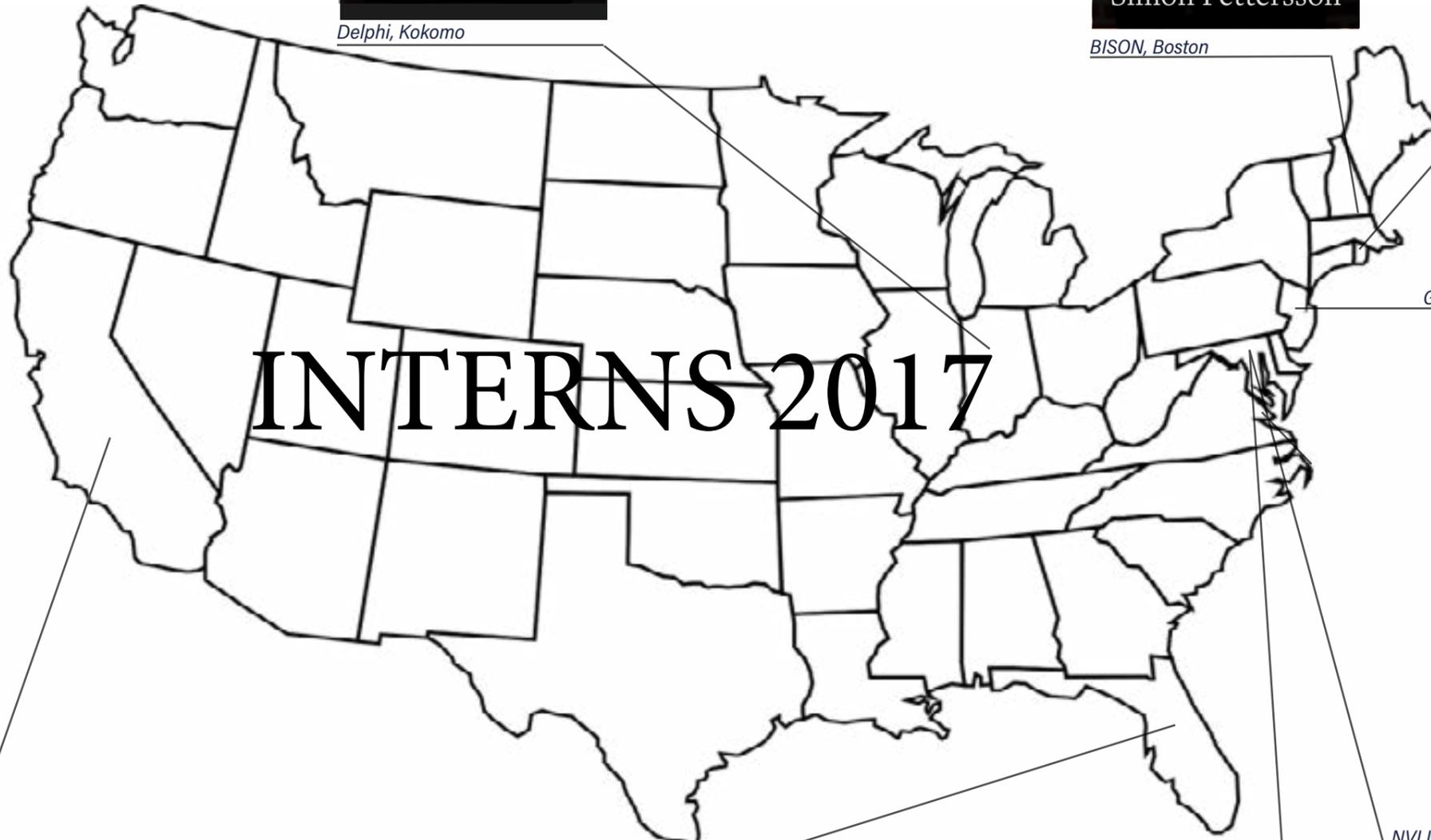


Matilda Wikström

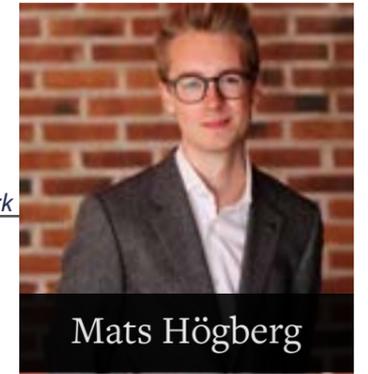
*RSi, Providence*



Olle Månsson



# INTERNS 2017



Mats Högberg

*Google, New York*



Alexander Håkansson

*Bracket Computing, Mountain View*



Sara Nordin Hällgren

*NVI Inc., Greenbelt*



Axel Löf



Jesper Larsson

*Amerden, Saint Augustine*



Marcus Holmström

*Casaplex, Kensington*



Johanna Renman



**STEFAN BENGTSSON**  
President and CEO  
Chalmers University of Technology

## CHALMERS' INTERNATIONAL OUT-REACH

Our vision, Chalmers for a sustainable future, permeates all our activities. This requires us to be both locally and globally connected and engaged and makes international networking, collaboration and exchange key priorities in education, research and innovation.

Chalmers alumni have their careers in diverse and internationally connected companies and organizations. Hence, developing and supporting activities providing Chalmers' students with international experience as an integrated part of their education is essential.

CETAC is a student led organization supporting Chalmers' students in their quest to find companies in the US and Canada offering internships and its committee is dependent on your support to ensure the continued success of the program. CETAC plays an important role in providing opportunities for international experience to Chalmers' students and I fully support the program.

**Stefan Bengtsson**  
President and CEO  
Chalmers University of Technology

Visst är det knepigt att tänka på alla detaljer?  
Ännu knepigare är det att sätta ihop dem till en lösning.



Bli en duktig problemlösare, sök Teknisk fysik på Chalmers.



### Vehco

Vehco är marknadsledande i norra Europa inom fordonskommunikationssystem för transportbranschen, med mer än 30 000 installerade fordon.

Företaget bildades 2001 som en spin-off av entreprenörsutbildningen på Chalmers tekniska högskola i Göteborg. Vehco specialiserade sig då på att utveckla lösningar för sparsam körning och har sedan dess utökat produktutbudet med olika tjänster för datatrafik mellan förare och transportledning, som t.ex. orderhantering, positionering, spårning, snabbmeddelanden m.m.

Vehco har idag ca 100 medarbetare uppdelat på sex kontor i Europa: Sverige, Danmark, Norge, Tyskland, Frankrike samt Spanien.



För mer information besök  
Vehcos hemsida: [www.vehco.com](http://www.vehco.com)





In accordance with CETAC tradition year I spent a week in New York City before starting my internship. This was a great adventure and the perfect way to begin my time in the States.

I spent just under a week in NYC and was lucky enough to see some friendly faces during my stay. Visiting the office of the American Scandinavian Foundation in Midtown, Tatiana Pashman gave me a tour of the building and treated me to fika. Her colleague, Jessica Laus, also took it upon herself to show me to one of the best cheesecake places on Manhattan as well as give me a guided tour of historic

places in Downtown. Thank you both for your company!

I stayed at an AirBnB in Astoria, Queens since it was both calmer and much more affordable than Manhattan. Living very close to a subway station and having invested in a one week subway pass, I had no problems getting around to different parts of the city - especially using the MTA subway app. Worth noting for a first time visitor is that there are free USB charging stations spread around the city, so do bring your charger with you. I also quickly realized that NYC is quite expensive even compared to Sweden.

#### MY TOP NYC TIPS:

- Eileen's Special Cheesecake
- Be out early in the morning to avoid the crowds
- New York City Pass can save you some money
- Free Fridays at the MoMA
- Last-minute musical tickets sold at Times Square

During my five day stay I managed to hit a lot of the mandatory New York sights. I saw the Statue of Liberty from up close and visited both Times Square and the Natural History Museum. I also took in the view from



Rockefeller Center, walked along the entire High Line and went to a rooftop bar that Jessica recommended. Having never seen a musical before I decided to go to a Broadway showing of Wicked and it was honestly amazing. I will be seeing more musicals in the future for sure.

All of these well known tourist attractions are definitely worthwhile in my opinion, but I have even better memories of some things I hadn't heard about before planning my trip (which I did meticulously). I found several hidden parks in

the middle of Manhattan, two of which had waterfalls. There also turns out to be a piece of the Berlin wall inside a Manhattan hotel lobby. Someone, I believe it was Jessica again, let me know that the Museum of Modern Art has free entrance on Fridays. This meant that I got to see van Gogh's Starry Night without paying anything! The days when the weather was nice I mostly got around by walking, which is a really nice way to get to know the city better assuming you have an idea of which areas are more unsafe. Every day I bought American pancakes from a food-

truck and ate them in a park full of Greek statues. It would have been hard to get a better start to the day if you ask me. Last but not least, I would like to give a shout out to a very friendly cat I met in Chinatown.

All in all, I had a great time and ended up going back to New York again towards the end the summer. But before long it was time to move on to Washington D.C. for my next big adventure!

**SARA NORDIN HÄLLGREN**





## A SALTY LIFE IN THE SUNSHINE STATE

Our American journey has offered a variety of experiences, from building automated transport robots to hiking in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. The life here in US is intense and we have barely time to settle between the adventures. But when we do have time we can always relax at Saint Augustine beach or spend the night fishing sharks. As they say here in Florida - "Live Salty".



After only a week into our internship, we were transferred to a top secret training facility located in the middle of nowhere to learn ancient AGV techniques. In other words, we drove nine hours to a small town in Virginia named Radford to learn about the latest technologies within Automated Guided Vehicles (AGV) systems. In the simplest terms, an AGV system is a group of vehicles transferring loads, often within industrial applications. Imagine a fleet of automated forklifts transporting assembly parts between different robots in a factory.

In our spare time during the two weeks of training we were experiencing the nature of Virginia. With mountains, wildlife and lightning bugs in a beautiful green enclosure Virginia is a great state for the hiker. We also had a great time eating at restaurants and bowling with the other participants and instructors. During the weekend we drove another four hours to visit Washington D.C.

**AXEL LÖF**  
**Age:** 23  
**Education:** M.Sc Complex Adaptive Systems  
**Best US memory:** Visiting Universal Studios in Orlando  
**Duration of internship:** 1 year

**JESPER LARSSON**  
**Age:** 22  
**Education :** B.Sc. Engineering Physics  
**Best US memory:** My unforgettable cruise from Miami to the Bahamas  
**Duration of internship:** 1 year

**AMERDEN INC.**  
**Location:** Saint Augustine, Florida  
**Number of employees:** 14  
**Web:** www.amerden.com

Needless to say it was a mess driving downtown D.C. In the City of Trees we took selfies in front of the White House, Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial. We met up with the interns at NASA and strolled to-



gether in Arlington Cemetery, and of course paid our respects to John F Kennedy. After some bar hopping downtown it was time to find our way back to the hotel. The next day we learned all there is to know about space and aircraft technology at the National Air and Space Museum. Satisfied with our experience of D.C, and with sore feet, we drove back to Radford to continue our second and last week of training.

” While software is being made in the office, physical assembling and wiring is performed in the workshop

Amerden, our host company, is located 30 minutes from Saint Augustine beach, where we live, and consists of an office and a workshop. So far we have spent time working in both, and have therefore got a good knowledge of both the office work but also the more hands on experience that the shop offers. The creation of an AGV system provide a lot of interesting challenges. There is the mechanical and electrical design of the vehicles. Programming of the master controller that routes the vehicles and handles the communication with the stationary side. Programming the vehicle's load

operations. In environments with both humans and AGVs safety is also an essential consideration. To make sure that the system is working before installation it is simulated in a graphic interface. While software is being made in the office, physical assembling and wiring is performed in the workshop. Amerden is both building new systems and retrofitting old ones. Believe it or not, AGV systems have been around for over sixty years and upgrading old systems plays an important role in the AGV business.

The city of Saint Augustine is the oldest city in the US. It was founded 1565 and was originally a Spanish colony. With the fort Castillo de San Marcos and all the old buildings downtown you get the impression of being in an old town in Spain. With its 20.000 permanent residents it is a small town in American terms. But despite being small Saint Augustine still offers a large number of bars and restaurants due to the many tourists visiting and the party eager Flagler University students. Outdoor clubs and bars are common here due to the constant heat, something we really enjoy. In all Saint Augustine is a great place to live.

We live only two hours of driving from Orlando, the famous theme

park capital of the world. With more than 15 different parks like the Disney World, Universal Studios and even the christian theme park Hollywood, it is not hard to understand why the city is such a popular destination.

With good recommendations from our coworkers, the first trip to Orlando came to include two of Universal studios theme parks featuring 3D and 4D rides from movie franchises such as Transformers, King Kong, Spider-Man and Jurassic Park. The coolest part of the theme park was the recreated world of Harry Potter. There were fantastic replicas of the characteristic Diagon Alley and the wizard village of Hogsmeade and even the Hogwarts school of wizardry. Diagon alley featured a lot of the shops and stores found in the books and movies. A full size Gringotts Bank with a fire breathing dragon on top really enhanced the experience and it wasn't strange that this part of the park was crowded with people. Children and some devoted older fans bought and wore Hogwarts cloaks and waved their interactive wizard wands which made Diagon Alley feel like we were in the movies. The parks were truly an awesome experience.



return to the condo and the Floridian lifestyle -tropical umbrella drinks at the beach and a grill full of meat and other yummy stuff.

In early September the news started to report about a hurricane that was approaching Florida and would most likely sweep the entire peninsula. Each day the hurricane grew in size until it reached a category five, in other words a devil's storm. With winds up to 295 km/h and 670 km in diameter the storm was to be taken seriously. At the first Monday of September the forecast indicated that the eye of the storm would cross Saint Augustine, which of course would have caused tremendous damage. Since we had no interest in participating in the storm we decided to go on vacation to New Orleans. We left early Thursday morning. The storm would not strike north Florida until Monday, but since we wanted to avoid the heavy traffic and the expected gasoline shortages caused by the evacuees from the south Florida it was better to leave early.

New Orleans is located in southeastern Louisiana, which is approximately two states, Alabama and Mississippi, to the left of Florida. We stayed in a hotel just a couple of blocks from the charming French quarters. The french quarters is the city's heart. The district is literally an all year round festival. New Orleans is also the birthplace of Jazz, and

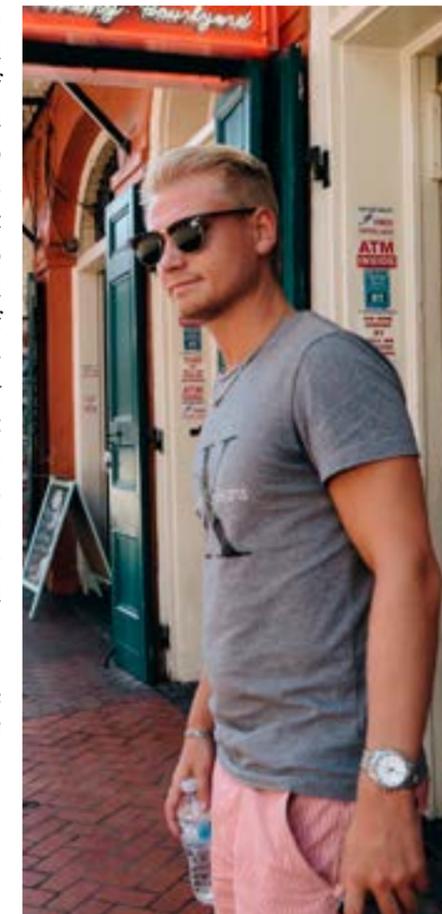
the Jazz spirit is still strong. Everywhere we walked there were street performers and all restaurants were crowded of music enthusiasts that had gathered to listen to the live music. Besides participating in the festivities we ate incredible, and also pretty bad food, from the New Orleanian cuisine. Alligator tasted much like chicken but with heavier texture.

During our stay in New Orleans we also went on a cruise upstream the Mississippi river on a steamboat. On our way back to Saint Augustine we visited an old plantation that during operation had about 250 slaves. Unfortunately the focus of the tour guide was the architecture of the buildings on the plantation rather than the miserable lives of the slaves.

Florida is referred to as the Fishing Capital of the World and we don't doubt that. Pickup trucks with five

fishing poles sticking out of the windows is a common sight, and the fishing piers are always full of people. Fishing is good here, and people are friendly and eager to share their knowledge to help us catch the big fish. We have spent several Friday nights at Vilano pier catching shark, catfish and snapper just to mention some of the species they got here. The floridian waters hides a wide variety of fish, and you never know what is hooked in the other end of the line. What we do know though, is that we are hooked on Florida. The sunshine state with a condo on the beach is more than we ever could have asked for, this is paradise!

**AXEL LÖF &  
JESPER LARSSON**



August 21st, was a special day for many Americans. It was the day of the great Solar Eclipse of America as they called it. That was also when the condo was inhabited by the most CETAC members so far. With a total of 8 persons in the small condo we inflated every air mattress and played some tetris to give everybody somewhere to sleep. When the sleep accommodation problem was solved it was just about time to go out and watch the great solar eclipse with our fashionable NASA eclipse goggles provided by our visiting interns from NASA. But even though we had great equipment for watching the eclipse, one problem remained. A thin but sufficient cloud cover was concealing what we had waited weeks to see. Since the weather in Florida is very local we decided to go somewhere else. After 20 minutes of weather navigation down the highway we finally got the sun out of its cloudy cover just in time for the great solar eclips-

se. As we didn't get the total solar eclipse here in Florida, the fashionable eclipse goggles were necessary both for protecting the eyes and to actually see the eclipse itself. Even though we got about 90 % of the sun covered, it was still way too bright to see anything with bare eyes. Witnessing this rare phenomenon, and actually seeing the sun slowly disappear behind the moon was a very cool experience. After half an hour staring into the sun it was time to



**brother**  
at your side

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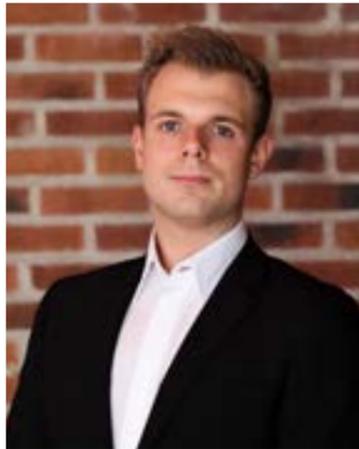
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# BOSTON INTERN PARTY

Leaving home and traveling across the Atlantic can be challenging, but in the company of amazing people — Prepare to experience the best year of your life.



## SIMON PETERSSON

**Age:** 23  
**Education:** M.Sc. Computer Science — algorithms, languages and logic  
**Best US memory:** Spending a weekend in Maine with my colleagues.  
**Duration of internship:** 1 year

## BISON

**Location:** Boston, MA  
**Number of employees:** 17  
**Web:** [www.Bison.co](http://www.Bison.co)

June 6th — The alarm starts beeping, it doesn't wake me up. I haven't been able to sleep, I just can't believe it, I'm going to Boston. For almost a year now have I been longing for this day, and it's finally here. Yet, my feelings are mixed. I'm flying over the Atlantic to experience one of the best years of my life, but I'm also leaving everything that I call home behind. I still can't decide whether or not this is actually what I want to do.

I get to the airport, it's still early, but I'm not the least bit tired. I hug my mother and girlfriend goodbye and walk through security. I feel lonely, but excited. With coffee in one hand and my phone in the other, I wait for what feels like an eternity. I think back to last September, when I visited my friend Jonathan in Boston. Jonathan went through the same journey that I am about to, and he couldn't have given me a warmer recommendation to take this opportunity. It makes me feel better, and the loneliness slowly

starts to turn into excitement. I realize that people started boarding the plane, I get up to do the same.

We hit the ground on U.S. soil and I'm nothing but excited at this point. After a rough pass through Homeland Security, I grab my luggage and leave the airport. I hear someone yell my name. I take a look around and recognize two of my soon to be colleagues from back when I visited Jonathan. The feeling I get is rather strange, they are the closest things I have to friends here, yet I don't really know them at all at this point. Since I don't have any place of my own yet, my new colleagues have offered to let me stay with them for the first two weeks. We get "home", I can't stop smiling. I knew at this point, that the coming year, is going to be one of the best of my life.

It's now been almost 4 months since I arrived, and let me tell you, time flies when you're having fun. The first week consisted solely of

searching for an apartment while also getting to know people at Bison. I got lucky, I found a reasonably priced and well kept apartment after only two days of active searching. I managed to move in just a few days later, and soon started spending more time with colleagues. The wonderful people at Bison and the beautiful city of Boston makes for a perfect combination. There are is an almost unlimited list of things to experience in and around the city, and I spend time with at least one or a few colleagues almost every weekend. Activities range from traveling north to Maine over a weekend and going to local concerts, to cooking dinner and enjoying a few of the absolutely spectacular locally brewed beers together.

The apartment I found is located in Cambridge—just outside of central Boston. I live here with two roommates from France. Cambridge is a very beautiful and active place, housing thousands of students. There are a range of good restaurants,

” I get to walk through Harvard every day

bars, breweries, and well kept parks for all the sunny weekends. There is always something happening in Cambridge, just the other week there was a bike party. Hundreds of people were riding bikes together on the streets with music and LED lights. Unfortunately I do not own a bike, but I thoroughly enjoyed the constant flood of them outside my house for 10-15 minutes.

It takes me approximately 30 minutes to get to work, and I get to walk through Harvard every day to get there. It makes me appreciate the surreal feeling of living and working in the U.S. even more. The company I work for is called Bison, we're a startup working in the private equity market. We provide a platform that provides unique analysis of private equity fund data.

Bison has startup written all over it. The area in and around the office is relaxed while it offers a great working environment. We have a ping pong table that is used frequently, and every week we have team lunch, were the team comes together to eat. Just a few weeks ago our boss took us on a day-trip for team lunch; we took the train to Providence to try out his favorite taqueria. It was delicious. These are

just a few examples of what makes Bison the remarkable workplace that it is.

As part of the rather small development team of 6 people at Bison, I get to work on a wide spectrum of things. Daily tasks range from fixing bugs and small adjustments, to implementing new core functionality and analyzing performance. Since the very first day of my internship, I've had the opportunity to work on real tasks that affect both colleagues and clients. I've really come to feel like an employee rather than an intern, which is a great feeling.

My experience has been absolutely fantastic so far, and if you're considering an internship, I can't recommend it enough. I had mixed feelings about leaving home, and didn't know whether or not it was the correct decision. But I can tell you now, that it's truly one of the best decisions I've made. I can't wait to see what the coming 8 months has to offer.

**SIMON PETERSSON**





## 2PAC VS. THE NOTORIOUS B.I.G.

I was actually lucky enough to land two internships in the US, at two different companies in two different cities. One at Google in New York, and one at Yelp in San Francisco. I got to experience the best of both worlds -- the beautiful views of the high-rises of The Big Apple and the vibrant startup culture of Silicon Valley.



**MATS HÖGBERG**  
Age: 24  
Education: B.Sc Software Engineering  
Best US memory: Going to a (free!) Ed Sheeran concert at 5 in the morning  
Duration of internship: 3+7 months

**GOOGLE**  
Location: New York  
Number of employees: 72053  
Web: [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

**Yelp**  
Location: San Francisco  
Number of employees: 4350  
Web: [www.yelp.com](http://www.yelp.com)

Right before Christmas two highly anticipated emails showed up in my inbox. The emails were from the recruiters I had been in touch with at Google and Yelp, and they both wanted to offer me internships for the upcoming summer. This was of course a dream come true. Not only one, but two large and well known tech companies wanted me as an intern. Luckily enough Yelp was very flexible and let me move my start date to the fall, and they also let me extend my internship to be 7 months long. This meant that I could do both internships back to back and get to spend almost a full year in the US. Since I was pretty fed up with studying and was longing for a break, I accepted both offers without hesitation.

Getting to the point of receiving these two offers had not been that easy though. I spent months writing covers letters and sending my resume to companies in the US, often getting rejected without even getting an initial interview. I spent countless hours preparing for coding interviews, I read Cracking the Coding Interview from cover to cover and did various coding exercises on sites like LeetCode and HackerRank. In the end all the hard work paid off, and here I am, having completed 12 intense weeks as an intern at Google's New York office, and being one month into my new internship at Yelp in San Francisco.

Google's New York office is situated smack dab in the middle of Manhattan, in an area called the Meatpacking District. I was lucky enough to find an apartment near Union Square, which was about 10 minutes away from the office by foot. This meant that I could walk to work in the morning, and I never had to experience the extreme heat, humidness and crowding of the New York subway during peak hours.

The Google office had all you could wish for and more. The 16-storey building took up an entire city block and was fully equipped with a gym, massage rooms (interns were given 60 minutes worth of massage credits that could be used during the summer) and two game rooms where you could play ping pong, foosball, pool, or just hang out and play video games. There were dozens of micro-kitchens -- small kitchens that are fully stocked with energy bars, fruit, chips, coffee, ice tea, soda, coconut water, you name it -- and multiple cafes where breakfast, lunch and dinner were served every weekday, all for free. I'm almost embarrassed to admit it, but I actually only cooked one single meal at home during the

entire summer. All my other meals were eaten either at the office or at one of the many restaurants that Manhattan had to offer.

As for work, my project for the summer was to extend an internal web application used by the legal compliance team with some new features. I got to learn all about Angular 2, TypeScript and modern Java web development, along with all the incredible internal tools, frameworks and libraries that Google have developed over the years. While it would have been cooler to work on a public facing product like YouTube or Google Maps, one nice aspect of my project was that my features were expected to roll out to new users a couple of weeks after I left. This is actually not that common for intern projects at Google, and many projects on larger products never get to see the light of the day.

Google hosts a couple hundred interns in New York each summer, and I got to meet a lot of interesting people from all over the world. Google really takes good care of their interns, and they have a small team of recruiters whose sole job is to make sure that the interns have things to do when not working. Some events during the summer included dinner parties, trips to baseball games, and one of my summer highlights: a cruise around Manhattan on a three deck Yacht with an open bar. Apart from the intern events there were just tons of stuff to do in Manhattan, including visiting rooftop bars, hanging out in central park, going to free Today Show concerts in the morning, and walking the High Line -- an elevated former railroad track that has been transformed into a public park that runs for 23 blocks above the Manhattan traffic.

Doing an internship at Google is definitely an experience that I will never forget. I got to spend an entire summer in New York, I learnt a ton of stuff about software development, and I also made a lot of new friends. It is hard to describe the feeling I felt when I left New York at the end of the summer. I was sad to leave all my newly made friends, but I was happy for having completed a successful internship and I was looking forward to moving to San Francisco, to move in with my girlfriend and to start my second internship at Yelp.

Having just completed my first month at Yelp, I can definitely say that Google and Yelp are two very different companies. Compared to Google, Yelp still feels a lot like an early stage startup, even though they have been around for over 10 years and have grown into quite a large corporation. At Yelp I work on the messaging team. We develop a feature on the Yelp platform for allowing users to send messages directly to businesses in order to request quotes for various services. This is a fairly new feature for Yelp, but it has been getting a lot of traction with users and the team is expanding rapidly. Things are moving fast and it is very exciting to be a part of it.



As for New York and San Francisco, they are two very different cities as well. While New York is the

home for a great variety of people, San Francisco is pretty much dominated by the tech industry. Everywhere you go you see offices of tech companies, and just on my way to work I walk past the offices of companies like GitHub, Stripe, Docker, Cloudflare, TaskRabbit and LinkedIn. People are riding electric skateboards to work, the cafes are crowded by people hunkering over their laptops, and the billboards show advertisements for companies like Twilio, Salesforce and Uber. It is a different world for sure, and if you're into tech you'll love it.

Living and working in the US has been a very fun experience so far, and I would highly recommend people to go look for internships here while still in school. If you're like me and can't stand the idea of being in school for 5 years straight, doing an internship abroad is the perfect opportunity to get a well deserved break from studying and to experience the culture of a new country, all while getting some valuable real life work experience. What are you waiting for? Go apply now!

” My features were expected to roll out to new users a couple of weeks after I left

As for New York and San Francisco, they are two very different cities as well. While New York is the

home for a great variety of people, San Francisco is pretty much dominated by the tech industry. Everywhere you go you see offices of tech companies, and just on my way to work I walk past the offices of companies like GitHub, Stripe, Docker, Cloudflare, TaskRabbit and LinkedIn. People are riding electric skateboards to work, the cafes are crowded by people hunkering over their laptops, and the billboards show advertisements for companies like Twilio, Salesforce and Uber. It is a different world for sure, and if you're into tech you'll love it.

**MATS HÖGBERG**



# RHODE ISLAND, MORE THAN JUST SALAD DRESSING



**MATILDA WIKSTRÖM**

Age: 24  
Education: B.Sc Engineering  
Physics

Best memory: Road trip to Canada  
when my mother was visiting

Duration of internship: 12 months

**RETAIL SOLUTIONS, INC**

Location: Providence, RI

Number of employees: 350+

Web: [www.retailsolutions.com](http://www.retailsolutions.com)

I can still remember my interview for RSi like it was yesterday. I had spent a great deal of time researching the company and preparing for this interview, and then I completely blacked out on the question “What do you know about RSi?”. I stuttered a few words about Big Data and Business Intelligence and, at that moment, I was 10% sure I was out of the picture for the job. Can you imagine my surprise when I got an email where they offered me an internship?

I arrived to Providence, a city I had never heard about a few months earlier, on a Friday afternoon and was picked up by Sandra and Max at the train station. Earlier the same week I had written my last exam of my Bachelor education, moved out of my apartment and said good bye to my friends, so finally arriving was a huge relief. We went home to Max where the rest of the Swedish interns were waiting and had a BBQ dinner. Even though I had never met these people before, they welcomed me like we were old friends.

After spending the weekend getting settled in and dealing with practical things such as getting a phone number and learning how to take the bus to work it was time to start

my internship at Retail Solutions, Inc. (RSi). RSi provides Software-as-a-Service to hundreds of suppliers worldwide that are looking to improve their business decisions. RSi collects large amounts of data from retailers that then gets processed before being delivered to the customers through reporting solutions. By analyzing this data, suppliers can learn how their products are sold in different locations at different times of the year, improve product availability, and optimize inventory.

As an engineering student one might think that I would do my internship in the engineering department, but I am a part of the SATO Team (Service Activation, Termination and Onboarding), and more specifically



working with onboardings. The onboarding process is quite complex and hard to understand but a high level description is that we manage the process from when a contract is signed until the customer has access to the services they purchased. To achieve this, we work with both customers and internal teams to ensure information from the customer reaches the correct team when needed, and that projects are completed as quickly as possible.

” The constant variation requires me to always stay focused

So far, I cannot say that I have used any specific math or physics knowledge that I have. Instead I have gotten the chance to develop my skills in more general, but not at all less important, areas. I get to challenge my problem solving skills and analytical thinking with tricky validations, learn how to manage projects with a tight timeline, and communicating with customers in a language I am not completely comfortable speaking. Though, the thing I like the most (and on some days the worst) about working on the SATO team is that no onboarding is the other alike. The constant variation requires me to always stay focused

and with challenging situations and questions coming up every day, I am learning new things all the time.

Being on an internship in the U.S. is, to me, just as much about work as it is about experiencing the American culture and travel the North American continent, which RSi is very supportive of and not only by allowing me to take time off to visit other cities. One way that RSi lets us experience the American culture is that with every big holiday we have some kind of social event at the office. The next upcoming holiday is Halloween, and in the end of October we will have a pumpkin carving contest and a potluck lunch where we can dress up in our best Halloween costumes.

During the four months that I have been here in the U.S. I have tried to get around Providence and Rhode Island as much as possible, but also made time for some longer trips. Thanks to my colleagues there have not been a dull moment this summer as they constantly have given me new ideas for things to do or places to visit. Even though it is hard to compete with Washington D.C and New York, I must say that summer in New England is something special. Some of the highlights going around Rhode Island and Massachusetts have been biking Block Is-

land, sailing Narragansett Bay in the sunset, learning about the American history on Boston’s Freedom Trail, and the Waterfire festival in Providence.

Since I got here in the beginning of June, Providence have shown its best side with warm and sunny weather, but now you can clearly feel that that fall is on its way and days are getting colder. Starting my fifth month at RSi in just one week, I am a bit terrified about how fast time is passing and that makes me want to enjoy every moment of this year as much as I can. The next few months have some exciting projects coming up and combined with planned trips to Montréal and Chicago, I am sure the winter will be just as fantastic as the summer was.

**Matilda Wikström**

# What's in IT for me?



## Programmes at Chalmers University of Technology

- Computer Science: Algorithms, Languages, and Logic
- Computer Systems and Networks
- Embedded Electronic Systems Design
- Interaction Design and Technologies
- Software Engineering and Technology

[chalmers.se/cse](http://chalmers.se/cse)

## Programmes at University of Gothenburg

- Applied Data Science
- Computer Science
- Game Design & Technology
- Software Engineering and Management

CHALMERS |  UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG



### SARA NORDIN HÄLLGREN

Age: 22  
 Education: B.Sc. Engineering Physics  
 Best US memory: Climbing Old Rag Mountain in Shenandoah National Park.  
 Duration of internship: 10 weeks

### JOHANNA RENMAN

Age: 25  
 Education: B.Sc. Engineering Physics  
 Best US memory: Mountain biking in Patapsco Valley  
 Duration of internship: 10 weeks

### NVI INC.

Location: Greenbelt, Maryland  
 Number of employees: 13



# GOING NUTS ABOUT NUTATION

This is a story about the summer we spent at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Washington, D.C. Around two thirds of the people working at Goddard are actually contractors (working for an independent company) and not civil servants (hired directly by the U.S. government). We worked for a contracting company called NVI, Inc. NVI was founded in 1992 and works with VLBI, or Very Long Baseline Interferometry.

Each year for the last twenty-odd years, NVI has offered internships for a few lucky students from Chalmers. This year, we were the fortunate two who got to join for the summer. The projects the students work on vary each year and this year the task was to develop a method that describes and predicts one part of the Earth's motion. To make this a bit more clear, imagine the world spinning around its axis. Then imagine the axis drawing a circle with its tip. If we look closely at this circle, we see that the contour is not even, but is 'wobbling', following a periodic pattern much like a sine curve. This 'wobble' is called the Earth's Nutation. The mechanical part of the nutation is well modeled. Another part, called the Free Core

Nutation (FCN), is the motion we were to describe with a model. By using some of the knowledge we had gained at Chalmers, combined with tons of new things we learned during the project, we succeed in developing a model for describing and predicting this Free Core Nutation. This model gives a better general understanding of how our planet moves and helps in tying together the Terrestrial and Celestial reference frames, something that is necessary for navigating both Earth and space.

So, how did we do this? We used various mathematical models for data prediction and used this on data collected by NVI since the 80's. A lot of the work was done in FORTRAN 90 and Python, two





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programming languages neither of us knew before the summer. We were free to try out different models and got feedback and help from our colleagues at NVI. The task was very research oriented, which was a great experience to try. It is exciting to develop something that has not been done before, but it is also a bit daunting not knowing if you're going in the right direction or not. Our colleagues kindly offered the consolation "It's research" whenever we felt lost. The first few weeks our main task was to learn FORTRAN through completing some challenges and during this time we mostly worked together. Once we got started properly on the FCN project, we were able to mostly focus on different tasks in parallel. We really appreciated the level of freedom we were given — like making choices on which methods seemed promising, how to compare them, etc. The plan is to publish a peer review paper on the results!

So what did we actually do during a normal day at NASA? The morning started with us walking across the Goddard campus, usually in scorching heat (in the afternoons it got up to 37 degrees Celsius, much hotter than we thought possible in those parts of the U.S.). Often we stopped at the Goddard Starbucks

on the way. During the day, we were working separately on different parts of our FCN project. We usually had lunch at one of the on-campus cafeterias — apart from Sushi Monday every Monday. When it was time to have an afternoon break, we went to have tea and a chat in Dirk's office (thanks for taking the time to hang out with us). On Tuesdays and Thursdays we went with Karine to Taekwondo practice in an auditorium at Goddard.

” Our colleagues kindly offered the consolation “It's research ”

There were also quite a few things going on that interrupted our day-to-day working routine. We took part in a scavenger hunt, which we would have won if not for the fact that we did not manage to find a picture of the Swedish king hanging somewhere on Goddard (we still came in third, and won a bunch of NASA merchandise). During an open day we had the opportunity to see the construction site for the James Webb Space Telescope, but the telescope itself had already been moved to Florida in preparation for launch. The first week of work, our French colleague Karine had a party to celebrate that she had been

granted American citizenship. We contributed by bringing a traditional kladdkaka, which the americans seemed to appreciate. Every four weeks, all NVI employees went out for a fancy lunch together, and we both got to pick a place while we were there. Our boss, John, had a pool party with a lot of people from the VLBI community. And at the NVI annual company outing we got to try Topgolf: standing on a balcony, hitting micro-chipped golf balls at giant dartboard-like targets on a field below.

Accommodation in the D.C. area is pretty expensive, but both of us managed to find decent places to stay. Sara shared a house with three Americans and Johanna shared an apartment with a girl (+ a mouse and a few cockroaches, all quite friendly). Both of us lived close to the metro, and even though american public transportation has room for improvement, it worked fine to get us to work and around the city. This meant we thankfully didn't need to get a car for our short stay. For longer trips our nice colleagues at NVI drove us and at times we could borrow our boss' car.

There are a lot of things to do in and around D.C. in summer. Among other things we went to one the many outdoor cinemas that pop



up during summer (where we saw a old martial arts film with heavy hip hop music added in by a live DJ, which sure was an experience). Almost every weekend we would go to downtown D.C. to explore. More often than not, we found ourselves somewhere around the National Mall. It turns out it is just as big, if not bigger, than they make it look in the movies. When the heat got too overbearing —estoy muriendo de calor, as our spanish friend Samuel would put it — it was a perfect time to enjoy one of the free (and air conditioned) museums around the mall. If a museum felt like too much to take in, we could always get an ice-coffee at one of the Starbucks that occupied every corner of D.C. (yes, we had a bit too many of

those addictive ice-coffees). If there is one thing Americans know how to do, it is how to celebrate their Independence Day on the 4th of July. We had Matilda (also a cetac-member, read her story at page XX) and a friend of hers, Sandra, visiting from Providence and we all went down to the Mall to see an endless parade of high school orchestras, huge floats shaped like various national heroes and fancy cars with beauty queens from all states. There were more american flags circling around than any of us had ever seen before. The great finale was a majestic firework show lighting up the sky behind the Washington monument.

If you have about \$30 for a return ticket and a few hours to spare, a weekend trip to New York is easily arranged. It's definitely worth it (especially if you remember to bring your camera). Reasonably close to D.C. there is a national park called Shenandoah. We liked this place so much that we actually went twice, once with Matilda and Sandra and once with Dirk. It's a really beautiful park, great for both shorter walks and longer hikes. Even though the park is frequently visited by thousands of Americans, the wildlife is still preserved. Both of the times we went there we got to see wild black bears! That's something to cross off the bucket list.

Nature is not only found in National Parks though. The US has an immense number of other nature areas (national forests, state parks etc.). During our stay we went to some beautiful waterfalls (with the fitting name Great Falls) and to a lake where we tried kayaking and stand-up paddle boarding. Johanna also went mountain biking not far from D.C. together with Dave, the Aussie at NVI. Our stay in the U.S. had the perfect ending: we went to visit Axel and Jesper in Florida for a week of vacation before heading back to Sweden/UK and new internships. It was a week of beach-life, surfing and ice-cream (and a solar eclipse!), made even better when we spotted a wild alligator from just a few metres away.

To end this text, we both wish to send a huge thank you to all of the amazing people at NVI that we had the fortune to meet. Thanks for this opportunity to learn so much and for the possibility to call NASA our workplace and D.C. our home for a summer. Hope to see you again soon!

**Sara Nordin Hällgren  
& Johanna Renman**



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## THE U.S IN A NUTSHELL

The U.S has one common theme going through the whole country. Everything is just bigger. Every. Single. Thing. As soon as you get out of the airport it starts. The first thing you see is a lot of big city Jeeps cruising by on the highway. When you first get into the house, where you suppose the spend the coming year, you realize that it is not just the cars that are bigger. The bedrooms, the toilet seat, even the microwave is a lot bigger then back home. The pattern started to emerge.



**MARCUS HOLMSTRÖM**  
Age: 24  
Education: B.Sc Engineering Physics  
Best US memory: Crayfish party at the Swedish embassy  
Duration of internship: 11 months

**CASAPLEX**  
Location: Kensington, MD

I was invited to a baseball game from one of my colleagues. Of course I said yes to the invitation since I thought it would be a good American experience, and boy was I right. First and foremost we had to get there and since traffic is something you always want to avoid we took the subway. One thing to note is that the US in general doesn't have to good infrastructure for public transport. Almost everything is adapted for cars and cars only. But Washington D.C and a few other cities is an exception to this and have decent public transportation. When we got there you got struck by the american theme again. The stadium was huge. Baseball is America's third most popular sport and the home stadium for Washington Nationals takes in around 41.000 people, that is basically the size of Ullevi. The first thing you do when you get inside the stadium is to get snacks and beer and I can tell you, there were much more than

one option. They had everything there, Mcdonald's, Shake Shack, Texas barbecue, whole grilled chicken, snack bars and much more. There was also condiment stations everywhere, where you could just load up with whatever condiment you like. Let's just say it felt very American to call a Big Mac menu at Mcdonald's a "snack". After we got our snacks and beer we took our seats and started watching the game. Apparently baseball is not as eventful as I thought. The amount of times the batter hit the ball is not as often as you would think. But that is not necessarily a bad thing since you can go back and forth to the snack bars without missing much. Or if you don't like getting up from your seat you can always buy you stuff from the guys you yell "Hot-dogs, beer and peanuts!" all the time. Another very peculiar thing is that you are allowed to throw you garbage straight on the ground. So when you buy peanuts, they come

# SIBBHULTSVERKEN

SINCE 1891

with the shell on, you eat it and you just throw the shells on the ground. It felt kind of liberating and dirty at the same time. The whole place had somewhat of a festival atmosphere. We left in the 8:th period (of 9) to avoid going with the other 20.000 people who also got there by subway. By then the Washington Nationals was leading against the Pirates by one point (The only point in the game so far). Halfway home we checked the score and the Pirates won by 4-1. So in the end our team lost, but hey it was for sure an American experience.

But what would the US be without a little bit of Sweden? To my rescue comes the Swedish-American chamber of commerce. SACC is an organization with the purpose (among other) to help young swedes get a foot into America. And how would they do that? Well with a crayfish party of course! So within my first week I got to experience the swedish embassy, called "House

of Sweden", up in close. The place was enormous for an embassy and are know in DC as in one of the must see buildings (don't quote me on that one, I'm just paraphrasing). I got in a little early to grab a coffee with SACC-USA while SACC-DC was busy preparing for the event. The evening started with a drink and an art exhibition by a swedish artist. Later it was time for the buffet. They had all the specialties there, lots of crayfish, salmon and swedish meatballs. When you got to the tables one could really tell this was a crayfish party. Every seat had there own crayfish hat and napkin. For about every 4:th person there was a silver bucket filled with beer, cider and snaps. This together with all the swedish food made this a 100% legit crayfish party. After everyone got seated we got a welcome speech by the president of SACC-USA. After that we also got a speech by Karin Olofsdotter which is Sweden's American ambassador. Before everyone started to eat it

was time for, you guessed it, the mandatory snapsvisa. We started out with "Tänk om jag hade lilla nubben runt halsen" and sang a lot of other swedish classics. There was even a americanised version (the pronunciation of the swedish words was written in english) in the song booklet so everyone could sing along. Lets just say that the crayfish party ended like a crayfish party should, with a lot of "happy" faces.

So is everything bigger and better in USA? Well as you might noticed from my stories, everything is at least bigger! But better? I think that might depend on how much you like fast food.

**Marcus Holmström**



## DELPHI IN KOKOMO

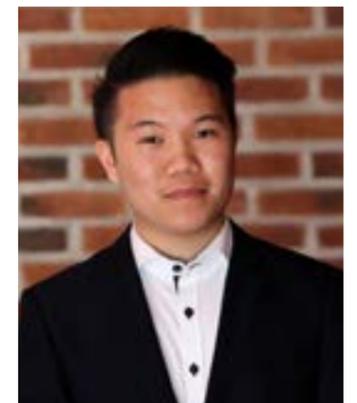
The summer was close and I thought that I would be chilling in Sweden over the summer, and then get back to school. But that was not the case because just a couple of weeks before the summer I got the news about getting to work in the US, which became my biggest adventure so far in my life.

The news about the offer to work at Delphi came pretty late, almost at the beginning of the summer. I was super hyped and I did every preparation I could before departing. I had actually never been to the US before so this got me even more excited and I was not bored at all during the travel even though it almost took 30 hours. As I mentioned before I got the job offer pretty late and after the VISA application was completed, I actually arrived in the US halfway into the summer, whereas other CETAC members arrived much earlier. So I decided that I didn't want to waste any time and after only one week, I was working at Delphi.

Delphi is an enormous company and has offices worldwide and I got the opportunity to work in Kokomo. At the writing moment, I have been working at Delphi for almost two

months, so there are still ten months to go and a lot of things to learn. But my experience here so far has been fantastic and I have learned tons of things.

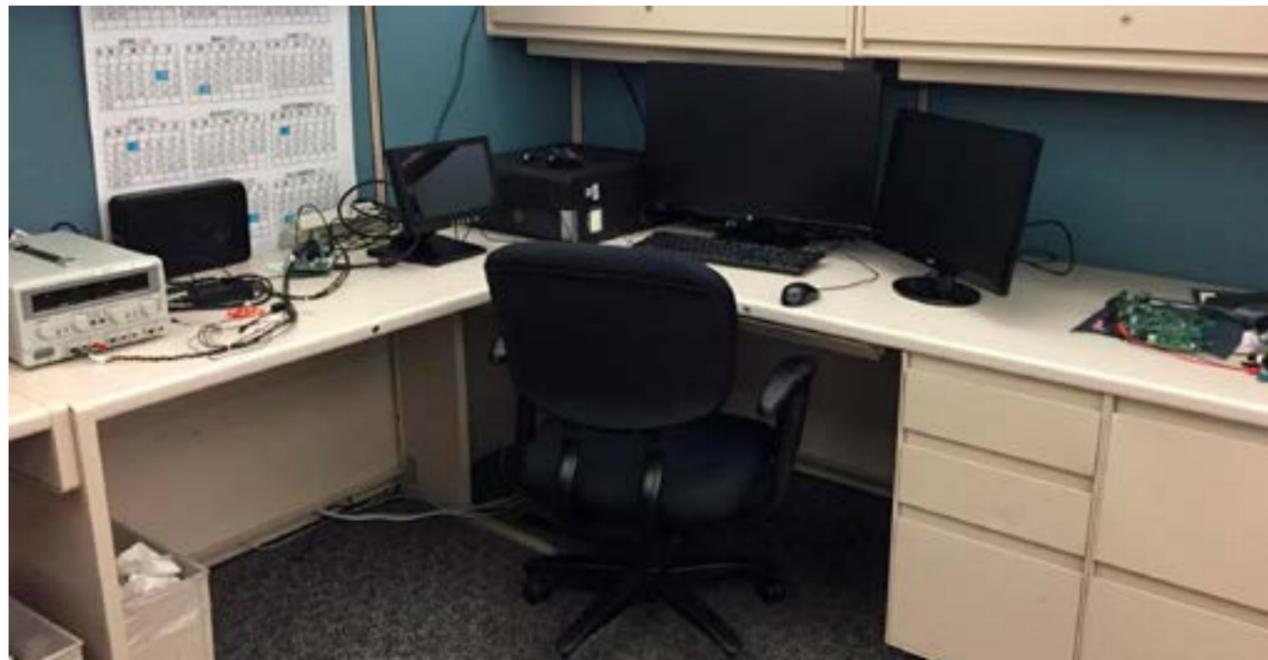
My main role in the company has been a software engineer where I solely have been focusing on programming. This is the role I was expecting to have and I am very happy to get to work with what I like the most. Since my education is about software engineering, this job will really develop my skills because I will get to put my education to the practice. It is a huge difference when working in a company compared to working in school projects. Not only are the projects bigger, but more importantly is that you get to work with experienced people which really makes you learn faster. It did take a bit of time for me to get used to this new working environment but thanks to my wonderful and experienced colleagues,



**MARTIN SO**  
**Age:** 22  
**Education:** B.Sc. Software Engineering  
**Best US memory:** The opportunity to work with wonderful people  
**Duration of internship:** 12 months

**DELPHI**  
**Location:** Indiana, Kokomo  
**Number of employees:** 1100, (166 000 global)  
**Web:** www.delphi.com





everything went smoothly and I just learned new things every day. So to go more into details I am going to tell you about how I spend an ordinary day in the office. First off I have to get up the stairs, all the way up to the fourth floor. Don't get me wrong, I loved this because morning exercise makes my brain work better. Then I usually go to the break room and get a cup of coffee, and luckily for me, this break room was built not long after I started at Delphi.

As said before I am working with software development and the way we work is by using the agile framework SCRUM, which you might recognize if you have been developing software on a team before. So we work in SCRUM teams which consists of team members with different roles, and in the team I am in we are 9 people. By using SCRUM I get assigned tasks to work on and the tasks have to be completed within two weeks, which are called sprints. We also have daily stand-up meetings within the team, which I really like. Not only do I get to share what I have been worked on but I can also get feedback on if I am on the right track. I am also learning a lot by listening to what others have

been working on and see the way they approach problems. This is actually my favorite part of the day because getting to share my process is a relief and I always feel secure that I am on the right track after each meeting. Although I have to say that the first time I was going to present what I have been working on, I was a bit nervous, but luckily my colleagues are very nice and encouraging. When I am not in a meeting, this is where I am sitting and programming. As you can see in the picture, you probably can see that it is a cubicle office workspace. You might think that I am surrounded by walls, but that is not the case. It is actually quite open and I just have to turn around if I need to talk to someone or ask for help.

” Everything went smoothly and I just learned new things every day.

Kokomo is a small city compared to Gothenburg, but if you like it calm and steady then it is a perfect fit for you. When I first came here everything felt different, especially

when it came to public transport. Almost everybody here gets around with a car, so it is almost a must to have a car. Although there are trolleys that you can ride for free, and getting a bike is really good too. When it comes to apartments, there are lots of alternatives you can choose between, so that is nothing you have to worry about. I was able to get an apartment when I still was in Sweden, so once I arrived in Kokomo I had the apartment ready. A recommendation would be to find an apartment close to a grocery store since that is what you will need the most.

**Martin So**



We are three students, two from the Software Engineering and one from the Physics Engineering department that are doing an internship at a startup, named Bracket Computing. Bracket is all about bringing security to the inherently insecure world of cloud computing. Does it make sense to you? To be honest it did not make sense to us in the beginning either but a gross oversimplification would be to say that Bracket provides a more secure way for huge private datacenters to move to the cloud.



**MICHELLE TRAN LUU**  
Age: 23  
Education: B.Sc. Software Engineering  
Best US memory: Tahoe trip with 20 other people  
Duration of internship: 6-12 months



**ALEXANDER HÅKANSSON**  
Age: 22  
Education: B.Sc. Software Engineering  
Best US memory: Bonfire beach party  
Duration of internship: 6-12 months



**OLLE MÅNSSON**  
Age: 22  
Education: B.Sc. Engineering Physics  
Best US memory: The Total Solar Eclipse Weekend  
Duration of internship: 6-12 months

**NEXT PAGE:**  
5 Questions and answers from **Michelle,** **Alexander** and **Olle.**

**BRACKET COMPUTING**  
Location: Mountain View, California  
Number of employees: 68  
Web: www.brkt.com



? What expectations did you have before the internship?

**M:** From the moment I signed the contract until the day I took my first steat Bracket, feels like it happened within a blink of an eye. I honestly had no time to actually catch on that I was going to spend 6-12 months in one of the biggest tech cities. All I know is that I want to experience. Experience the world outside our sweet little Gothenburg. I wanted and still want to learn whatever I can learn from Bracket and from living here.

**A:** I honestly didn't have that many expectations before moving here, and I don't mean that in a bad sense. Of course I had expectations on gaining a lot of experience and to do a lot of fun things, but I didn't have that many specific expectations -- mostly because I didn't really know what to expect really.

**O:** I had high expectations and I was pretty hyped about moving to the US and starting this internship, as I have heard so many great things about doing an internship in the states. So far, it has been everything I had asked for!

? What does an ordinary day at Bracket look like?

**A:** During a typical day, I get to the office some time between 9-10 PM. I then eat breakfast in the company kitchen and have my morning coffee. After breakfast, I usually spend the rest of the morning responding to email and dealing with more urgent tasks. For lunch we pretty much always go out as a large group to one of the many great nearby restaurants. The rest of the day is then spent working with different tasks. Fridays are the best though, as it always ends with everyone gathering in the kitchen and drinking beer from 3-4 PM.

**M:** For me, I usually wake up at 7 and catch the train at 7:59am which means I get to the office around 8:50am (I am the first one to get to the office among us three!). Sometimes I have some urgent bugs that need to be fixed immediately and sometimes I just continue working on a new feature. Lunch is just as Alex said. Fridays are the best, Bracket serves bagels for breakfast and then everyone drinks beer from 3pm!

**O:** Monday, Wednesday and Friday, I wake up painfully early at 5:30 to go morning climbing with a roommate. Tuesdays and Thursday, I try and get some extra sleep and usually set my alarm to 7:30. These habits probably makes me the last intern to arrive at work, but most days I'm also the last one to leave, not only of the interns but of all the employees. Bracket is flexible with the working hours as long as you get your stuff done, which I really appreciate since I am more productive later in the day rather than earlier.

? How and where do you live?

**A:** I live in a newly built apartment complex in the SoMa district of San Francisco. I have my own room but share the apartment with two others. There is a great community in the apartment complex and I've got to meet a lot of new friends simply by hanging out on accompanying rooftop.

**O:** I live in the Mission district in San Francisco. We probably have

the best bang for the buck when it comes to food, especially Mexican, and lots of bars if you're into that. I share a house with three Americans and an old Bracket intern from CETAC who moved back to the US. Sharing a kitchen and two bathrooms with four others can be interesting but the pros of living like this definitely outweigh the cons. We also share our space with the cat Betsy to whom I have a love/hate relationship - we get along as long as she doesn't puke on the floor or sneeze in my face.

**M:** I live in one of the pretty apartment complex in SoMa district of San Francisco. Compared to Alex, I live in the east side of 4th King (the caltrain station). This means I live super close to AT&T park and the Embarcadero. I live in a one bedroom apartment which means "en tvåa" with my boyfriend who is also doing an internship here in SF. This area is super nice!

? How much do you pay in rent?

**M:** I pay around \$1500 each month. It is cheaper than the market price since I am taking

over a lease but it is still pretty expensive. I feel it is worth every penny though since the apartment complex has a gym, swimming pool, hot tub, lounge etc. Also the area here is more clean and safe.

**A:** I pay \$1800 each month for my own room. The apartment is rather central though and has a lot of great amenities. It's also very new and fresh.

**O:** I pay \$1200 - housing in SF is ridiculously expensive.

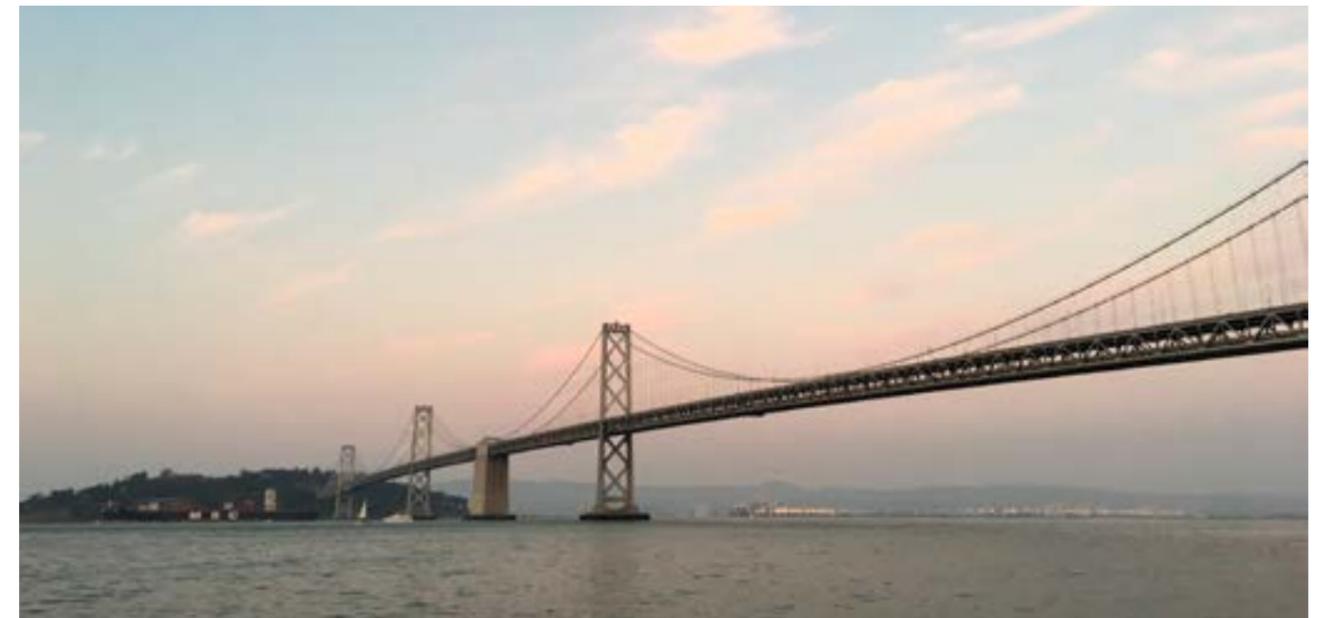
? What is San Francisco like?

**M:** I like San Francisco. I do. Though I thought I would like it more to be honest. San Francisco is super cool in terms of how techy it is! I mean, you will not find a city like this. Everyone you see works in tech. Every building you pass by, is a big tech company. Another good thing is, compared to Sweden there are TONS of food places! If you are a foodie like me, you will love this. The

downside here is that unfortunately there are a lot of homeless people and public transportation.

**A:** I think San Francisco is a really fun city with so many things to do. If you have a boring day here, you're clearly doing something wrong. The people is great and it's really easy to meet new friends. There are a lot of great places for food and nice bars. What brings it down a little for me is a lack of good night clubs.

**O:** I feel like it's a lot different to what it used to be - with the crazy expensive housing, gone are the hippes, musicians and artists and instead everything here revolves around technology. That's great if you're into tech but I can't help but feel that the city has lost some of it's charm it used to have. With the amount of money that people make here though, there seem to be something for everyone to do, no matter what your interests are.



# CETAC 2017 IN STOCKHOLM

First weekend in November it was time for an annual CETAC tradition — the Stockholm trip. This trip is a way for CETAC to meet up in person with prospective partners, visit our partner companies and to have a good time together.

We met up at Gothenburg Central Station to take the train to Stockholm. Wanting to look professional, we all came to the station dressed in suits. After a (slightly delayed) train ride, we arrived to a sunny, but cold, capital. We split up in smaller groups to go to meetings or to explore the city. In the evening, Netlight, an IT- and management consulting company, invited us to a much appreciated afterwork. Refreshments and snacks combined with interesting presentations and the possibility to talk to some of their consultants wrapped up to a great evening.

The day after continued in a similar manner, including an interesting visit to Spotify Headquarters.

With some presentations and a tour around the office, many of us were convinced that Spotify would definitely be an interesting place to work at in the future. In the evening we met up with some CETAC Alumni to have dinner together and talk about their time in North America.

The day after was the last day, so most of us took the time to do some sightseeing or to meet up with friends and family living in Stockholm.

The Stockholm trip was a great success and very appreciated by all of us. We met a lot of interesting new contacts, and we all got a good start for a year of hard work towards our common goal — to get an internship in North America.



## The Chairwoman Speaks

The past year has been eventful to say the least. After the board of CETAC 2017 was appointed last spring, our predecessors had a short time to teach us all they knew before leaving for their internships. Our year has been full of activities, from recruiting members to celebrating Thanksgiving and co-hosting an all-night event to follow the outcome of the U.S. presidential election. As usual, most CETAC members had to navigate the visa application process while also completing their Bachelor's thesis and this year we had the added complications of unexpected travel bans. I am very grateful to both Tatiana Pashman of the ASF and my predecessor Britta for their help in sorting everything out.

No matter how busy the spring semester was, it had to end at some point. Before I knew it, I was going through immigrations at the JFK airport and ready to start off my biggest adventure so far! I hope that everyone who is currently on an internship in the States will have the experience of a lifetime (I know I did). As for myself, I had a wonderful summer in D.C. and have followed up with an internship for National Instruments in England. If you find yourself calling tech support about LabVIEW, chances are you'll be speaking with me.

The various company representatives I have been in contact with this year through CETAC all seem to agree on one thing: getting relevant working experience before you graduate is about the best thing you can do. We are lucky enough to be able to provide our members with some frankly awesome internships, but as a member you also get numerous opportunities to arrange events, teamwork, and hang out with Swedish engineering companies. This is why, in my (probably quite biased) opinion, CETAC is one of the most rewarding committees you could choose to join while at Chalmers. Don't hesitate to apply to join next year!

As it happens, someone who has helped CETAC for many years retired this summer. Per-Anders Träff at Chalmers International Mobility has made sure that those who travel to the States on an internship are covered by an awesome insurance. Knowing that our members will be looked after in the case of an accident is essential to the function of our committee and I would like to give a special thanks to Panne for all his help over the years.

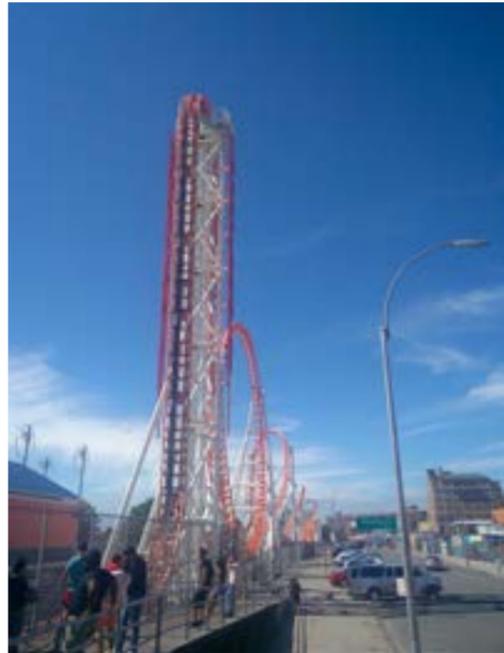
I would like to thank everyone who has helped me during this year, especially my fellow board members. I really hope that all the members who chose to commit to this committee last fall feel like they have gotten something out of this year – together we have definitely come further than we would have on our own. You've all done a great job this year and I hope you're all enjoying your internships.

Before going overseas I got to see CETAC 2018 get a good start to their year. They have chosen to implement a new working structure in the committee, focusing more on teamwork between the members. It will be interesting to see their results! I wish the best of luck to the new CETAC members; before long they will be on their way to the U.S. themselves.

Thank you for reading the Trainee Report for CETAC 2017!

**Sara Nordin Hällgren**  
Chairwoman  
CETAC 2017





# THANK YOU!

## • Corporate partners:

- Aros Electronics
- Sigma Technology Information
- Sibbhultsverken
- Trilogik Konsult
- Vehco
- Swedish Match North Europe
- Brother Sverige
- Falkenberg Energi
- RUAG space
- Raybased
- Atea Sverige
- Sveriges Ingenjörer
- Teknisk fysik, Chalmers
- Data- och informationsteknik, Chalmers
- School of Entrepreneurship, Chalmers

## • Other Contributors

- DIGITAN
- Teknisk matematik
- Spotify
- Netlight
- Tatiana and Jessica, ASF
- Per-Anders Träff, Kammarkollegiet
- Cecilia Kullman, SACC
- Jana Madjarova
- AMCIP
- FnollK
- DnollK
- Jana Madjarova
- Stefan Bengtsson