



Alumni Newsletter

University of Michigan IAESTE Newsletter

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Living and Working in Ann Arbor

by Michael Andersen

For a bit more than 3 months I've been an intern at Menlo Innovations in Ann Arbor and I've been having a blast.

I arrived in the middle of the summer and moved into Jones House, a co-op that houses about 35 people. I found the house online before arriving - so I didn't quite know what to expect. The house is a crazy place, it's quite dirty and quite noisy but the people there are friendly, different and open. With undergrads, grad students or PhD's, people from 11 different countries and between the ages of 20 – 37, there is always someone to talk to or party with, and the place is never boring.

Before coming here I graduated with a Master's degree in Computer Science from Analog University, Denmark. I chose to take an IAESTE internship to gain professional experience in my field and experience the work environment in a different country. Luckily I ended up at Menlo, which is a great place to work and to develop technical skills. Menlo is an atypical software company that subscribes to the ideas of Agile Development. The company is set in an open office space with no separating walls, and all software is written in pairs by two developers in front of one computer. This creates a dynamic environment with a lot of cross-project communication, which makes it easy for new people like me to get in the loop of the ongoing project. This approach has enabled me to become an integrated developer who works on equal terms with the rest of the team after just a short time. There's a lot more to say about Menlo but it would be easier to see it rather than read about it - so let me know and I will be happy to show you around.

Together with Femi, another intern at Menlo, I've set a goal to experience as much of America as I possibly can within the year. So far we've camped at the Dunes with people from IAESTE and AIESEC, been to an IAESTE conference in Minneapolis, and traveled

around Lake Michigan. We're planning a road trip to New York, Thanksgiving in North Carolina, and a spring break trip to a warm environment. We have seen a Tigers game, a couple of football games and a civil war reenactment; we're hoping to see basketball and hockey games as well. We've joined leagues in ultimate frisbee, soccer, and flag football, and we still need to try batting cages, shooting ranges and haunted houses and...

You can follow the rest of my stay by looking at my photo stream at [flickr.com/photos/mogello](https://www.flickr.com/photos/mogello) - I usually add new photos twice a week. If you know of anything interesting (sights, sport, music, art, culture) going on in or around Ann Arbor, please let me know at mail@gelle.dk.

It's the work of former and present IAESTE members that lets me expand my understanding of the world and my network. Thanks for your contribution!
Michael Carøe Andersen