Matthew Gravely ’12, IBM Lab in Beijing, China: “My summer internship was eye-opening and invaluable. I arrived in Beijing with very basic knowledge of Chinese culture, and left with a new appreciation and outlook on the Beijing way of life. My primary research task was to calibrate a computer model of a water distribution network using a genetic algorithm. The water distribution network was modeled in EPANET and the genetic algorithm chosen to perform the calibration was the differential evolution algorithm. The goal of calibration is to update the modeled network so that it more accurately represents the physical conditions, such as flow and pressure measurements, found within the real network.”

Matthew Manning ’12, IBM Lab in Zurich, Switzerland: “Although the cultural challenge was less apparent for me in Zurich than my peers in Beijing, I enjoyed campus feeling of the IBM lab and the relaxed atmosphere. To me the biggest value was the professional opportunity to network. This networking was encouraged by my research team, and I established valuable contacts among researchers working in my area of interest (the atomic force microscope). Through my research in Zurich, I discovered my topic for my thesis at Union. Culturally, I was very pleased to work in a diverse work environment. I had a German supervisor and I worked with team members from India, Switzerland, France, and Lithuania.”

Alethea Schepperly ’12, a Chinese and East Asian Studies major, went to Beijing and studied the integration of Social Networking and Cross-Cultural Collaboration with mentor Lei Shi, Manager of Visual Analytics.

Matthew Gravely ’12, Biomechanical Engineering major and German minor, also went to Beijing and worked on the Natural Resources Assets and Operations Team with mentor Jin Huang.

Matthew Manning ’12, an Electrical Engineering major, was in Zurich and focused on research in the Science and Technology Department with Dr. Walter Reiss.

Our students were joined on this program by students from Notre Dame University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and the City College of New York.