

**YCC/NESACS–JCF/GDCh German Exchange (Michael Strem, *Strem Chemicals*, Chair, Ruth Tanner, Morton Hoffman, and YCC Members).**

During the week of March 17th, 2012, ten graduate and undergraduate students traveled from Boston, MA to Rostock, Germany for the 10th annual YCC-NESACS/JCF-GDCh Exchange program.

After a long journey the students arrived in the Hanseatic city of Rostock, Germany for the 14th annual Frühjahrssymposium. After registration they were quickly whisked off to the seaside town of Warnemünde, followed by the conference reception. Over the following three days, eight students presented poster presentations and two gave oral presentations. Our very own Gowri Chellappan won a third place poster presentation award. Throughout the conference students were immersed in a variety of scientific talks and cultural outings. These activities gave them the opportunity to learn more about the rich history of Rostock and socialize with the German students. Conference organizers set up a Rostock city tour by night and conference party to ensure that. The conference ended with a talk by Professor Albert Koch on the “15 years of JCF” and a dinner, ending with fireworks.

Following the conference students were treated to tours of the University of Rostock Leibniz-Institut für Katalyse. There students spoke one-on-one with other graduate students and toured their laboratory areas. In addition, Professor Flint give an experimental lecture outlining his work in developing programs for teaching chemistry in secondary schools that entice young students into the STEM fields. By bus, the students also toured Kraftwerk, a coal powerplant, and Nordex, a wind turbine factory. This showcased two distinctly different energy sources available in Germany.

On the final day of the German exchange trip, students toured a shipbuilding museum and explored the Rostock Easter market. The farewell dinner was held at Amberg13, where members of the GDCh, JCF, and University of Rostock sat down for a final meal together. Both sides shared their appreciation for the exchange and each other. Of particular note were the efforts of Elisabeth Kapatsina of the GDCh.

Each student that participated in the exchange kept a journal of their experience, two of which were published in the Nucleus. In addition, many of the students keep in touch with their German hosts via email and social networking outlets.