Summary
To begin my internship I analyzed and classified all the chemicals used in our factories in order to implement the appropriate safety procedures in the workplace. Using this new data, I updated MTU’s chemical databases with this year’s information. As I became more competent, I assisted my boss with the collection and analysis of air samples from the factories and offices. These samples were analyzed using a variety of methods including gas chromatography, x-ray fluorescence, mass spectrometry, and thermal desorption.

Eleni Papadopoulos
Major: Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
Employer: MTU Aero Engines
Location: Munich, Germany
When: Spring 2017

Fun Cultural Experience
The most amusing thing I found about working in Germany, particularly Bavaria, was how they have a pretty definitive boundary between work time and personal time. For example, every morning at 9:15 everyone in my department would sit down together and have Brotzeit, until 9:30 when it was time to go back to work. On Fridays, I was often the last person in the office because everyone leaves almost directly after lunch! They really believe in a work-life balance, which is part of the reason I enjoyed my experience there so much.

Relation to Your Major
I learned how my degree can be applied in a field other than research or process engineering. In general, I expanded my knowledge of chemistry and the methods that can be used in order to analyze a certain material.