

Thoughts from Abroad!

Letter from Stanford, April 2010

I knew Stanford was a big university before I got here, but I didn't know that it was actually a town with its own zip code! The first day I got here, I randomly parked the car and thought I could walk around a little bit before I announced myself at CDR, Center for Design Research. But I parked in the wrong end and had problems finding my way back...

Now I have been here for about a month and I am finding my way around. CDR is a very friendly and inspiring place to work. They recently bought new office furniture from IKEA, so any Swede would feel right at home!

Here I am sitting at my desk (which I share with a few others) missing my laptop...



Every Wednesday night CDR has what is called Design X. It begins with a mingle with wine and cheese, continues with a representation of some sort (someone from CDR presents their research or a guest speaker joins us) and ends with a discussion on the topic. It is a very nice get-together and a great way to get to know the people at CDR and their research. Similar seminars are held at various places at Stanford – for example at Scancor (the Scandinavian Consortium for Organizational Research). For me, as someone who is fairly new in the research world, it is a great learning experience to hear and discuss other people's research.

Design X, standing is professor Larry Leifer

Stanford is located south of San Francisco and it takes about an hour on the train to get into the city, SF. Stanford is also located in Silicon Valley, where Google Inc. headquarters and NASA Ames Research Center, just to mention a few, can be found, which is worth a visit too.

You can tell that the area around here is a place for innovation by the way people think and talk!

I'll keep listening and have more to report next month.



Taken at the Visitor Center at NASA

Johanna Wallin

Visiting Researcher at CDR, Stanford
Industrial Ph D Student, LTU/Volvo Aero