IS welcomes new member, Dr. Yvonne Braun

This fall, the International Studies Department welcomes a new faculty member to its family. Dr. Yvonne Braun comes to our department via the Sociology Department. She brings to the International Studies community her interdisciplinary expertise on the intersection of gender and the environment within the development discourse. Dr. Braun’s professional work on dam-building projects in Lesotho, South Africa, will frame the two classes that she will teach for the Department of International Studies next year: Gender and International Development and International Human Rights.

Dr. Braun’s work in Lesotho has investigated multi-lateral dam building as representing “the nexus of international development in terms of the lived reality of the people, whose everyday lives are

See Braun on page 6

Brent Renison to give Alumni Address at commencement

In last year’s newsletter, we profiled 1990 alum, Brent Renison. This June, he is returning to the University of Oregon campus as the 2010 International Studies commencement speaker.

After graduating in 1990, Brent’s path took him to law school in Hawaii. There, he studied Chinese law and immigration law under Michael Oxenber and helped create a new certificate program which later grew into an LLM program in Pacific-Asian Legal Studies. He was also a Fellow at the East West Center under Dr. Michael Oxenberg. In 1996, he moved to Portland for a judicial clerkship and later took a position with Tonkin Torp. In 2004, Brent began working on reversing the Widow’s Penalty Law.

The Widow’s Penalty Law required the deportation of foreign spouses of U.S. citizens if the marriage had not lasted at least two years. Brent spearheaded a multi-pronged attack that engaged all

See Renison on page 3
IS Undergrad Alumni Updates

Jenna Nishamura (BA, 2008)

Jenna Nishamura graduated in 2008 with a major in International Studies and a minor in African Studies. After she graduated from the UO, she participated in an IE3 program that allows students to work as interns at international NGOs. Jenna spent her year working with Tostan in Senegal. Working with Tostan, which means “breakthrough” in Wolof, allowed Jenna to see how the development paradigms she had studied at the UO were applied ‘on the ground.’ After nearly eight months in Senegal, Jenna returned to Portland in May 2009.

Last September, Jenna felt the “crackles of inspiration” which always accompany the beginning of another school year. Combining the education she received at the UO with the life and work experience she gained in Senegal, Jenna knew it was time to return to the university. She applied to the University of Edinburgh’s Development in Africa MA Program. The rigorous 13-month program will allow her to focus on development as discourse and its affects on cultures and linguistics. Despite the stressful move to Scotland this summer, Jenna is just looking forward to that familiar energy which goes hand in hand with a new school year.

Bevan Flansburg (BA, 2006)

Bevan Flansburg graduated from the Clark Honors College here at the UO in 2006 with a BA in International Studies and Italian. After beginning her college career as a biology and Spanish major, Bevan spent a year studying abroad in Macerata, Italy. While there she met and married her husband, who is from Tunisia. After she finished studying abroad, she spent six months in Tunisia studying Arabic. In 2007, Prof. Anita Weiss introduced her to the Chief of Party (COP) for the USAID/Morocco Parliament Support project. In the fall of 2007, she interned in Morocco for the COP, and later took a job with the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC).

Since joining NARUC, Bevan has worked primarily in the International Programs department. The group primarily exists to help state collectives at the federal level participate in high-level policy dialogue. Bevan’s responsibilities have included writing large grants, preparing reports for G8 conferences, and working as a stakeholder in the Energy and Climate partnership of the Americas. Currently, she works with diverse countries all over the world, including Jordan and Chile, in coordinating capacity building programs with USAID. These programs are “designed to affect transparency, gender equality, democracy building, sustainable economic development, and access to electricity.” In addition to all this, Bevan also finds time to co-chair the Career Development Committee for the Women Council on Energy and the Environment, a non-partisan and non-profit forum for issues pertaining to the environment and energy reform.

Leisl Messerschmidt (BA, 2004)

Leisl graduated from the University of Oregon in 2004 with a BA in International Studies, magna cum laude. She went on to manage a family business, then took an internship with UNICEF in Nepal documenting their experience with women’s micro credit programs. Following that, she obtained her MPH from George Washington University in global health policy. In the spring of 2003 she returned to Nepal to do her master’s thesis research on HIV interventions among female sex workers in Kathmandu, and was offered a job with Family Health International. Upon graduation she returned to Nepal and spent the next six years working in and out of Nepal as a freelance consultant. Leisl is currently the Director of Research for TREAT Asia, a program of amfAR - the Foundation for AIDS Research-based in Bangkok, Thailand, with another University of Oregon IS graduate (small world!). She spends every hour outside of the office playing with her energetic and engaging 2-year-old son, and trying to find time to relax with her husband. She yearns to spend more time with her family, and expects that her next career move will take her back to freelance consulting.

My time in Mzanzi

By Debbie Sharp

Earlier this year, I was fortunate and grateful to be the first recipient of the Slape Fellowship, made possible by Connie and George Slape’s kind contribution to the Department of International Studies. The generous financial support made it possible for me to travel to South Africa to conduct my Master’s research.

My research involves the investigation of empowerment as a development tool, and to this end I worked with the Boitumelo Project, a healing and empowerment non-profit organization in Hillbrow, in the heart of downtown Johannesburg. The organization conducts outreach, counseling and classes for youth and adults while providing a safe place for victims of domestic abuse and social violence to learn skills and make positive changes in their lives.

The Boitumelo Project teaches arts and crafts as a way to grow self worth, enabling people also to create products that can lead to income and economic independence. It is a highly innovative project in that participants choose the social issues they wish to explore and the creative format for exploration (embroidery, mosaic, sewing, doll-making, etc). The Boitumelo Project provides the materials and space in which to work, teaches the arts and crafts skills, and helps with marketing and sale of the created products.

Final decisions on how products are sold rest with the artists themselves, highlighting the importance of ownership in the empowerment process. In this model, economic empowerment is secondary to the social and personal empowerment achieved through it.
Dennis Kater (MA, 1998)

Dennis graduated from the University of Oregon in 1998 as a U.S. Army Captain under the Army’s Foreign Area Officer Program. Following graduation, he went to work at the U.S. Embassy in The Hague, where he served in the Defense Attaché Office. Afterwards, Dennis was assigned to the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth as an instructor in the International Student Division. Later, he attended the college, receiving a second Master’s Degree in Military Art and Science with a focus on Operational Planning. In 2002, Dennis was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division. He was deployed to Kuwait and Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Following initial operations, Dennis conducted Civil Affairs operations in Northern Iraq with the Kurds and supported the reestablishment of the government in Mosul. While in Mosul, he found himself working with a women’s group. He noted to Professor Weiss at the time that having taken Women’s Movements around the World gave him a unique insight into the challenges they were facing and he hoped to put them in contact with other women’s groups elsewhere in the world. In 2004, Dennis was assigned to the U.S. Army Strategic Command in Colorado Springs and later transferred to the U.S. Strategic Command as the lead of an international engagement program. Dennis had the opportunity to travel and work with representatives from around the globe. He retired from the Army in 2006, but continues to serve the U.S. Government as a civilian contractor with ITT Corporation. Dennis is enjoying life after the military and spending time with his family.

Mariza A. Rogers (MA, 1993)

Mariza A. Rogers graduated from the University of Oregon in 1993 with a dual master’s degree in Public Affairs and International Studies. Following graduation, she served as a Presidential Management Intern (PMI) with the U.S. State Department from 1994-1996. Since then, she has worked with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) office that provides U.S. Government humanitarian assistance around the world in response to natural disasters and man-made conflicts. Her work has taken her to all corners of the globe including Kosovo, Nepal, Bangladesh, Philippines, East Timor, Sri Lanka, and Darfur. She is currently in Haiti as part of USAID’s Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), responding to the enormous needs of the earthquake-affected population. “My dual degrees in International Studies and Public Affairs helped me compete and become a Presidential Management Fellow,” says Rogers. “This paved the way for me to work with USAID in the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), the office that is the U.S. government lead for humanitarian assistance for disasters around the world, where I continue my work to this day.”

Michelle Bassi

Bassi, from page 1

of the Geography and Economics departments. The interdisciplinary nature of IS allowed her to see how property, development, and international political economy impacted both the formulation of water law as well as human rights. Taking classes in IS and serving as an undergraduate adviser “opened her eyes to the university community around her.” In the fall, a nonprofit reforming water law and addressing related human rights issues. Eventually, Michelle hopes to take her legal expertise and use it for those who international development silences.

Renison, from page 1

three branches of government. In the fall, Brent and his group negotiated a deal between Sen. Robert Menendez of New Jersey and Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah. This deal resulted in the passing of the FY2010 DHS Appropriations Act on Oct. 28, 2009.

The bill included a provision repealing the Widow’s Penalty Law. With the passing of the controversial immigration law in Arizona, Brent, along with the National Association of Immigration Lawyers, has turned his attention to bringing immigration reform to the public fore. In his spare time, Brent helps foreign students who graduate from American universities find jobs.

Despite the partisan atmosphere of Congress, Brent hopes real reform can occur that will reconcile our outdated legislative bureaucracy with our current place in the international community.

On June 14, Brent returns to an International Studies Department which has grown from a small program with three core faculty to a popular and dynamic department supporting over 135 graduates a year.

Brent brings with him 15 years of legal expertise and nearly a decade of pro-bono activism supporting immigration reform. Most assuredly, he will emphasize in his commencement address what he has told Congress: “Our world has changed around us; we are part of a larger community. As a nation, we need to join that community.”

Brent encourages those interested in following the legal debate surrounding immigration reform to go to: www.ssad.org or http://bibdaily.com.
IS Faculty News

Kathie Carpenter (associate professor) visited orphanages, schools, and shelters in Cambodia and China this past year. She has been awarded a Senior Research Fellowship from the Center for Khmer Studies. She presented her research at the Pacific Rim Conference on Disability Studies and at the Canadian Council on Southeast Asian Studies Annual Conference. Professor Carpenter also developed innovative new courses with Deborah Olson in Special Education on Images of Disability in film. Kathie serves as Director of Undergraduate Studies in International Studies.

Dennis Galvan (associate professor) has been on sabbatical in Senegal, on a Fulbright involving teaching and building a research network of African and other scholars for a 5-year project called “The Cultural Politics of Community: Reworking Memory, Belonging and Exclusion in West Africa.” This project builds on Prof. Galvan’s forthcoming book: Everyday Nation Building: Creativity, Culture and Political Community in Senegal and Indonesia. He has also been working on the effects of the global financial crisis in Africa; public works and private materialism in fragile democracies; community organizations and aid dependency. As Co-Director of the Global Oregon Initiative (an internationalization effort selected as one of the five big ideas to define the UO), Prof. Galvan helped prepare an application for a $2.5 million federal Title VI grant to support language training, student & faculty internationally-oriented research, study abroad, international internships and community outreach.

Joshua Hendrick (adjunct assistant professor) has been teaching Cross-cultural Communication, Development and the Muslim World, International Human Rights, Islam and Global Forces, and Sports and Global Politics. His scholarly interests include globalization, development, social movements, human rights, and religion, primarily in Turkey but spanning the broader Middle East. Josh’s research addresses Turkey’s ongoing tensions between secularism and Islam by focusing on Turkey’s “Gülen Movement”.

Galen Martin (adjunct instructor) is a forthcoming entry on globalization and human rights in the Encyclopedia of American Reform Movements (McKivigan and Kaufman eds 2010), and a recent article in The Journal of Power (December 2009).

Derrick Hindery (assistant professor) In addition to teaching courses on environment and development, international community development, and social movements in Latin America, Derrick has spent the last year writing several articles and grant proposals. He co-authored an NSF proposal to study the environmental and social impacts of the shift towards post neo-liberalism in Bolivia. He co-authored an article on deforestation in Bolivia in the journal Land Use Policy and contributed a chapter on the synergistic impacts of the Cuibaba Pipeline and the Don Mario goldmine in Bolivia for a book on extractive industries in Latin America. He has been awarded a Wayne Morse fellowship for next year, which will allow him to conduct new research on the socio-environmental impacts of the proposed liquified natural gas terminal project in Coos Bay, Oregon.

Galen Martin (adjunct instructor) is delighted to be back formally in the International Studies Department after a 16 year absence. He originally served on the faculty as instructor, curriculum coordinator and undergraduate program adviser from 1985 to 1993. After completing his doctorate in geography with field work in Costa Rica, Galen took a similar position with Environmental Studies upon his return to the UO. He has been teaching Introduction to International Issues and International Conflict and Cooperation and is developing new courses in his arenas of expertise on consumerism and food security. When not attending to academic activities, Galen and family tend a small farm with sheep, goats, chickens and renegade vegetables.

R. Glenn Mittermann (adjunct lecturer and M.A. in International Studies, UO, 1989), returned to Eugene in 2009 following 22 years working for the UN. While at the UN, Glenn worked on a range of issues including development of a global environmental treaty on hazardous wastes; monitoring governments’ implementation of international drug control treaties; providing assistance to countries to regulate pharmaceutical drugs and develop drug control strategies; and international cooperation to strengthen the fight against HIV/AIDS and reduce countries’ risk to natural disasters. Glenn is developing a summer class on the global AIDS pandemic. He is also happy to advise students who are considering working for international organizations like the UN.

Anita M. Weiss (professor) co-authored “The Revitalization of American Scholarship in Pakistan” which was awarded $775,000 from the U.S. Education and Cultural Affairs. She also coordinates a doctoral dissertation workshop series with Pakistan’s Higher Education Commission. She published two articles this year, “Straddling CEDAW and the MMA: Conflicting Visions of Women’s Rights in Contemporary Pakistan” in Family, Gender and Law in a Globalizing Middle East and South Asia and an online publication for the Middle East Institute, “Women’s Rights in Pakistan,” in their Viewpoints series. She gave talks at the Middle East and Asian Studies annual meetings and at Columbia and Rutgers universities and participated in a conference at the Rockefeller Center in Bel- lagio, Italy in May on “Pakistan’s Potential Future(s).” She just returned from SOAS at the University of London where she spoke on “Crisis and Reconciliation in Swat through the Eyes of Women.”

Stephen Wooten (assistant professor) published his ethnography, The Art of Livelihood: Creating Expressive Agri-Culture in Rural Mali, in August 2009. He was invited to speak in January at UNESCO headquar- ters in Paris on gender and biodiversity issues in Mali. He is currently at work on a new book project that examines the complicated dynamics of Mande expressive culture on the global stage. Building on his emerging research interest in local food movements in the Willamette Valley, he offered a new freshman seminar course in winter term Think Globally, Eat Locally. He has now been awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor beginning in the fall. This was his first year of a 3-year appointment serving as Director of Graduate Studies in International Studies.

Mzansi, from page 1

the creative process.

During my time in Mzansi (the Zulu word for “South Africa”), the Boitumelo model impressed me more than any other. I was lucky enough to be able to share many discussions with Boitumelo program participants and they were generous with their experiences and opinions. A 45-year-old woman in Hillbrow explained, “Without hands you have nothing...One day I will have my own company and many ladies doing embroidery.”
Many Thanks to Our Generous Contributors!

Thanks to those of you who have contributed since Summer 2009. Listed below
(please let us know if we’ve missed your name).

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* This year’s undergraduate student speaker

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Evan Nathaniel Shenkin Measuring the Social Impacts of Carbon Offsetting: Forest-based Carbon Capture and Improved Biomass Cook Stoves in Central America

Aditi Sinha Feedback Mechanisms in Microfinance Programs: The Grameen Bank vs. The State Bank of India

*This years graduate student speaker

IS Dept. Head Greeting, cont. page 1

basis. We have been incredibly fortunate to have wonderful adjunct faculty – Josh Hendrick, Galen Martin and Glenn Mitterman – share their distinct expertise not only in the classroom but also with the career development of our students. On the staff side, the OCIAS team of Dan Gorman, Emily Afanador and Sherri Nelson have each excelled in their support of our department and for that we are deeply grateful. We could not have accomplished all that we have without their diligence and enthusiasm.

Our students continue to travel the world, making significant differences wherever they go. With the generous support of Connie and George Slape, we have been able to initiate the George and Connie Slape Graduate Award in International Studies, which will assist two graduate students per year for a period of five years with expenses for travel to help them conduct international research. Our first Slape Fellow was Debbie Sharp, who spent winter term in South Africa conducting her M.A. thesis research investigating issues of gender and empowerment within a nonprofit development context. Our newly selected Slape Fellow is Susie Grimes, who will collaborate with NGOs in Africa next year to develop HIV/AIDS prevention and support programs for women with disabilities. Our undergraduate students, in the fall, will be able to apply for support from International Studies for their travel expenses associated with study abroad or doing an international internship as we can now draw on the Judy Fosdick Oliphant Study Abroad Scholarship in International Studies. While this can only support a few students each year, we are hopeful we will be able to augment the available funds with additional contributions.

We began contacting alumni this year to gather email addresses for our forthcoming alumni networks: an overall network of undergraduate and graduate alumni, and a separate network for development practitioners. We will begin using the network in the fall for posting position announcements, global events, news from the field, and related matters. Send us items to post – and be sure to send us your email to be included if you haven’t already done so. Send it to Emily Afanador at eafanado@uoregon.edu.

Our students, faculty, staff, and alumni are our strength. With the generous support of parents, families, loved ones, and generous contributors to our department, our students continue to make amazing connections and contributions worldwide. Please keep us informed as to your activities and travels. Come visit us when you’re back in Eugene!

Keep in touch, 
Anita Weiss, Professor and Head

Braun, from page 1

are effected by these projects.” As such, her work has investigated the project from multiple angles, focusing on the lasting impacts of the multigenerational dam projects. These angles include heavily gendered labor impacts, the risky nature of informal economies as related to itinerant labor and sex work, and oppositional social movements led by women. Her work attacks developmentalism and the fallacy of its stated goals of “poverty alleviation and resource access.” She has recently completed several articles on the project which collectively assert that the dam project, by commodifying water, has “reified the inequalities that it was meant to mitigate.” She uses her academic work as a platform to bolster social movements in Lesotho. Dr. Braun truly embodies the ideal of the activist academic interested in reciprocity and giving back to her community. She hopes that her work “gives voice to those who are usually silenced by international development.”

This summer, Dr. Braun hopes to garden, write and teach. In addition, she will spend time with her 19-month old daughter, Nilani, who is her first with partner and fellow faculty member, Dr. Michael Dreiling. After the upcoming academic year, when she will split time between the International Studies Department and Women and Gender Studies, she hopes to write a book on the Lesotho dam project. The book will compile her nearly 13 years of activity in 260 homes in the Lesotho community into one exhaustive account of the everyday ramifications of dam building projects. Graduate and undergraduate students look forward to interacting with Dr. Braun, who embodies the interdisciplinary spirit of our department.
**Yassa Ginaar (Chicken Yassa) Recipe**

*By Maguette Diame, IS MA Student (from Pout, Senegal)*

A traditional chicken dish from the Casamance region of Senegal, Yassa Ginaar (Chicken Yassa), is one of the most famous Senegalese dishes and is found in Senegalese restaurants the world over. For best results let the chicken marinate overnight; in Africa, this is essential to tenderize the sometimes tougher African fowl. It is also very good when made with fish. For the simplest yassa, make the marinade from just oil, lemon juice, onions, and a little mustard.

**Ingredients**
- 1/2 cup peanut oil or any cooking oil
- 1 chicken, cut into serving-sized pieces
- 4 or more onions, cut up
- 8 Tbs lemon juice
- 8 Tbs vinegar (cider vinegar is good)
- 1 bay leaf
- 4 cloves minced garlic
- 2 Tbs Dijon mustard (optional)
- 1 or 2 Tbs Arome Maggi® sauce or soy sauce
- 1 chile pepper, cleaned and finely chopped (optional)
- 1 small cabbage, cut in chunks (optional)
- A few carrots, cut in chunks (optional)
- 1 or 2 Tbs Dijon mustard (optional)
- 1 chicken, cut into serving-sized pieces

**Preparation**

Mix all ingredients (except the optional vegetables), the more onions the better, and allow chicken to marinate in a glass dish in the refrigerator for a few hours or overnight. Remove chicken from the marinade, but save the marinade. Cook according to one of the following methods.

Method 1: Grill chicken over a charcoal fire (or bake it in a hot oven) until chicken is lightly browned but not done.

Method 2: Sauté chicken for a few minutes on each side in hot oil in a frypan.

While chicken is browning: Remove onions from marinade and sauté them for a few minutes. Add remaining marinade and the optional vegetables and bring to a slow boil and cook at a boil for 10 minutes. Cook the marinade into a sauce. Reduce heat. Add chicken to the sauce, cover and simmer until chicken is done. Serve with white rice.

**Dr. Sultan-I-Rome of Pakistan guest lectures for IS program**

On April 15, the University of Oregon community was treated to a unique lecture by Dr. Sultan-I-Rome from Jahangeb University in the Swat Valley of Pakistan. Dr. Rome is a distinguished professor of Politics and History who came to the UO to discuss “Crisis and Reconciliation in the Swat Valley.”

The lecture, sponsored by the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies (CAPS) and the American Institute of Pakistan Studies, addressed current political unrest in the Northwest Frontier Province through a historical lens. He emphasized the need for U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan and for open and independent dialogue in Swat. Second-year graduate student Aditi Sinha, who escorted Dr. Rome the day before his lecture, commented, “what a unique experience it was to engage with a professor whose lived experience of the current crisis in the Swat Valley gives crucial context to our academic endeavors in the International Studies Department.”

In addition to his lecture, Dr. Rome also visited Anita Weiss’ South Asian Development class. Dr. Rome provided the class an extraordinary opportunity to discuss the interplay between politics and development with someone who has experienced firsthand the everyday effects of these societal transformations. First-year graduate student Jessica Cavas, who is specializing regionally on South Asia, said “Professor Sultan-I-Rome’s visit to my course on Development and Social Change in South Asia offered a rare opportunity to hear a Pakistani’s opinion about the barriers to development in his own country.”

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