Global Encounters
Newsletter of the University of Oregon Department of International Studies  Spring 2013

Highlight: IS Senior Instructor Galen Martin

Galen Martin has been a part of the IS department since the mid 1980s when he started his master’s here at the UO. He taught here briefly before departing for US Davis to do a doctorate in Geography. Since his return to Eugene in 1998, he has been an important member of our adjunct faculty teaching team. Between creating curriculum for core classes, developing new courses, student advising, and teaching, Galen has been a consistent advocate for creating a platform for students to explore international issues at the UO. This year, he was promoted to Senior Instructor to teach in three departments: International Studies (his home department), Environmental Studies and Latin American Studies. See Martin on page 10

From the Head

I’m happy to write that life in the Department of International Studies seems to be calming down to the ‘dull roar’ we’re all used to now. Our new colleague, Kristin Yarris, is already making important contributions to the department and the UO and is developing remarkable new courses for our new concentration in Global Health and Development. Stephen Wooten is offering an exciting new 400/500 level seminar on Culture and Globalization. We have a variety of adjunct faculty lined up to offer new and innovative courses: Teddy Workneh, a doctoral student in the UO School of Journalism and Communication, will be offering a new course in fall, Global Media and Social Networking, and in winter will teach our Development and Social Change in Subsaharan Africa; Nick McDonald, long-time staff member and consultant with Mercy Corps, is offering a summer class, Humanitarian Aid, and a fall class, on Development and Conflict Resolution as well as a professional development workshop on exploring careers in international development; Dr. Greg Ringer, a scholar and practitioner deeply involved in sustainable tourism in Asia, is offering a new course Global Tourism, in fall; Jean Faye is a graduating MA student from Senegal whose interests are in agroforestry systems and food security in the Sahel region of West Africa. Last summer he returned to Senegal to conduct his thesis research, exploring the perceptions of farmers in this region regarding agroforestry. His research site and native village, Toukar, is situated in a rural area roughly two hours from the capital city of Dakar.

Sophia Borgias to give Undergraduate Commencement Speech

Sophia majored in International Studies because it was an area of study that fascinated, humbled and inspired her; it continues to do so today. She considers that knowledge she has gained is essential not only to her career goals, but also to her understanding of the world and the way she relates to it. International Studies encompasses all the subjects she is most passionate about: environmental issues, sustainable development, human rights protection, social movements, and conflict resolution. With a second major in Spanish and a minor in Latin

Jean Faye to give Graduate Commencement Speech

Jean Faye is a graduating MA student from Senegal whose interests are in agroforestry systems and food security in the Sahel region of West Africa. Last summer he returned to Senegal to conduct his thesis research, exploring the perceptions of farmers in this region regarding agroforestry. His research site and native village, Toukar, is situated in a rural area roughly two hours from the capital city of Dakar.
Georgia Etheridge (BA, 2010)

After graduating from the University of Oregon in June, 2010 I spent a few sweet weeks enjoying the beautiful Eugene summer before moving back to Rosario, Argentina. Having studied abroad in Rosario during the fall of my senior year, I wanted to work with an organization that supports the rights of the people who had so graciously given me a new home, and found a local NGO providing a safe, creative space for adolescent boys working on the streets of Rosario. I also wanted to dig deeper into the areas of land and cultural rights that greatly affect a community’s ability to survive against ever-growing pressures of globalization.

While I was still working, learning, and enjoying life in Argentina, I applied to graduate programs and was accepted to New York University.

Ashley Bryant (BA, 2010)

I may have stuck around in Eugene after graduating from the UO in 2010, but I still manage to get plenty of international flavor in my life. In my current role at Mobility International USA (MIUSA), I am proud to belong to an international network of people who are passionate about and committed to the inclusion of people with disabilities in international development and exchange programs around the world. My main responsibility is to reach out to international exchange organizations, study abroad advisors and others across the U.S. and around the world to help them make their exchange programs more accessible to participants with disabilities. This year, I’ll be traveling to international education and disability conferences in St. Louis, Baltimore, and Innsbruck, Austria to share best practices, resources, and student stories.

Nearly 60% of students who attend the school I work at have immigrated to the United States and began school in Portland without prior formal education or knowledge of English. I feel fortunate to have come from the International Studies department so that I can use my unique lens to support each family’s individual needs. Instead of becoming frustrated with a child or family (as I often see many educational professionals do), I think about their home country’s political background, acknowledge the emotional stresses that may come from previous experiences, and work to recognize cultural and linguistic differences. I am able to use patience and critical thinking to work with our school’s diverse communities and understand the barriers which affect these populations. Perhaps most importantly, I continue to learn from these families every day and value their experiences as opportunities to grow in my own educational journey. I am thankful to all the INTL professors and classes that I reflect on often and I look forward to continue to use my INTL degree in future endeavors.

Molly Bennison (BA, 2012)

I graduated from University of Oregon in June 2012 with an International Studies major and Spanish minor. Serving with Americorps in a school in East County, Portland, Oregon. Initially, you are most likely wondering, “how is this field of work related to International Studies?” At first, I was asking myself the same question. However, I quickly came to realize that my interdisciplinary studies about world cultures, global development, second language acquisition, and international education is connected to my service work every day on the most complex levels. As the Community Involvement Specialist at a low-income, high-risk school where there are over 26 languages, my unique background in international studies helps me to better understand the communities I am working with and how their cultural differences may impact their educational experiences.

In addition to promoting disability access in international exchanges, I also enjoy supporting MIUSA’s efforts to promote disability inclusion in international development. I always think back to Professor Weiss’s course, “Aid to Developing Countries,” which I now think of as a “pre-enactment” for the work I do now. In 2011, the tables turned on me for four weeks when I was accepted to participate in an exchange program through Rotary called Group Study Exchange (GSE). I traveled with a team of other young professionals to a Rotary District in Malaysia where I had a crash course in networking, presenting, public speaking, and eating an incredible quantity of Malaysian cuisine. Those first three skills have helped me advance in my responsibilities when I returned to work at MIUSA. Since my participation in the program, I have become more involved with volunteering with Rotary’s in-bound GSE teams from Malaysia and the Phillipines, and I am also active in the Willamette Valley Rotaract club, which is Rotary’s version of a community service club for young people ages 18-30.
Kathy Mai (MA, 1992)

I graduated with an MA from the International Studies Department in 1992. I studied program development for women and children in Vietnam. I worked with refugees for 15 years before coming to UO. After graduating, I worked at the International Refugee Center in Portland for 5 years. I was primarily involved in developing a Family Center for SE Asian communities in southeast Portland, where family related social services were provided by former refugees, and worked with the Oregon Domestic Violence Council as a representative for refugee women. I also helped my husband run a landscaping business and raised four children, one of whom graduated from the IS Department last year.

After 20 years working with people, I changed careers and went to work as a salmon and sturgeon biologist for the Oregon and Washington departments of Fish and Wildlife. I was able to get a foot-in-the-door because the game wardens were having trouble dealing with minority fishermen. Fishermen from Russia, Mexico and Asia were often the most successful fishermen, but they were uninformed about regulations and fearful of interaction with enforcement personnel. I was able to provide cross-cultural training and develop a solid, respectful relationship between the State officials and these skilled fishermen. I decided to stay in fisheries as fish behavior (just like human behavior) fascinated me. My in-laws are commercial fishermen in Vietnam and the men in my family are all obsessive fishermen. I returned to university yet again and completed six years of fisheries education while working as a technician on research projects on the Columbia River and around Mt. St. Helens.

I now work in Canada doing fisheries work for oil and gas pipelines and mines in the far north. My education at the UO and work experience with minority peoples has enabled me to work respectfully and productively with the First Nations on the pipelines. I am currently making inquiries into expanding this dual fisheries/First Nations liaison role with the engineering company for whom I work. However, the emphasis of my work is fish and I miss the multi-cultural component of my former work-life. At some point in the future I hope to go back to university and do research into how subsistence fisheries integrate into the social life of communities in southeast Asia.

Kathy Poole (MA, 1991) Alumni Commencement Speaker

Kathy came to the UO with an eye to international education, which has become her life’s passion. As this year’s alumni speaker at commencement, Kathy brings over twenty years of experience in international education. Currently the interim executive director at AHA International (an academic program of the UO), Kathy has been a leader and innovator within the UO’s efforts to create opportunities for meaningful international and cross-cultural experiences for students. Kathy is as enthusiastic now about helping students pursue their international goals as she was when she first became a study abroad advisor in 1991.

As a graduate student at the U of O, she began to develop a specialization in cross-cultural communication, and worked with Dr. Gerald Fry, the head of the IS program at the time. Fry became an important mentor who supported her throughout her master’s program. Upon the completion of her two years of coursework, Kathy was awarded a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship to study in Fiji. During her year at the University of the South Pacific, she joined a diverse and energized set of students. “My time in Fiji was an amazing educational opportunity, a truly superb learning experience. Outside of my university work, my involvement with Rotary connected me with the local community in a completely different way.” This set up her master’s thesis project, where she explored small-scale village-based tourism as a rural development alternative. Undoubtedly, her time in Fiji confirmed her growing enthusiasm around the transformative effect of living abroad and experiencing other cultures first hand. Kathy joined the Office of International Programs at UO in 1991. Working with various regional programs, Kathy enjoyed her work directly with students as well as the behind-the-scenes work with her colleagues to build UO’s study abroad programming. “One aspect of my work that I have loved from the start is working with students in that creative moment when they return from study abroad. I enjoy mentoring students through this transition period, helping them find ways to incorporate their expanded international awareness into their future life plans.”

From 1996 – 2005, Kathy played a key role in creating and establishing the IE3 Global Internships program on campus. This program expanded the international experiences available to Oregon students, complementing study abroad with new opportunities to gain professional experience in an international context. Though international internships are commonplace for IS majors, that’s not the case for all students. IE3 made a remarkably diverse array of internship opportunities around the world accessible to any interested students at the university.

Kathy has been contemplating dynamic world leaders she has had the privilege of meeting or hearing speak, such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Kofi Annan, the Dalai Lama, and Aung San Suu Kyi. She continues to grow and learn through her work and is grateful to the IS department for paving the way for these incredible experiences. In the future she looks forward to collaborating with students, faculty, community members, and colleagues around the world to develop new ways to build bridges across cultures for students from all walks of life.
Yvonne Braun (associate professor) found herself very busy this past year despite being on sabbatical part of the time. She traveled to Costa Rica, which inspired a new, collaborative research project on tourism and sustainable development. In winter, she traveled to Kenya for the first time with a terrific organization, Friends of Kenya Schools and Wildlife. She participated in innovative grassroots community-based development and engaged in collaborative partnerships that enriched and inspired her thinking. She is continuing her previous research with a co-authored book chapter on the politics of dams and transnational social movements, and another chapter on intersectionality, feminist political ecology and environmental justice. In Fall, she also served as graduate director in I, on the bargaining team of the faculty union, and recently was elected Chair of the Global Division of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (2012 – 2015).

Derrick Hindery (assistant professor) During the past year Professor Hindery completed his book, From Enron to Evo: Pipeline Politics, Global Environmentalism, and Indigenous Rights in Bolivia, which will be published in June 2013 by the University of Arizona Press as part of the First Peoples, New Directions Publishing Initiative, funded by the Mellon Foundation. He also finished two articles based on ongoing research on conflicts over Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) projects in the US and abroad: Bait and switch: Neoliberal development and shifting geographies of LNG projects and Struggles over scale: cumulative impact assessment and LNG projects in the US. Professor Hindery was also honored to participate in “Spark!,” Global Oregon’s first major event linking local nonprofits distributing high-efficiency cookstoves throughout the world with UO faculty, students and beneficia-

R. Glenn Mittermann (adjunct lecturer) practiced law in the US before taking an MA in international studies at the UO. He then worked with the UN and spent 22 years overseas on a range of issues including environmental law, international drug control and the global fight against HIV/AIDS. Winter 2013 he is teaching a Freshman Seminar, “The UN in Public Imagination: Myth or Reality?” building on that experience. He is also developing a course on program development for global health for Spring 2014. He is happy to work with students considering careers with an international organization.

Anita M. Weiss (professor and department head) remains deeply involved with research and related professional activities in Pakistan. She spent the first half of her winter term Research Leave in Pakistan and the second half on a month-long Residency at the Rockefeller Center in Bellagio, Italy. In Pakistan, she ran a dissertation workshop for doctoral and M. Phil. students while making arrangements for her sabbatical next winter term when she’ll continue research in Swat. In Bellagio, she drafted a book manuscript, Interpreting Islam, Modernity and Women’s Rights in Pakistan, which is now under review by a major publisher. In May, she traveled to Pakistan for the launch of her recently co-edited book (with Saba Gul Khattak) Development Challenges confronting Pakistan (Kumarian Press, 2013) and joined SDPI’s election observation team for the May 11th national elections. She is traveling to Auckland, New Zealand in late June to have lunch with one of her “academic heroines,” Marilyn Waring, and will then continue to Melbourne where she is a plenary speaker at the Global Cities’ People and the Planet conference. Professor Weiss has just received a UO Faculty Excellence Award in recognition of, “the significant impact of her scholarly work.”

Stephen Wooten (associate professor) was an invited speaker at the “African Popular Culture in the 21st Century” symposium at the University of Edinburgh in October. In his presentation: “Ciwara in Motion: The Polysemic Popularization of Mande Expressive Culture,” he analyzed some of the central themes that form the core of his current book project. Due to his deep connections in the region, he recently served as guest editor of an online forum, “Hot Spot Mali,” for the journal Cultural Anthropology. Over the past academic year he has played a leadership role in the development of an exciting new Food Studies Program at the UO; a graduate specialization and an undergraduate minor are in the works. In May Professor Wooten was an invited participant at the “Future of Food Studies” workshop held at Indiana University.

Kristen Yarris (assistant professor) has developed several courses as part of a new curricular concentration in global health and development, including the core course, INTL 340 (Global Health & Development), and several seminars, Global Reproductive Health, Population Displacement and Global Health, and a course on disasters and global health that she will be teaching during zero week this summer. She is glad to build relationships with a number of graduates and undergraduates through courses and advising. This year she has also taught one course in Women’s and Gender Studies, Gender, Migration, and Transnational Family Life, which she plans to repeat next year. She looks forward to research trips to Mexico and Nicaragua this summer.
CONGRATULATIONS IS BA CLASS OF 2013!

Rachel Alise Acacio
Tosh G. Aguilar
Sabrina Syeda Ahmed
Amal Hamad Alqarini
Erin Taylor Altman*
Alexis Elizabeth Andersen
Andrea Miyuki Asai*
Jessica Lynn Atherton
Duc Minh Bach*
Grant Jeffrey Baker
Charles William Bisset
Elizabeth Louise Blieden
Adam John Borchers
Sophia Layser Borgias*
Ashly Marie Borrelli
Jake Alexander Bortnick
Jade Elizabeth Budden
Adrianna Marie Bury
Ming Michelle Canaday*
Samantha Angelina Cardone
Ho Ling Pricilla Cheung
Jae Hyoun Choi
SuBin Choi*
Kristina Nahathai Chou *
Bryce Whitney Clark
Zola Ray Collins*
Sophie Rose Conner
Shane Alexander Cunningham
Antonia K. DeMichiel
Alexcia Alexandra Dichmann*
Jacob Christopher Dodds
Meghan Lindsey Donovan
Ross Alexander Druckey
Mykeila Rowan Duong
Christine Ashley Eruiza
Claire S. Ernstsen*
Alice Hope Evans
Robert Joseph Fazio
Maureen Fitzgerald
Jared Alan Flamm
Moira England Flanigan*
Danielle Hokulea Frack
Jennifer Sandra Friedman
Bernadel Rose Hintz Garstecki*

Chelsea Ayce Gehring
Emma Corrine Gietzen Amelia
Anna Gilbertson* Aaron
Edward Glenn
Megan Marie Godfrey
Kailey Corinne Gramberg
Hannah Joy Marie Hamel
Hee Seung Han
Anna Patricia Harrington
Kelsey Linn Hesley
Madeline Burke Hillier
Andrew Patrick Holdun
Ryan Dale Hoover
Lee Joseph Huddleston
Lauren Constance Hutchinson*
Jon Dell Jaramillo*
Kelsey Ann Jarone*
Nassir Sheikhosman Jemal
Alyssa Quinn Jernigan
Cari M. Johnson
Ryan Patrick Kautz
Amrit Kaur Khalsa
Sarra Leyna Khlifi
Yuko Kikuchi
Mariah Lee Kimpton*
Joanna Christine King
Aarón Laden
Kathryn Elizabeth Landis
Ian Holland Law*
Ha Hoang Le
Shayna Rose Fishman Lentz
Alyssa Carmella Leone*
Tiffani H. Liang
Cynthia Liang
Jocelyn Nicole Lieppman*
Alicen Jessie Matthews*
Garrett Thomas McBride
Benjamin Robert McIntosh*
Mikaila Gabrielle McNeill
Hannah Noel Miles
Dayeon Min
Daniel Joseph Mitchell*
James Henry Morrison
Alexander Cameron Nagel*
Kelsey Amelia Nauta

Evan Gunnar Nelson
Morgan Justine Nelson
Kendall Superina Niles
Claire Elizabeth Oas
Anne Russell Obendorf
Jaehyung Park
Ji Hwan Park
Kourtney Paige Parks
Yanghui Peng
Tawny Marie Phillips
Naomi Alice Roberts
Alexandra Tess Rosenberg*
Lindsey Nicole Rosenfield
Hana Ryoo
Emma L. Sackinger
Katherine Anne Salemme
Elizabeth Filardo Schaller
Jillian Victoria Schmidt*
Chelsea Schmitt
Max Thomas Sleczykowski
Alexis Taylor Smith
Shannon Marie Smith
Samantha Lynn Starns
Logan Scott Stecker
Dennis Bradley Tanner*
Monica Rose Terveer*
Charlotte Helene Thompson
Joseph Christopher Trimarco
Lindsey Marie Tsai*
Amin Birka Tufa
Shanon Elise Turner
Nichole Marie VanLoo
Allison Beth Varga *
Cynthia Gian Vehrencamp*
Jasmin Nicole Volk
Michael Kuderer Vucinovich*
Laurel Onawa Way*
John E. Wesche
Erin Louise White*
Kacy Suzanne Willson
Angela Lee Wilson
James Thomas Wood
Jee-Sang Yoo

* Graduated with Honors
and Dr. Rifaat Hussain, professor emeritus at Quaid-e-Azam University in Islamabad, will be teaching South Asia: Development and Social Change, also in Fall. We’re also offering a bevy of courses addressing global concerns and the Muslim world, including summer offerings of Militant Islam (zero week), Development and Social Change in the Middle East and Development and the Muslim World - taught by visiting alumnus and Gulf resident Farid Nabti - and in the fall Islam and Global Forces. Some very exciting courses coming up for sure!

Our current graduate students have been traveling a lot, including Will Johnson who has conducted field research in both El Salvador and Pakistan (the latter on an American Institute of Pakistan Studies grant) for his thesis on corruption and impunity, George & Conni Slape Fellows Kate Faris and Lizzie Miskell, who have used their awards to travel and conduct field research in Colombia and Mexico, respectively, among others. This is now the third year we have been able to award Judy Fosdick Oliphant scholarships to undergraduate students to support their international travel expenses in association with fulfilling International Studies’ requirement to have “a significant international experience.” Judy Fosdick Oliphant supports our deep conviction that knowledge of the international arena is gained both in the classroom and in engaging personally abroad. This year, the Oliphant scholarship has supported undergraduate student travel to Singapore, Jordan, Senegal, and South Korea, and we have just made awards for students to travel to Argentina, France and Morocco; please read descriptions of their plans on page 11 in this newsletter. We have long recognized student frustration with being able to cover their international travel expenses, and greatly appreciate the support that George and Conni Slape and Judy Fosdick Oliphant have provided to enable our students to travel the world and promote cross-cultural understanding.

Our alumni continue to reach out and change the world, and you can read about some of their activities on pages 2-3 in this newsletter. Please send in more information for next year’s newsletter! Please join our alumni listserv network, a great way for faculty and alumni to communicate with each other, post job and internship announcements, check in to read about the extraordinary careers of our alumni and the global contributions they are making, and make connections to organize International Ducks alumni parties. We’d like to follow up and sponsor more alumni parties in the future as they’re a wonderful vehicle for reconnecting with the department, networking with people who share your interests, and overall having a great time. Contact me if you’re interested in organizing one!

The International Studies faculty values the steps each of us take to build a better world, together. Towards this end, the Department sponsored a great number of on campus activities this year, including lectures and a performance by Pakistani rock star Salman Ahmad, founder of Ja-noon (http://www.junoon.com) and author of Rock and Roll Jihad, who shared his experiences -- and his music! -- on how music can be politically and socially transformative. Other sponsorships supported student groups (including events concerning Africa, Asia, Germany, Hawaii, Latin America, the Middle East, Scandinavia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Viet Nam), and special events including the Foodways conference, Slow Money speakers, and the OIA International Projects Fair. We launched a new bimonthly brownbag ‘updates on research’ series involving faculty and graduate students this year, which has proved to be so popular it will become a monthly event in the fall. Held on Friday mornings, any alumni are welcome to attend – just write to Brooke Cagno (bcagno@uoregon.edu) in the fall if you want to see the schedule for the year, and write to me if you’re interested in making a presentation about your work when you’re in town!

Our students continue to travel the world, making significant differences wherever they go. Once again, except for Antarctica this year (yes, we’ve had a student work there in the past), no continent has been untouched by an IS undergraduate or graduate student. Please read further in this newsletter about some of the amazing work in which our students, faculty and alumni have been engaged.

Our students, alumni, faculty, and staff are our strength. With the generous support of parents, families, loved ones, and generous contributors to our department, our students and alumni 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 M. Weiss, Professor and Head
Chocolate Chip Durian Cake

By Vania Situmeang, IS MA Student (Indonesia)

Have you heard of durian? Everyone in my family loves it. Everyone in Indonesia loves it. But, it’s not for everybody. Highly popular in most southeast Asian countries, this spiky fruit has yellow custard-colored flesh, a creamy texture, and a strong fragrance. The fragrance is so strong that consuming the fruit is prohibited in public in several countries, such as Singapore and Thailand.

During my childhood, I used to hold my nose every time my family eagerly ate durians. My mother, who probably did not want me to miss out on this blissful experience entirely, would bake a yellow cake with smashed durian fruits. I loved it. Once baked, the pungent smell morphed into a sweet, buttery, floral aroma.

Being far away from home, this cake takes me back to my mother’s kitchen. To add more flavor, I added chocolate chips and salt.

Selamat mencoba! (Good luck!)

Ingredients:

- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose sifted flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 cup durian flesh, smashed
- 1 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 2/3 cup granulated sugar
- 6 large eggs, room temperature
- 1/4 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F
- 2. Sift flour, baking powder, and salt; set aside.
- 3. In a large bowl, cream together butter and sugar until light.
- 4. Add eggs, one at a time, beating after each addition.
- 5. Add smashed durian gradually and beat for 2 ½ minutes.
- 6. Add the sifted ingredients.
- 7. Pour batter into a greased and floured loaf pan.
- 8. Sprinkle chocolate chips on top.
- 9. Bake for 70 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in a center of cake comes clean.

Note: I haven’t seen any fresh durian fruits in Eugene but I usually use frozen durians. The aroma of the frozen fruits is not as strong as the fresh fruits.
CONGRATULATIONS IS 2013 MA GRADUATES!

Emily Capdeville, “The Negotiation of Writing in a Plurilingual Country: An Ethnography of the Malian Literary Scene”

Jessica Cavas, “Voices Against Violence: Empowering Women to Access Informal Justice in Rural India”

Caroline Dezendorff, “Agriculture, Diet, and Empowerment: Understanding the Role of Community Gardens in Improving the Health of Oregon’s Urban Latino Community”

Kate Faris, “Youth Workers and the Creative Arts on the Periphery of Bogotá: An Alternative Intervention”


Michelle Heath, “Radiation Stigma, Mental Health and Marriage Discrimination: The Social Side-Effects of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Disaster”

Andrew Howe, “The role of social networks in adopting technology: Jatropha biofuel production as rural development in Senegal”

Margot Jackson, “Meeting in the Middle: Welcoming Newcomers and Making Personal Connections in Small Town Iowa”

Devin Kenney, “Current Status of the Gaza Strip Under International Law”

Lizzy Miskell, “The Ordinariness of Diversity: Alternative Life-styles and Everyday Lives in Chiapas, Mexico”


Jason Schnoor, “Climate Change Adaptation in Egypt: The Sekem Initiative’s Potential for Affecting Social Change and Sustainable Adaptation Policy”

Sandra Sjogren, “Path to Community Involvement: How the Mentoring Relationship Contributes to the Reintegration of Formerly Incarcerated Persons”

Vania Situmeang, “Ume Kbubu: Household Granary and Food Security in Timor Tengah Selatan”

Lexi Stickel, “Culture, Community and Community Mediation: Understanding & Removing Barriers to Active Participation of Latinos in Community Mediation Centers in Oregon.”

Assa Sylla, Gender and Pollution: Women, Consumption and Plastic Bags Pollution in Mali

Evans Temi, “Self-Empowerment and Community Development in Tanzania”

by Jessica Cavas

Nearly a year after graduating from International Studies, Nick Drushella recently left for South Africa to join Imagine Scholar, a small nonprofit working with talented, underprivileged high school students in the impoverished Nkomazi region. While at the UO, Nick’s regional concentration area was Western Europe and he studied abroad in Spain. This being his first time to South Africa, he is now Imagine Scholar’s Outreach and Development Intern. “I’m excited about this opportunity because Imagine Scholar is a small, devoted team. Not only will I be doing things like social media and the newsletter, but I will be working directly with youth in the program as a tutor and as a mentor.”

In joining the Imagine Scholar team, Nick had the challenging task of conducting outreach and fundraising here in Oregon. Inspired by video exchanges and conversations with staff and youth at Imagine Scholar, Nick raised well over his original fundraising goal of $5,000. This support will go directly to help the 25 youth enrolled in the Imagine Scholar program. This unique fundraising experience has made Nick feel like a part of the Imagine Scholar team already. “While I am not yet physically a part of the program, when I touch down I will have familiar faces to see. We have conversations that have already started.”

While an IS major, Nick discovered his interest in the diverse field of international development, specifically the areas of youth development and micro finance. This is what initially attracted him to Imagine Scholar. In particular, he appreciates the program’s holistic, long-term approach to achieve its mission of improving the lives of the students and the community. Reflecting on his time at UO, Nick stated, “IS did a great job of exposing me to international issues. I especially appreciated the flexibility of the program. There was some structure but also a sense of creativity to incorporate courses that fit my individual interests. This was really important to me.”

As Nick and I spoke, just two days prior to his departure for South Africa, his excitement was tangible. Reflecting back on his IS coursework, Nick noted that he had several eye-opening experiences that gave him a new perspective. For example, through Galen Martin’s International Cooperation and Conflict course he recognized his own privileged perspective and how this can lead to assumptions regarding what has come to be known as progress. “I believe in a people-centered approach to development that considers people as agents of their own future, deciding for themselves the changes they want to see in their community. This is the exact approach that I will be working with at Imagine Scholar, where I can encourage and support youth to be managers of their own futures.”
Jody Fosdick Oliphant Scholarship Recipient: Pricilla Cheung

With the support of a Judy Fosdick Oliphant Scholarship, Pricilla Cheung studied abroad during winter term, 2013, at the National University of Singapore (NUS). Reflecting on her experience, she stated, “Singapore is mainly composed of Chinese, Malays, Indians as well as other foreigners. Being a part of such a society shed light on the true meaning of what diversity is all about. I learned that being respectful and open-minded are the keys to succeed in cross-cultural communication.”

Pricilla is graduating in June with a professional concentration in international business and a regional focus in Southeast Asia, which makes Singapore an attractive destination for her professionally. While at NUS, she took courses exploring contemporary social issues in Singapore. “I learned that it takes a lot of effort to maintain harmony among different social groups, and that everyone is responsible for fostering this harmony.” Outside of the classroom, Pricilla considered cultural differences between Singapore and Hong Kong, where she was born and lived until coming to the US for high school. “It wasn’t exactly how I expected. I was reminded that culture is not static, it develops into different forms and everyone takes part in shaping it. Even though a majority of the population in Singapore are ethnic Chinese, the culture and traditions there are different than in China, or Hong Kong. For example, I happened to be there during Chinese New Year, and the way Singaporeans celebrate is slightly different than how I did in Hong Kong or how I know people in China do.”

After graduation, Pricilla is passionate about a career where she can bring cultural awareness to a diverse workplace, be it within the development arena, international business, or the nonprofit sector. “I think that with the influence of globalization, it is even more crucial that we are open-minded and continually expanding our multicultural competence.” By living in one of the world’s leading financial centers, Pricilla reinforced her desire to explore cross-cultural communication further, and is incredibly grateful for this enriching and inspiring opportunity.

Sophia Borgias, from page 1

American studies, she has studied these issues with most depth as they pertain to the diverse cultures and complex politics of Latin America.

During her travels she has observed and understood, with greater clarity, the issues that IS courses address. Studying and traveling in South America for twelve months was a transformational experience for Sophia. Having spent time in Mexico, she chose programs in Chile and Ecuador in order to experience (as best she could in two semesters) the geographic, linguistic, political and cultural diversity of Latin America. The disparity between rich and poor is an issue throughout Latin America but manifests itself in distinct ways in different areas. In Chile, the inequality is hidden and pushed aside to make way for rapid development, while in Ecuador the dramatic contrast is almost always in plain sight, with intense poverty and immense wealth literally side by side. Having become very interested in social movements and civil engagement in Yvonne Braun’s class, Global Social Movements, she was especially fascinated by the different ways in which people resist inequity and injustice, finding ways to persevere and to demand change.

She studied in Chile during an intense period of social mobilization and protest. Her honors thesis, titled Patagonia Without Dams: Framing, Democracy, and Social Transformation in Chile, examines the development of a social movement that arose in opposition to the proposal of a hydroelectric dam project in Patagonia. She began her research project while studying in Valdivia, Chile and then conducted thesis research in the Aysén region of Patagonia. She discovered that the anti-dam movement was part of a much broader fight for social justice and deeper democracy in a society fighting to recover from the Pinochet dictatorship.

After graduating this June, she plans to take a year off to work and apply for a Fulbright Fellowship, as well as continue research and apply for graduate programs. For her graduate studies she is particularly interested in researching the politics of water and water conflicts, particularly in Latin America. Combining her interests in water issues and social movements, she is interested in the way that people mobilize to protect or reclaim access to water resources that are rapidly being privatized by large corporations all over the world. These are issues that she first became interested in during freshman year in Galen Martin’s course, International Conflict and Cooperation, and she feels she has come full circle as she leaves the UO with her International Studies degree.

Sophia is the undergraduate commencement speaker this year and was also selected for the prestigious Phi Beta Kappa Oregon Six Award. Phi Beta Kappa Society’s mission is, “fostering and recognizing excellence in the liberal arts and sciences,” and each year six outstanding UO undergraduates are selected to be members of the Oregon Six. Congratulations, Sophia, on this well deserved award!
Undergraduate Highlight: by Kelsey Jarone

The International Studies Department ignited my passion for international relations, and offered me the opportunity to embark on a career dedicated to national service. Through courses such as the Culture of Capitalism and Perspectives on International Development, I began to focus on the role of colonialism in globalization, as well as national security and U.S. foreign policy. To supplement my coursework, I decided to embark on a trip that ultimately provided an incredible scholarship and job opportunity with the federal government, and solidified the direction of my career in diplomacy.

As a David L. Boren Scholar, I lived in Salvador, Brazil from January to December 2012 to study race and its relationship to national security. Salvador was the colonial capital of Brazil and manifests the continued institutionalized racism and social tensions plaguing the country since the Portuguese began to colonize over 500 years ago. As Brazil emerges on the global stage and shines in its economic and cultural appeal, the question of income inequality and mobility are often neglected in favor of discussions on new trade opportunities.

My research focused on the socioeconomic realities of people of color as Brazil’s economy booms and yet maintains institutional barriers to socioeconomic mobility. Affirmative action policies have emerged in places such as the Federal University of Bahia, where I attended classes.

The successful implementation of programs designed to expand opportunities for traditionally marginalized students fascinated me, and I am planning to further pursue these questions relating to income inequality, national security as it relates to economic performance, and race.

Following my graduation in June 2013 as a double major in International Studies and Political Science, I will spend 5 months in Glasgow, Scotland living with Brazilian friends I met during my year abroad. I will then move to Washington, D.C. to fulfill my Boren Scholarship service requirement with the federal government. I hope to serve in a position with the State Department and explore the benefits and limitations of development projects in Latin America.

The International Studies Department has introduced me to a wealth of opportunities and experiences both on campus and abroad, and I appreciate the path it has given me to what I intend to be a meaningful career in foreign policy.

Martin, from page 1

Galen’s extensive history and contributions to IS along with involvement across these three departments gives him a unique perspective he brings to the classroom, “I teach a wide variety of subjects. I think of myself as an environmental geographer, but always in the background are issues of environmental justice, global equality, and international development. The classroom becomes an outlet to continually pursue these interests.”

Because Galen is career teaching faculty, his fulltime teaching load is nine different courses a year. He also served as interim Graduate Studies Director in IS this winter and spring. The diversity of issues he addresses in the classroom includes global food security, sustainable development, conflict resolution, the framing of issues in media, and genocide prevention. He recently received word that the Savage Endowment of International Relations and Peace has funded his project proposal, “Building Response-Based Undergraduate Curriculum and Course Content Concerning Genocide and its Prevention.”

A graduate student shared, “I see Galen as an example of a person who exemplifies “right livelihood” in that he works on exploring practical solutions for the most pressing global problems: environmental degradation, war and conflict, as well as the food and water crises that we face.”

Another student added, “He not only gives great lectures that stimulate critical thinking, objectivity and fairness in the international arena, but he goes the extra mile to provide the support, both intellectual and personal, that makes all the difference for many students.”

But “solutions” is a problematic term, Galen argues. “It’s easy to feel overwhelmed by the problems, and the challenge, especially in the classroom, is to stay open to the possibility to make changes. The problems are clear, but the solutions are open-ended. We have to be comfortable with the this ambiguity as we move forward and make the world a better place.” One way he can integrate this sense of possibilities is through his first hand experience running a 20-acre farm in Eugene. This gives him a perspective regarding the choices agriculture producers face.

With decades of experience teaching a variety of courses and collaborating with scholars, farmers, and peace-building organizations in the community, Galen is continually engaged in bringing a fresh, relevant perspective to his lectures. Likewise, he is always scanning the horizons for new courses to develop. “I aim to be attentive and responsive to student interest, and where these interests intersect with my own there is a catalyst for new courses.” Next spring, Galen will be traveling with his family to Sienna, Italy to teach American students studying abroad. He is excited to explore environmental issues related to food and agriculture in Italy, which contributes to one of his current projects, developing a permanent course on food security for the IS department. This course will contribute to the emerging food studies program on campus.
Jean Faye, from page 1

Faye explained, “There are two seasons here, wet and dry. Droughts occur regularly, and we call that the hunger season... This is a difficult time for villagers, and people are forced to come together as a community.”

Faye’s field work explored the attitudes of farmers towards adopting agroforestry systems on their farms. “Agroforestry is a term that is used within the international community to describe what traditional farmers do in the Sahel. It’s about maintaining or adding trees to farmlands.”

Being from the area, Faye knew that some farmers are supportive of agroforestry, some hesitant, some resistant. He also strongly believes that agroforestry has the potential to increase crop yields, provide much needed fuel wood, as well as fodder for livestock. “These three areas are all interconnected, creating a triple win situation that will improve the livelihoods of people in this regions.”

Faye’s findings reveal that those farmers using agroforestry are more wealthy, with the means to purchase and use chemical fertilizers, than farmers less supportive of agroforestry. These farmers are using traditional farming practices and producing food primarily for their own consumption. In contrast, farmers hesitant or opposed to agroforestry are without the means to purchase fertilizers, and interested in accessing external markets to sell their crop. These findings problematize the assumption that traditional practice is associated with poverty. “These families using chemicals in addition to using tradiitonal farming practices are experiencing what I call a ‘virtuous circle’, where those who were already using elements of agroforestry have benefited from its use and continue to incorporate ‘trees within their farm land.’”

Another interesting finding relates to the characteristics of the farmers themselves. Those farmers unsure or opposed to agroforestry, and attracted to selling their crops, are younger and more educated than their counterparts practicing traditional farming.

New Oliphant Awardees and Undergraduate Scholarships

This year the IS department received the highest number of applications for the Jody Fosdick Oliphant scholarship. Of the eleven applications, which were all solid applicants, four exceptional IS undergraduates were selected.

Hayley Bridwell will use her Oliphant Scholarship in Rabat, Morocco, where she will live with a host family while studying both Modern Standard Arabic and Colloquial Moroccan Arabic. Hayley looks forward to the, “opportunity to see first hand how religion influences culture in a modern day setting, and the role of strong common religious beliefs in a community.”

Sophia Gibson Hoover will also be going to Rabat, Morocco, through a different study abroad program that is field based, where students have the opportunity to conduct original field research, in addition to intensive language study and focused coursework. This program will serve as the basis for her honors thesis, looking at, “comparing institutions in place that support the education of immigrant and refugee youth in Morocco and the United States.”

Emma Carscallan will be traveling to Rosario, Argentina to focus on international justice and the Spanish language. Emma is devoted to language studies and language education, and is working toward a future career, “working with immigrants to help them acclimate to the society they are trying to become a part of.”

Ian Murray, who wants to live and work in France or another French-speaking country, will be using his Oliphant Scholarship to direct enroll in the University of Poiteirs in France. His current career trajectory involves, “facilitating communication between members of diverse backgrounds.”

In addition to these Oliphant Scholarships, three IS undergraduates received scholarships from the College of Arts and Sciences. Inessa Wurscher received the George and Susan Fugelsang Scholarship. Liz Prischenko was awarded the Mildred L. Clifford Scholarship. Rosanna Yerke received the Susan A. Winn Memorial Scholarship.

Congratulations to all!
Keep in Touch!

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Graduation date or other connection to International Studies: _________________
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