

Curriculum in International & Area Studies

Fall 2007 Newsletter



In this issue of the CIAS newsletter, we feature stories from two of our young alumni: Jason Warner '06 and Taylor Steelman '07. If you'd like to share the story of where your International Studies major has taken you, please e-mail tdhudson@email.unc.edu.



From UNC to Senegal and Beyond

When my "Baby Got Back" cell phone ring broke the silence in the first moments of my first class my freshman year, the look that I received from Dr. Eunice Sahle made me want to run out of Murphy Hall and never come back. Thankfully, that day would not be both the beginning and the end of my education in African Studies.

During my first two years at UNC, I became increasingly intrigued with the subject, and received a SURF Fellowship from the Office of Undergraduate Research to study the use of French (as opposed to local African languages) in public schools in Senegal. I backpacked around the country talking to USAID officials and public school teachers and rummaging around the archives of the Ministry of Education. I spent the next year as a student at the Université de Montpellier where I, like most anyone who goes there, had the time of my life. I returned to UNC my senior year, where I used my research from Senegal to write a thesis on Senegal's possibility of achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and I also served as a teacher for Great Decisions.

Upon graduating, I received an assistantship from the French government to serve as a teacher in a public middle school in its South American territory of French Guiana. Working only twelve hours a week

in the middle of rainforest, I found myself with more than ample time to learn about my new home, which I quickly learned maintains a very odd neo-colonial relationship with France. Because so few people visit French Guiana, little is written about it in any language, but especially little in English. I took advantage of my free time and am in the process of writing the first (to my knowledge) comprehensive historical and political analysis of French Guiana in English.

This past summer I served as an intern at Trans-Africa Forum, the organization largely responsible for successfully lobbying Congress to place a trade embargo on South Africa during the apartheid era, an act which eventually led to that country's integration. As a policy assistant, I researched and wrote policy briefs about developments on the continent, including the Bush administration's attempts at creating a military command on the continent named "AFRICOM". Inspired by the need for a greater dialogue amongst young African scholars, a colleague and I recently created an academic journal called *Nouveau Griot* that will be making a call for submissions in the near future.

Currently, I live in the Canary Islands, a Spanish territory near Western Sahara that is plagued by
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boatloads of West African immigrants who make the treacherous journey to arrive in a nearby European Union territory. I'll begin working with the Red Cross soon in talking with refugees to better understand their motivations and experiences in making the journey. Next year I'll be heading to

graduate school to continue my education in African Studies, though in the future, I'll be sure to activate the "vibrate" function on my mobile phone.

— Jason Warner is a 2006 International Studies graduate. Please feel free to contact Jason at warnjason@gmail.com.

Grenade Launchers and Running Shorts

Howard Wolpe captured it best when he said to me, "What humility, these presidents." (Not that the seven term congressman and former American ambassador to the Great Lakes peace process doesn't have his own fair share of the stuff.) But he couldn't be more right. Tucked away for four days in the country and put in the hands of a team of foreigners, every living former president of Burundi laughed and ate and talked with all of us during the BLTP training. Men who lead a country let themselves be trained in leadership skills, ate meals alongside people who vehemently oppose their policies and even sometimes, without pretense, talked to me.

Aside from the four presidents, the participant list included the chairs of the party in power, senior members of all other parties, three generals, the chief of staff of the army, the director of the national police, and a handful of other deputies or senators, ambassadors, and ministers. Granted, Burundi is the size of Connecticut, but come on – a general is a general. Especially when you consider the importance of security here.

For example, I was afraid to run most mornings during the retreat because I dreaded the idea of passing the clusters of uniformed men who held really big guns and tend to stare – in running shorts. The highest profile people brought entourages that would make Hollywood types look petty and Secret Service agents look Hollywood. Because by entourage I mean two trucks loaded with armed men, and by big guns I mean grenade launchers. Intimidation in Central Africa exists on a whole different plane.

The most remarkable thing about the workshop was how well everyone got along, given that three years ago, some of these people couldn't be in the same

room (a natural side effect of being at war with each other). One of the participants (Buyoya) performed a coup d'état in 1996... against another participant (Bagaza). Some of the participants are still part of an armed rebel movement against the government (the FNL, or Forces Nationales de Liberation). And yet here they were, sitting together in a stuffy room for a few days of dialogue, and every last thing went off without a hitch.

All in all, I was most struck by how the workshop was able to suspend reality. In real life, these people are not chummy. Real life is not necessarily the news that paints all of Burundian political leadership as rife with animosity, but it is somewhere between that and the pleasant morning scenes of rebel leaders taking coffee with the head of the ruling party. In real life I would be thought a bit odd (if not a security risk) for incessantly taking pictures of generals chatting over a coffee break. The reality suspension might speak both to the power and weakness of the BLTP trainings. On one hand, it is extremely effective in bringing people together for a week outside of Bujumbura (the capital city). On the other, that's just a week outside of Bujumbura.

The country is undergoing a fascinating transition between war and peace at the moment, and the fragile peace that exists is stretched taut by serious political tensions. But if these leaders can actualize the desire for peace and cooperation they expressed during the BLTP workshop, better days might lie on the hilly horizon of Burundi.

— Taylor Steelman, a 2007 International Studies graduate, is doing an internship in Bujumbura, Burundi with the [Burundi Leadership Training Program](#) (BLTP), a non-governmental organization that leads trainings in leadership and conflict management for political leaders and the security sector in Burundi.

A Note from the CIAS Chair

This issue of the CIAS newsletter gives readers a sense of the remarkable array of global research, scholarship, and just plain living in which our current students, alumni, and faculty are involved. This fact was once more brought home to me as I prepared my remarks for our first-ever CIAS graduation ceremony in the new FedEx Global Education Center last spring. The Curriculum in International and Area Studies encompasses a community of students, scholars, and travelers whose academic research, transnational cultural experiences, and public service transforms complex global issues into local understanding. Wherever you are in the continuum of the CIAS community, as you read about all of the activity described in this newsletter remember to bring it all back home to UNC. Visit us in our new quarters, let us know what you are doing, keep in touch.

– Adam Versényi, Chair

News & Announcements

May 2007 Commencement

On May 13, 2007, CIAS honored 112 International Studies graduates with a ceremony and reception in the new FedEx Global Education Center. Graduates and their friends and families heard speeches by winners of the Curriculum's two annual awards: Jane Hudson '07, who won the 2006-2007 Douglas Eyre Prize for best thesis by an international studies student for "Confronting an Anomaly: A History of the Perception and Modernization of Landfill Scavenging in Fortaleza, Brazil," and Taylor Steelman '07, who won the Anne Scaff Award for service to the Curriculum and contributing to the internationalization of the university.



*The auditorium of the new FedEx Global Education Center was filled to capacity for spring 2007 commencement.
(Photo courtesy Kevin Murphy '07)*

CIAS Moves to the New FedEx Global Education Center

On March 16, 2007, CIAS moved into its new home in the FedEx Global Education Center (GEC). The four-story, 80,000-square-foot building is located at the corner of McCauley and Pittsboro streets, between the Carolina Inn and the Tate-Turner-Kuralt building. CIAS is located on the second floor of the building, sharing a floor with Study Abroad and the Office of International Students and Scholar Services.

The FedEx Global Education Center serves as the gateway to all international programs on campus and features classroom space, a videoconferencing center, a café, and a home for several academic and student programs now spread across campus. The Global Education Center is a tangible statement of UNC's increasing commitment to global teaching, learning, research, and service. A ceremony to formally dedicate the building was held on University Day, October 12, 2007, and featured speakers Chancellor James Moeser and Frederick W. Smith, Chairman, President, and CEO of FedEx Corp.



*The FedEx Global Education Center, new home of CIAS.
(Photo by Dan Sears)*

Student Conference Focuses on Human Rights in Contemporary Africa

CIAS supported the April 20, 2007 conference "Social Movements and Human Rights Struggles in Contemporary Africa" organized by students in Dr. Eunice Sahle's seminar AFRI 416. Mr. Ollen Mwalubunju, currently a Human Rights Commissioner with the Malawi Human Rights Commission, founder and previously the Executive Director of the Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation in Lilongwe, Malawi, was the guest speaker.

Students: Propose a Research Circle

In order to enrich the flow of research ideas among students, UNC's Center for Global Initiatives is pleased to fund Student Research Circles. These circles receive \$2,000 funding for an academic year to support activities such as speaker series, brown bags, workshops, publications, film screening, and service-learning projects. Any enrolled graduate or undergraduate student at Carolina is eligible to propose a Student Research Circle. The research themes currently of interest to the Center for Global Initiatives are Peace and Conflict Resolution; Global Health; Migration, Citizenship and Identity; and the Globalization of the American South. For more information, visit <http://gi.unc.edu/funding/ugrad-circles.html>.

Film "Belonging" Premieres at UNC

CIAS co-sponsored the April 16, 2007 North American premiere of the documentary film "Belonging" by Palestinian-American filmmaker Tariq Nasir. A reception and discussion with the filmmaker followed the premiere. Challenging common stereotypes of a displaced people, "Belonging" tells the story of deep-rooted attachment to one's land, the loss of an ancestral home, and the experience of being made a refugee. As told by two generations of surviving family members, "Belonging" is not a story of blame and bitterness. It is in fact a human story, one of displacement and loss; a story of longing and belonging. For more on the film, visit <http://www.belongingthefilm.com>.



Support the Curriculum!

Gifts to the Curriculum in International Studies support our mission of providing Carolina students the opportunity to develop an appreciation for and fuller understanding of the global issues by giving us the resources to

- Bring speakers to campus
- Hold the annual CIAS commencement ceremony
- Recognize our honors students with the annual honors luncheon
- Fund awards
- And more!

To make a gift to the Curriculum, [click here](#) to give online (be sure to designate "Curriculum in International & Area Studies" in the department or program space) or contact The Arts and Sciences Foundation, 134 E. Franklin St., Chapel Hill, NC 27514, 919-962-0108. We truly appreciate your support!

Faculty Awards & Recognition

- Associate Professor **Milada Vachudova** has been awarded a major international prize for her book *Europe Undivided: Democracy, Leverage and Integration After Communism* (Oxford, 2005). The Stein Rokkan Prize for Comparative Social Science Research is awarded biennially by the International Social Science Council. She will travel to Paris in November to give an address and accept the prize.
- Associate Professor **Michael Tsin** has received a 2008 Grier/Woods Presbyterian China fellowship.
- Chair **Adam Versényi** has recently had three articles published: "Journeys Through the Mexican Heartland with Ixtlamatinijl," *Revista CELCIT*, 31 (2007); "Translation as an Epistemological Paradigm for Theatre in the Americas," *Theatre Journal* 59 (2007): 431-447; and "Reason Obscured: Nine Plays by Ricardo Monti," book review in *Latin American Theatre Review* 40/2 (Spring 2007): 185-187. Additionally, Dr. Versényi has founded and serves as editor for the electronic journal *Mercurian: A Theatrical Translation Review*. The inaugural issue was published in spring 2007, and a second issue was published over the summer.
- Assistant Professor **Chad Bryant's** first book, *Prague in Black: Nazi Rule and Czech Nationalism*, was published in April 2007. He is now beginning two new projects: a "traveler's history" of Prague and a study of railway cultures in the pre-1848 Habsburg monarchy. Themes from all three projects will emerge in his HIST 140, "The World Since 1945," course, which he will teach for the first time in the spring of 2008.
- Instructor **Hannah Gill**, who teaches the APPLS service-learning course "Latin American Migrant Perspectives" each spring, won a 2007 Undergraduate Teaching Award.
- Assistant Professor **Banu Gokariksel** authored a chapter, "A Feminist Geography of Veiling: Gender, Class and Religion in the Making of Modern Subjects and Spaces in Istanbul," for the book *Women, Religion, and Space*, K. Morin and J.K. Guelke, Eds. (Syracuse University Press, 2007). She has also received an Institute for the Arts and Humanities Faculty Fellowship for spring 2008.
- Professor **Liesbet Hooghe** served as editor of a special issue of *European Union Politics* on the topic "Euroskepticism, Parties, and Public Opinion" (vol. 8, iss. 1). She also contributed the article "What drives Euroskepticism? Party-public cueing, ideology and strategic opportunity" (pp. 5-12).
- Instructor **Tara Muller** leads the K-12 International Outreach Program housed in the Center for Global Initiatives and teaches the related course "K-12 Intercultural Education," an APPLS service-learning course. During the 2006-2007 school year, the program directed over 90 student presenters, delivered 538 presentations, and served 15,496 NC primary school students in 74 K-12 schools.
- Assistant Professor **Christopher Nelson** has a book in press, *Dancing with the Dead: Memory, Performance and Everyday Life in Postwar Okinawa* (Duke University Press), as well as forthcoming chapter, "In the Middle of the Road I Stand Transfixed," in *Gender and Sexuality in the Global U.S. Military Empire*, M. Hohn and S. Moon, Eds. (Duke University Press).
- **John Pickles**, Earl N. Phillips Distinguished Professor of International Studies, will become Chair of the Geography Department at UNC on January 1, 2008.

Alumni, students, and faculty:

Do you have news to share? Know of events that may be of interest to CIAS students, graduates, and faculty? Send information to Tara Hudson, CIAS Administrative Manager, at tdhudson@email.unc.edu for inclusion in the next newsletter!

Student Updates

- As part of her APPLES internship in spring 2007, **Sarah Schwarz '08** organized the COAST (Carolina Organized Against Sex Trafficking) Conference, held April 21, 2007. The purpose of the conference was to raise local awareness about sex trafficking, and it featured a keynote address by Robert Goff of Restore International.
- The following students received undergraduate research awards for 2007-2008:
 - **Elizabeth Carlson '08**, for her project, "Corporate Welfare Projects and Oil Wealth Redistribution in Kazakhstan"
 - **Angela Harper '08**, for her project, "Global Child Slavery: A Comparison and Analysis of the Approaches and Methods Used by Large International Organizations versus Smaller Community-Based Organizations in the Eradication of the Problem"
 - **Claire McGarry '08**, for her project, "Weaving an Identity in an 'Island Surrounded by Land': Identity-Building through Traditional Artesanía in Itauguá, Paraguay"
 - **Valerie Scott '08**, for her project, "HIV/AIDS and Food Security: Is There a New Variant Famine in Swaziland?"
 - **Shefa Sikder '08**, for her project, "MDG Unions: Catalyzing MDG Progress in Bangladesh." She also received the 2007 Little Prize, awarded to a student whose honors thesis project proposal "shows exceptional promise and whose overall academic accomplishments suggest the likelihood that the thesis will make a particular contribution to the literature in his or her field."
- **Jennifer Melton '08** and **Eric Schabel '09** are recipients of the Michael L. and Matthew L. Boyatt Award for study abroad for summer/fall 2007. The Boyatt Award is a merit-based scholarship to enable International Studies majors to study abroad. Jennifer is studying this fall in Cape Town, South Africa and Eric spent the summer in Tokyo, Japan.
- **Amy Zhang '10**, an Arts Management and International Studies double major, received an APPLES Social Entrepreneur Fellowship. She will develop VoraciTee to fund proactive and effective aid organizations by sponsoring accessible online t-shirt design competitions focusing on timely global and domestic issues. The winning design will be printed on T-shirts that will be sold, and profits will go toward a non-governmental organization supporting the addressed issue. The Fellowships are awarded to students for developing a sustainable service projects in the Triangle community.
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Alumni Updates

From **Amanda Elam '89**: "After graduation, I spent a year in Canada (where I was from) applying for the Foreign Service. It didn't work out in the end, so I came back home to NC and worked for a software start up in the Triangle for five years before applying to graduate school. I was torn between pursuing advanced study in Business, Psychology, or Sociology. On the advice of one of my best UNC professors, Prof. Andrew Scott (Political Science; now deceased), I chose Sociology—because as I was told, 'You can study anything from the field of Sociology.' That much has proven to be true, although you really have to choose a specialty to be at all effective in scholarship. I wrote my dissertation on crossnational patterns of gender and entrepreneurship, developing a novel multilevel theoretical framework in the process. It's been great fun! And as you can see I still love the International Studies perspective on life."

Blake Tye '07 is serving as an Americorps*VISTA volunteer for Survivors of Torture, International, a nonprofit organization that facilitates healing services for survivors of torture and their families living in San Diego County. Blake's interest in human rights became particularly strong while she was studying Latin American politics as a student in CIAS. To learn more about the work Blake is doing, please visit www.notorture.org.

- The Curriculum congratulates the following International Studies majors graduating in spring 2008 who have committed to writing honors theses: **Elizabeth Carlson, Faith Cordell, Shepard Daniel, Dara Fickes, Sarah Grossblatt, Marissa Hall, Chao Han, Angela Harper, Palmer Heenan, Derin Knowles, Kaitlyn Large, Christa McCann, Claire McGarry, Cooper McGuire, Seth Peavey, Stephanie Preston, Valerie Scott, Shefa Sikder, Evan Sloop, Ellen Stanley, Amy Tamas, Katherine Thompson, Mantas Valiunas, Lauren Westervelt, and Kapa Yang.**
- The spring 2008 Great Decisions coordinating committee is being led by **Hudson Vaughan '08** and **Elizabeth Menninga '08**. Committee members are **Kaylan Christofferson, Amanda Davis, Katherine Evans, Christine Fang, Kimberly Fisher, Dawson Gage, Sarah Grossblatt, David Hamilton, Hannah Highfill, Helen Koch, Jacob Mader, Pam Garcia, Erin O'Quinn, Rachel Osborn, Anne Simpson, Alexander Snider, Kayla Tausche, and Laura Williamson**. The Great Decisions committee is comprised of undergraduates who are selected at the end of each school year through a competitive application process. The student coordinating committee works during the fall to arrange speakers. During the spring the committee acts as TAs for the popular class, which is structured as a lecture series.

Upcoming Events

Come celebrate global cultures at the new FedEx Global Education Center!

UNC's FedEx Global Education Center will be hosting a series of cultural programs every Thursday during the fall 2007 and spring 2008 semesters. Come enjoy art exhibitions, music and dance, lectures, informal social events, and even coffee samplings! All events are free and open to the public.

A full list of events taking place at the FedEx Global Education Center is available at global.unc.edu.



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