As ISP enters its 21st year, we are pleased to be able to welcome two new faculty members who together bring an especial depth to students' opportunities to learn about Africa. Professors Dennis Galvan and Steven Wooten join a faculty who, in the words of former director Phil Young, "dream out loud and collaboratively," and "seek creative solutions that would address the dream within the framework of existing fiscal and staffing realities."

Dennis Galvan, an award-winning teacher at the University of Florida, Gainesville, where he has taught for four years, received his doctorate in Political Science at UC Berkeley in 1996. He will join ISP in Fall 2001, when he will teach a new course "US/Africa Cultural Identity Politics," as well as "Perspectives on International Development." In his current research, he is coordinating a multi-disciplinary evaluation of the UNDP's new "Sustainable Livelihoods" approach to development in Brazil, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Zambia, Malawi, and north-central Florida; is carrying out field studies in ethnic cooperation in Senegal and Indonesia; and is exploring the cultural bases of the nation and political community in West Africa. Look for his book, The State must be the master of fire: syncretism and sustainable development in Senegal, which will appear later this year.

Stephen Wooten has conducted ethnographic research on agrarian change and expressive culture in Mali since 1992. He received his doctorate in Sociocultural Anthropology and African Studies in 1997 from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and has held positions at Illinois State University, University of Florida and UCLA, where he was the Assistant Director of the James S. Coleman African Studies Center. A University Fellow and an adjunct faculty member at UO since 1999, Stephen has received enthusiastic student response for his course "Development and Social Change in Sub-Saharan Africa." He is currently at work on a book manuscript, Headdresses and Hoes: enigmatic emblems of a Mande modernity, an exploration of the ways in which "global processes refract through local optics" in rural Mali. Stephen will join ISP as a core faculty member starting Fall 2001 when he will be teaching "Anthropological Perspectives on Africa."

Complementing Professor Weiss's focus on South Asia and the Muslim world, Professor Proudfoot's focus on the Americas, Southeast Asia and the Pacific, and Indigenous Peoples, and Professor Carpenter's focus on Southeast Asia, Professors Galvan and Wooten bring us several steps closer to realizing Clancy Thurber's original dream of an academic program that is "truly international in its academic offerings, its student body and its educational philosophy."
Unearthing the Truth: The Exhumation Process in Post-War Guatemala

The country of Guatemala is often described as a land of contradictions. Rich in natural resources, the majority of its people suffer from a poverty so extreme that Guatemala has the worst health indicators in Central America. Although the majority of its population is Mayan - the first people to live in the land of what is now Southern Mexico and Guatemala - Guatemala has been ruled by a small ladino elite identified with its Spanish heritage since the conquest over 500 years ago. Although the country is tiny - about the size of Tennessee - it has been devastated by huge waves of violence throughout most of its post-conquest history.

Most recently, these historical roots of inequality and oppression resulted in a thirty-six year war that affected every region of the country: Of the 200,000 people killed, eighty-three percent were Mayan, over 450 villages were completely destroyed, and 200,000 children lost at least one parent. The war ended with a peace accords agreement signed in 1996, but questions remain about the future of Guatemala. Will any real changes be made to improve the situation of the majority who live in poverty? How will the country rebuild its torn social fabric after so many years of war? What challenges do Mayan communities, who suffered the most during the war, face in its aftermath?

From October 1997 to March 1998, I was in Guatemala working with a non-governmental organization called Centro de Accion Legal en Derechos Humanos (Center for Human Rights Legal Action) in an attempt to answer some of these questions as part of my Masters research. CALDH works for change on many levels, one of which is an exhumation team that digs up massacre victims from the war at the request of local communities. A legal team within CALDH then works with the communities to bring to trial those responsible for these atrocities.

Tuc’ubuc, a small community located in Northwestern Guatemala, was one of the hundreds of villages targeted by the Guatemalan army’s scorched earth campaign. On a day in 1982, a helicopter arrived, circled the village, and left. Thirty minutes later, more helicopters arrived and landed. Twelve to fifteen soldiers climbed out of each one. A group of thirty people, most of whom belonged to the same family, saw the helicopters arrive and went into a house and began praying. The army soldiers grabbed them and took them to a site near a cave where the army said the villagers had been hiding supplies for the guerrillas. The soldiers slit their throats. All of them –

continued on next page
men, women, and children – were then thrown into the cave. Marcos was working in the fields outside the village when the army arrived. He fled to the mountains, remained in hiding for days, and eventually escaped to a larger town. Other people could not or did not immediately leave. Some of them died from hunger while in hiding. Some were caught and murdered by the army after returning to their homes. At some point soon after the massacre, the army killed all of the animals and burned the houses and fields to the ground. As far as the authors of the massacre were concerned, Tuc’u’buc no longer existed. But it did still exist in the memory of the survivors. Marcos is a testament to the strength of those memories. Over the course of ten years, he made his way back to Tuc’u’buc. His new house is built alongside the still visible scars of the one that was burnt to the ground. Currently, fifteen families have returned, and in early February 1998, I accompanied the CALDH exhumation team that arrived to unearth the truth of what happened in Tuc’u’buc some sixteen years ago.

There are many steps involved in any given exhumation. A dialogue is established between the team and the community members to ensure that the exhumation process is respectful and meets the needs of the community. Interviews are done with community members to establish what happened the day of the massacre: what the events were, who was responsible, and who the victims were. Details about what the victims were wearing are also helpful in the identification of those killed, the majority of whom were hastily buried in pits. A ceremony usually takes place and is an important step in preparing the community for the exhumation. Finally, the exhumation actually begins; remains are painstakingly removed from excavated sites and taken to a location nearby to be cleaned and examined. Victims are identified and the cause of death is established. Most frequently, the bones yield indisputable evidence that corroborates testimony from the community. Signs of torture, the skeletons of elders, pregnant women, and children, and bullet casings from army-issued equipment strongly support that the army killed thousands of unarmed civilians during the war. Finally, remains are returned to the community for a burial in accordance with their customs and beliefs. There are currently four exhumation teams working within Guatemala that are inundated with hundreds of requests from local communities that suffered massacres during the war. Why is the exhumation process so important in the post-war context? First, survivors want their family members exhumed from the pits they were thrown into and reburied with remembrance and respect. Second, while many powerful and elite members of Guatemalan society think the country should forget the history of the war (“forgive and forget”), those who suffered the most want the past remembered, both for the memories of the people who were killed, but also because they feel those responsible should be brought to justice - something that has not yet occurred at all in Guatemala. In fact, many of the authors of these crimes are still in positions of power in the Guatemalan government. Finally, the exhumations present clear evidence of who was responsible for these crimes and the innocence of those killed. This is an important step towards healing both within communities, where the army tried to divide community members and turn them against each other, and within the nation because many people are still either unaware or do not believe the extent of violence that occurred in Mayan communities throughout the countryside.

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Announcements & Events

WELCOME NEW INTERNATIONALISTS:
- Sungmin Kim and Jieun’s new baby girl -- Yoonjin -- born on March 23rd;
- Kannavee Suebsang and Apinita’s new baby girl -- Kamonchanok -- born on April 30th;
- Maya Rabasa and Eric’s new baby boy -- Nico -- born May 14th.

ISP will now be offering a four-year M.A./J.D. concurrent degree with the UO Knight Law School, for students concentrating on international human rights issues.

Leece Lee and Mark Carrato both presented papers at the Feminism Unbound Symposium at the University of Oregon, May 11-12.

Shelley Sarfati is in Bangladesh working with BRAC on a Fulbright fellowship. Karen Rasmussen recently returned from Cambodia where she was working with PACT researching the impact of microcredit. Rachel Carillo recently returned from Chiang Mai, Thailand, where she was working with a local NGO that assists Burmese sex workers.
**Alumni Notes**

Rully Mangunsong (MA '86) is teaching both Business Environment and English at a small private university in Bogor, Indonesia. Rully is recently married and has a new daughter. myllumu@link.net.id

Keiko Mizuno (MA '90) is working as a consultant for the Japanese government concerning the education of women in Guatemala as well as other development projects. She is also currently working on her Ph.D. at Tokyo Institute of Technology where she hopes to finish her dissertation sometime this year. Pumpkin@dp.u-netsurf.ne.jp

Ranee (Smith) (BA '91) & John Halstead (BA '91) have recently bought a small farm in Newberg, OR. Ranee attended The Ohio State University upon graduation and received an MA in Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures before working with refugees resettlement/social services in Portland, OR. John received his teaching license from Pacific University and is teaching accounting at Newberg High School. They have two children: Ian, age 4 and Margaret, age 2½.

Robert Schmeer (MA '92) is currently living in Lincoln City, OR where he is a freelance translator (Japanese to English) and editor for Japanese clients in Japan. rwlcamaz@harborside.com

Saki Hirano (MA '93) is working with UNOPS (United Nations Office for Project Services) in Tokyo, Japan. sakihirano@hotmail.com

Leilia Lombardo (MA '93) has received her doctorate in education and is currently teaching at the Florida State University Panama Branch as well as at a branch university from Costa Rica. Leilia will also publish a book on a comparative study of Panamanian and Japanese educational systems by the end of this year. llombardo@cwp.net.pa

Erica Tubbs (BA '93) is currently looking into graduate programs in International Development and International Public Health. After graduation, Erica managed the ABC Academy of English language instruction in St. Petersburg, Russia, worked for the Portland Housing Authority and taught English in Seoul, South Korea. etirb@yahoo.com

Renée Dugan (BA '94) is the Associate Director of Executive Programs at New York University’s Stern School of Business. Previously, Renée was working in a marketing position on a website designed to teach English as a Second Language over the Internet for Pearson Education. rdugan@stern.nyu.edu

Hitoshi Igarashi (MA '94) after leaving a JICA, helped to found the aid organization Sustainable Community Development Program (SCDP) in Zambia in 1997 where he directed the organization until 1999. After a hiatus, Hitoshi will rejoin the program in early 2001 where he hopes to develop an internship program to give students an opportunity to add field research to their studies. Feel free to contact him with questions. scdpjp@aol.com

Taeko Kawamura (MA '94) is living in Chiangmai, Thailand, and is working with Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) a regional NGO that is committed to enabling women to use law as an instrument of social change for equality, justice and development. Taeko also spent three years with JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) in Jordan working on a project entitled “Family Planning and Women In Development,” in rural communities near the Dead Sea. apwld@oxinfo.co.th

Hannah Deutsch (BA '95) is the Associate Development Coordinator at Population Services International in Washington, D.C. PSI is an international organization dedicated to HIV/AIDS prevention, primarily through social marketing efforts. Hannah will be focusing on procuring new business for PSI’s projects in 55 countries. hdeutsch@yahoo.com

Liesl Messerschmidt KC (BA '96) is living with her husband, Arjun, in Vancouver, WA managing the family business while he finishes his studies in environmental engineering. Liesl is presently engaged in a 6-month consultancy with UNICEF for their project entitled “Production Credit for Rural Women in Nepal.” Liesl also spent last summer in Bhutan where she unexpectedly had the pleasure of an hour-long discussion on Bhutan’s development philosophy with His Majesty King Jigme Singye Wangchuck. arjunliesl@yahoo.com

Lynn Renken (MA '96) is a Senior Program Officer with Mercy Corps International in Portland, OR, focusing mainly on Central and South Asia. lrenken@mercycorps.org

Heloise Troc (MA '96-) is living in Haiti working on a World Bank environmental project. heloistroc@hotmail.com

Antonia Wolff (MA '96) is working for the Academy for Educational Development (AED) as the Dissemination Specialist under the SARA project. SARA (Support for Analysis and Research in Africa) is a USAID funded project, in year two of its second phase, with a mandate to improve the link between policy makers and researchers, by promoting the use of research findings in policy and program development. antonia_wolff@hotmail.com

Christopher Bessey (MA '97) will become the new Benin country director for Catholic Relief Services starting in mid-July. Previously he was the Resource Management Coordinator/ Assistant Country Representative in Burkina Faso. He is married to Mediatrice Bessey and has two children, Iris and Southwick. cbessey@crsbf.bf

Beth Hege Piatote (MA '97) has been working as a research assistant at the Center for the Study of Women in Society and teaching adjunct for the School of Journalism and Communication and the English department since 1997. This fall, she will begin doctoral
studies in comparative ethnic literatures. piatote@darkwing.uoregon.edu

Suteera Nagavajara (MA ’97) is a Program Officer for the Pacific Rim Initiative at the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington D.C. Snagavajra@aaas.org

Jodie O’Kelly (BA ’97) is living in Oakridge, OR with her husband Al, and looking for a new location for her business, Cocoa Safari Chocolates. For the past few years, Jodie had been working in Antarctica. bergybit@msn.com

Nomi Pearce (MA ’97) is currently living in Salem, OR, with her husband Bill and newborn daughter Olivia. Since graduation, Nomi has been working on projects related to empowering women who are survivors of violence with both Adult and Family Services and Community Action Directors of Oregon. Nomi is also a board member for Breaking Free, a non-profit organization that is engaged in anti-violence work for women and girls. Njpwcs@open.org

Laura Hebert (MA ’98) is a third year Ph.D. student at the Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS) at the University of Denver, focusing on gender and human rights, specifically comparative analysis of South Africa and Malaysia. Laura also is working on the development of an international consortium of human rights centers and institutions and the launching of an on-line journal titled ‘Human Rights & Human Welfare.’ lhebert@du.edu

Darshanschmitz (BA ‘98) is currently in his third year with the JET (Japan Exchange Teaching Program) in Showa Mura, Japan. Besides teaching English at a junior high school, he is also keeping busy by practicing Shakuhachi (Japanese bamboo flute) and studying Japanese by doing everything from writing haiku to singing karaoke. Darshan hopes to stay in Japan after his contract expires this summer, possibly working for an American company in Tokyo. Darshanschmitz@hotmail.com

The Center for Indigenous Cultural Survival is an Educational/Cultural component of the Many Nations Longhouse at the University Of Oregon. Reorganized in 1998, it serves as the liaison structure between the Native American Community Longhouse at the UO and the Indigenous communities in the USA and around the globe.

The Center is dedicated to creating collaborative relationships across Indigenous communities that strengthen who we are as Indigenous Peoples by sharing the multitude of survival techniques that have been developed in the face of continual pressure to assimilate and conform to an emerging global culture. Through Indigenous cultural intellectual tradition as well as the educational traditions of our Native Peoples, the Center provides; practica and internships with Native Communities, culturally sensitive research with, not on Indigenous communities, curriculum development and degree programs.

Rob Proudfoot
Director

The Center is unique in that it is also engaged in collaborative effort with the International Studies Program and other departments at the UO to offer undergraduate and masters level degrees with a major focus on Indigenous Cultural Survival: Global or in the Americas. The Center also offers an integrated masters degree in collaboration with the Graduate School, with a primary focus on Indigenous Cultural Survival and two other supporting areas of study.

Lauren Butler Smith (MA ’98) was a Fulbright Fellow at the Faculty of Law, Department of Social Work at the University of Zagreb, Croatia for the 1999-2000 academic year and is currently writing an article based on her work there for publication in the International Journal of Social Work. Lauren was recently married to Eric Smith and now lives in Portland, OR where she works at the International Refugee Center of Oregon as an Assessment Specialist and dances with the Pacific Festival Ballet.

Heather Staley (BA ’98) is in graduate school at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., where she is focusing on International Development and Environmental issues. hstaley@hotmail.com

Hwan Kee Paik (MA ’99) is working as the director of the Protocol Division of Korean National Assembly. Hwan was also recently admitted to the doctoral program in American Studies at Hanyang University. hkpaik@altavista.com

Kate Taylor (BA ’99) is a development associate with Direct Relief. ktaylor@directrelief.org

Sarah Gilman (MA ’00) finished her MA after completing her Fulbright research in Tunisa during the 1998-99 academic year. Sarah will start her Ph.D. in sociology at U.C. Berkeley this fall. sajera@earthlink.net

Ramzy Hattar (BA ’00) currently works with Pacific Star Communications in Portland, OR. rhattar@pacstarcom.com

Hideyuki Iijima (BA ’00) is a private tutor in Japan and is currently applying to graduate programs in the U.S. zad94308@oak.zero.ad.jp

Agatha Schmaedick (BA ’00) has recently returned from a six week national speaking tour with East Timorese human rights activist Ajiza Magno where she acted as both organizer and interpreter for the East Timor Action Network sponsored tour. In December 2000 Agatha was nominated to be the co-chair of the advisory board for the Indonesia Human Rights Network (IHRN), a newly formed NGO in Washington, D.C., focused on influencing US foreign policy towards Indonesia. agathas1@uno.com
Japanese Writing System

Japanese writing system consists of a combination of three scripts: Kanji, Hiragana and Katakana. Kanji, or Chinese characters, were brought to Japan from China approximately 1500 years ago. They were developed from pictures and signs. For example, the kanji for “tree” was made to resemble the shape of a tree, and the kanji for “forest” was made up of three trees. Although 50,000 kanji exist, 5,000 to 10,000 kanji are commonly used in Japan, and one learns about 2,000 kanji by the end of middle school.

Hiragana and Kanji are the main scripts that are used together to write sentences. There are forty-six hiragana characters and each of them are used to express grammatical elements such as particles, endings of adjectives and verbs, etc.

Katakana is a script which are used to write words such as Oregon, bed, and hamburger that come from foreign languages.

Machi Tawara is my favorite Tanka poet who became famous in the past two decades in Japan and broadened appreciation for the traditional Japanese poetry “Tanka” among young Japanese people. Tanka is a poetry structured in the set form of thirty-one syllables arranged in groups of 5, 7, 5, 7, and 7. Tanka has been an essential part of the traditional Japanese art form since eighth century. Tanka expresses the depths of the feelings in a brief form, and it must include suggestiveness felt beyond the words.

Ordinary conversations, ordinary smiles - the ordinariness of home is what I like best

-Machi Tawara-
Donor Support

THANKYOU from all of us to the following folks, whose generous gifts make it possible for us to go “above and beyond” in our efforts to support our students, faculty, and outreach to the communities we serve. For example, our donors enabled graduate student Leece Lee to travel to Australia and New Zealand as a presenter and participant in a field school for training indigenous scholars, and to send graduate student Alberto de Albuquerque to the NAFSA conference in Victoria B.C.. Our donors also enable us to enhance our curriculum with noted guest speakers such as alumna Susan Sygall, Director of Mobility International, who spoke in the Spring 2001 International Leadership class.

If you would like to help support the International Studies Program, donations can be sent to:

UO Foundation
PO Box 3346
Eugene, OR 97403-0346

Please specify if you wish your contribution to be targeted to the Clarence Thurber Endowment (dedicated to student scholarships and professional development) or the International Studies General Support Fund.


This work has affected me on many levels – some of them very painful. I stood in the most tranquil, idyllic village that, except for the survivors, masks the reality that sixteen years ago, in the very same spot, a genocidal drama was brutally played out. I sat in a cave filled with the bones of generations of the same family, and multiplied that violence times the hundreds of other massacres and thousands of other deaths, in my own attempt to come to terms with a nation that has devoured its own. As I stood in the morgue and looked at the bones of a young girl my own daughter’s age, I wondered at the ability to make this little girl into the enemy.

But I also have seen how those who have already lost so much continue to risk more in the hope of achieving some small measure of justice. As an outsider, there was some small role I could play in that struggle. An international presence was critical to the safety of Mayan communities going through the exhumation process. In other words, although exhumations show the genocidal nature of the Guatemalan government’s war on indigenous communities, the government and army cannot risk the bad press of threatening or harming community members who demand this work. However, for my work to be helpful rather than harmful, I had to be aware of many things. I had to be aware of the very negative role my own country has had in the history of Guatemala, a role which includes a great deal of political and economic oppression. I had to be aware of the privilege that allowed me to work in Guatemala – to go far away to a land and culture not my own – and I had to think long and hard about how to use that privilege to the best of my ability, which has mainly consisted of informing as many people as possible in my own country about what has happened and continues to happen in a tiny country that most people have never heard about so that Guatemalans and their struggles, tragedies, and victories do not remain invisible to the rest of the world. I had to become aware of other ways of knowing and doing that are very different from my own, ways that meant I needed to be humble, patient, and learn to listen. I had to become firmly rooted in and connected to my own cultural past and present because how could I appreciate the importance of family, community, and culture to the Mayas of Guatemala if I didn’t appreciate it in my own life?

Working for social change in a cross-cultural context is a delicate process that, when done carelessly, can cause more damage than healing. Although I still have much to learn, I am sincerely grateful to the International Studies Program for providing me with the kind of guidance and teaching that encouraged me in this process. I would particularly like to acknowledge Dr. Rob Proudfoot and my peers in his class of Cross-cultural Communication. This experience, more than any other, has impacted my understanding of the necessity, urgency, and difficulty of working cross-culturally.

![Excavating remains from one of two massacre sites in Tuc’u’buc.](image)
Keep In Touch

Name: ________________________________

Graduation date & degree: ____________________________

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What have you been doing? ________________________

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