ISP Couple in Rural Cameroon

Recent ISP grads Brad Schallert and Leah Petit have followed in the paths of many of our alums, putting their language skills and understanding of international issues to work in the Peace Corps. Brad and Leah, a married couple, were stationed in rural Cameroon, in west-central Africa, where they have been working on grass roots development issues, especially access to clean water.

When such a basic need like water is hard to come by, is polluted, or you have to hike miles with a 20 pound bucket on your head, you begin to understand (continued on page 4)

Undergrads Abroad:
ISP Student Makes a Difference in Chile

By Denisse Guadarrama, ISP Undergraduate

While, in Chile, I have been working on a few projects with SEDEJ, a community organization. One is especially inspiring: “Mejor Trabajo” (A Better Job), trains unemployed women in basic education, and assigns them to work in an after-school program in their community with troubled kids. The program is simple. The jobs are the first for many of these women, giving them self-esteem, self-reliance and awareness of their rights as women. While these lessons are supposed to be transmitted back to the children, they also help the women in their own personal lives. The women serve as role models to the children, people who the kids can rely and count on, since the families they come from are often very troubled with alcoholism, drug use, violence and instability in general.

Last week I sat in a weekly meeting with the women of Talagante. Throughout the meeting, the women talked about the sad stories they hear from the children. Many (continued on page 5)
Remembering Professor Rob Proudfoot

International Studies mourned the loss of a colleague, mentor and friend this past year. Professor Rob Proudfoot passed away on October 4, 2006 at a moment that was unexpected, but after fighting illness for some time.

Rob touched thousands with his passion for teaching, for engaged, collaborative research, for cross-cultural understanding, for the well-being of global indigenous communities, and for seeing students as collaborators and growing human beings. He was a key leader in developing and fostering the International Studies Program. Founding Director of the Center for Indigenous Cultural Survival and the UO-Vietnam Sister Universities Project, Rob will be missed in myriad large and small ways by everyone in the International Studies community.

Beginning in Fall 2008, ISP will offer a “Proudfoot Fellowship,” to support a student of indigenous background working on a Master’s degree addressing indigenous issues in global perspective. We hope the fellowship will represent one of many ways ISP and the wider campus community can come together to ensure an enduring legacy from Rob’s work.

And Steve Swenson

On November 7, 2006, longtime ISP adjunct professor Steve Swenson also passed unexpectedly. Steve taught a number of our courses and served as co-director, with Rob Proudfoot, of the US-Vietnam Sister Universities Project and the Center for Indigenous Cultural Survival.

ISP Student Helps after Pakistan Earthquake

When disaster struck Pakistan in October 2005, tens of thousands of people were buried alive under debris in various districts of North-West Frontier Province and Kashmir. Women and children were the hardest hit by the earthquake.

Amarah Niazi, an International Studies graduate student worked as a volunteer for the non-governmental organization SUNCNI, which has been playing an important role in the disaster relief efforts.

SUNCNI has been active in Pakistan for nearly three decades, promoting social justice through equitable distribution of resources and fighting discrimination based on religion, sex, or caste. They have worked to help villagers create

(continued on page 7)
ISP Faculty News

In Fall 2007, our first newly hired faculty member in six years will join our ranks. Derrick Hindery (Ph.D. in Geography from UCLA, 2003), a Latin Americanist, has lived and done extensive research in Bolivia. His work examines the intersection of multinational investment (particularly in oil), environmental change, and impacts on indigenous and marginalized communities. We’re delighted to welcome Derrick, his wife Vannia, and their daughter Mara to the International Studies community!


Dennis Galvan was in Senegal, Mali, and Gambia for field research this past winter. He also published a co-edited volume, Reconfiguring Institutions across Time and Space: Syncretic Responses to Challenges of Political and Economic Transformation (Palgrave/Macmillan 2007), along with articles on community based development (in Journal of Modern African Studies) and ethnic cooperation (in Cahiers d’Etudes Africaines).

Anita Weiss presented two talks in Pakistan early in 2007, the first entitled “Pakistani Identity & Gender Politics: Challenges of Reforming the Hudood Laws” in Islamabad in January, and the second as an invited keynote speaker entitled “Questioning Women’s Rights in Pakistan: Finding Common Ground” at Punjab University, Lahore, in February. She also presented major papers on political Islam in Pakistan at a conference on Asian Transnational Security at the University of London in the fall and at other conferences during the year. She received a Wulf Professorship from the Oregon Humanities Center to support a new course she offered this spring entitled Islam and Global Forces.

Stephen Wooten organized a panel entitled “Global Mande” for the 14th Triennial Symposium on African Art, held in Gainesville, Florida in March. His contribution to the session was called “From Mande Soil to the Global Stage: Ciwara’s Diasporic Journey.” In May, Stephen was an invited speaker at the “Interrogating African Modernity” conference at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His paper was entitled “The Power of the Ciwara is Awesome: How Traditional Bamana Culture Becomes Modern.”
Encountering the Marabout (Holy Man) in Senegal
By Dann Petersen, ISP Graduate Student

This past Fall I conducted field research in Touba Toul, Senegal. I spent much of my time conducting interviews with women with the help of my translator & the village chief. One day we had to interview the wife of the local Marabout, a religious leader who was perhaps the most respected man in the village. I knew we were meeting the Marabout, I knew his importance in the village, but I was not prepared for what was about to happen.

I walked a few steps behind my partners watching them intently to make sure I followed any proper etiquette. From about a hundred feet away I could see the Marabout perched in a 1970’s foldout lawn chair that served as his throne. I watched as the village chief removed his sandals, lowered himself to his knees, and literally crawled across the mat, head lowered, until he reached the outstretched hand of the Marabout. The chief clasped his hand and, quietly speaking incomprehensible words, pressed the hand to his forehead three times before sitting back on the mat, still not looking into the eyes of the Marabout.

This was the chief of all of Touba Toul crawling to the Marabout! I had visions of peasants coming before Roman Emperors. Was I expected to do the same? I watched as my translator took his turn next. Like the chief, he removed his sandals but walked in a crouched position to the Marabout’s outstretched hand & simply clasped it, again keeping his eyes lowered at all times. Now it was my turn. I removed my sandals, walked crouching to the Marabout’s hand & clasped it. I could not keep myself from giving in to temptation. I picked up my chin, just a little, & looked directly into his eyes! He was gazing right back & neither smiled nor frowned. Instead, he invited me to sit next to him on his green and white throne. I knew enough not to refuse his offer.

As the chief explained our purpose, I could not stop thinking about whether my invitation to sit next to the Marabout was to welcome a foreign guest or some kind of punishment for looking into his eyes. The tension was thick in the air & time seemed to stand still. Just then, his cell phone rang, I instantly recognized the theme from James Bond. On the outside I remained as somber as I could, but on the inside I was roaring with laughter. After the call, the Marabout granted permission to speak with his wife and we were on our way.

ISP Couple in Cameroon
(continued from Page 1)

first hand the meaning of global inequality and international development. As Brad put it in the couple’s blog, “the water problem in Tourou is foremost on everyone’s mind…water shortages…create lines of up to 60 people long at the only reliable water source during the dry season.”

After arriving in Cameroon in October 2006, learning local languages, & getting acclimated, Brad & Leah began working with villagers on a water well construction project to dig new wells and reinforce and cover existing wells.

Following an April article on Brad & Leah in the Eugene Register Guard they raised over $6000 for well building. Their hope is to have an even larger impact next year. To follow Brad and Leah’s efforts, or for information on donating visit http://bradleahcameroon.blogspot.com.

Classic Urdu Poetry
by Faiz Ahmed Faiz
Submitted by: Amarah Niazi

Qatray (Droplets)

Raat yunh dil mein teri khoee hui yaad aayee
Jaise veeraaney mein chupkey sey bahaar aa jaye
Jaisey sehra on mein howley se chaley baadey naseem
Jaisey beemaar ko bey wajhey Qaraar aa jaaye

English Translation

Last night, your lost memories crept into my heart as spring arrives secretly into a barren garden as a cool morning breeze blows slowly in a desert as a sick person feels well, for no reason.
**Many Thanks to Our Generous Contributors!**

Thanks to those of you who have contributed since Summer 2006, listed below (Please let us know if we’ve missed your name).

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If you’d like to support student scholarships and research, as well as program development activities in the International Studies Program, please send your contributions to:

International Studies Program
UO Foundation, PO Box 3346
Eugene, OR 97403-0346

**Jobs for Grads: James Cody Birkey**

After graduating from ISP in June 2006, Birkey volunteered for a faith-based organization in Guatemala which distributes wheelchairs to disabled children across Central America. Drawing on his second degree in Architecture, Birkey designed a 15,000 square-foot headquarters and training facility out of adobe and other local sustainable materials for the growing organization.

He is now currently employed by a firm in San Francisco, working to design new towns & acreage for international development projects.

Of his degree, Birkey says, “the coursework & experience required for the ISP degree contextualizes [how] everything in our world operates...giving me a decisive edge in decision-making & the professional advantages have been clear right from the get-go. And as for my parents’ worries about my salary with this degree, I’ve since proven Galvan right on that too!”

**ISP Student in Chile**

(continued from page 1)

are neglected and abused by family members, and have no money for basic resources (especially school materials). The women also mentioned how much they enjoyed the work they do. They talked about feeling “a sense of leadership” and “respect in their community.” I think they are slowly realizing that they, as women, have certain rights to be respected at home and in society. The project has shown some success; some women have used the references from our office to move on to permanent employment.

Aside from taking some part in these projects at SEDEJ, I am also working with two other students to put together a database of international aid available in Latin America, so SEDEJ can slowly begin to look outside of Santiago for financial assistance in their projects. So far I love being here and can feel all my studies at the UO coming together and making sense!
Graduation Music

Our graduation ceremony features Gamelan Sari Pandhawa (GSP), performing traditional music from the Indonesian island of Java, and tabla drumming by Doug Scheuerell, of the UO School of Music.

GSP is a local organization that promotes and performs gamelan music, which has been played in Java for over 1000 years and continues to accompany dance, ritual events, and shadow theater. For more information on Gamelan Sari Pandhawa, contact Brett Campbell, 541-683-2641, brett@uoregon.edu, http://www.efn.org/~qehn

Doug Scheuerell has studied with masters of the tabla for decades, in both India and the US. The tabla, a two-piece percussion instrument, is the principal rhythmic accompaniment to most North Indian classical and light music. Arguably the most complex drum in the world, the tabla can produce an extraordinary array of sounds (more than 20) and rhythms in the hands of accomplished players.

2007 Commencement Speaker from Mercy Corps

Our Commencement Speaker this year, Najia Hyder, graduated from ISP with an MA and has worked for 12 years with development programs in South and Central Asia, the Balkans, Caucasus, and the Middle East. Ms. Hyder has held both field and headquarters positions in program design, grant and operations management, gender-equitable policy planning, advocacy and lobbying, and training. She has a second Masters in Anthropology from Quaid-e-Azam University in Islamabad, Pakistan. Ms. Hyder is currently serving as the Senior Program Officer for Mercy Corps’ Caucasus & Central Asia regional desk, based in Portland, Oregon.

ISP Director Greetings (continued from page 1)

who work everyday, in small ways and in large, to gain some traction on many vexing international issues.

When I compare notes with other department heads, it’s clear that ISP students stand more than a cut above in terms of sense of purpose in the world, placing intellectual curiosity over “grade’s for grades sake,” radiating a maturity that comes from “de-centering” through study and internships abroad.

This is a testament to you, parents, friends & families: thank you for the curiosity, intellectual passion, & drive you’ve given the students you send our way, & for all the support you offer them in their years at the UO.

We’re also most grateful to our many donors and supporters who continue to buttress our efforts, and to our hardworking and dedicated faculty and staff.

With over 200 undergrad majors & over 90 applicants for 10 grad students slots, we continue to recruit very well, attract top students, & build a more culturally aware & internationally savvy UO community.

With thanks to our alumni, new graduates, students, friends, families, staff and faculty for all you have done this past year in support of the International Studies Program (ISP),

Dennis Galvan, ISP Director
transparent democratic local government and efficiently managed village organizations, which are the foundation for everything SUNGI does. By mobilizing deprived and marginalized communities, SUNGI has earned a position of trust among the earthquake-affected community. As a relief organization, SUNGI is actively involved in the reconstruction process and places particular emphasis on the revival of normal livelihoods for women in the region.

Amarah Niazi worked with SUNGI to provide research support for their Gender program. She designed & participated in a ‘gender-awareness’ workshop held in Abotabad to provide gender consciousness to representatives from the earthquake affected communities and relief workers delivering aid to the devastated areas. She also participated in community engagement programs in Alai and Batagram and other parts of NWFP.

African Cuisine in Eugene!
By Elizabeth Cauble, ISP MA Student

Where to find tasty African food in Eugene? Right in your own kitchen. Ingredients you need to make mafé, a Senegalese peanut stew, can be found at any grocery store.

3 Tbs Peanut Oil
1 clove garlic (minced)
2 yellow onions (chopped)
2 Tbs tomato paste
Beef (Oxtail is best--about 6-8 pieces)
4 cups chopped tomatoes (w/liquid)
4 cubes beef bouillon (or Maggi, if you can find it)
Salt & pepper (to taste)
16 oz of beef broth
3 large carrots
1 each: large parsnip, yam, sweet potato, yellow potato, cassava (or yucca) root
2-3 habenero peppers
1 16oz. jar of peanut butter
Rice (as much or as little as you want)

Approximate prep time: 30 minutes
Cooking time: 3-4 hours
Serves: 8

Step 1: Cover bottom of a large stock pot with the peanut oil, medium heat. Sauté chopped garlic, then onions.

Step 2: Brown the meat in same pot. Add the tomato paste and simmer for a few minutes.

Step 3: Add chopped tomatoes (with liquid) and bring to a boil. Then turn heat down to medium-low & add beef bouillon, salt and pepper. Let cook for approximately 45 minutes or until meat begins to becomes tender. Stir every now and then.

Step 4: Add beef broth & peanut butter to pot. Simmer 1-2 hours. Stir fairly often. When meat is tender, add uniformly chopped vegetables and bring to a boil. Add habenero peppers, whole. Boil, then lower heat, simmer vegetables for appx minutes or until tender.

Step 5: Cook white rice and serve the mafé over the rice.

Enjoy!
Keep in Touch!

Name: ____________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Graduation date or other connection to ISP: ____________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Mailing address & e-mail: ____________________________________________

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Your news: ___________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________(more by email to isp@uoregon.edu)

Might we share your news in the next Global Encounters? _____Yes _____No

If you would like to help support scholarships, research and program development in International Studies, donations can be sent to:

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