International Studies Program

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

FALL 2009 NEWSLETTER

Note from the Director:
Welcome IS Faculty & Students to our New Home

This fall we welcome the International Studies community from our new program offices at 2010 Sheridan. In early September we packed up University Hall, said our final good-byes to American Studies, with whom we had shared an office suite for many years, and are now pleased to be sharing a home with the Asian and Middle Eastern, Latin American & Caribbean and European Area Studies Programs, the Program for Environmental Policy and Culture and Kapnick Business Institutions. The additional space and potential for collaboration and exchange with our new housemates makes this an exciting move. In the New Year we will host a joint “2010 in 2010” reception and look forward to seeing you then if not sooner.

Last year we launched a number of successful programs such as the Next Steps workshop co-sponsored by the Center for Global Engagement for IS majors returning from study abroad eager to jump into new research or internship projects and, with the generous support of the Graduate School, a graduate mentor program to support our IS Honors Students and applicants for University Research Grants. This year we are improving on these programs. We will be expanding Next Steps into an ongoing series of workshops that will focus on different aspects of research and writing in the social sciences to better support student research initiatives. At our Next Steps workshop held October 12 & 13th current honors students, past Lee F. Anderson and Language Immersion Grant recipients shared their experiences at a roundtable discussion. Bianca Ramirez (Asst. Director, International and Area Studies) and Nicole Patel (Program Manager, Buffett Center & Director, Center for Global Engagement) offered advice on how to channel ideas into engagement and research opportunities.

The second day of the workshop Penny Hirsch (Writing Program), Bernhard Streitwieser (Searle Center for Teaching Excellence) and Stephen Hill (Office of Fellowships) joined me for a panel discussion on Preparing to Write a Proposal. Afterwards students came together with IS faculty and graduate students at a reception to share ideas and plan their next steps.

As part of our support for research and writing we have partnered with the Writing Program’s new NUWrite project and are working with Penny Hirsch to design the International Studies Community on the website. Here students will be able to access resources for research writing, find out about ongoing grant application opportunities, and connect with other writing resources found throughout campus. With student demand increasing for information about post-graduate opportunities in

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Lee F. Anderson Grant:
Keep Fighting - A Summer with The UN Interagency Project on Human Trafficking in Bangkok

I had always dreamt of working with the UN. With the help of Professor Dan Lewis and Professor Ryan Brown from the School of Education and Social Policy (SESP), the opportunity to intern with the UN Interagency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (UNIAP) became a tangible possibility. This slowly became more of a reality because of the generosity of a variety of individuals and could not have been possible without the support and grant funding from the International Studies Lee F. Anderson Memorial Grant and the Immersion Grant from the Office of the Provost. Throughout the summer I conducted ethnographic field research focusing on a variety of projects with UNIAP. This internship with UNIAP was also a part of my practicum at SESP, but with funding from the Lee F. Anderson grant, my goal for this trip was to create an overseas practicum that other Northwestern students could take advantage of as a summer research program.

My first week started out in Samut Sakhon, Thailand working with an incredible organization called the Labor Rights Promotion Network (LPN). LPN is an NGO that works with the large Burmese migrant population and provides both health and education services for migrant children and workers. We were working on a study about the working and living conditions of migrants in a city near Bangkok. The study was funded by UNIAP, and I worked with LPN to meet with community leaders to gain a better understanding of the working levels, wage levels, and other trafficking trends in the area. Together we went out into the communities to meet with the Burmese population that had settled there, many of whom were working in the seafood industry. The current political situation and violence between various ethnic groups in Burma has driven many from their homes, especially the Karen, Chin and Mon people.

Stepping into a new country can be an overwhelming experience for them. Moreover, not speaking the language is the first massive hurdle that many immigrants never completely cross. One family we visited had a baby girl who was about a month old. She lay in a piece of white cotton cloth- her crib- as her parents explained that she had a fever for a week. They were too afraid to go to the doctor for fear of being deported and instead tried to get medicine from a local store on their own.

They brought out the medicine to show it to the LPN staff and after reading the label they quickly informed the parents that this medicine was intended for children over the age of 2 year not newborns. Luckily, this error was caught in time. The parents barely spoke Thai yet migrated to intern with the UN Interagency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (UNIAP) became a tangible possibility. This slowly became more of a reality because of the generosity of a variety of individuals and could not have been possible without the support and grant funding from the International Studies Lee F. Anderson Memorial Grant and the Immersion Grant from the Office of the Provost. Throughout the summer I conducted ethnographic field research focusing on a variety of projects with UNIAP. This internship with UNIAP was also a part of my practicum at SESP, but with funding from the Lee F. Anderson grant, my goal for this trip was to create an overseas practicum that other Northwestern students could take advantage of as a summer research program.

Thailand with its relative economic prosperity was the destination to find a job for the Burmese, Cambodian, and Laotian migrant populations.

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As the dust settles on our big office move from this past September, the International Studies Program would like to extend an invitation for all our majors to get to know one of our new house-mates, Dr. Yael Wolinsky. Prof. Wolinsky is the Director of the Environmental Policy and Culture (EPC) Program.

Prof. Wolinsky has a long history of research in the area of environmental policy. Her dissertation focused on international environmental negotiations and she has conducted research on public attitudes on environmental issues both in the United States and in the international community. She is the co-editor (with Detlef Sprinz) of Cases, Numbers, Models: International Relations Research Methods (University of Michigan Press, 2004) and is currently conducting research on state and local ballot initiatives on environmental issues. Dr. Wolinsky has been teaching at Northwestern for eleven years and is a Senior Lecturer in the Political Science Department as well as a Faculty Associate of the Roberta Buffett Center for International and Comparative Studies. She has taught courses on international environmental politics, green planet politics, climate change and policy and will be offering a new course this Spring Quarter on civic participation and the environment.

Prof. Wolinsky states, “Student enrollment in social science courses that deal with environmental issues has more than doubled in last four years. These figures reflect a growing awareness about environmental issues within the student body.” IS students interested in environmental studies will find that the EPC curriculum fits nicely into a thematic cluster in Global Commons.

Founded in 2005 by Professor Paul Friesema, EPC offers the perfect courses for International Studies majors interested in researching environmental issues from an interdisciplinary perspective. Course topics in EPC can range from the social aspects of climate change, to climate change and global health, to government and business relations with the environment. One of the program’s highlights is its study abroad program. EPC collaborated with the International Development Program to develop the curriculum for a study program offered during fall quarter in China where students spend their time between Shanghai and Hong Kong working on a number of topics including environmental issues, energy, climate change, and water pollution. Prof. Wolinsky adds, “You cannot think about environmental problems as local issues they are global issues: air pollution produced in one country certainly affects another. International cooperation and international institutions are at center of understanding environmental problems and their solutions.”

With the launch of the program’s re-designed website and the new calendar of events IS majors can keep up-to-date on the numerous talks and events sponsored throughout the quarter. EPC hosts a number of speaker series geared towards undergraduates but open to the public and greater university community. These events provide International Studies students a great opportunity to learn more about the work of various academics and professionals in the field of environmental policy and they also provide great networking opportunities.

Environmental Policy and Culture Program

Located on the first floor of our new home at 2010 Sheridan Road, EPC is a minor program where undergraduates have the opportunity to study local and global environmental issues. The EPC minor is open to students of all schools at Northwestern including the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, the Medill School of Journalism, the School of Education and Social Policy, the McCormick School of Engineering, the Communications School and the Bienen School of Music. In addition to the curriculum offered at Northwestern students can get course credit towards the minor through a number of study abroad programs. There are also opportunities to do a field study program through the School for Environmental Field Studies which is run by the previous director, Professor Paul Friesema. All IS majors can take courses in EPC to satisfy requirements in the Global Commons thematic cluster. To learn more about upcoming events visit: http://www.wcas.northwestern.edu/epc.

Upcoming courses in EPC:

Winter Quarter
ENVR_POL 394 Exporting Environmental Policy  Davis Th 3-6
ENVR_POL 394 The Policy & Science of Environmental Restoration Packard W. 3-6
ENVR_POL 395 Global Climate Change: Policy and Society  Wolinsky Tu 2-5

Spring Quarter
ENVR_POL 390 Debates in Natural Resource Management Gobster
ENVR_POL 390 Politics and Nature in a Comp Perspective Friesema
ENVR_POL 394 Government, Business, and the Environment  Nadler
ENVR_POL 394 Global Warming and Human Health Lovinger
ENVR_POL 395 Civic Participation and the Environment Wolinsky
I had the privilege of traveling to Poipet, the border city between Cambodia and Thailand to work on a Sentinel Surveillance study with Cambodian deportees from Thailand after my time with LPN. UNIAP had stationed 8 researchers in Poipet to interview deportees from Thailand to understand the trafficking situation, to identify vulnerable populations, and to identify source and destination cities for migrant workers in Cambodia and Thailand respectively. Every time a new truckload of deportees would come in, the researchers would rush to the immigration center to conduct interviews. On any given day, there could be from 1 to 4 trucks carrying men, women and children, with the majority being men.

By the time I arrived at the Immigration Center I saw the deportees squatting in a large area lined up in two rows of men and one row of women and children. One man had a huge gash in his head while another had a cut in his hand. They were all carrying bags of clothes, supplies really- all their possessions were in a bag or box. At Poipet like in Samut Sakhon, one of the greatest needs was emergency healthcare at the border. There was no clinic close by and injuries from the workplace were rampant. Men are often forgotten in the trafficking world, and in the world of labor exploitation, I learned they formed a majority of the victims. As I scanned the room, I felt that this moment made the trafficking situation so real. Trafficking was not an issue out there in the world, it was right in front of me, it was stories of people who were trying their best to find jobs in Thailand, to make ends meet- people trying to survive.

What then constitutes “Human Trafficking?” Even UNIAP does not have a clear formula to calculate if someone is trafficked. The truth is that the language of case work and the persecution of oppressive brokers and employers means little to the people who live to make ends meet, people who are forced to find work because their mother just became sick, people who face violence and are refugees in another country. These are the people being trafficked.

Work is being done on many levels to try to get a handle on the situation. Governments are trying to solve the problems at the top level of society and the NGOs are doing work on the ground. UNIAP see its role as both a communication channel and an advocate between the two. Unfortunately, the last level, the people on the ground suffering from being trafficked or sold from employer to employer are voiceless in what they want, and don’t believe aid is possible. How do you change that frame of mind then? How do change the overwhelming Buddhist belief that “this is my lot?” Where do I fit in?

I found some answers in Cambodia after meeting a youth group there. The thing I love about Cambodia is that Cambodia knows things need to be better, and Cambodians are not waiting for change- they are the change. Challenges are great and painful, but nothing stops them. We met with the Cambodia Development Club and Cooperation and they were so wonderful. In only two days they gathered some of their members to meet with a team I had brought up from Singapore. When we met we all realized how similar we were despite growing up in two very different countries. Their group was made up of members from all the universities in Cambodia and they had a big dream and a big vision just as we did. There is a great sense of joy in meeting those who are fighting for the same issues as you are because it helps you remember what it means to hope and why you keep the struggle alive. One memory in particular remains my favorite from the trip. We were driving to the airport and Hyn Wan, who was part of the youth group, was driving us. He went really fast over a road bump and we let out a small yelp and laughed about it. There were three more road bumps on the way to the airport and over each of the next ones he went REALLY REALLY REALLLLLLLLLLYYYYY slow. We all broke into laughter about the whole situation and Hyn Wan said, “I do this so that you will remember me.” Cambodia, you will be remembered for you kept me fighting.

Every week of my stay in the region was a great but painful learning experience. It forced me to come to terms with the realities of trafficking and exploitation happening all around the region and in the world. I learned that men are trafficked just as women and children are and there needs to be a greater focus on their protection especially in policy making regarding trafficking of this population. The desperation for healthcare and survival is real, especially now that the global financial crisis is pushing more people into joblessness, and political instability is leaving many without options for sources of income. Don’t forget how fortunate you are to have a home and have a voice- use those well and keep fighting.

~Meixi Ng, International Studies & Soc. Policy minor in Global Health (SESP ’11)
The program consisted of language courses at Tsinghua University for two months.

From other universities, I lived and studied at Northwestern students and several students well. Along with approximately fifty other students from other universities, I lived and studied at Tsinghua University for two months.

The program consisted of language courses.

in the mornings and subject courses in the afternoons. The language classes were geared towards all levels of students ranging from first-time learners to fluent speakers and were divided into several tiers so that they accommodated all proficiency levels. As a native speaker who has trouble reading and writing Chinese characters, I was placed in the second highest level. Students also chose to attend either the ELES class or China Public Health class, in which students learn about traditional Chinese medicine and China’s public health system. The ELES class, which I took, was divided into two segments. The first part, taught by a Northwestern political science professor, focused on the history of the Chinese Communist Party, while the second part, taught by a Tsinghua professor, dealt with China's political economy. The classes were augmented with field trips to relevant historical sites, such as the People’s Revolution Military Museum and the mansion of the widow of Sun Yat-sen, an icon of modern Chinese history. We also had guest lecturers, including a Party official who, surprisingly, answered a number of tough questions regarding the prospects of democracy in China. The content of the classes were fairly straight-forward and could have been taught at Northwestern just as well, but living in the country that we were studying created a more immersive learning experience.

Classes were typically over by 4 PM, which gave us plenty of opportunity to explore Beijing. While our classes were informative and interesting, these trips into the city really made the experience awesome. No city in China better reflects the country’s rapid development and striking contrasts than does Beijing. The city had everything, ranging from ancient Buddhist temples to trendy nightclubs, illegal street markets to name-brand luxury stores. One minute, I would be exploring the narrow alleyways of one of the Beijing’s surviving hutongs (traditional neighborhoods made up of mazes of narrow alleys or streets, some of which date back to the Ming dynasty), and the next, I would find myself at a bustling intersection surrounded by hypermodern skyscrapers.

After the program was over, I stayed in China by myself for another three weeks to do internships and visit relatives. Losing the crutch of having fifty fellow Northwestern students for support was a little intimidating, but exhilarating as well. Everything from buying dinner to travelling on an overnight train felt like a mini-adventure when I had to do it alone. Through family connections, I had the opportunity to shadow an executive at a technology corporation and a judge at an appeals court. They taught me about what it takes to do business in China and how to maneuver the Chinese legal system (hint: they both involve a lot of bribery). I also visited my grandparents at their village and participated in a traditional fengshui ceremony for the groundbreaking of their new house. These and many other experiences that I had over the summer were not strictly academic, but they taught me a great deal about Chinese culture and society. Living in and traveling around China gave me a chance to connect with the country of my birth deeper than ever before. At the same time, it instilled in me an appreciation for how lucky I am to have grown up in America. I may not have had a single life-changing watershed moment while in China, but I can confidently say that studying abroad was one of the most important and enjoyable experiences of my life.

~ Benjamin Zhu
International Studies & Poli Sci (WCAS '11)
Looking ahead: Winter Quarter

Director’s Note continued from page 1

International Studies, we will also be working to build up our alumni network and host informational sessions on graduate and employment opportunities.

In winter quarter we welcome Professor Ogenga Otunnu who will be teaching an IS Special Topics course on Forced Migration Studies. Otunnu, an Associate Professor of History at DePaul University, is an expert on Uganda, but works on forced displacement, including causes of displacement, resettlement of displaced populations, conflict resolution and reconstruction of post-conflict societies. His most recent project with regional and international organizations included an examination of xenophobia against refugees and immigrants in South Africa and peace-building, resettlement of displaced persons and property rights in Sri Lanka. He has been affiliated with the Refugee Studies Program at Oxford and the Center for Refugee Studies at York and has trained some of the scholars who founded the Center for Refugee Studies in Cairo. While at Northwestern he will be a visiting scholar at the Buffett Center for International and Area Studies and will be working with me to establish a Center for Forced Migration Studies at BCICS. We will be reaching out to interested faculty and students through speakers, informal gatherings and a working paper series.

Our new home includes rooms to host seminars, conferences and working group meetings. These rooms are available for IS Faculty and international student groups and we look forward to building our community through these programs. In particular, we are looking for faculty affiliates to share their research with students informally at a lunchtime brown bag series. We now have the space and are eager to hear your ideas on how to use it, so stop on by!

~Galya Ruffer

New Winter Quarter course in International Studies:

Intl St 390: Special Topics in International Studies- Forced Migration Studies: Who will Protect their Dignity and Rights?
Professor Ogenga Otunnu
Wednesdays 4pm-7pm

Dr. Otunnu completed his dissertation on Political Violence in Uganda, 1890-1985. He is Associate Professor of History at DePaul University and has taught courses in African History, World History II & III (1500-present); Senior History Seminar, Contemporary Global Issues, Comparative Slavery, and Forced Migration Studies/World Refugee Crisis. Dr. Otunnu has published on refugee crises, conflict resolution and genocide in Africa. Most recently he has worked on a project entitled, Resettlement of Displaced Population, Demobilization of ex-combatants, and Property Rights in Sri Lanka which was initiated by the UNHCR. This past summer Dr. Otunnu was a lecturer at the International summer program on Human Rights and Refugees at the Centre for Refugee Studies at York University.

Winter Course Description: The crisis of forced migration—which reflects persistent and systematic violations of human rights; profound moral and political legitimation deficits; ecological mismanagement and violence; and conflict-laden, parasitic and hegemonic political economy of globalization—have systematically dehumanized tens of millions of innocent people, destroyed vital socio-economic and political infrastructures, provoked widespread and intense xenophobia and destabilized communities and institutions. This course will raise questions and highlight debates about the causes and consequences of forced migration and responses to forced migration. An important underlying assumption is that a critical and realistic understanding of the phenomenon will help clarify our understanding of this tragic and prolonged human drama. Hopefully, such an understanding will further clarify our individual and collective obligations to the faltering society.

With these objectives in mind, the course will examine the following themes and topics: debates on forced migration studies versus refugee studies; human rights and international, regional and national legal regimes of protection; causes and consequences of forced migrations; immigration and asylum policies, including xenophobia and racism; asylum and refugee determination procedures; rural and urban refugees; gender dimension of forced migration, vulnerabilities and justice; displaced children; human trafficking; war crimes and genocide; crises of landmines; humanitarian interventions; durable solutions to refugee crises; and peace-building and reconstruction of post-conflict societies.

The Newsletter of the International Studies Program
Phone: 847.491.7980
E-mail: international-studies@northwestern.edu
Web: http://www.northwestern.edu/intstudy

Program Director: Galya Ruffer, J.D., Ph.D.
Asst. Director: Bianca Ramirez, M.A.
Program Assistant: Victoria Schiffman

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International Studies Newsletter edited by:
Bianca Ramirez, Asst. Director
Galya Ruffer, Director
Departmental News

Guetzkow Prize
Call for Papers

The Guetzkow Prize in International Studies was created by the Program and first awarded in 1992 to bring together various perspectives and modes of disciplines engaged in the field of international studies. The prize is awarded to the most outstanding senior research paper written by an adjunct major enrolled in the International Studies Senior Seminar.

The Prize was named for Harold Guetzkow, Professor of Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology from 1957-1986, a distinguished scholar of international studies.

The International Studies Program seeks nominations throughout the year so Winter quarter and Spring quarter papers are eligible for the prize. The prize is awarded at the end of the year during our Graduation reception in Spring quarter. A paper may be submitted by a student or professor and must be accompanied by a faculty letter of recommendation.


All submissions can be sent to the International Studies Office located at 1897 Sheridan Road, University Hall 020.

Seniors:
Petition to Graduate with International Studies

All adjunct majors and minors in International Studies must complete (2) two Petitions to Graduate, one in their disciplinary major and one in International Studies. If you fail to do this, the Registrar will not be aware of your adjunct major/minor in IS and will not give you credit for the work you have done. All Juniors should file a Petition to Graduate during Spring quarter with the International Studies Office. If you are a senior and have not completed a Petition to Graduate with us please set up an appointment to do so as soon as possible. To set up an appointment to file a petition to graduate please send an e-mail to international-studies@northwestern.edu.

Seniors:
Call for Applications for the Certificate of Distinction in Foreign Languages

The International Studies Program awards Certificates of Distinction in Foreign Languages to adjunct majors who have studied one or more languages above and beyond the two-year minimum requirement set by Weinberg College. The award is open to all graduating seniors and application materials can be found on the International Studies web site here: http://www.internationalstudies.northwestern.edu/research/deptprizes.html. Please set up an appointment with an International Studies advisor to submit an application by Friday, May 14, 2010.

International Studies Listserv:

Anyone can join the international studies listserv. All Northwestern students are welcome to sign up. Alumni who are interested in remaining in the loop about public events at Northwestern can also join our listserv. We send out announcements once a week with events both on campus and the greater Chicago community, about job/internship/fellowship and research opportunities and upcoming deadlines. To sign up please send an e-mail to international-studies@northwestern.edu and request to be added to the list.

The International Studies staff welcomes you to become a supporting member of our program by donating to our gift funds. Every year International Studies alumni make donations to support IS students pursuing international endeavors.

If you would like to support the Anderson Global Education & Engagement Fund, the Guetzkow Prize or other student initiatives please contact us at: international-studies@northwestern.edu

You can also mail checks made out to Northwestern University and include “International Studies Program” in the memo line to: Office of Alumni Relations and Development 2020 Ridge Avenue Evanston, IL 60208

Additionally gifts can be made online at: http://development.northwestern.edu
Congratulations to our class of 2009 Senior Prize Winners

Rhodes Scholarship
Mallory Dwinal

America India Foundation Service Corps Fellowship
Rajni Chandrasekhar

Fulbright Austrian Teaching Assistantship Program
Loren Balhorn

Fulbright Grant (IIE/USIA)
Nicholas Cheadle
Swati Patel
Caroline Porter
Toku Sakai

Several International Studies majors were also invited to join Phi Beta Kappa
Nicholas G. Cheadle
Erin M. Kelly
Ashley E. Jelinek

Fellowship and Undergraduate Research Grants Information

Undergraduate Research Grants Deadlines:
Tuesday, November 3 (recommended for research/travel during Winter Break)
Tuesday, December 1 (last chance to obtain funds for Winter Break)
Tuesday, January 19
Tuesday, February 23 (last chance for research/travel during Spring Break)
Friday, March 12 (2010 Summer Grant)
Circumnavigators’ Club Grant-12/2/09
Immersion Language Grant-1/29/09
Immersion Experience Grant- 4/2/09

Other Internal Deadlines
11/12/09 – Goldwater
11/16/09- Carnegie
11/ 9/09 – Merage
12/11/09 - Liebmann
11/16/09 - Truman
February-TBA – Beinecke
2/8/10 – Udall
March- TBA- Center for the Study of the Presidency

External Deadlines
10/30/09 - Hertz
10/31/09 - Humboldt Chancellor
11/1/09- Soros
11/3/09- SSRC IDRF
10/21/09- Spencer
11/2/09-11/12/09 - NSF
TBA - Newcombe
11/15/09 - AAUW
11/2/09 - Ford Predoctoral
11/9/09 -Ford Dissert.
TBA- USA Today All-USA College Academic Team
12/15/09- Dept. of Defense
1/7/09 - NDSEG
1/11/09 - Coro
1/15/09- Glamour Top 10 College Women
1/31/10- De Karman
12/15/09 - Summer DAAD
1/31/10 - DAAD RISE
1/29/10 - Public Interest Program
The summer provides a great opportunity for International Studies majors to carry out independent research projects, enroll in study abroad programs and secure internship opportunities. Many of these projects also serve as the launching pad for future projects. Recently we asked our students to send us updates about their summer activities and their plans for the upcoming year. Keep reading to find out where in the world they’ve been and what they have been up to.

**Student Updates**

Over the summer I was an intern at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Washington, D.C. I worked for their Legislative and Public Affairs Bureau. If any students have questions about applying or working for USAID, let me know and I’d be happy to help them.

~Laura Ashbaugh (Medill 2010)

I am studying at the Universidad de Buenos Aires and researching immigrant populations in Buenos Aires, Argentina from July-December, 2009.

~Lauren Coffaro (Comm. 2011)

I spent the summer with International Program Development studying Chinese and Chinese Political Economy at Tsinghua University in Beijing, China.

~Noah Aldonas (Medill 2010)

I am preparing for my abroad program in Sevilla, Spain for this upcoming fall quarter.

~Elizabeth Clark (Weinberg 2010)

I split my summer studying Arabic in Cairo on an Immersion Language Grant and working on a research project on Egyptian nationalism funded by a WCAS summer research grant. I am still in Egypt, now taking courses on Middle Eastern history and politics at the American University in Cairo.

~Sarah Smierciak (Weinberg 2011)

I had a summer internship at Senator Burris’ office. This fall I’m going to study abroad in Cairo, Egypt.

~Madina Sarkulova (Weinberg 2010)

I’m planning on studying abroad in Vietnam in winter/spring 2010. Also, this summer I was working in downtown Chicago as a marketing intern at a web developer company called Roundarch.

~Lynnanne Nguyen (Medill 2011)