Note from the Asst. Director:
Study Abroad Transitions

Welcome back to campus students! I hope everyone had a long and relaxing break. Many of you are just now returning from study abroad programs and others are preparing your applications for your future study abroad program. In any case, we have a number of unique opportunities scheduled this quarter to give you the skills you need to leverage your study abroad experiences into research projects. One of the new initiatives this quarter is our Surviving Field Research brown bag lunches. Join us Wednesday afternoons as we discuss the various aspects of conducting independent research. Each lunch will feature a different aspect of research for undergraduates such as library resources, finding your topic and creating a research question and reaching out to faculty. Check our calendar at the International Studies web page for upcoming sessions. Read about our new faculty affiliate, Stephen Nelson from the Department of Political Science, whose work focuses on political science, sociology and economics. If you’ve taken courses such as “Globalization in the Crosshairs” or “International Political Economy,” Professor Nelson will be an invaluable resource on campus. Also, find out what our alumni are up to on pages 2 and 3 plus read about the projects that our students have carried out abroad through the Center for Global Engagement on pages 4 and 5.

Our students are our first priority and we welcome any questions or concerns from our current majors or students interested in declaring a secondary major in International Studies. Call or e-mail to set up an appointment with one of our advisors. Look for our advising hours on our web site at: www.internationalstudies.northwestern.edu and go to Undergraduate/Advising. Have a great quarter everyone!

~ Bianca Ramirez

Faculty Affiliate:
Steven Nelson, Assistant Professor, Political Science

Stephen Nelson joined the Department of Political Science as an assistant professor in September 2009. He comes to Northwestern from the Government Department at Cornell University, where he completed his masters and doctoral degrees. A native Minnesotan, Steve earned his BA at Carleton College.

Professor Nelson specializes in international political economy—the study of how international economic relations are shaped by politics (power, interests, and ideas). He is currently turning his dissertation (Creating Credibility: The International Monetary Fund and the Neoliberal Revolution in the Developing World) into a book manuscript. In the project, Professor Nelson tries to explain how the IMF—an international institution that, through its lending policies, has affected the lives of billions of people in low- and middle-income countries—makes decisions, and what the political consequences of those decisions are. Working with data he collected on the size of loans and degree of conditionality in over IMF 500 loans (1980-2000), and biographical data on over 2,000 policymakers in 90 developing countries, Steve shows that because the IMF’s economists have to contend with highly unsettled and complex political dynamics in the countries that seek to make use of the institution’s resources, the institution discriminates in its treatment of borrowers in favor of policy teams populated with officials that share the IMF’s core set of economic ideas. In addition to the quantitative evidence, the explanation is tested using the case of Argentina’s relationship with the IMF over a quarter century (1976-2001).

Above all, Professor Nelson is committed to problem-driven research. Solving difficult and important puzzles often requires going beyond narrow disciplinary bounds—in his work and teaching, Steve seeks to take insights from political science, economics, and sociology (his fall 2009 course, “Globalization in the Crosshairs,” drew on a wide range of evidence from multiple disciplines). His next project, with Peter Katzenstein of Cornell, is on the global financial crisis that erupted after the collapse of major American financial institutions in September 2008. That project focuses on how shifting ideas about risk and uncertainty influenced financial market organization and regulation.

Undergraduate teaching is very important to Professor Nelson (a fact that his wife, Kate, a ninth grade teacher at a charter school in Chicago, does not hesitate to remind him of). His teaching goal is to provide new lenses through which to view political and economic dynamics in an increasingly globalized world.
Model Arab League Competes in International Conference

Northwestern sent its first delegation to the Cairo International Model Arab League Conference in November. Eight members of Northwestern’s growing Model Arab League club engaged in mock diplomacy with students from around the world in the five-day conference at the American University in Cairo. The International Studies Department helped to sponsor the attendance of four students from the Evanston campus and four more Northwestern students who were already studying abroad in the Middle East. The students participated on the Council of Arab Foreign Ministers, the Euro-Mediterranean Council, the Arab Court of Justice, and the Council of Historical Characters. Northwestern’s delegation to the Euro-Med Council took home first place. This winter, the club is hosting a seminar titled “Diplomacy in the Arab World” and plans to participate in the regional and national competitions.

A few of the Northwestern delegates take a break from conference to take a trip to the pyramids.

IS Graduate Wins Prize

Congratulations to IS graduate, Cecily Harwitt on her recent award. Cecily was awarded the Harold K. Schneider Prize in Economic Anthropology. The Harold K. Schneider Prize Competition is a student paper competition established by the Society for Economic Anthropology to honor its first president and to encourage new scholars in the field of economic anthropology. Cecily’s paper entitled “Doing Business Underground: The Informal Economy as Seen from the Buenos Aires Subway” was developed as her senior Honors Thesis in International Studies.

Cecily graduated in Spring 2009 and is currently working as a community organizer in Somerville, MA, just outside of Boston.

IS Graduate Wins Prize

Apply for an IS Summer Research Grant!

The Lee F. Anderson Memorial Global Education & Engagement Grant will provide funding for a Northwestern University rising junior or senior who demonstrates initiative and commitment in making a difference in the world. The grant will support student engagement, volunteerism or service projects either locally or abroad.

For more information about the Lee F. Anderson Global Engagement and Memorial Grant please visit the International Studies web page at: www.internationalstudies.northwestern.edu/research/deptprizes.

Applications are available online. The Grant is open to individual student projects as well as group projects. Awards range from $1,500 for individual projects to $3,000 for group projects.

The deadline to apply this year is March 5, 2010
A Peace Corps Experience

Am I actually in Morocco? That’s the question I ask myself daily. I have been here for nearly three months and I am still in shock. Inchallah, g-d willing, I will have twenty-four more months here to ask myself the same question.

I am a Peace Corps Youth Development volunteer in the southern province of Tata in a town relatively close to the Algerian border. I live in what is officially the Sahara in a site that has palm trees, mountains and a waterfall whose water runs throughout my site of around 5500 people. Getting here from Evanston was a long process that has so far proved very much worth the effort.

The first step to applying is a long online application that requires three recommendations, one from a work supervisor, one from a volunteer supervisor, and another from a peer. Following the application is an in person interview. Nomination by the interviewer, when you receive information about the geographical location and the sector with which you will likely be working, is the third step. With nomination comes a comprehensive medical evaluation and legal clearance. The final step is invitation, an official request to join the United States Peace Corps and ten days to notify them of your decision to accept or decline the invitation. From application to invitation my process took sixteen months but I received my nomination while studying abroad thus delaying the medical examinations.

Before departure, the youth development and small business development sectors united in Philadelphia for a brief introduction and traveled together across the sea. Before jumping straight into service we spent a week together in a beach town becoming acquainted with Peace Corps policies and trying to digest our new reality, living and serving in Morocco. At the end of the week of introduction to the country, culture, language and Peace Corps we were divided into small groups by our sector, each with a language instructor, and moved to our first home-stay sites. In our sites we studied Darija, Moroccan Arabic, six days a week for about five hours a day. In my group we also went to our dar chebab, youth center, four days a week after class. As youth development volunteers in Morocco we work in dar chebabs throughout Morocco imparting our skills through English and other classes as the needs present themselves and as our skills can rectify.

Aside from our daily language study, the hardest part for many of us in the beginning was getting accustomed to living with a host family. It was difficult being babied and the insult was compounded by its necessity as we did not understand how things operated. On top of other stresses, we also arrived in the middle of the holiday season, which served as a constant reminder of both our new location and the different cultural norms to which we needed to speedily comprehend.

The host families were chosen to provide us support in our language learning endeavors. Many did not speak English and those that did were encouraged to only speak with us in Darija. Being stripped of our language was not as hard as might be imagined because of the amount of time we spent together in class. Now, three months in country at my final site and without the daily presence of Americans, I am often amazed by how much I have learned in such a short time.

I am currently nearing the end of my second home-stay period and my primary task is finding my own housing. November and December this year, much like at home, are full of holidays that have prohibited a meaningful beginning to my project.

My dar chebab—despite being fairly new, in great physical shape and conveniently located near the middle school, high school and the dorms where the commuting students live—is inactive. I am hoping with the start of my programming students will come and make it their own.

The Peace Corps youth development plan in Morocco is set on a cycle of six years, or three volunteers. Our goal is that in that time we will make ourselves obsolete through the creation of sustainable projects that empower the students and community members to direct the space as best serves their desires. I am the first volunteer in my site and it is my duty to start the momentum to motivate the students and the community in the pursuit of their continual development. I have already met many motivated and intellectually striving individuals whom I hope will transform their interests into actions to help us together best serve the community.

I’ll check back in with you around spring break.

Courtney can be contacted at courtney@u.northwestern.edu

Onions and potatoes at the souk. Photo by Sharpe.
My name is Alex Grubman and I will be a sophomore at Northwestern University this fall. I participated in the Global Engagement Summer Institute this past summer and had one of the most unique summers of my life. What initially drew me to the program was the opportunity to study and live abroad while earning credits and gaining invaluable work experience, not to mention the once in a lifetime opportunity of immersing myself in a culture so different from my own. The opportunity seemed too good to be true and it really was; GESI fulfilled all my expectations and more.

I worked for a non-profit organization called the Organization for the Good Life of the Marginalized (OGLM) that operated in the rural village of Buwaiswa, Uganda. OGLM supported the people in this community in a multitude of ways, from providing an orphanage and school to the local children to developing micro-finance projects throughout the area. I, along with my three other teammates, all lived with host families in the village a quick walk away from OGLM.

My team decided to revamp a Tailoring Vocational Training school that had been recently started but wasn’t functioning at an operational level. We worked hand in hand with the staff of OGLM, the teacher of the school, and the students themselves to improve the school in a variety of ways. By the time the program was coming to a close, it was easy to see how the project we began had effected change. The students had more pride in themselves and their school, and the school itself was functioning at a much higher level. In addition, while we began as outsiders in the community, we were quickly welcomed and felt completely at home by the time we left. In fact, I can honestly say I was extremely sad to leave and I find myself thinking about my home in Uganda all the time now.

It is hard to explain in this small description how much I gained from my experience this summer. Everything, from the work I did at OGLM to the immersion in a completely new culture were experiences I wouldn’t trade for anything in the world. The GESI program is unique to other Northwestern study abroad programs in that it has a perfect balance between working and learning, but also having fun and experiencing new things. Living with a Ugandan host family was beyond awesome, and the relationships I made with my family and the other village members will stay with me for the rest of my life. Words can’t describe how amazing of an opportunity this is; I recommend it to everyone, regardless of your academic interests.

Alex plans on declaring an adjunct major in International Studies this upcoming Winter Quarter.
After two eight-hour flights to India and a couple all day trainings, we moved in with our homestay families in Udaipur and began our projects. My partner and I opted to work on rural livelihood development with Seva’s Education Unit in Sada village, a community near the Rajasthan-Gujarati border. Our goal was to help combat seasonal child labor migration by identifying alternative income sources in the community. I was excited to explore an entirely new issue with Seva, but the implied focus on external research and top down development concerned me: the exact point of ABCD was to work from the inside out, not import vocational trainings. Moreover, neither of us had any experience in livelihood research or design, let alone a working definition of the word.

We suddenly found ourselves searching every resource we could. Using Seva’s library and computers, we compiled a handbook of livelihood frameworks, research methods and Seva’s past economic “interventions.” Throughout the first weeks of research, questions about the meaning of a livelihood and the diversity of approaches to it fascinated me, but the fact that we were still simply researching for our NGO, and had yet to make any new vocations impossible for more than one person to hold. While our work had expanded the Seva’s foundation in the community, it left us feeling as though we had yet to give back to the community itself. However, our experiences researching led us to believe that collectivization, self-help and financial literacy could have the long-term we had been hoping for in the first place.

With two weeks left, we designed and test-piloted an education curriculum designed to help youth analyze and collaborate around issues in their community, from personal decisions to government corruption. Built around a flexible timeframe and student driven, our curriculum aimed to translate the challenges we had faced into strengths. Although we had to leave before the full curriculum was implemented, knowing that in the end, Sada could use our program as they saw fit, and that while changes would be slower, we had started them off with ABCD.

Our project was an incredibly rewarding experience: not only did I have the opportunity to do meaningful work with a tangible impact, but I also had the chance to see the world from a completely new perspective. Dinner conversations, inside jokes and daily interaction with my homestay family and coworkers like Naresh showed me just how varied yet universal the human experience can be. Although details like weekend tourist escapades and workplace cricket games may have been the least academic portion of my study abroad, they taught me more than any book on the region could have.
**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.

Past winning papers have included:
- “The Dynamics of Reform in the Mexican Telecommunications Sector”
- “Mythologies of Florence”

All submissions can be sent to the International Studies Office located at 2010 Sheridan Road.

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**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.

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**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 website 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.

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**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.

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**We Need Your Help!**

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
Undergraduate Research

International Studies Program: Surviving Field Research Brown bag Lunches

Ever thought about conducting a research project of your own? Don’t know where to get started? Stop by the International Studies Program office this winter quarter and get the resources you need to shed some light on this mysterious process.

*Topics discussed will include:*
- Institutional Review Board (IRB): What is it? How does it apply to undergraduates?
- Faculty resources on campus: How to find a professor with similar research interests. How to approach faculty about your research
- Applying for grants: Resources available on campus for short-term and long-term projects
- Writing for grants: Not your typical term paper
- How to focus on a topic and formulate your research question
- Developing your methodology

*Ideal for:*
- Students who have come back from abroad and want to start their own projects
- Students who are planning on studying abroad and are interested in carrying out international projects
- Students interested in conducting an Honors thesis
- Students interested in applying for graduate school

Students of every level are welcome. Bring your own lunch or just munch on our light refreshments and snacks. The Surviving Field Research series will be held on Wednesdays at the International Studies Program Office located at 2010 Sheridan Road on Wednesdays from 12pm-1pm. For an updated schedule with topics visit our calendar at: [www.internationalstudies.northwestern.edu/newsevents/index.html](http://www.internationalstudies.northwestern.edu/newsevents/index.html)

Applications for the Honors Program in International Studies

The Honors Program in International Studies is for outstanding and engaged majors who wish to take on the challenge of actively researching and writing about a topic in international studies. Participants in the Honors Program are required to have a deeper level of language competence than the IS adjunct major itself and also required to maintain a GPA above 3.5 in the major. Students accepted into the honors program enroll in a 3-quarter-long seminar (spring junior year and fall and winter senior year) during which they plan, research, and write their theses. Honors students who want to take on the unique challenge of primary research are strongly encouraged to apply for University research support and conduct research either during study abroad or in the summer after junior year, though this is not required for honors.

- **Deadline for applying to the Honors Program:** February 12, 2010
- **Apply by submitting a completed application available on the international studies web site’s research section**
- **Please submit applications to the International Studies Office at 2010 Sheridan Road**

**Language requirement**

Students in the honors program must demonstrate the ability to work in a foreign language. One way for a student to fulfill this requirement is to study abroad in a relevant country for at least one term. The honors program director may certify that a student has completed the language requirement in other ways. Examples of alternative ways to fulfill this requirement include taking 300-level courses on campus at NU in a foreign language, showing that the student has advanced competency in a language or inclusion of significant foreign-language source work in the thesis project. For more information and to download an application visit: [www.internationalstudies.northwestern.edu/research/honors.html](http://www.internationalstudies.northwestern.edu/research/honors.html)
Center for Forced Migration Studies Inaugural Lecture Series

From Refugee to Forced Migration Studies: Defining the Humanitarian Problem

Presents

“Refugees and the Right of Return”

Howard Adelman, Founder of York University’s Center for Refugee Studies

Date: January 20, 2009
Time: 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm, followed by reception
Location: McCormick Tribune Center Forum
1870 Campus Drive, Evanston, IL 60208

Given limited seating, please RSVP to g-ruffer@northwestern.edu