

SMALL WORLD

MAGAZINE

Darby O'Donnell had the opportunity to meet women of the Masai tribe during her internship in Tanzania. Read more about her adventure!

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Food Security in TANZANIA 2 Emerge Poverty Free, ENGLAND 4
Clinton Scholarship to Dubai, UAE 6 The (Not so Secret) Drone War in PAKISTAN 8
International Institute for Strategic Studies, D.C. 10 Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowship in Quechua 11
Who Needs a Classroom? 12 U.S. State Department Internship, ROME 14 Denman Forum 2012 16

FOOD SECURITY in TANZANIA

Darby O'Donnell



Darby O'Donnell is a senior majoring in Development Studies and Arabic. She spent Autumn of 2011 in Arusha, Tanzania as a participant in the Global Service Corp, food security service learning project. "Tanzanian culture taught me to live in the moment and value the time spent relaxing as time not wasted."

"My fall semester was spent in Arusha, Tanzania as a participant in a service-learning study abroad program hosted by University of Albany in partnership with Global Service Corp - TZ, a US-based NGO focusing on food security.

The integrated program concentrated on sustainable agriculture methods, HIV/AIDS education and food drying. After completing a three week intensive course in these topics, I joined the Global Service Corp team, and trained community groups in these topics alongside the Tanzanian staff. The majority of the work I completed took place in rural communities and required

us to camp out, but while studying in Arusha, I stayed with a host family.

My experiences living with a host family and camping with the GSC staff were undoubtedly highlights of my program. It was refreshing to live without all the clutter and distractions associated with a Western lifestyle and I found myself with more time to engage with people instead of objects.

Although the faces, tastes, smells, and sunshine seem far away, I still hold them close to my heart on cold Columbus mornings. Tanzanian culture taught me to live in the moment and value the

time spent relaxing as time not wasted. I felt for the first time in my adult life that I was truly living for the sake of that given moment, and not constantly planning for the future or the next item on my agenda. Although I am struggling to apply these concepts to my fast paced life at OSU, I value this new perspective.

The inevitable question arises in conversation with familiar faces, "How was Tanzania?" I most often respond with a generic "amazing, great, awesome" as I haven't come up with an accurate response. It has forced me to reflect and ask myself, so really, how

was Tanzania? It was challenging yet relaxing, discouraging at times but equally encouraging and I realized the privilege I possessed just because of where I came from, but felt powerless for this same reason.

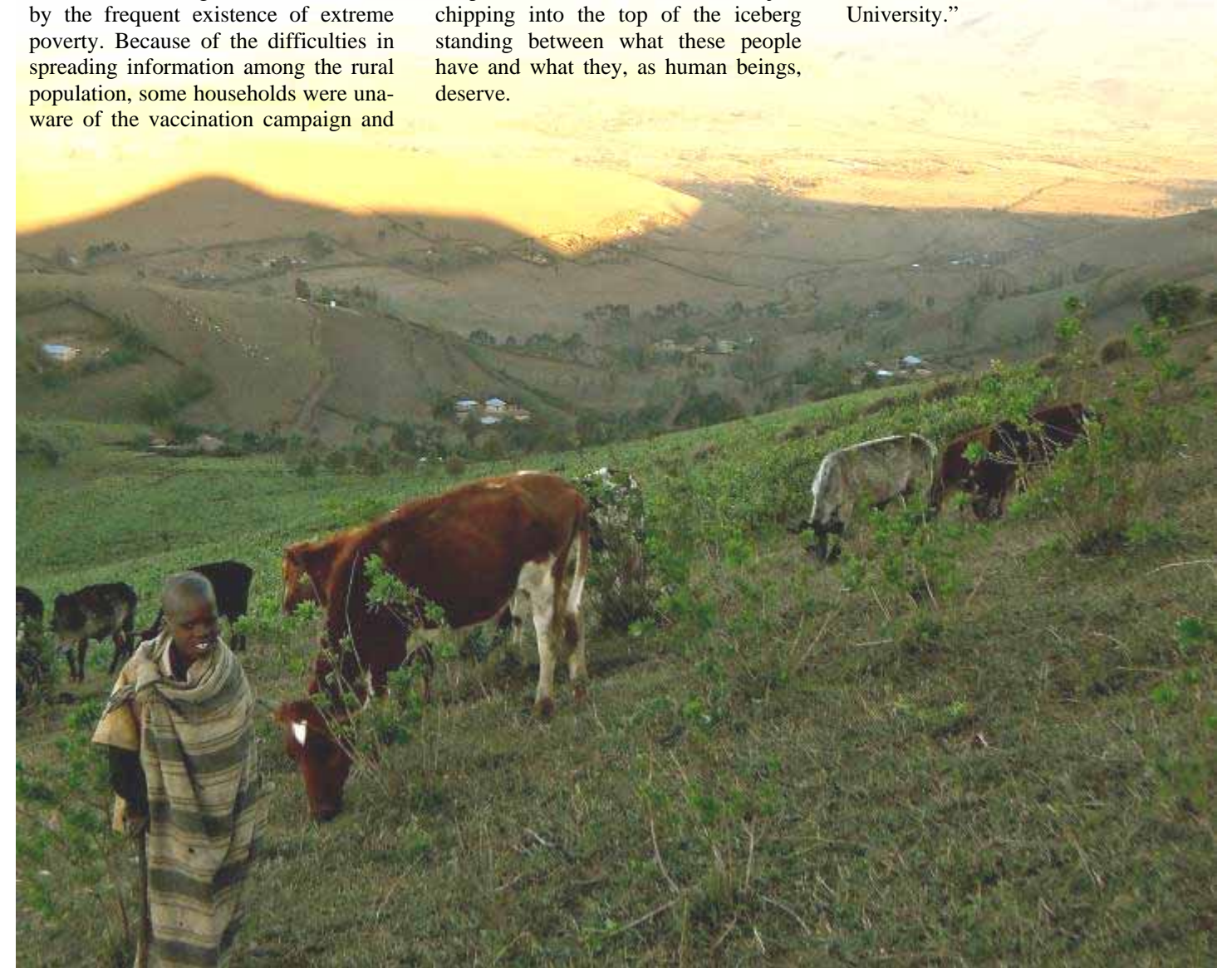
I experienced the paradoxical emotions of powerfulness and powerlessness while conducting chicken vaccinations in the village of Samaria. In Tanzania, New Castle Disease kills an estimated 70% of chickens while the vaccination is a simple eye drop that costs less than one cent and gives immunity for four months. We were conducting an awareness and vaccination campaign by walking house to house at sunrise to vaccinate chickens. This provided me with a candid insight into the living conditions of many rural Tanzanians and I was blown away by their resourcefulness and graciousness but also by the frequent existence of extreme poverty. Because of the difficulties in spreading information among the rural population, some households were unaware of the vaccination campaign and

subsequently let their chickens out of the coup before we arrived. The chickens roam free so it made it impossible to catch and vaccinate the chickens if they were let out. So there I was, standing in front of visibly malnourished children, holding a vaccination that could significantly increase their intake of food for four months, and I was unable to utilize it. We had to move on to the next house. I wanted to chase every chicken down, to feel like I somehow helped these families, but it just wasn't possible due to resources and time.

I learned that no matter how hard myself or anyone wants to remedy injustices and satisfy the basic needs of a struggling population, no single hand is big enough. At times I felt discouraged, that the issues facing development were overwhelming, and Global Service Corp and other similar NGOs were just chipping into the top of the iceberg standing between what these people have and what they, as human beings, deserve.

At a point I considered: Wouldn't it be easier to throw my hands up, go home, switch my major, and not consider this as my problem? If it were even possible, I would never wish that for myself. I have discovered my passion, purpose and responsibility. I witnessed the effect that one person or organization can have on a single life, a family or community. The value of this relatively small positive change should not be overshadowed by the sometimes slow improvements and setbacks in the bigger picture of development.

I am determined to continue pursuing International Development at the graduate level, in addition to continuing my work at the Center for African Studies at OSU. I came home with just as many questions as I did answers and I value now, more than ever, the resources available to me at Ohio State University."



Emerge Poverty Free, ENGLAND

Jeanna Kruse



Jeanna is a double major in Development Studies and Public Policy. She had the opportunity to spend summer as an intern in London, during the Olympics! Here is her story.

“My summer was spent in London interning for a non-profit organization called Emerge Poverty Free. The organization partners with local NGOs in developing countries to provide services that help the people in those communities get out of poverty. In the office I worked with the Marketing department as well as the Trusts and Foundations department. With these roles I did many tasks but most of my time was spent writing various pieces for the marketing department and researching information about grants for

trusts and foundations.

Emerge Poverty Free gave me several interesting tasks that I felt were really beneficial for the organization. One of my favorites has putting together “report cards”. The organization has a program called I Love School in which they have funded five schools in Haiti after they were destroyed in the earthquake. The report cards are a way for the organization to give donors information about the school’s progress in an interesting and fun way. The cards included a story from a student, a message from the principal, goals, achievements, and pictures of the schools and children. My job was to take the information that the schools gave from Haiti and put it into the report cards in a fun

and uniform fashion. It was the first task that I had a lot of freedom with and I really enjoyed learning more about the project. Seeing the finished project was a great feeling.

Being in London is absolutely amazing and I highly suggest interning or working here. I really feel like I got to become integrated in the culture. The first day of my internship they asked me to write a piece about one of their projects to get a feeling of my writing style and the British spelling changes started the culture shock. Programme, organisation, enrol are just a few of the spellings changes I had to adjust to quickly. The office was always ready for tea, which I learned to make the proper British way, and I received lessons on

what exactly taking the Mickey out of someone entails. I had the opportunity to exchange great stories with the people in my office not only about cultural difference between Britain and America but also about the differences in the non-profit sector.

One aspect of the culture that I really like is the use of “Cheers”. Everyone says it in London often as a way of saying goodbye and thanks. It’s used at the end of most emails, phone calls, and any casual social interaction and I think it’s great. The problem is that when an American accent says “Cheers” is just sounds wrong. The first time I tried to use it in the office one of my coworkers gave me a weird look so I repeated myself in an exaggerated American accent and with both laughed. The American using “Cheers” became a little bit of an office joke between that coworker and me. She would reply to my emails with an exaggerated Cheers!! J as a closing and I would reply with a email ending with Cheers? This was how my time in the office was, super productive but

also very enjoyable. All of the people were amazing and patient with me.

This internship gave me the opportunity to travel to several other countries in Europe which was a dream come true for me! It was the first time I left the United States and in those two months I was able to see Ireland, Spain, and France in addition to working as a full-time intern in London! It may feel like I’ll never not be tired again and I have never been so busy. I am currently writing this on my phone as I sit on the ground of a very full train on my way to Manchester to see an Olympic football match. I never thought I would ever have the opportunity to do something like this in my life but here I am, writing this essay as I sit on the floor between a Brazilian and a Croatian on our way to watch the Olympics.

I found out about the internship opportunity because of the Glenn Global Internship Program through the John Glenn School of Public Affairs. The program is a partnership between the

John Glenn School and Dream Careers, an organization that provides opportunities for students to intern in the department of their choice in various areas of the world. In the program I was with 114 other students from mostly the US but several from the UK. The program arranged housing, meals, and a trip to Paris for us. Going through the program made making arrangements for the internship relatively easy and gave my parents peace of mind knowing that I was not alone in a foreign country. My parents have never left the United States so I am so thankful that they let me take this opportunity because it had been unbelievable.”

Jeanna (far right) and friends taking in the sights of London. “This internship gave me the opportunity to travel to several other countries in Europe which was a dream come true for me! I was able to see Ireland, Spain and France in addition to working as a full-time intern in London!”



Clinton Scholarship to DUBAI

Anya Ursu



Anya Ursu (left in photo) is pictured with friends while studying in the United Arab Emirates. She is a double major in International Relations & Diplomacy and Journalism. Anya was awarded the William Jefferson Clinton study abroad scholarship to study at the American University at Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Anya is from Ukraine and is a double major in International Relations & Diplomacy and Journalism. She received a Clinton Scholarship to study abroad in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates.

“I spent last summer studying at the American University of Dubai. I was honored to have been chosen as one of ten Clinton Scholars, which provided me with a full tuition and housing award.

Stepping off of the plane in Dubai International Airport, my head spun. Did I really just travel over 7,000 miles to a place where I don’t speak the language, don’t practice the religion and know absolutely no one? All of those questions were answered far too quickly as my eyes swam through bundles of abayas, hijabs and burkas.

The Middle East is a place that I have always respected and loved from a distance, so the chance to visit for the first time was surreal. I spent my days making friends from all over the world, studying Middle Eastern economy and politics, enjoying the incredible nightlife and doing incomprehensible amounts of sightseeing.

Dubai is a city of superlatives. It is

home to the world’s tallest building, the Burj Khalifa, as well as the world’s only seven star hotel, the Burj Al Arab. Along with the largest indoor ski resort, Dubai is home to the biggest shopping mall in the world.

Although Dubai comes equipped with plenty of Ferraris, Lamborghinis, and Sheikhs (royals) who drive them, it is much more than its over-the-top reputation gives it credit for.

What I loved about Dubai the most is that much like the United States, the people come from all over, each with their own story to tell, yet one common love for the beautiful city. The UAE is a tax-free nation, which attracts many expats for work opportunities. Expats make up around 80% of Dubai’s population, driving a movement called Emiratisation, which includes government incentives for the local population to have larger families and for companies to hire more locals.

Almost everyone in Dubai speaks English, although Arabic remains the national language. The people are extremely warm, and are just as curious about you as you would be about them. I have made friends that I will keep for the rest of my life in Dubai, along with

my roommate at AUD, Amina, who is originally from Algeria and remains one of my very closest friends.

The best part of my story is that my memories didn’t end the day I boarded my plane back from the United States. Because of my experience in Dubai, I have found a place that I can comfortably say that I’m infatuated with. I knew the day I left that I wasn’t leaving for good. I have changed my career goals and college plan so that I can graduate Summer 2012 and then move to Dubai to work and hopefully spend the rest of my life. I am currently in the application process and I am on track to securing a position before I graduate from Ohio State.

For those considering paying a visit to Dubai, whether it be for study abroad or a vacation, you have been warned, it will completely change the direction your life. Your ideas about success, the Middle East, and who you want to become will never be the same.”

The (Not So Secret) Drone War in Pakistan

Catherine Hatten



Catherine Hatten participated in an internship with the German Marshall Fund, of the United States through the Washington Academic Internship Program, at OSU. Here is her research on drone warfare in Pakistan.

The Pakistani population is expanding and will soon be the fifth most populous country in the world and the second most populous country in the Islamic world. Not only does it have a large population, Pakistan also has the “fastest growing nuclear arsenal in the world” which is on track to be the “third largest nuclear weapons state” (O’Hanlon). The strategic value of Pakistan means that the United States can ill afford to make Pakistan an enemy, but “the U.S.-Pakistani relationship has not been worse since 9/11” (O’Hanlon). This is largely because of U.S. military operations in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The Pakistani government has never publicly given the United States permission to carry out drone strikes within Pakistan. Despite this, there existed an “average frequency of a drone strike every three days in 2010” (Flannes

126). It is accepted by most that the Pakistani government, military, and elites who rule the country do not completely disagree with drone attacks, because “It is accepted by most that the Pakistani government, military, and elites who rule the country do not completely disagree with drone attacks, because at the end of the day [the use of] drones are in their interest” (George).

The drone program is perhaps “the world’s worst kept secret, so much so that it is not even a secret” (Blank). The knowledge of the drone strikes is widespread, and the clandestine nature of the program makes it difficult to collect data on how many drone strikes have been carried out, much less the number of civilian casualties that have occurred and the data easier to distort. The global public even lacks information on what defines a civilian to the CIA, which prevents them from knowing if the wife of a terrorist is a civilian, or if someone who financed, willingly or unwillingly, a terrorist organization is considered a terrorist (Holewinski). Obama spoke about the bombings in an effort to “make sure that people under-

stand that drones have not caused a huge number of civilian casualties” (DeYoung), but without knowing what defines the terms “huge number” and “civilian,” this statement means little. There is also a good chance that President Obama “has no idea about the number of civilian casualties” (Holewinski). There is a very large spectrum of estimates of how many civilian casualties occurred, with the governments of the U.S. and Pakistan on either end. The Pakistani government said publicly that “700 civilians were killed by the drone strikes [in 2010] but on the other end of the spectrum a U.S. government official asserted last December that [it was] ‘just over 20’ civilians and ‘more than 400’ fighters” (Bergen).

Non-governmental sources have made concerted efforts to accurately determine where drone strikes have occurred and the number of civilian casualties. As there is a lack of verified information from either government, it is these journalists and human rights organizations that must be relied on. The variance within these sources, however, makes the number and locations specu-

lative and thus, possible for skeptics to dismiss. Further complicating the collection of information on the number of casualties is militant activity. Realizing that the drone strikes made them look weak, the Taliban “would cordon off the area” of strikes “and remove the bodies of the dead making it difficult to verify who and how many people had been killed” (Shah).

Without better relations with the Pakistani people and government, it is difficult to know with certainty, how many civilians have been killed. The U.S. government does not trust Pakistan enough to count civilian deaths without exaggerating the number, nor do they have the desire to put ground troops in to investigate these deaths. Without improving this relationship, the United States cannot openly acknowledge the drone program that is occurring in Pakistan, or, therefore, to get an official admission of casualties.

Despite the Pakistani government’s public posturing against the drone strikes in the present, they privately agree with them, which should ease the transition to a more transparent policy by the U.S. According to a diplomatic cable in 2008, General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, the Chief of Army Staff, “asked the U.S. military for ‘continuous predator coverage of the conflict area’ in South Waziristan,” and another cable in 2009 said that he knew “‘full well that the strikes have been precise (creating few civilian casualties) and targeted primarily at foreign fighters’ in Waziristan” (Shah). This admission of the importance of the bombing is proof that the government and military approve of the drones, though one must take this firm declaration of faith with some skepticism as it is through the American perspective. Their public denial of this fact and the exaggeration by the media only serve to exacerbate the rampant anti-Americanism that is felt in most of Pakistan.

Success in Pakistan is dependent on efforts to stem the main reasons that people turn to terrorism and a new tactic for this, combined with greater transparency, could lower the costs of

transparency. One reason that people turn to terrorism is because of discontent and feelings of helplessness caused by unemployment (George). Ideas to encourage job growth include granting Pakistan extremely low tariffs on textiles, which have the advantage of spurring job growth without the negative accusations of propaganda associated with aid (Markey). This action, however, cannot be achieved currently through the politics, and it must wait for the beginning of the next administration, whether President Obama returns or a republican candidate assumes office. In this case it can only be achieved if the new Secretary of State were to consider it a priority and be willing to leverage political capital against it (Markey). Aid also should be used to help with basic infrastructure, especially “schools... [and] hospitals” if destroyed through drone bombing as Pakistan’s High Commissioner to Britain claimed many had (Moyes). Aid should not be cut completely as it is an integral part of working to improve lives.

The cost of not being more transparent is a great one, and harms American democracy more than anything else. On the national level any tool that a democracy uses should be publicly debated. Without this debate an important safeguard to democracy is removed. The government need not give all information about drones, but the admission that the program is happening and what the basic parameters of an activity killing hundreds of people are should be open and debated. “As long as only a relatively small group of people has access to information on drones, they have too much power” (Markey). There is no chance to argue or disagree if one group has exclusive information, as they can argue that the information they hold outweighs all other arguments.

Drones are too useful of a tool to eliminate dangerous terrorists for their usage to be stopped completely, but a partnership with Pakistan needs to be built as well, which would reduce the likelihood of the Pakistani government ending the drone program after transparency. It is also important to remember

that drones are just one tool in the toolbox to fight terrorism, albeit one that costs no American lives. Building local partnerships is a difficult step to take when the Pakistanis have such a negative view of the United States and to a lesser extent vice versa. The proper step to take would be to attempt to decrease the number of civilian casualties. By revamping the policy on drone warfare, to make only the most important targets acceptable, and only in cases where there will be minimum civilian casualties, will be beneficial to the United States. Combine this with an open policy and concerted effort to share information on the attacks, find out the true number of civilian casualties, and legitimize the program within the world community and, finally, put forth an effort to invest in long term engagement and development in Pakistan in an effort to improve political stability and political progress. Pakistan’s fragmented, weak, civilian government will not make this challenge any easier. More open tactics are necessary with more respect for innocent life for American goals to be achieved, and to create sustainable progress for the Pakistani people for self-support. Proving an interest in helping the Pakistani people better their lives helps strengthen American values throughout the world; without these efforts these same values are devalued and lose meaning. This is not an easy goal to achieve, as it requires the United States to work to understand another culture and create solutions based on that culture’s needs.

International Institute for Strategic Studies WASHINGTON D.C.

Alex Polivka



During Spring Quarter 2012, I was fortunate enough to spend ten weeks living and working in Washington DC. As a John Glenn Fellow at the Glenn School of Public Policy, I was set up with an internship that fit my studies at Ohio State while receiving credit for a policy seminar we attended every Friday. My time in DC was spent working, learning, exploring, and thriving in our nation's capital and I will never get another chance in my life to enjoy so much in such a short period of time.

Being a Security and Intelligence major with a minor and study experience in Russian, I fit in perfectly at the International Institute for Strategic Studies. The IISS is a think-tank based in London that has three other offices in Singapore, Bahrain, and Washington. It is known as the leading authority on global security as it provides facts, analysis, and influence on conflicts occurring around the world. I was lucky enough to work with the IISS for the full ten weeks of my program. As a research and operations intern, I had two main tasks in the office. One was to research security conflicts occurring in Russia, the North Caucasus region, and Central Asian states. I provided weekly and monthly updates on security, political, and social trends occurring in these countries along with a list of human fatalities to enter into our Armed Conflict Database (ACD). The other task was to maintain day-to-day operations of the office. This could be anything from inviting important dignitaries, journalists, and government officials to our speaking events, to filing simple cash receipts in our cabinets. There was always something going on during all eight hours of the work day, and the experience was extremely invaluable in helping to prepare myself for a professional career outside of college.

After working Monday through Thursday, the Friday morning policy seminar was the last thing for us Glenn Fellows to focus on before we could enjoy the

weekend. Every week, our director would assign us many different policy readings from American history for us to discuss, and be quizzed over, on Friday. We also were required to write a policy paper pertaining to our studies here and create a viable, working policy for a grade. I chose to tackle the ongoing conflict in Syria, with the recommendation that a multi-national stabilization force led by Turkey start the conflict resolution. After the policy seminar, we got to go on tours to different DC buildings and landmarks such as the Capitol, the Library of Congress, Mount Vernon, and the CIA. All of these experiences were extremely neat to take part in.

Once the weekend rolled around, we could do whatever we wanted to in order to relax from a long week. As Glenn Fellows we went to a Nationals baseball game, went to movies, went to the Smithsonian's I-Max shows, toured around town, and tried a lot of delicious food at DC's many exquisite restaurants. Personally, I enjoyed running 5k road races on Saturday or Sunday mornings and then relaxing the rest of the day. One of my favorite things to do was walk around the Capitol building at night, because it was an awesome feeling to know that I was, in a small way, a part of Washington's history. The Glenn School's Washington Academic Internship Program was one of the best experiences I could have possibly found during my time at Ohio State and I hope that other Buckeyes are able to find programs that fit their studies and aspirations just as WAIP and the IISS did for me.

Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS), QUECHUA

Leah Moody



Leah Moody was awarded a Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS) through the Center for Latin American Studies, to study Quechua. Leah shares her FLAS application essay.

"There are two defining experiences that have had significant impact on my life thus far. The first happened in the third grade when I went to Barcelona, Spain with my older brother to visit family. The second happened during my junior year of high school when I chose to study the poem *The United Fruit Company* by Pablo Neruda for an English class assignment. From the former I learned of my passion for language and culture - from the latter, my inexorable intrigue with the region of Latin America. Both of these experiences have greatly influenced decisions that I have made such as what college to attend and what major to choose. Just as importantly, the consequences of these experiences will continue to impact the choices and decisions that I make for the rest of my life.

I am majoring in linguistics and international studies with a specialization in homeland security and intelligence. My minor is in Andean and Amazonian stud-

ies and the combination of these specializations allows me to take classes in those subjects that I am passionate about: language, culture and world affairs. Because I was a post-secondary student at Ohio State during my senior year of high school, it will be much easier for me to incorporate the language and area studies requirements into my undergraduate experience while still maintaining my major courses. Also I am extremely grateful to be a member of both Sigma Iota Rho and the International Affairs Scholars program at Ohio State. Being a part of these international-focused programs has introduced me to some truly incredible people who share similar interests as me, and it also helps to advertise multi-cultural events around campus along with relevant international opportunities.

As for the future, I am sure of exactly three things. First, I am going to continue studying languages spoken in Latin American countries for the rest of my life. Secondly, I am going to travel and study abroad in Latin American countries. As for the third, it is the least direct but perhaps the most important. I am interested in pursuing a career with either the Na-

tional Security Agency or the Central Intelligence Agency. And while I'm not sure specifically what aspect I will seek out, I do know that I want my career to incorporate working with the governments of these countries that I will get to know not only in the classroom but also first-hand through people and full immersion study abroad. To add to this I have family who live in Chile - something that only enhances my interest in the region. Above all, both my desire to learn new languages and my interest in Latin America will continue to strengthen as I advance with my areas of study and the outside opportunities available to me.

Ultimately earning a Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowship to study intermediate Quechua at Ohio State and abroad would further enhance and fit perfectly with my interests and intended life pursuits. Receiving a FLAS would mean receiving the opportunity to cultivate and explore my passion for both language and Latin America - two things that I will continue to incorporate into my studies, my career and the rest of my life."

Who needs a classroom?



Justin Bliss (center photo), a sophomore majoring in Security & Intelligence and minoring in Russian, takes advantage of one of the “unique” free electives available at OSU! The department of Physical Activity and Educational Services offers many Outdoor Pursuits courses for university credit. Anything from Caving, Rock Climbing, Hot Air Ballooning, Sailing, Windsurfing, and Skydiving! Courses are graded Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory and the credit counts towards graduation!

U.S State Department Internship, ROME

Kaitlin Cutshaw



Kaitlin (right in photo) with a co-worker during her State Department Internship in Rome. She is majoring in International Relations & Diplomacy.

Kaitlin is majoring in International Relations and Diplomacy with minors in Dance and Italian. Here is her State Department Internship story!

“Last summer, I was lucky enough to participate in the short-term study abroad program called Literary Locations which encompass an English literature class taken Spring quarter followed immediately by a ten day trip to Rome. Though the class along with the trip was an immensely rewarding and interactive way to discover a new city, this is not a plug for the program but rather a story about how it led me to another amazing adventure. One night on the trip we went out to explore the city and ended up walking past the American Embassy located on the former haunt of the rich and famous, Via Veneto. As I walked past the brightly lit compound, glowing impressively in the night, I made a silent vow to some

day work there. As soon as I returned from the trip I searched the internet for any sort of internship or job opportunity at the Embassy and was of course directed to the U.S. Department of State’s website which details a number of opportunities for undergraduate college students including fellowships, clerical positions and internships. I soon learned all about their Internship program for undergraduates and started the application process. The program offers both domestic and overseas internships all year round and gives the applicant the opportunity to preference what bureaus or posts at which they would be most interested in working. I, of course, selected the Rome Embassy and a couple months later, to my overwhelming excitement, received an internship offer for my first and only choice.

Back in August, when I had formally

accepted the internship, it was hard to believe that I was going to realize my life-long dream of living in Italy, and now that I’m actually here, it’s still hard to grasp! Growing up, the Italian American culture was an ever-present influence on my personal identity, fed (sometimes literally in the form of my grandmother’s homemade manicotti) by my mother’s side of our family. As a freshman in college I was excited for the opportunity to embrace my heritage even more through Italian language courses, which, unbeknownst to me at the time, would prepare me for my future internship. Three years later, I’m here in Italy, living my dream and gaining invaluable insight into a possible future career.

As *una stagista* at the Rome Embassy, I worked in the Consulate building in the Non-immigrant Visa Section also known as NIV; one of the many gov-

ernment acronyms I had to become familiar with. The primary job of NIV is to oversee all foreign nationals applying for visas in order to travel to the U.S. Most often, these applicants were Italian citizens travelling to the U.S. for business or pleasure, but for more than 90 days. It was also common to see a large number of applicants applying for visas to work, study or participate in an exchange program at an American school. As part of the application process, most people applying for visas are required to appear at the Consulate for an interview. I was lucky enough to observe a good amount of interviews before the Consulate closed to undergo renovations. I shadowed the Foreign Service Officers trained to be Consular Officers closely as they interviewed not only native Italians but also people of many different backgrounds and nationalities. It was amazing to see and hear the story of each applicant and their purpose for travelling to the United States. Many were graduate students or high school exchange students travelling for academic enrichment, research aspirations, and quite often with an enthusiasm to improve their English. After the closing of the consulate, with most non-immigrant visa applications handled by the other three consulates in Italy, the Rome visa section held interviews for emergency situation applicants as well as for diplomatic and treaty investor visa applicants. Throughout the internship, I was able to pick up more and more quickly on the many different types of visas available for foreign nationals and learned a great deal about the standard procedures for visa processing in Rome but also in other U.S. Consulates all over the world.

NIV works in close connection with American Citizen Services or ASC, another section in the Consulate, which allowed me to get a glimpse of some of the work they do in that section. One of the most exciting moments, that I was lucky enough to get the behind-the-scenes perspective on, was the tragic Costa Concordia shipwreck in January. Rome Embassy played a leading role in providing aid and services to the Americans who were aboard the cruise liner;

many of which had lost all personal items aboard including passports and travel documents. ACS enlisted the help of NIV for extra manpower to tackle the emergency. After seeing first-hand and hearing about the emergency response, I was amazed by how important the Embassy and the Rome Consulate were in handling the unfortunate event.

Though I learned a great deal about the inner-workings of an American Embassy; how the different offices work together to carry out U.S. foreign policy especially the Consular section, I have to say that it was really the people made my experience unforgettable. On my first day at the Embassy, the walk up to the wrought-iron gates, patrolled by stern-faced Italian guards, that surround the compound was quite a humbling experience. I was mentally preparing myself for an all-business, no nonsense job, where I’d be expected to prove myself worthy to be a part of the U.S. Government’s diplomatic mission. Looking back, this thought is almost laughable. It was amazing how the nature of the Italian culture and way-of-life had sort of infiltrated the Embassy (in a good way of course) to encourage a much more, dare I say, laid back atmosphere. I don’t want to give the wrong impression (or get in trouble from my supervisor) because all the Embassy employees were truly hard-working people and devoted to strengthening Italian American relations and representing the U.S.; but I was not expecting them to be as warm and welcoming as they were. A big part of this focused yet relaxed environment may have been that over half of the employees at the Embassy are Italian. This definitely held true in my section, as only three of the nine employees in my office were American. In addition, every person I met at the Embassy, American or Italian, had an amazing story. Many of them spoke multiple languages, have traveled all over the world, and had done amazing things. It was very inspiring and motivating to work everyday in the same building as such accomplished people.

In general, just having the opportunity

to step foot on the grounds of the American Embassy in Rome was such a great honor. The Ambassador’s office sits in a building called Palazzo Margherita, a historical gem that dates back to the 1880’s when it was used as the royal residence for Queen Margherita of Savoy. This building, called The Chancery, stands majestically as the main building on the grounds surrounded by even more, beautifully built, offices adorned with fantastically old statues and decorated with elegant detail and impressive works of art. Aside from the honor of working in such a historical and beautiful place, the added perks like access to the on-site gym, Italian style café, commissary where American grocery products could be bought, a health unit and special discounts for sightseeing and other community events in Rome were pretty great as well.

Outside of work, I had the opportunity to explore one of my favorite cities even more. Rome is not easily described in few words but I admire it for not only it’s historical prominence but also it’s vibrantly crazy and exciting culture. I had the opportunity to travel around Italy and to other cities in Europe such as Paris and Barcelona while I was there, but I always loved coming back to Rome. I just felt comfortable there; I knew the city and how to get around, I knew the language (well, relatively), and I felt I related to the people. Coming back to Rome, was like coming home.”

Denman Forum 2012

Do something great!



The Denman Undergraduate Research Forum was held on May 9th, 2012.

The Denman Undergraduate Research Forum was created in 1996 and is a cooperative effort of The Ohio State University's Honors & Scholars Center, The Undergraduate Research Office, and The Office of Research. The Forum is an opportunity to showcase outstanding student research, and we encourage all undergraduates to participate in research as a value-added element of their education.

For those of you interested in pursuing a research project, the Undergraduate Research Office is a great place to start. Undergraduate research is one of the higher level opportunities available to you at The Ohio State University!

Undergraduate research topics can arise in many different ways. You might want to delve deeper into a topic

from a class. You may have participated in a study abroad trip where a phenomenon or cultural practice intrigued or perplexed you. Current affairs provide a constant stream of puzzles and problems that bear closer scrutiny.

As an institution dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and understanding of our world, The Ohio State University is an excellent venue for you to pursue your research interests.

Research is not easy. It requires dedication and perseverance. Professors, graduate students, and even other undergraduates are available to provide support, guidance and fresh insights to help you move forward in your research project.

The advantages associated with the successful execution of a research project can be considerable. For those students considering graduate school, an

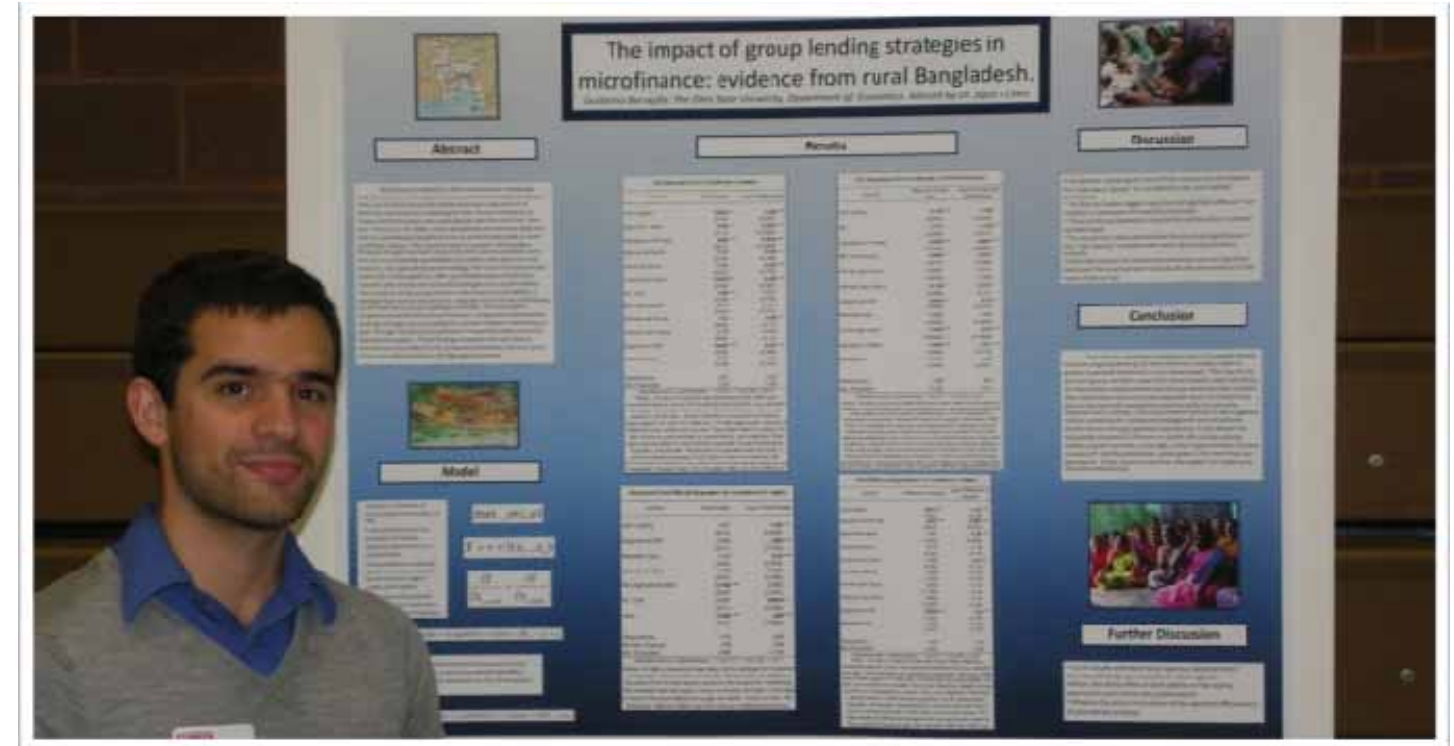
undergraduate research experience in your background indicates to admissions committees you have started to make the transition from undergraduate level study to the more rigorous, theoretical and research based study at the graduate level. A research paper can provide very high level excerpts for graduate school application writing samples. The close working relationship with a professor or graduate student that can arise during a research project can lead to an excellent letter of recommendation, one that is based upon your actual research performance.

For students not pursuing graduate school, the successful completion of a research project can indicate to future employers your high level of personal initiative and ability to execute a complex plan of action.

Read about the Spring 2012 Denman participants on the following pages!

The Impact of Group Lending Strategies in Microfinance: Evidence from Rural Bangladesh

Guillermo Bervejillo



Presenter: Guillermo Bervejillo
Advisor: Prof. Joyce Chen (Food, Agriculture, and Environmental Sciences)

Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) have become increasingly popular as instruments of poverty alleviation in developing countries. They can be found across the world, receiving a large amount of attention and praise for impacting the lives of poor entrepreneurs. These institutions grew even more popular with the rise of the "win-win" rhetoric in the 1990s, where, with help from a group of Ohio State economists, it was shown that MFIs need not rely on subsidies and donations to be an economically stable or even profitable industry. This paper seeks to question this paradigm, because though it has been shown that MFIs can be profitable, many are not convinced that profitability and poverty alleviation can truly coexist in the same development strategy. The cost of an economically viable MFI is the inability to offer unprofitable

below market-level interest rates and the end of lending strategies such as joint liability. This paper will focus specifically on the impact of joint liability, a strategy that recently has become unpopular due to its low profitability, on the well being of participating households. The econometric evidence presented here shows that when compared to individualized lending strategies, group lending has a greater impact on well being as seen through indicators of investment in household assets and child's educational support. These findings strengthen the claim that as microfinance has shifted its focus toward profitability it has lost some of its most effective tools in the fight against poverty, as illustrated by its move away from joint liability loans.

The data set utilized in this paper originates from a large household survey conducted by the Bangladesh Institute for Development Studies in collaboration with the World Bank during the 1990s. The Long Term Effects of Mi-

crocredit Survey is a two wave survey conducted first in 1991-92 and later in 1998-99 that interviewed close to 2,000 households in rural Bangladesh. Most of these households participated in some form of microfinance and a large portion of them listed group liability as a major form of collateral used for loans taken. Analysis of this data shows the causal relationships between household participation in group lending structures and increased investments in assets and human capital. To correct for the possibility of self-selection bias and to control for unobserved heterogeneities among households, the paper uses a fixed effects econometric model as well as a first difference approach. The proposed models find a positive relationship between group liability collateral and indicators of household assets, offering evidence of the households increased expected return on investments.

STARVING FOR ATTENTION: Legitimizing Northern Ireland's Prison Hunger Strike of 1981 through the Print Media

Marissa Black



Presenter: Marissa Black
Advisor (s): Prof. Anthony Mughan
Dr. Jeffrey Lewis

In 1981, ten men starved themselves to death in Northern Ireland's Maze prison to prove to the world and their government that they were not common criminals. These men were part of Republican paramilitary organizations that had plagued the land with violence for over a decade as they attempted to rid Northern Ireland of the British government's rule. They sought to be recognized by the government as special category prisoners, thereby affirming that their offenses were of political rather than criminal nature. To legitimize their cause and actions, they chose to embark on a hunger strike to the death in the hopes of amassing enough sup-

port and acknowledgement from the public as to pressure the government into conceding their demands. However, the hunger strike ended prematurely and they were unable to achieve the support necessary for their political demands to be met. In this study, I explore the strike from the perspective of the public by analyzing its related coverage in newspapers based in Belfast and Dublin, the capitals of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland respectively. In order to understand why the Republican prisoners were unsuccessful in gaining the public's support, I sought to categorize the essential components of legitimacy for the prisoners and analyze how these components were affected through media interpretation. The compiled data demonstrate that the strike did not

amass the support it had sought nor were the components of legitimacy upheld through its coverage in the papers. Ultimately this shows the potential power that the media may have to influence the public's perception of paramilitary organizations. Because of this, this research provides an important framework for combating the future emergence of support for organizations of violence.

HOW DO YOU DEFINE WELLNESS?

Meaghan Novi



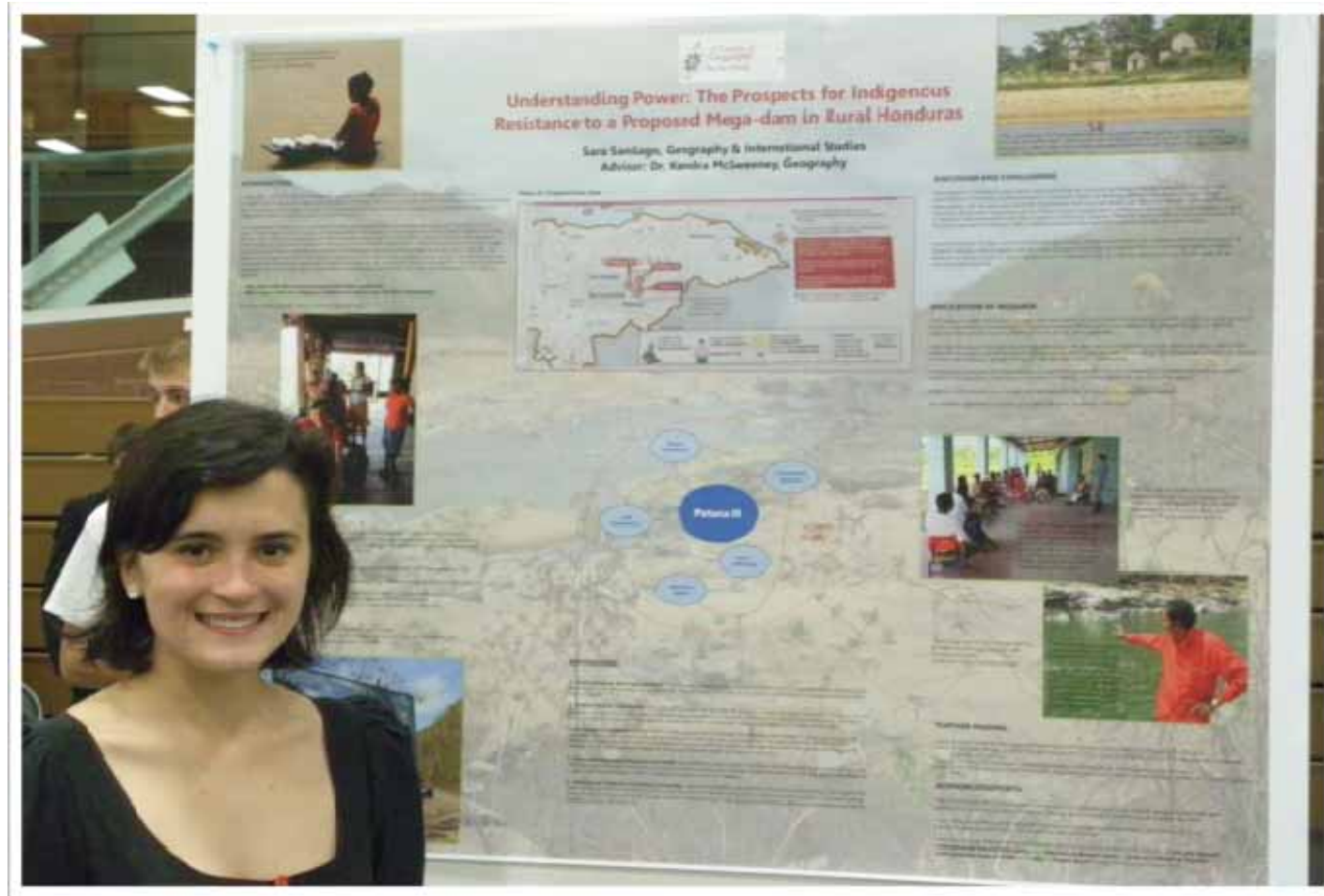
Presenter: Meaghan Novi
Advisor: Constance Boehm
(Medicine)

The Student Wellness Center at the Ohio State University is committed to engaging in discussions about wellness to better serve the needs of our students. Through a baseline survey ad-

ministered to a minimum of 300 students and a series of focus groups conducted during the 5th through 7th weeks of Spring Quarter 2012, this research project aims to gain a greater understanding of how students from diverse backgrounds, both ethnically and academically, define wellness.

Investigating a Proposed Large-Scale Hydroelectric Dam: The Indigenous Response in Rural Honduras

Sara Santiago



Presenter: Sara Santiago
Advisor: Prof. Kendra McSweeney, (Geography)

The purpose of this research is to explore the implications of the potential construction of a slated three-part mega-dam project on the Patuca River in the rural Moskitia region of Honduras on the indigenous Tawahka population. The Patuca Dams have been proposed in 1998 and 2008, but have not been built because of environmental risks and indigenous resistance. I use the previous proposals for the Patuca Dams and a comparison with the disaster of 1985 Honduran mega-dam El Cajón to inform the current situation and determine what is different about this Chinese proposal. This research is

also developed within the context of post-coup Honduras, where there is increased state-led violence and instability, narco-trafficking, and welcomed neoliberal investments that are challenged by a strong and expansive resistance movement. The methods used include interviews with Honduran state officials, indigenous representatives, and Northern NGO representatives leading campaigns against the dams. I, as part of a research team, also gathered research data from Tawahka community meetings and household surveys. An extensive literature review, including academic and a collection of Honduran news articles, also informs the research. The major findings of this research show that the construction of the Patuca Dams, which would deci-

mate Tawahka livelihoods, is not the most prominent issue facing the Tawahka in light of land grabs, infringement of narco-traffickers, and government threats against Tawahka leaders who resist government projects. Additionally, the impending dams, unlike previous proposals, appear imminent because the Honduran government is welcoming large, neoliberal projects and China is providing finance and know-how for the dams. Finally, I explore the movement against the dams, the windows for Tawahka resistance, and hope for the future.

Divine Descent into Mundaniety: Spirit Mediumship in Asia

John Sterle



Presenter: John Sterle
Advisor: Prof. Mark Bender, (East Asian Languages & Literatures)

For ages ritual has held a deeply ingrained place in Asian cultures, from the day to day ritual duties of Chinese emperors to the varied and diverse religious traditions of many other Asian societies such as in Bali and Singapore. Trance-mediumship in particular is a ritual practice that is still accepted and recognized in many Asian cultures, despite the increasing influence of modern medicine in today's global context. Trance-mediumship can often be stereotyped in the West as a taboo performance with no tangible benefits to either client or interlocutor; assumptions that can mitigate the understanding of these people and thus the diverse character of humanity. This study was an attempt to ana-

lyze the trance medium role primarily in three groups found in areas of Bali, Singapore, Taiwan, and Southeast China in order to examine its efficacy and its various manifestations in these regions. Research was conducted through the analysis of various scholarly works on shamanism, trance, possession, Asian mediums, mediumship itself, and the ritual process as well as various media found online documenting performances of mediumship in Asia. The results of this study expose and elucidate the roles, lives, and social standing of these various mediums within their communities, thus highlighting the various cross-cultural nuances in the practice of spirit mediumship. Similarities aside, there are a wide range of important contrasts among the mediums that reflect how the spirit-medium phenomenon has manifested, diverged, and transformed

under differing cultural contexts. The findings of this study shine a light on the complexity and the persistence of trance mediumship while simultaneously emphasizing its efficacy and significance. This paper examines specific mediums in Asia and offers a deeper discussion concerning mediumship's place in the existing scholarship on shamanism, folk healing, trance, ritual, and performance.

Panjiva, NEW YORK CITY

Liam Birt (2011)



Liam Birt (far right in photo) is a Spring 2011 graduate of The Ohio State University, where he majored in World Economy & Business.

During his undergraduate career he had the privilege of interning for Mission Medical Corporation, where he specialized in developing country market research for pre-owned and refurbished medical equipment. His market research included such countries as Venezuela, Colombia, Belize and Vietnam.

[Editor's Note: Liam's internship experience provides a very good example of

a student being "entrepreneurial" in finding a new internship agency with whom to work. Students may submit requests for approval of internships with new agencies.

Now, Liam is employed with Panjiva in New York City. Panjiva provides information services to buyers and sellers of manufactured products around the world. For purchasers of parts and components, Panjiva provides "sourcing intelligence" about potential suppliers, customers with whom that company has worked and information that will assist in determining whether the supplier

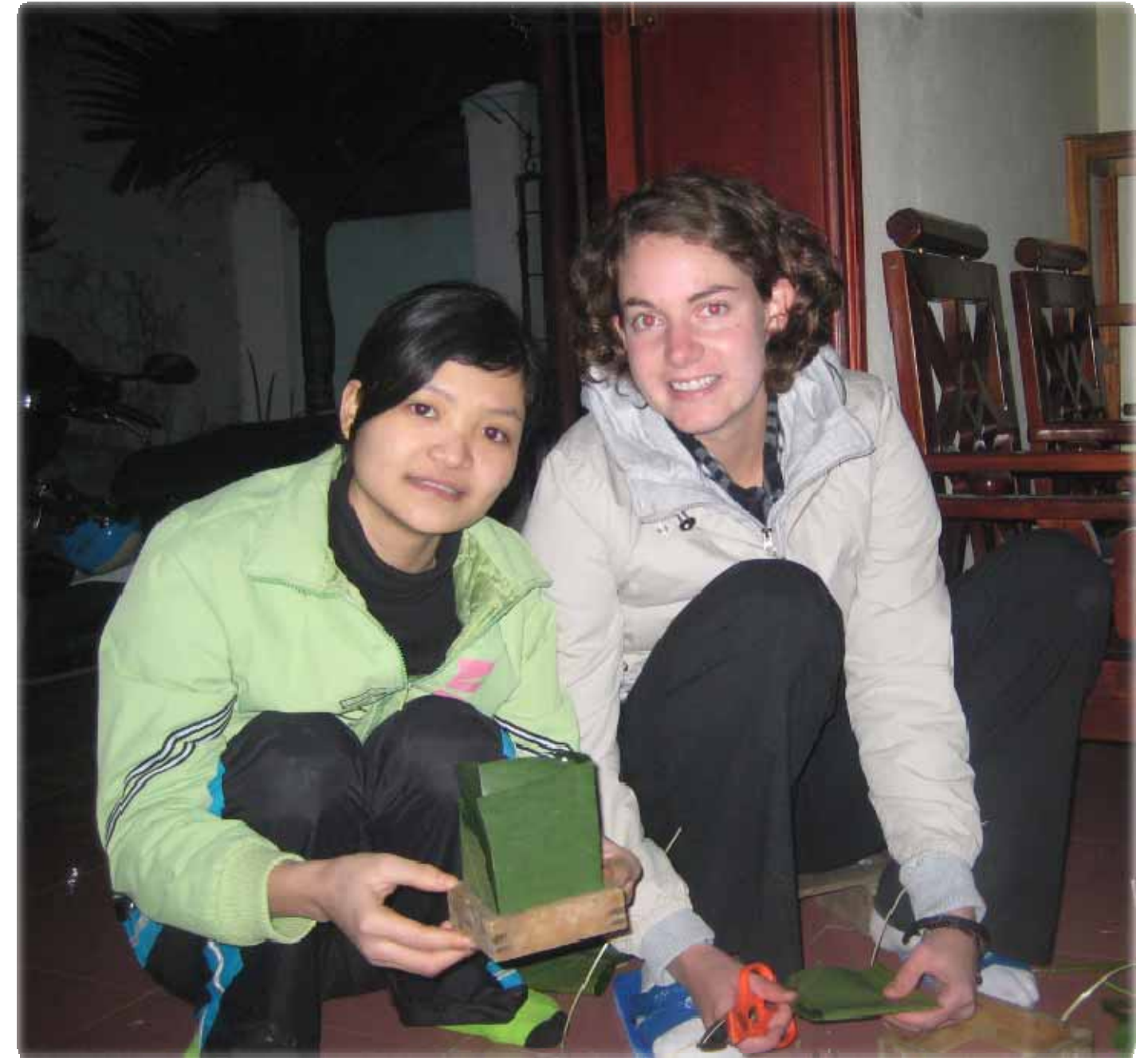
could be a good "fit" for the purchasing firm.

For suppliers, Panjiva provides information about potential buyers of their products.

The mission of the firm is to assist global trade participants in managing risk in the global supply chain by providing data about current business partners and finding alternative suppliers and customers.

Volunteers in Asia

Jennifer Fehr (2009)



Jennifer Fehr (pictured right) graduated in Spring of 2009 with a degree in International Studies focusing on development. After graduating she worked for Columbus State Community College at an English as a Second Language afterschool program for Somali refugees in the Hilltop area. In 2011, she taught English at Hong Duc Uni-

versity and Can Tho University in Vietnam for eight months through the program Volunteers in Asia. After she returned she has continued working with the Somali population on the West side and working with other African refugees through both CSCC and Community Refugee Immigration Services. After seeing a need for cultural-

ly appropriate healthcare for the population she has decided to return to school in the future to become a Family Nurse Practitioner and continue to work with refugees.