

SMALL WORLD MAGAZINE

Yoga anyone?

International Studies alumna, Jennifer Tipton, teaching yoga to members of the Masai Tribe in Kenya. Read more about Jennifer in the *Alumni Highlights* section.



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International Studies Goes Swiss!



From Left to Right: Alison Curtis; Bryan Straub; Samantha Bloom; Chris Schmidt; Sara Santiago; Zachary Galehouse; Frances Smith; Ami Saji; Stephen Pytlik; Megan Biery

By: Stephen Pytlik

Stephen is a junior, double majoring in International Relations & Diplomacy & Political Science.

Far from the Buckeye trees, Scarlet and Gray, and endless traditions of Ohio State, eleven International Studies students spent their fall quarter in the heart of the international world – Geneva, Switzerland. Switzerland, renowned for its chocolates and cheeses, is also home to over 250 international organizations, many of them located in Geneva, including offices of the United Nations, World Health Organization, International Labor Organization and the World Intellectual Property Organization.

Newly organized for 2009, the Geneva program was launched in coordination with EUSA, a student placement service that has been operating for over 25 years. This year, 19 students made the transatlantic flight in order to spend two months living in one of the most renowned cities in the world. For these far-flung Buckeyes, work became the primary responsibility. All interns worked Monday-Thursday, typically from 9 A.M. to roughly 6 P.M. On Fridays, all students attended a lecture on Swiss Life and Culture, followed by intermittent meetings to discuss a paper they would draft on their internship experience.

The quality of the organizations these

students were placed with was quite outstanding. Sara Santiago, now a sophomore, received an internship with the Green Cross – a preeminent organization dealing with issues of the environment. Chris Schmidt, international relations minor, worked for the FEDRA (The European Federation for the Sustainability of the Regions). Other internships represented the major tourism industry in Switzerland, women’s health groups, and even an internship with an American expatriate group. For their hard work, these students will receive 15 hours of graded credit.

After completing their internships, many students travelled abroad, toured Italy, the United Kingdom, or engaged in multi-country trips.



Small World Magazine highlights news and information about the International Studies major at The Ohio State University. If you are a student, faculty or alumni member and have an achievement or story you want to share, please e-mail Karlene Foster at foster.24@osu.edu.

SOMETIMES LIFE TAKES COURAGE:

My journey from banker, to relief worker to college graduate
Abdullahi Abdulle



A young Mr. Abdulle resting on a UN vehicle outside a refugee camp in 1994. The men on the right are internally displaced persons due to civil war. From 1991 to 2004 Mr. Abdulle worked in several capacities to address the humanitarian needs of his people in a country disrupted by civil war.

Students come to The Ohio State University from many places and at many different points in their lives. For many students graduating this spring, the four years seemed like a lifetime. But for others the journey is much longer and the path more difficult. One such student is Mr. Abdullahi Abdulle. An especially dramatic journey has brought him to OSU. From banker, to relief worker,

to college student, his life has come full circle. He will be graduating this spring with a BA in Development Studies. Here is his story.

Mr. Abdulle is a native of Somalia. After high school, he started a career in the commercial banking system, where he rose to the level of managing loans

to local development projects. Life was good. In spite of political tensions, the country was making progress and everyday life was stable. However, everything changed in 1991 when the government was toppled. The country descended rapidly into a civil war, and without a functioning government the country plunged into poverty, lawlessness and violence.



Protected by bodyguards, Mr. Abdulle contemplates the future while traveling to regions flooded in the 1997 El Nino event. Many villages were washed away. He participated in the UNICEF response to the disaster. He could never imagine that 15 years later he would be graduating from The Ohio State University. "In a warzone there is a 50-50 chance you will survive doing this kind of work. There is a 100% chance that you will save many, many lives."

Mr. Abdulle fled to the border region between Somalia and Kenya and joined the **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** to assist in food and aid distribution to the refugee camps springing up there. From 1995 to 1997, a time of relative peace, he worked with the **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** on efforts to repatriate Somali refugees to their homes and villages from Kenya. Projects focused on transport, water, schools and sanitation.

Then, from 1997 to 2004 Mr. Abdulle worked with **UNICEF (The United Nations Children's Fund)** on projects to reduce child mortality, increase literacy, improve health care for women and children, eradicate preventable diseases like polio and measles, and provide

safe drinking water.

Mr. Abdulle left Africa in 2004 because of death threats. "I was shot several times and kidnapped for ransom. It is the reality of this kind of work where there is no law and order."

Aid workers are targets of the militias because the warlords want to have control over food and supplies so they can control peoples' lives. People join the militias for food and survival. "In a war zone there is a 50-50 chance you will be injured or killed doing this kind of work. There is a 100% chance that you will save many, many lives. If you survive, you have brought hope to thousands of people who know that someone from the outside cares enough

about them to help. This hope makes them stronger and more able to resist the warlords."

"Many women survive pregnancy and birth complications as a result of this aid. Many children become literate and are rescued from being forced into the militias. You see a child about to die from disease and malnutrition. You feed the child and treat him. Then, a year later you see him running and playing with a school bag on his back, and you are about to cry. You do cry."

A dangerous change in the conflict occurred in 2004. What had been a war over "material things" like food, water, farming and grazing land, power and control over local tribes and clans,

changed into a war over religion and ideology. "Wars of ideology and religion are much more difficult to solve because no one is willing to compromise." For the Muslim extremists, to even question motives and tactics they see as based upon scripture is seen as enough reason for you to be killed. In a religious war, "either believe what I believe, or I will kill you."

Mr. Abdulle came to the United States for security and to further his education. He still desires to be an international servant of the oppressed and poor. "I want to become more educated, because when you know little, there is little you can say. At Ohio State, I have learned a lot; I have a more global understanding. With this, there is more I can say. I want to be able to say more about the conflict that engulfs my home. I want to save other children and par-

ents from the kind of conflict I have seen."

Choosing Development Studies seemed a natural for Mr. Abdulle, since the field had actually selected him early in life. "I chose Development Studies because this was the field where I could learn how to help the billions of poor in the world. This is my dream, my desire. This is where I gain satisfaction, when I see the future of the people change from hopelessness to hope."

"Ohio State is a nice school, nice system, nice teachers, nice advisors, and there is every kind of support to help you achieve your academic dreams. I appreciate the way the school is run. It is a place not only to learn, but to open your eyes to knowledge of politics, economics, culture and current events. At

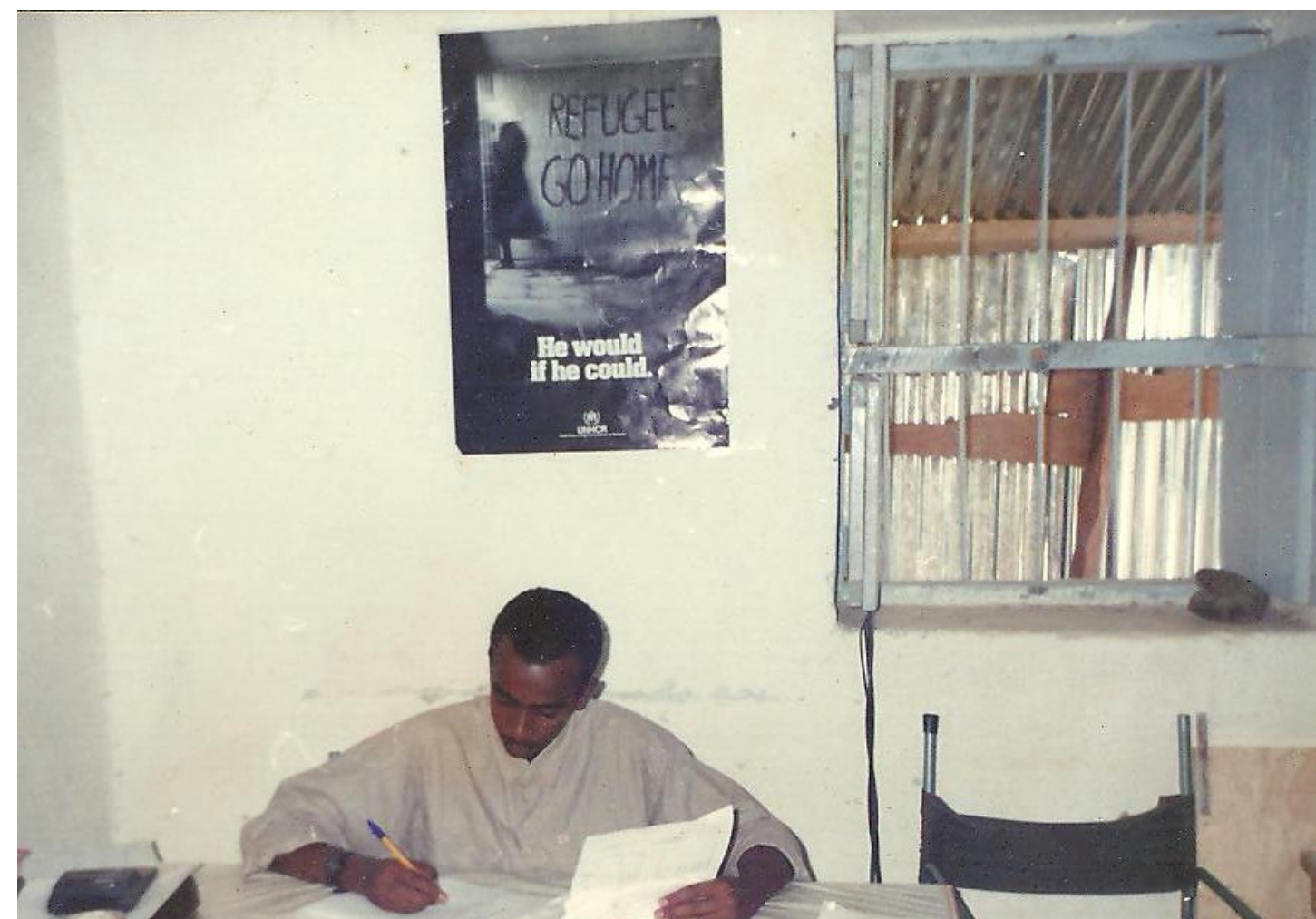
Ohio State I have learned a lot about why things happen in the world."

The next step in life for Mr. Abdulle is graduate school. After that "I wish to work with the United Nations to serve the poor and displaced anywhere in the world I am needed."

To learn more about the UN, go to:
<http://www.un.org/>

To learn more about the International Committee of the Red Cross go to:
<http://www.icrc.org/>

Mr. Abdulle, pictured below, busily filling out paperwork as part of his tasks for UNHCR. Accurate record keeping is a necessary part of relief work as it is the main way to reconnect families that have been separated. The United Nations poster on the wall says much about the life of a refugee.



Performance as Cultural Diplomacy

Kayla Jackmon



Kayla Jackmon (right) with fellow OSU theatre student, Daniel Ferguson, while on the London Theatre study abroad program. This photo was taken at the National Theatre in London, with the River Thames in the background. “While in London, I was able to see twenty five plays throughout the city and even perform in one, all while experiencing the vibrancy of the last global empire.” Kayla is graduating this spring with dual degrees in International Relations & Diplomacy, and Theatre.

“International Studies and Theatre, huh? That’s a weird combination.” This response to my dual degree has been typical throughout my four years at this university. But for me, these two interests are vital to my life and my future career.

Since I was a child, I’ve had a passion for being on stage and using the energy in my body, thoughts, and emotions to make others feel something, anything. Throughout the past four years at The Ohio State University, I’ve been in ten productions through the De-

partment of Theatre, including, *Godspell*, *Three Sisters*, and *Noises Off!*. I am also the Artistic Director of a student organization, **The Black Student Theatre Network**, a multicultural organization that produces black theatre to broaden cultural awareness in all audiences. I directed and helped in the creation of two productions this year. This spring, I am directing a multicultural production of *Romeo and Juliet*. Without theatre in my life, something incredible is missing. But I could not take the risk of only majoring in theatre; I have an equally strong passion for something else.

Two springs ago, I enrolled in the cultural diplomacy class taught by Dr. [Donald] Hempson, and my future career finally became clear to me. For two years I had been taking International Relations classes but something didn’t quite take hold of me the way I needed it to. With cultural diplomacy, however, the idea of actively engaging in international relations through open dialogue and performance finally hit me. This is what I wanted to do. I want to be a diplomat for my country, while opening the lines of communication for others to influence me as well.

In the past two years, I’ve been blessed to be able to travel abroad twice; the first time to London with the **London Theatre Program** and the second time to Spain to complete my Spanish minor. These study abroad experiences have changed my life in ways I have yet to fully realize.

While in London, I was able to see twenty five plays throughout the city and even performed in one, all while experiencing the vibrancy of the last global empire. I couldn’t help but notice the cultural diplomacy I was engaging in while there. I was an ambassador for the United States once my accent reached the ears of the native.

One afternoon I even had an engaging conversation about the need to discover my ancestry from an elderly Irishman in the middle of Soho.

My cultural diplomacy didn’t stop there. The following summer, I participated in a second study abroad program, **The Toledo Program**, in Toledo, Spain, to study Spanish. The cultural nuances between Spaniards and others were intricate and numerous. The language differences heightened them; struggling to communicate became my primary challenge. By the end of my stay there, however, I was able to engage in lasting conversations with my intercambio, or conversation partner, as well as people I met throughout the city.

Our conversations ranged across many topics and often focused on variations between their culture and mine. Many times I was able to clarify things they’d heard about the United States that I knew to be either true or untrue. It was enlightening in so many different ways, and further helped to solidify my passion for cultural diplomacy.

Upon graduation I will have two degrees, in International Studies and Theatre, but I will also have skills and experiences that have helped to solidify my passion for cultural dialogue and change around the world.

To learn more about the London Theatre Study Abroad Program, to go: <http://oia.osu.edu/pdf/countries/England-LondonTheatreProgram.pdf>

To learn more about the Black Student Theatre Network, go to: <http://theatre.osu.edu/undergradgroups.html>

To learn more about the Toledo, Spain program, go to: <http://oia.osu.edu/pdf/countries/Spain-ToledoProgramattheJoseOrtegaandGassetFoundation.pdf>

Kayla (center stage) as Barbara Dennin, in “Men in White”, an OSU Theater Department production by Sidney Kingsley. “Men in White” explores the personal sacrifices required by the medical profession, where doctors and nurses consecrate themselves to the Hippocratic Oath.





Catherine Molleno in front of Pululagua, a dormant volcano located in the north of Quito Canton, Ecuador near Mitad del Mundo. This was just one of the amazing places she visited while studying abroad on the OSU Spanish Language Program in Quito, Ecuador.

Congratulations to Catherine Molleno, who was awarded The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship during Winter quarter of this year. The scholarship was in the amount of \$3500 to be used towards a study abroad program.

The *Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program* offers grants for U.S. citizen undergraduate students to pursue academic studies abroad. Such international study is intended to better prepare U.S. students to assume significant roles in an increasingly global economy and interdependent world.

Catherine used her scholarship to travel on OSU’s *Spanish Language Program to Ecuador*, during Winter 2010. She is

graduating this Spring with a double major in Anthropology and International Relations & Diplomacy, and a minor in Theatre.

“While I was in Ecuador, I visited the Galapagos Islands and got to swim with sharks, turtles, and schools of fish. I also ziplined in Banos, a town directly at the foot of the active volcano Mt. Tungurahua. For those of you unfamiliar with “ziplining,” it is when you descend a mountain hanging from a steel cable suspended above the jungle canopy! What a view!

After graduation, I plan on volunteering for the *Peace Corps*. Then I hope to go

to graduate school for a Master's of International Affairs.

I knew when I was in high school I wanted to be an archaeologist and that I also wanted to work for the United Nations. I was fortunate enough to have been accepted at OSU since it had both of the majors that I wanted to study!”

To learn more about the Gilman Scholarship go to: <http://www.iie.org>

To learn more about the Ecuador, Spanish Language Study Abroad program, go to: <http://oia.osu.edu/pdf/countries/Ecuador-OSUElementarySpanishinQuito.pdf>

To learn more about the Peace Corps go to: <http://www.peacecorps.gov/>



BUCKEYE DEFENDERS



Congratulations to the men and women of the Buckeye Battalion who are graduating this Spring 2010!

Tonya Armstrong
Adjutant General's Corps
MAJOR: Special Education
MINOR: Military Science

Adam Baldwin
Military intelligence
MAJOR: Political Science
MINOR: Military Science
MINOR: Security & Intelligence

Tyler Beaty
Branch unassigned
MAJOR: Political Science

Daniel Bentley
Engineering
MAJOR: Mechanical Engineering

Tyler Bernens
Ordnance
MAJOR: Political Science
MINOR: Military Science

Lauren Blanton
Engineering
MAJOR: Welding Engineering

Andrew Brown
Field Artillery
MAJOR: Political Science
MINOR: Military Science

Brian Bunting
Engineering
MAJOR: Industrial Systems Engineering

Zachary Calamante
Nursing Corps
MAJOR: Nursing
MINOR: Military Science

Willis Cheng
Military Intelligence
MAJOR: Security & Intelligence
MINORS: Chinese / Military Science

Henry Corretjer
Engineering
MAJOR: Civil Engineering
MINOR: Military Science

Robert Deppi
Ordnance
MAJOR: Criminology
MINOR: Military Science

Ryan Devine
Field Artillery
MAJOR: Political Science
MINOR: Military Science / Security & Intelligence

Michael Franklin
Signal Corps
MAJOR: Security & Intelligence
MINOR: Military Science

Melinda Hackemoeller
Branch unassigned
MAJOR: International Relations & Diplomacy
MINOR: Military Science

Adam Henkaline
Infantry
MAJOR: Criminology
MINOR: Military Science
MINOR: Security & Intelligence

Grant Hussey
Branch unassigned
MAJOR: Latin American Studies
MINOR: Military Science

Matthew Kocher
Infantry
MAJOR: Security & Intelligence
MINORS: Arabic / Military Science

Jared Kuntz
Air Defense Artillery
MAJOR: Parks, Recreation & Tourism
MINOR: Military Science

Christopher Lautner
Infantry
MAJOR: Security & Intelligence
MINOR: Military Science

Leslie McBride
Transportation Corps
MAJOR: Security & Intelligence
MINOR: Military Science

Jack Millman
Air Defense Artillery
MAJOR: Economics

Jenna Myers
Finance
MAJOR: Business-Logistics
MINOR: Military Science

Gene Nash
Air Defense Artillery
MAJOR: History
MINOR: Political Science

Kevin Obermeyer
Branch unassigned
MAJOR: Radiological Physics
MINOR: Military Science

Wesley Roberts
Armor
MAJOR: History
MINOR: Military Science

Aaron Siebenaller
Signal Corps
MAJOR: Special Education
MAJOR: Italian

John Thibault
Armor
MAJOR: Security & Intelligence
MINOR: Military Science

Geoffrey Thomas
Transportation Corps
MAJOR: Economics
MINOR: Military Science

Rachel Wevodau
Branch unassigned
MAJOR: Middle East Studies
MINOR: Military Science

Tess White
Branch unassigned



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Do something great!

Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned:

Palestinian Female Suicide Bombers

Dana Grinshpan



Dana Grinshpan viewing one of the holiest sites in Jerusalem. She traveled to Israel to conduct interviews as part of her thesis research.

Dana Grinshpan is graduating this spring with a major in Security & Intelligence and a minor in Arabic. Her finished abstract was featured in the Dartmouth's Undergraduate Journal, *World Outlook*. Currently she is working with her thesis advisor, Prof. Edward Crenshaw, Sociology, on co-authoring an article drawn from this research.

During her junior year, Dana was awarded the **Ralph D. Mershon Study Abroad Scholarship** to attend Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel. She also

received an **Academic Enrichment Grant**, through the Undergraduate Student Government.

Dana has been accepted to the University of Chicago's masters program beginning Fall 2010 and was awarded a full scholarship totaling \$44,000!

Abstract. This research attempts to determine the motivations of Palestinian female terrorists, thereby hoping to contribute insight into the rise of female

suicide terrorism in Israel and, by extension, in Iraq. Media and often policy initiatives portray female suicide bombings as the exception rather than the rule, especially in cases related to radical Islam. I argue, however, that due to the deadly impact of female suicide bombings, and the rising number of female participants in terrorism, female and male terrorism is equally deadly. If women are still unanticipated actors in terrorism, a few female suicide bombers may have a stronger impact on civilians than several male terrorists. I strongly believe that the rise of female partici

pation in Palestinian terrorism needs to be addressed. In fact, female terrorism is a security issue that not only threatens Israeli forces, but also threatens American military forces in Iraq. These women are still unanticipated perpetrators of terror, and yet their participation in suicide attacks has been on the rise.

I further argue that the case of Palestinian female terrorism needs to be assessed within the context of Arab/Muslim culture. Given that motivations of women may dramatically differ from those of men, if male oriented counter-terrorism strategies are initiated, this may actually serve to exacerbate female terrorism. Thus, this research does not generalize all terrorist actions into one motivational cause or cultural influence; nor does it characterize fundamentally non-Western motivations in Western terms. Rather, it analyzes the act of Palestinian female participation in the context of its own social

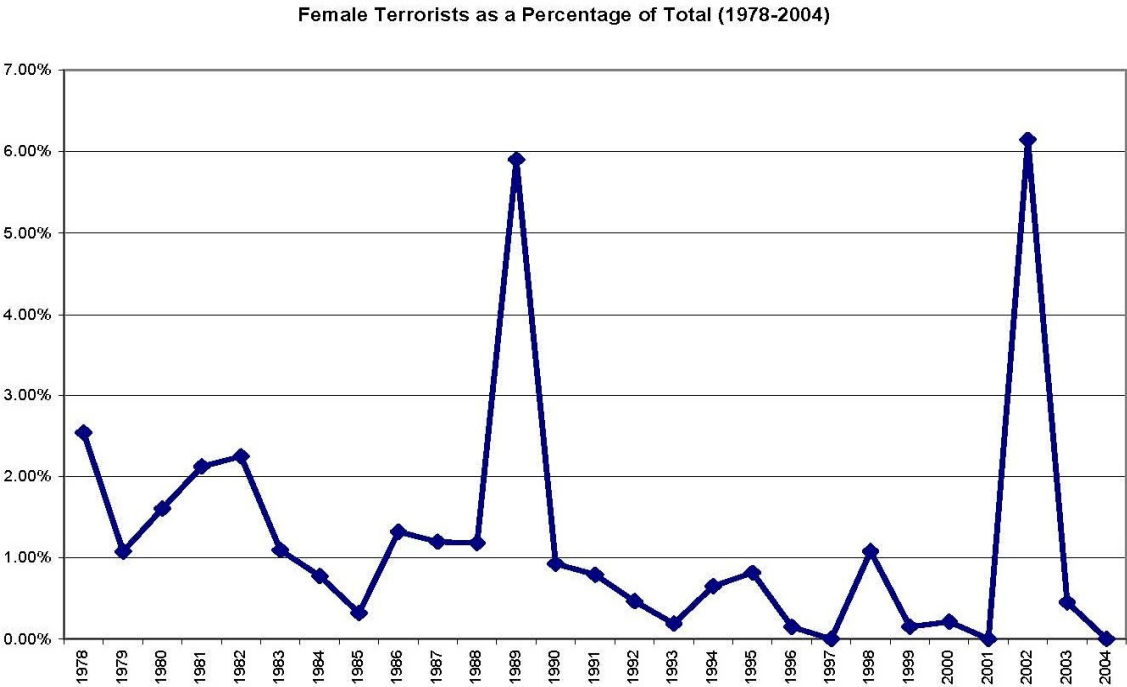
norms and values. In order to approach this research question, I first analyzed literature on the topic of female involvement in terrorism and then the role of Islamic women in the Palestinian Territories. This gave me a sense of the most common assumptions regarding female participation in terror, their motivation and socially constructed ideas. In fact, I traveled to Israel to meet with Israeli terrorism experts in order to understand the latest theories involving female terrorism in Israel and Iraq. In doing so, I have developed one neglected explanation for the phenomenon of female suicide bombers.

The motivations of Palestinian female suicide bombers relate to a type of Arab feminism I term *matriarchal conservatism*, which is prevalent in the Palestinian Territories and similar areas like Iraq. By *matriarchal conservatism* I refer to an Arab/Muslim woman's own idea of femininity, not in Western terms, but

in Arab/Muslim ones. While Western feminists advocate gender equality in the division of labor, politics, and society, some Islamists believe that by presenting themselves publicly in a virtuous way, women sustain their role in society's traditional structures (Fadwa 159, 1996). Matriarchal conservatism in Islamic discourse does not portray women as diminutive and second-class members of a family unit, but rather as central figures charged with the exceedingly important task of educating their children, especially their sons. Hence, matriarchal conservatism would deem Islamic values (rather than Western ones) the ultimate liberator.

To learn more about the Mershon Center for International Security Studies, Undergraduate grants, go to: <http://mershoncenter.osu.edu/grants/grants/undergrad.htm>

Figure 1 depicts female terrorists as percentage of total terrorists (ITERATE 2004). The cyclical nature of the graph represents campaigns of terror over the last 26 years. The most recent peak between 2001 and 2004 can be most readily associated with the rise of female terrorists in Iraq and other areas. Thus, women will be utilized as terrorists if they are available in times of war and political uprising.



The Role of the Yemeni Judicial System in Maintaining Stable Relations Between Opposing Factions

Audra Bartels



Audra (front) with Michael O'Brien looking out from a desert plateau at Petra, in Jordan. Audra spent winter quarter at the University of Amman, Jordon, studying Arabic, traveling, and working on her undergraduate thesis research.

Audra Bartels is graduating this spring with a major International Relations & Diplomacy, and minors in Arabic, French, and Legal Foundations of Society. She was awarded a \$5,000 undergraduate research scholarship through the **Colleges of the Arts & Sciences, Honors Office**, a \$2,000 scholarship from the **Mershon Center for International Security Studies**, and additional grants from the **Honors Collegium, USG, and the College of Arts and Sciences**. Audra spent winter quarter studying Arabic at the Qasid Institute in Amman, Jordan.

The vast gap in cultural understanding between the United States and other nations, those in the Middle East in particular, originally inspired her to research the role the Yemeni judicial system plays in maintaining stable relations between opposing factions, and ultimately to study abroad in the Middle East. From April to June 2009, she performed preliminary research in Columbus on the structure and function of the Yemeni judiciary in its current capacity, and how its role has evolved

over time. The methodology she used during this phase consisted of reading literature on law and political science related to judicial politics and courts in transitional polities. Originally she planned to complement this research by travelling to Sana'a, Yemen, for six months (July 9- December 27, 2009), in order to perform original research by interning at a Yemeni arbitration court that endeavors to combat violence among tribes and agricultural communities. However security concerns led her to study Arabic in Jordan instead. While in the Middle East, she was also able to travel to Syria, Egypt, and Israel.

Abstract: Until recently, there has been a longstanding presumption that courts in authoritarian regimes lack any independent influence in political life (Ginsburg, 1). Previous research has shown that authoritarian regimes use courts to establish social control and sideline political opponents, to bolster the regime's claim to "legal" legitimacy, to strengthen administrative compliance within the state's own bureaucratic machinery and solve coordination

problems among competing factions within the regime, to facilitate trade and investment, and to implement controversial policies so as to allow political distance from core elements of the regime (Ginsburg, 4-11). Yet, allowing judicial institutions to exist in these contexts inevitably allows challenge to regime policy; the success of each of these regime-supporting functions depends upon some measure of real judicial autonomy (Ginsburg, 13), and judicial containment strategies are not completely effective in minimizing their risks.

The courts themselves in authoritarian countries are also faced with difficult choices. Given the tendency to associate rights with courts, any set of putatively independent courts is likely to enjoy a certain perceived legitimacy. Usurping leaders may preserve the formal constitutional position, structure, and even personnel of the relatively independent courts; but if in doing so the regime openly ignores or controls them, the courts lose that legitimacy which may be their only resource and defense against the authoritarian

leader. If the judges placate the regime, they may also undermine public perception of their independence and thus lose their perceived legitimacy. Finally, if they manage to maintain some perceived legitimacy, they lend that legitimacy to the authoritarian regime of which they are a part, precisely because they are a part of it (Ginsburg, 334-335). Consequently, studying courts in authoritarian environments is important because they are a focal point of state-society contention (Ginsburg, 2) and serve as a point of access into the expansion and contraction of judicial power (Ginsburg, 3).

Although Yemen is officially labeled a "Parliamentary Republic," it is an authoritarian regime (Carnegie). Yemeni society is particularly vulnerable to unrest caused by deep historical divisions between the North and the South; political divisions between Islamist groups, autonomous tribes, and the current majority party (the General People's Congress); and the country's challenging topography (Carnegie). The government has attempted to maintain order by severely restricting citizens' freedoms of speech, press, and religion within the country.

Arbitrary arrests and searches by the police, as well as prolonged pre-trial detentions are common (Carnegie). Yet the regime still allows for an independent judiciary to adjudicate Yemeni law. Yemen's three-tiered judicial system is comprised of six types of courts: criminal, civil, personal status, special cases (e.g., kidnapping, carjacking and acts of sabotage), commercial, and court-martial. Arbitration courts are primarily responsible for non-criminal issues, but adjudicate criminal cases as well. In recent years, other limited-jurisdiction courts (e.g., juvenile and public funds courts), have been established under executive authority. (Brown)

It is clear that in considering whether or not to erase substantial components of Yemen's judicial infrastructure, the regime must have determined that it was not in its own interest to do so. Instead of serving the interests of the regime according to the functions uncovered in previous research (discussed above), the Yemeni courts seem to be used by the government to maintain stable relations between opposing factions. Identifying the role the judiciary plays in maintaining stable relations will provide insight as to how a

secure environment may be solidified and improved within Yemen, and other areas of the Middle East.

In the future, Audra hopes to continue her research on this topic, and apply it to a career in international law.

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To learn more about the Jordan Study abroad program, go to: <http://oia.osu.edu/pdf/countries/Jordan-CIEEElementaryArabicLanguage.pdf>

To learn more about research funding through the Colleges of the Arts & Sciences, go to: <http://aschonors.osu.edu/undergrad>

Audra Bartels, and Michael O'Brien, at the top of another mountain at Petra, which was a viewpoint to see all of the mountains around it. The man without a uniform is a bedouin that lives on top of that mountain, and the man in the green army uniform is a bedouin police officer. "We chatted in Arabic and English about various things and they made us tea. We talked up there for about an hour or so. Then many of their friends came up to visit right before we left. It was a great experience!"



Christianity in a Rising China: Implications for the United States

David Young



David in front of a shrine to Guan Yu, in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, while studying Chinese as a Boren Fellow during the 2008-09 Academic Year.

David Young was an intern in the China Documentation Center at the George Washington University during Autumn quarter through the **John Glenn Institute Washington Academic Internship Program**. He is a double major in International Studies and Chinese and will begin his masters degree in Summer 2010 through the **OSU Chinese Flagship Program**. This article is excerpted from his research while in Washington D.C.

It is impossible for the United States to face current international affairs without including China in the picture. As America experiences economic decline, a rising China is changing the way it perceives Sino-American relations. The People's Republic of China (PRC) no longer feels the need to bend to foreign pressure.¹ While China still regards America as the single most important global economic and military power, the teacher-student relationship, which has historically defined Sino-American relations, is evolving towards an international partnership.

A recent development in American studies of Sino-U.S. relations is the notion that foreign pressures, including those from the United States, have little influence on the PRC's internal affairs. China specialist David Shambaugh remarks that, "Few, if any, factors affect the future of China—and hence all the nations that interact with it—more than the nature of its ruling party and government."²

The Chinese Communist Party (hereinafter referred to as "the Party" or "CCP") continues to shape China's national, regional, and global policy to fit the country's evolving national interests. Therefore, focused attention on China's internal economic, political, and cultural actors is crucial to understanding their external implications. China has begun to shed its anti-democratic coat. It also enjoys a growing and educated middle class. Among the various cultural forces at play, perhaps none shows more signs of increasing influence in China over the coming decades—and consequently on the global balance of

power—than that of Christianity.

This is an attempt to analyze the explosive growth of Christianity in China, its implications for China's future—and hence that of America—and how the U.S. should respond. Specifically, it addresses the following questions:

- Should the U.S. exert more (or less) pressure on China regarding its policies on religious freedom?
- How will the United States mediate its desire to build deeper economic ties with China, while at the same time enforcing commitments to create a more religiously open China?

Christianity exercises a disproportionately large influence on the cultural democratization of the country's middle class. This phenomenon is partly due to the unique nature of Christianity in China compared to that of western countries. Zhao Xiao, a former communist official and Christian convert remarks that in much of Christianity's heartland (Europe and the Americas), religion is associated with tradition and

ritual. In China, it is associated with modernity, business, and science. He goes on to say, "We are first-generation Christians and first-generation businessmen."³ In the Protestant Church in China especially, evangelism is a critical part of a Christian spiritual life.⁴ Many Chinese believers consider themselves to be on the "frontier of Christianity," fighting on the spiritual vanguard under a heavy-handed government.⁵

Today, the CPC has generally accepted the presence of Christianity in society, and even the government, to a degree. A 2009 Congressional Research Report on human rights in China asserts that "the PRC leadership has begun to acknowledge the positive role that Christianity can play in promoting social development, yet remains deeply suspicious and fearful of its potential power as a source of autonomous organization."⁶

As the PRC sought admittance into the World Trade Organization, (WTO) it faced a wide variety of social challenges, including refining its religious policy. Entry into the international organization would place Chinese human rights policies under foreign scrutiny. Even within the Party there were discussions about increasing the suppression of religion or relinquishing control of religion all together, which would mirror China's position on economic matters at the time, thereby "merging China into the globalized world order."

The State Administration for Religious Affairs (SARA) issued commentaries to match the emerging mindset. The director-general of SARA, Ye Xiaowen, wrote the bulk of documents regarding the "Three Represents" implication on religious policy. The finished product was a new religious policy that did not encourage the development of religion, but would not suppress it either. While the implementation of this policy has often strayed from its ideal, and the "Three Represents" itself was difficult to comprehend even by party officials, (public criticism of it was taboo), it marked a milestone for China's religious policy, namely, that "religion and socialist society must mutually adapt."⁷ In practice, however, this has often meant

that religions must adapt to the CCP and not the other way around. All churches must register with their local party officials.

As Christianity becomes more distinctly Chinese and less a foreign import from the West, it is likely that China will develop a very new religious identity in the 21st century—one that is friendlier to the U.S. It will also likely assist in the erosion of the mutual distrust that has surrounded Sino-American relations for decades. Many Chinese Christians see their efforts to bring religious and political freedom to China as part of an evolutionary, reformist process that complements the PRC's economic and political goals, not as a rebellious act against the state. This counters previous reforms in Chinese history that have predominantly involved violent rebellion against the governing authority.

Next, I will look at U.S. policy towards China. In their review of the current U.S. International Religious Freedom (IRF) policy entitled "The Future of U.S. International Religious Freedom Policy: Recommendations for the Obama Administration," Thomas S. Farr and Dennis R. Hoover highlight strengths and weaknesses of United States' policy on religious freedom.

They note that, "despite the fact that there is now an international religious freedom act, the United States still does not have a truly comprehensive and strategic international religious freedom policy."

The current reality regarding U.S. government efforts to pressure the CCP to halt religious persecution in China is that the CCP often ignores foreign attempts to amend its human rights and religious policy. In addition, China has historically viewed U.S. human rights activism as a front for separate politically motivated agendas (Indeed, the U.S. has previously used human rights groups as vehicles for gathering intelligence).

Critics of American IRF policy stress that previous U.S. policies have focused on "rhetorical denunciations of religious persecutors and releasing religious prisoners instead of facilitating the political and cultural institutions necessary for

religious freedom."⁸

The following are three policy options for the U.S. regarding these issues. It should be noted that the options can be synthesized: Option #1: Increased Economic Sanctions & Political Pressure, Option # 2: Accentuate the Positives, Option #3: No Action. [Mr. Young will conclude that, for the moment, Option 3 is best. Long-term trust with the government of China needs to be built. Careful monitoring is suggested, so U.S. policy can respond to change as it occurs. He rejects Option 1 due to China's resistance to outside criticism. He rejects Option 2 because satisfaction with the status-quo should not be supported.]

Christianity's continued growth in China is nearly certain. Its relationship with the state will greatly impact the cultural and political future of the country, with or without U.S. influence. Economic and political issues currently occupy Sino-American relations, but the role of religion in shaping the world should not be ignored by policy-makers. Christianity will be important to China's cultural and political future.

NOTES:

1. This is with regard to China's dominance by foreign powers and the subsequent "catching-up" process over the past five decades that humbled the country and created a victimized" sentiment that persists to today. See: Li, Cheng. China's Changing Views of America: Insights and Obstacles. Brookings Insts. The Brookings Institute, Washington D.C. 9 Nov. 2009. Lecture.
2. For more information on the China Communist Party and its modern development see: Shambaugh, David. China's Communist Party: Atrophy and Adaptation. University of California Press. California. 2009.
3. Asia: Sons of Heaven: Christianity in China. " The Economist 4 Oct. 2008: Research Library Core, ProQuest. Web. 20 Oct. 2009.
4. Ibid. Many scholars, businessmen, and even political leaders who do not publicly express their faith (since the right to believe in religion does not extend into internal party affairs) privately attest to being members of the Christian faith.
5. Aikman, David. Jesus in Beijing: How Christianity is Transforming China and Changing the Global Balance of Power. Washington, D.C. 2003.
6. Lum, Thomas, Hannah Fischer. "Human Rights In China: Trends and Policy Implications." Congressional Research Service. (2009)
7. Leung, Beatrice. "Religious Freedom and the Constitution in the People's Republic of China: Interpretation and Implementation." Internet Journal of Religion/DISKUS 3:1 (1995) pp.1- 18
8. Farr, Thomas F, Dennis R. Hoover. The Future of U.S. International Religious Freedom Policy: Recommendations for the Obama Administration. The Institute for Global Engagement. 2009. p1.

THE NEW CENTRAL EUROPEAN RIGHT'S
Politicization of Women & Youth: 1999-2009
Rebecca Dulemba



Rebecca Dulemba in front of the Vltava River that runs through Prague, in the Czech Republic. Rebecca studied abroad there in summer 2009, including a homestay in Slovakia. She then travelled independently in Poland and Hungary. “Traveling through Poland and Hungary was an experience which added great insight to my later research.”

Rebecca Dulemba is graduating this Spring with a major in Slavic & East European Studies, and a minor in Slavic Languages and Literature. She was the recipient of a \$4,000 **Undergraduate Research Scholarship**, through the **Colleges of the Arts and Science Honors Office**, to work with **Prof. Jessie Labov**, **Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures** on an undergraduate thesis. Rebecca is a member of both the Honors and Scholars programs. She will present her research at the Midwest Slavic Conference this April and the **Denman Undergraduate Research Forum** in May.

She credits the start of her research topic with her study abroad experience during summer 2009 in Prague. The program also included a homestay in Slovakia. “Upon completion of the program, I traveled independently in Poland and Hungary—an experience which added great insight to my later research.”

Thesis Abstract: In the years immediately following the collapse of socialism in 1989 the revival of conservative “family values” and gender roles in the context of a masculinized political culture permeated Central European poli-

tics. In Poland and Hungary in particular, this movement was championed by the nationalist and religious right. In 1990s Poland, women were notably absent from political participation, representation, and even discourse about traditional women’s issues. Simultaneously in Hungary, the same rightist sentiment impassioned Hungarian youth culture, particularly young men.

However, in the last ten years the Central European right has begun to reposition itself relative to both women and youth. Political discourse over issues pertaining to women is more visible and prevalent, often carried out in the mainstream by a public “feminine face.” Increased right-wing willingness to openly engage women in discourse, coupled with unprecedented levels of right-wing female representation and a female populace which no longer distances itself so strongly from politics, means that women are in fact becoming the politics. Concurrently, radical or extreme right-wing youths of the 1990s have been mainstreamed as they have aged. Aligning with a more traditional, conservative rightist identity, many have joined or even, as in Hungary, founded the parties of today’s Central European right with the ability to mobilize new youth for political purposes.

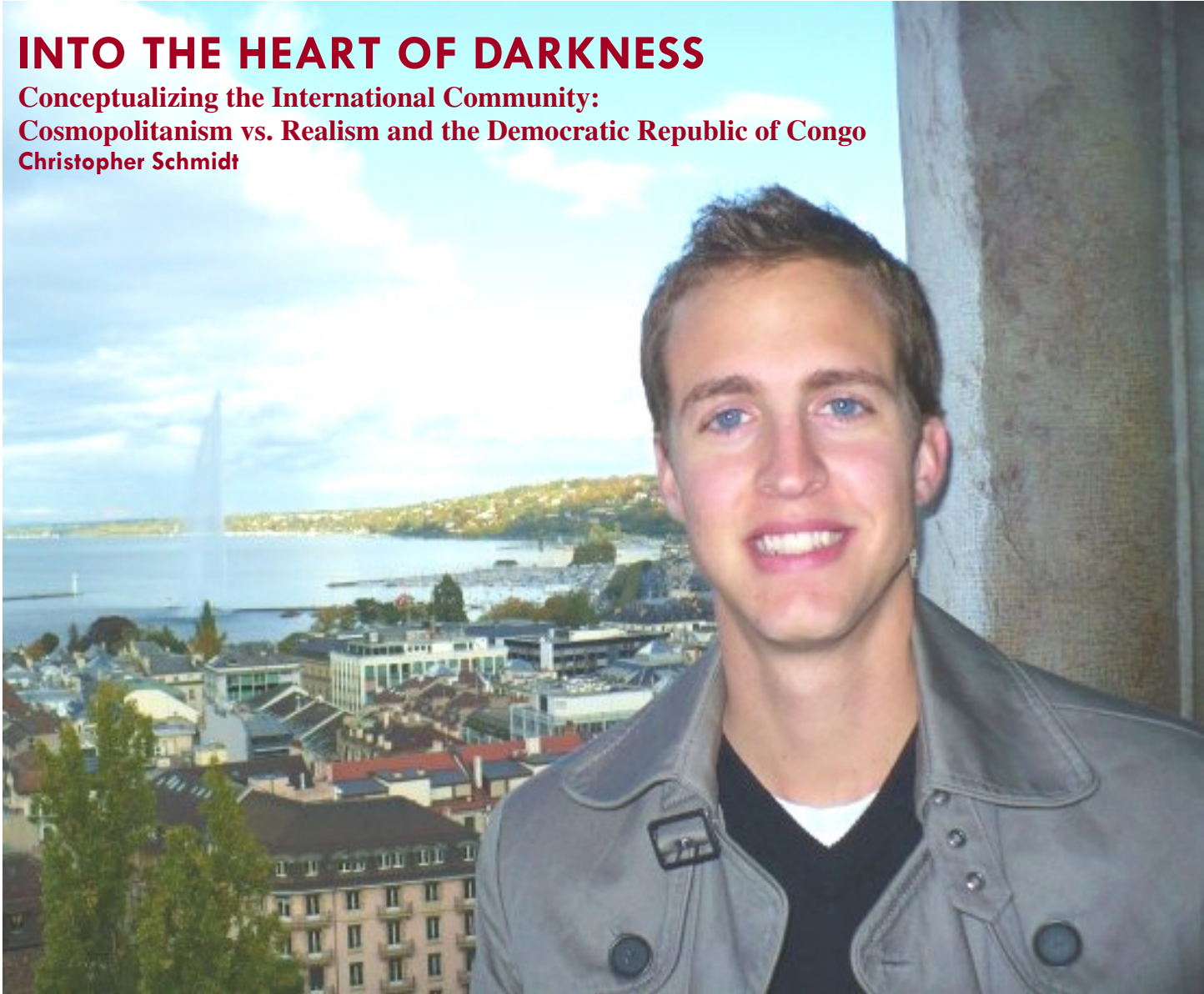
The immediate “post-Soviet” narratives of these two demographics were largely divergent, yet in the last decade, as these groups have aligned under rightist parties and ideology, they find themselves increasingly intersecting. Through analysis of primary and secondary sources from a wide range of media, this thesis will demonstrate how this has happened on three levels—biopolitics, party politics, and cultural politics. I will also suggest directions for future research on right-wing movements across Europe, and respond to the increasing need for nuanced research on the mainstreaming of extremist social formations.

To learn more about study abroad in the Czech Republic, go to:
<http://oia.osu.edu/pdf/countries/CzechRepublic-FAESprogram.pdf>

To learn more about research funding through the Colleges of the Arts & Sciences, go to:
<http://aschonors.osu.edu/undergrad>

To learn more about the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum, go to:
<http://denman.osu.edu/>

INTO THE HEART OF DARKNESS
Conceptualizing the International Community:
Cosmopolitanism vs. Realism and the Democratic Republic of Congo
Christopher Schmidt



Christopher Schmidt overlooking Geneva, Switzerland whiling interning there in Autumn quarter 2009. Christopher is a major in Political Science, and a minor in International Relations & Diplomacy.

It was 42 years before the end of World War II that Joseph Conrad wrote his infamous novel *Heart of Darkness*. Today its relevance to the Congo remains starkly the same, as colonialism has left behind a nearly impenetrable tangle of conflict and social divisions. The novel explores the hypocrisy of Belgium’s imperialism. The act of civilizing the African became quite uncivil. Imperial violence, political factionalization, and decades of authoritarian rule and war have today led the United Nations (UN) to enter the Congo, quite like Marlow’s travel up the Congo River. Amidst the chaos left behind by Belgium’s enterprise and the aftermath of World War II, the Congo offers a troubling and difficult case for policy mak-

ers and for international relations theory. This paper aims at pondering this case to shed light into the heart of darkness and give an explanation for ‘the horror’ that Kurtz only realized at his final moment.

After World War II an international consensus arose that to prevent another world war the reorganization of the League of Nations system was required. The postwar era ushered in the establishment of international law and human rights doctrines under the auspices of regional and universal organizations. On April 25, 1945, the Charter of the United Nations (UN) was finalized under the Westphalian principles of sover-

eignty, territorial integrity, and peace and security amongst nations. Most importantly, the UN Charter motivated several universal documents which outlined the fundamental importance of individual sovereignty and human rights amidst a system dominated by interstate relations. The new global order sought to deter future wars and create a council of peaceful discourse among states. This shifted the international system from a Westphalian state-centrism to a UN-based idealism that granted the individual sovereignty and autonomy within their respective state, as well as in a newly formed international “community.” Although some basic tenets of the Treaty of Westphalia continued, i.e. state sovereignty and the right to

wage war, this UN idealism assumed the common interests of the member states and embarked on massive effort of international cooperation, conflict resolution and peacekeeping.

Peacekeeping, a direct example of UN ambition and its idealism, is not once mentioned in the UN Charter. However, the newly formed UN system has engaged in many peacekeeping operations from the 1950's to the present day.

Today, it is hard to imagine that peace and prosperity can continue given the rise of genocide as a form of war in the 1990's. The international response to the genocide in Rwanda demonstrated several weaknesses in the UN system, such as its inability to work efficiently with member states in stopping the systematic slaughter of the Tutsi minority. Instead, the UN allowed the genocide to continue, as did the United States, the sole superpower. In the case of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the most astounding element is the silence in the international media and the ignorance of the global North of the political breakdown of ten central African states that resulted in a continental war in 1998.

The DRC suffered from nearly 70 years of colonial rule and exploitation and several decades of authoritarian dictatorship. Since 1998, an estimated 5.4 – 7.8 million Congolese people have lost their lives, the most in any conflict since World War II. As expected, the UN Security Council voted to initiate a UN mission to the Congo after passing UN Resolution 1304(2000). The United Nations Organization Mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) has attempted to institutionalize normative democratic principles and international law within the government and society. MONUC is currently the largest UN mission in the world, consisting of nearly 20,000 military personnel.

At the center of most African politics is the arbitrary nature of the state. This

arbitrariness is a cause for much of the violence throughout the continent, as most conflicts surrounding the DRC have ignored state boundaries and repeatedly violated the concept of national sovereignty. This paper aims at describing the flaws in the theory of liberal institutionalism in reference to central Africa. The nation has failed; the state has failed; and therefore the ability of international institutions to build a strong liberal form of government in the DRC is challenged. Additionally, there exists a multipolar domestic political system in the DRC, owing to the hundreds of tribal and ethnic affiliations. To build a single 'Congolese' national identity and a shared affinity among its peoples is a first major step to unifying the state. Without this element, the DRC can neither exist as a nation nor act as a state in the international community.

It is most important for this paper to distinguish between the cosmopolitanism of the United Nations and the international community, as the former stems from the latter. The United Nations is an international organization of nation-states aimed at engaging in meaningful discourse to achieve international peace and security, but also it is a means for states to define and pursue their national interests and engage (or not) in conflict resolution. The UN is a physical body where international law and human rights manifest. The term 'international community' is a concept stemming from and supported by the UN system and assumes the common interests of member states, i.e. states share common goals of international cooperation and peace, often through collective measures.

But, do states really share a common desire for international cooperation and peace? Are they willing to make the sacrifices necessary to support it? Therefore, what is the "international community" in reference to the DRC? To better understand the nature of the international system, this paper will discuss the contending arguments surrounding cosmopolitan ideals, such as universal norms and laws, and also realist ideals, such as state-centrism, state sovereignty and the national interest.

Essentially, my thesis aims at examining the DRC in terms of its humanitarian plight, the current UN mission, MONUC, and the willingness of states in the international system to contribute to resolving the most destructive war since WWII. Based on the evidence of the DRC, what view is most consistent, if any? The political breakdown of central Africa and the continued humanitarian plight and political strife in the DRC offers a troubling but necessary case in international relations as it challenges the efforts of the UN system and the concept of an international community. Is this community only limited to the developed states of the global North? What are the implications of events in the DRC for how we think about the UN and the notion of an "international community?"

I am majoring in Political Science with a concentration in international relations, and minoring in international relations and diplomacy. I transferred from American University in Washington, DC my sophomore year for financial reasons, and found myself back in Ohio at The Ohio State University. I quickly became inspired to complete a senior honors thesis through the Department of Political Science to graduate not only with honors, but also with research distinction in my major. After taking several months to finalize my interests, I sought out several faculty members in political science and soon found **Professor Alexander Thompson and Professor Jennifer Mitzen**, who both have been extremely helpful throughout my thesis project.

My study abroad experience in Geneva, Switzerland with an international organization greatly aided my thesis by providing an in-depth and hand-on understanding of how IO's work, something reading a book doesn't quite offer.

I am waiting to find out if I have been accepted to graduate school at American University's School of International Service where I will be working on a dual degree in U.S. Foreign Policy and Law.

Protecting Political Reality: The Impact of an Economic Recession on United States' Trade Policy

Barbara Herrera



Barbara enjoying the English gardens while studying abroad on the Oxford, Pre-Law program. "The Oxford Pre-Law program led me to a deeper appreciation for America's legal system, and provided me with an opportunity to explore America's immigration laws, which are in need of reform".

"Like many people, I grew up wanting to change the world. My reasons for wanting to do so reach into my background as an immigrant from a rural part of Panama, and as a resident of slowly declining city in Ohio. But, first, I needed to learn of the societal disparities that could determine the fate of developing countries and deter the progress of some communities within the richest country in the world. Fortunately, the International Studies program at the Ohio State University includes a specialization in Development Studies, which is exactly what I needed to turn my wishful thinking into positive action.

The classes I began with as a freshman introduced me to political theory, historical perspectives, and a deeper understanding about my community. I also discovered new possibilities through the exciting opportunities detailed in the daily emails from the International Studies office. For example, I learned in my development course about Muhammad Yunus and how microfinance through the

Grameen Bank first helped Bangladeshi women. Through my internship at the Economic and Community Development Institute, I learned that we can use the same practice here in the United States with Somali refugees.

In International Studies 539, *China's Economic Reforms and Globalization*, I studied the development and progress of China. As an intern for the Global Markets Division at the Ohio Department of Development, I was able to utilize this knowledge when meeting with various delegates from China interested in trade and investment relationships with Ohio.

My study abroad at the University of Oxford for the Pre-Law program led me to a deeper appreciation for the American legal system, and provided me with an opportunity to explore our immigration laws, which are in need of reform.

Now, I am working on my thesis, titled *Trade and Politics: The Influence of a Recession on US Trade Policy*. My paper explores the relationship between trade policy and politics and how an economic downturn may change America's mantra in support of free trade. Moreover, I examined the US role in a multilateral trading system, and how systems, such as the World Trade Organization, affect the difficult decisions made regarding high unemployment rates and depressed production in a recession. Have the WTO and bilateral trade agreements effectively prevented the US from resorting to protectionist measures? From what I have gathered so far, yes, but with a few caveats.

I plan on using all my experience and knowledge to eventually become an international trade and immigration attorney.

I am enamored with all the opportunities that Ohio State, and specifically the International Studies department, has

provided to me. The International Studies department really gives meaning to our motto of "do something great". I will be both sad and excited to graduate this spring to continue on to law school, but I am ready. From my work-study at the Office of International Affairs, my study abroad at the University of Oxford in England, working with the non-profit Economic Community Development Institute and the Ohio Department of Development, to community service activities with SERVICE Squad, I feel more than prepared to make my mark!

Barbara is working with **Prof. Bruce Bellner, Department of Economics**. Here is her thesis abstract.

Since the establishment of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), there has been numerous efforts to expand trade through bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations. Under the auspices of the GATT and eventually the WTO, trade barriers and non-tariff barriers were reduced immensely, most notably under the Tokyo Round and the Uruguay Round. The most recent effort, the Doha Round, is much

more at a standstill compared to former attempts. Developing and developed countries cannot seem to find common ground for various reasons.

There is no doubt that US leadership in the Doha Round is critical. However, in light of the current recession resulting from the US credit crisis, trade negotiations now seem threatened. Present US public policy is more focused on stabilizing the economy through increased government spending and maintaining US jobs. Expanding commitments in trade negotiations is not a main concern. Furthermore, there are efforts to broaden protectionist policies, including the "Buy American" policies recently enacted.

However, the trend towards selected protectionism is not clear, nor is the Obama administration's stance on trade policy. With the aim of stabilizing and then reducing the unemployment rate, solving the credit crisis, keeping jobs at home and protecting domestic industries, will there be a shift in trade negotiations in the next few years? Considering the Doha Round is at a standstill, with the United States not budging on agricultural subsidies and other related

issues, will there be a new effort to pursue bilateral trade negotiations rather than multilateral trade agreements?

My thesis will explore these questions by outlining trends in trade negotiations and reflecting on US policy in the past during economic downturns. I will compare these cases to the current economic crisis, the worst since the Great Depression, and predict US policy towards labor, industry protection, and government spending. I will explore US government economic policies and how they clash or coincide with trade liberalization efforts. In order to put everything into perspective, I will also focus on pending trade negotiations, such as the US-Panama Free Trade Agreement and the US-Korean Free Trade Agreement. Lastly, I will discuss the Doha Round and a WTO that lacks the support and leadership of the US. I will also consider what it means for trade negotiations and the spreading of worldwide protectionist sentiment in the coming years if reforms are not considered.

To learn more about the Oxford Pre-Law Study Abroad program go to:
<http://oia.osu.edu/pdf/countries/England-OxfordPrelaw.pdf>



AWARDS



2010 President's Salute To Undergraduate Academic Achievement

Congratulations to the International Studies majors chosen for this year's President's Salute to Undergraduate Academic Achievement!

The President's Salute to Undergraduate Academic Achievement has become a special tradition at The Ohio State University, with the university president recognizing both our finest students and faculty. Each year the colleges are asked to nominate a select group of undergraduates who are exemplary students as demonstrated by their performance, curriculum and related experiences.

Brenda Codoner
Major: History of Art
Major: Latin American Studies

Margaret Darocha
Major: International Relations & Diplomacy
Major: Political Science
Minor: Spanish

Morgan Donnellan
Major: Latin American Studies
Major: Spanish
Minor: Speech & Hearing Science

Jeffrey Dunifon
Major: International Relations & Diplomacy
Major: Russian

Richard Gallenstein
Major: Development Studies
Major: Plant Cellular & Molecular Biology

Dana Grinshpan
Major: Security & Intelligence
Minor: Arabic

Timothy Hoffine
Major: French
Major: International Relations & Diplomacy
Major: Journalism

Elaine Householder
Major: African Studies
Minor: Development Studies
Minor: French

Elizabeth Lemons
Major: African Studies
Major: Women's Studies
Minor: German

Charu Vijayakumar
Major: Development Studies
Major: Economics
Minor: Arabic

Katherine Watt
Major: Development Studies
Major: History
Minor: Economics

Japan Exchange & Teaching Programme (JET)

Patricia Kubrin

Congratulations to Patricia Kubrin for being chosen for the 2010-11 Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme (JET)! Patricia is graduating this spring with a double major in East Asian Studies and Japanese. She is also in the university Honors program.

Outside the classroom she is the current president and an active member of the OSU Kendo Club. "JET is going to be such a great opportunity to interact with

kids and the surrounding community and to establish a solid relationship with native Japanese people." After completing her contract, Patricia plans to pursue a career in the travel or business industry and hopes to eventually work or establish a Japanese language program in an American school district.

To learn more about teaching in Japan; go to:
<http://www.jetprogramme.org/>



International Studies - Study Abroad Scholarship

Congratulations to the following students who were each awarded a \$1,000 International Studies study abroad scholarship through the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences for the 2009-10 academic year!

Devyn Paros (Senegal)
Development Studies

Justin Schulze (Ecuador)
Development Studies

Jaclyn Walker (Dominican Republic)
Development Studies

Travis Rittenhouse (Austria)
Security & Intelligence

To learn more about study abroad programs go to:
<http://oia.osu.edu/programs.html>

To learn more about how to finance your study abroad trip, go to:
<http://oia.osu.edu/financial-planning.html>

INTERNSHIPS near and far

Caritas International School, Santiago, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Renee Michael



Renee Michael (center in sunglasses) pictured with her English class at the Caritas International School, in Santiago, Dominican Republic. Renee had just started her teaching position when the earthquake struck Haiti.

My name is Renee Michael, and I am a senior at OSU majoring in Latin American Studies, with minors in Development Studies and Studio Art. I spent winter quarter in Santiago, Dominican Republic teaching English at Caritas International. The school focuses on education and development in poor and vulnerable communities.

Teaching English to the children is an extremely rewarding experience; everyday they teach me something new! This experience has inspired me to continue working with impoverished children, giving them the opportunity to learn.

I was in Santiago on January 12th, the

day disaster struck Haiti. I actually felt the earthquake as I was making lesson plans at my host family's house. Thirty minutes later we heard the news that the epicenter of the 7.0 quake was in Port-au-Prince.

I have made many Haitian friends in Santiago who study at a university here, and they immediately tried contacting their families in Port-au-Prince. A week passed by and many of them had not heard from their families and the ones that did said that their families had lost everything and are living and sleeping in the streets.

It seems like every day they hear of another friend that died in the earth-

quake. It's overwhelming to be so close to this catastrophe. A week after the quake several university students organized a benefit concert for the victims in Haiti. The benefit show raised over 20,000 Dominican pesos!

To learn more about Caritas International, go to:
<http://www.caritas.org/>

The World Outside the Classroom, SOUTH AFRICA

Jessica Kania



Jessica had the opportunity to actually touch a lion cub while in South Africa. "The natural beauty of Southern Africa and the deep kindness and resourcefulness of the people reaffirmed my suspicion that I could spend years working in a part of the world we often consider "lacking", and never miss a thing."

During my senior year of high school, our English class hosted a presentation from an alternative arts college. The presentation didn't sway my desires to attend The Ohio State University, but it did open my eyes to the wide variety of careers other than the teacher, doctor or lawyer you picture as a child. My plans to teach high school history evaporated and I entered my freshman year undecided. This was a wonderful decision, as I had the opportunity to try a variety of different majors and courses, all of which now count as GECs.

I chose International Studies because, despite the lack of a specific career goal, I knew I would not be satisfied unless my future career was full of travel and, most importantly, a sense of

accomplishment and reward beyond monetary compensation. I decided on a specialization in African Studies because of the diversity of the continent. The variety of languages, cultures, histories and peoples is fascinating and the continent provides a huge number of options for those interested in making positive changes. A minor in French expands the area within which I can communicate, and a minor in Economics provides a theoretical background for tackling development problems.

My freshman and sophomore years were spent discovering what Ohio State had to offer. I joined a variety of organizations, both service and interest oriented. I traveled to Washington, D.C. for a protest, helped develop a

relationship between disadvantaged campus neighbors and students, and advocated for women's rights. My sophomore year I traveled to the Sundance Film Festival with a student group and worked as an assistant producer on a short film created entirely by students.

To further my academic interests, I found the **Mershon Center for International Security Studies** particularly useful. Attending presentations given by professionals and academics from around the world helped to broaden my understanding of the international community and the wide variety of interests, causes and objectives within it.

Autumn of 2008 was full of academic and personal opportunity. I spent a

semester in Stellenbosch, South Africa. Upon arrival, I learned that the courses I had selected and planned on taking weren't actually available, and instead ended up taking, among other courses, three classes with one professor. This change in plans might be one of the most important coincidences in my life. The professor is an expert in international justice and post-conflict reconciliation. The information shared and discussions held in this class led me to having a huge interest in this field. His stories and personal experiences provided me inspiration to make the change in academic focus from development to conflict studies.

The opportunity to work with organizations as small as a local non-profit to as large and famous as the United Nations, and to be working largely on the ground in post-conflict environments, satisfies my desire to experience as much of the world as possible while providing comfort and assistance to those in desperate need. Thus, my new goal is to work in cooperation with the United Nations to set up truth commissions alongside their tribunals. The purpose of a truth commission is to provide a culturally appropriate alternative to the Western justice system. In a country recovering from ethnic and civil conflict, judicial systems may not be in place to efficiently deal with war crimes committed by actual combatants, many of whom were ordinary citizens prior to the outbreak of conflict. A truth commission works with soldiers and victims to exchange information about atrocities for potential amnesty. In a post-conflict environment, providing closure for victims and disseminating the truth about the event often provides more comfort than simply locking up soldiers and essentially burying the truth.

Studying in South Africa also gave me firsthand experience with development initiatives and how international non-profits actually function in the developing world. Tutoring elementary school students for the Kayamandi Project furthered my understanding of the socio-economic disparities in post-apartheid South Africa. Traveling in Zimbabwe on Thanksgiving Day provided greater comprehension of the bounty we enjoy in America. Witnessing firsthand what is relayed in international news gave new meaning to suffering and injustice. However, the natural beauty of South-

ern Africa and the deep kindness and resourcefulness of the people reaffirmed my suspicion that I could spend years working in a part of the world we often consider "lacking", and never miss a thing.

Upon returning to the States, I put myself in high gear for graduate school. I started a student organization, the Food and Culture Club, which meets weekly at local international and ethnic restaurants. You may not realize the cultural diversity of Columbus until you venture out of your everyday haunts, but the city is full of interesting food, people and destinations. We've eaten food from all over the world, from Indonesia to Senegal, from Russia to Lebanon, and attended international events, including the International Festival, and a performance by the Israeli dance troupe Batsheva.

This winter, I worked as an intern with two local non-profits. At the Global Gallery, my short-term goal was to help organize their World Fair Trade Day International Dinner in May. My long-term goal was to help establish a non-profit community kitchen.

At the Columbus International Program, I organized monthly "dining-outs" with members and helped to organize a visit

by a group of Russian youth leaders who came to Columbus in March for a professional exchange. Through these internships I've gained greater knowledge of what it takes to run a non-profit organization and, specifically, the challenges posed when focusing on international issues. These internships are also very valuable experience, given that graduate schools often require work experience related to your field of study. A student who wishes to attend graduate school immediately following graduation might find an internship particularly useful for this reason. The opportunity to work for two distinct international organizations further diversifies my resume.

With any luck, my dream school, the University of Uppsala in Sweden, will agree!

To learn more about the Global Gallery go to:
<http://www.globalgalleryonline.org/>

To learn more about the Columbus International Program, go to:
<http://www.cipcolumbus.org/>

To learn more about the South Africa Study abroad program, go to:
<http://oia.osu.edu/pdf/countries/SouthAfrica-AIFSPProgramatStellenboschUniversity.pdf>

Jessica (left) introducing a few new friends to O-H-I-O, while visiting "Cape Point" (also known as Cape Hope), while studying abroad in South Africa.



Human Rights First, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Jessica Meeker

"Ohio State can be a very intimidating and overwhelming place, especially for someone unsure about their future and wondering what their next step in life should be. This was exactly me a little less than a year ago. As a history major I was clueless as to what opportunities my major could provide. Upon hearing about the **John Glenn Washington Academic Internship Program**, I decided to apply, hoping that a quarter in D.C. would broaden my horizons and provide some direction towards a career.

My time in D.C. not only met, but exceeded every expectation I had. Fellow OSU students and I lived right on Capitol Hill only two blocks from the Supreme Court and Capitol Building. We spent time exploring Washington, visiting monuments, museums, shopping in Georgetown, and dining in Old Town Alexandria. Inside the classroom we learned how public policy is created, listened to OSU alumni speak about their career paths, and wrote a public policy paper. The program also afforded each student the opportunity to meet American hero John Glenn, and our own president, Gordon Gee!

Outside the classroom I spent four days a week at my internship. I worked at Human Rights First (HRF), a non-profit international organization that focuses on fighting discrimination, protecting and supporting human rights defenders, ending genocide, aiding victims of persecution and helping refugees gain political asylum in the United States. As an intern I attended house committee hearings, awareness events, and televised panels on Capitol Hill pertaining to human rights issues. It was fascinating learning about various topics and how non-profits and Congress interact to accomplish change in the U.S. and around the world.

Interning at Human Rights First also provided me the opportunity to travel to



New York City for the annual Human Rights Defenders awards dinner at Chelsea Piers in Manhattan. This year there were two honorees, Sandra Carvalho of Brazil and Gabriel González of Columbia. Also included in the evening's agenda was Tom Brokaw as the host, and an interview with the newly appointed Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Michael Posner, who was the previous President and co-founder of HRF.

Spending my fall in D.C. was an amazing experience and an incredible blessing. I am immensely grateful for the life

long friends that were made, the extraordinary opportunities my internship offered, the encounters with well known and respected figures, and my increased knowledge of the world - so much so that I added a second major in International Studies!

To learn more about the Washington Academic Internship Program, go to:
<http://glennschool.osu.edu>

ALUMNI Highlights

Environmental Policy, NEW YORK

Michelle Hill graduated in 2008 with a major in International Relations & Diplomacy. She then spent time as a volunteer for the Chicago 2016 Olympic Committee, working to see the “windy city” as the next Olympic venue. While they did not win this honor, out of this effort the “World Sport Chicago” non-profit was established.

Michelle’s experience also solidified her graduate school direction. She will begin her master’s degree Autumn 2010 at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University!

The Maxwell School offers Master’s degrees for future professionals in public administration and international relations. Maxwell’s M.P.A. was the first of its kind in the nation and is top-ranked by *U.S. News & World Report’s* Best Graduate Schools survey. The international relations program is now held in similar regard. Michelle’s area of concentration will be in environmental policy.



Michelle Hill (2008)

Export-Import Bank of the United States, WASHINGTON D.C.



Tal Bendor (2006)

Tal Bendor graduated with dual degrees in International Studies and Political Science in 2006. During his studies at Ohio State, Tal spent time in Cuernavaca, Mexico, learning intensive Spanish, and participated in two internships.

The first internship was at the U.S. Consulate General in Vancouver, British Columbia through the Department of State. He also participated in a DC internship through the **John Glenn School of Public Affairs Washington Academic Internship Program**.

After graduation, Tal moved to Washington, D.C. to work on the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement as an interna-

tional trade consultant for the Korean Embassy. He has been working since spring 2008 at the Export-Import Bank of the United States, the official export credit agency of the United States government. He recently became the special assistant to the chief operating officer and executive vice-president. His current responsibilities include the sub-Saharan Africa portfolio, special projects, and policy development.

Tal would love to see more Ohio State grads working in government and on the Hill in Washington, D.C., and highly recommends doing as many internships as possible. The Department of State undergraduate internship program and the John Glenn program are both great ways to put real-world experience on your resume.

Dream Job, CALIFORNIA



Jennifer Tipton (2000)

Jennifer Tipton (featured on cover) graduated from The Ohio State University in 2000, with a major Latin American Studies and a minor in Spanish.

“From 2000 to 2002 I lived, worked, and studied in Spain and Brazil. During the span of those incredible two years I taught English, worked in an NGO, and studied language. In 2002 I moved to San Diego, California to pursue a Masters degree in Latin American Studies.

After graduating in 2004 I went on to work in nonprofit management, where I started a Los Angeles based reading

program for underprivileged Latino families.

My love for fitness and yoga, however, led me down the path of health and wellness. In 2006, I co-created **Positively Fit**, a fitness program for the HIV-positive community.

San Diego is a very health conscious city and for the past four years I been working as a successful yoga and fitness entrepreneur.

I am currently leading yoga retreats in

Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico. In July of 2009, I was a guest teacher at a prominent yoga studio in Puebla, Mexico where I taught in Spanish. Along with running my business and working for a fitness management company, I also provide fitness and yoga classes to young Latina teenage mothers in the community. I have plans to lead many more retreats and be a guest teacher in several locations around the world.

Along with studying Spanish and Portuguese, I have continued to take classes in Italian and French. By following my passion for language, travel, and yoga, I have created my amazing dream job!”