

# SMALL WORLD

## MAGAZINE

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# YEMEN

**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY** INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

33 Townshend Hall  
1885 Neil Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43210-1222 USA  
(614) 292-9657  
[internationalstudies.osu.edu](http://internationalstudies.osu.edu)

# "Chasing my Shadow", YEMEN

Imaan Ali



Imaan Ali is a double major in Middle East Studies and Political Science. She is from Norway. Her summer internship took her to Washington DC, and was followed by a personal language study trip to Yemen where she studied intensive Arabic.

"I glanced at the unfamiliar, cloak-clothed figure before me on the dusty ground just as the heavy skies obscured the sun's path and faded my shadow to invisibility. Soon heavy raindrops would

hit the dust and disfigure the ground before me further. I had just exited the airport in Sana'a, Yemen, and I was still chasing my own shadow as the showers found it fit to welcome me. The edge of my abaya (black, long overgarment) quickly turned heavy soaking up the warm water, as I stood among an unusually helpful crowd of a few women and men, trying to explain to them in broken, inconsistent Arabic that I was looking for the driver who was supposed to take me to the Yemen College of Middle Eastern Studies. Even that

early I would understand why connoisseurs of Arabic advocate for language studies in Yemen – most people there don't speak English at all. As I had found myself in a considerable time trap before leaving the States - leaving my internship in Washington, DC a few days earlier to finish the last exam of Arabic 104 at OSU before my travels – I had not thought of jotting down important phone numbers, addresses, and names et cetera, something I now silently cursed myself for. It didn't take too long, however, until a man who identified himself as my driver was located by a member of the crowd. – Imaan Ali, is that you? I was looking for you! I couldn't recognize you; I thought you were Jordanian, he said using an amalgam of poor English and simplified Arabic. I was indeed traveling with Royal Jordanian, and I was wearing very traditional clothes, probably unlike most U.S. students of Arabic there, so his confusion did make sense. The misunderstanding was soon forgotten, however. Thankful for approaching my temporary destination and hopefully getting some sleep before breaking the fast after sunset, I leaned back in the car and observed the scenes before me, attempting to take in and digest the various sights and sounds.

My name is Imaan Ali, and I am an international, and quite untraditional, student of Political Science and International Studies, technically wrapping up my second year, but in actuality starting my last quarter here at OSU (Winter 2009 to Winter 2011). Aside from taking heavier course loads to be able to finish in just over two years, I have been contributing to a book project back in Norway on Muslim women and the headscarf. I won a first year English writing award for an essay published on Commonplace (which was a lot of fun as I was fresh to America at the time of writing it), been a panelist on a Muslim women perspectives panel discussion in DC, and spent the summer 2010 quarter in DC, interning with both the Middle East Broadcasting Center (MBC) and the



Imaan conducting interviews as part of her internship with the Middle East Broadcasting Center in Washington D.C.



She even had the opportunity for a little "behind the camera" experience.

Washington Report on Middle East Affairs through the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations' summer internship program. Then, I travelled to Yemen for six weeks to gain Arabic speaking skills not readily available all at once in the States.

Best of all? I earned 26 credit hours in total this summer - without taking classes at OSU - and I was even able to fit in a one week stay in Lebanon!

The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations' ten week summer internship program consisted of a full time placement in a related organization, as well as twice-a-week evening seminars on the Middle East region, often including distinguished guest speakers, and at least one visit a week to U.S. institutions, embassies, and other relevant places. Since I was staying in the nation's capi-

tal, there were plenty of other seminars, events, and even networking opportunities, enabling me to enjoy the DC experience to the fullest. Upon questioning the arguments of a panelist during a Middle East related panel event on Capitol Hill, a congressman came to shake my hand, compliment me on my comments, and invite me to stop by his office sometime. I had few free moments during my short stay, but it was an unmatched experience, even as I had to take my spring quarter exams more than two weeks early in order to get there on time. For a student majoring in International Studies and the Middle East region it was an opportunity not to be missed. I was sure to apply for the international studies internship credit before I went, and thus earned 15 credit hours by writing a relevant research paper. This way, if one aspires to finish early, a summer in Washington

will not bog one down.

It did not, in my wildest dreams, cross my mind that I should attempt to go to Yemen for Arabic studies. I had lived and worked in Egypt before; but from relatively modernized and metropolitan Cairo to much more conservative Sana'a is a long stretch. On top of that, the underwear bomber incident and Yemen's unfortunate position of being among the poorest Arab countries didn't help brighten the prospects of going there. However, after seriously considering the internship in Washington, as well as concerning myself with not getting enough credit hours to graduate in the winter, the summer program of YCMES caught my attention. Fitting in exactly between the end of my internship program and the start of the fall quarter at OSU (plus a few days), it felt like it was just meant to be; hence I de-



Imaan exploring the Yemeni countryside. "Getting to know the people and the culture dispelled myths and stereotypes that even I, a Muslim woman myself, had."

decided to give it a try. As they use Al Kitaab (the same book as OSU uses) and as they have the option of private instruction, I was actually able to take a double amount of coursework to complete the requirements for Arabic 205 and 401 in six weeks (minus a one week el eid holiday, marking the end of Ramadan). Combined with exciting field trips to other parts of Yemen, opportunities to speak Arabic everywhere one goes, cheap tickets to other countries in the region, and very affordable living costs, it is probably the best place to study Arabic intensively and familiarize oneself with a unique country which has gotten more than its share of negative stories in the Western media.

Getting to know the people and the culture dispelled myths and stereotypes that even I, a Muslim woman myself, had. From arriving to Yemen barely

speaking the language, I left proficient enough, on my last day, to hold a short "thank-you speech" in tiara and a massive wreath of jasmine flowers for some 300 women at a fundraising party after rather surprisingly winning a "best modest dress" (or something along those lines) competition held for the attendees, before rushing off to the airport.

Thus I concluded my summer spending my prize money buying oil based sandalwood perfumes and handmade silver accessories at the Sana'ani airport, with my tiara and jasmine wreath peaking out from an already overloaded piece of hand luggage."



# Homeland Security, OHIO

J. Josiah Lanning

J. Josiah Lanning is a senior majoring in Security & Intelligence. During the summer of 2010 he participated in the Ohio Homeland Security Infrastructure Protection Internship program. In this program student interns are contributing to the creation of a database to catalog critical public and private assets in the State of Ohio. One goal of this effort is to provide public officials the information they need to mitigate the effects of natural and manmade disasters. Information from this database is made available to a wide range of officials, from the police officer "on the beat" to Department of Homeland Security officials in the federal government.

"This summer, I had the privilege of being an intern at Ohio Homeland Security. The staff at OHS did a phenomenal job of training me and the other summer interns on what to look for while working for them. I was able to not only learn some valuable information but was also able to see first hand exactly how Ohio Homeland Security operates.

This internship also gave me the opportunity to use information that I learned previously from Introduction to Homeland Security and Introduction to Intelligence classes. After completing this internship, I would have to say it has been one of the most productive internships I have done during my academic career. As I would like to pursue this line of work upon graduation, this internship gave me good exposure to the field as well as great networking opportunities.

Another great opportunity for me took place in August. After being on a waiting list for nearly 3-1/2 years, I received an assistance dog from Canine Companions for Independence. After two weeks of training with my new service dog, my lab/retriever mix came home with me for good. She has already become my best friend and has helped me tremendously with my independence."



J. Josiah Lanning and his assistant and good friend "Charlice."

# Putting Shoes on the "Barefoot Bandit":

Stories from my State Department Internship in the BAHAMAS

Erica Sayers



"When I was first offered an internship from the U.S. Department of State, it felt as if I won the lottery. When I learned that the internship was at the U.S. Embassy in Nassau, the Bahamas, I wondered if I had died and went to heaven. This was the second time I applied for the State Department internship; I had applied to posts in France and Switzerland the year before and

been turned down. It came as a complete surprise that I was chosen this time around, and for an embassy in "paradise" no less. The email told me that I had been selected to intern in the Consular section, and I was barely given any information before I moved down to begin working. I was relatively clueless as to what I would be doing in the job. I didn't care, and after a re-

markably cold winter in Ohio I was ready to get down to the islands.

The more I thought about the actual work, however, the more I had doubts on the substance of the internship. I became fazed by the fact that I was not working in a major embassy like Paris or traveling a great distance to a place like Tanzania. I didn't have any



information on the cone, or section, of the Embassy I was to work in, Consular. I received an email saying I may work on visa fraud prevention, I may help perform American Citizen Services, or I may encounter immigration law. I was extremely excited to start the internship, but I arrived with only a general idea of what I was about to do and a few doubts on the importance of the post.

Needless to say, these were simply pre-arrival anxieties that were quickly shed once I got to know the U.S. Embassy in Nassau and the Consular Section in general. I dove head first into the U.S. State Department world and scrambled to keep up with the endless acronyms, positions, and roles of the people and cones of the Embassy. On the first day, the DCM, or Deputy Chief of Mission, took me into his office to explain that American relations with the Bahamas were very strategic in terms of defense. This explained why I noticed a heavy Coast Guard and Naval presence. There is also one of only two United States Customs and Border Patrol posts at the airport that clears a traveler through US Customs before they land on US soil. The only other one in the world is in Ireland. There are about 15 different branches of the United States government in the Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos, and the section that I

was working in was doubtlessly one of the most important in the region.

The Consular Section was split into American Citizen Services and Visa Services. American Citizen Services is America's way of helping out its citizens when abroad, and this could be anything from receiving an emergency passport in the event of a theft to identifying a dead body at the morgue if there wasn't a next of kin available. Visa Services at an Embassy are where foreigners go to receive visas to enter the US. There are two different types of visas, Immigrant and Non-Immigrant Visas, and in order to receive either, they must be interviewed by an FSO (Foreign Service Officer.) The FSOs are the State Department's workforce, and it is for this job that the internship program recruits interns.

I was given a desk with all of the Foreign Service Officers, though they were rarely at them. Immediately I recognized that the Consular Section was not a typical office job. I did everything that they could throw at me, but most of my duties were involved with American Citizen Services. The hurricane season was upon the Bahamas, and it was my responsibility to communicate with American Wardens to ensure hurricane preparedness. American Wardens are

American citizens who live in the consular district and agree to aide the Embassy in emergency situations, like a hurricane. When the communication lines are down, it would be hard for FSOs in Nassau to reach a remote island to make sure that American citizens are okay and have adequate supplies. I talked to them and updated them every week, and they would consult me with their hurricane questions.

I was constantly running between the court, the jail, the prison, or even the morgue when American citizens got themselves into trouble. I authored reports on these visits and provided amenities to those who required them. Sometimes I brought them magazines and journals to write in, other times I brought clothes that had been sent to them from family members via the Embassy. When visiting those in prison, it was my duty to inquire about their humanitarian treatment from the Bahamian prison staff. For example, if a prisoner was not getting the correct medicine or the adequate dosage, the US Embassy could obtain a copy of the prisoners medical records from lawyers in the US and pressure the Bahamian prison to adhere to the American doctors orders. This was just one of the many stories I encountered at the Bahamian prison.

One day I had to go to the morgue to identify the body of a diver who drowned. She didn't have any family in the Bahamas to expedite the funeral process, so we confirmed her identity based on the passport photos we had in our files.

Out of all of the American Citizen Services excursions I went on, one day in particular stood out. It was a Tuesday morning after the Bahamian Independence weekend, and we did not have work on that Monday. I walked in to the office and my boss immediately assigned me to go shopping for an American citizen who was to have a court hearing that morning and needed presentable clothes and shoes.

Over the weekend a teenaged outlaw stole a private plane in Indiana and flew it all the way to the Bahamas, crash landing in some of the outer islands. Colton Harris-Moore, otherwise known as "the Barefoot Bandit," had been wanted by the FBI for two years for stealing at least five private aircraft, a few cars, and a boat, along with many household burglaries. In the two years that Harris-Moore was running from the authorities (he began at age 17), he made it from an island off of the coast of the Pacific Northwest all the way to a little island in the Bahamas.

I headed off in search of appropriate clothing for Mr. Harris-Moore to wear to his hearing at noon that day, and it proved to be quite hard to find anything suitable in touristy downtown Nassau for a young adult to wear to court. I settled on some black board shorts, the least conspicuous "Nassau, Bahamas" shirt I could find, and some grey water shoes, because those were the only type of shoe I could find in a size 14. The Barefoot Bandit had big feet, and I shod them. After passing the items along to my boss for him to deliver, I went straight to the courthouse to watch the hearing. Because there were so many members of the press dying to get a word from a member of the US Embassy, I waited in the magistrate's office. I had strict orders to say "No comment" when the reporters from CNN, NBC, MSNBC, and other nightly news channels approached me for a comment.

Mr. Harris-Moore was charged on one count—illegal landing in the Bahamas—and ordered deported immediately after either paying a fine of \$300 dollars or serving a 3-month sentence. Because he had no money, the American Citizen Services section was able to issue a temporary loan (available to any destitute American) for him to pay this fine. After reporting back to the office, I accompanied my superior to the jail to have him sign a promissory note for the repayment of this loan. He was tall, lanky, and a little bit socially awkward when asked how many Facebook fans he had. The FBI Marshalls were already in place to deport him, and we hurried to the airport with the Bahamian authorities as they put him on the flight headed back to the US. We waited until the airplane's wheels were up to relax, and the day



of the Barefoot Bandit was over.

I was also lucky enough to be interning at the Embassy over the Fourth of July. I was assigned as the entertainment assistant for the Ambassador's July Fourth Celebration. This meant that I was to coordinate the transitions of four bands on and off stage for three hours, cater to the needs of the artists, and organize backstage security at the Ambassador's residence. The Ambassador of the Bahamas, Nicole Avant, is one of the few politically appointed ambassadors in the world. She was the head of

Obama's fundraising in the southern half of California, and was able to raise a lot of money because she has many connections in the music industry. Because of these connections, the headliner of the celebration and one of the artists I was assisting was R&B singer India Arie, along with two local bands and the Rhode Island Brass Band. The show went smoothly and it was a beautiful party. I even spent some of the morning on the radio promoting the party and discussing life at the Embassy.

Another large part of my job was working with immigration law and the US laws of visa issuance. I had the opportunity to interpret Bahamian law and provide legal analysis for the FSOs when they came across Bahamian Non-Immigrant Visa applicants who had a

criminal record. There are certain crimes that, if one has a record of them, prevent an applicant from receiving a visa for entry to the United States. Even though only Foreign Service Officers could perform the actual visa interviews, they all drew me into the process by consulting me on questionable charges.

Everyone in the Embassy that I encountered and worked with was extremely helpful and welcoming to me, and they definitely took my experience from great to amazing. There were many Bahamian workers in my office, and I

had the opportunity to get to know the local culture well. I celebrated the Bahamian Independence Day with them and watched the Junkanoo parade, which runs from 2 am to 6 am in the morning! The FSOs were extremely friendly and always willing to give advice and share their story of how they ended up in the State Department. I had an insider's look at the life of a Foreign Service Officer.

To become a Foreign Service Officer is no easy, single interview process. One must pass three tough exams in order to be considered. After passing, then you must obtain a Top Secret Security Clearance by passing a rigorous background check. Once all of these steps are finished, you spend a year training at the Foreign Service Institute before you can expect to get the job and post assignment. If you're willing and able to do these things, you will be rewarded with one of the most interesting jobs in the world.

Working for the State Department was

described to me as the perfect job for someone who is interested in a variety of things and has a hard time deciding exactly what they want to do. As a FSO, you change jobs and locations every two years. One year you could be working for an environmental policy office in Washington D.C. and two years later find yourself in the economic cone in a US Embassy abroad. You can experience the world while working for your country at the same time. The US government takes great care of its employees by providing housing and amenities abroad—there's even a whole cone of the Embassy dedicated only to providing housing and transportation of officer's belongings. There is also a strong sense of community among governmental employees abroad.

When I started the International Studies major at Ohio State, the only thing I was sure of was that I wanted to go to law school. I chose the major because I was interested in all of the classes it had to offer, and I didn't consider careers out of it. My experiences at the

U.S. Embassy in Nassau, the Bahamas, have shown me that the International Studies program is a perfect preparation and tactical training for a career as a Foreign Service Officer in the US State Department. The program is special because it fosters interest in Foreign Service work while encouraging students to think for themselves in an ever-changing world. You can make the major what you want it to be, but you just have to put in the time, effort, and passion to make it yours. I was discouraged when I was not offered an internship from the State Department the first time I applied, but it only gave me reasons to get more involved with my community and apply again with a stronger resume. After spending the summer in the Bahamas and getting to know the culture of both the islands and the Embassy community, there is no other place I would have rather lived this intern experience."



Elizabeth Gray

Elizabeth Gray graduated Autumn 2010 with a major in History and a minor in Security & Intelligence.

"I spent my summer working for the Strategic Analysis and Information Center (SAIC) within Ohio Homeland Security. I worked thirty-two hours per week alongside the center's intelligence analysts. The SAIC is a fusion center,

## Strategic Analysis & Information Center (SAIC), OHIO

Elizabeth Gray

and its role is to serve as a "one-stop-shop" for local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to acquire information.

The SAIC conducts intelligence information sharing amongst a wide spectrum to enhance the capabilities of law enforcement agencies to prevent criminal acts and acts of terrorism. My role as an intern was to support the analysts in their mission. I provided background research, assisted with writing products, and partook in training opportunities. This internship gave me excellent insight into the daily tasks of an intelligence analyst, as well as the functions required for an intelligence center to run effectively.

I heard about this internship through the

International Studies department. Even though none of my prior work experience was specific to intelligence work, which is the case for most college students, I spent a considerable amount of time fine-tuning my resume and creating a cover letter that pointed out how the work experience and education I had acquired thus far was very applicable to the type of work I would do during the internship.

My advice for internship-seeking students is to always write a cover letter. A cover letter is your opportunity to market yourself and tell employers how you can contribute to their mission instead of just sending in a resume and making them figure it out on their own."

# Dove Missions, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Kara Lapso



Kara Lapso (green headband) with children at the Dove Missions, Dominican Republic. She volunteered there during the summer.

Kara Lapso is a sophomore majoring in International Studies. She spent her summer in the Dominican Republic volunteering with the Dove Missions. These are her reflections upon her experience just as she was concluding her work and preparing to travel back to the States.

"How do I even begin to describe my trip? These past days here in the Dominican Republic? Well, why not start with the end. Start with today.

I couldn't sleep last night, but I wasn't surprised; that's how it has been the past couple of days. I couldn't help but let my mind wander, to reminisce. Have you ever loved something so much, cared for something so much, that you missed it before it was even gone? Well that's kind of how it was when I was trying to sleep. I was nostalgic; I was longing.

But not for the family back home that I had not seen in 25 days nor for my friends that I hadn't seen since last summer. I was nostalgic because I was already sad that my days are less than numbered and my hours can be counted on my fingers and toes. I was sad that I will be leaving the children behind, hoping that they keep up the hard work, stay off the streets and out of trouble. I was also sad that I am leaving this country behind, virtually unchanged.

This morning, I got out of bed, ate my last mango, brushed my teeth, braided my hair and was out the door. We drove to Dove Missions' Boys and Girls Club that we have worked at every day this summer. Getting out of the car I had a knot in my stomach and a lump in my throat. I couldn't believe it was already my last day

The first task of today was to finish up

the letters to the kids' sponsors. It was so humbling to see how incredibly thankful all the kids are for their sponsors. Their sponsors are the people who give less than a dollar a day to the child to help cover the fees for the club, to provide a healthy lunch for them while they are there and to pay for a food voucher that their family receives monthly. The club promotes respect for themselves and respect for others by teaching English, art, music and exercise classes. This club is an amazing place for these kids to spend their days. That way they are not working on the streets begging for five pesos or offering a shoe shine. Anyways, these kids are endlessly thankful for their sponsors and it was so incredible to listen to the things that they wanted to say to them.

After writing the letters, we went to Agua Negra. Agua Negra is one of the "Barrios" that our kids live in. Directly

translated, the word "barrio" means neighborhood, but here in the DR it means something a little different. Here it means a poor neighborhood, a slum.

We got out of the car and the first thing we saw were two little boys running around with handmade toy cars. They created them by cutting a plastic bottle in half, poking four holes in it, sticking two straws through the holes and finally attaching Gatorade caps as wheels to create their race car masterpiece. They tied their innovation to a shoe string and there you have it, a toy car. They were so proud of their creation, running it down the dirt road, through the raw sewage and back to me. They were so happy, glowing from the excitement of their new toy.

We walked around the neighborhood and visited some friends. Then Bebe, one of the boys we work with, pulled on my arm. I looked down and his thumb was covered in blood. I asked him if it hurt and he told me it didn't. That was when he bent down and cleaned it off with the sewage water running down the street. I insisted that I buy him a bottle of water, clean it off and put a band aid on it. Five minutes after I did just that, I saw him playing with some friends and I noticed that the band aid wasn't on. I asked him where it was and he replied "se fue". He threw it away. He was content with it being open, letting the air heal it.

Lastly, we made our way to the shores of Agua Negra on the mouth of the river, near the port of the city. The beaches were covered with trash piled upon trash. When the big freighters come to the port, they let all of their "crap" loose (and yes I mean crap literally and figuratively) into the water; along with all the garbage that has gathered on these ships (plastic bottles, wires, shoes, bags, glass, etc.) they also let loose all the raw sewage into the basin of this river just yards away from the homes of the families we work with. Then, of course, all this washes up on the shores, just feet away from the homes and right into the middle of the kids' favorite place to play, the ocean.

No matter which barrio a family is from, Playa Oeste, Agua Negra, or one of the many other barrios in Puerto Plata,



"This is a picture of the Barrio of Playa Oeste. The big freighters coming into the port dump all of their trash and sewage into the water... it ends up on the beaches of Playa Oeste and Agua Negra. When it rains a lot or when the tide rises, all this water ends up in the homes that are right on the beach. Two-thirds of the kids that we work with live in the barrio of Playa Oeste; the other third lives in the barrio of Agua Negra."

these people are the most generous and optimistic people you will ever meet. These beautiful people constantly have a smile on their face. After a storm has raged through the area, flooding everything in sight and having no mercy on anyone in its path; after scooping the garbage and sewage filled muck out of the bottom of their small home; after the water had rushed into their homes and robbed them of the few possessions that they were lucky to have. If you'd ask them how they could possibly be smiling after all that, they'd say that

"this is life and that God is great."

*I pray that one day I may be as optimistic as these beautiful people...*

One time, the mother of three of the children in our club brought orange juice and ice home for her family. When she realized that we were at her house visiting with her children, she urged us to sit down and have a drink with her. By the time she finished pouring all nine of us volunteers a glass of OJ, the carton was empty, but yet she wouldn't take "no" for an answer; she insisted that we

drink the orange juice - even though there wasn't enough left for her family. I pray that maybe one day I can be generous enough to give someone the last of my family's orange juice.

On July 6, 2010, I left for the Dominican Republic with my mom - planning on staying for eight days; I hoped to make a difference, teach some English and play with some kids. Eight days later, I watched my mom board the airplane back to Cleveland because I had decided to stay for an extra two and a half weeks. That was the best thing that I have ever done. Within the twenty five days that I have been here in the Dominican Republic, I have seen and smelled things that I will never, ever forget. I did not change the world, not even close, but the world definitely changed me.

I have realized that I am so insignifi-

cant, so small and that my efforts may never change the world. No matter how much I try or how hard I pray I know that I may never be able to overthrow a corrupt government or break a city out of the cycle of poverty. I know that what I have done is just a drop in the ocean, but according to Mother Teresa, "if that drop was not in the ocean, the ocean would be less because of that one missing drop."

Liz McKie, the woman that I have lived with for the past sixteen days, always says, "Once you know, you can't hide." Now I know; now I have seen. I can't force myself to forget what I have done for the past twenty-five days. It has been burned onto my soul and etched into my heart. My heart breaks every time I think of stepping onto the plane tomorrow.

Although my trip is over, this summer is a new beginning. I will now think twice

about finishing my dinner, complaining about the lack of air-conditioning in my apartment or buying that new pair of shoes. This trip has helped me realize how abundantly blessed I am and that it's my job, along with the rest of the world's job, to help the people who are not as lucky as us, because "when the game is over, king or pawn, we all end up in the same box."

If you have ever considered doing mission work or doing international volunteer work, you should do it. Stop making excuses. People all over the world are living on just dollars a day -- you can spare the money to make a trip and help someone. I promise, it will change you forever."

To learn more about Dove Missions go to: [www.dovemissions.com](http://www.dovemissions.com).

## Center of Technology & National Security Policies, D.C.

Sara Hinds



SARA HINDS

Senior Airman Sara E. Hinds is an Operations Intelligence Journeyman assigned to the 180th Fighter Wing, 180th Operations Group, 180th Operations Support Flight; Ohio Air National Guard, Swanton, Ohio. SrA Hinds was born in Toledo, Ohio on 16 June 1988. She graduated from Saint Ursula Academy in May 2006 ranked in the top 10% of her class. In September

2007, SrA Hinds entered military service with the Ohio Air National Guard's 180th Fighter Wing. SrA Hinds graduated as an Honor Graduate from Basic Military Training School at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB), TX in February 2008. Upon completion of basic training she entered Intelligence Technical Training at Goodfellow AFB, TX. While at tech school SrA Hinds excelled as a "yellow rope" student leader responsible for her squadron of fellow airmen. She was also a "black rope" excelling in student drill activities. SrA Hinds was part of the "black rope team" that won overall best team in all exercises during her drill competition while residing at tech school. SrA Hinds graduated from technical training in July 2008. She returned to the 180th Fighter Wing August 1, 2008 where she was assigned to the 180th Operations Support Flight as an Operations Intelligence Apprentice, supporting all 180 FW aircrew and base support personnel.

SrA Hinds is a student at The Ohio State University where she is majoring in both Political Science and Security & Intelligence, with a minor in the Arabic.

SrA Hinds is a member of Saint Joan of

Arc Parish in Toledo, Ohio and Saint Joseph Cathedral in Columbus, Ohio. She is also active in various community organizations including Relay For Life and the American Heart Association. With a passion for running, SrA Hinds has raised money during the American Heart Association's Run at the University of Toledo and Relay For Life, helping her team raise more than \$2,500.00 for cancer research.

For the past three years, SrA Hinds has been named to the Dean's List at The Ohio State University and was chosen as a John Glenn Fellow for her excellent academic standing and involvement.

SrA Hinds received the honor of superior performer during the Operational Readiness Inspection at the 180th Fighter Wing in July 2010. She won the Mason Scholarship at The Ohio State University for her academic standing and military involvement. SrA Hinds interned in Washington, D.C. during the Autumn 10 quarter for the Center of Technology and National Security Policies at the National Defense University, located at Fort McNair, Washington, D.C.

## Working in Parliament, SCOTLAND

Kaitlyn Lord



Kaitlyn Lord pictured in the Scottish Parliament Building. As part of her Scottish Parliament Internship, Kaitlyn researched the North Sea oil industry and how better financial management from the oil industry could make Scotland independent.

Kaitlyn Lord had the opportunity to participate in an internship with the Scottish Parliament. She studied abroad winter and spring semester 2010 at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Part of the study abroad program included an internship.

"I interned as an aide to a Member of the Scottish Parliament ("MSP"). For the first five weeks of my program, I and 22 other interns took crash courses in Scottish politics, UK politics and Scottish society and culture. Through these courses we were able to gain a better understanding of the truly unique political landscape of the UK and specifically Scotland. Along with regular classes, the interns had "field trips" to historical sites around Edinburgh such as Edinburgh Castle and National Portrait

Gallery of Scotland. Our program gave us the opportunity to meet chief media officers in the Scottish Parliament who produce press releases and protect the Parliament's image. We also met with senior news correspondents such as Brian Taylor from the BBC. Along with these enrichment activities associated with the program, I have been able to independently travel around Scotland and England. I have visited the Western Highlands and I have walked along Hadrian's Wall in England. These are just some the highlights of my experiences in less than two months in the mythical Scotland.

This past week, I officially began my internship in the Scottish Parliament. I work in an office next to the MSP's office and provide assistance to him and

his aide. My MSP is Alasdair Allan and he represents the Western Isles. As part of internship, I will work closely with MSP's staff in evaluating and assisting in the sponsorship of various bills with an emphasis on educational bills and researching topics relevant to my MSP's constituency. I am currently researching the North Sea Oil Industry and how better financial management from the oil industry could make Scotland independent."

Kaitlyn is a senior majoring in International Relations & Diplomacy with a minor in Political Science.

Learn more about studying in Scotland at: <http://oia.osu.edu/pdf/countries/Scotland-ArcadiaUniversityProgram.pdf>

# Central American Medical Outreach, HONDURAS

Sarah Spector



Sarah Spector pictured with a "handful" of children at the Central American Medical Outreach center in Honduras. She spent her summer there as a volunteer.

Sarah Spector is a sophomore majoring in International Relations & Diplomacy and Spanish.

"I really did not know what to expect when I applied for one of two summer intern spots through the non-profit organization, Central American Medical Outreach (CAMO). Luckily for me, it could not of been a more successful summer experience spent in Santa Rosa de Copan, Honduras. According to its website, "CAMO is a humanitarian organization that improves the lives of people by strengthening health care systems and promoting sustainable community development." I found that CAMO not only does what the organi-

zation's mission statement sets out to do, but goes above and beyond.

CAMO as an organization does not remain in only one specified area of expertise, but works to better the city of Santa Rosa de Copan in a variety of ways. CAMO offers over 16 different health care programs and has worked to renovate many different public and community buildings including the hospital, the day care that I worked in, a diagnostic center and a cultural center. CAMO has also built and runs a family violence shelter as well as a trade school.

I spent every morning from eight a.m. to

noon, Monday through Friday in the Day Care. The Day Care provides a safe place for the kids of poor single working parents in need of help. All of the 120 kids in the day care receive three balanced meals a day plus a snack. I worked mainly in la sala cuna, or the crib room, with the babies aged from two and a half years old to just a few months old.

Everyday we arrived around the same time that the kids were getting dropped off. While each day varied, normally we began the day by helping to brush the kid's hair and wash their faces. Then throughout the day we helped with all of their meals. On average, we had

about 15 kids and about seven of them could not eat on their own and needed to be fed. I became at pro at getting the babies to eat by the end of the seven weeks. Most of the time in between meals we spent playing with the kids, comforting them when they were upset or just letting them climb all over us. Walking in there the first day I never would have expected to get as attached to them as I did. However, by the end of the seven weeks, I knew their names, what toys they liked, how they would react if another child stole said toy and what I could do to comfort them.

Besides the work at the day care, I also taught an English class along with the other intern twice a week for an hour and a half. We taught a group of about eight girls ranging in age from fifteen to eighteen. The girls lived in a house run by two of the nicest nuns I've ever met. Some of the girls were orphans, while a great majority of them had family living in and around Santa Rosa, but lived at the house since their families could not provide for them.

The girls spoke and understood virtually no English, so the entire class was taught in Spanish. I had never taken any classes on teaching and had no idea

what to expect when we walked in the first day. At first the girls were quiet and nervous around us, but by the end of the first lesson their enthusiasm came out. Because of their enthusiasm, the classes turned out to be a lot of fun. We role-played and taught the class mainly through participation. There is nothing more terrifying then getting up in front of a group of teenage girls to sing 'head shoulders knees and toes.'

Everyday we asked the girls if there was anything specific that they wanted us to bring in or if there was any kind of vocabulary that they thought would be useful to learn. One of the girls asked us to bring in the song from the Titanic, and from that an idea was born. The girls had a really hard time pronouncing English words, and because of that were too embarrassed to even try. The other intern and I came up with the idea that singing might be a more effective way of learning. We figured if the girls could master one song, then their interest in English and confidence would increase. We made a deal with our students, if they could learn to sing the Titanic song well enough to perform for the nuns that ran the home, then we would celebrate our last class with a pizza fiesta.

Teaching English was a rewarding yet humbling experience for me. At times, it was a challenge to inspire the students, but they never failed to inspire me. When it came time for the girls to perform the song for the nuns, they were well prepared and blew it out of the water. Even if our students do not remember a single word of English, I hope that the pride of their accomplishment will never sink. All the girls were beaming with pride after they gave their performance and one of the nuns had tears in her eyes. It was a moment I was truly proud to be a part of.

Saying good-bye to the girls was one of the most difficult experiences we had while down in Honduras. They hugged us and clung to us and asked us to come back again.

Heading to Honduras I thought that I would be making a difference in someone else's life. I found that even more so, everyone I met made a difference in my life. Who knew that in just seven weeks I could learn the confidence to teach, to care for children and to be a part of an organization such as CAMO. I learned about myself everyday that I was down there and was able to better myself as a result."

Sarah dancing with one of the children at the daycare center. "Edwin loves dancing to the Honduran music!"





# Samrong Children's Orphanage, CAMBODIA

Elizabeth Mundy



Elizabeth (far right) with some of the children at Samrong Children's Orphanage. "These children naturally embody the essential characteristics of hospitality: compassion, kindness and humility."

Elizabeth Mundy is a junior majoring in International Relations & Diplomacy, with a minor in Economics. She is a member of the university honors program. This last summer she spent time volunteering at the Samrong Children's Orphanage in Cambodia.

"I did not exactly ease myself into international travel. I always pictured my first time abroad as a short, enlightening vacation with family or friends. So when I ended up leaving the U.S. for the first time on a three-month trip to live on a sustainable farm in Southeast Asia with 70 orphans, even I was surprised.

I was the first volunteer to live at Children's Orphanage Samrong, located just outside Phnom Penh, Cambodia. It was here that I taught daily English classes to children ranging from 9 to 20

years old. I played with the children at all hours, worked on the farm, and learned how to harvest rice.

My internship was with an organization called EGBOK Mission. EGBOK Mission is an international nonprofit empowering young adults with the educational and vocational training needed to support themselves as hospitality professionals. I served as the spokesperson between EGBOK Mission and the orphanage. With the help of staff members from both ends, we were able to begin the hospitality program at Samrong for 22 advanced students. I taught bi-weekly hospitality classes, educating the students about hotels, restaurants, and tourism. They attended cooking classes, went on hotel tours, and traveled throughout cities learning about their own country's history. In the coming months, the students will apply to voca-

tional schools and prepare for universities. Each of their achievements means that they are one step closer to finding successful jobs as young adults.

I was astounded by the students' progress over the summer. The students naturally embody the essential characteristics of hospitality: compassion, kindness, and humility. Furthermore, they found ways to continue their studies outside of the classroom- asking me questions during meals, creating detailed binders of notes, and helping each other with tricky concepts. It is their dedication that has encouraged me to pursue a thesis on the hospitality industry within developing countries. At the very least, it is a way that I can acknowledge their amazing growth as students and future professionals in the hospitality industry."

# National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, D.C.

Britany Selhorst



Britany (center) with fellow co-workers in front of the Nation's Capital. "I honestly could not have asked for a better internship experience!"

Britany Selhorst is a senior majoring in Math and Security & Intelligence. She was chosen to participate in a 12 week internship this last summer with the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency.

"This past summer, I had a 12 week internship with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA). The internship was located in the DC area and fortunately, it was a paid internship. However, the best part of my internship was the real work experience I gained. I was not given small tasks to fill my time, but I was given real-world projects, and I was able to see the products of my hard work.

NGA is part of the Intelligence community that exploits GEOINT. I was able to actively take part in NGAs mission to provide the intelligence community and

the war fighters with solid imagery intelligence. As an intern, I really got to experience how the intelligence community collaborates. I had access to intelligence and other sources where I was personally able to collaborate with other agencies.

NGA has a great internship program with about 60 internships each summer. It is a very well organized internship program. There are organized luncheons where the interns gather to learn more about a particular part of the agency/intelligence community or we would go on a tour. The intern program managers intently listen to any improvements or ideas that the interns have to improve the program. The managers also allowed me to plan a Capitol Hill tour for all the interns.

NGA offers many benefits that other Intelligence Agencies do not have. NGA promotes their employees having a work and home life balance. For instance, there is a program that allows all employees who apply to use three hours of their work week to work out at their facilities. Being able to work out during your work schedule allows many of their employees to maintain healthy lifestyles without cutting into their family/social time. As an intern, I was able to have access to all of these benefits.

I honestly could not have asked for a better internship experience. I met great people and made some lasting friendships. I also realized I want to sustain a career in the IC and NGA is a great agency where my career can grow."

## United States Embassy, SLOVENIA

Maria Sedmak



Maria Sedmak spent the summer participating in a State Department Internship in Slovenia. Maria is a senior with a double major in International Business and Marketing with a minor in Slavic & East European Studies.

"This summer I spent ten weeks working for the U.S. State Department abroad at the United States Embassy in beautiful Ljubljana, Slovenia. As an intern in the Political, Economic and Commercial Section, I experienced a lot pertinent to my International Business major and Slavic and East European Studies minor. U.S. Embassy Ljubljana is a very small embassy so I got to work hands on with a variety of different topic areas, whereas in bigger embassies the sections that I worked in would be separated. With my fluency in the Slovenian language, due to my heritage, and the busy moving that happened during the summer season I became a real asset to my section as an equivalent of a Junior Foreign Service Officer.

When I arrived in June my section chief and the only other Foreign Service officer were scheduled to leave in a few weeks. The only other employee was a temporary Civil Servant who was serving in Ljubljana for only six months. This provided a realistic view of an embassy during these months, with everyone

coming and going, and within a few weeks of their leaving three more officers arrived, including a section chief as my new boss. Preceding and during their arrival I prepared them with information regarding the current events. I was greatly helped by the three Foreign Service Nationals, whose employment created stability within the section. Much research and reports needed to be written up. My other duties included writing up cables to be sent to Washington, delivering demarches to Slovenian government officials, and practicing public diplomacy. One of my favorite experiences with public diplomacy was speaking at a camp for Roma children in a more destitute part of Slovenia about America and American culture.

During my time at the embassy I was also able to experience other sections of the Foreign Service. I spent some time in the consular section, some more time as the secretary to the Deputy Chief of Mission, and since my roommates were interns in the Public Affairs section, I also

attended events with them. At the end of my tour the embassy was filled with the excitement of a new Ambassador (Chief of Mission) arriving, which the embassy has not had since 2008. Although the work was sometime tedious and long hours were put in and no pay was received, the glamour of being a Foreign Service Officer was realized. We were very lucky as the embassy was able to accommodate me and the two other interns in a very marvelous apartment, that would normally belong to the Ambassador's secretary. I also was able to attend an array of receptions, meetings and conferences, which opened the doors to meeting many people in the Slovenian government. There was also time to travel all around Slovenia and surrounding countries!

Overall my experience was amazing. I suggest anybody who is interested in the Foreign Service or working abroad to apply for an internship with the U.S. State Department."

## Women's Rights in Africa, KENYA

Ramona Selvarajah



Ramona (left) on her way to the Salama Baptist Church to perform research for her Amnesty International internship. Her summer research focused on comparing healthcare systems of developing countries with the United States

Ramona Selvarajah is a Development Studies major and a Public Health minor. She spent the summer of 2010 in Kenya performing research in support of Amnesty International's study of maternal mortality, women's health and women's rights in Africa.

Ramona performed her main research in Salaama, Kenya. She participated in several medical outreach missions to villages in the area. Prevention of malaria and ringworm, administering immunizations and testing for HIV were important parts of these efforts. She also did fund raising so generic versions of drugs and treatments for diseases could be procured. "Simple things, like sugar, honey and water, are critical for the treatment of diarrhea."

In her research, Ramona studied the stigma surrounding AIDS. It took about a month of regular meetings at a local church before the women of the area

began to open up about their lives. At first they were very unwilling to trust visitors.

They feared their HIV status would become known. Doctor-patient confidentiality is typically not supported there. Most men do not use condoms. Most of women were pregnant.

"The focus of the women is to marry and bear children. They are afraid to say "no" to their husbands regarding sex. For a male, having more than one wife is a "good thing", implying higher social standing."

Ramona also visited the slums of Nairobi. The sheer scale of the problems and density of people there was shocking to experience. "Everywhere you go there are piles of trash. There are dumps in the middle of neighborhoods. In one, there is an orphanage nearby. The woman who ran it was attacked,

raped and cut up."

"With little or no sanitation in the slums, just going to the bathroom at night is perilous. Women are raped after dark, and a bathroom could be two miles away."

With almost no computer technology in Kenya, health records are all stored in a library at the government Health Ministry. "There is no way outside of Kenya to know the real health status there."

While much of her research centered on maternal mortality, Ramona's work also included comparisons between the health care systems of less developed countries and the United States and fed into a report for presentation at a G8 summit.



Aya Matsuda (top at the podium) (bottom row second from left) giving her presentation at the U.N. Global Seminar in Japan.

## United Nations University Global Seminar JAPAN

Aya Matsuda

Aya Matsuda, International Relations & Diplomacy major, participated in the United Nations University Global Seminar Japan this summer.

The theme for the September 6-10 event was "Toward a Global Sustainable Society." Participants interacted with experts from around the world over the five days of the seminar and completed research projects to further its mission.

Aya's team presented a report entitled

"Green College 2015" and assisted in its 2010 foundation. The purpose of the college is to educate for environmental responsibility. The basic themes include reduction of resource usage, recycling and reuse, repair, and redefining how happiness can be fostered in people.

To participate, knowledge of the Japanese language and English are required. Aya is fluent in both. Additionally, she is studying Chinese at Ohio State.

The Global Seminar series was initiated in 1985 as part of the United Nations' effort to bring the knowledge and experience embodied in the experts that consult with it to interested citizens around the world. Japan was the country that launched the series, and it has now spread around the globe.

## Visiting Russian Scholar

CSEES & International Studies host Visiting Scholar from St. Petersburg for Spring 11



International Studies and the Center for Slavic & East European Studies are very pleased to be sponsoring Dr. Andrey Shcherbak from Russia to teach three classes for Spring 2011.

Dr. Shcherbak is affiliated with the European University in St. Petersburg and has international experience teaching in the UK, Norway and the United States.

He has authored several publications in Russia on parties and elections, fiscal federalism in the Russian regions and the effects of the "resource curse" on Russian political development.

Since the middle 1980s, Russia has undergone massive changes in its political and economic systems and in its position in global politics. The Communist party led state apparatus has been largely dismantled. However, a powerful state still holds power. Centralized planning of the economy has given way to an oligopoly-based variant of a market economy. The Soviet empire has fallen apart as a large number of former client states in Eastern Europe and Central Asia have attained independence or are seeking it.

With all of these changes, however, Russia is still a critical player in global affairs. Its military, particularly its WMD arsenal and high-technology

weapons, remain among the most formidable on the planet. It is an important energy producing country. Its scientific and intellectual talents are first rate. In total, though its position in world affairs is diminished when compared to the 1950-1985 time period of the height of the cold war, it still possesses much influence over the Eurasian land mass due to its massive size, presence and power.

Dr. Shcherbak's three Spring 2011 classes will each explore important aspects of Russia today.

### Contemporary Russian Politics

M W 1:30-3:18 PM  
Class Number 5709

The class will start with the collapse of the Soviet Union. It will trace the making and unmaking of major political institutions in Russia, including the presidency and the parliament. Comparisons will be made between the political regimes of Yeltsin and Putin/Medvedev. The viability of political parties and elections will be studied as well as regional affairs, ethnic conflicts and the impact of organized crime.

### Power & Business in Russia

T R 9:30-11:18 AM  
Class Number 5705

This class explores the complex relationships between political and economic leaders in Russia with a main focus on the period after the collapse of communism. Such topics as the "shadow economy", organized crime and corruption, the rise of the "oligarchs" and emergence of the market economy will be studied. The response of Putin and Medvedev to the global economic crisis will also be explored.

### Political Economy of the Post-Soviet Space

M W 9:30-11:18 AM  
Class Number 5710

Here, the emphasis will be on the complicated trajectories of the post-Soviet transitional economies with a main focus on the diversity of starting positions as well as the choices of policy-makers. The class will explore why the command economy collapsed, how reformers launched market reforms, why privatization is so difficult, the "oligarchs" phenomenon, the 1998 financial crisis, 2004 oil shock and the impact of the 2008-9 global financial crisis on Russia. Such diverse locales as Estonia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Belarus will also be studied in these contexts.

## Ecumenical Humanitarian Organization , SERBIA

Lauren Presler (2010)



Lauren Presler in front of the Kalemegdon Fortress, Belgrade, Serbia. Lauren graduated in Spring 2010 and is now working for the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organization in Serbia.

Lauren Presler graduated in Spring 2010 with a major in International Relations & Diplomacy. Upon graduation she immediately left for Serbia to volunteer with the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organization (EHO). Here is her story.

"When my mother tells our American friends that I am now living in Serbia, they usually ask where Serbia is and what intrigued me to come here. When I first landed my position at the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organization, here in Novi Sad, Serbia, I had no idea the kind of adventure I was embarking on and what I was going to learn. I thought that I knew everything about Serbia, since my mother is a Serb, I grew up in an area full of Serbs (Cleveland) and I spent two years

studying the language at OSU. I was wrong! If you study a specific world region and language, and then go visit, you likely understand the culture shock that I am talking about. I moved from the comforts of driving my car to the grocery store and having air conditioning to living in a developing country where I walk to the grocery store and don't have air conditioning. I encourage everyone to try it!

The work that the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organization (EHO) does is fascinating, and each day I am learning something new. The organization works to improve the lives and social inclusivity of marginalized groups. EHO primarily works with people with disabilities, people with HIV/AIDS, people with cancer,

elderly people, street children and the Roma. I spend my work days divided between three physical places, two projects, a pile of forms and documents and with two specific marginalized groups. The three places include my desk (where I tackle the documents and forms), the Drop-In Center (where I work with one of the marginalized groups' street children, many of whom are Roma) and in assorted villages outside of Novi Sad (where I am part of a group that hosts seminars and trainings that are part of our campaign to end violence against women). The Drop-In center provides a safe place for street children to go and hang out, play games and sports, receive informal education, psychological and counseling services, meals, as well as having the

use of shower facilities and donated clothes and shoes. Their informal education includes seminars and workshops on topics such as safe sex, prevention of drugs and violence, personal hygiene, social services that the community offers and how to access such services, as well as the English lessons that I teach.

The campaign to end violence against women is a combined effort among my organization and three other organizations in Novi Sad. Statistically, Vojvodina has the largest amount of domestic violence. This is because of the large numbers of displaced people, war veterans, and people affected by poverty. The campaign consists of mostly seminars, trainings and collaborations with police, government officials and schools to make sure that the violence is accounted for and handled properly. Working with the Serbian people has opened my mind to what the world consists of outside of what I previously knew. It has changed my outlook on life and given me direction in terms of my long term career goals. I thought that I wanted to be a diplomat, but have decided that living internationally and working with non-profit organizations are where my interests lie.

Aside from working, I get to enjoy wild, wonderful Serbia! In the time that I have been here, I have visited multiple medieval fortresses, attended festivals such as the Guča trumpet festival and a honey festival, and folklore dances. While in Serbia, I also had the opportunity to work with and ride horses in my free time. It was great to be able to take one of my passions from America and continue it here.

Because of Serbia's location in the middle part of Eastern Europe, I was able to take weekend trips to neighboring countries. I visited Hungary, Slovakia and Romania. While in Slovakia, I visited a friend who showed me the path less traveled. In Bucharest, Romania, my friend and I lost our hostel reservation, thus becoming homeless. Homeless in Romania. Fun! Luckily, as we were wandering around looking for another hostel we met a guy by a university who let us stay at his apartment with him, his girlfriend and his roommate. The three of them took us on a tour of Bucharest, showed us the nightlife, cooked us Romanian food, taught us some of



Lauren in front of the Church of Kalemegdon in Belgrade, Serbia. "Working with the Serbian people has opened my mind to what the world consists of outside of what I previously knew."

the language and gave us tips for traveling to the other places that we wanted to go in Romania. I learned that meeting locals will afford you a more fun and memorable trip than any overpriced tour group can.

Although most of it has been amazing, there have been several distressing occurrences. I quickly came to realize how people in Serbia and other parts of Eastern Europe do not hold the United States of America in high esteem. The first of these occurrences was having my mail stolen. My mother sent me a package. All of the valuable contents had been removed. On top of that, I had to file a formal complaint to even receive the package. The package finally came five weeks late. The second occurrence was on a train on the way from Belgrade to Novi Sad. A man on the train spent the entire two hour

ride telling me how awful America is, how Barack Obama is a fake, and how the American people do not even know what the capital of our country is.

The people who stole my mail wanted what I had. The man on the train is bitter because Americans have the capacity to own things and make money, the freedom to be, to go and to do. Traveling and living abroad is an amazing experience, filled with ups and downs. The ups are the great memories we make and why we do it in the first place, and the downs are where we learn the real lessons that we carry with us for the rest of our lives."

## U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Joint Civilian Service Commendation Award

Stephanie Morgan (2004)



[Editors Note: Stephanie Morgan graduated in 2004 with a major in International Relations. Her story provides a very good example of how a student can establish a career and life direction from an undergraduate foundation at The Ohio State University. Notice how she took advantage of the opportunities available to OSU students by gaining foreign experience through study abroad. She worked as a student. Importantly, she took on a senior thesis project. Graduate schools are attracted to students that perform research at the undergraduate level because it indicates they have begun to make the transition to a graduate level of work and study. Research requires the ability to conceptualize, construct and execute a complex project. This is performed in consultation and with the support of faculty and graduate students, but ultimately it is the responsibility of the student to complete the task at a level acceptable for approval by a review committee. This is the essence of graduate study and establishment of an independent career.]

“When I entered OSU in the fall of 1999 I knew I wanted to major in a field that would allow me to study politics, languages, history, and cultures. The International Studies program provided the ideal curriculum for my career interests. In addition to the diversity and strength of the program and faculty, I took advantage of study abroad opportunities, student work and research programs at the Mershon Center and the Honors & Scholars options available to International Studies students. Experiences such as living in Germany and writing an Honors Thesis helped me develop a competitive portfolio. [Editors Note: Stephanie’s thesis was entitled *Vladimir Putin: The Man, the Myth, and the Future of the Russian Federation*.]

After graduation from OSU in 2004, I received my MA in International Security from the University of Denver in 2006. During this time I also worked

with US NORTHCOM, DHS, and various security research institutions. From there I moved to Washington, DC where I spent several years working as a consultant and analyst for the US Government. In my positions, such as Senior Intelligence Analyst, I supported efforts related to international security.

In 2010 I received the *US Joint Chiefs of Staff Joint Civilian Service Commendation Award* for my service in Iraq and Afghanistan. [Editors Note: the Commendation Award is a mid-level United States military award which is presented for sustained acts of heroism or meritorious service. It is for valorous actions in direct contact with an enemy force in a less than combat role. In addition, Stephanie was awarded the *US Department of Treasury Secretary’s Award of Appreciation*.] None of my accomplishments would have been possible without the foundation I received at OSU’s International Studies Program.

I recently left my career as analyst to move to South America where I currently live with my husband and dog. In order to maintain a connection with international and domestic issues I created a blog and Facebook page called *The Right Track POV*; <http://therighttrackpov.blogspot.com/>.

The articles and discussion topics range from the recent Yemen-based terror plot, to Mexican drug gangs, to the midterm elections. Most posts are right-of-center in the analytical portions, but the aim of the page is to initiate dialogue between followers of all political parties and beliefs.

I am currently looking for contributors to my blog. All contributions would remain property of the author and I would only make necessary screenings and changes as the Editor-in-Chief. This is a great opportunity for students and alumni to contribute their analyses to a wider audience and supplement their resumes.



Stephanie Morgan (2004)

Please contact me on my blog or at the email below if you are interested.”

[therighttrackpov@gmail.com](mailto:therighttrackpov@gmail.com)

Among Stephanie’s many publications are: *Terrorist Network Analysis: Ansar al-Islam* (published for the Terrorism Research Center, 2005); *The Yemen Problem and the Administration’s Failure to Address It* (published in *The Right Track POV*, October 2010). She publishes regularly in *The Right Track POV*.



Stephanie (in body armor) celebrating Christmas while working in Iraq for the United States Treasury’s Office of Intelligence and Analysis.