

SMALL WORLD MAGAZINE

WINTER 2013

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MOSHI KILIMANJARO REGION



Cross-Cultural Solutions, TANZANIA

Katherine Voldrich

Katherine Voldrich is a senior majoring in French and International Relations & Diplomacy. "I have always been an explorer at heart and dreamed of going to Africa, but what I experienced as an intern with Cross-Cultural Solutions was more than I could have ever imagined." (Cover photo: A member of the Masai tribe resting against his home; Above photo: Mount Kilimanjaro in the distance).

"This summer changed everything. I have always been an explorer at heart and dreamed of going to Africa, but what I experienced as an intern with Cross-Cultural Solutions was more than I could have ever imagined. I first came across CCS last summer while doing some research on the Peace Corps. This type of work has been my goal in life for quite some time, so I took a few minutes to peruse CCS's website. I was hooked! I knew this could be my best option in getting some hands-on experience in international volunteering. CCS makes it so easy to lend a helping hand all over the world. With home bases in 12 countries, I had a great selection of countries to work in. Plus, you have the choice in staying any-

where for up to twelve weeks. If you only have time or enough money for one week, they even offer the insight abroad program to accommodate you. One of the great things about working with CCS was the fact that they are open to anyone joining their teams. There is no age limit, special qualifications, or serious restrictions. You just have to be a hard-working and open-minded individual who is patient and open to new people and cultures.

Although I had to work some extra hours and start saving money right away, CCS has the most helpful staff ever. My program coordinator, Katie Nichols, was so easy to get a hold of and she even gave me fantastic fund-

raising help. (NOTE: If you volunteer with CCS, make sure you fundraise! You will be surprised with how much people will support you. Also, you get a month's extension on the program fee!) The entire process was fairly easy, which helped me focus on preparing.

So I took this short summer to volunteer in Moshi, Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. After filling out a detailed volunteer profile that focused on my strengths and hopes for this experience, I was placed at a primary school of about 200 children, all under the age of seven. So needless to say, it was pretty wild at times! I helped grade homework, teach math, science (which was essentially HIV/AIDS prevention), music

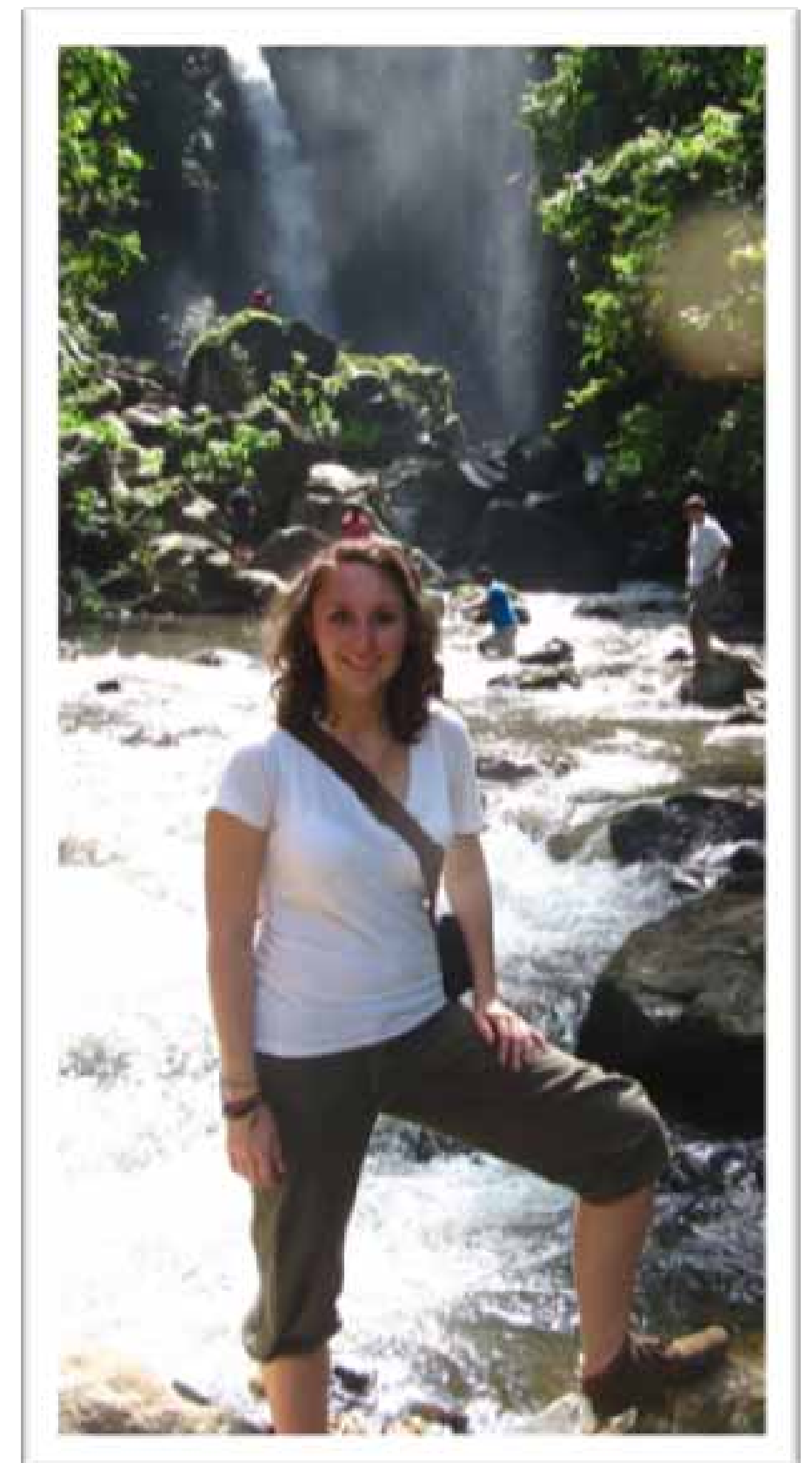
and English. I was even given the privilege of writing one of their science midterms! And since I was interning, my 'Tanzanian parents' lined up multiple interviews, visits, and tours with local NGO's, non-profits, hospitals, and schools for me to do research with. I was given so much information by the end, that the 10-page paper CCS requires of interns rapidly surpassed that limit.

Weekends allowed me to share some travel-time with other volunteers. We were able to visit a Maasai village, go on two safaris, visit hot springs, coffee tours, waterfall hikes, and some even took a week to climb Mount Kilimanjaro! The options were incredible! My highlights consisted of multiple visits to an orphanage about 30 minutes from Karanga Village, where I stayed. That family was the most inspirational group of people I have ever met, and I am still in contact with them even now! A family of orphans adopted *me*. I think of them every day, and am counting the days until I visit them again. The friendships I made this summer were the greatest souvenir possible.

This experience ended any and all fears about where I am supposed to go in life. I have never been more certain about joining the Peace Corps and dedicating myself to helping others who could use an open-minded and caring friend to walk by their side. The strength I witnessed this summer was breathtaking and motivating. I strongly encourage anyone with a love of travel and generosity to volunteer abroad, or even at home, at some point in their lives. You may find that in just a moment of kindness, your life can be changed forever."

To learn more about volunteer opportunities through Cross-Cultural Solutions, go to:

[http://
www.crossculturalsolutions.org/?
siteID=msn_cross-
cultur-](http://www.crossculturalsolutions.org/?siteID=msn_cross-cultur-)



"This experience ended any and all fears about where I am supposed to go in life. I have never been more certain about joining the Peace Corps and dedicating myself to helping others who could use an open-minded and caring friend to walk by their side."

INTERPOL, WASHINGTON D.C.

Austin A.



INTERPOL Washington, the United States National Central Bureau, serves as the designated representative to the International Criminal Police Organization ([INTERPOL](#)) on behalf of the Attorney General. INTERPOL Washington is the official U.S. point of contact in INTERPOL's worldwide, police-to-police communications and criminal intelligence network.

A component of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), INTERPOL Washington is co-managed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that ensures a continuing commitment to the guidance and oversight of the organization and reinforces its role in effectively sharing and exchanging international criminal investigative and humanitarian assistance information.

(Source: <http://www.justice.gov/interpol-washington/about.html>).

“Over the winter quarter, I had the privilege to intern at the United States National Central Bureau, INTERPOL Washington, (USNCB). INTERPOL Washington is jointly managed by the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Seven divisions comprise INTERPOL Washington to include: the INTERPOL Operations and Command Center, Alien/Fugitive Division, Terrorism and Violent Crimes Division, Drug Division, Economic Crimes Division, Human Trafficking and Child Protection Division, and the State and Local Police Liaison Division. Whereas INTERPOL agents do not exist, the Department of Justice employs INTERPOL Analysts, which work in the various divisions, and many federal and local agencies detail agents to INTERPOL Washington. These agencies include: the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), U.S. Marshals Service (USMS), the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), United States Secret Service, and many, many more.

I first came about this internship on a routine visit to see my advisor in the International Studies Department at Ohio State. As I was leaving I grabbed a couple fliers for internships to look over. All of the internships provided great experience with different organizations; however, only one internship offered an experience that allowed you to have contact with more than 13 different federal agencies. From there, I began to do my own personal research on INTERPOL Washington and what it is comprised of.

After deciding this internship could open many doors for my future career, I applied for the internship, which included submitting a lengthy application, sending a writing sample, going through a background investigation, and passing a drug test. Nevertheless, three months later I was accepted and cleared to begin work in Washington, D.C. working in the Alien/Fugitive Division. I worked alongside other interns, INTERPOL Analysts, and detailed agents from the USMS, ICE, Diplomatic

Security Service, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service.

I urge any student interested in a career in law, international studies, or law enforcement on any level to pursue an internship that can provide lifelong experience and can open doors for their future. An internship with INTERPOL Washington achieves just this. Through working with analysts and detailed agents, one gets a true sense of how law enforcement conducts business on the federal, state, local, and international level. Interested students should continuously browse agencies and organizations for available and upcoming internships and begin the application process as soon as possible due to the lengthiness of the application and clearance process. “

CIES, WASHINGTON D.C.

Kristin Krzic



Kristin (seated in photo) is a senior majoring in East Asian Studies and Korean. She interned with the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) in Washington D.C.

“This summer, I had a wonderful opportunity to intern at The Council for the International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) at the Institute of International Education (IIE) in our nation’s capital, Washington, D.C. CIES administers the Fulbright Scholars Program for the U.S. Department of State. I interned with the Outreach unit, which is mainly responsible for the advertising and the public relations aspect of the Fulbright Scholars Program.

Throughout the internship, I worked on various projects, which helped to improve my research and interpersonal skills in a professional context. My favorite project was the Fulbright “Ambassadors Program.” My duties involved contacting the Fulbright Alumni via phone and email and suggesting conferences and workshops for them to attend in order to present their experiences to a new generation of faculty and staff at America’s colleges and universities. I enjoyed talking with the alumni and listening to their inspirational stories of the impact that the Fulbright experience had on their

personal and professional life.

Another related project I worked on was mapping the locations on Google maps of past conferences that the Fulbright Ambassadors had attended. From this effort, we could see not only where the Outreach Unit had already promoted the Fulbright program but also where we needed to concentrate new outreach efforts.

As time passed, I began to realize that it’s a special kind of person who chooses to work in the field of international education. Most of the employees at CIES have lived abroad for extended periods of time and are very interested in other countries, cultures, and languages. Everyone brought a level of interest in travel and global affairs and where informed about the world in a way that is unique to people who travel extensively. Conversations with my colleagues about international events that were taking place such as the London Olympics were enjoyable and educational.

Being an intern is about learning and understanding an organization’s mission and how it guides the employees through their work everyday. I could see my CIES colleagues’ dedication and passion in advancing the Fulbright mission to “promote international cooperation for education and cultural advancement.” In the beginning, I was just excited to have my own cubicle, phone, company coffee mug, and to be living in Washington, with all its great museums and outstanding restaurants. But as time passed, I grew as a person - I gained confidence in my ability to interact with a variety of people and became aware of my increasing interest in the field of international education exchange.

When I reflect on my summer internship, I realize I was fortunate to work with and learn from an outstanding group of professionals who are dedicated to promoting the Fulbright experience. I hope I can make such a contribution in my future career.”

MY VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

Interning with the U.S. Department of State

Tess Eckstein



Tess Eckstein (pictured right) pictured with a co-worker while interning for the State Department. Tess is a senior majoring in Chinese and Security & Intelligence. Read about her adventures as a State Department intern.

"I was as prepared as I could have been for the start of my internship at the United States Department of State (DOS): I had purchased and loaded money onto a metro card, made a test run to the building where orientation was to be held, completely moved into my new apartment, packed my lunch, and grabbed a few pens and a notebook. But for some reason, I still felt so unprepared, and I was brimming with questions. Per usual, I arrived early. Orientation began at 8am, the doors opened at 7:30, and there I was, waiting outside at 7am sharp. Fortunately, there were three other girls already there. I sat down next to one on a bench outside the American Foreign Service Association, and we introduced ourselves. It wasn't long until we connected the dots and realized we were both from Ohio, we were both rising seniors at The Ohio State University, and we shared a common major, International Studies. I was reminded

once again how lucky I am to be able to run into a fellow Buckeye almost anywhere I go in the world, and that was enough to settle my nerves until orientation began.

By the end of the day, I had been moved to the Harry S. Truman building, also known as Main State, where I was introduced to everyone in my office in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Island Affairs and was led to my desk in the section I would learn to call home, Australia, New Zealand, and Pacific Island Affairs. I filled the seat of the New Zealand desk officer who had just moved on in her series of rotations. Its previous occupier was in fact the woman who had hired me in the winter, but summer is the most popular time for turnover at the DOS, so Foreign Service officers are constantly rotating between posts. I only had about two hours left in the day, so I cracked open some books about New Zealand and its

neighboring South Pacific Islands and began to soak in valuable information concerning an area of the world about which I certainly could not call myself an expert.

My first two or three days on the job consisted of a lot of catch up, studying, becoming acquainted with the office and my position, and getting computer logons, an official badge, and other necessities. As soon as that fourth day rolled around, however, I hit the ground running and never slowed down. I was immediately assigned three papers to write for Secretary of State Clinton and enthusiastically assumed the responsibilities of a seasoned Foreign Service Officer.

For those of you who do not know, the internship program at the State Department is actually designed to treat interns as Junior Officers. Interns are given as much responsibility as they

can handle, and if they have the stamina, the work will never stop coming. I learned over the summer that not all interns appreciate the constant deluge of information and assignments coming at them from all directions. For me, however, and hopefully the same goes to anyone else out there applying for this position, the nonstop flow of requests was exhilarating. I felt that I had really earned my place in the Department and that everyone in my office trusted me to take on challenging tasks and complete them with thoroughness and efficiency. It is for this reason that whenever someone asks me to pick out my favorite part of the internship, I never waver in expressing my appreciation for the amount of responsibility I was given. Nothing could have made my time there more rewarding, and I had never felt like I was making more of a difference in a job than I did this summer.

While I could easily go on for pages about everything I had the chance to experience, there are a few projects that I covered while interning that I think best exemplify the responsibilities to which I refer. I took on a leadership role preparing for two important multi-agency activities. The Pacific Islands Engagement Tour brought U.S. representatives of Diplomacy, Defense, and Development efforts together to promote U.S. engagement and a sustainable future in the South Pacific. Likewise, the Department's participation in the Pacific Islands Forum, led by the Secretary of State, demonstrated enduring U.S. commitment to the Pacific region and, through concrete actions, deepened the bench of stakeholders committed to the Pacific. To give an idea of the role I played in preparing for these events, for the Pacific Islands Engagement Tour, I took charge of the schedule and made briefing books, edited and drafted important papers, managed numerous requests for information, and cleared several dozen documents through Department bureaus. The level of organization and time management required for this

task gave me an idea of just some of the responsibilities of experienced Foreign Service Officers. In the end, my team and I stepped up to the plate, making the trip a smart step forward in deepening U.S. bilateral relationships with Pacific Island countries.

I also had the opportunity to draft statements for Secretary of State Clinton, including messages to Australia, Vanuatu, Kiribati, and the Solomon Islands, and in response to a personal letter from Australian Foreign Minister Bob Carr. As the populations of many Pacific Islands are small, messages from the U.S., particularly from Secretary Clinton, gain significant media attention. These tasks taught me the importance of remaining concise in my writing and closely following correct writing styles while finding creative ways to deliver the messages.

Finally, I arranged executive-level consultations for three Ambassadors-Designate and managed the official swearing-in ceremonies for two of them in the historic Treaty Room of the Department. The elegant ceremonies were a fitting conclusion to an excellent internship experience.

Now, I'm sure each and every intern has his or her own best and worst memories from working at the DOS. That being said, you will get as much out of the internship as you put into it, and when working for this agency, that message becomes clear as soon as orientation begins. So, if my stories and reflections caught your attention, you may be wondering just what it takes to be accepted and then to do well in this assignment. While I could offer endless tidbits of advice in response, there are three strengths that I believe helped me more than anything along my journey: networking skills, writing strength, and the ability to work well in a team.

Networking should begin as soon as you decide that you want to intern with the federal government. I cannot

stress enough the importance of asking for guidance from the OSU International Studies advisors and the DOS Diplomat in Residence for the Midwest; believe me, you won't regret taking this advice. Next, writing. This is by far one of the most important things you can learn to master before pursuing any government internship or job. The Statement of Interest can make or break your application, and it is no wonder, since I was asked to write papers, agendas, etc. every single day on the job. The lasting impressions you will make with a few well-written essays will take you so far in federal employment. You must have the ability to write and present your ideas with poise, creativity, and aplomb. Writing efficiency, especially at the DOS, saves so much valuable time that would have otherwise been spent correcting mistakes and inaccuracies. Understandably so, publications will not be released until they are completed correctly, so the Department cannot have anyone impeding the process. Lastly, teamwork is important in any professional setting, and this one is no different. At the DOS, we constantly relied on each other for advice and honest opinions, and we had meetings daily. In order to succeed in this internship, you cannot be afraid to voice your opinions. After all, even as an intern, you take on the responsibilities of an officer, and you cannot fall down on the job.

Every internship is a step in the right direction, a step forward on the path towards most undergraduates' eventual goal in life: finding the right job. Many people spend their lives searching for something, namely employment, that makes them happy and prosperous. But now that you know what awaits you at the Department of State, you know what tools you need to get there, and you know how invaluable the experience will be, you should be pretty well prepared. Talk to those with connections, hone in on your writing skills, research, and be confident in your abilities. Good luck!"

Embassy of Cyprus, WASHINGTON D.C.

Alexandra Constantinou



Alexandra Constantinou is a senior majoring in International Relations & Diplomacy, with minors in Modern Greek and Non-Profit Studies.

"At the Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus, I have been privileged to intern under the Deputy Chief of Mission, Olympia Neocleous, who has also served as a diplomat in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and as a detached national expert at the European Commission. Her expert knowledge in international affairs has truly afforded me an opportunity to witness diplomacy firsthand. As the Republic of Cyprus has recently assumed the six-month

rotating presidency of the EU, I have worked diligently under Olympia's supervision to assist with memo writing, event coverage, and other PR issues.

Under Olympia, I have discovered the intricacy of foreign diplomacy and how vital communication is within our international system. I have researched the American interest in solving the Cyprus problem as well as made projections of Obama and Romney's foreign policy vis

-à-vis Europe. I have been fortunate to attend a myriad of interesting DC events, as many as six per week, ranging from CSIS events on EU/NATO Cohesion to the Egyptian uprising, a Heritage Foundation global diplomacy debate, and a full-day conference on Turkey hosted by the Middle East Institute. I found it fascinating to learn about Turkey's rise in the international system.

Through my event attendance, I have also witnessed how European nations interact with one another, assisting the Embassy's Consul, Neophytos Constantinou, in EU delegation events.

I believe that my experience at the Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus has further cultivated my interests in diplomacy and truly helped me to understand the workings of an embassy. Cyprus' first-ever EU presidency has afforded a wonderful opportunity to interact with other EU countries and grasp the complexities the EU faces while maintaining a presence in Washington. Although I was the only intern at the Embassy this summer, I am ecstatic that I did this internship now, because I have dabbled in diplomacy and been able to represent the Embassy as a college student. Being the only intern has also offered me a more personalized internship and the ability to cultivate a relationship with Olympia.

My internship experience has instilled in me the importance of communication, diplomatic interaction, and organization. While definitely a challenge, Cyprus is poised to enact a successful EU presidency that focuses upon the current problems plaguing the EU nations and provide a framework of solution. I am thankful that I was able to live in DC and intern at the Embassy during such an opportune time, as the EU faces a bright future if its nations can act cohesively."

U.S. State Department, FRANCE

Gretchen Bateman



Gretchen Bateman is a senior majoring in French and International Relations & Diplomacy. She was selected by the U.S. Department of State for an internship at the U.S. Embassy in Bordeaux, France.

"About three weeks after I had just returned to the US from a semester abroad in Dijon, France, I received an email from the International Studies department concerning internships with the State Department. As an International Relations & Diplomacy and French major, I was very curious to learn more. I did some research on the State Department website and decided that this was something I'd love to do. With only two weeks until the application due-date, I hopped on usajobs.gov and quickly filled out the application, spending most of my time piecing together my personal statement (the most important part of the application). Admittedly, I did not expect to get an offer with such a short time to prepare the application, especially when I learned that thousands of students apply for these internships each semester. However, about two months after submitting my application, I received an email offering me an unpaid State Department internship at the American consulate in Bordeaux, France! This came as a huge surprise considering I had chosen Washington D.C. as my preferred internship location, but that simply goes to show that in the State Department, you never know just where you'll go!

When I began my internship at the consulate, I was surprised to see that it was a small office with only three employees: The Consul and two other colleagues who deal with public and cultural affairs. However, this made for a wonderful experience for me because I was able to fully participate in all consular activities. Some of my duties included writing grants for the consulate, helping to plan an event with a French journalism school for the US presidential election, and even planning visits for the Ambassador! The latter was truly the highlight of the entire internship. Having the opportunity to accompany the Ambassador during his visit to Bordeaux was truly a

once in a lifetime experience. I even got to meet the Prince of Luxembourg! All in all, this internship has proved to be one of the most beneficial experiences I have had during my time at Ohio State. I have learned how a consulate operates on a day-to-day basis. I have seen how a consulate must work carefully with both American and foreign organizations and the challenges that sometimes arise as a result. Most importantly, I have learned what it takes to work in the Foreign Service and have seen firsthand the dedication of those who work within it, particularly during the attack in Benghazi on the American consulate that occurred only two weeks after I began the internship.

For those who are interested in a State Department internship, I would highly recommend applying for one! Speaking a foreign language helps immensely for those wishing to be posted abroad, but there are also internships in many English-speaking countries such as England, Ireland, and Scotland to name a few. For those wanting to stay within the United States, the majority of State Department internships are located in Washington, D.C. Above all, the most important part of the application is the

statement of interest, often determining the type of internship and location an applicant will be offered. It is important to put the most time and effort into it in order to fully describe the reasons for wanting the internship, as well as why you would be a good fit for the position.

I cannot stress enough the benefits of a State Department internship abroad. Having this internship on your resume shows that you not only received work experience in the Foreign Service, but that you are capable of being independent in a foreign country and adaptable to any situation. As a soon-to-be graduate of The Ohio State University, I know that this internship will open up many doors that may not have been available to me otherwise. Most importantly, I gained a better understanding of the Franco-American relationship and the challenges faced daily by Foreign Service members to ensure that this relationship continues. It is extremely fulfilling to know that I was able to contribute firsthand to this relationship, and that this experience will no doubt allow me to continue doing so in the future!"

U.S. State Department, WASHINGTON D.C.

Allison Bujtas



Allison Bujtas is a senior majoring in East Asian Studies and Anthropology with a minor in Spanish.

“Through research, I found out about the Department of State internship that I had this summer. I know others had told me about the internship, but I really found out about it through a pamphlet in the International Studies office. After I learned about this opportunity, I did some more research and learned about the application process. This internship has been the experience of a lifetime, and I feel so lucky to have been one of the few to obtain it.

For those who wish to apply, I have some advice. Research the bureaus in the State Department and find the ones that interest you and that you would be most qualified for. It is important to have an idea of what the bureau you are applying for does, es-

pecially if you want the internship. I talked to some of my colleagues that reviewed the applications at my bureau and I found out the first thing they look at is your GPA. If your GPA is lower than the requirement, they cut you without even looking at the rest of your application. Think about it; hundreds of people apply to this program, if you don't fit the basic requirements they are not going to bother with the rest. So keep that GPA up!

Next, they look at punctuation, grammar, spelling etc. Did you use capital letters when appropriate? These are especially important because it is a reflection on your communication skills. Remember the State Department is responsible for international rela-

tions, so communication is a huge part of what they do. You need to make sure that you communicate your ideas effectively and that you are using proper English. If you are unsuccessful, then you'll be cut.

Another thing to note, any experience or job you have had is important, even if you think otherwise. I believe the experiences and jobs that I had working with children made me more competitive for the bureau that I applied for. This is because the Foreign Service Institute is a training facility not only for officers but their family members, including their children. Once again, we see the importance of selecting a bureau that you are qualified for.

Before I had this internship, I wasn't really sure what I wanted to do with my International Studies major, but now I know what I don't want to do and what I would like to do. I have always wanted to travel, but this internship has reinforced this and now I know that I would like to work with children or teach in a foreign country. When I figured this out, the State Department actually led me in the direction I wanted to go next. I am already in the process of applying to the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in South Korea. Maybe I'll get lucky again?

For those of you looking to apply for the State Department internship, good luck! I hope these tips were helpful to you. For those who are still struggling with their International Studies major, find an internship. It will give you an idea of what you can do with this major. You'll be surprised with the possibilities!”

To learn more about the State Department internship go to:

<http://careers.state.gov/students/>

Middle East Studies FLAS Fellowship

Sophie Seidner

The Middle East Studies Center (MESC) awarded a year long Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowship to International Studies major Sophie Seidner for the 2012-13 Academic Year. The FLAS Fellowship covers a student's tuition for the entire academic year.

The MESC is a US Department of Education Undergraduate Title VI National Resource Center (NRC). Since its designation as a National Resource Center in 1988, it has been a valuable resource for OSU students for over two decades.

Sophie has shared her FLAS application essay below.

“In *The Much Too Promised Land*, Aaron David Miller describes his decades long experience as a policy advisor to the Secretary of State on the Middle East team. The turbulent and unpredictable dynamic sustained among state leaders, as well as frantic policy advisors and analysts, causes Miller's initial reservation about working towards the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. He emphasizes the multifarious micro and macro tasks that, when arranged, work towards a greater goal. The big picture in the story is not even the peace plan, but a meeting between two leaders in order to begin discussing negotiations about a prospective peace plan. When I read this book four years ago, the intensity and relevance of the work excited me to begin designing exactly that career for myself.

At The Ohio State University I will obtain a bachelors degree in Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies. The Arabic major coursework consists of grammar, reading, conversation and translation classes. I am currently in the advanced level coursework, which provides me with a strong foundation of Modern Standard Arabic and the ability to think analytically and critically in

the language. Additionally, I completed an intensive Arabic program at Ohio State last summer.

Within the Middle East Studies major, I have and will continue to take courses in Middle Eastern politics, economic development, social movements and Islam. These courses provide me with a comprehensive historical background of Middle Eastern development, as well as modern social aspects and influences. This equips me with a basis for understanding cultural and political ties within the Middle East region and the international arena.

By majoring in both the Arabic language and Middle East Studies, I have designed my academic plan around the goal of becoming a foreign policy advisor. Studying in the region of my majors, however, is a crucial component of my academic plan. By studying abroad at the Qasid Institute, located in Amman, Jordan, I will hone my Arabic language capabilities and become conversationally fluent in the Jordanian dialect. The ability to speak in the native tongue is perhaps the most important component of a successful, well-rounded, knowledgeable foreign policy advisor.

Possessing the reputation as one of the leading Arabic instruction institutions in the Middle East, the Qasid program stays true to its mission of rigorous academic course work while creating a bridge of cultural understanding through the important Middle Eastern notion of hospitality. Qasid ensures that each student receives as much student-specific instruction as needed to form a functional foundation in the Arabic language, boasting a classroom size that seldom exceeds more than eight students. The program has been designed for non-native speakers with intensive-style coursework. The teaching methods have been meticulously



Sophie (pictured above) is a junior majoring in Arabic and Middle East Studies.

refined and are continuously developed in order to remain in the forefront of Arabic language instruction for non-native speakers.

A FLAS fellowship award will permit me to study in Jordan so that I may enhance my language abilities and cultural knowledge, which are essential components of both my academic and career goals. I will be able to complete all remaining academic requirements for my majors while abroad and will be one step further in reaching my goal to becoming a foreign policy advisor to the US government.”

To learn more about the FLAS Fellowships offered by the Middle East Studies Center, go to:

<http://mesc.osu.edu/>

OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL

Andrew Eskander. This summer myself and eight other Midshipmen at Ohio State's NROTC were afforded the opportunity to be trained, screened, evaluated, and ultimately successfully complete the culminating event of our college career.

Officer Candidates School, or OCS, is a six week requirement taken between the junior and senior year of college. Every Marine Corps Officer since 1891 has been required to successfully complete this physically and mentally demanding course. For the past three years at the NROTC unit we have been training for this summer. Training included day and night land navigation, physical training from endurance courses and physical fitness tests, to class room instruction in leadership and the evolution of warfare. Despite three years of intensive training, field exercises, and forced marches nothing could quite prepare us for this past summer as we experienced OCS first hand.

Officer Candidates School's primary mission is to screen candidates to see if they are able to move forward in some of the most stressful situations they have ever faced, or break in the face of chaos. The mental tests of OCS are unlike anything I had handled before. On average most candidates would get 4-5 hours of sleep between posting security or getting gear ready for the next day. Unlike boot camp, at OCS you are placed into billet assignments in charge of others. Billets would range from a fire team leader (in charge of 3-4 candidates) to Candidate Company Commander (in charge of over 500 candidates). The successes or failures of your men and women are a direct reflection of your leadership and in turn could be the reason why you are sent home. At OCS you were expected to succeed. Therefore the only thing they judged you on was your failures. Overall, 15% of the candidates would be sent home due to failure in leadership, integrity, or being medically unable to continue with the physical demands of training. Training included the obstacle course, Tarzan course, confidence course, endurance course, 12 mile marches, basic squad level tactics, and the Quiquily (pictured).

Although the differences between boot camp and OCS are great, they both have the same outcome in producing some of the most well qualified fighting men and women in the world. Successfully completing OCS has been the greatest experience I have had in my college career. I look forward to continuing Ohio State's tradition in training next year's class to not only graduate, but graduate at the

U.S State Department, ITALY

Stephanie Weisfeld



Stephanie Weisfeld (pictured above) is enjoying some of the local Italian cuisine, during her internship in Rome. Stephanie is a junior majoring in French, Development Studies, and also completing a minor in Spanish.

Stephanie Weisfeld is a junior majoring in French, Development Studies and also completing a minor in Spanish. She was chosen by the U.S. Department of State for an internship in Rome, Italy. Here are her reflections on her internship!

“As Ohio State students, we are exposed to so many different opportunities that it is often difficult to sort through them all to find the ones that actually apply to our interests. One thing I have learned, however, is that it is well worth the time to skim the lists of career fairs and info sessions avail-

able at the university. If you do, you just might end up stumbling upon an incredible, once-in-a-lifetime experience: like interning at the U.S. Consulate General in Milan, Italy!

Last fall I received an e-mail notifying me that a regional diplomat-in-residence from the U.S. Department of State was coming to campus to speak about internship opportunities. I decided I would attend, after all I had nothing to lose and much to gain (as is the case for all information sessions). After the presentation, I was very impressed but had a few reservations. In most

cases, State Department interns do not receive housing or any kind of stipend to cover the cost of travel, food, or living. All the same, I decided it was worth it to at least introduce myself to Jim Ellickson-Brown (the Diplomat-in-Residence). He gave me his card, and I e-mailed him soon after with my questions.

We continued to keep in touch throughout the application process. Jim helped me every step of the way, even adding me to a special list of applicants. In the end, I was thrilled to receive two offers (one from each of the consulates in Italy) and one interview (for the embassy in Latvia). After much thought, I decided to spend my summer at the U.S. Consulate in Milan with one of the few paid internships that the State Department offers each summer.

While my time in Milan has not yet come to an end, I can safely say that this experience has been invaluable to me for more reasons than I could have imagined. Not only have I gained insight into the inner-workings of the State Department and the careers of foreign service officers, I have also learned how to behave in a work environment and survive and thrive in a country where everything (including the language) is completely foreign to me. I learned a great deal even before stepping foot in the consulate. I used my newfound networking skills to find a wonderful apartment as well as some valuable insight into what I could expect from life in Milan.

There are two experiences which I believe helped prepare me the most for this internship. The first is my participation in the English Conversation Partners Program at Ohio State. As a part of this program, each quarter I am paired with an international student

looking to practice their English. This helps enhance my cross-cultural communication skills and also gives me practice in working through language barriers (a skill which has been very useful to me here!). Plus, in today's global environment, it never hurts to have contacts from all around the world, as evidenced by my experience this summer.

One of my past conversation partners put me in contact with a friend of hers who currently lives in Milan. Her friend was an integral part of shaping my experience in Milan, picking me up at the airport, helping me buy a cell phone and metro pass, and even inviting me along for social outings with friends. Without this contact, I may have had difficulty adjusting to Milan. I am so thankful that through this program, not only am I learning about different cultures and helping people improve their English, I am also making close friends from all corners of the world!

The second important experience which prepared me for my work at the consulate is the time I spent volunteering at the International Services Center (ISC) in Cleveland, OH. At ISC, I tutored refugees in English as a second language. Many of these refugees came from horrible conditions in Burma and Nepal. I was amazed to see how much hope and optimism they retained despite all of their struggles. My relationships with these remarkable people made me eager to improve the lives of others like them all around the world, and reinforced my interest in learning and teaching languages. It also gave me even more confidence in my ability to overcome language barriers and interact with a very wide range of people.

Simply by being present in the consulate day-to-day, I have learned a great deal about the way the State Department functions as part of the United States government. One thing that surprised me the most when I first arrived is that the majority of workers at

the consulate were Italian rather than American. All of my coworkers are incredibly friendly, and I was pleasantly surprised at how laid back the work environment was compared to the strict and stuffy atmosphere I was expecting.

Of course I have learned a lot about Milan and Italy as well. Since Milan is considered the fashion capital of the world, I had envisioned being surrounded by a bunch of snooty, well-dressed models who did not speak a word of English and despised Americans. I could not have been more wrong. Despite the number of fashionable people in Milan (which is admittedly a bit higher than that of Columbus) most people are not much different from those in the U.S. Sightings of sweatpants and tennis shoes are rare occurrences, but I do not feel out of place here based on the clothes I wear. In addition, I have been overwhelmed with the kindness with which I have been received. I cannot count how many times I got lost and asked for directions, and each time I did, the Milanese were happy to help me out!

One particular time I relied on the navigational skills of friendly Italians was the day before the huge Independence Day party hosted by the consulate. One of my fellow interns and I were tasked with purchasing paper to use for the party program we had created. Had I been issued this project in the U.S., I would have simply driven over to Office Max, Staples, Target or any number of other stores which have a large selection of paper products to choose from. In Italy, however, most stores are very specialized, focusing on one small category of products. So my colleague and I wandered around Milan for over 4 hours before we were able to find what we needed. In the end, even though it was a tiring and frustrating experience, I was proud of my resourcefulness! I now feel confident about my ability to travel on my own in a foreign country.

In addition to the wild goose chase for paper, I have had lots of very interesting work at the consulate! My favorite experience was working in the consular section. I mostly helped out in the NIV (non-immigration visa) side of the section. There, I was able to learn about the steps necessary to apply for a visa to travel or work in the United States. I observed visa candidate interviews, took fingerprints and even printed some visas on my own! On the other side of the section, ACS (American Citizen Services), I printed replacements for lost or stolen U.S. passports, and observed the procedures for passport renewals, death of U.S. citizens abroad, and reports of birth abroad (notifying the U.S. government when a child of an American citizen is born abroad). I also hugely enjoyed the time I spent in the management section, where I was based for the summer. There I was a part of planning for the Independence Day celebration, compiling and organizing all of the documents and information used to prepare for the party. I was also able to work with the CLO (Community Liaison Office) to see what kinds of programs the State Department provides for the families of FSOs (foreign service officers). I was pleased to find that the consulate workers and their families together form a welcoming community, and the CLO helps to nurture the relationships within that community.

I have had a very fulfilling experience working here at the U.S. Consulate in Milan. I have learned that I am more adventurous than I give myself credit for, and, I should not let any little doubts hold me back from having more adventures! In the future, I plan to learn more languages, travel as much as possible, and look into teaching English abroad through programs such as Fulbright or Peace Corps. “

To learn more about the State Department internship go to:

<http://careers.state.gov/students/>



Two Awarded Latin American Studies Fellowship

The Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) awarded a Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS) to International Studies majors, Ellen Noe and Katie Drown. This fellowship pays for tuition for the 2012-13 Academic Year! They have shared their application essays to assist other students who are interested in applying for this fellowship!

Founded in 1962, the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) has developed and organized a large number of instructional, research, and outreach activities focusing on Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Mexico. More than 100 faculty members are involved in the program, 30 from the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and the rest distributed among 14 academic units.

The Center CLAS offers summer and academic year fellowships.

To learn more about the FLAS Fellowships offered by the Center for Latin American Studies, go to:

<http://clas.osu.edu/>

Latin American Studies FLAS Fellowship to Study Quechua

Ellen Noe



Ellen Noe is a senior majoring in Development Studies with a minor in Spanish. She was awarded a year long FLAS fellowship by the Center for Latin American Studies to study Quechua.

"In the Fall of 2009 I began my journey at Ohio State as a part of the International Affairs Scholars program (IA). From what I had learned about IA, I knew that I would be living with students who shared some of the same

interests, would have the opportunity to attend international themed events, and would be able to study abroad during my first year. What I did not know was that the experiences that IA would provide me with would truly

shape my life, my interests, and the manner in which I view the world.

I took full advantage of the program and the resources it provided me. During winter quarter of freshmen year I

found myself learning about Bolivia, a country that I had heard of but knew nothing about. During the course I found myself thoroughly interested in the material, specifically the history of the government and the effects of different domestic and international policies in the country. Additionally, I became infatuated with the role indigenous people play in Bolivian society: culturally, politically and economically.

Traveling to Bolivia during spring break was my first academic experience in Latin America, and after only ten days I knew it would not be my last. The experience instilled in me the desire to learn more about Latin America as a whole, and it changed my goals academically. I decided to concentrate on studying Spanish and changed my major to Development Studies. I knew if I could master the language, learning about the culture and people would become even easier.

My positive experience in IA prompted me to stay involved with the program and to take on a leadership position.

Currently, I lead a group of second year students in planning International Night, one of the feature events each quarter. During fall quarter the focus of our event was Mexico and Día De Los Muertos. The event provided students the opportunity to hear from a speaker about Mexican culture, learn a traditional Mexican dance, make sugar skulls, and eat Mexican food.

Because of my positive experience in Bolivia, I decided to study abroad in the Dominican Republic during Winter quarter 2011. My experience in the Dominican was very different than my experience in Bolivia and it gave me the opportunity to attend a local university and live amongst the Dominican people. This experience allowed me to learn not only from the classes that I was taking, but also from the daily interaction I had with students and community members.

My experiences in Latin American have inspired me to learn as much as I can about the region. This interest has been reflected in my course work at Ohio State. I have taken courses with a

focus on Latin America in Spanish, History, Economics, and now Quechua. When I learned that Ohio State offered Quechua I jumped on the opportunity, as I knew it would provide me with language skills that would give me the chance to return to South America and work with the people that I had found so fascinating before. The Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship will allow me to continue my study of the language and region that I have come to know and love.

My Quechua and Spanish skills, along with my knowledge of the region will allow me to pursue my dream of one day working and living in Latin America. In the short term, I would like to return to Bolivia and work in development, possibly with a local NGO or an American based organization. I would also like to attend graduate school for Latin American Studies, or International Development with a focus on Latin America. In the long term I would like to work in higher education either in Study Abroad, or as a Professor.

Latin American Studies FLAS Fellowship to Study Portuguese

Katie Drown

Katie Drown is a junior majoring in World Economy & Business and Portuguese. She received the Foreign Language & Area Studies Scholarship for the 2012-13 Academic Year. Here is her FLAS essay.

"In my bedroom I have only two items hanging on my walls. One is a Brazilian flag and the other is a 2.5x3 foot map of Brazil. I developed a passion for Brazil while living there from August 2009 until June 2010 as a Rotary Exchange Student. I lived in the city of Piracicaba, San Paulo. While there I attended high school and language school. I participated in a school play and took dancing lessons at two different schools. Towards the second half of my stay I began to sing in malls and night time

cafés with a talented two man band. I performed for Rotary events as well as a few club events that my host mother was a part of and participated in my host cousin's piano recital at a renowned music school in Piracicaba. In February of 2010 I got a job in a language school where I taught English for four months.

Before living in Brazil I did not speak Portuguese. Within three months of living there I was able to hold intermediate level conversations and I was advanced in my ability to understand. After ten months my language and comprehension skills were advanced and I was able to read and write in the language. Since coming to OSU I have continued to study and improve my

Portuguese. In my first quarter of my freshman year I was placed in Port 102 and in the four quarters since then have advanced my way to Portuguese 450, which I completed this Fall. Outside of class I practice speaking on Thursdays at Bate Papo, an OSU Portuguese speaking group. I also keep in contact with my host families and friends from Brazil and fellow exchange students with whom I speak in Portuguese. Here at school I have a small group of friends outside of class and clubs with whom I practice. My reading and writing skills have improved since my time abroad, however I feel that I am losing comfort and agility in speaking the language.

My two majors greatly represent the

commitment I have to Brazil. I am double majoring in International Studies with a specialty in World Economy and Business and in Portuguese. With this dual degree I would like to work between Brazil and the U.S. In 2009, while visiting Rio de Janeiro, I came across a small shoe store that at that time only had two stores in Rio. The style of shoes they made and the quality impressed me greatly. Since that day I have wanted to bring that small business's products to the U.S. I realize that the probability that I will have a chance to work with that specific business in the future is low, but I am confident that there is a copious amount

of other small businesses that deserve international attention. I would like my future career to involve discovering excellent small businesses and linking them with a financially supportive American company that would make them international or at least bring their business to the U.S. I also have great interests in musical performance and theatre and would love to do work that would involve one or both of these two things. I have a more immediate goal to work as a translator or guide at the World Cup and/or the Olympics in 2014 and 2016 respectively. "

I am requesting the Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship to support my study of the Brazilian language and business during the summer of 2012, and during the 2012-2013 academic year. In order to meet my career goals, I must further my language skills as well as be exposed to the culture of the Brazilian business world. The opportunities afforded by the FLAS fellowship would be an essential contribution to these career goals."

Katie Drown is a junior majoring in World Economy & Business and Portuguese. This photo is from here trip to Brazil on a FLAS fellowship. "I developed a passion for Brazil while living there from August 2009 until June 2010 as a Rotary Exchange Student. "



ALUMNI Highlights

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, Graduate Student

Gary Bearden (2011)



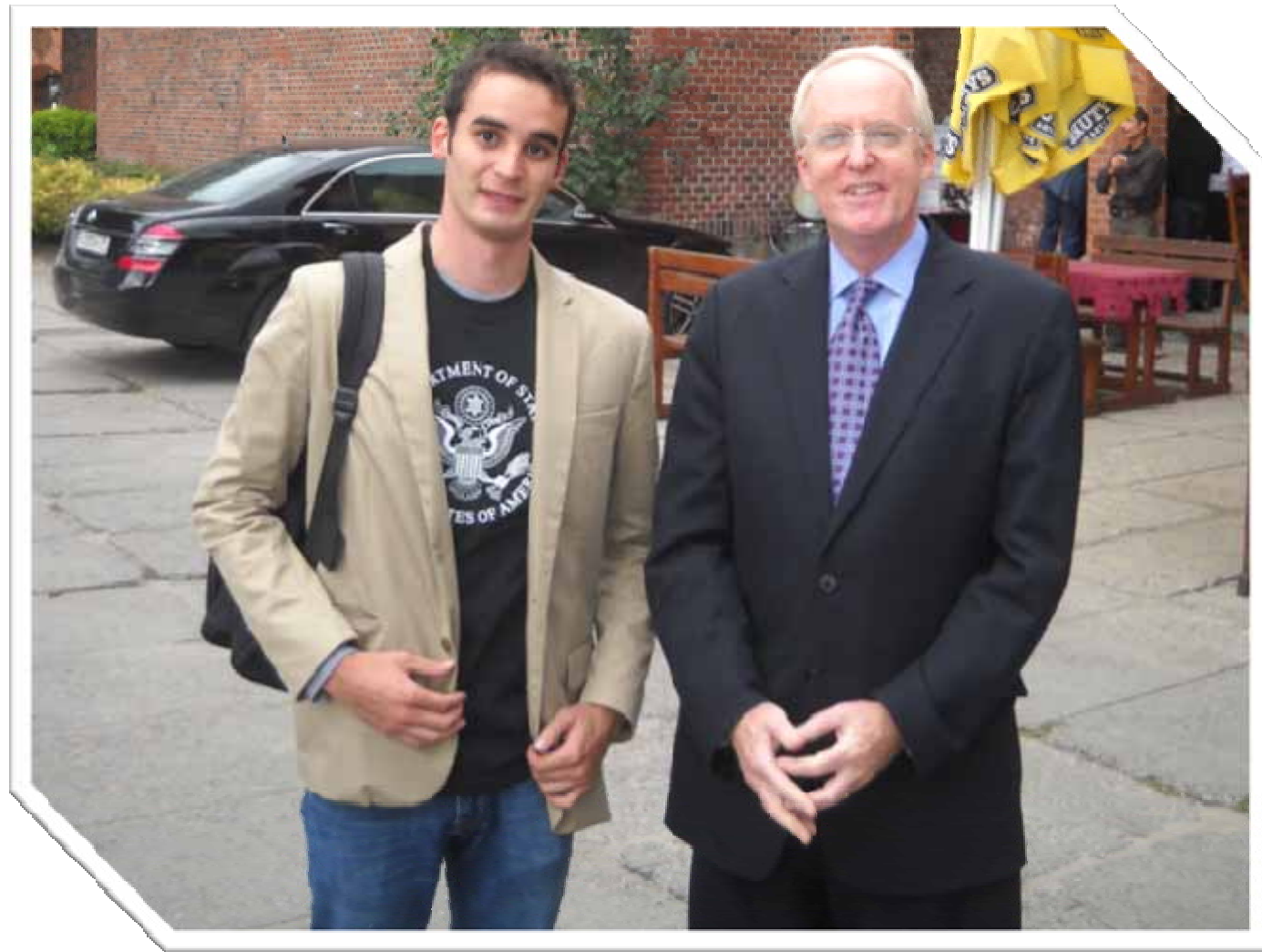
Gary Bearden pictured with his three diplomas which he finished in four years! He completed degrees in International Relations & Diplomacy, French and Russian.

"I once spent a summer working in a car factory in my hometown. It was the summer between my freshman and sophomore years at Ohio State, and you had better believe I was happy with the money that was coming in. Once school started back up though, I realized that while I had spent those hot Ohio months covered in sweat, pushing racks of exhaust pipes and

balancing a Bio 101 class at the OSU-Delaware branch before the night shift every day, some of my classmates had gone off on amazing European vacations, interned with Senators or spent the summer taking film-making classes at prestigious arts colleges. I was a little miffed. I can remember filling out application after application for jobs and internships in New York, Washing-

ton, Columbus (!) – you name it. Nada. Luckily, this was before the auto-industry tanked and I could still save my summer with a second-shift summer job at Marysville's Honda plant. I'm not even sure they still offer those jobs to students anymore.

I start with that little story not to complain about where I come from, but to



Gary (right) pictured with former Ambassador to Russia, John Beyrle, in Kaliningrad. Ambassador Beyrle served in Russia from July 2008 until January 2012, and participated in the “reset” of US-Russian relations as several arms control and economic agreements were made.

relate to the rest of us who don't have a shoe in the door, a Congressman as an uncle or the opportunity to perfect our French on family trips to Paris every winter. Not everyone of us is fortunate enough to have these things – but if you are reading this, chances are fair that you are in a position to fight your way there. I came back to Ohio State after that summer and graduated Summa cum Laude three years later with three separate BAs in Russian, French and International Relations with a Minor in Economics. The total credit hours were something like 378 out of the 181 needed to graduate, (after the switch to semesters I believe the total has gone down to an adjusted 253.26 -

whatever .26 of a credit hour means). With grades like these, I was able to get a few internships while I studied. I interned part-time for US Senator Sherrod Brown in downtown Columbus, I translated Spanish media for Mondokio News, interned with Ohio Homeland Security and even spent some time as a Foreign Leader Analyst in nearby Hilliard during my Junior year (I had a car for that one).

How did this happen to me? How does a kid go from working in a factory to interning with a US Senator or at the US State Department like I did the summer after graduation? I guarantee you that I'm no smarter than you are

and if you have read this far, then you certainly have a greater attention span than I do. I didn't even come from a swanky private school with a winning football team (sigh). And I'm definitely not particularly gifted or intelligent. What I am, though, is a middle-middle class worker. I work hard. I go to bed later than my room-mates. I wake up earlier than they do, and I make my education and grades a priority. That's where it starts. That's how you get those internships that lead to jobs. If you don't have a foot already in the door, you make one.

You read the books, you get the grades and you work at it. Interviewers can



Gary (third from right) with Russian military personnel during the May 9th parade in Kaliningrad. “Russians love the May 9th celebration. It's like their 4th of July!”

see if a person is a hard worker – you don't need to wear a sign on your back saying it – just be you and do your work (whatever it might be). Unless you were born with a fancy last name, no one is going to send you a magical email offering you that internship you've been drooling over if you haven't earned it first. You need to put your time in. Build your resume: get the grades. You know this.

Since graduation, I've completed an internship with the **US Ambassador to the UN**, completed a **Fulbright English Teaching Fellowship in Russia** and begun my first year at **Georgetown University's worldwide top-ranked**

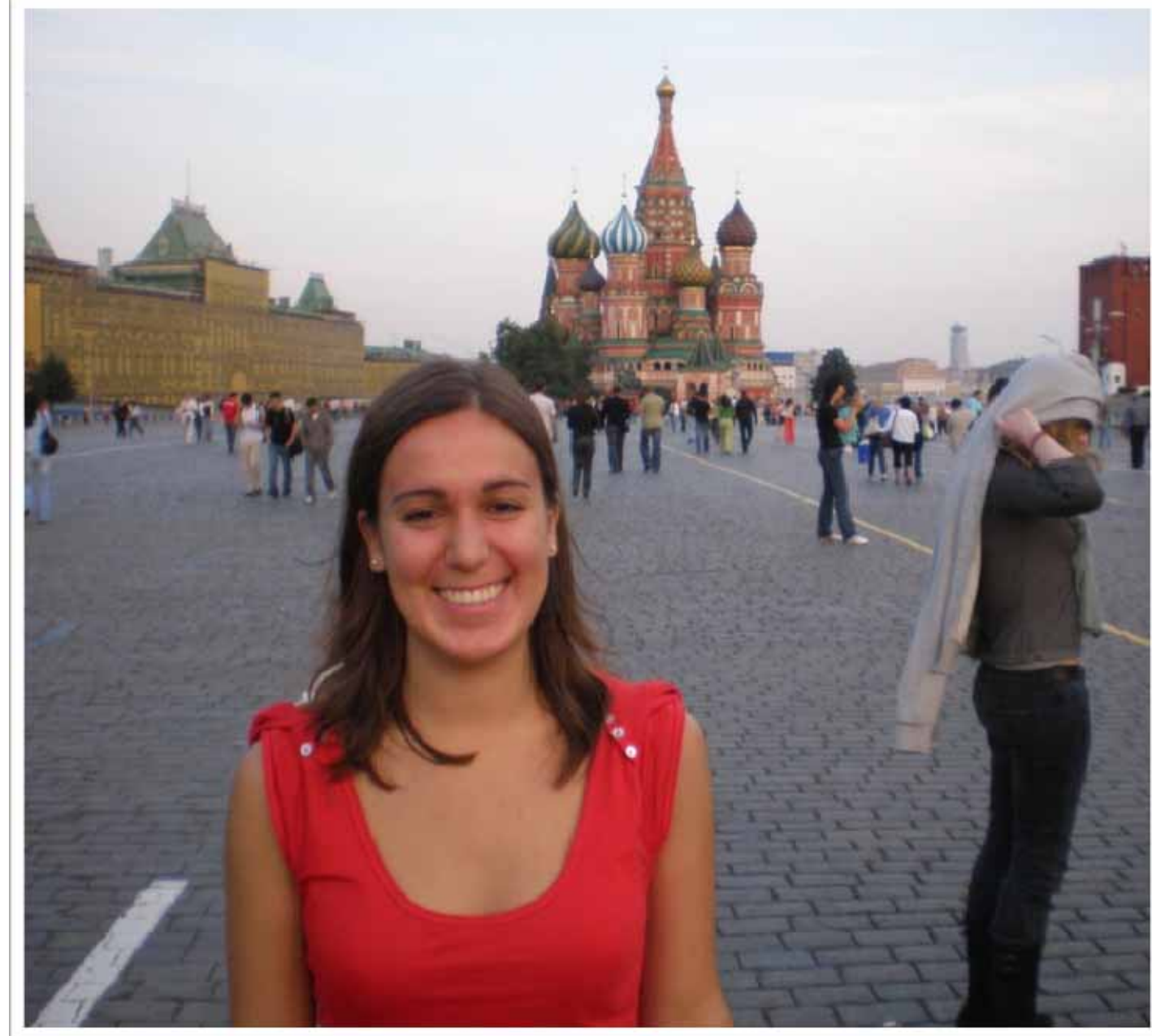
Master of Science in Foreign Service Program (MSFS) in Washington, DC. I intern part-time with the US Agency for International Development as an e-Intern. I work part-time at the McDonough Business School and haven't missed watching a Buckeye game all season. But I still think back to one special moment that reminded me how special Ohio State is. During the only campus visit I made as a high-schooler to OSU (I only applied to one school), one of the speakers talked about Ohio State's size. “Yeah its big,” he said, “you can really get lost in here.”

Other universities were smaller and

like small boats, easy to maneuver. Ohio State on the other hand, “...is large and clunky like a battleship. But believe me, she is one *Hell* of a battleship.” I don't remember who said that, but it always stuck in my mind. You're in the right place. Get up. Start reaching for what it is that you joke with your friends about. That thing you've convinced yourself that you can't do because you aren't so-and-so's kid or because you aren't smart enough or good enough. The first person to convince is you. “

CENTER FOR SLAVIC & EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES, Assistant Director

Eileen Kunkler (2007)



Eileen Kunkler in Red Square while interning at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, Russia. Eileen began her studies in West European Studies, but later became interested in Russia and Eastern Europe after studying abroad in Russia.

Eileen Kunkler graduated with a major in West European Studies, and minors in Italian and Russian. While an undergraduate Eileen had the pleasure of participating in a short-term study abroad program to Russia (Modern Russian Culture & Society), which sparked her interest in Russia and Eastern Europe.

She then went on to pursue MA degrees in Slavic and East European Studies and Public Policy from the Center for Slavic and East European Studies and the John Glenn School of Public Affairs at OSU.

During her graduate studies, she interned at the State Department in the Moscow Embassy for one summer

where she helped to draft the Russian Human Rights Report. She also studied at Saint-Petersburg State University.

Currently she works as the Assistant Director for the Center for Slavic and East European Studies where she oversees their federal grants, master's program, and events and activities.

HERITAGE FOUNDATION, Researcher

Jessica Zuckerman (2009)



Jessica Zuckerman studies homeland security, with a concentration on Latin America, as a research associate in The Heritage Foundation's Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies.

Zuckerman researches and writes on issues such as border security, counterterrorism, immigration reform, democratic institutions and the rule of law. A contributor to research papers as well as posts on Heritage's rapid-response blog, the Foundry, she also appears on radio and television programs and in print media.

Before joining Heritage in 2009, Jessica was assistant to Matt A. Mayer, a Heritage visiting fellow and former Department of Homeland Security official who is president of an Ohio-based firm that consults on public policy. She helped research his book, "Homeland Security and Federalism: Protecting America from Outside the Beltway" (Praeger Security International, 2009).

Zuckerman received a master of public administration degree with an emphasis in federal policy from George Washington University in 2011. She also holds a bachelor of arts degree in Spanish and international relations and diplomacy from Ohio State University. She is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa

Society and Alpha Epsilon Phi. (source: Heritage.org).

"After graduating from Ohio State in March 2009 with a BA in International Studies and Spanish, I left Columbus to move to Washington, D.C. The idea was to move here to attend graduate school at George Washington University, but the world seemed to have other plans for me. I had interned in D.C. the summer before, and when I ran into my old boss he rather spontaneously offered me a job. And the rest was history. I have been at The Heritage Foundation now for a little over

three years. Today, I am our Research Associate for Homeland Security and Latin American Affairs, working on issues such as counterterrorism, immigration, and border security. I didn't forget about graduate school either. After deferring my enrollment for a semester, I began studying at the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration at George Washington University, ultimately receiving my Masters in Public Administration with an emphasis in Federal Policy earlier this year.