Iraqi Ambassador Visits Campus

By Miles Taylor ’06

When I came to IU, I had no idea that I would be organizing speeches for foreign ambassadors and eating dinner with CIA operatives.

One day we were a group of students interested in talking about national security and the next we were planning panels with high-level government officials.

Student Alliance for National Security, known as SANS, has had a breakout year, organizing campus events on issues ranging from the war in Iraq to the spread of nuclear weapons.

SANS is a non-partisan organization with the goal of making students more aware of national defense and global security issues.

In April, we brought Feisal Istrabadi, the Iraqi Ambassador to the United Nations, to campus for a lecture on the war in Iraq. The event drew hundreds of students and faculty.

The month prior, we invited to campus four top U.S. officials to discuss growing nuclear threats from Iran and North Korea. The speakers included former Assistant Secretary of State Avis Bohlen, U.S. Ambassador Donald Mahley, former chief of CIA covert operations in Europe Tyler Drumheller, and Arms Control Association Executive Director Daryl Kimball.

How does SANS do it?
We have fantastic faculty advisors—retired CIA officer Gene Coyle and law professor David Fidler, also a member of the Center for Arms Control and Non-proliferation.

And, we have received tremendous campus support from organizations like the Global Village.


---

Digging Up the Past in Mesoamerica

By Chris Williams ’06

This summer I will experience first-hand my dream career—archeologist.

As part of an IU study abroad program I am traveling with anthropology professor Anne Pyeburn and a team of students to the village of Crooked Tree, Belize, where I will participate in the continuing excavation of the ancient Mayan city of Chau Hiix.

The work will be difficult, as is the case with most manual labor, but an amazing learning experience. In addition to seeing firsthand how archaeologists interact with local populations, I will be involved in site survey (finding likely spots to dig), mapping, excavation, and cataloging finds—learning from Professor Pyeburn and the graduate students as I go.

Go figure—I have the chance to discover the secrets of this often obscure profession in the rainforests of Belize and earn credit to boot!
When Right and Left Meet

By Chase Cooper ’06

After several spontaneous discussions of politics in the hallways, some of us thought it might be fun to meet regularly to talk about the important issues facing the nation and the world.

Deciding to meet every Tuesday evening, we cleverly named our group Tuesday Night Political Issues Discussions. Each week we examined issues from the traditional liberal and conservative perspectives, seeing why the Right is right and the Left is wrong (just kidding… sort of).

Attendance regularly topped fifteen, and we covered topics such as the environment and global warming, the War on Terror, education, race relations, welfare, and whether the US should invade France (just kidding again… sort of).

The discussions were a good opportunity to solidify personal beliefs and values, while considering new and different points of view.

We’ll continue our discussions in September, and even those who won’t be living in the GV again are welcome to join us. If you’re interested in finding solutions to the problems facing our generation, we’ll continue our discussions in September, and even those who won’t be living in the GV again are welcome to join us.

“Villager” Plays Doctor in Honduras

By Carmen Cronin ’06

Traveling to rural Honduras to provide medical care to children and families isn’t exactly what most students have in mind when thinking of spring break. But, that’s just what I did with the IU Timmy Foundation, a student organization that provides health care to developing countries.

With a brigade of doctors and nurses, we set up clinics where we saw roughly 400 patients over four days, treating simple ailments and providing vitamins, pain relievers, anti-parasite medication, and hygiene products.

People walked for hours to see us, as there was no other medical treatment available. My role was as translator, explaining care to patients who were mostly illiterate.

The poverty I witnessed on this trip and the experience of being able to help alleviate it, however little, have deepened my desire to pursue medicine and provide care to those most in need.

IU Timmy sends brigades annually to Honduras and the Dominican Republic. Get connected by emailing timmycf@indiana.edu.

Deep

The Global Village is thrilled to announce that Gene Coyle, a 30-year veteran of the CIA, will be joining us this fall as the instructor for G321: Intelligence and National Security.

Coyle arrived at IU in 2004 as part of an outreach program with the CIA. Now retired, he is an adjunct professor for SPEA and the College of Arts and Sciences, where he has taught courses on the history of intelligence and its use in foreign policy.

Some of you know Gene from the time he has spent in the GV, most recently at a meeting of the Tuesday Night Political Issues Discussions. He is also the faculty advisor for Student Alliance for National Security (see front page).

An IU alumnus, Gene
GV Students Take S.T.A.N.D. Against Genocide

By Rebecca Burns '05

Indiana’s chapter of Students Taking Action Now: Darfur (STAND) began in 2005 with a group of GV students concerned about the genocide taking place in Darfur, Sudan. More than 400,000 civilians have been killed in a standoff between the Sudanese government and rebels.

Indiana STAND believes that the U.S. can bring about a durable peace in Darfur by using its diplomatic and economic leverage. We pressure our elected officials to take a more active role in Darfur. We have met with Senator Lugar and organized call-in days regarding important legislation. STAND had a major success this year when the state of Indiana passed legislation forbidding investment of its pension funds in companies operating in Sudan.

STAND believes that there is meaning behind the saying “never again,” which so many leaders have repeated in the wake of the Holocaust. But, people must act on their conscience in order to make this saying a reality. Learn more at www.standnow.org/.

New Years Take Two, Tibetan-Style

By Melissa Dittman ’06

After the Chinese invaded the Himalayan country of Tibet in 1959, forcing tens of thousands of Tibetans into exile, the Dalai Lama’s brother settled in Bloomington where he started a small but active local Tibetan community.

For the second year, the Global Village teamed up with Bloomington’s Tibetan Cultural Center, Anjentsang’s Little Tibet Restaurant, and members of the Tibetan community to celebrate Losar, or Lunar New Year—the most important holiday in the Tibetan calendar. Students got a “taste” of Tibet, sampling Tibetan dumplings (aka momos) while watching the film Kundun about the early life of the Dalai Lama.

Dr. Yangbum Gyal brought the reality of Tibet to life talking about his experiences as a refugee. On the metaphysical front, a lama (meaning “respected teacher”) from the Tibetan Cultural Center led a discussion about Tibetan Buddhist philosophy and meditation.

The culminating event was a trip to the TCC where we welcomed in the Year of the Fire Pig by participating in a Tibetan Buddhist dance circle, afterwards enjoying traditional Tibetan food, music, games and art.

“I thought I had a general understanding of the situation in Chinese-occupied Tibet, but this week I realized it has been limited to my ability to recognize Free Tibet bumper stickers.” - Sheryl Sabandal ’06

The GV Welcomes Jeff Holdeman

Jeff Holdeman has been appointed director of the Global Village Living-Learning Center for a five-year term, beginning August 2007. He replaces Herb Terry, who served as director from 2003 to 2007.

Holdeman joined IU’s Department of Slavic Languages and Literature in 2002 as a Russian language instructor and coordinator of the Slavic languages program. He has also served as its undergraduate advisor. He received a PhD in Slavic linguistics from the Ohio State University in 2002.

Holdeman is a self-proclaimed lover of languages, having studied fourteen in total. His research, which takes him to Eastern Europe, focuses on Russian Old Believer communities. Some of you will know Jeff from his Q199 Russian micro-lessons and his GV talk on Russian superstitions.

In his free time, Jeff enjoys performing vocal and guitar music from Eastern Europe and beyond.

Jeff Holdeman will be director of the Global Village beginning August 2007.
Sufism, Anyone?

By Kasia Rada '06

Alisha loses her Arabic book – no problem, Chase from down the hall is in her class. Over dinner Ben and I try to pronounce “SaHiiH.” Matin and I spend an hour talking about Arabs, and another on Afghanistan. Brainstorming a theme for an Arabic event at the GV, Isaac—who lived in Bahrain – proposes Sufism.

My obsession with the Middle East inspired me to get involved with anything Arabic on campus. This is easy since the department is small. There’s always a familiar face in the Associate Instructor office. I go to a lecture on Islam and know I’ll find someone to sit with.

So, when NELC asked me to help organize GV screenings of Arabic movies I jumped at the chance. Other events soon followed. A painting demo with visiting artist Abdul Mussawir. A Turkish Night organized by Alan Hearth.

And what of Isaac’s suggestion we put on a Sufism-themed event? Why, it became a standing-room only Sufi musical performance with complimentary Middle Eastern fare from Restaurant Turkuaz.

Q199—As Boring as it Sounds?

By Beth Taber '06

Each fall new GV students take part in Q199, aka “Q,” a course designed just for them. Meeting once a week with your fabulous peer instructors – such as yours truly – we engage in discussion about the most important issues affecting our world today.

Yes, it’s a class, but it’s nothing like those lectures where you might know one other person. In “Q” you get to know everyone, which helps make this humongous campus seem just a tiny bit smaller.

And, because “Q” meets in small sections it also gives you a chance to speak openly and honestly about the topic du jour. Human rights in Haiti and Iran, contraception in Latin America, the dalits of India, AIDS in Africa were just a few of the issues explored this past year.

The issues can be controversial at times, however – so, it’s important to keep it friendly.

In “Q” you have the opportunity to broaden your mind and learn to see the world through others’ eyes. Isn’t that what living in the global village is all about?!
Helping Children with Diabetes

By Brooke Riggles '06

As the days get hotter, my trip to Ecuador nears. In June I am traveling to Quito, Ecuador with the charitable organization American Youth Understanding Diabetes Abroad (AYUDA) to counsel children with type 1 diabetes, a disease I was diagnosed with at age 9.

Along with 20 other volunteers and a staff of medical professionals, we will run a 7-day diabetes camp. The goal of the camp is to help participating children cope with having insulin-dependent diabetes and teach proper care.

Volunteers each pledge to raise at least $3,500. $750 covers training and travel, and the remainder pays for at least 3 children to attend the camp. Additional funds go toward supplies, such as insulin and syringes for the children.

Three weeks prior to departure volunteers attend a training camp where we learn how to work with children and receive intensive Spanish language and culture lessons.

To say I’m excited is an understatement. I can’t wait to put my Spanish to good use and, hopefully, make a difference in the lives of these children.

Chicago in a New Light

By Weston Macklem '06

When I was told that the GV was going to Chicago, I thought, “Been there, done that.” Well, I had never done Chicago like this.

I pictured chaperoned museum tours, overzealous teachers and lights out by eleven. But, as we were dropped off in front of the Sears Tower, it was as if we’d been given the keys to the city. Finally, we had crossed the threshold from the halls of high school musical to collegiate bliss.

Oh sure, we had an itinerary – World Trade Center of Chicago, Mexican Museum of Fine Arts, Second City Comedy Club (including an Italian dinner!), the Art Institute, a tour of the city’s ethnic neighborhoods (including a great lunch in Chinatown!), the movie 300 at IMAX – but, essentially, we were on our own, even while doing these things.

In college, I’ve come to realize it’s not about what you’re doing, but rather, with whom. In Chicago, I was with people I enjoy and who I know are going to have a good time no matter where we are.

While you may think you’ve already done the Chicago thing, don’t dismiss it just yet.

A Fond Farewell to Herb Terry

Herb Terry will complete his term as director of the Global Village in June 2007 after seeing the community through its start-up phase.

Herb has had a long career at IU. He joined the Department of Telecommunications in 1974. As a specialist in media law and policy Herb has worked to promote freedom of expression in places where those are new ideas, including Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, China, and Tajikistan. He holds a PhD in Mass Communications from the University of Minnesota.

Herb was appointed director of the Global Village in 2003. His mandate was to make the GV a reality by coordinating building renovations recruiting the first class, hiring staff, and engaging students in international living.

Under Herb’s leadership, the GV has doubled in size and become a vibrant place for students to pursue their international interests. For four years Herb has dedicated himself to the GV and its students and it will certainly be different without him. I know all of us wish him the very best.
La Vie Aixoise—Notes from the South of France

By Lisa Ferguson ’04

Not only was the frequency of sunny days in Aix-en-Provence, France an adjustment, so was the lifestyle. Instead of meetings and homework, my new hobbies include reading in the park, chatting with friends at the cafés, and relaxing at a cozy tea house. Yes, I’ve learned the art of managing free time while in the south of France.

Mornings start with a stop at the open air market where you can buy fresh fruits and vegetables, spices, clothing and souvenirs. Cafés are filled all day long with people relaxing over espresso – no weak American coffee here. American students quickly become addicted to things like Nutella crêpes and chèvre (goat cheese that tastes good on almost everything). And, nightlife is not limited to the weekends by any means.

Sadly though, the price of having a good time can be steep for foreigners – Aix is as expensive as Paris. Luckily, students can scrounge for discounts on things like movies or arrange affordable day trips with a local group called Students in Aix. And, travel throughout Europe and north Africa is incredibly cheap on the low-cost airlines.

Now, I know it all sounds like fun and games, but we still go to classes. University in France is dramatically different than in the U.S. Classes last 2 to 4 hours and are lecture-style. Interaction with the professor is limited. There is also very little homework, which means that when papers are assigned you better get it right the first time – grades are posted for all to see.

I’ve come to realize something about study abroad – enjoy every moment. Each conversation, each excursion, each day is unique. Before you know it, it’s time to go home!

Lisa Ferguson on a visit to Paris while studying abroad in Aix-en-Provence, France.

Lisa will be in Nanjing, China next fall.