

International Studies Newsletter

PRODUCED BY THE INTERNATIONAL STUDIES STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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DR. RICHARD MARCUS

Director, International Studies Program

We live in challenging but exciting times. Never before have the problems we face in the U.S. been so dependent on solutions that transcend boundaries. What is "international" or "global" today is viewed from a very different perspective than even five years ago. A decade ago Robert Mundell won the Nobel Prize in economics for his work on monetary policy, paving the way both for the Euro and for supply side economics. In 2008 it was won by

Paul Krugman for his insights into how trade policy works not globally but at a regional level. In a demand-side turn, in 2009 Elinor Ostrom was co-recipient for her work on economic governance of natural resources. Clearly our world has shifted rapidly. Yet even while the world is less flat, our sense of our role as global citizens has reached new heights.

CSULB has worked hard as a university to meet this challenge. It created the position of AVP for International Education, transformed study abroad in a more encompassing Education Abroad, and new technologies allow us to bring classrooms from around the world together. International Studies is at the center of this genesis. The requirements sometimes feel arduous: in addition to the 45 units for the major students learn another language, study economics, and either study abroad or undertake an internship of significant international content. As a result, however, International Studies students have powerful tools in their toolbox as they enter graduate school or the global workforce.

Even while International Studies has "tightened" its requirements the average GPAs of majors has increased overall. Twenty percent of 2010 graduates will finish magna or summa cum laude. The total number of majors has also increased. Student interest in the vexing international issues of our time has driven the program to grow more than 300 percent in just a few short years. For the first time in Fall 2009 International Studies reached 200 majors.

Despite its increased size International Studies remains a student-driven major, introducing



DR. MARCUS & HIS ADORABLE DAUGHTER
AT THE HAITI BENEFIT BREAKFAST

(Continued on page 2)

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new initiatives to meet assessed needs. In Fall 2009, for instance, we introduced an International Careers Workshop. Ninety students attended. Students continue to diversify their regional interests and more and more are seeking multiple international experiences and the opportunity to learn third (or more) languages. New courses have been added and high demand courses – Introduction to International Studies and the Senior Seminar – have seen the number of sections increase. Given the financial challenges driving the shrinkage of course sections college and university-wide this is an indicator of broad support International Studies enjoys.

Students have also worked hard to the benefit of the Program (making it easier for it to serve them). The International Studies Students Association has become an envied student group with fantastic accomplishments. Students have begun forming a true International Studies student “culture” that is a joy to experience.

In Spring 2009 International Studies welcomed a new Advisory Board (Vincent del Casino, Chair of Geography, Teresa Wright, Chair of Political Science, and Raul Reis, Chair of Journalism). It also welcomed Professor Julie Weise to the core faculty. She brought with her boundless energy, great expertise in immigration issues, a Latin American specialization, and tremendous analytical abilities. In just one year her efforts have become so fundamental that it is hard to imagine how International Studies survived without her. In Fall 2009 International Studies welcomed Professor Bipasha Baruah to its core faculty. Professor Baruah switched academic homes from the CSULB Geography Department where she was already playing a pivotal role for International Studies students. Now her expertise in development issues, her knowledge of South Asia (amongst other regions), and her infectious passion has grown within the Program to the service and delight of our students.

For the past two years the International Studies Program has conducted focus groups and surveys of students, studied “best practices” in International Studies across the country, and discussed potential with other departments and administrative arms of CSULB. Heading into 2010-11 International Studies is embarking on a significant program change working towards further focusing the major on professional outcomes. While in some ways this increases demands on students, it will transform the program from an already successful approach to international education to a cutting edge pedagogy that other International Studies Programs around the country are likely to study and

emulate.

I came to CSULB because of the International Studies Program. I couldn't be more proud and humbled. I am deeply privileged to have the opportunity to work with such remarkable students and faculty. Thank you all for the opportunity to live, grow, and learn with such passion.



A NIGHT FOR HAITI

THREE HOURS FILLED WITH
FOOD, MUSIC, AND ART

On April 9, 2010, the International Studies Student Association, the French Club, RGRL, and the Geography Department of CSULB hosted a benefit that was held at the Soroptimist House on campus. At this event, over \$2,000 was raised on ticket sales alone. All of the proceeds are being sent to rebuild Le Petit Train, a primary school that was destroyed by the earthquake in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Marie Henriette Lafontant, the owner of the school, hopes to rebuild Le Petit Train by September of this year. Our guest speaker, Gina Vela, grew up with Marie Henriette. She enlightened us with her stories of her childhood experiences in Haiti, and also her most recent visit in the aftermath of the recent earthquake. A performance by Beach Bollywood energized all to put on their dancing shoes and spend the rest of the night listening to music of another fellow CSULB student. Overall, “A Night for Haiti” was a success, time enjoyed with friends for a notable cause.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM ANIGHT FOR HAITI

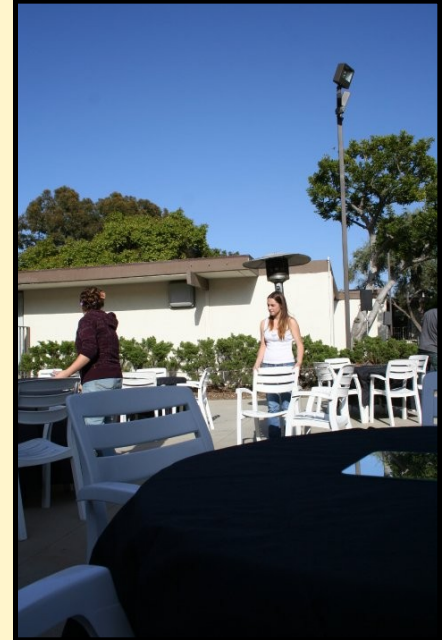
THE INTERNATIONAL STUDIES STUDENT ASSOCIATION PLANS TO ORGANIZE AN ALTERNATE SPRING BREAK TO VISIT *LE PETIT TRAIN* NEXT YEAR. IT WILL BE A REWARDING EXPERIENCE TO SEE *LE PETIT TRAIN* REBUILT WITH PART OF THE MONEY RAISED FROM THIS BENEFIT.



SUCH BEAUTIFUL POETRY

MUSIC
THE BARRELHOUSERS

JAZZ COMBO BY
PRESTON WINGROVE,
JUSTIN RATOWSKI , &
ROSS DAVIDSON
WWW.LISTENTOJUSTIN.COM



THE TEAM HARD AT WORK



VOLUNTEERS

PERFORMANCES
BOLLYWOOD PERFORMERS OF
CSULB
LIVE ARTIST PAINTING
POETRY READINGS

FOOD
CATERED BY DOMENICO'S ITALIAN
RESTAURANT IN BELMONT
SHORES

SILENT AUCTION
PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS FROM
LOCAL AND STUDENT ARTISTS
DONATIONS FROM WINE COUNTRY



SILENT AUCTION SET-UP

WE MADE NEWS

The Daily 49er wrote two pieces on the event
Check them out at daily49er.com

This was the first large scale fundraiser for ISSA

NOTEWORTHY STUDENTS!

Advancement of Women Student Award

Jenna Sutherlin

Exceptional Student Achievement Award from the College of Liberal Arts

Omega Letana & Lia Nitake

I/ST Outstanding Service Award

Lindsay Duvall

I/ST Outstanding Student Award

Erin Brosterhaus

I/ST Distinguished Student Award

Exceptional Student Achievement Award from the College of Liberal Arts

Paolo Lamalza & Valentina Duque Mojica

CONGRATUALTIONS TO:

Erin Brosterhaus

Valentina Duque Mojica

Lindsay Duvall

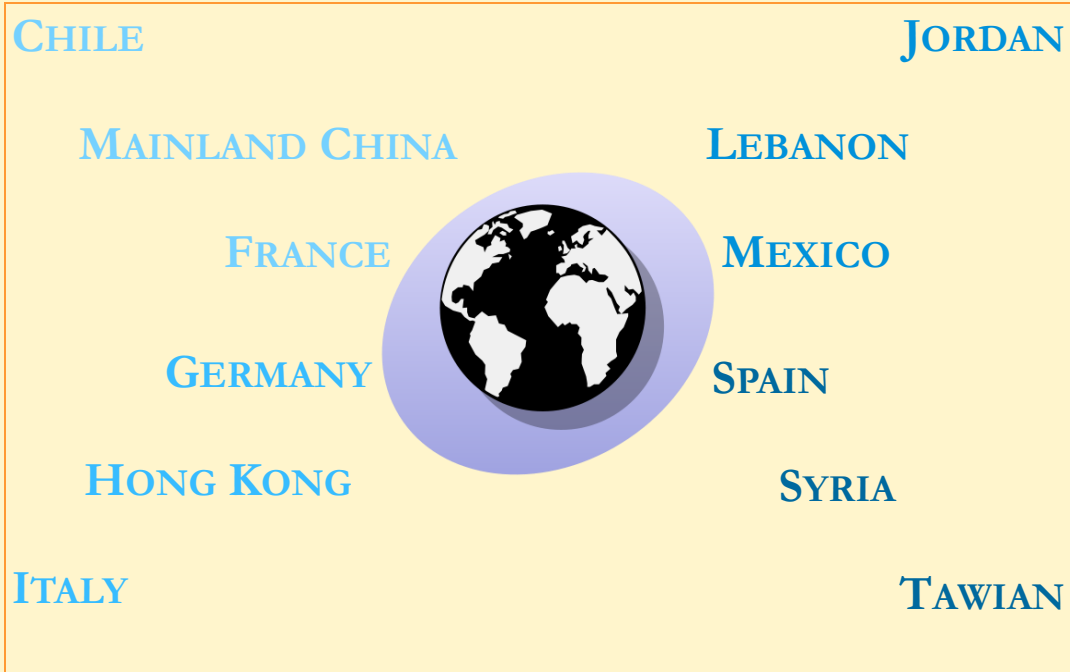
Paolo Lamalza

Omega Letana

Lia Nitake

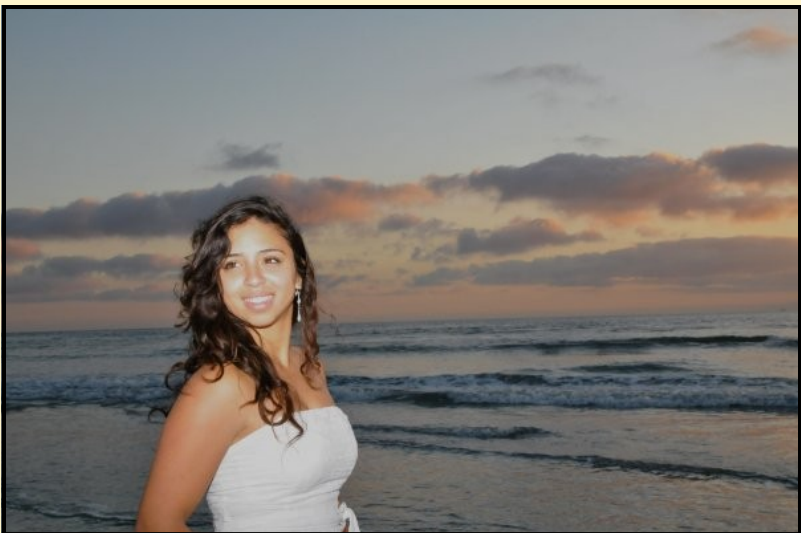
Jenna Sutherlin

A DOZEN PLACES WE HAVE BEEN...



STUDENT CLOSE-UPS

VALENTINA DUQUE MOJICA



Valentina Duque Mojica is graduating from I/ST with an emphasis in Western Europe. Although she has studied Europe, specifically France, for a long time she wishes she had more time to study in Africa and Latin America. Her favorite classes at CSULB were I/ST 200 (Introduction to International Studies) and I/ST 320 (Migration and Modernity). Her fondest memories involve the friendships she made in I/ST, including being a part of the International Studies Club, making bracelets for Invisible Children and having potlucks at various students' homes. She loves hiking, reading, and dancing, and visiting her home in Cali, Colombia. After graduation, Valentina will be getting a state certificate for legal interpretation, and plans to attend law school.

ERIN BROSTERHAUS

By Deanna Lam
Senior, East Asia

Erin Brosterhaus has always had a sure foothold on her future. Her interest in the Middle East started early, and guided by serendipitous meetings with the right people and her faith, she has completed a highly successful college career as an International Studies major, concentrating in, what else, the Middle East and North Africa.

Her journey here at CSULB has concreted her faith in God and has given her "a driving desire to show love to people all over the world, and to see people work together for positive change." I/ST has become a forum for Erin to connect with others from different cultures.

Speaking to Erin, I was immediately struck with her passion for humanity and her intelligence. When I asked if her life experience has helped her approach I/ST differently from others, she responded, "I have come to see that there is no 'better' or 'worse' way of doing things. Culture should not look upon others and criticize. We need mutual respect and cooperation, and eyes that see others as equal and equally worthy of success and happiness in life."

Erin's future will be as bright as her college career. She sees herself working in the faith-based non-profit sector working either in or with issues that affect the Middle East or Africa. Grad school is a possibility for Erin, but she is sure to find herself in Egypt or anywhere in the Middle East.

Erin is passionate about her relationship with Jesus Christ, and feels he has brought her to I/ST thanks to his love, and inspired by him she has begun this journey, this "love affair with humanity." She wants to thank him for "giving me the strength and passion necessary to complete this task, and also to thank all the people who have helped and encouraged me along the way. I am excited to see the journey ahead."

And so are we all. Congratulations to Erin Brosterhaus for winning this fully deserved award!

OMEGA LETANA

ERIN BROSTERHAUS TOPPING OFF IN EGYPT



Omega Letana is an International Studies major with a concentration on Asia. As a child, she lived in the Philippines. While growing up in Asia, she always had the desire to explore and learn about other Asian countries. She believes it is very important to focus on Asia because it is be-

coming more visible now. During Omega's years as an I/ST major, her favorite class out of the International Studies program was I/ST 200 (Introduction to International Studies). Even though this course was challenging at times, she gained a significant amount of knowledge about the world. One of Omega's favorite memories through her college experiences was the time her friend and her first attended the "I/ST Welcome Party." Unfortunately, they got off at the wrong bus stop and walked ten blocks to Dr. Marcus' house,

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but the experience was worthwhile.

One of Omega's hobbies outside of International Studies is wrapping presents. She enjoys every opportune moment to wrap presents. She enjoys watching Asian dramas and dreams of being able to speak the languages in the shows. Omega's life experience has helped shape an approach to international studies that is different and unique from others. She witnessed what it was like to grow up in poverty, living in one of the poorest regions in the Philippines. She has been able to compare that kind of poverty to what she is able to have in America. It was not until her family migrated to the United States, she realized people from the United States and the Philippines had little knowledge about each other. She believes that it is important to be aware of the way others live in different areas of the world. After graduation, Omega plans to join the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program and teach English in Japan. After she returns, she plans to attend graduate school.

**P A O L O
L A M E L T Z A**

Paolo Lameltza will graduate Summa Cum Laude this year, just one of his many achievements during his studies at CSULB. He has placed his efforts into the Debate team on campus, Young Leaders conferences, and has proved an exemplary addition to the Model UN organization on campus. He has travelled extensively throughout Latin America and Europe. He is a native speaker of Spanish but is also fluent in Italian. In addition to being an I/ST major, Paolo also minors in Italian. He is very interested in Amnesty International as his choice organization, which suits him perfectly as he lists International Politics, Foreign Affairs, and Human Rights as his pursuits and interests.

**L I A
N I T A K E**

Lia Nitake is an International Studies major whose hard work and distinguished characteristics have set her apart as a recipient of the Exceptional Students Award in I/ST. She is deeply interested in the history of Western Europe and is interested in her French language studies. Her favorite class in the I/ST program was I/ST 490. Though she feels the research paper was grueling, she enjoyed using the knowledge she gained through the program to explore and research a topic she was interested in. Her passions include figure skating; this amazing hobby has provided her with the opportunity to travel to different countries and has inspired her interest in I/ST. She has skated competitively for 15 years. She is a five-time national medalist and has represented the US in international competitions. Before she joined the major, she studied kinesiology. She is currently a figure skating coach and enjoys helping her students achieve their goals. She plans to begin work in intelligence analysis, and she certainly counts graduate school as a possibility in her future. She feels that I/ST has helped her understand global issues from new perspectives. Her studies abroad in Paris and her visits to the former concentration camps in Auschwitz, Poland have greatly shaped her view of history, different cultures, and cultural legacy. Her husband and former skating partner, who hails from Ukraine, has influenced her understanding of I/ST by sharing his experience growing up in the Soviet Union and providing alternative perspectives to her views of foreign issues.

STUDENT CLOSE-UPS



Lindsay first gained interest in International Studies as major by peering into the course list, she states that “the more classes I took...the more I knew I knew it was for me.” As a Latin America Concentration Graduate she will be able to focus her interests on the developing world. In her lifetime she aspires to work in well established non-profit organization in the fields of gender development, education, and youth empowerment. Her fondest memories are of the eclectic ISSA meetings where so many different opinions were voiced, and dreams explored.

**L I N D S A Y
D U V A L L**

Lindsay is currently climbing the job market mountain to see what future lies on the other side.

LINDA ALKANA FACULTY SNAPSHOT

Though many of our seniors have become familiar with Dr. Linda Alkana just this semester, she has been teaching I/ST for nearly a decade, since it was merely “an orphan in the Geography Department.” She was educated at UCLA and received her masters and PhD at UCI. Her World History training, love of travel, and her admiration of other cultures have brought to I/ST a measure of experience and wisdom. Students instantly perceive her approachability, her vivacious and energetic nature, and her passion for her students and her subject. She has been fortunate enough to have been born Canadian, so she feels “comfortable with students who have an interest in the world beyond their borders.”

This year, Dr. Alkana was an esteemed speaker at one of our I/ST Student Association meetings, and her words and her passion as a social activist have inspired

our club members to organize, to make change. Her Rebels and Renegades class (HIST 303I) is a remarkable capstone class that was offered this semester, and her experience growing up in the 1960s in a time of great social activism has instructed her teaching and her worldview.



Oftentimes, we students learn endlessly from our professors without realizing the impact we make on them at the same time. “International Studies students have educated and energized me with their plans,” she says, ranging from “surfing all the beaches of the world with an I/ST degree” to being the “first female President of Panama.” She feels that the strength of the major has always been its students, and has had the great pleasure of working with them. As our seniors graduate this May, many of whom have passed through her guiding hands in their last class as CSULB students, we too can say the same.

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!

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THOUGHTS OF THE FUTURE...

The International Studies Student Association hopes to expand in the future, offering workshops and creative programs to help strengthen the I/ST community. We hope to offer our first ever Freshman/Transfer Orientation in Fall 2010, providing new students with much needed information regarding curriculum, language, study abroad programs, and student life & diversity. The orientation will be organized by seniors and alumni volunteers who can provide the students with advice on curriculum paths to better suit their needs. With such a diverse major it will be the first opportunity for the new students to make friends and meet new people. The conversation has begun about an *Alternative Spring Break in Haiti*, hopefully pushed through faster because of ISSA's recent Haiti fundraiser. We hope that our students will be active participants. We also have high hopes that the students will be able to perpetuate our new relationship with Le Petit Train, a primary school in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

ISSA, as an organization is relatively young, and we still have a lot of room to grow. We hope to continue to provide a forum for academic enrichment and creative thinking. We have high hopes for the program in the future.



DONATIONS ACCEPTED

Two thoughts should come to mind while reading this little paragraph: one, how easy it is to forget about the institutions that helped one achieve their goals; and two, how by making even the smallest donation would perpetuate the same experience of higher education to the next generation of International Studies Students looking to reach your position. Any numerical value will directly go to the program and related I/ST events.



ISSA THANKS YOU!