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About ISSA

Reception to follow immediately afterwards in USU-303


Join I/ST after the graduation ceremony for the Senior
Showcase and a reception to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates! across the country and the world. The leading French paper Le Figaro ran an article entitled "La Californie au bord de l'abîme fiscal; Gravement endetté, l'« Etat doré »en est réduit à proposer une hausse des impôts... par référendum." ("California on the verge of fiscal abyss; Deeply in debt, the "Golden State" is reduced to propose a tax increase ... by referendum.") It began: "Description of a shipwreck: schools laying off teachers by tens of thousands; courses have been removed from public universities, forcing students to stay in college several more years to get a degree; courts and councils are closed two Fridays per month; queues at post offices are growing as the windows close; gas prices have soared; whole neighborhoods are emptied of their inhabitants, victims of foreclosures; roads and infrastructure is deteriorating; four cities have filed for bankruptcy and have neither fire nor police officers, unable to pay..." This is hallmark of how all local is global as much as the inverse. This headline might have reflected even worse on our great state than the Malaysian headline the same week: "Bintang The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills itu berkunjung ke bangsal labu Mr Bones di barat Hollywood, California." ("Star of The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills is a visit to Mr. Bones pumpkin barn in West Hollywood, California").

Here at CSULB we all waited for November 6th with baited breath. In re-

Dr. Richard Marcus, President F. King Alexander, Dr. Elaine Haglund, and Sharon Olson celebrate international education at the opening reception of CSULB's Global Studies Institute on April 10th, 2013.
"Aumentare le tasse per salvare la scuola public. Il provvedimento è stato approvato in un referendum col $54 \%$ dei voti favorevoli e $46 \%$ contrary," (Raising taxes to save the public school. The measure was approved in a referendum with $54 \%$ of votes in favor and $46 \%$ against.) read ItaliaOggi on November 8th even if more papers around the world were wrapped in a different California headline ("Bryant lidera la primera victo-

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ality, we knew, it would do little to restore funds. What it would do is stop the bleeding and level off the budget at current levels. Perhaps more importantly, it would create a "new normal." A "normal" in which there isn't enough money to serve student needs but at least we would know what the budget would look like and we could plan accordingly. Closely related, we could stop spending so much time on meetings discussing the moment and the emergency and instead discuss far more promising program planning.


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 , always anticlimactic when a major event doesn't make things get better-it just stops them from getting worse. Nonetheless, there was an immediate impact on our International Studies Program as we began to plan.The budget has impacted I/ST course offerings, but they have done little to dampen the success of International Studies students. The program continued to experience modest growth even while the number of students in the university shrank, and has even had to take measures to slow growth for fear of being able to serve student needs. Study abroad experiences have never been so diverse with an increasing number of students traveling abroad more than once. Language acquisition has continued to diversify. With two-thirds of employers surveyed putting global competencies as one of their highest hiring priorities, International Studies students have used this to distinguish themselves. I/ST students graduating this May have begun accepting job offers and graduate school acceptances. Some are planning on Peace Corps or Teach for America. Others have non-profit jobs and private sector jobs lined up. Many are headed to graduate school with acceptance to such schools as American University, George Washington University, Georgetown University, UC Santa Cruz, and UC Irvine. Of course, many grads-to-be are still looking for that great job. As stressful as that is, they can take solace in the fact that nationally International Studies majors are faring better than students from 80 percent of other majors and currently have less than a six percent unemployment rate overall.

In September 2012, Provost Don Para signed The Global Studies Institute into existence. This was made possible through the generous Elaine Haglund Global Studies Endowment. If any of you have ever met Dr. Haglund, you know that she is an inspiration in International Education. The mission of the Institute is to serve the university through a mission to "Make 'International' Integral To What It Means To Be Educated." This is not direct support to I/ST, but it is a real opportunity for International Studies to serve as an incubator of sorts for international pedagogies and tools. The Institute office is across campus in AS-303, but I/ST provides the institutional support and I serve as the inaugural director. We are all very excited indeed!

International Studies faculty members have had a tremendous year. Elizabeth Philipose has been on professional leave to work on her book; she also developed a new course that will be offered for the first time in Fall 2013: Ethics of Globalization. Julie Weise had her book, Corazon de Dixie: Migration and the Struggle for Rights in the U.S. South and Mexico, 1910-2010, accepted by a leading academic press in her field, completed it, and expects it to come out shortly. She also got married. Matthew Rosenbaum, an international social worker, was already a part of the I/ST family via his participation in International Careers Workshop. I started my year in the summer with language studies in Quito. I took my first exam in more years than I care to say. It didn't go well. Every professor should have to go through such a humbling experience once in a while to be reminded of what students go through! I then enjoyed a sabbatical in the Fall term where I published two articles on water policy in Madagascar and finished my book, The Politics of Institutional Change in Madagascar's Third Republic.
> "With two-thirds of employers surveyed putting global competencies as one of their highest hiring priorities, International Studies students have used this to distinguish themselves."

International Studies has also benefited from amazing affiliate faculty: Nathan Gonzales is a scholar of Iranian ethno-politics. Linda Alkana is an historian focusing on popular culture and political protest. Tom Frazier is an urban geographer who studies security habitation in Berlin. Norma Chinchilla is a scholar of social stratification in Latin America. Arlene Lazarowitz is a scholar of Jewish influence in American Foreign Policy. Angela Hawk, investigates a transboundary comparative history of insanity and institutions in the nineteenth-century throughout the Pacific Rim. Sandra Gruner-Domic examines migration and gender and the process of representation and identity in transnational context. All have made enormous contributions to the International Studies classroom.

Alas, we have some goodbyes in Spring 2013. Dr. Julie Weise will be leaving CSULB for a new position at the University of Oregon. I told her that as her friend and colleague I couldn't be happier for her. For a variety of reasons it is the right move for her and Matt. But, as Director of International Studies I am in deep denial, Dr. Weise has been a driving force in I/ST for several generations of students. Dr. Linda Alkana is retiring this semester. She will also be greatly missed. Those of : know her warmth, passion, and compassion as well as her immense student dedication. Dr. Alkana has taught I/ST 490 Senior Seminar since long before I arrived at CSULB. She was central in the reformulation of the course several years ago and : has been a beacon for :our students and grads alike. If 2010-2012 at CSULB : could be characterized by a search for a way to stop the bleeding, 2012-13 can be characterized by a deep breath. Given the knowledge that we face longterm austerity, but known austerity what do we want to do about it? Who do we want to be? What should we look like? International Studies is taking this same breath. We have an advantage in that we have always been lean with the smallest budget per major in the College of Liberal Arts. This efficiency means we don't need to face some of the hard decisions others are having to make. Faculty have an impressive reputation of bringing in external funds for research, teaching, and program development. The new Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, David Wallace, has been a great partner as we look towards faculty, program, and other resource needs. The International Studies faculty and I will continue to develop innovative programming, serve student needs, and ensure that students graduate with the same tremendous education that has led to such high levels of success in graduate schools and in the work force. The 2013-14 Academic Year will be characterized by change and renewal across campus. In International Studies, we will be rethinking, reworking, and reimagining the best ways to deliver on the educational promise we give. I couldn't think of anywhere else I would rather undertake such a project. I came to CSULB because of the International Studies Program. Even after all of these years I wake up in the morning with joy as I think about coming into work. I relish the early hours of the morning when I get to ask myself the driving question "what are they learning" and follow up with efforts to create and innovate programming that will both excite and serve students. I am so very proud of all that our students accomplish, and I am deeply privileged to have the opportunity to work with such remarkable students and faculty.


## Outstanding Professors

Nominated by ISSA members and IST students for being inspiring professors

## Dr. Julie Weise <br> By Leonardo Godoy, Junior

Dr. Julie Weise will sadly be leaving CSULB at the end of this semester for the University of Oregon. Aside from this new venture, Dr. Weise is almost done revising her first book, Corazón de Dixie, about Mexican immigration within the American South since 1910. She has loved traveling all over the South, to places like Mississippi and Arkansas and has also been able to dig into archives finding that there is a long history of Mexican immigration to those places. Since teaching at CSULB, Dr. Weise has been inspired by her students and the I/ST program to move in more global directions. Plans for her next research project will also explore migration in Europe and Asia as well as the Americas. This stems from her humbling beginning after college.

Right after college, Weise worked a summer job while living rent-free was able to save an ample amount of money. She then bought

a one-way ticket to Mexico City, wanting to perfect her Spanish and knowing that moving abroad would be the only way to do it. When she arrived in Mexico, she enrolled in a Spanish class and started looking for work. She soon found work as a reporter at an Englishlanguage newspaper, then had the opportunity to interview then president's special advisor for issues related to Mexicans living abroad, Juan Hernández. This led to her being hired as his researcher and speechwriter, extending her time in Mexico to exactly 23 months after she had arrived.

She admits that many times being away can be lonely and frustrating, but she looks back on those two years knowing that they were a special and irreplaceable time in her life. She considers herself very lucky not to have debt from her undergrad, which would have made it harder to move abroad. She encourages those who have similar goals
to save up some money and give it a try.

Dr. Weise's advice to her students is to "remember when you are job-hunting that your foreign language skills, study abroad experience, and internship are the things that set you apart. If you speak fluent Spanish and Korean, you should plaster that fact on your forehead." She believes that I/ST majors start to think that everyone has traveled the world and speaks multiple lan-guages-but that is just in the "I/ST bubble. Even in 2013, people with true command of a foreign language are rare in the USA. Find the jobs and internships that require language skills and you will automatically be competing in a small pool. Yes ${ }_{3}$, even if your language is Spanish!"

As the study abroad advisor and as a beloved professor of I/ST, it is no doubt that her students feel privileged and lucky to have gotten to know her this semester before she leaves. Her knowledge is seemingly endless, and she presents it with grace and a scholarly effort. Let us not take for granted the influence she has made at CSULB and with I/ ST. Her students wish her the best of luck in all that she plans to do. Let us raise a glass to Dr. WeiseMuchas gracias, profesora! Salud!■


## Congratulations on 30 years at The Beach!

The International Studies Program, faculty, and students wish you the happiest of retirements!

History Professor \& International Studies Senior Seminar Advisor

## Distinguished Senior Thesis

Recognition for outstanding senior thesis, mainly based on strong critical thinking and analytical writing skills

## Nanna Aoyama

By Britney Ralston, Senior
Nanna Aoyama is an I/ST major here on campus, with a regional concentration on East Asia. Nanna chose East Asia as her concentration to gain an in-depth understanding of her Japanese heritage, along with Japanese world relations. Through this thirst for knowledge as well as conversations with her grandmother, Nanna was inspired to write about Japan for her senior thesis. Dissecting specific topics of " $\ldots$.the US occupation, first generation baby-boomers, and war brides," Nanna constructed "Homogeneous Nationalism and Globalization."

Nanna thanks her favorite professor, Dr. Julie Weise, for her constant support in the writing process. The senior seminar class served as an opportunity for Nanna to really get to know Dr. Weise, while simultaneously exploring Japan and developing her writing skills. On a more personal level, Nanna was truly touched when Dr. Weise


Nanna is receiving the Distinguished Senior Thesis "ward for her outstanding work on her paper entitled, "Homogeneous Nationalism and Globalization."
showed concern for her family in Japan after the recent tsunami.

Like many other I/ST majors, Nanna shares a love for traveling. She took one year off of school to
pursue work as an airline attendant. Through this experience, she got the opportunity to visit many popular travel spots, with London being her favorite destination. Nanna often joyfully reflects on this rewarding traveling experience with hopes of future travels, including visiting the Circumpolar North to see polar bears!

Nanna has truly enjoyed her time and education at the Beach. Her favorite class was U.S. and Japan Relations in the 20th century, being able to once again have the opportunity to explore a part of her heritage. Nanna constantly makes the effort to follow a multifaceted array of news sources, and her advice to I/ST students is to "stay curious!" With so much out there in the world to learn, let Nanna's adventurous spirit be an example to all I/ST students, as well as all those she will come across in her bright future.

## Outstanding Service Award <br> Recognition for service to department, college, university, or community

## Ojaala Ahmad

By Kelsey Solomon-Dowsey, Senior
"If you have a great idea to help benefit the people around you, whether they may be your constituents, local community members, or refugees in another country, don't hesitate to act upon it." This inspirational advice comes from Ojaala Ahmad. Ojaala is a passionate and self-less individual, who aims to serve those who are in need, and is surely making the world a better place day-by-day. Through I/ST classes and traveling abroad, she has developed a global perspective in which to critically analyze the best possible ways to help the world.

Ojaala's favorite professor here at CSULB was Dr. Richard Marcus. "He is an amazing professor and advisor. He is a wealth of information and is always very welcoming of all people, of all backgrounds. He is very supportive of his students and all the positive activities they are involved with."

Due to the rigorous coursework and intellectually stimulating topics, Ojaala greatly enjoyed her classes within the I/ST major, and
she speaks for all I/ST students when she says "Intro to International Studies was much more comprehensive and rich than most upper division courses" here at CSULB. It was through these informative and eyeopening I/ST classes, as well as various internships, that Ojaala developed a vision to live a life of service to the underprivileged, wishing to help out in any way she can. She is determined to pursue a career that will allow her to "help close the social and achievement gap by working for causes in social and educational justice."

Ojaala is a seasoned traveler, having explored many places around the world including Japan, Thailand, Pakistan, Singapore, and the Philippines. Despite these trips being for leisure, she has learned about the interconnectedness of the world and of humanity as a whole.

The day after graduation Ojaala plans to rejoice! She feels privileged to be amongst the $6.7 \%$ in the world who have an undergraduate degree.


Ojaala encourages students to voice their concerns on current tuition hikes on Global Day of Action. "It's shocking to think that a great majority of the world doesn't have something as essential as a college education. I am extremely grateful and humbled to be so fortunate." It has been through her education that Ojaala has recognized this fortune, and there is no doubt that she will do her part in allowing for the same opportunities for the people she will one day help.

# Outstanding Student Awards 

Recognition for strong GPA score

Allison Kielhold<br>By Santiago Ivan Perez, Sophomore

Allison is one of the most outstanding and kind International Studies majors in the program. Whether she is Couchsurfing through Panama or playing Ultimate Frisbee, she is sure to bring joy and kindness to any occasion.

Besides playing Ultimate Frisbee, Allison loves to travel and advises future students to do it as much as possible. Sometimes one has to take chances while traveling, like in Costa Rica when Allison and her roommate decided to take a leap of faith during "Semana Santa" and Couchsurf at a stranger's house in Panama City. They had no idea what it was going to be like, but after their host picked them up in his pick-up truck and crossed them over the Panama Canal, they were both surprised to see that he had a private beach property. They ended up spending a few days on a wonderful beach for free, all the while were able to meet fellow travelers and locals.

Allison says her favorite class at CSULB was Kinesiology 121, a
sailing course due to the idea that "you can't spend every day in the classroom." As far as her favorite faculty, it is a tie between Dr. Weise, Dr. Gonzalez, and Dr. Marcus. She
 learn more.
es combined. The ability these professors have to facilitate interesting discussions really inspired her to

In the future Allison hopes to be traveling, as many of us do, but she also would like to do this while working in the area of human rights. After graduation, she has a busy schedule as she is looking into working within the field of labor rights or with a fair trade organization. This summer she is going to be part of a full-time staff of a non-profit organization called Sierra Service Project in Smith River, California. The organization works alongside volunteers to do minor Allison (second from left) with other students during a visit home repair projects for to Nicaragua.
community members in need. Allison's kindness
loved attending their classes and felt like she learned more from these knowledgeable professors than she did from all her other CSULB cours-
and willingness, along with her many other skills, are sure to one day make her an important advocate for human rights.

## Therese Weed

By Joanna Rosales, Junior
There are diverse reasons why students choose International Studies as their major. For Therese Weed, it was the fascination of different cultures that drew her to the program. Therese has traveled to Mexico, Rome, and London, and she does not plan on stopping there. Her most recent travel consisted of
a three-week cross-country road trip from Spokane, WA to Gainesville, FL, where she appreciated learning of the history of various foreign cultures and their influence on American culture.

Balancing and organizing school is tough already, and as a double major in Italian Studies, Therese uses volleyball as her primary way of de-- stressing from school. She mentions that what terrifies her most if she moves to Italy is not being able to play and watch volleyball regularly. Therese is currently waiting to hear from a program called SITE, which places recent American university graduates of Italian as English teaching assistants in Italian high schools. She also aspires to join Teach for America or to return to Southern California to work for a nonprofit in the region. Though she expects to travel, close family ties will ensure that she will not be abroad for long periods of time.
Therese at Oak Alley Plantation, Louisiana during a cross country roadtrip, Summer 2012.

Therese sincerely believes that the I/ST department comprises some of the best pro-
fessors at CSULB. She is completely appreciative and inspired by the accomplished female professors she has encountered, including Julie Weise, Bipasha Baruah, Mercedes Guilliaum, Sienna Hopkins, and Clorinda Donato of the Italian department. Therese's advice to the juniors who are feeling intimidated by writing a thesis next year"Don't be afraid!" I/ST 490 encouraged her to reignite her love for writing and also gave her a chance to gain different knowledge from her peers. On inquiring about her career goals and where she sees herself ten years from now, Therese has difficulty envisioning where she will be. She is interested in women empowerment, refugee assistance, and the fight against sexual violence. She hopes to have a dynamic career working for a nonprofit, and it is likely that she will be back in her hometown in Washington or working somewhere new on the other side of the country. With conviction, Therese states, "My career goals may not be very specific, but 1 am certain about one thing: I must spend my life helping others.'

# Distinguished Student Awards 

Recognition of on criteria important for IST: study abroad experience, leadership, writing skills, GPA

## Nare Tevanyan

By Nathaniel Cruz, Senior
Nare Tevanyan graduated from CSULB last fall and was fortunate enough to take some great classes in her undergraduate career at CSULB. Her interest in International Studies began in I/ST 200 with Dr. Marcus. "I enrolled at CSULB with my major declared and feared that I would dislike it. I received one of my first moments of validation in this course. Although it was extremely challenging, I realized that I loved the topics we discussed in class. Dr. Marcus had a way of prodding us just enough to get us riled up about certain topics. This class was the perfect combination of grueling and gratifying." Although a hard choice, Nare says her favorite undergraduate professor has been Dr. Igmen. "I have never met anyone so genuinely vested in their student's success as Dr. Igmen; not only within the confines of his classroom, but also in their careers and future endeavors."

When asked what advice she would give to fellow students Nare says that internships are essential. She says, "they don't need to be


Nare enjoying her time in Moscow.
directly related to your future career, rather they will help you figure out what you don't want to do. To future employers or educational institutions these experiences indicate in depth interest and understanding of the role you want to have in your field." Nare's dream job is to be a Foreign Service Officer in Eastern Europe.

Nare's talents transcend the classroom; she is quite the dancer and she has taught Salsa and Bachata on campus and at local Latin clubs in Long Beach upon joining the Salsa Club at CSULB.

Congratulations to Nare on her future endeavors and her acceptance into Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.!

## Samie Blasingame <br> By Nathaniel Cruz, Senior

Samie Blasingame began her undergraduate career at CSULB in 2008 and quickly found her place in the International Studies Program after realizing she wanted to travel the world. Upon completing her undergraduate career she will have already been to Amsterdam, London, Paris, South Africa, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Puerto Rico and Cuba. A veteran traveler like Samie has gained a lot of experience in her time abroad, "I have many travel stories- like waking up to giraffes and lions in South Africa while volunteering at the Lion Park in Johannesburg to being robbed in the outskirts of Lima, Peru." Lessons were learned all over the world, describing Machu Picchu as more spiritual than she could have ever imagined, and when working with the Buenos Aires Zoo in Argentina she reflected on "the importance of being connected with our environment." Samie has
been able to gain influence from these experiences, as well as through meeting the amazing people she has encountered abroad and at CSULB alike.

After graduation Samie will be traveling with her family to Hawaii before moving to the Netherlands to begin an internship in June. She will be working with a group of lawyers at the International Tribunal Court for


Quintessential Samie at Machu Picchu, Spring 2012.
the former Yugoslavia in The Hague where she will stay for at least a minimum of three months. After that she will be considering a move to Spain where she has applied for a position as a North American Language and Culture Assistant through the Ministry of Culture and Sports. As of now and depending on her experience in the International Court, Samie sees herself practicing law with a focus on social justice issues. If not law, she sees herself working as some kind of community organizer where she can continue to use her leadership skills to inform and empower people to fight for what is right.

Samie encourages other students to make the most out of our time at CSULB by taking advantage of all the campus resources available at our fingertips, and to also soak up all the knowledge our fellow peers and amazing professors have to offer. "You should never forget that the university was made for you, and you should never hesitate to reclaim it in every way that you can."

## Thank you for reading the International Studies Newsletter!


"The ISSA continues to impress. Their level of energy has brought prestige across campus to their efforts and to international studies. I really don't know how I could possibly lead the Program without ISSA's verve, vigor, and vision."

- Dr. Richard Marcus

JOIN US ATT OUR LAS'T GENERAL MEETING<br>Tuesday, May 7 th from 3:30-4:30 pm in SSPA 111 ELECTIONS \& POTLUCK Officers needed for 2013-2014!<br>Contact us: istassociation@gmail.com www.facebook.com/csulb.istassociation



The International Studies Student Association was created to help both majors and non-majors talk about and get more involved in the world around them. We provide an open forum for discussion in a fun and friendly atmosphere, as well as connect faculty, alumni, and students for increased networking opportunities. We are here to educate students in a global context, embrace diversity, counter ethnocentrism, and promote international education! We have also had the opportunity to support international philanthropic organizations, such as the U.S. Campaign for Burma, Invisible Children, the Le Petit Train School in Haiti, and the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. Contact us to learn more about how you can support or get involved in your university organization, the ISSA!

## DONATIONS WELCOME!

Your donations allow the International Studies Program to bring lecturers to campus, to put on I/ST related events, and to sponsor students for our Annual Awards Banquet. We realize that in this economic downturn, money is tight, but any amount you have in your budget for us would be greatly appreciated. Please send checks addressed to the CSULB International Studies Program to:

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## ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A FIFIH GRADER: INTERNATIONAL EDITION



Wednesday, May 8th | 5-7pm CSULB, in ECS Rm. 105
sth graders from several local schools competing against CSULB I/ST students in international studies based categories
WH( WILL WIN?

## Newsletter Contributors

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