



Graduate Student Research

Nicholas Coronel-Viteri is completing a Masters thesis in International Studies based on his field research on the Brazilian Landless Peasant Movement in Brazil. He holds undergraduate degrees in International Relations and Biology from his home country of Ecuador, and is also completing a concurrent MA degree in Community Regional Planning.

From Poor To Peasant: The Struggle for Land and Human Dignity in Brazil

By Nicholas Coronel-Viteri

Brazil is the largest country in Latin America, with 8.5 million square kilometers and a population of more than 175 million people. It is also a land of profound contrasts: on the one hand, Brazil is one of the ten largest economies in the world, allowing for a small percentage of the population to indulge in luxurious consumption paralleled only in the "first world;" ten percent of the richest Brazilians own 49 percent of properties in the country. On the other hand, ten percent of the poorest Brazilians do not own even one percent of the properties in the country, death squads attempt to eliminate the 8 million street children of Brazil on a daily basis 3 million children work, and 10 million Brazilians are unemployed. Thirty-two million of Brazilians earn less than 30 dollars per month, and 51.4 million live with a salary of less than 60 dollars per month.

Slavery and land tenure have fundamentally shaped the history of this country. Brazil was the last Latin American country to abolish slavery in 1888; throughout 358 years of slavery, millions of African slaves were brought there. As of today, it has the second largest black population in the world (Nigeria has the first). After slavery was abolished, blacks were unable to own land, and the best lands were given to the white migrants that arrived to Brazil from Europe (Italy, Germany, and Poland in particular). Since this period, land tenure became a fundamental problem of Brazilian society, a problem that has not been solved even today.

MST: 20 Years of Land Redistribution
A movement that is attempting to resolve this situation is the MST (*Movimento do Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra*), or as it is known in English, the Brazilian Landless Peasant Movement. Many scholars and activists believe that the MST is the largest and most important social movement of its magnitude to appear in the world in the last two decades. Since its formation as a movement in 1984, it has provided 15 million hectares of land to more than 350,000 Brazilian families. This movement has struggled for a systematic and comprehensive agrarian reform for Brazil, where 46 percent of the land is owned by 1 percent of the population. More than that, however, and under the slogan "for a Brazil without large landholdings (*latifundios*)," the MST calls for a profound transformation of the current neoliberal economic model, imposed on

Brazil by the FMI and the World Bank. The MST provides land to its members by organizing urban and rural citizens in *acampamentos* (known as *lona preta*, or black plastic, because of the material used to build the minute shacks in which people live) on haciendas throughout the country. People live in these *acampamentos* from one to three years, until the government legalizes their situation by buying the land from the hacienda owner and "upgrading" the *acampamentos* to *asentamentos* (where land ownership is individual) or *agrovilas* (where land ownership is communal). The requirement imposed by the government on both the *asentados* and the residents of an *agrovila* is that they cultivate the land. In the *acampamentos*, people are educated about the movement and the struggle for land and equality in Brazil; they also hold peaceful marches throughout the towns and cities of Brazil, requesting their rights to land ownership. At the *acampamentos*, people not only encounter very difficult living conditions, but the possibility of being eliminated by the armed forces of the landowners who, supported by the police and the government, have committed more than one brutal atrocity against the members of the movement. Once an *asentamento* is formed, the peasants start to farm the land, with the aid of agricultural technicians who are also members of the movement. These technicians teach organic agriculture and animal raising. The MST also works closely with other Brazilian movements

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that struggle for radical changes in their society, with the goal of transforming some of the many inequalities of the country. Over its years as a movement, the MST has made diverse and significant achievements in education and training, production, organization, and advocacy. The movement has also developed alliances with other Latin American rural movements, including the Latin American Congress of Rural Organizations (CLOC).

An Internship in Turning People's Lives Around

I had the outstanding opportunity to work with the regional MST in Porto Alegre (Rio Grande do Sul) from March to July 2003, as part of my International Studies internship. As an intern, I worked closely with technicians, leaders, and members of the MST in the small *agrovila* of Cimarrao (this and all other names are pseudonyms), composed of 30 families. I lived with a family in the *agrovila*, worked the land, learned about organic agriculture, and participated in meetings and marches during my stay there. The *agrovila* was a good example of the successful efforts of the MST: its members were formerly peasants whose land had been taken away by large landowners, but they were also carpenters, mechanics and former thieves, alcoholics, drug addicts, or people without any particular skill. They were viewed as the "scum" of society, who were willing to turn their life around in order to become part of the MST and start a new life as peasants and community leaders. My friend Vanderberg, who was a former alcoholic without a profession or future in neoliberal Brazil, particularly touched me. He had been working with the MST for seven years, had been alcohol-free during that time, and was a strong enthusiast and supporter of the movement. He commented to me that he was able to change his life around because, more than anything, he wanted his children to remember him as a dignified human being.

The "scum" of society were now skilled workers who produced milk, vegetables, grains, and raised chickens, pigs, and cattle for their own consumption and to sell on the market. Building on my previous anthropological training, I felt the need to develop comparisons between this example of successful land tenure and earlier stages of development of the MST. With that in mind, I visited and stayed in *acampamentos* and *asentamentos* throughout the state of Rio Grande do Sul. At the *acampamento* "Justicia," for instance, I stayed with single mothers, entire families, elders, and young people in small spaces

of 3 to 4 meters long to 2 meters wide (the *lonas pretas*). In these small shacks, people live, eat, sleep, but more importantly, fight for human dignity, for a piece of land that will give them the opportunity to improve their living conditions, and the future of their children.

One of the things that impacted me the most about my experience in Porto Alegre, was having interaction with white peasants, who had formerly lived in extreme poverty. I think that without realizing it I had internalized the postcolonial reality of my home country, Ecuador, in which people considered "white" are not poor and are not peasants. In Brazil, the poor came in all different colors (although statistically speaking, the majority of people living under conditions of extreme poverty are indeed black).

MST Brings Message of Hope to World's Dispossessed

Working with the MST was a life-changing experience for me. As a person born and raised in Ecuador, I have been in close contact (and experienced myself) with poverty and injustices. At times, I have felt that there is no hope to solve the ills of our "third-world" nations. The MST brought back my hopes and desire to struggle for social justice. The level of social consciousness, support and reciprocity of the people who were members of the MST and lived in these sites impressed me. They saw themselves, not as individuals struggling for their own rights, but as members of a larger and more important collective. I also found that the movement emphasized the fact that the capitalist system-and not necessarily the weakness of an individual-caused incidents of drug addiction, prostitution, or crime on individuals, and they offered hope for the transformation of the individual within the collective, based on the notions of reciprocity, comradeship and solidarity. The MST brings hope for Brazilians, but also for Latin Americans in general, and even for the world's dispossessed. It brings the message that sustainable rural development is not only possible but necessary; it brings the message that every human being has the right to aspire to a life lived with dignity.

I would like to sincerely thank my faculty advisor, Dr. Linda Fuller for her unconditional support in my experiences. I would also like to express my gratitude to Dr. Robert Proudfoot, director of the Center for Indigenous Cultural Survival, and Drs. Stephen Wooten and Dennis Galvan, members of the Thurber Fund Committee 2003, for partial funding of my research and internship.

African Studies is Vibrant at the U of O *Stephen Wooten, ISP*

Over the last several years, African Studies has emerged as a new intellectual focus at the University of Oregon. At present, professors who comprise the African Studies Committee (18 faculty members from more than a dozen academic departments and programs, from Law to Dance, as well as the International Studies Program) offer over 40 courses with at least 50% African content, spanning thirteen different departments. These classes and 23 others with 100% Africa content are consistently filled to capacity, demonstrating considerable and growing student interest in the study of Africa. These classes bring a largely misunderstood continent into clearer focus and help students develop a more complete understanding of the world's complexity and diversity. But more needs to be done. With a seed grant from the College of Arts and Sciences and matching funds from a wide range of departments, the African Studies

Committee has developed an ambitious new program designed to further enrich our students' understanding of and appreciation for the richness and diversity of Africa and its peoples. To strengthen and improve our support for the study of Africa, the program is in the process of developing innovative initiatives linked to four key academic pillars: 1) curriculum enhancement and language development, 2) enrichment of student overseas experiences in Africa, 3) the creation of new undergraduate research opportunities in Africa, and 4) the nourishment of an Africanist intellectual community. The ongoing development of African Studies at the University will have many positive results for our students, our institution, our community and our region at large. The gains will be reflected in an increased awareness of not only Africa, but of the world.

B.A. Honors Grads

It's not just our graduate students that undertake the daunting but rewarding task of thesis writing. This year, International Studies has 12 students graduating with departmental honors, and two of our students completed theses for the Honor's College. These students must earn a cumulative Grade Point Average of 3.5 or higher, and must complete a 30-50 page thesis involving original analysis. To show you some of the exciting and innovative work our undergraduates have done, we are listing below some representative thesis titles and summaries from our 2004 honors grads.

Katie Callahan "The case of jasmine rice in Thailand: an analysis of agricultural intellectual property rights under the WTO"

Sarah Dobra "Diagnosis of the Social, Economic, and Cultural Factors that Affect the Nutritional State of Children"

Kim Giusti "France's United Nations Policy Style: A Theoretical Analysis" The end of WWII, sudden termination of colonialism, and halting force that the Cold War had on the interests of any non-"superpower" nation, promptly thrust France into a position without the status and influence to which it had grown so accustomed. The loss of its world power status made its membership in the United Nations highly important and forced it to think in a more collective, global manner. The goal of this analysis is to investigate the guiding principles by which France acts through the United Nations, eventually achieving an accurate depiction of the United Nations policy style of France.

Caitlin Hendrickson "Community Based Sustainable Forest Management in Bolivia: A Three Pillar Sustainability Analysis"

Alexandra Himes-Ferris "Healing the Hole in One's Heart?: African American Heritage Tourism in West Africa" This paper is the study of five travel journals written by African North American visitors to West Africa. The journals show that African American travelers may have similar goals for their visit, which include finding a homeland, and dealing with the historical trauma of slavery. African Americans meet Africans on tour, which sets the encounter in a primarily tourist arena. The constructed nature of this primarily consumer-based method of seeing a new place is problematized here. Both groups have economic and social expectations of the other, however, my research shows there is no one group of African American tourists with identical goals.

Jaxon Love "French Anti-Americanism in the Twenty-First Century" It analyses the expressions and causes of French anti-Americanism in recent years, especially with regard to the US-led military intervention in Iraq.

Galina Mardilovich "The Political and Historical Motives Behind France's Decision Not to Support the War in Iraq"

Damon Martichuski "Changing Visions of the Thai Village"

Mary Martinez-Wenzl "Educational Equity for English Language Learners in Oregon"

Gary Metts "Universal Rights and Appropriate Violence: Who decides?" The paper centers on surveys with two Catholic groups, one in the US and the other in Italy, comparing their views on appropriate uses of violence and international human rights.

Magali Rabasa "Women, Testimonio, & Zapatismo: the Negotiation of Identity and Self-representation" Through a comparative analysis of three women's testimonios, I consider the various approaches to the representation of voice and the ways in which writers have redefined the conventions of the genre and the social sciences. Then, through an examination of Zapatista women's testimonio, I argue that there is an internal logic within testimonio that implies that the shift to unmediated, direct self-representation is an inherent goal within the general purpose.

Bradley Schallert "Water Harvesting Institutions in North India"

Michelle Swank "Funding Relationships Between Northern and Southern NGOs: Can Equal Partnerships Exist?"

Saori Yokoyama "The Effect of NAFTA and Maquiladora Women Workers in Mexico" I am conducting a study of how NAFTA has been affecting maquiladora women workers' lives at a border. I am using regression analysis to determine their wages, health conditions, immigration have been changed the past 10 years. Also, I am going to include growth and development issues remained through various case studies.

Undergraduate Class of 2003-04

Raihana Ansary ~ Silvana Arista ~ Abby Auch ~ Roby Babcock ~ Karly Bannister ~ Kelly Bauhofer ~ Erin Blanton ~ Ovid Boyd ~ Mary Kathleen Callahan ~ Szu Yu Chen ~ C.J. Cleveland ~ Renata Dantone ~ Allana De Ruwe ~ Sarah Dobra ~ Johanna Dunn ~ Allison Eckert ~ Jocelyn Evered ~ Emily Fahrenbach ~ Kimberly Giusti ~ Amanda Gow ~ Anjuli Grantham ~ Joshua Green ~ Kirstin Gunderson ~ Hanna Hall ~ Briana Harris ~ Katherine Hemmings ~ Caitlan Hendrickson ~ Alexandra Himes-Ferris ~ Mayuko Hirai ~ Emily Hodges ~ Maegan Hollister ~ Christopher Holman ~ Lisa Jacobs ~ Kendra Jensen ~ Alison Johnston ~ Elinor Jones ~ Hollee Keegan ~ Hargobind Khalsa ~ Melinda Krieger ~ Errol La Rue ~ Jessica Larsen ~ Adam Le Brun ~ Erin Lebow-Skelley ~ Cameron Levin ~ Eli Levine ~ Yi-Chen Liang ~ Man-Ling Liao ~ Yu-Jen Lin ~ Hsiao-Li Lu ~ Marya Lusky ~ Dane Mack ~ Ezra Mannix ~ Galina Mardilovich ~ Damon Martichuski ~ Mary Martinez-Wenzl ~ Amelia McCandlish ~ Gary Metts ~ Matthew Morris ~ Misa Nagaoka ~ Dion Peoples ~ Martin Peters ~ Valerie Premore ~ Jacob Prinz ~ Alyssa Pyke ~ Magali Rabasa ~ Jeffrey Read ~ William Reichman ~ Jonathan Roeyer ~ Karla Ruddle ~ Geoffrey Samora ~ Sarah Sanberg ~ Bradley Schallert ~ Gabriela Serrano ~ Teremuura Shamel ~ Michael Shuman ~ Amber Slaton ~ Colin Smith ~ Flavia Souza ~ Miki'ala Souza ~ Michelle Swank ~ Ryoko Takahashi ~ Ayaka Tanaka ~ Miki Terui ~ Drew Thompson ~ Steven Unfred ~ Rian Vaught ~ Emily Vedaa ~ Laura Verdoorn ~ Gypsy Walukones ~ Sarah Weiner ~ Benjamin West ~ Caitlin Whiting ~ Katie Wright ~ Saori Yokoyama ~ Jennifer Young ~ Ahren Zimmerer-Mazza ~ Maria Zink

Alumni Notes

Susan Hayes (MA '82) has retired from law and now she works for the Red Cross in Grass Valley, CA and teaches yoga and meditation at her own Mountain Top Yoga center in Meadow Vista, CA. She has two kids and misses Clancy Thurber every day. She did a Red Cross internship as part of her International Studies program. susane@juno.com

Janet Liana Arici (Smith) (BA '93) served two years in the Peace Corps (1996-98) in Moldova. She taught English in Istanbul from 1998-00, married, and returned to the U.S. She is currently working at the Institute of International Education in Washington D.C., as the Program Coordinator for the Hubert H. Humphrey fellowship program. jarici@iie.org

Karen Miller Harris (BA '96) was a transitional bilingual 3rd grade GATE teacher in Santa Ana Unified School District but relocated in March of 2001 to Kona, Hawaii. Now she is a mom! harris@kona.net

Kelly Baumgartner (BA '97) completed a Masters in European Studies from Aalborg University in Denmark. During his studies there he held an internship at the U.S. Mission to NATO. He is currently a Sr. Defense Analyst at the U.S. General Accounting office in Washington, D.C. kelly_denmark@hotmail.com

Brenden Williams (BA '99) Just completed a stint in the Peace Corps in Niger, West Africa where he was instrumental in getting a new well constructed for a village. Also extended stay for three months with the Carter Foundation working on a Guinea Worm Awareness program. kthorne@teleport.com

Jennifer Dunn (BA '01) lived for two years in China's Yunnan Province, doing volunteer work for a non-profit organization that provides and expands educational opportunities for bright and impoverished local students. She is currently pursuing an MA in Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii.

Catherine Gillund (MA '01) recently traveled to four Central Asian Republics; Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan courtesy of the U.S. Government, then after experiencing Central Asia she traveled to Jamaica where she floated down the river on a bamboo raft, saw crocodiles, and climbed waterfalls. She and her husband are currently living in the DC area where she is working on the Joint Staff at the Pentagon and in the summer of 2005 they will go wherever the Army sends them next. gillundjc@hotmail.com

Erin Bevard (BA '02) works in the Office of International Programs at the University of Oregon. She works with International Students, Scholars, and Faculty, assisting them with immigration related issues. ebevard@uoregon.edu

Shanti Laird (BA '02) is entering her 2nd year on the JET Program. She is an assistant English teacher in three junior high schools in Japan. It has been a great experience so far for her and she is looking forward to her next year.

Chanisa Apichatabutra (MA '03) is an instructor of special education at Rajabhat Suan Dusit in Bangkok, teaching methodology and theory to future special education teachers. She also works at a social skills training center for children with autism and learning disabilities. chanee31@hotmail.com

Sarah Dobra (BA '03) is working for Mercy Corps in Guatemala as a Project Director for a health care project.

Dion Peoples (BA '03) is pursuing his M.A. in Thai Studies at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. dion2545@hotmail.com

Yuka Sakamoto (MA '03) is currently working with study abroad students at Kansai Gaidai University in Osaka. yukas@kansai-gaidai.ac.jp

Michael Shuman (BA '03) is working with CAUSE, an economic justice group in Ventura County, California. He has been getting organizer training from Delores Huerta of the United Farm Workers, and will be attending the National Hip Hop Political Convention in New Jersey in June to "help decide the political agenda of the Hip Hop generation." shuman_3@hotmail.com

Keiko Takashima (MA '03) is enjoying her new position as head teacher in a language school in Tokyo, keeping busy teaching English and counseling students. sunnykeiko@hotmail.com

Lisa Warshaw (BA '03) is writing for "Mesoamerica", a news and analysis monthly published by the Institute for Central American Studies in Costa Rica. She is also working with Casa Alianza, an organization helping children throughout Latin America, currently performing an investigation on the number of street children that actually exist in the world. lawarshaw@yahoo.com

Graduate Student Profile

ISP students are often a tantalizing mix of idealism and community spirit all mixed up with independence and individualistic initiative. So it's not surprising that many of our grads dream of starting their own international non-profit organization, so they can approach the humanitarian issues they care about in the way they feel works best for them and for the community involved. But why would someone who has already accomplished this goal come back to school and commit to two or three more years of classes, and all that entails - homework, papers, exams, deadlines, grades?



Kristen Leadem

ISP MA student Kristen Leadem has done just that. Kristen is a co-founder of Clear Path International, which serves landmine and bomb accident survivors, their families and their communities in former war zones in Southeast Asia. After five years professional experience in international development work in Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand and Nepal, Kristen began the MA program in International Studies in Fall 2003.

Why did you decide to go back to school after already carving out a successful career for yourself in international development work?

Working in development is a lifetime career I would like to pursue. But working in the field can change you. All the administrative stuff - writing reports, writing proposals, writing evaluations - can start to turn people into numbers, or to turn ideals into donor agendas. I felt a need to understand the larger context of development, how aid works. And I wanted to do what I've been doing, only better, to give myself the right tool bag - to take the compassion and add professional skills, and some more credentials.

What has been the most challenging aspect of switching from career professional to student?

Recognizing the illusion that an MA is the answer, and remembering that creativity, perseverance and collaboration are the pillars of building answers to development. Studying instead of "doing" development has been a huge adjustment.

Has the program fulfilled your expectations?

I used to be intimidated by graduate school. Coming here was a big leap of faith, I was really crossing a comfort threshold. But I reached a point in my career when I knew I needed to take a step aside in order to step forward ... although sometimes, like in the middle of finals week, it can feel like a step backward! Some of the coursework has been invaluable, especially what I experienced in cross-cultural communication and what I've

learned about gender analysis, in particular. And I'm looking forward to applying new skills to my work with Clear Path and my internship with a larger development agency, so I can compare and contrast the different roles and different niches of large organizations with the smaller ones like Clear Path. There are so many players in the development sector, and some of them do fantastic work and receive global recognition. Some are grassroots, lower profile organizations that don't catch international attention but are, in fact, more responsive to the felt needs of communities.

The flexibility of the International Studies Program has enabled me to also pursue the Certificate in Non-profit Management in the Policy, Planning and Public Management program, which is of enormous practical benefit for things like management, program design and assessment. It's a really good add-on. And one great thing about this program is that it's in Eugene. I hadn't lived in the U.S. for five years, and I wanted to come back to this community.

What's next?

I want to go back and do development work with a clearer understanding and awareness of what's beyond what meets the eye, to think in terms of longer term impact evaluation, not just what development professionals identify as most important.

[For more information about Clear Path International, visit their website:](http://www.clearpathinternational.org)

[<http://www.clearpathinternational.org>](http://www.clearpathinternational.org)

Announcements & Events

Elizabeth Cauble, graduate student, has received a grant from the Center for the Study of Women in Society for her project titled "False Hopes? Gender Empowerment Training and Urban Disempowerment in Senegal."

Nicholas Coronel-Viteri received a CODAC (Center on Diversity and Community) Graduate Student Summer Award for his M.A. thesis project "The Conflict over Land Reform in Rural Brazil: The Movement to Sem Terra (MST) as a Latin American Alternative to Neoliberalism".

Kumi Hatano, graduate student, was selected by the Office of International Programs (OIP) as a Student Leader exemplifying excellent service and leadership in 2003-2004 academic

year, and honored at a special awards program sponsored by OIP and the Friendship Foundation for International Students.

Johanna Hoskinson received a UO Diversity Building Scholarship for 2003-04, as recognition and support for her academic year coursework and her summer '04 internship in Honduras

Ayisha Yahya was selected for one of this year's CODAC (Center on Diversity and Community) Graduate Student Research Grants. Her award will help support her this summer as she embarks on her Masters project on globalization, media and local culture in Nairobi, Kenya.

Our roving reporter asked ISP Staff, Faculty, and Students the following question:

“What book or book or movie has most helped you clarify your thoughts about the 2004 presidential election?”

Mike Viola, Graduate Student

The film *Unprecedented* documents the undermining of democracy in America during the 2000 presidential election. The film examines an election process that was flawed with electoral injustice, racism, and nepotism. My blood was boiling after watching this film. I just can't imagine how our two party electoral system is the model for democracy.



Linda Fuller, Professor

Wealth and Democracy, a 2002 book by Kevin Phillips, explores the growing gap in wealth in the U.S. Kevin Phillips could be described as a populist Republican. Also, Michael Moore's film *Bowling for Columbine* takes a hard look at violence in U.S. society. At least one major TV network has refused to air one of Michael Moore's later productions.



Thet Mar Win, Graduate Student

I learned about the US presidential election, especially this coming election, by watching interviews with politicians and authors of political books on “Meet the Press” and “Hardball with Chris Mathews”.



Dennis Galvan, Professor

Being There, 1979 film with Peter Sellers, based on the 1971 novel by Jerzy Kosinski. In this movie, a man in his 50s, who has grown up with no education or contact with the outside world, who spent his entire life secluded as a gardner on a wealthy estate, is accidentally propelled into the national spotlight. His comments on gardening are (mis)interpreted as deep aphorisms on pressing national issues, how to run a country, solve economic problems, etc. Cynical elites manipulate him to run as “their” candidate for President of the United States. The movie closes with him about to win. The year was 1979, or 1999?



Shin Ueno, Graduate Student

European Hopes See a Kerry White House, an article by Yuichi Funabashi (Asahi Shinbun, 2004 4/6), and *Bush's America: Can We Still Say We Live Together and Share Difficulties?* (translation from Japanese),” a column by Yoshibumi Wakamiya (Asahi Shinbun, 2003 10/26).



The articles present both European and Japanese perspectives on the upcoming U.S. election. Based on conversations with politicians and diplomats from various European

countries, Funabashi explains how they (the politicians and diplomats he talked with) favor J. Kerry over G. Bush. Wakamiya on the other hand alerts closeness of the contemporary political relationship between the Japanese and U.S. governments. Though he argues the importance of the relationship, he is also concerned about the Japanese government blindly following initiatives of the Bush administration over issues like terrorism. What can be drawn from these articles is the extent to which the Japanese government can remain sovereign, given that the Japanese international relation has been always influenced by the United States. Whoever gets elected, the candidates should be aware of consequences that “the U.S.-centered unipolar structure (U.S. foreign policies deriving from exceptionalism) (Funabashi)” brings to the international community.

Aaron Greer, Graduate Student

I'd have to say Jean Baudrillard's *Simulacra and Simulation* has been most informative, for this election and just about every election preceding it. Symbols of symbols of symbols.....

Gary Metts, Honors Grad '04

The movie that has helped me clarify my thoughts the most would have to be *Other People's Money* because it seems like this election is, in many ways, about big money and it is communities and families (worldwide) that will suffer depending on the outcome.

Directors' Corner

**Dennis Galvan,
Director 2004-07**
Greetings to Alumni, Grads

For almost 25 years, the International Studies Program has trained generations of students to make sense of a culturally diverse world where “development” and “progress” have different meanings depending on one’s wealth, status, gender, and sometimes color or creed. In the post-9/11 world, our mission to foster a critical sense of the complexity of social change, unearth the root causes of cooperation and conflict, promote cross-cultural understanding, and instill a deep sense of global citizenship have never been more relevant or more urgently needed.

As incoming Director of International Studies for 2004-2007, I’m eager to build on our existing expertise and resources, reach out to allies around campus concerned with international issues, and in so doing make International Studies a more complete and vibrant center of global studies and

discovery at Oregon. We already offer students much by way of understanding South and Southeast Asia, Africa, and the experience of communities displaced by imperialism and European expansion in North America and elsewhere. In the coming years, we will strengthen our existing offerings and build expertise in Latin America, Western and Eastern Europe and parts of Asia and the Middle East not yet represented in our courses and research. This is an exciting time of consolidation and growth in International Studies, and I look forward to keeping you posted on our efforts and hope to hear from you as well.

Please drop by the office when you’re in town, call or send an email to tell us about your experiences with our Program, what you appreciated and ways in which you think ISP can better serve our students, alumnae and community, both local and global. International Studies at Oregon has long been about helping students understand the complexity of the world’s

communities, even as we build our own community of present and former students who share our sense of mission in international education and understanding. Keep that connection to the ISP community and stay in touch!

*With best wishes,
Dennis Galvan*

**Linda Fuller,
Director 2000-04**
The Past Four Years

Linda Fuller, Professor of Sociology, has served as Director of International Studies from 2000-2004. As she prepares to return full time to her teaching, research and service in Sociology, she took the time to share her thoughts on her four years with us.

What are you proudest of, after four years as our Director?

I can’t really take full credit for anything that has happened, because

Donor Support

THANKS from all of us to the following folks whose generous gifts make it possible for us to go “above and beyond” in our efforts to support students, faculty, and community outreach:

Junko Murata & Lawrence Abbott ~ Kelli & Paul Adams ~ Evan Andersen ~ Heather Anderson ~ Melissa Atkinson ~ Sylvia & Russell Behrens Yamada ~ John Blickenstaff ~ Patricia Bodner ~ Guy & Shelley Boylan ~ Charles & Margaret Brown ~ Joshua Brown ~ Alisa & F. Sutton Cunningham ~ Efrain & Kathleen Diaz ~ Mary Dorking ~ James Erickson ~ Patricia Fink ~ Joseph Fretz ~ Michael Gerot ~ Bill Goldstein ~ Karen & Scott Gooddin ~ Jennifer Grambush ~ Richard Greyson ~ Gail Gunther ~ Janet & Ronald Hartwig ~ Stephanie Wood & Robert Haskett ~ Douglas Henne ~ Nancy and Georg Hortnagl ~ Kathleen Howland ~ Michael Hyams ~ Margaret Jack ~ Jorge Kara ~ Carol Kaulukukui ~ John & Patricia Kerrigan ~ Amy & John Kinard ~ Herlinda Leon ~ Siping Li ~ Louise Marandas ~ Laurie Maricle ~ Maxine Martin ~ Timothy Mitchell ~ Linda Monahan ~ Troy Montes ~ Pamila Naito ~ A. Eric Newton ~ Bud & Patricia Nicola ~ Ronald & Patricia O’Keefe ~ Jodie & Albert O’Kelly ~ Elizabeth Orjala Gerot ~ Mary & David Palm ~ Barbara Paredes-Sumner ~ Kurt Roeyer ~ Michael & Kathlee Ross ~ Jeffrey & Debora Sanberg ~ Mark & Nancy Schuman ~ Margaret Scott ~ Carrol & Carl Staley ~ Lynn Stephen ~ Ivan Sumner ~ Jane Wahlstrom Gordon ~ John & Marliese White ~ Donald & Stephanie Wickersham ~ Patricia & Joseph Wright

If you would like to help support the International Studies Program, donations can be sent to: Please specify if you wish your contribution to be targeted to the Clarence Thurber Endowment (dedicated to student scholarships and professional development) or the International Studies General Support Fund.

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I haven't done anything alone. But I'm proud of that, because I wouldn't have felt right being a Director who made big decisions by myself. I'm very proud of our students, and the graduate and undergraduate programs, which provide opportunities that students just can't get in any other department. ISP offers them exposure to a wide variety of professors in terms of the material covered and the pedagogy employed. ISP challenges students in these ways. The overseas and cross-cultural experience and internship opportunities we require are really important as well. And ISP allows students flexibility, so that they can take some responsibility for designing their own education and making the most of it.

What has been the best part of being Director of International Studies?

I gained an ever-deeper respect and appreciation for interdisciplinary academic work, and people from different disciplines working together on a day-to-day basis. I have read a lot recently by people who, after long careers in single disciplines, have come to advocate the loosening of disciplinary boundaries. It's been great to work in a place where these structural disciplinary boundaries are already fluid. This makes for a vibrant intellectual space. Being in this space has taught me many things

I did not know about Africa, about language, about indigenous peoples, about structuring a curriculum and about the process of learning itself, to name but a few.

What are you going to miss the most?

The students and the staff. I agree with many of my colleagues who find our office to be a real refuge from other parts of our jobs at the University. The staff has made it a pleasant and comfortable place to do our jobs, even the rough parts of them. ISP students are doing immensely interesting things. I've enjoyed seeing the Program help them pull together different parts of their lives, using their time with us to build bridges between their family and cultural backgrounds, their work experiences, their values, their intellectual passions and their futures. They end up all over

the globe, doing everything from health work to international banking to environmental justice work to everything in between. I doubt you could go to very many countries in the world where you could not find at least one of our graduates making a difference. And I will miss being a part of an enterprise that is constantly trying to craft and re-craft, do and re-do what in the world gets written about, taught about, and put into practice.

What advice would you give all of us as you move on?

Not to take ourselves quite so seriously. Not that what we do isn't serious or important. It clearly is. But we sometimes need to put things in grander perspectives, to try to stand in other people's shoes, especially the ones that fit us least well.



Linda Fuller and Dennis Galvan

In memoriam

Louise Thurber

We are saddened to report the passing of Louise Thurber, a longtime supporter of International Studies and wife of program founder Clancy Thurber. Louise Thurber died on April 9 of age-related causes. She was 79.



Memorial contributions may be made to the Clarence Thurber Endowment Fund at the University of Oregon, or to the YMCA.

In a different medium

Joni Offermean received her MA in Winter 2004, and is now working



for my ISP Master of Arts final project, I created a documentary video called *Nataraja-a living tradition in the U.S.* The video presents the Nataraja statue of Dancing Shiva from the perspective of three traditional Indian dancers who are living and working in the U.S. The dancers discuss Bharatanatyam, one of Indian's traditional dances, and describe

the connection between the dance form and the Nataraja image. I created the video to serve as an education module for art museums that have a Dancing Shiva statue on display. The video provides cultural context to assist viewers in understanding the meaning that the image brings to some practitioners of Hinduism. By watching the video, museum visitors will have an opportunity to witness the vibrant role of Nataraja as a contemporary patron deity of dance. This project was made possible by funding from the Ed Tech committee which provided necessary video equipment.



To view her work please visit the following website

http://joniofferman.com/nataraja_trailer.mov

Meet the ISP Office Staff

Quick - turn back to page 9 and see what Linda Fuller says about the ISP Office Staff. Because the students and faculty of ISP agree that working with the office staff in 175 PLC is one of the great things about being in ISP, we'd like to showcase the people who keep the office functional and functioning.

Tara McDonald, Office Manager



I've been with International and Area Studies since November of 2001 and have very much enjoyed working with such a diverse group of students, faculty and staff whose interests span our small planet, its people, cultures and resources. My background in and understanding of community-based economic development and local sustainable food systems has truly been enhanced by the enlightened conversations about international development, cross-cultural communication and U.S.-foreign relations that flow in and out of the office on a daily basis. The challenge of working in this type of an environment has to do with the place and time we in the U.S. are in. I see students in International Studies learning how to communicate across perceived cultural barriers and developing skills for understanding and working with "other" people in "other" places as equals in the face of mounting U.S. intolerance of, and isolation from, these very peoples and places.

Colleen Glick, Accounting Technician



My family decided to move to Oregon last year. My husband found a job with the City of Eugene and we moved here with our 13 year old son, Thomas, last summer from Northern California. I am a Political Science major but have not worked in the field in years. My background consists of being a paralegal, an assistant to a lobbyist, catering and event

coordinator, human resource and facilities manager, principal's secretary at a middle school and finally an account tech at the UO. One of the things I find most interesting about the UO are the opportunities for students outside of the classroom. It makes me wish I could go back to college again (well, without the homework) and take advantage of the wonderful opportunities that students have here. Challenges: Since my job is about paying bills and giving out money (which makes me popular by default) one of the most challenging things about working here is figuring out the "university way" of business. There tends to be a lot of rules on how we can spend our money and sometimes that can tie our hands when doing business. Positives: I work with a great group of people. Tara, Chingling and Dan are funny and warm people, who truly care about the world we live in. It makes coming to work everyday a pleasant experience. My family has fallen in love with Eugene. We love the diversity of the city, the opportunities that our son has through his school, Spencer Butte, the beautiful greenery and landscape, and even the rain.

Chingling Reed, Graduate Secretary

This is my fourth year - I'm the person who has worked in this office the longest. I like this job because every student is so unique. Absolutely unique! I learn from them all the time. I come to work every day with this anticipation - it's not drudgery at all. By nature I'm interested in people, and this is a very people-oriented job. The hardest part is having to having to enforce all the bureaucratic regulations - I sometimes feel for the students as they have to go through so much bureaucracy, but I tell myself that maybe this is just



one more thing they have to learn how to deal with before they go out into the real world and deal with more bureaucracy! My two daughters are students in college right now, and I can see them in the students I work with here sometimes. Now I expect more from students, but I am also more sympathetic. They have so many exciting opportunities - I get excited for them, and I want them to be more excited.

But otherwise I'm sort of boring, and I have boring hobbies. I play violin, and I used to play in a string quartet. Lately I keep telling myself that I should pick it up again, but music is still very important in my life - I go to concerts, and volunteer at the Bach Festival. I read, I garden, I go to movies. I don't have anything outrageous in the closet!

Editor's note: Chingling Reed was a 2004 recipient of the UO Award for Outstanding Achievement

Dan Gorman, Undergraduate Secretary

Born in Oregon and driven around the state on almost every gravel road by my parents when I was a kid. I'm a UO alum, BA 1995 Linguistics, my languages are Chinese and Spanish. My hobbies include biodiesel, track & field, I threw the hammer and shot put when I was younger and now I volunteer at U of O track meets. I've been married for 14 years, have two kids Kelsey (8) and Morgan (3), and the obligatory cat and dog. I started working for OCIAS in the fall of 2002. I think the best part of my job is working with the interesting faculty, students, and coworkers. I worked for Sony for five years after graduating and the educational environment is better suited to my style than the corporate world. I also love that I can take a class or two a term to broaden my horizons.



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Keep In Touch

Name: _____

Graduation date & degree: _____

Address & email: _____

What have you been doing? _____

A logo for the International Studies Program featuring a globe with the text "International Studies Program" and "Newsletter Spring Term 2001" overlaid.

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