



International Studies Newsletter

CALENDAR

* * *

British Tea

Tues, Jan. 29
5:00-7:00 pm
Alumni House

* *

Career/Graduate School Workshop

Tues. Feb. 19, 3:30,
Room 210 Humb

* * *

March 7, Deadline to
apply for the Caldwell
Scholarship

* *

IS FILMS

BLACK GOLD

Thurs. Mar. 6, 7:00
Room 160 Humb

&

¿Puedo Hablar?

Tues. Mar. 25, 3:30
Room 160 Humb

* * *

Panel Discussion

"The Political Situation in Pakistan"

Friday, Mar. 28, 6:00
Room 214 Humb

Spring 2008

www.southalabama.edu/internationalstudies

Concentration in Middle East Studies Approved

As mentioned in the Fall Newsletter, the International Studies Program has added a concentration in Middle East Studies. The requirements include 6 hours of Arabic Language at the 200 level, HY 365 History of Islamic Civilization from 1453, PSC 365 Politics of the Middle East, PSC 452 Mus-

lim World and 9 hours of approved electives. This is an important and exciting area to study and draws on the expertise of Drs. Husain and Entessar in the Department of Political Science and Dr. Williams in the Department of History.

Gamma Iota: International Studies Honor Society

The International Studies Program has established a Chapter of Sigma Iota Rho: The Honor Society for International Studies. Eligible students will be invited to apply next month. Members receive membership certificate, a SIR lapel pin, graduation regalia (honor cords), a copy of SIR's *Journal of International Relations*, occasional newsletters, and access to professional networks. In addition, the local chapter, Gamma Iota, will hold its own meetings and organize events on campus.

Eligibility:

- Major or minor in IS
- Junior or Senior
- Completed (or will have completed by graduation) 21



- hours in your field of study
- GPA of 3.2 overall and 3.3 in the major
- National dues of \$35

Sigma Iota Rho was established in 1984 at American University and is recognized by the International Studies Association. Today, there are over 80 chapters across the country.

IS WELCOMES

New Students...

Anthony Carver
Leslie Citizen
Tyler Covington
Lucas Draime
Heath Greene
Reina Ito
Elisheva Marks
Nanae Owada
Kelly Owens
Joshua Phillips

And CONGRATULATES

graduating students

Steven Chhem
Shoko Chida
Ayaka Nishimura
Christopher Reihsmann
Michi Saeki
Rachel Walton
Tatsuya Yamazaki

"Membership in Sigma Iota Rho is intended not only to enhance the credentials of its members, though public recognition of the best and the brightest students in international studies is one of our main purposes, but is meant to encourage a life-long devotion to a better understanding of the world we live in and to continuing support for and engagement in educational, service and occupational activities that reflect the mission of Sigma Iota Rho." (Executive Director)

IS Graduates in the Peace Corps

Josh Gibson in Romania

"Things are going o.k. so far. I really never had any expectations of this place before I got here, so nothing really lets me down. This past 9 weeks, I've been engaged in "pre-service training". Training is 10 weeks total, so by the end of this week I should be finished. I have to take a Romanian language exam and score an intermediate low, which I feel pretty

confident about. Then on Friday, I'll attend a swear in ceremony for my 2 years of service here.

The city I've been assigned to is called "Targu Secuiesc." It is smack dab in the middle of the country in the province of Transylvania. It is a small city around the carpathian basin with about 30,000 inhabitants and a 95% ethnic Hungarian composition. Because everyone speaks

Hungarian there, I was asked to take Hungarian classes which I've been doing now for 2 weeks. I like Hungarian pretty good, and hope to master it. I see it as a much more practical language than Romanian. Romanian is a grammatical nightmare. It's just interesting because it's considered by linguists to be about 93% true to Latin.

Vikki Fulton in Bolivia

One year and eight months later and I am definitely in the swing of things here in Bolivia. I've grown to feel a part of Bolivia—its culture, its languages, its food—they all make up a larger part of who I am now...more than I ever thought possible. They say the first year of your service in Peace Corps is spent discovering the inner workings of your new home. Projects start, many fail. There are numerous frustrations and doubts in your first year of service—such as, "What am I doing here?", "I'll never fit in to this world.", "Will I make any difference?", and even "No one here even needs my help!". All of this is normal. They warn you about it constantly in training. Although expected, it's no less a punch in the face when it actually happens to you. We somehow feel we'll be immune to that, almost specifically because we were so warned about it! "Oh! I've got plenty of work to do. I won't let the little things get me down." But we do. We all do. And then, something changes—almost unnoticed at first. Your second year begins and suddenly things fall into place. You feel so much a part of the culture and community that you can't remember when you didn't. Through torturous trial and error experiences that consumed your first year, you now understand what works in your community. What they want/need and what you can offer finally come together. Your mind floods with new ideas and your calendar floods with new projects, and for the first time you think about the end—your Close of Service. For the first time you realize exactly how short a two year commitment actually is. "If

only we had three...think of all we could accomplish". You begin to worry about leaving a project unfinished and leaving those people that you have grown so accustomed to seeing everyday. For these reasons, many PCV's often decide to remain in country for a third year.

I am at this point in my journey. Six months left of my service and the end is creeping near. Life after Peace Corps is a daily thought and I am clinging to every moment that remains while planning for the future. Unfortunately, outside factors are often heavily influencing on our service and although they may be fascinating, they may be utterly horrifying because they remain outside of our sphere of control. Currently, my host country is in jeopardy of complete division. There has long been great division in this country and that split now appears to be reaching somewhat of a boiling point. The recent and polemic constitution drafted by the MAS party

was born of very controversial circumstances and has already produced conflict within the country. Carnival is approaching, which seems to be holding everyone together, but the close of festivities will surely be followed by a sharp return to the realities of our political situation. One can only hope that dialogue will prevail and that this country of an amazing people, with such a long history of suffering and struggle, will learn to grow and succeed in a world that can often overlook it completely.

So here I remain, hopeful for the future of the country that I have grown to know and love over the past 20 months, while thinking of my own future. My experience thus far has definitely changed me for the best and I will surely carry its lessons with me forever.



Here, Vikki is building a worm tank. The worms produce ultra-rich, organic fertilizer that can be used in the fields or sold for almost \$10 per liter!

International Studies Internships

International Studies has placed a number of students in internships recently. **Chelsea Dean** and **Tania Morris-Diaz** interned fall semester with the Mobile International Festival working behind the scenes to organize the festival.

This spring, **Megan Partin** is doing an internship with Refugee Resettlement, **Shelley Turner** is working with the Mobile International Festival, and **Susan Sadigova** is interning with the State Docks.

My internship with the Mobile International Festival was the highlight of my semester. I met a lot of great people, was exposed to cultures from all around the world, and got to be a part of something big, not to mention educational, for the Mobile community. The work skills and the friendships that I gained working with this awesome organization were enough in themselves to make the internship worthwhile. I would recommend this internship to anyone who loves working with people from ALL walks of life, who is willing to work hard, and who loves to learn.
(Chelsea Dean)

IS Students in the News

> **Israel Butt** received the Gilman Scholarship to study in Japan this semester under UAB's study abroad program. Israel is taking a full slate of classes in Japanese language and culture.

> **Susan Sadigova** offered a presentation to a group of second graders on her native country Azerbaijan. She even taught the kids a few words of Russian and Azerbaijani. The teacher, Ms Webb, said the kids really enjoyed her visit.

> **Christina Smart** will participate this summer in a program in Accra, Ghana located right on the Gulf of Guinea. She will be taking a Sociology Class discussing Colonialism, Independence & Social Structure in Ghana. There will be field trips through the program to Akosombo to see a huge dam and to the Ashanti Gold Mines.

Model UN Club competes in Las Vegas and New Orleans

This past fall, five USA students, Hanne Anderson, Narine Karapetyan, Tania Morris-Diaz, William Young, and Nick Yunker, traveled to Las Vegas just prior to Thanksgiving. The trip was not strictly for recreational purposes however. The five students represented two countries in four committees as part of a model United Nations conference,



specifically the PAXMUN AmWest Conference. For four days, over 200 students, role playing as various countries, worked to find solutions to major international issues. Model UN offers the unique opportunity to work with other students from across the country in an environment with little room for

ego or pretense. Coming out the experience, students emerge not only with new friends and acquaintances, but also better informed on global affairs and the delicacy with which they must be dealt. This spring South's MUN will attend another PAXMUN conference, AmSouth in New Orleans,

USA at the Mobile International Festival

As we have done for a number of years now, USA sponsored a booth at the annual Mobile International Festival in November. The booth provides information about our programs of study in Foreign Languages and International Studies and our study abroad programs. Volunteers worked the booth, stamping passports, answering questions, and giving out pens, stickers and other USA-related materials. The International Studies Program thanks the following volunteers for their work: Amy

Obrecht, Melissa Leal, Rain Matranga, Naomi Rhodes, Megan Partin, Courtney Dubose, Alana Gates, David Blount, Katie Jensen, Laura Hosford, Rachel Moss, Megan Russell, Casey Patterson, Denise McKinney, Ayano Kubo, Sueli Shinsato, Bee Powell and Nick Orleans and Tania Morris-Diaz, and Shelly Turner.



USA SUMMER SESSION IN MEXICO**09 June- 18 July, 2008**

The University of South Alabama Summer Session in Mexico will be held in Xalapa, Veracruz (located 199 miles southeast of Mexico City). Students participating in this program will attend the University of Veracruz, School for Foreign Students (UV-EEE) in Xalapa.

PARTICIPATING FACULTY:

The program director for the 2008 USA Summer Session in Mexico will be Dr. Federico Perez-Pineda, Professor of Foreign Languages and Literatures (Spanish). Dr. Perez-Pineda will teach the USA course in Xalapa.

PROGRAM COURSES

UV-EEE Spanish Structural Focus (Grammar) Course Level I - V*

UV-EEE Spanish Communicative Focus Course (Conversation) Workshop Level I - V*

UV-EEE Immersion Program (Tutorial 18 Hrs. /Required for transfer credit approval)*

USA Program: LG 333 - SPANISH CONVERSATION AND COMPOSITION (3 hours)

Total amount of Program credit hours earned after the successful completion of the Mexico Program: 10 credit hours (3 USA credits plus 7 transfer credits).

2008 ESTIMATED PROGRAM FEE:

Undergraduate: \$ 4,080.00; Graduate: \$ 4,206.00

Schedule of program fee payments: Deposit with application (\$275.00 non-refundable), 1st payment: March 7, 2008 - 50% of your balance after deposit (Est. \$1,902.50), 2nd and final payment - April 20, 2008 (Est. \$1,902.50)

PROGRAM FEE INCLUDES: UV-EEE tuition (Structural, Communicative and Immersion) USA Tuition / 3 hrs. (International student tuition and fees apply). Program and Registration fees

Family Stay (Double/Breakfast, lunch and dinner/6 weeks) 2008 International Identity Card application fee Round trip airfare from Mobile (Group) Group airport transfers in Mexico (arrival/departure) Two-day trip to the Archeological site of the Pyramid of El Tajin and the beach (The University of Veracruz, School for Foreign students in Xalapa is responsible for the program field trips).

DEADLINE TO REGISTER:

February 14, 2008

Program deposit fee: \$275.00 (Non-refundable)



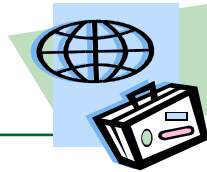
Visit the school at

<http://www.uv.mx/eee/>

... in London

USA students will again have the opportunity to go to London this summer through the CCSA Program: For details visit www.ccsa.cc Registration to the program is through this office and student pay USA tuition and registration fee after the CCSA program fee. For information please call 460-7053.

FOR INFORMATION ATTEND THE BRITISH TEA ON January 29!



Your invited to a

British Tea

The **London Program** 'British Tea' is scheduled for January 29th 5-7pm at the Alumni House. Students

interested in the **London Study Program** will have an opportunity to talk to students and faculty who attended the 2007 program at this event. Applications and

information about the 2008 **London Program** will be available. Registration to the program is open.

... in Spain

The Visual Arts Department is offering a photography and painting program in Spain this May.

Registration is open and applications are available through this office. Dr. Jason Guynes, chair of Visual Arts is the Program Director, 460-1438.



IS Sponsored or Related EVENTS this Semester

**What can someone with
a degree in
International Studies
actually do?**

Career / Graduate School Workshop

February 19, 3:30

Room 210 Humb

We will talk about some of your options, answer questions and introduce you to the Career Services.

Refreshments provided...

*Come think about
your future*



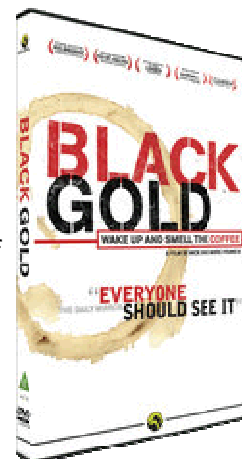
International Studies Films

BLACK GOLD

(March 6, 7:00 pm, Room 160 Humb)

“As westerners revel in designer lattes and cappuccinos, impoverished Ethiopian coffee growers suffer bitter taste of injustice. In this eye-opening expose of multi-billion dollar industry, Black Gold traces one man's fight for a fair price.”
“Riveting and jaw-dropping.”

Los Angeles TIMES
(Carina Chocano)



the
the

Check out the trailer at

www.blackgoldmovie.com/trailer.php

¿PUEDO HABLAR? [May I Speak]

(March 25, 3:30 Room 160 Humb)

This film offers its audience a snapshot portrait of a Venezuelan society at a crossroads; a re-elected president, challenged by a reformed and mounting opposition; a valuable starting block for any debate on current Venezuelan politics.

Discussion afterwards.



Panel Discussion on “The Political Situation in Pakistan”

led by Dr. Husain Friday, March 28, 6:00—8:00 in Room 214

Come learn about a key US ally in the region !

News from the Mobile Chamber of Commerce on International Trade

Exports increased by 28.5% last year, making Alabama the fourth fastest-growing exporter of goods in the US. Exports increased by \$3.1 billion over 2005 totals, reaching \$13.8 billion in 2006. In 2007, the Chamber sponsored trade missions to the Dominican Republic,

India and Colombia, hosted briefings on Free Trade Agreements for Alabama businesses, participated in the Gulf Coast region's World Trade Conference focusing on Japan, Korea and Taiwan, and hosted a delegation from Heze, China.

USA sponsors academic conference

October 18-20, USA sponsored the 33rd annual 19th Century French Studies Colloquium. The local committee included Drs. McCreedy and Brown from the Department of Foreign Languages & Literature and Dr. Macaluso from the Department of History. The 3 day event featured the presentations of research by scholars from all across the country and received support from various departments in the College of Arts and Sciences, including the International Studies Program.

International Studies Program

The International Studies program is an interdisciplinary program drawing on courses from many departments in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Mitchell College of Business.

In addition to taking a set of core courses, students pursue an area of concentration in either Asian, European, Middle East or Latin American Studies or International Relations. Areas of concentration contain courses in anthropology, foreign language, geography, history, philosophy, and political science.

Rather than selecting a minor, students in international studies select among three pre-professional programs, including a program in international business.

Since everything is internationalizing, the International Studies program prepares students for a variety of careers in government and the private sector, or a range of graduate programs.

Dr. Morris, Director
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WEB SITE

Check the IS Web Site for information on the IS program, the Caldwell scholarship, links to information and more. You can also download the student advising form, the senior survey and other forms.



APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE CALDWELL SCHOLARSHIP

The Caldwell Scholarship is an award of approx. \$3,000 given annually to help a student participate in an established Study Abroad Program.



Requirements:

- Any major in the College of Arts and Sciences
- Minimum 3.0 GPA in the major and 3.0 in FL courses
- Junior or Senior
- Must participate in established foreign studies program

Applications available in the Dept of Political Science or on-line at www.southalabama.edu/internationalstudies/caldwell.html

Application Deadline: March 7

"My trip to London over the summer was definitely a landmark experience in my life. As someone who hadn't traveled much prior to that (much less traveled overseas, or even visited a big city), I have officially been infected with the travel-itch, and hope to make my way back to Europe – and London – whenever time and money permit me to do so." Holly Gafford (2007 Caldwell Scholar)

Important Note on Pre-requisites in the Mitchell College of Business

The MCOB takes pre-requisites seriously, so make sure you are aware of the pre-requisites. In our International Business pre-professional program, ACC 211 and ECO 215 are pre-requisites for MKT 320, and ECO 215 is a pre-requisite for ECO 330 and 363.

Courses for the Summer

First Term

- IS 100 Global Issues – MTWRF – 10:20-12:15 -- Morris

Full Term

- PSC 250 Comparative Politics – TR 5:30 - 7:45 -- Dr. Husain
- PSC 270 International Relations – MW 5:30 -- 7:45 – Dr. Husain
- PSC 364 (W) Politics of Africa – S 2:30- 7:00 – Dr. Husain
- PSC 372 American Foreign Policy – MTWRF 9:10-10:05 – Dr. Morris
- PSC 470 Adv. Stud. in IR: Iraq – S 9:00 – 1:30 – Dr. Husain

Second Term

- PSC 390 Sp Top: Alternative Dispute Resolution – MTWRF – 10:20-12:15 Dr. Entessar

New Director of International Programs

Dr. Jim Ellis has is joining USA this month, taking over as Director of International Programs. Dr. Ellis served in a similar position at Auburn before coming to USA. He brings a wealth of experience in promoting study abroad and related international initiatives. Under Dr. Ellis' leadership, we hope to significantly increase the number of students participating in study abroad programs, internationalize the curriculum and our institution, and strengthen ties abroad.



International Programs is now the 'Office of International Education'.