SAVE THE DATE: Homecoming Lunch and Distinguished Alumni Lecture on October 29\textsuperscript{th} at the new McLane Stadium

For this year's International Studies homecoming reception, we will gather for lunch at the brand new Baylor Club at McLane Stadium. The lunch is in the President's Suite, which is on the fifth floor of the new McLane Stadium. It has an amazing view of Baylor's campus, the Brazos River and Downtown Waco. Distinguished alumnus, Dr. Carlos Juárez, will speak about ways universities can strengthen global education. Dr. Juárez is Chair of the Department of Social Sciences and Professor of Political Science at Hawaii Pacific University. He has been a Fulbright Scholar to Mexico and the Czech Republic. International Studies alumni, students and faculty are invited. Space is limited, so RSVP today by following this link to the evite: http://bit.ly/1taCVcO

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Why Study Abroad?

Ivy Hamerly

By the end of the first week of class each semester, I can often guess which of my students have studied abroad and which have not had that experience yet. Most of the classes I teach focus on comparing domestic politics in a variety of countries. The students who have study abroad experience often make fewer assumptions about the way politics plays out in a variety of contexts and are less likely to assume the American way is the only correct way. Peer reviewed research on the effects of study abroad shows that students who have studied abroad are more culturally sensitive, more interested in international politics and more cosmopolitan than students who stayed home. This effect even shows up after short study abroad programs. When I advise International Studies majors about study abroad, I tell them that studying abroad is academically useful, improves cognitive skills, and builds character.

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Studying abroad is academically useful because students can access courses that are not available at Baylor. For example, a student with a deep interest in North African culture and history will find a wider variety of courses on this topic while studying abroad at Al Akhawayn University in Morocco than they can find at Baylor. Students seeking language proficiency in Korean will find more opportunities to study this language at advanced levels through an exchange program in Korea than they will at Baylor. Students considering graduate study in international politics can find dozens of courses on International Relations or Comparative Politics are offered at University of St. Andrews in Scotland and many of these courses approach the topic from a different theoretical perspective than most Baylor courses will use. No one university can offer courses in every possible language, from every possible perspective, but studying abroad allows students to access a broader range of courses.

Studying abroad improves cognitive skills. One of the higher order cognitive skills that a college education seeks to encourage is called perspective taking. This is the ability to analyze a situation or a puzzle from a

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variety of different perspectives. Perspective-taking is based on a capacity for empathy - imagining how someone else would feel in a particular situation - and analysis - thinking about what someone else would want to achieve or avoid in the situation. Study abroad experiences push students to develop perspective-taking skills. Part of the experience of living in a new country is making many mistakes, small and large. Even the most careful visitor will inevitably commit some faux pas and even the most even-tempered will experience some social affronts when interacting with a new society. All of these unexpectedly complicated interactions create a challenge to learn new social expectations, communicate in a new language, and learn how to operate different technology. These challenges are learning experiences that teach perspective-taking skills.

Studying abroad is character building. People who have studied abroad have overcome challenges and have experienced life as an outsider. It is uncomfortable to be the person with the “wrong” clothes, the “funny” accent and the name that nobody can pronounce or spell properly. This life experience can help to build resilience. It can also lead people to develop compassion and respect for other people who are outside of the mainstream.

In the last five years, 170 International Studies majors have studied abroad. This number includes just over 70 percent of all IST majors who have studied abroad. This number includes just over 70 percent of all IST majors who have studied abroad during this time period. An increasing number of students are seeking out multiple study abroad experiences, for example, combining an international internship in one country with language immersion in another. What stands in the way of the remaining 30 percent of International Studies majors who do not study abroad? Primarily, it is financial need. One of the goals of the International Studies program is to connect more of our majors with scholarships to help pay for study abroad experiences. While our students are often successful in competing for general study abroad scholarships, there is one endowed scholarship dedicated solely to helping International Studies majors with academic merit and verified financial need afford to study abroad. The scholarship is the Heather Leann Dunnam Scholarship and it is possible for anybody to contribute to this fund by searching for the Dunnam fund at www.baylor.edu/give.

When asked how they apply what they learned in international studies to careers, many Foreign Service major and International Studies major alumni pointed to cross-cultural understanding, languages, and a global perspective. Through study abroad experiences, we hope to continue to expand opportunities for our current students to develop these skills.

Dr. Ivy Hamerly is Associate Director of International Studies. She has taught comparative government, politics of Western Europe, and International Organizations in the Political Science Department since 2005.
Notes from the Field, Volume IV
Chuck Pope, ‘94

Readers who are LinkedIn with me already know that I have recently transferred from Tanzania to India. For those not already in my network, please feel free to connect with me at http://linkd.in/YZlD7I. Changing posts every few years is the reality of Foreign Service life. In fact, since 2011, I have transitioned to/from four countries (Russia, Afghanistan, Tanzania and India). The Foreign Service offers the best of both worlds, in my opinion: the stability of a career, with the opportunity to move around and have different jobs. Moving--especially internationally--can be quite stressful, and I must admit I don’t look forward to the logistical portion. However, I have found the whole process to be a wonderful opportunity for personal and professional growth.

From time to time, I like to watch the TV show Hoarding: Buried Alive. In each episode there is always a showdown between the hoarder and the person who wants her/him to purge. Usually there’s a silly, emotionally charged confrontation in which the hoarder screams to the entire world that 100 empty cereal boxes will come in handy someday. Welcome to my world. My wife, two daughters and son--ahem--like to hold on to things. I, on the other hand, like to donate or sell anything we don’t regularly use. So, packing out at our house always resembles an episode of Hoarding. In fact, I tried an intervention with my wife to stop the shipment of a number of empty cereal cartons. Her rationale for shipping them: they could be used for craft purposes sometime in the future. Having lost that intervention, I quietly gathered up some old toys to be given to our missionary friends. Take that Sweetie!

Seriously, it’s impossible to become a successful hoarder in the Foreign Service because we have shipping limitations. Generally, in addition to our personal baggage, we are allotted 250-100 pounds in air freight per person, plus 7,200 pounds in sea freight per set of orders. In our case, since my wife and I are both FSOs, we have a maximum of 14,400 in sea freight. I find it incredibly useful to be forced to take stock of our “stuff” every two to four years. Thanks to the Foreign Service, you will not likely see my family on an episode of Hoarding: Buried Alive!

Moving every so often also allows a person to better, if not reinvent her/himself. In my case, I pick at least one personal and professional area that I want to improve with each move. With a young family, my wife and I are now using moves to focus on a family area of improvement. My professional area of improvement this time is related to advice Secretary Clinton gave to State and AID a few years ago.

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Essentially, she said that we can’t be so caught up in our day to day work that we forget to tell our story. This tour, I am using our internal social media platforms to communicate and collaborate with USAID as a whole, to tell my office’s story. On the personal/family front, my wife and I wanted to simplify our lives so that we could spend more quality time as a family.

In Dar, we had a huge seven-bedroom, seven bath house across the street from the Indian Ocean (housing in the Foreign Service is determined by rank, family size and availability). Additionally, our “mini-mansion” had a pool, trampoline, playground, sand lot, two playhouses and staff quarters. To take care of this property and our busy family we “had to” employ six domestic staff members (housekeeper, driver, cook, gardener and two nannies). Sounds great, right? It wasn’t. While it seemed wonderful in the beginning, we soon realized that in lieu of spending time with our kids, we were managing this large, overwhelming apparatus. As a sign of how out of whack our lives had become, we needed a nanny on the weekend just to watch the kids while we dealt with the needs of our lifestyle. Not good.

We have moved to Delhi, which is our largest non-warzone embassy, mainly to simplify our lives. Our family has traded a seven-bedroom house by the sea for a three-bedroom townhouse on the Embassy Enclave and we are giddy with delight. Now, we can walk our kids to school and turn around and walk the five minutes to our offices. The Enclave also boasts a number of amenities just steps from our front door: swimming pools, playgrounds, large lawns, soft/baseball field, commissary, restaurants, snack bars, fitness facilities and, even, a bowling alley. In short, life’s good in Delhi, and I remain ever grateful for a career that facilitates a change of scenery and allows such wonderful opportunities for professional and personal growth.

Chuck Pope, ’94, is Director of the Regional Office of Acquisition and Assistance, USAID, India. Chuck was a Foreign Service major at Baylor. He currently resides in New Delhi, India where he works as a Foreign Service Officer for the US Agency for International Aid and Development (USAID).
Learning about Sustainable Development through a USAID Summer Internship

Hayley Gibson, '14

Jambo, Baylor! I just returned from a two-month internship with USAID in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where among other things, I visited rural towns on field assignments, helped host a congressional delegation of US senators, and gained in valuable experience and understanding of American foreign aid. I interned jointly with the Office of Acquisition and Assistance, where contracts are made between USAID and non-profits to fund community development projects, and also with the Department of Communications. The latter definitely fit my skill set more than working with contracts, but through both, I truly gained a comprehensive understanding of the mission's programs and how it achieves development.

To be honest, I walked into this internship with a negative view of US foreign aid. I had the perception that we based our aid on handouts, rather than truly sustainable development. USAID proved me wrong. Tanzania is a very poor and underdeveloped country, but it is making incredible progress because of USAID. The mission is especially oriented toward improving health and education for especially women and children.

Here are some signs of development that I noticed in Tanzania:

• Family sizes are declining. This is a huge sign of development for a poor country because it means newborn mortality is decreasing and more girls are going to school instead of entering into an early marriage.
• Malaria has been practically eliminated on the island of Zanzibar and dramatically reduced on mainland Tanzania.
• Farmers have been able to grow into small business owners because of increased agricultural technology and USAID training.
• USAID works very closely with the Tanzanian government and is monitoring their elections next month.
• Everything is grassroots based. Every form of aid that comes out of USAID is implemented by Tanzanians and for Tanzanians.

The fact that USAID can manage multi-million dollar contracts and employ thousands of people, yet still focus their projects on grassroots movements truly surprised and encouraged me. I believe aid is most effective when implemented locally, and when it is independent from its donors. USAID Tanzania accomplishes this, and it was an honor to be a part of developing such a beautiful country. If you are interested in USAID or want to hear more about my internship, feel free to e-mail me at hayleyraegibson@gmail.com. I'd love to answer any questions!

Hayley Gibson graduated from Baylor in May 2014 with a degree in International Studies. She is now living in the DFW area. She also travelled to Kenya twice with Baylor prior to her internship in Tanzania.
Summer 2014 in the Holy Land

Sarah Crockett

This summer I spent six weeks in Jerusalem participating in an Arabic immersion program at a local university. The courses were challenging and the hours in the classroom long, but I learned more than I could have ever expected. There were about fifty students in the program, ages seventeen to sixty and representing fourteen different countries. My classmates as a whole were friendly, driven, intelligent, passionate, open-minded people who were a pleasure to get to know and spend my days with. The diversity among the students was especially fascinating during our class that was dedicated to listening to, translating, and analyzing speeches of prominent Arab political figures. Talk about differences of opinion, wow! Like most study abroad trips, though, I believe that the most significant and memorable experiences took place outside of the classroom.

Without a doubt, my time in Israel was shaped by Operation Protective Edge. Jerusalem was distant from the action and relatively safe, though my parents were not exactly comforted by this fact. Regardless, there was never any doubt that we were in a country that was at war. We saw protests, vigils, the aftermath of riots, police blockades, and the ever-present IDF soldiers carrying their rifles around town. We constantly read the news and talked about what was happening, and there were endless debates among my classmates and I about the historical, political, religious, and cultural makeup of the conflict and if, when, and how it could be resolved.

Though it was scary a couple of times, frustrating some of the time, and sad all of the time, I would not change the fact that I got to live through an important part of history. As an IST and Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies major, I am grateful for my time in Jerusalem and look forward to going back to the region in some capacity as soon as possible.

Sarah Crockett is a senior from New Braunfels, Texas majoring in Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies and IST. With an interest in politics, security studies, and the Middle East, she will pursue a master's degree after graduation in May.
Finding Fellowship in Russia

Bailey Green

As I sat on the plane to Moscow in June, I frantically reviewed my Russian vocabulary. As I studied, the man sitting next to me on the plane asked me if it was my first time in Russia. Vladimir, as I soon discovered was his name, was a native of Moscow. Before landing, he explained to me where I should go once we landed and the sites that I should see in Moscow that most people miss. His advice was invaluable, and it was my first experience with Russian hospitality.

For the next six weeks, I was immersed in Russian language and culture. Each morning I awoke to my host mom, Galina, urging me to eat more blini – delicious Russian pancakes – and rushing me off to class. After class, I had the privilege of spending time with the local Baptist church. Although I knew little Russian and they knew little English, the kids in the church spent time with me every day, showing me around their city. Yulia, a local translator and member of the church, quickly became my closest friend in Voronezh. She would teach me words that I did not know, and she would force me to speak only in Russian. Leaving Voronezh for St. Petersburg was painful, because of the new friends that I had made.

Nevertheless, I was overwhelmed by the immense beauty and history of St. Petersburg. The streets of St. Petersburg felt like walking through a museum that had come to life – ancient churches, universities, and palaces filled the city. In Moscow, I received invaluable lessons in history as I walked through the museums with my Baylor professors who took time from their research to show us around the city. Completion of the Voronezh program not only improved my Russian and gave me a broader perspective of the world, but it introduced me to the incredible beauty of the Russian country and people.

_Bailey Green is a senior from Dallas, Texas, studying International Studies and Russian. She has studied abroad through Baylor two times, and this was her first time to visit Russia._