Reflections: Dan Knudsen, Director

It has been another busy year in International Studies. Our enrollment has stabilized at 400 majors and we are approaching 400 program alumni. The big project this year was the launching of the Digital Pathways program, which shows great potential for further connecting our students to the world. We hope to have 150 interactive video sessions running per semester by 2015 – a very ambitious goal.

I think we can be justifiably proud of the large number of awards received by our students this year. They run the gamut from election to Phi Beta Kappa to federally-funded FLAS grants for least commonly taught foreign languages to College and campus-wide grants. Our faculty also did well in the area of awards.

Of course, the year also had some bittersweet moments. In fall 2010, longtime advisor Tracy Bee moved to a new position in the College of Arts and Sciences and Professor Christiane Gruber accepted a position at the University of Michigan. And next year will also be my last year as director. After nine years the program needs the new ideas a new director can bring. It has been great fun, and I feel very privileged to have been the program’s director.

Digital Pathways

International Studies is fostering collaborations with institutions and individuals at home and abroad and promoting innovative teaching among its faculty. In an effort to engage students in cross- and trans-cultural communication, faculty incorporated distance learning in their courses. A grant in collaboration with the Center for the Study of Global Change, the Hutton Honors College and the Pan Asia Institute provided the financial support to establish first-level interactions involving remote delivery of lectures by experts based outside the United States using Internet-based technology. Regular videoconferencing sessions were held in INTL-I100 (Introduction to International Studies) with a class of Chinese students from Hangzhou Normal University. The joint sessions gave International Studies students the opportunity to engage in interpersonal communication with their Chinese counterparts, thus creating alternative learning experiences with unique international perspectives and insights.

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Faculty Spotlight: Nicole Kousaleos, Lecturer

A Folklorist, Dr. Kousaleos is the recipient of two International Studies Outstanding Instructor awards. Her research interests include medical anthropology, gender and cultural studies, and human rights.

Dr. Kousaleos, or “Dr. K,” as she is fondly known by her students, has been a faculty member in International Studies since 2009. She acquired her college education in English Literature and Philosophy from Ohio University’s Honors Tutorial program in 1991 and her MA and PhD from the Department of Folklore at Indiana University in 1995 and 2000, respectively. During her career she taught in the IU Folklore Department, worked as an ethnographer for the Center for the Study of Social Issues at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro, conducted her own research on gender violence in the United States with a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health, and was part of a Fulbright research team studying indigenous performance, religion and culture in Côte d’Ivoire, West Africa.

Faculty News

Dan Knudsen received the 2010-2011 Gordon Faculty Award from the Dean of Students. This award recognizes outstanding contributions by a faculty member to student affairs at the Bloomington campus.

Christiane Gruber, Hilary Kahn and Nicole Kousaleos were presented with the International Studies Outstanding Instructor Award for their teaching in INTL-I400 (Capstone Seminar, Spring 2010); INTL-I300 (Human Rights and the Arts, Spring 2009); and INTL-I201 (Culture and the Arts, Fall 2009) and INTL-I205 (International Communication, Fall 2010), respectively. Two awards for outstanding teaching in International Studies are given each year based on students’ evaluations.

Peter Nemes and Stephanie DeBoer were each awarded a course development grant from the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning to revise one of their courses during summer 2011. Professor DeBoer is also a Fellow in the “Framing the Global” initiative, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Her research topic is: “No Hard Edges: Contingencies of Chinese Digital Film, Media and Space.”

Ilana Gershon received a 2011 Outstanding Junior Faculty Award. She is also the author of The Break-Up 2.0: Disconnecting over New Media (Cornell University Press, 2010), an ethnographic study of the influence of media in ending personal relationships.

Alumni Notes

Kerchanin Allen (2010) works as an assistant and secretary in the Department of Telecommunications at Indiana University.

Megan Alvarez (2006) is an immigration attorney for Catholic Charities in Greenville, SC.

Teresa Bellono (2009) is completing an MA in International Training and Education at American University and serves as Program Coordinator for the Alliance for Global Education, a not-for-profit organization that operates study abroad programs in India and China.

Rachelle Bennett (2008) is a Program Specialist in the Office of Overseas Study at Indiana University and pursuing a Master’s in Public Affairs in SPEA.

Giancarlo Casareto (2005) is pursuing a graduate degree at the Manchester Business School in the UK.

Brittany Cohen (2010) works with AIPAC, a lobbying group that advocates pro-Israel policies to the Congress and Executive Branch of the United States.

Matt Crawford (2006) is currently working for the PricewaterhouseCoopers Advisory Group in Chicago.

Andrew Dahlen (2010) is working for U.S. Senator Max Baucus (Montana) in Washington, DC as a Legislative Correspondent.

Sara Dygert (2005) is a Bilingual Response Advocate for a non-profit domestic violence agency in Portland, OR.

Elisabeth Epstein (2008) is pursuing an MA at the New School’s Graduate Program in International Affairs in New York City with a focus on global health. She will be traveling to Uganda in summer 2011.

Victoria Fritz (2008) is a Resource Developer for Integrated Community Ministries, which focuses on meeting the needs of Appalachians.

Sam Gieryn (2008) is currently a law student at DePaul University College of Law in Chicago.

Mark Gromski (2006) graduated from Harvard Medical School in May, and will be starting his residency in Internal Medicine in July.

Jeff Heerdink (2011) is pursuing an MA in West European Studies and SPEA at Indiana University.

Amy Karch (2010) is a Summer 2011 Associate for AmeriCorps Vista at MCCOY, Inc. (Champions for the Positive Development of Youth) in Indianapolis.

Christie Koness (2009) is a Purchasing Associate for a Spanish gourmet foods importer in Chicago.

Jeff Lightfoot (2006) is Associate Director for the Program on International Security at the Atlantic Council in Washington, DC. He has published his first editorial in the Boston Globe.

Kevin Malone (2006) is completing his MA at the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University and is a Research Assistant at the United States Institute of Peace.

Jessica Moyer (2007) worked at the Indiana State Senate for two years and is currently pursuing a graduate degree from Harvard Law School.

Sarah Neely (2009) is a government contractor with GAP Solutions, Inc. and an Assistant in the US State Department’s training bureau.

Katharine Ntiamoah (2008) is pursuing an MA in International Studies at the University of Denver.

Jane Penley (2006) has worked in public relations and is currently pursuing a law degree.

Kimberly Ray (2004) has completed her MA in Peace, Conflict, and Development Studies at the Universitat Jaume I in Castellón de la Plana, Spain.

Sarah Renkert (2010) is working as the House Manager for the Light and Leadership Initiative in Huaycan, a shantytown on the outskirts of Lima, Peru.

Jesse Roehm (2009) currently serves as AmeriCorps Leadership and Conservation Corpsmember for Mile High Youth Corps in Denver, CO.
Drew Rogers (2005) is an officer with the US Army.

Katie Roth (2007) earned a Masters of Urban and Regional Planning degree in 2009 and is employed as a Transit Planner at SRF Consulting Group in Minneapolis.

Katie Rosenberger (2008) is pursuing a J.D. at IU School of Law in Indianapolis and interns with the Community Development Law Center.

Molly Savage (2007) is serving as Assistant Director, College of Young Alumni for the University of Chicago.

Scott Shackelford (2005) is Assistant Professor of Business Law and Ethics at the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University.

Scott Schaffer (2010) is living in Chicago after completing an internship with the Center for International Policy in Washington, DC.

Danny Stofleth (2009) is pursuing an MA in Communication and Rhetorical Studies at Syracuse University.

Paul Scott Thacker (2006) lives in Washington, DC. He is the Senior Regional Assistant for Eurasia Programs at the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs and is the current head of the International Studies Alumni Association’s DC chapter.

Jon Underdahl-Peirce (2007) is a Peace Corps Volunteer. He serves as an Agribusiness Advisor in a rural village in Burkina Faso, West Africa.

Meg Walsh (2005) is a Human Resources Trainee with the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command of the US State Department.

** All updates are self-reported. If you have an update you would like to be included in our next newsletter, please e-mail us at intl@indiana.edu **

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Skype was also used regularly in a number of International Studies courses. The sessions provided students a forum to ask questions about world affairs — such as NGOs and their role in development, human trafficking and international relations — as well as gain insights about professional development opportunities post-graduation. Students evaluated the sessions as highly relevant to their educational and professional development and recommended more in the near future. We are certainly making this a priority in the next academic year.

“**The Skype session was interesting and informative. Having the opportunities to speak to experts in our specified fields is beneficial to our education and expands our network outside IU.”**

“I gained a better understanding of how students from China learn and view global issues.”
Staff Profile Emily Williams

Emily Williams is the new Academic Advisor in International Studies. Emily grew up in Bedford and used to visit Bloomington often growing up. When she decided to go to college, she naturally chose IU. Emily received her undergraduate degree in General Studies in 2007 and completed her Master’s in Higher Education and Student Affairs in 2009 at IUPUI. Before joining International Studies as Academic Advisor in August 2010, she gained experience in housing and residence life at IUPUI, First Year Programs at DePauw University, and in the Registrar’s office at IU Bloomington.

Emily chose academic advising as her career because it “gives me the opportunity to work with students daily on a one-to-one basis.” She enjoys working with student organizations and being informed about the types of activities students do for fun as well as how they choose to spend their free time. Being a perpetual planner also allows her to help students with their academic and, often, personal plans.

Emily has been hard at work over the past year getting to know all the International Studies students, updating their information, and implementing new ways to stay in touch. She has launched the International Studies blog and enjoys keeping it up-to-date with the latest academic and career opportunities. The blog allows her “to get information to the students and from the students right away. I am also using the blog this semester to highlight an office on campus as well as for alumni profiles so that the students can benefit from our alumni experiences post-graduation.” In the future she hopes to add more information about internships and to connect current students with our alumni. She urges International Studies students to read the blog and to take advantage of all the resources at IU, especially the Career Development Center.

In her free time Emily enjoys visiting the Bloomington Farmer’s Market, watching the Kentucky Derby on Mother’s Day, attending cultural events, cooking and eating out, especially at Thai restaurants. She also likes spending time with her husband and taking Mikey, her lively year-old Shi-Tzu puppy, for walks in the park. Emily has also enjoyed traveling, especially abroad. During her graduate studies she had the opportunity to study in the UK. She really loved visiting Scotland, especially Edinburgh, and London, and she cannot wait to go back. Two of her most memorable experiences while in London were a performance of The Phantom of the Opera and climbing the London Eye – very adventurous considering her fear of heights! She is hoping to visit Ireland soon to connect with her Irish heritage. She has even delved into learning Irish this semester, although she can’t say much besides “I have a shoe.”

Welcome Aboard!

Deb Englert joined the program as Office Services Assistant in February 2011. She coordinates student scheduling, addresses registration issues and assists faculty with various tasks in support of the International Studies Program. Deb is also a friendly face to our students and visitors!

Recent graduates Erin Arnott and Lucile Doler at the program’s Spring/Summer 2011 graduation brunch.
Student Awards and Honors

The third annual senior awards were presented in Spring 2010. **Dani Walker** was awarded the Graduating Senior Award for her contributions to International Studies while **Sarah Renkert** won the Achievement Award.

INTL students have also received numerous awards and honors outside the program. **Carolyn Commons** received the George H. and Ruth J. Asdell Scholarship and the Dean D. & Jo Ann Aulick Scholarship from the College of Arts and Sciences for the 2011-2012 academic year. **Savannah McDermott** was the recipient of the Intensive Writing Essay Award from the College of Arts and Sciences in Spring 2010. **Richard Scinteie** received the College’s Palmer-Brandon Prize (for the humanities) for 2010-2011. **Matthew Showalter** completed an internship with the Sagamore Institute in summer 2010. **Erika Sutton** received the McKaig Student Award, which was presented by the Dean of Students.

**FLAS** (Foreign Language Studies) fellowships for 2011-2012 were awarded to Gabrielle Churney (Persian), Bryn Schweda (Japanese) and Jeff Heerdink (Turkish).

**Phi Beta Kappa** 2010-2011 inductees included Christina Charles, Yibing (Curtis) Che, Cian Deegan, Austin Deitrich, Maria Iglesias, Kent Kinzer, Evelyn Kuzma, Sarah Morlock, William Murphy, Heather Orina, Kristen Peters and Richard Scinteie.

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**May 2011 graduate Tun Pyit** (left) with friends at the program's Spring/Summer 2011 graduation brunch.

**December 2010 graduates and their families** at the program's graduation dinner.
Faculty Spotlight: continued from page 2

Her latest research project “examines the human rights issue of contemporary gender violence within the context of globalization.” The focus of the project is transdisciplinary and multi-local and will be based on comparative ethnographic research in the US, Africa, India and Southeast Asia. The project, which she hopes will turn into a book, fuses “the fields of medical anthropology, culture studies, global studies, gender studies and human rights to ask the critical question: what is at stake for women across the globe as they live their daily lives within female bodies?” Her own teaching is to a large extent responsible for the depth and breadth of the project.

Dr. Kousaleos feels very fortunate to be able to teach International Studies students because they “are motivated, dedicated, and interesting young people who are committed to their future goals and ideals.” Teaching full-time for the program also allows her to have continuity in her pedagogical approach, to explore new creative methods, and to help students develop skills in a personalized and dedicated manner. She loves teaching the Capstone Seminar (INTL I400) because she is able to experience the progress the students are making as they achieve their own personal goals. Teaching in International Studies is her “dream job!”

Regarding the betterment of the International Studies curriculum and teaching innovation, Dr. Kousaleos noted her extensive experience applying ethnographic methods in both community and research settings as a valuable addition to the program. “As fields become more transdisciplinary, I feel I have much to offer the students in practical and applied methods, which may benefit them in their future career goals.” Her experience abroad allows her to discuss topics related to international communication, touch upon issues regarding global art production, and bring a holistic approach to human rights research. Her involvement in community development allows her to fully understand the merits of qualitative research methods from which students’ projects can benefit. She also believes that learning in today’s global environment should be self-directed and personal so that students are able to reach their own individual potentials.

When not teaching or mentoring students, Dr. Kousaleos loves traveling, spending time with her family and her children, playing music and creating art. In fact, she was part of Women Exposed 2011 Bloomington, an art venue for local and international artists in a nontraditional community based space. The exhibit featured female and female identifying transgender artists from around the globe who showcased their interpretations of women’s bodies.

Ambassador Rajendra Abhyankar of India visited INTL-I206 (Nations, States & Boundaries) and INTL-I100 (Introduction to International Studies) as a guest speaker. He also mentored several students on issues related to diplomacy and foreign relations.

Semester Kick-off at Bryan Park, Bloomington, October 2010
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