Reflections: Dan Knudsen, Director

It is hard to imagine that I have now completed nine years as the director of the International Studies Program. It has been a lot of work, but it has been well worth it. One of the greatest joys about being a professor is that you learn so much from your students. When I look back, I am absolutely amazed at what I have learned. There are whole bodies of knowledge that I am fascinated by today, some that have become central to my own research on culture, identity, and tourism, that I didn’t even know existed back in 2003. It has been an incredible personal journey for me.

When we opened this program in the fall semester 2003, there were 30 majors and a handful of classes offered. Today there are 350 majors and more than 40 sections every year. There were two staff members – Rima Merriman and myself. Today there is a staff of five and we have outgrown our office space. Back then when a prospective student asked about what you might do with an International Studies degree, I had to do some quick thinking. Today I can list a great many success stories. Nine years ago we had no alumni. Today we have over 400. We also have an Internal Advisory Board, an External Council, a Student Advisory Board, a mentorship program, our Close the Circle internship program and an International Studies Alumni Association. Each week our classes at Indiana University teleconnect with classrooms and individuals, many of them alumni, all over the world; all of this was just a dream nine years ago.

Of course, none of this did I do alone. I have had enormous help along the way. Our program had the benefit to be designed by a taskforce with incredible vision. I have been fortunate throughout my stay as director to work alongside an incredible staff that is remarkably gifted and dedicated. We ask our instructors to pour their heart and soul into their courses. They have done this and more. And the students in the program have been without exception among the most intelligent and inspired as I have encountered in over 30 years of university teaching.

As I look ahead, there is still much to be done. The new director, Bill Rasch, is the perfect person to take the program to the next level and navigate the important changes that will occur as the program becomes a department and contemplates the offering of one or more Master’s Degrees. The program is fortunate to have an administrator of his wit, intelligence and experience during this time of transition.

I thank each and every one of you for participating in the program. It has been a remarkable experience for me and I like to think that, together, we have in some small way made the world a better place.
Faculty Spotlight: Todd Lindley, Visiting Lecturer

A geographer, Dr. Lindley specializes in intercountry adoption and is a favorite instructor among International Studies students. He regularly combines his study of NGOs, entrepreneurial experience and knowledge of global affairs to teach and inspire his students.

Dr. Lindley has been a familiar and popular face to International Studies students since 2009. A Midwesterner from a small farming town outside Peoria, Illinois, he was first drawn to mechanical engineering. However, the collapse of the Soviet Union at that time inspired him to learn about the transforming world and he thus decided to attend Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama to play tennis and pursue a dual degree in Spanish and International Business. Much like the students he now teaches at IU, his own cultural stereotypes were challenged through friendships with fellow students from India, Laos, Cambodia, Spain, and Indonesia. After graduation he taught elementary school in Mexico, then moved to Korea and later to Taiwan to teach English, TOEFL preparation, and accounting. Upon returning to the U.S., he completed a master’s degree in geography from Western Illinois University and was employed as a study abroad advisor and the Fulbright and International Exchange Coordinator before moving to Bloomington, where he received his PhD in geography in 2010.

Continued on page 6

The International Studies Inaugural Undergraduate Symposium took place on April 25, 2012. The Symposium showcased the hard work of 18 students who presented the results of their Capstone Theses in eleven presentations and seven posters. The event was very well attended and received by students and faculty. Another INTL tradition is born!

Faculty News

Stephanie DeBoer and Shane Greene were awarded funding from the Multidisciplinary Ventures and Seminars Fund, administered by the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs

Amy Horowitz and Nicole Kousaleos were presented with the International Studies Outstanding Instructor Award for their teaching in INTL-I300 (Living Jerusalem, Fall 2011) and INTL-I400 (Capstone Seminar, Spring 2011) respectively. Two awards for outstanding teaching in International Studies are given each year based on students’ evaluations.

Olga Kalentzidou presented a poster titled “Using Oncourse Forums for Peer-Review in INTL I400 (Capstone Seminar)” in the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning’s Spotlight on Innovation Poster Session 2011.

Dan Knudsen received the Henry Remak Professorship (2011-2014).

Stepanka Korytova was awarded the 2011 Zirin Prize by the Association for Women in Slavic Studies.

Michael Muehlenbein is a recipient of IU’s 2011-2012 Outstanding Junior Faculty Award.
Human Trafficking in the Indiana Legislature

Students enrolled in the fall 2011 Human Trafficking course are activists who would like to change the world, one less trafficked person at a time. Through a service learning project they were able to make an impact on local legislation. The project, carefully designed by their instructor, Dr. Stepanka Korytova, allowed the students to work directly with State Representative Peggy Welch and Abigail Kuzma from the State Attorney’s General Office to discuss, rework and recommend changes concerning the Indiana bill on Human Trafficking. The bill was signed into law, Senate Enrolled Act 4, by Governor Daniels on January 30, 2012. The new law will make it easier to prosecute and punish those who are involved in the trafficking of human beings in Indiana.

Alumna Promotes Organic Farming Practices in Bloomington

Rachel Beyer is a Hoosier by birth and heart. So, when the opportunity came to get back to Monroe County she did not hesitate. Her interest in environmentally sound practices and farming is tied to her upbringing – her family owns a farm at May Greek near Bloomington – but became relevant through her experiences abroad. Upon graduating from IU’s International Studies Program in 2009, she spent a year at a farming program at Michigan State University where she learned about horticulture and farm management. But it was her study abroad in Ghana that made her cognizant of the world outside Bloomington and allowed her to become familiar with local Ghanaian practices about food production and farming. While overseas she volunteered at a local food school program and began to realize the effect U.S. food subsidy policies have had on the local production systems and indigenous farming practices. She brought these skills back to the management of Stranger’s Hill Organic Farm by building collaborations between the farm and the community through the farm’s Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and the Bloomington Farmer’s market. Rachel is crediting her experience in the International Studies major for her focus in local community education. She experienced a similar grassroots movement in a distant location overseas, even though it was in opposition to her own country’s foreign policy practices. Although, initially, she “never intended to work abroad,” given the opportunity Rachel would be on a plane immediately.

Habitat for Humanity Build

International Studies students and faculty participated in a Habitat for Humanity build on February 18, 2012 at Cedar Chase, Bloomington. Habitat provides one of the three local Close-the-Circle internship opportunities for International Studies students. Volunteers for Medicine and Hilltop Garden Center are the other two. Internships with these organizations are intended to build leadership skills to successfully compete in a globalized world.

Digital Pathways – by Laura Manifold

The past academic year has been a busy one for the Digital Pathways Initiative. We have hosted a variety of interactive videoconferences in International Studies courses with experts in the fields of climate change, foreign policy, human trafficking, conflict in the Arab world and the European Union. Additionally, two International Studies courses incorporated a series of interactive videoconferencing. In Professor Amy Horowitz’s course, Living Jerusalem: Ethnography and Bridge Blogging in Disputed Territory, students (pictured on the left) participated in over eight videoconferences throughout the semester with various experts, politicians, activists, and students on topics such as Islamic studies, history, cultural studies and policymaking. The Introduction to International Studies course met with students at China’s Hangzhou Normal University to discuss topics such as nationalism, economics and politics through six joint sessions led by instructors from both institutions.

Continued on page 6
Alumni Notes

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

Megan Alvarez (2006) is a chair/instructor/immigration attorney for the Paralegal Studies Program at Ivy Tech in Evansville, IN.

Lisa Braverman (2008) is a doctoral student in the Department of Communication and Culture at Indiana University, Bloomington.

Giancarlo Casareto (2005) is pursuing a graduate degree at the Manchester Business School in the UK. He is currently on a semester abroad program at the Fudan School of Management in Shanghai.

Carolyn Commons (2012) is an Administrative Assistant in Nothing-But-Nets at the United Nations Foundation.

Emily M. Lippold Cheney (2008) is Executive Director of NASCO and represents the radical cooperative community in North America in forums throughout the world. She is also starting a cooperative Public House in Chicago and involved in the internet–based “Feed the Artists” working group.

Courtney Cole (2010) is a 2010 Teach for America Corps Member. She is employed at the Project School in Indianapolis, IN.

Katie Crank (2006) is the Coordinator of Domestic Violence Programs at the Center for Court Innovation in New York, NY.

Matt Crawford (2006) was married in August 2011 and is currently living in Chicago. He completed his first Ironman Triathlon in Cozumel, Mexico during Thanksgiving weekend.

Jane Charney (2005) is Assistant Director at the American Jewish Committee’s Chicago Regional Office. She and her husband, Max Averbukh, are expecting their first child in May 2012.

Eleonore O’Donnell (2009) is a middle school special education teacher through Teach for America Corps in Dallas, TX.

Sara Daisy Dygert (2005) is a Bilingual Response Advocate for a non-profit domestic violence agency in Portland, and she has completed her research for her MA in the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at Indiana University.

Amy Haag (2009) is employed at The MEK Group, a public relations and marketing firm with a focus on international tourism and economic development in Southern Indiana.

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

Sunghee Oh (2008) is employed at the Office of Global Affairs at Ewha Women’s University in Seoul, Korea.

Ashley Seprodi (2007) is an Options Counselor at “Generations” at Vincennes University. She and her husband, Joshua, are expecting their first child in June 2012.

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

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.


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

Katie Wright (2010) is a guest lecturer for English and Mathematics at Hunan University of Humanities, Science, and Technology in Loudi, Hunan, China.

** 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 **

**Student News, Awards and Honors**

INTL students have received numerous awards and honors outside the program. They finished strong in May 2012: six students graduated cum laude, six with magna cum laude and five with summa cum laude, including one with a 4.0 GPA. They also were well represented in the Dean’s List for 2011, totaling 129 awardees. Congratulations to all for their accomplishments!

Keely Bakken and Kayleigh Long were awarded U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarships for studying Turkish and Arabic, respectively.

Becky Boyle received the 2012-2013 George H. and Ruth J. Asdell Scholarship.

Kirsten Douglass has received the Boren Scholarship to study in Jordan during academic year 2012-2013.

Justin Kingsolver received the Elvis J. Stahr Distinguished Senior Award.


Molly Newell received the 2012-2013 James F. Maurer Scholarship and William G. Bray Memorial Scholarship.

Lila Raouf received a 2012-2013 FLAS Fellowship for the study of Arabic.

Marjorie Richards is a Wells Scholar.

Caroline Shurig was Indiana University’s 2011 Homecoming Queen. Justin Kingsolver was in the Court.

Alison Yates received a Hutton International Experiences Program Scholarship to teach dance workshops through Movement Exchange in Panama City, Panama during winter break 2011.

Brittney Young was selected as a student ambassador at the USA Pavilion for the 2012 World Expo in Yeosu, South Korea.

Phi Beta Kappa inductees for fall 2011 included Shantaya Lay and Kayleigh Long. Spring 2012 inductees were: Carolyn Commons, Alexandra Jacobsen, Jessica Johnson, Justin Kingsolver, Riane Kiraly, Jordan Simpson, Morgan Thune and Jessica Wolff.
Faculty Spotlight: continued from page 2

Dr. Lindley’s research focuses on intercountry adoption of children from the Philippines to the U.S. and the complex web of global, local, and intermediary forces entailed in this globalized process. His emphasis is on “interrogating social, economic, and cultural constructions of meaning and subjects at multiple scales and across political boundaries that simultaneously interact with one another in both conflicting and complementary ways.” Additionally, he sheds light on the complex roles of multi-local NGOs, international organizations, market forces, states, and other intermediaries in creating, sustaining, and mediating a persistent flow of children from one particular set of places to another. His current project addresses new forms of transnational networks in Southeast Asia and their effects upon tourism and local communities.

When asked what he values most about teaching in International Studies, Dr. Lindley “LOVE[S] the entrepreneurial spirit embodied by [the] IS student population! They have a sophisticated awareness that they can actually be the change they want to see...IS students visit [me in my office] to talk about their own intellectual and academic paths. Last semester, one student formed an NGO that is now a semifinalist for the BEST award in the IU School of Business. Another student is regularly engaged with the legislative process in Indiana on topics of interest to international studies like immigration reform and sustainable development.” He continues to be amazed and inspired by the variety of topics and creativity of new ideas proposed by the students, and that rejuvenates him every semester.

With regard to the betterment of the International Studies curriculum, Dr. Lindley brings significant experience from both Mexico and East/Southeast Asia that is beneficial to students interested in either of those two regions. He regularly uses his expertise as a small business owner as a teaching tool to “help students navigate through the obstacles that invariably stand in the way of any new venture, whether it is exclusively for profit or intended to provide a social benefit.”

When not teaching or doing research in the Philippines, Dr. Lindley enjoys playing basketball and swimming at the Student Recreational Sports Center, where his two children also participate in the Bloomington Diving Club. He still plays tennis on occasion and loves to hike with family or with his dogs at sites around Bloomington and in Brown County. He also travels regularly to Atlantic Canada to visit with his father-in-law, who is a commercial fisherman.

Digital Pathways - continued from page 3

As a joint initiative of the Center for the Study of Global Change, the International Studies Program, Hutton Honors College/Wells Scholars Program, and Pan Asia Institute, Digital Pathways was created to promote the use of interactive videoconferencing technology to enrich international scholarship across Bloomington's campus. To learn more about incorporating videoconferencing in your courses, visit the Digital Pathways website, or contact Laura Manifold at lmanifol@indiana.edu. The URL to Digital Pathways website can be found at:
http://www.indiana.edu/~icac/
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