A Message from the Director

It has been a momentous year for International Studies at Colorado State University. In Fall 2013, the program added the new position of Program Director. I am honored to be the first person to serve in this role. I also continue to teach the two INST core curriculum courses: INST 300 and INST 492, so I’ll be seeing many of you in class!

As a historian of contemporary global environmental history, I share International Studies Majors’ thirst for knowledge about the wider world. I also share your passion for international experiences. I have visited 23 countries in five continents, and I hope to travel and learn much more.

Since becoming Program Director last August, I have been working hard to provide new opportunities, experiences, and services for International Studies Majors. My initiatives include launching the International Studies Newsletter, establishing the International Studies Club—GAIA (see Page 5), recruiting INST Student Representatives, coordinating the International Opportunities Roundtable Series, and hosting a Global Careers Panel last December, which brought together four distinguished International Studies professionals. This last event drew a lively audience of approximately 100 students.

I am currently juggling a number of projects, from curricular improvements to a new, improved program website—which should be online soon. A number of events, including another Global Careers Roundtable Series, and hosting a Global Careers Panel last December, which brought together four distinguished International Studies professionals. This last event drew a lively audience of approximately 100 students.

I firmly believe that the success of this program rests on the voices and initiatives of its students. If you have ideas for improvement, feel free to stop by my office, run them by one of our student representatives, or air them at meeting of GAIA. Let’s work together to make this dynamic, critical, fantastic program even better!

- Andrea Williams, Ph.D.
The Traveler vs. the Tourist

By Ana Harris

While browsing The Huffington Post one day, I happen to come across an article titled, *Are you a Traveler or a Tourist*. Now being that I am an International Studies major, one can safely assume that the obsession I possess for wanderlust is natural. With that being said when I first saw this article, it seemed like splitting hairs but there are actually major differences between the two. After further investigation, I had come to the conclusion that one should fancy themselves as a traveler rather than just a mere tourist.

About two summers ago, I embarked on a journey to London, England with my best friend. Six months prior to that, I was sitting in my dorm room feeling bored with life so I called her up and made her an offer she couldn’t refuse. During our plane tickets and spent the summer exploring that great city. To our fortunate surprise, the Tower of London, the unexpected sightseeing of Tom Cruise, and a charming pub where we enjoyed a few pints, led us to a variety of experiences such as walking in on an activist gathering of hundreds of nude citizens riding bicycles along the streets of downtown London, the unexpected sight of Tom Cruise,

An American writer Daniel J. Boorstin once wrote that “the traveler was active; he went strenuously in search of people, of adventure, of experience. The tourist is passive; he expects interesting things to happen to him. He goes ‘sight-seeing’.” During our trip, my friend and I made it a habit to walk and explore the entire city day or night, rain or shine. This led us to a variety of experiences such as walking in an activist gathering of hundreds of nude citizens riding bicycles along the streets of downtown London, the unexpected sight of Tom Cruise, and a charming pub where we enjoyed a few pints whilst Sir Paul McCartney’s voice could be heard echoing from the nearby concert at Buckingham Palace. The traveler is active and immerses themselves in their journey while possessing a sort of go with the flow attitude. A tourist however, tends to travel through a location in a static-like position.

To become a great traveler involves one to go out of their comfort zone. This is understandably much more difficult for some rather than others.

An English writer by the name of Gilbert K. Chesterson once said, “The traveler sees what he sees, the tourist sees what he has come to see.” London is a city that is certainly not short on tourist attractions, so I distinctly remember crowds of people congregating in front of places like the Tower of London or the London Eye. But, what I became conscious of was that the majority of the people would take a few quick snapshots and then scurry off to the next site. I would argue that these are the tendencies of a tourist. Tourists have a singular focus and a main compulsion to see the attractions when they travel. A traveler tends to be much more reflective...This way, the journey never ends.

A major influx of people from all over the world, and looking back at it all, I can now see what it means to be a traveler versus being a tourist. An American writer Daniel J. Boorstin once wrote that “the traveler was active; he went strenuously in search of people, of adventure, of experience. The tourist is passive; he expects interesting things to happen to him. He goes ‘sight-seeing’.” During our trip, my friend and I made it a habit to walk and explore the entire city day or night, rain or shine. This led us to a variety of experiences such as walking in on an activist gathering of hundreds of nude citizens riding bicy-

Tourists have a singular focus and a main compulsion to see the attractions when they travel. A traveler tends to be much more reflective...This way, the journey never ends.

Continued on Page 3

The INST Newsletter welcomes student contributions. For information or to submit an article, contact Andrea.Williams@Colostate.edu

International Studies Mission Statement

The International Studies degree is designed to offer students a broad basis of knowledge in global issues and context as well as a specific regional focus within that framework. This degree is especially well suited to help fulfill the University’s Goal 13 (International Emphasis) by allowing students flexibility to “broaden their exposure to today’s global challenges” within the wide spectrum afforded by the Liberal Arts contexts. Furthermore, we seek to deliver to each student an outstanding Liberal Arts education in languages and cultures through excellent teaching and advising in an open, personal atmosphere conducive to intellectual exchange and learning. Specifically, the International Studies degree reflects Goal 3 of the CLA Strategic Plan by creating a curricular framework to “foster global awareness / understanding” through languages, cultures, and social systems that frame the Liberal Arts learning environment.
Alumni Interview: Ilya S., ’13

What was your favorite CSU class? Cultural Anthropology. Mainly because professor told different stories and shared his experiences in every class the whole time. Needless to say I failed some tests... but the stories were awesome.

How have you used your International Studies degree in your post-college life?

I really struggled financially and stressed out after graduating. I was working a door to door sales job with no other immediate prospects while working on my background check to clear for FBI. I literally lost all hope on a hot mid-summer Wednesday going to that door to door job; then later that day I was contacted and told to come in! Right now the current plan is to be a linguist for a few years then go in the field (Special Agent) and eventually apply to work for FBI overseas.

As a linguist I translate Russian/English, the work is usually varied. Sometimes I stay in the office, sometimes I accompany agents to do live interpreting while working on my background check to clear for FBI offices overseas.

What was hardest about your job?

Commuting to work... Can someone give more suggestions to pass time!?? Sometimes it gets really draining mentally to translate. Also making a mistake could potentially affect another person’s life, mislead people, or result in missing valuable information.

What is your advice for INST majors seeking successful careers in their field?

Be really positive, all the time. The attitude is absolutely crucial. Connections are everything... so put yourself out there, meet as many people as you can and get along, DO IT, no excuses. Don’t do this just at work or school, but everywhere you go (obviously using common sense). Sometimes simple small talk can get you far! Have an open mind and be brave enough to make that effort. If you want a career then never pass up new opportunities that you are given to move forward, no matter how small and subtle. You never know where it will take you. That one thing you are REALLY nervous about could get you very far if you just face it.

What was your favorite CSU job?

I literally lost all hope on a hot mid-summer Wednesday going to that door to door job; then later that day I was contacted and told to come in! Right now the current plan is to be a linguist for a few years then go in the field (Special Agent) and eventually apply to work for FBI overseas.

What did you do before you came to work at CSU?

I received my MA in English Literature from CU-Boulder in 2008. Afterwards, I worked as a Residence Hall Director and Academic Development Coordinator for Residence Life, also at CU-Boulder. During that time I worked closely with students and faculty, taught English courses, and worked for the University Writing Center.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Meeting with students. You should not have a job if you don’t like meeting with students and hearing about their experiences. I enjoy being a part of the CSU community that cares about students succeeding and finding creative ways to build their career paths.

What do you like to do when you’re not advising?

I ski and mountain bike depending on the season, love to hike and spend time with my family. I love science fiction films and novels, and can also be caught playing video games late into the night. If you could give all INST majors one piece of advice, what would it be?

To keep your mind open to the different paths your job can take you. Often times I have students in my office who are worried about ‘what job does INST get you.’ There is no single, default answer to this question. You have to advocate for yourself, and highlight the analytical and cultural skills you gain from studying the way people and governments interact with each other across the globe. If this is something you worry about, you have to visualize yourself in the future, and start researching the careers that highlight what you see yourself enjoying.

The Academic Support Center is located in Clark C-207. Elizabeth Terry and Kelly McGregor advise for International Studies. For more information or to set up an appointment, visit http://advising.lib.colostate.edu/
You’ve Studied Abroad, Now What?

By Noah Peden, ’13

Maybe you studied abroad for a semester, maybe you studied abroad for only a few short weeks last summer. Maybe you did a mix volunteer-study abroad experience in Peru, or maybe it was a fashion and design program in Paris. Whatever it was, you just had a once in a lifetime experience and are now a part of the 1% of college students who have studied abroad during their college undergrad. You went where there is no path and you left a trail. But now you’re back in the good ol’ U.S. of A and either you’re super happy to be back or not at all. Either way you’ll go through some form of reverse culture shock whether that’s being disgusted as the super sized soda cups or happy that you have air conditioning again. So the question is, “I’ve studied abroad, now what?” Here are a couple pieces of advice to answer that question:

Share your story:
One of the best ways to avoid reverse culture shock is to tell people about your experience abroad. The downfall is that the brunt of people who will hear your stories are your friends and family. This may seem like a good thing, but even though they love you to death, they probably don’t want to hear a hundred different stories that start with “this one time, when I was living in Paris...” So don’t drive away your friends, share your study abroad stories on something that never tires of your stories, THE INTERNET. There are dozens of ways to get published online ranging from starting your own blog on Wordpress to being a guest writer for www.GoAbroad.com, to writing for www.lifeafterstudyabroad.com. So write down your experiences online where your friends and family can read your stories at their leisure AND other study abroad students can connect with you.

Get involved on campus:
CSU has a very involved and passionate study abroad office. Head over to Laurel Hall and see how you can stay involved with the study abroad scene. Look up the student groups at CSU like Students for Study Abroad and others, conversation partners, Friday Afternoon Clubs at the International House, Cultural Mentors or Study Abroad Peer Advisors in the Office of International Programs.

Continued on Page 5

Introducing GAIA, the International Studies Club

The newly formed Global Awareness and International Affairs (GAIA) student organization strives to foster international awareness and career development through networking opportunities, leadership projects and real world experience. As a student-run, non-profit organization at Colorado State University, GAIA also aims to equip students with the skills and opportunities required to gain cultural perspectives, to obtain successful global careers, and to become dynamic agents in the international community. Although it is open to all CSU students, GAIA works hand-in-hand with the International Studies Program to plan, coordinate, and facilitate events. It is a great way to get involved in your major. For more information or to join, contact kieramj@hotmail.com.

You’ve Studied Abroad, Now What?
Continued from Page 4

By staying involved back on campus you’ll find other study abroad alumni who can relate to your reverse culture shock and you might be able to find a job in international education once you graduate.

Find Your Next Adventure Abroad:
Chances are now that you’ve studied abroad you have the curse and blessing that is the travel bug. What’s the only way to satisfy the travel bug? TO LIVE ABROAD AGAIN! There are so many opportunities out there that it is actually kind of ridiculous. Get your TEFL certification and go earn the big bucks by teaching English abroad in Asia, the Middle East, or South America. Look into joining the Peace Corps to go work at the hardest job you’ll ever love. Get an internship abroad in Europe to take your resume to the next level. The opportunities are endless. But ultimately, traveling is the only sure-fire way of killing the post study abroad blues. So get out there and show the world who you are. Go where there is no path and leave your own freakin’ trail.

Noah graduated from CSU in Fall 2013 with a degree in International Studies. He edits the magazine Life After Study Abroad. He can be reached at noah@lifeafterstudyabroad.com.