

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Newsletter



Fall 2017



Colorado State University

Lessons from the Denver Posner Center

By Andrea Duffy

On Friday, October 20th, CSU's International Studies Program led a group of students to the Posner Center for International Development. Located in north Denver, the Posner Center houses over 60 organizations dedicated to alleviating global poverty.

Member Organizations

During the trip, CSU students toured the center and met with four of its tenants:



- **The Women's Bakery**, an education-centric social enterprise committed to empowering women and developing women-owned businesses, which currently works with women in Rwanda and Tanzania.

What we Learned

Posner center members come from a wide range of backgrounds and represent all different areas of expertise. All of our contacts emphasized the importance of getting your feet wet and being open to opportunities as they come along.



- **Children's Future International**, which provides educational resources for children in rural Cambodia.
- **Africa Development Promise**, which builds on and strengthens the collective action of rural entrepreneurial women through agriculture in East Africa.
- **iDE**, which offers affordable technologies for lifting, storing, and distributing water water in developing countries worldwide.

The Posner Center is evidence that you don't have to leave Colorado to make the world a better place. It is a fantastic resource for CSU students seeking work in international development and/or the non-profit sector. To find out about internships, plan a visit, or get involved in the Posner Center community, visit <https://posnercenter.org/>.

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*Fall 2017 Newsletter
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ADVICE ON INTERNSHIPS: AN INST ALUMNA'S PERSPECTIVE



By Eliz Hale, '16

When beginning an internship, it's best to keep expectations low. You should probably just accept that you'll be a lowly grunt, relegated to tedious data entry, fetching obnoxiously complex coffee orders, or worst of all, doing nothing at all because nobody can be bothered to remember to tell you to do something.

Heading to Washington, D.C., for the summer, about to partake in a federal-level internship, my family cheered me and my friends congratulated me, but internally I recited to myself the above advice. I knew what "internship" really meant, a romanticized waste of time for the sake of an entry on your resume—or so I thought.

Imagine my shock to find myself instead interning at a place that consistently remembered my existence and took full advantage of my labor. A place with supervisors who sought to teach me valuable skills and act as mentors. An oasis in the proverbial swamp of Capitol Hill—the U.S. Botanic Garden. And it was wonderful.

Before you ask, no, I don't have any sort of background in horticulture, botany, or even gardening. My concentration is in Middle Eastern and North African studies, and any plant unfortunate enough to find itself in my care usually dies a slow, brown death. My duties as an intern at the Botanic Garden involved preparing social media posts and communications-related documents. As an avid disuser of social media, at first I proved hopeless at the former, but my boss didn't mind. He was happy to teach me the ropes. I also learned how to use a very fancy DSLR camera that I toted around the glass-enclosed Conservatory and the outdoor National Garden, both filled with stunning exhibits of the beauty and variety of the plant kingdom, taking pictures of pretty flowers and happy children. My pure joy was matched only by the terror of possibly dropping the multi-thousand-dollar camera.

Initially I felt like I was in over my head—the botany-jargon baffled me, I kept forgetting everyone's names, and I got lost on the way to work every day for the first two weeks (I challenge any skeptic to commute via bike in downtown D.C. rush hour in mid-summer and see how far they get before they can't differentiate between their excessive sweat and their tears of frustration). Nevertheless, I soon became comfortable and happy in my position. I probably could have interned someplace that fell more in line with my field of study and future goals, which involve Arabic language education, but I decided instead to do something different. And I don't regret it, not one bit. I gained a whole host of new skills that I wouldn't have learned if I had confined myself to a realm that I'm already familiar with. The internship taught me the basics of photography, photo editing, graphic design, and other communications-related tasks.



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INST GRAD TALKS TRAVEL

By Jess Egnatovich, '15

"I'm kidding," Davi said, making me and Nichole laugh at his newfound favorite slang. Davi was an exchange student from Brazil who was taking English classes at INTO, and who'd asked me for some help with American slang. Like all of the other students in his class, he was on a mission to find American slang phrases and understand them, part of his INTO homework as well as his integration into the American and Coloradoan societies.

As a student who had studied abroad before and been more or less "adopted" by a very welcoming group of friends in Buenos Aires, I took it upon myself to be that same welcoming force to students studying at CSU from other countries. I knew things weren't easy—language, culture, separation from family and friends—and I



saw it as my mission to be the constant, happy force in these students' lives. I wanted them to not only feel welcome and comfortable at CSU, but to love Colorado and the American culture the way I did Argentina and the culture there.

Buenos Aires was my first home away from home. Going there was the first time I'd been away from friends and family, in a completely new environ-

ment with everything being under the "unknown" category. Despite new challenges like navigating a public bus system with a mathematic-like map and getting lost on my first day of class by taking the wrong bus, I soon became fascinated by this new way of life and rather intrigued by what other things this culture, as well as others, had to offer.

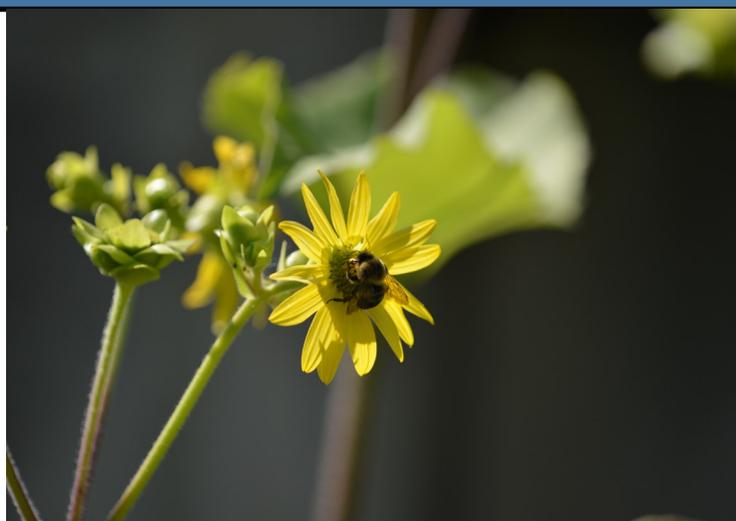
A church right next to my study abroad office soon turned into my favorite place in my neighborhood; there were students studying there from all over the world, and they were all like a family, taking in each new student and welcoming them as their brothers and sisters. I still marvel how certain things can bring people together, despite being from other parts of the world where people speak different languages and have different customs.

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It also sparked a newfound curiosity in the world of plants, which was inevitable considering the sheer botanical passion of the highly knowledgeable coworkers that surrounded me (such as Elliot, the Cactus Scholar. My new life goal is to someday have a job title as cool as "Cactus Scholar").

If there's any lesson I learned, it's to follow your instincts as well as your interests. If an opportunity crops up but you're worried about it "not paying off in the future," stop yourself right there and think about whether it could be a good fit regardless. Don't limit yourself to one field of study (or one area of the world, for us International Studies folks). Learn as much as you can, about anything at all that interests you. You never know the benefits that it can bring you. For instance, because of the knowledge that I've gained from this internship, I am currently the proud owner of some houseplants that I have successfully kept alive for about three months now. The sky is the limit, and



willingness to branch out—if I may be excused the pun—will always serve you well.

Eliz Hale graduated CSU in 2016 with a B.A. in International Studies and minors in Arabic Studies, Religious Studies, and Spanish. She was the first CSU student in 30 years to receive the prestigious Truman Scholarship, which provides funding for graduate school as well as the opportunity to complete a summer internship in D.C.

GOT SUB-STANCE? INST ALUMNA LAUNCHES GLOBAL ISSUES WEBSITE

Launched this past spring by CSU alum Josephine Bush, along with several other graduate students in Berlin, Germany, **Sub-Stances** is a website and podcast that promotes cultural awareness. It is intended to showcase substantial issues of the 21st century through various stances, hence the name Sub-Stances. Sub-Stances has a variety of podcasts that highlight people from around the world who help break down stereotypes about their regions of the world through dialogue, but also operates parallel to the website

platform that has engaging content from recipes and factoids around the world. They also upload scholarly articles from BA and MA students, have photo galleries and much more. They are always looking for submissions that will continue to create cultural awareness and also have a variety of contests. For more information visit their website at www.sub-stances.com and to reach out to them for podcast opportunities and online submissions please send an email to dosageofrepartee@gmail.com.

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A good amount of my friends at church were long-term Brazilian students studying medicine, and between them and a short semester-long class, I learned Portuguese. Portuguese fascinated me like no other language I'd learned; it was so similar to both Spanish and French, and it had a weird, nasally sound to it that made it seem almost musical. I fell in love with the language and it continues to impact me today.

The first group of international students I met after studying abroad was a large group of Brazilians, and I jumped at the opportunity to practice my Portuguese. I became the honorary Brazilian amongst them, and not only have I hosted them at my house with my family, but I've been hosted by them during my trips to Brazil. I hosted international parties at my house in which all of my friends would bring a dish from their country, I would teach them about American football, and we would all socialize-Americans, Chileans, Brazilians, Indians, Colombians, etc.

When I returned from CSU, I didn't have reverse culture shock as much as the rest of my friends did upon coming back from studying abroad. Why? Not only do I keep in touch with all of my international friends in Argentina, but I meet all of them in my own neighborhoods and when I travel. Argentina was my first step toward becoming the traveler I am today, and it brought me out of my shell, intrigued about others.

Fast forward four years, and I'm known as a "world traveler" by my friends and family, having visited South America and the Caribbean, and now being on a Euro-trip for two months. Following a habit I started while in Argentina, I write a blog to keep everyone laughing at my adventures



that usually involve getting lost, and all of my pictures and stories are in one place so I'm able to explain to others-and myself-why I travel: not only do I travel to see the world, but to make friends! Some of the destinations this time around are Finland, Russia, Greece, Italy, and Switzerland; and I will be visiting several friends that I've met on previous trips and have kept in contact with. I'm lucky enough to have learned that traveling is the best way to get out of your comfort zone and learn that the grass is a lot different on the other side than you thought it would be; it may not be greener, it may be yellow, or maybe it doesn't exist! Every place you visit is unique in one way or another, and every person has a different story that you may be lucky enough to have a part in.

Jess Egnatovich graduated in 2015 with a B.A. in International Studies and minors in International Development and Spanish. Follow her at www.prinjessadventures.net.

Spring 2017 INST Course Offerings



AUCC:

ANTH200, CO150, ECON202, GR100, MATH117, POLS241

INST Topic Area D3, 4 A/B:

D3. AGRI270/IE270, ANTH100, ANTH140, ANTH322, ANTH338, ANTH415, AREC240/ECON240, AREC460, DM470A, E142, E245, ECON101, ECON202, ECON204, ECON211, ECON240, ECON332/POLS332, ECON440, ECON460, FIN475, GR320, GR415, GES101, IE479/ANTH479, INST495, INST487, JTC412, LB170, LB171, MU131, MGT475, MKT365, NRRT320, PHIL170, POLS131, POLS232, POLS241, POLS332, POLS362, POLS431, POLS443, SOC105, SOC220, SOC322, SOC323, or substitution approved by advisor.

4 A/B. INST 310, INST 492

Asian Studies (Topic Area 1 & 2):

1. ETST/HIST252, ETST324, HIST120, HIST451, HIST455, HIST533, or substitution approved by advisor.

2. ART316, (LCHI250 or LJPN250 not both), LCHI/LJPN496 (3 credit max), PHIL172, or substitution approved by advisor.

European Studies (Topic Area 1 & 2):

1. ECON372, ECON376, HIST302, HIST303, HIST304, HIST331, HIST339, HIST461, POLS345, POLS420, POLS421, or substitution approved by advisor.

2. ART111, ART 212, ART416, E276, E277, E342, E430, LAND120, LFRE/LGER/LSPA310, LFRE/LSPA313, LFRE/LGER/LSPA335, LGER/LSPA345, LSPA413, LSPA437, LFRE/LGER454, MU335, PHIL300, PHIL301, or substitution approved by advisor.

Latin American Studies (Topic Area 1 & 2):

1. ETST253, POLS331, or substitution with advisor approval.

2. ANTH452, LSPA310, LSPA313, LSPA335, LSPA345, LSPA436, LSPA437, LSPA445, LSPA449, or substitution approved by advisor.

Middle East & North Africa Studies (Topic Area 1 & 2):

1. HIST116, HIST303, POLS449 or substitution approved by advisor.

2. ANTH310, ETST130, ETST412, PHIL379, or substitution approved by advisor.

Course availability subject to change. Some courses may require prerequisites. For more information, contact your academic advisor.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Santi Bothe Botero

Olivia Claxton

Cindy Her

Kristopher Tive

Eric Gauck

Chloe Craft

Neall Denman

Abigail Gasser

Jessica Jackson

Jasmine Malone



Hayley Noah

Mallory Prentiss

Grace Quinlan

Christian Sanford

Madalyne Staab

Brenna Valentine

Yijun Wu

INST 487— International Studies Administrative Internship

CSU's International Studies Program is seeking an administrative intern for Spring 2018.

Details: This is a one-credit, one semester, unpaid internship. It involves a time commitment of approximately three hours per week on average.

Responsibilities: The intern will work closely with the Program Director to plan and host events, edit program publications, and coordinate outreach. Interns are also encouraged to pursue projects or programming on relevant topics of their interest.

Qualifications: The ideal candidate is a student with junior or senior standing studying International Studies or a related subject. Technical skills, interpersonal skills, superior writing and editing, and experience with social media and graphic design are preferred.

To Apply: Submit your resume and a brief cover letter via email to Dr. Andrea Duffy, Director of International Studies at: Andrea.Duffy@colostate.edu.

For More Information: Contact Dr. Andrea Duffy at Andrea.Duffy@colostate.edu. Position will remain open until filled.