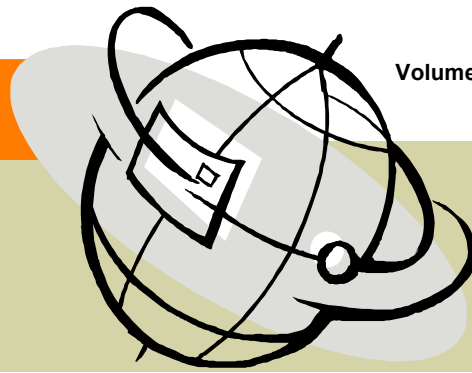


IR Matters!



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Dear International Relations Students, Alumni,
and Friends:

As we approach the end of the academic year, things are rather busy on campus. This semester, we welcomed a new class of 45 International Relations majors. The cherry trees that are about to bloom on the quad promise that graduation is near. In May, 34 students are getting ready to join the ranks of about 1,300 IR alumni. We can't wait to see them take on important challenges, prepared with a desire to remain lifelong learners, and committed to being the engaged global citizens we have hopefully helped them become. We have some news from the faculty as well. We are delighted that Prof. Rose Shinko (whose faculty profile you will find in this issue) has accepted our offer to continue teaching at Bucknell for another two years. She brings great passion, dedication, and depth to her classes and has greatly enhanced our IR offerings with new classes. As an economist, and someone who is following the economic and financial crisis with a keen and critical eye, Prof. Stamos connects the US-based causes and consequences of deepening economic problems to their broader implications for the larger global economy. His analysis is as timely as it is sobering.

In the last issue of our newsletter, we introduced you to Laura Romah, who was wrapping up a Peace Corps assignment in the Dominican Republic. In recent years, a number of our graduates have chosen to serve in the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, and Teach for America. Another path frequently traveled by IR graduates is pursuit of post-graduate degrees. Laura has since been accepted into a Master's program at Cornell University. In fact, many of our students continue on from Bucknell in Master's programs and some pursue doctorates in international relations or political science. In this issue, we present an interview with Denis Kennedy '05 who is working towards a PhD in Political Science at the University of Minnesota. Denis highlights the challenges and rewards of graduate school and gives advice on how to approach the search for an appropriate graduate program. In this issue, we've also include two field reports from East and West Africa: Suzanne van Hulle '03 and Erica Meadows '98 share with us the work that they do in Sierra Leone

and the Sudan respectively. Christine Yaged '09 filed another field report, offering highlights from a student anti-genocide conference she attended last November. The IR program was pleased to support her attendance at this conference, from which she returned brimming with ideas and full of energy to transform the student anti-genocide organization she leads here at Bucknell: alumni contributions put to good use!

After our first newsletter was sent out, I received many kind emails from alumni who were pleased to hear from us in the IR program. Some returned the favor by letting us in on what they have been doing since graduation. As a result, our "Alumni News" section has grown. We hope that many more of you will share with us faculty and students and your fellow alumni news from your lives. We would also like to highlight an upcoming opportunity for students, faculty, and alumni to meet. On Wednesday, April 22, 2009 the Bucknell Club of Washington, DC and the B-link International Relations Connection will be hosting a panel discussion on "The First 100 Days" of the Obama administration in Washington, DC. Students will travel down and will meet Bucknell alumni at the event. We encourage students and alumni living in the vicinity of Washington, DC to consider attending the event. Please see the story on p. 10 for further information.

As always, we look forward to hearing from you with feedback, suggestions, comments, and news.

Wishing you a great spring and summer,

Emek M. Uçarer
Director, International Relations Program



The Global Consequences of the Financial and Economic Crisis

The majority of U.S. citizens are painfully aware of the fact that the country is in the midst of a deep and prolonged recession. The continued talk of parallels with the Great Depression and the unprecedented nature of this crisis only further exacerbates well founded fears and pessimism. The collapse of the real GDP to a negative 6.2% for the 4th Quarter of 2008 and the expectations of another similar drop in the 1st Quarter of 2009 are further evidence of the dismal state of the US economy. Unemployment at 8.2% and heading for double-digits by the end of 2009 reinforces the depth and severity of the crisis. The story line is all too familiar -the bursting of the Housing Bubble, the greed and risk management failures of Wall Street banks and their shadow banking system, the continued rise in foreclosures, the broken financial and credit markets, the steep decline in household net worth, the collapse of the stock market, and the massive global plunge in asset values. At the end of the day, the crisis aside, the elephant in the room is the relationship between the U.S. current account deficit, the domestic deficit, and the U.S. dollar in the context of the U.S. dependency on borrowing the global saving surplus. Soon, our coins and currency will carry the inscription - *In China We Trust*.

In the U.S., there is hope that the Obama Administration can engineer a successful comprehensive response to this crisis that will in the next couple of years set our economy on a more stable and sustainable trajectory. The Treasury has brought forth TARP, TALF, and other initiatives to address some aspects of the crisis. The Federal Reserve has opened the flood gates of credit and liquidity to unclog the credit system. Congress has passed a near \$ 800 billion stimulus plan designed to stimulate jobs and economic growth. And, the Office of Management and Budget has put forth a \$ 3.6 trillion annual budget designed to pave the way for economic recovery. While the role of government has qualitatively changed, it is in response to clear cut market failure. Keynes and Obama share the historic distinction of each being committed to saving capitalism.

In the larger global economy, the IMF has informed us that this is a global recession and that economic growth has slowed to a crawl everywhere. Even China and India are seeing their projected growth rates cut in half. Russia and several Eastern European nations are on the brink of collapse. The global community

everywhere is sinking fast. The International Labour Organization offers that the ranks of the global unemployed will rise to over 50 million this year. The IMF is once again concerned about potential defaults by sovereign debtors. The collapse of the commodity boom and the progressive deterioration of current accounts has drawn attention to this reality. Flows of investment capital to emerging market countries is slowing to a trickle at a time when they need it the most. Many are calling for dramatic increases in the IMF's loan capability. The global recession has undermined the volume of international trade while protectionist sentiment is on the rise. The World Bank has documented that the new found gains in the reduction of global poverty (as hundreds of millions of people climbed into the new global middle-class) are being reversed. The collapse of global public health gains is thrown into reverse as global poverty climbs. The Millenium Development goals and agenda are being progressively undermined and will continue to be for the next several years.

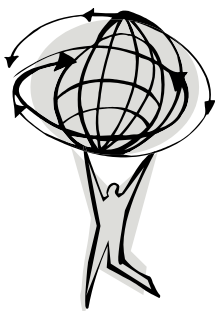
From a foreign policy and national security perspective, we can surmise that this deep crisis will unleash political and social instability further fueling violence and ultimately undermining hard fought democratic gains. The long-term reality of addressing climate change and the need to address the world's dependency on petroleum and other fossil fuels are likely to be two additional victims of this crisis. It is being argued that this is not the time to attack these issues, not understanding that resolving them is a necessary part of a prosperous and sustainable future.

At this stage of the crisis, it is appropriate that we pause and consider the following critical questions: What is the prospect for globalization? For Global Capitalism? For Sustainable Development? For Democratization?

The April G-20 meeting in London is an opportunity for the U.S. to provide critical global leadership in seeking a global strategy for this crisis. At a minimum, we will need concrete proposals for the following: a global stimulus plan to expand consumption, a global stimulus plan to extend safety nets to those most devastated by the crisis, a commitment to *fair* trade, a coordinated monetary policy to open the flow of credit and investment, coordinated financial regulation, enhanced financial support



Stephen C. Stamos Jr.
Professor of
International Relations



Stamos, Cont'd

financial resources for the IMF and the World Bank, for NGOs, Non-profits, and Micro-credit institutions, and a commitment to continue to address the challenges of climate change. Anything less will not bring success. The costs and consequences for the *entire* global community are too high. In the final analysis, the U.S. must integrate its domestic agenda and strategy with its foreign and national security policy. We are not an Island.

Stephen C. Stamos Jr., Professor of International Relations, Bucknell University.

Prof. Stamos is currently writing *The Puzzle of 21st Century Globalization* with Patrice Franko, to be published by Rowman and Littlefield.

Faculty Profile: Rose Shinko



We are delighted to introduce one of Bucknell University's International Relations Professors, Rosemary Shinko, who also happens to be a postmodernist. Professor Shinko has a lot of experience in teaching, and was the principal of a girls' high school prior to completing her Ph.D. at the University of Connecticut. She is originally from Scott Township, which is just outside of Pittsburgh, and currently spends her time in both Lewisburg and Connecticut. She has her own college-aged children who she enjoys spending time with.

Professor Shinko truly loves teaching and is dedicated to helping students see and understand the world in different ways. She enjoys the energy and enthusiasm of young people, and derives great satisfaction when ideas finally connect for her students and they are able to comprehend a new concept. She sees young people as the future, and finds them to be fun as well as a promising source of hope for change. Professor Shinko's classes are interactive and hands-on, as she believes one of the

best ways to learn is by doing. In fact, in her IR theory course, the culminating class activity is a mock conference where each student is an active participant in discussing a particular theory as a lens for viewing the world. The past semester's topic was the China threat. She integrates current events as an essential part of classes to enhance the students' understanding of how theory can be applied in the real world. Furthermore, Professor Shinko says she would like to extend in-class participation to incorporate out of class activities such as book discussion circles or watching a common television show or film.

Aside from teaching, Professor Shinko has unique personal interests. She enjoys swimming, biking, playing tennis, foreign films, and jazz. She has also been playing around with ideas for writing her own film script, but has not had the chance to start up the project quite yet. Her favorite book is *Anna Karenina* by Tolstoy. On the social side, Professor Shinko loves being the hostess – she and her husband are known for throwing thematic parties, and several successful occasions include: New Years Eve in Vienna and an annual Bastille Day celebration in the summer.

Professor Shinko has made a surprising discovery over the course of her career, which is that she really does love to write and apply her theories to reality. Evidence of her strong inclination towards writing and analyzing the world through the scope of a postmodernist lens is her intrigue with the television show "24". In fact, she is writing a paper about the human body in International Relations and integrating Jack Bauer's persona into the paper.

Professor Shinko loves Bucknell and its stunning campus. She finds the university community to be very special where the students and faculty jointly contribute to a friendly and academically engaging atmosphere. Pennsylvania is home to Professor Shinko, and she finds comfort in the familiarity of the state and its many happy childhood memories.

Professor Shinko has wise advice for students at Bucknell: "Pay very close attention to how you read, it is the cornerstone of everything. You must take time to read critically and analytically, carefully reading and listening to the text." She truly wants the best for her students and to see them become creative critical thinkers.

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Cheryl Hutnikoff '09
Kay Miyoshi '09

IR Faculty News

In February, **Professor Mitchell** presented "Driven to Extremes: The Role of Prime Ministerial Leadership and the Direction of Foreign Policy in Coalition Governments" at the Annual International Studies Association Conference. He recently published a review essay, "Challenges, Crises and Change in US Foreign Policy" in *International Studies Review*. He also has an article co-authored with Tony Massoud forthcoming in *Foreign Policy Analysis*, "Anatomy of Failure: Bush's Decision Making and the Iraq War".

Professor Shinko will be offering a new course in the fall entitled "Gender in IR" which will examine the role that gender plays in the conception and practice of international politics. Special emphasis will be placed on analyzing how gender impacts our attitudes towards war, peace and security and influences our responses to issues involving human rights, economic development and global governance.

Professor Uçarer will be presenting a paper on negotiating third country national rights in the European Union at the biennial conference of the European Union Studies Association in Los Angeles. She attended the International Studies Association conference in February where she participated in a roundtable discussion on finding appropriate outlets to publish.

Professor Zhu published a chapter on China's defense policy in *Handbook of Defense Politics: International and comparative perspectives* edited by Isaiah Wilson and James Forest (Routledge 2008). He presented a paper, "China's New Diplomacy in Central Asia: Motivations, Strategies, and Significance," at the 15th Annual National Conference of Asian Studies Development Program in Philadelphia in March 2009. He will speak on China-Japan relations in May 2009 in Hong Kong at the invitation of the University of Hong Kong. He has been chosen to attend the 2009 Teachers' Workshop on Security Studies, organized by the Johns Hopkins University's Philip Merrill Center for Strategic Studies and to be held at the Basin Harbor Club in Vermont in June 2009. As part

of the MacArthur Chair programming, Prof. Zhu hosted the April 1 screening of "Crossing", a documentary that depicts the life of North Korean refugees.

IR Program Holds a Majors Luncheon on Career Resources



On Tuesday February 24, the IR program held its first luncheon event for majors of all years – the attendees varied from newly declared sophomores to seniors, professors and a representative from the Career Development Center. Students were able to network across years—allowing for an informative flow of conversation. New students to the IR program were able to ask questions and seniors were able to share insights about their experiences with the International Relations major. The event provided a casual atmosphere so that students could comfortably speak with IR professors and learn of their own areas of expertise. The event was concluded with a helpful presentation by the Career Development Center elaborating on the many options IR majors have after they graduate and presenting some food for thought for the newly declared IR class of 2011. The event could not have come at a better time, as students consider different places they may want to study abroad or reflect on where they have been, as the class of 2010 is seeking ideas for internship opportunities and possible industries, and as seniors reflect on their 4 years of experience and completion of their time at Bucknell.



The IR Faculty teach a wide array of courses and engage in interesting research—this summary will give you a sense of what we are currently working on.

From the Field: Suzanne van Hulle '03 in Sierra Leone



Photo by Suzanne van Hulle

I still remember watching students walking around Bucknell quad with buckets of water in both hands: a professor's way of illustrating the daily hardship of millions of people across the globe. Today, it's a reality for me, except that I see young children bearing the brunt of such work.

I moved to Sierra Leone about a year ago to work towards improving the health of people in a country ranked as one of the poorest in the world... 70% of the population live below the poverty line. Although much has changed since the end of the 11-year civil war, Sierra Leone remains largely dependent on international aid as it struggles to establish solid and functional systems.

The goal of my work is to contribute towards reducing child and maternal mortality rates among the most vulnerable population, most of them living in villages that are one day's drive from the capital city, Freetown, and a few hours' motorbike ride through a mountainous terrain often through the wild jungle. In those communities, the probability of a child dying before s/he reaches the age of five is one in four, and the probability of a woman dying of a pregnancy-related cause is one in eight; comparable rates in Ireland are one in 48,000 for children's survival rate, and in Sweden one in 17,400 women might die of a pregnancy-related cause. Most women I have met find it normal that about one third of their children will not survive beyond the age of five!

Two of the five health projects for which I am responsible, aim at training communities on methods of preventing malnutrition and disease. The message might seem straightforward emphasizing some basic points such as washing hands with soap at crucial times of the day, spoon feeding infants with nutritious foods, or sleeping under a bed net, to prevent diseases such as malaria, diarrhoea, and pneumonia. The reality is that we spend a lot of time identifying children who are already suffering from

severe or moderate malnutrition, and teaching communities how to save their children through ongoing government systems. Indeed, the causes of maternal and child health problems are vastly multi-faceted – a concept I learned in the Thar Desert of India working with a local Non-Governmental Organization, and later on at a theoretical level during my Masters degree studies in International Public Health. I hope that these projects enable communities to transition from a mentality of relief (receiving free food and shelter when they came to their villages after spending many years in refugee or internally displaced camps) to that of self-sustainability and development.

My passion for international development comes from an education in an international school mixing with classmates from all over the world, and ultimately grounded by Bucknell University's International Relations courses and my time in India. Although the detailed content of many courses I took in Coleman Hall are no longer as vivid in my memory; the opportunity to critically analyze international relations' concepts and topics, picking my professors' brains over a drink, balancing a heavy course load, sports, and social life have had a lasting and positive impact on me and my ability to contribute to society in what I hope is an effective manner. Even today I am constantly reminded of my international law class, where I remember my professor describing the city I currently live in as "the city which ironically implies freedom and prosperity: Freetown" – it was ironic because the case study traced some of the worst human atrocities that occurred in Sierra Leone during the civil war.

Many of my friends have a difficult time understanding why I would want to spend my career living and working in countries such as Sierra Leone with unreliable electricity and running water systems, virtually no postal system, and bad roads which makes traveling difficult and time-consuming. On the other hand, the country has some of the most beautiful beaches and landscape I have ever seen. Overall, I owe a lot to the people I work with (mostly national staff), especially the health field staff who spend three-fourths of their time away from their families and children dedicated to teaching rural communities how to save their lives. It is a truly enriching experience to work with such people. I am fortunate to be able to work in precisely the area I feel passionately about. Sometimes, it takes time, effort and a lot of hard work to find the right career path but it is worth it all in the end!

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Alumnus Spotlight: Denis Kennedy '05



Denis waiting to take the ferry from Nuweiba, Sinai, Egypt to Aqaba, Jordan, Summer 2008

“Before I applied to schools, I talked to faculty, visited department websites (often on the basis of discussions with faculty), and read CVs and skimmed articles...”

Why did you decide to go to graduate school?

There were a number of reasons. First and most important, I like asking the big questions—the why and the how, who controls what and for whom. I’ve always been attracted to critical forms of social engagement and academia is one of the few places where I’ve felt at home asking these types of questions. Second, I was never attracted to the typical 9-5 job. I was afraid of a job dominated by routine and motivated only (or largely) by profit, economic growth, and expansion. Scheduling is much more fluid in grad school and in academia—for better and for worse!—and I have a great deal more control over when and how I spend my time. Finally, to be frank, there was probably an aspect of me not being entirely sure what I wanted to do with myself. I was in school, I was good at that, so grad school was appealing. I’d like to think that the more noble reasons played the larger role, but I can’t deny that uncertainty about my future played some part in my decision to apply to grad school!

How did you choose the program you are currently attending (and why)?

The University of Minnesota turned out to be the perfect fit for me, given my set of interests, but I definitely got a bit lucky. I realized after the fact how little I knew about the process, about the nature of grad school, and about the divides and debates in the discipline. For instance, applying to schools, I couldn’t even have told you that there was a prominent quantitative-qualitative divide in many American programs! Before I applied to schools, I talked to faculty, visited department websites (often on the basis of discussions with faculty), and read CVs and skimmed articles. I applied to a few schools, got accepted by a handful, and went to visit two of them. In the end, I was lucky: Minnesota is

really one of the best places for work that combines IR with theory. There is a breadth and depth of faculty here, though it’s small enough in size that I have close connections with faculty—in other words, it’s not a PhD factory.

What would you consider to be the challenges and rewards of graduate school?

Grad school, especially a PhD program, is challenging on a number of different levels. Honestly, it can be a depressing, all-consuming existence and you have to work hard against these impulses. You have to force yourself to impose boundaries between your studies and your life outside, because there’s always work to do, always more to read (again, not having a set schedule is a double-edged sword). On the flipside, it can be difficult to stay motivated and engaged, especially as there is always more to do and only rarely is there a definite end in sight. And it can be intimidating; it took me about a year and a half before I felt truly in my element in grad school. It’s qualitatively different from undergrad and you’re surrounded by some pretty impressive people; expectations are immeasurably higher. It can be mentally exhausting and for me, it got better only as I became better read in the core literature and, at the same time, came to understand that everyone is intimidated when they start.

That said, grad school has also been extremely personally rewarding. Although I’m more aware of my limitations than ever, I’m equally aware of the leaps and bounds I’ve made in just the few short years since leaving Bucknell. I feel like I’m actually fulfilling my potential, not selling myself short or taking an easy (albeit it probably more lucrative) route. I can also look at myself in the mirror and be content that I’m out of the ‘rat race’ and am in a line of work where I have very real opportunities to educate and to create social change. Finally, though the grad student existence is not particularly glamorous—it’s a transitory state, after all—I’ve had incredible opportunities for international travel and exposure to different ideas and ways of being that would not have been possible in another line of work.

What projects are you working on?

First and foremost, I’m working on my dissertation prospectus. I look at the practices behind humanitarian advertising. That is, how and why have aid agencies modified their practices of visual representation and in what ways are these images of distant, suffering others both productive of and produced by the world? At the moment, this is on a bit of a hold as I’ve been spending the past month coordinating the campus visits for our

Denis Kennedy '05 Cont'd

prospective PhD students! Over the summer, I'll be living in Helsinki and doing research for my dissertation. I'll be doing interviews and participant observation of NGOs and participating in workshops with my Finnish colleagues. At the same time, I'll be working on a co-edited volume with a Finnish friend and colleague, Mika Aaltola. It's on the politics of humanity and we're looking at the University of Helsinki Press as a venue for publication.

Any advice for aspiring academics?

The biggest thing is to stay true to yourself. What I mean is that you should play to your strengths and follow your interests. What are you passionate about? If you're not truly driven by what you study, you won't last long in academia. Along these lines, look for a school that fits you, not just at the big names. The rankings are a great place to start, but they tell you nothing about the nature of the school. Talk to your professors and visit websites. Look at the faculty and the work that they've done—not just at the substantive areas, but also at the way that they study the world (pay attention to ontology and epistemology). The best school really is the one that best fits you. Finally, don't feel like you have to apply to grad school straight out of Bucknell. That's fine (and it's what I did), but it can also serve you well to take a year or two off to work and experience life outside of academics. That way, you know that grad school is what you really want and have some perspective outside of academia.

Meet an IR Major: Kaitlin Althen '09

Kaitlin is currently a senior at Bucknell University pursuing a degree in International Relations and plans to attend graduate school for South Asian studies upon graduation. She is from Ridgefield, Connecticut but has spent time in many locations around the globe. Prior to attending Bucknell, Kaitlin spent a year traveling and doing volunteer work in Australia and Fiji. She has since continued her humanitarian pursuits around the globe through participation in the Bucknell in Nicaragua program – a three-week service-learning course designed to teach students about grassroots politics and movements while living and working with a cooperative organization in a fair-trade zone. She has also spent a semester abroad.

According to Kaitlin, "Studying abroad has been an integral part of my International Relations and Bucknell education. I am a double major in both International Relations and Religion, with a focus in South Asia, and have sought to incorporate culture,

religion and language studies as much as possible in my International Relations major at Bucknell and I believe that it has benefited me greatly.

What Bucknell could not offer me in the way of South Asia studies and Asian languages, I achieved through taking advantage of study abroad opportunities where I could take courses in the country I was learning about. I took an intensive Arabic language course in Rabat, Morocco, studied grassroots development through the Bucknell in Nicaragua program, and put my South Asia studies to the test by studying Hindi, Urdu and Arabic in Banaras, India for the 2007-2008 academic year. While in India for a year I was also able to conduct interviews with people from a number of occupations who live below the poverty line. This experience allowed me to interact with people from another culture in a way that I had never done before and to experience the reality of extreme poverty for an extended amount of time. My research was mainly concerned with explaining why people live in such dire poverty, but my daily goals were simply to listen to people's stories which no one else had ever heard or cared to ask about. Taking a year to study abroad in India was one of the most important decisions I made at Bucknell and it has led me to pursue graduate studies through a number of disciplines in South Asia studies."

Kaitlin truly appreciates the interdisciplinary nature of the IR major and feels that this aspect of her education at Bucknell has contributed to a deeper understanding of world events, change, and the intersection of business with culture, politics, and markets. She also has benefited from meaningful relationships and discussions with professors. Kaitlin is currently writing her honors thesis for International Relations about the neoliberal hegemonic world order. She feels that "the current state of the economy is a perfect example of how detrimental unfettered capitalism can be."

Kaitlin has learned a great deal both inside and outside the classroom during her time here at Bucknell. Amongst these lessons the most meaningful has been to think critically and always keep an open mind. Studying International Relations has taught her to challenge ideas and traditional forms of knowledge and to continually seek understanding. Kaitlin's advice is to "study hard and try everything. Travel to places that you never thought you would go and never think of the impossible. You are in charge of your education and take advantage of the opportunity that the Bucknell IR program provides you in tailoring your education around your unique interests."

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Kay Miyoshi '09

From the Field: Erica Meadows '98 in the Sudan



Photo by Erica Meadows

“Working against the ongoing uncertainty of the political scene does add to the difficulty. But after working in international settings for the last seventeen years, I am glad that I am here. As Mahatma Ghandi once said, that perhaps through my efforts working with COHI we can ‘be the change that you want to see in the world.’”

My experience in Sudan started almost one year ago when I arrived with son Rocky to join my husband David. David had been here in Khartoum nearly six months working with the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping with the Peace Talks on Darfur. Rocky and I joined him a few months later, after waiting impatiently for our visas back in Baltimore, MD with my parents. While I was in the US, a small grassroots women’s health organization called Circle of Health, International contacted me and the initial contact had me intrigued. The Executive Director Sera Bonds, told me that the group’s nickname was “Midwives without Borders” which, for me, conjured up images of women helping women around the world. COHI has launched successful projects are in Tanzania, Tibet, Israel & Gaza, Sri Lanka and elsewhere, harnessing the commitment and energy of local midwives and health professionals and adding to that the enthusiasm of international volunteers. It did not take long for me to read all of the group’s literature and to sign on as a member of the Board of Directors and to volunteer to start a small pilot project in Sudan. There were many challenges, however--namely that I had never been to Sudan before, my Arabic was limited to “Hello, How are you? Thank you!” and “Goodbye!” (not quite enough to negotiate the complicated process of getting a new non-governmental organization registered, running or not to mention training real midwives in the classroom) and that I had planned on being a stay-at-home mom while we got settled into our new life in Khartoum.

With the encouragement of my family, I spent my first few months working from home, after dropping our lively three year old at his nursery school, I made appointments with all of the health organizations that I could find in Khartoum, and finally wrote up a field assessment about women’s health in this area, focusing on pregnancy and childbirth issues. I

found that the majority of women give birth at home, with the help of either a trained midwife or an untrained traditional birth attendant. Due to many reasons, the maternal mortality rate is extremely high in Sudan in the countryside as well as in the capital city and environs.

Knowing that the political situation in Sudan is somewhat shaky and that I would have to tread very carefully around sensitive issues to get our small project up and running, I decided to focus on one straightforward issue; to offer training to midwives on lifesaving skills- and to emphasize the importance of recognizing pregnancy complications such as diabetes, high blood pressure or breech birth, in time to refer women to clinics or hospitals when necessary.

In order to get my project going, I clearly needed help from a local source, and contacted a local doctor who had many years of experience as a professor at the College of Nursing, and who had also worked extensively with groups such as Planned Parenthood Federation. Dr. Abdalla (a local obstetrician) and I met weekly and put together a proposal for our joint project which we then presented to the Ministry of Health for the state of Khartoum. The Ministry officials were supportive of the proposal and told us that it was in line with the Ministry’s goals for the year—which included trying to reduce the high maternal death rate, to improve the child survival rate and to re-train the midwives in the field. So far so good.

So work is continuing on the project and we hope to have the first group of midwives in the classroom as soon as possible. Working against the ongoing uncertainty of the political scene does add to the difficulty. But after working in international settings for the last seventeen years, I am glad that I am here. As Mahatma Ghandi once said, that perhaps through my efforts working with COHI we can “be the change that you want to see in the world”.



Attending the STAND Anti-Genocide Conference

Christine Yaged '09
Management Major



Photo by Christine Yaged: Students learn about the situation in Burma from representatives from the US Campaign for Burma.

Over the weekend of November 7-9, 2009, I had the privilege of attending an anti-genocide conference in Washington DC sponsored by STAND, the Student-Led Division of the Genocide Intervention Network. The STAND National Student Conference brought together over 450 student and 250 adult activists to learn from policy experts and each other about how to become more effective advocates in ending the ongoing atrocities in Darfur (a region of Sudan), the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Burma (officially known as Myanmar). I met dozens of bright, enthusiastic college and high school students and also had the opportunity to network with incredibly dedicated adult activists at the concurrently running Save Darfur Coalition conference, many of them with activist roots stemming back to the last century's genocides in Rwanda, Bosnia, Armenia, Cambodia, and Germany. All the activists expressed their dismay at the lack of effective action by the United Nations, the US, and other countries around the globe in response to present-day conflicts like the genocide in Darfur. Many, like Omer Ismail, the advisor for Sudan of the anti-genocide ENOUGH Project, spoke with a sense of urgency and frustration of the empty promises of change made to Darfur's innocent civilians. "What happened to 'Never Again'?" some cried, referencing the 1994 genocide in Rwanda.

Highlights of the conference included a presentation by Burmese native, Aung Din. Din was a Burmese student in 1988 when he marched in a nationwide demonstration against the military regime. In response, up to 10,000 Burmese civilians were

murdered by the Burmese government, and Din was imprisoned as a political prisoner and tortured for four years. At the conference, Din spoke on behalf of his fellow "50 million Burmese who are still locked in a battle with an illegitimate military regime to bring peace, democracy and human rights to our country." Din asked conference participants to not let the situation in Burma become one of the world's forgotten conflicts, and in my head, I promised I wouldn't.

Renowned photojournalist, Ron Haviv, whose images from the DRC are now featured on Capitol Hill, also shared his experiences. Haviv has focused on exposing human rights violations for the last two decades, producing important photographs of conflicts in Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, Russia, and the Balkans. His breathtaking, sometimes disturbing, images have won awards and made headlines around the world and have been used to move individuals and powerful politicians to take action in humanitarian crisis. For example, photographs Haviv took in the Balkans were later used as evidence in the UN War crimes tribunal. His presentation made me truly realize how important one individual's contribution can be to the anti-genocide effort and how vital it was for our generation to not repeat the disastrous mistakes of yesteryear. I could not help but wonder how, after years of witnessing violence and cruelty and asking how humans could allow these types of conflicts to continue, he still had enough hope for mankind to get out of bed in the morning.

I began to grasp the reality that innocent victims of violent conflicts and genocides are genuinely not so different from me and my Bucknell peers. They simply want lives in which they won't have to worry whether they will be killed, their mother raped, or their brother forced to be a soldier. If we were in their situation, we would also plead to humanitarian workers, "Tell the world not to forget about us." These conflicts involve issues of human rights, women's rights, environmental problems, health problems, child endangerment, ethnic discrimination – and the list goes on. The victims are not just the innocent civilians in Darfur, the DR Congo, or Burma, but every single human on this Earth who seeks peace and happiness in their life. The conference provoked feelings of anger, helplessness, and even guilt, but I came away from it telling myself that I could not and would not allow today's atrocities to go unnoticed, at least not at Bucknell.

The same weekend I attended the STAND conference, the European Space Agency announced that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights would be shuttled to the International Space Station to mark the document's 60th anniversary. Adopted by the UN General Assembly, the Declaration's first article states, "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

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STAND Anti-Genocide “The First 100 Days” Conference, Cont’d

They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.” While the location of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights orbiting Earth is a fine “symbolic” testament to its importance, I couldn’t help but think we should focus *real* efforts on making the Declaration effective where it was intended to be—on our own planet.

This Spring 2009, I founded a STAND chapter at Bucknell. Born out of voiceDarfur, STAND is devoted to creating a sustainable student network that actively fights genocide wherever it may occur. I have been so excited to see renewed enthusiasm from Bucknellians working to end genocide in our world and to help the innocent victims of these horrific conflicts. From selling self-made “Blood:Water Bracelets” and raising hundreds of dollars for the Blood:Water Mission which builds health clinics and wells in Africa, to working with V-day to raise awareness about the crisis in the DR Congo, to planning for the 1st annual Genocide Prevention Week (April 20-24), I am so happy that the Bucknell community has come together to support this group and important cause. I’d like to sincerely thank the International Relations Program for their support for the STAND conference in November and for helping me make a difference at Bucknell and in our world.



Photo by Christine Yaged '09

Students learn how to effectively organize online in a break-out workshop during the STAND conference

On **Wednesday, April 22, 2009** the Bucknell Club of Washington, DC and the B-link International Relations Connection will be hosting a panel discussion on “The First 100 Days” of the Obama administration at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Building (1779 Massachusetts Ave.). Professors Stamos and Mitchell from the IR Program and Dean Baker and Stuart Rothenberg (both former Bucknell faculty) will serve as panelists. Transportation will be provided for pre-registered Bucknell students. Bucknell alumni who live in the DC area are cordially invited to the panel discussion which will be held from 6:30-9:00 and may contact Jenna Tesaro (jenna.tesaro@bucknell.edu) by April 20 to register for this event. The event offers a great opportunity to take stock of the early performance of the new administration and also provide an occasion for students and alumni to meet and engage the subject both during the panel discussion and afterwards during the reception.

Alumni News

In this section, we hope to highlight news from our alumni. Let us know what you are doing by sending us an email to international-relations@bucknell.edu. We would also welcome short submissions on projects or perspectives.

Rob George (1992) writes “When I graduated in 1992, Tom Travis was our Capstone professor, who challenged us in many important ways. I also enjoyed a semester abroad in 1991 with IES in Freiburg, Germany, and when I graduated I went on to teach English in Hungary for 3 years with Educational Services Intl. I returned to the States and got an MBA, worked in the corporate world for 6 years, but my wife and I always felt the tug to go back to Europe. In 2003 we moved back to Hungary with our 2 daughters and we work with Church Resource Ministries among Hungarian and Serbian churches.”

Jeanne Hey (1985). The joke among my friends is that I’ve reinvented myself as Tom Travis. I’m directing the international studies program at Miami University, a campus that looks just like Bucknell’s! Back in 1985 when I asked Professor Travis for advice on graduate schools in international relations, he recommended that I earn a PhD in political science, not in international studies, because most universities remained “discipline-focused,” and might not respect an interdisciplinary degree. I know he was right at the time, but am happy to say that today it is no longer true.

Alumni News, Cont'd

New PhD's with interdisciplinary degrees are increasingly earning tenure-track positions at universities across the country. I took Professor Travis's advice and earned my PhD in political science at Ohio State University, with a concentration in international politics and comparative foreign policy, and wrote a dissertation on Ecuador's foreign policy under economic crisis. Who would have imagined my good fortune in landing a joint appointment in political science and international studies (interdisciplinary like Bucknell's IR program) at a fine institution, Miami University in Oxford, OH. Long story short, I've now been working at Miami for 16 years and have directed the International Studies Program since 2002. During those years, I've lived, conducted research and taught courses in Ecuador, Luxembourg and Scotland. I've also been able to take shorter research trips to Dominica, Jamaica, China, Japan, and Hong Kong. In Spring 2009, I go to India for a two-week series of seminars. Maybe I'll run into Tom Travis!

Meg Samek-Smith (1988). Since Bucknell, I have gone on to receive an MBA in International Management and have lived and worked in Poland, Egypt, Spain and Turkey.

Katie (Kohn) McLain (2003): Since graduating I have spent most of my time in Washington D.C. I started out my career at the Department of Justice working on a domestic grant program focusing on high crime communities. A year ago, I moved over to the Department of State to cover Iraq democracy and human rights issues, which has been a challenging but interesting transition. I'm also pursuing a master's degree part time at George Washington University, with a focus on security studies.

Dana Binnendijk (2005), is currently finishing up her Master's degree at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in Boston. Immediately following graduation from Bucknell, Dana took part in a fellowship called Humanity in Action where she spent a month in Denmark studying minority rights with a mix of American and European students. Soon after, Dana worked at Freedom House headquarters in Washington DC for a year and spent the following eight months in South Africa to help open the new Freedom House regional office. She spent the past summer in Ghana, where she taught NGO management to Liberian refugee organizations and conducted research for her MA thesis on the repatriation of refugees. She plans to graduate from Fletcher in May, 2009 with a focus on international security studies and NGO Management. She hopes to work on social and political international development throughout her career.

Melina (Glynn) Hefelfinger (2003). I have been working in marketing since graduation; but, over the past year I did some work developing outreach communications for Human Rights Watch (including their 2008 Annual Report), and have also worked with some other non-profit groups.

Troy McGrath (1984). I am still an Associate Professor at the Russian State University for the Humanities (Moscow), teaching courses in American Politics & Culture, and in International Relations... I recently served as an Application Evaluator and Interviewer for IREX Scholarship Programs ((Moscow Office-for UGRAD and Muskie Fellowships), and in April I will participate in two panels in the Annual conference of the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN), held in NYC.

Of Note: Campus News and Events

- Paintings bring to life lessons of economics: [Professor Steve Stamos](#) uses the paintings of Ecuadorian artist Oswaldo Guyasamin, on display at the Samek Art Gallery, to bring home the principles of economics.
- Alumna rights attorney faced [Gitmo challenges](#): Gutierrez, a 1992 graduate of Bucknell University and attorney with the New York-based Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR).
- Elie Wiesel to deliver commencement address: [Elie Wiesel](#), a Nobel Laureate honored for his leadership in fighting injustice and his writings as a Holocaust survivor, will deliver the commencement address during the 159th graduation ceremony at Bucknell University in May.
- Bucknell [book talk on war crimes](#) available online. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting in 1997, Nelson is the Carnegie Visiting Professor at the University of Maryland College of Journalism.
- 'Thieves of Baghdad' author [Bogdanos '80](#) to discuss 'citizen-soldier' at Bucknell Forum April 15.
- Bicycles against Poverty: [Students win \\$10,000](#) Davis Projects for Peace grant
- Students recount atrocities in ['Women of War'](#) panel.
- Panel illuminates [microfinance](#) potential.
- Bucknell [Brigade alumni](#) return to Nicaragua.



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See the International Relations [Fact Sheet](#).

We'd love to hear from you. Send your updates and/or your short submissions on projects or perspectives to international-relations@bucknell.edu.

The IR Matters! newsletter highlights events and people in the Bucknell IR community. The publication appears once a semester and welcomes feedback and submissions from students, alumni, and faculty.