

INTS Alumna Attends Graduate School

December 13, 2017



My name is Kim Tran and I graduated from UNBC in 2016. I joint majored in International Studies and Political Science and minored in Economics. I had the pleasure to attend graduate school at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario after I finished at UNBC.

Wow, where to even start! Graduate studies are a lot harder than undergraduate for sure, but after the program, the rewards are definitely worth it. I learned so much about the interdisciplinary nature of globalization and how it is important to our world today. The INTS undergraduate program at UNBC set me up to further my education by providing me with a foundation of the skills I would need for a Masters program. UNBC offers such a wide range of INTS courses to take which aided in my understanding of globalization since it encompasses many areas of research.

INTS can be applied to different graduate studies as it is related to the real world. For example, some Globalization courses that were taught included subjects in: cultural studies, political economy, philosophy, religion, social policy, and many more. The program itself is one year, course-based from September to April. Following that, from May to August, is when you finish a major research paper of about 40 pages (~10,000 words). I owe my teachers at UNBC for encouraging me to do graduate studies and for passing on their knowledge to me when I was at school there. Thank-you UNBC!

For more information on this program, please visit:

<https://globalization.mcmaster.ca/programs/master-of-arts-in-globalization-studies>

UNBC Welcomes Dr. Nathan Andrews to the Department of Global & International Studies

September 28, 2017



Dr. Nathan Andrews

Dr. Nathan Andrews began working at the UNBC in September 2017 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Global and International Studies after having completed a PhD at the University of Alberta and a Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship at Queen's University, during which time he became a 2017 SSHRC Talent Award national finalist. His ongoing research explores the international political economy of natural resource extraction, examining angles such as corporate social responsibility, community development/wellbeing, sustainable livelihoods, social justice, human rights, and local content policies, among others. He is also interested in global norms that govern the activities of transnational corporations, such as the UN Global Compact, UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. His peer-reviewed publications on some of these topics appear in such journals as *Resources Policy*, *Business and Society Review*, *Africa Today*, *World Development*, and the *Journal of International Relations and Development*. In addition to the specific focus on resource extraction, Dr. Andrews is also interested in broad international development topics which has resulted in two co-edited volumes titled *Africa Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow: Exploring the Multi-dimensional Discourses on 'Development'* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013) and *Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Retrospect: Africa's Development Beyond 2015* (Springer, 2015). At the moment, Dr. Andrews is completing a book manuscript based on his doctoral dissertation for Palgrave Macmillan. In the near future, he plans to expand his work on Africa to examine its connections with sites of resource extraction in Canada's north – particularly the ramifications of oil and gas exploration for indigenous and First Nations communities. While always inspired by different research trajectories, Dr. Andrew is also very excited to be teaching courses on research methods, international regimes, and development as part of the global and international studies program.

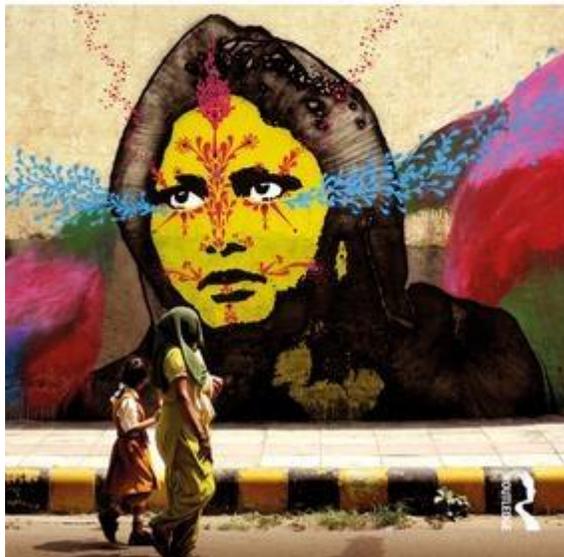
Global & International Studies Professor Publishes New Book

September 11, 2017

ROUTLEDGE CRITICAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES SERIES

THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO CRITICAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

EDITED BY HENRY VELTMAYER AND PAUL BOWLES



[Paul Bowles](#) has recently published a new co-edited volume, *The Essential Guide to Critical Development Studies*, Routledge, July 2017 (with Henry Veltmeyer). *Critical Development Studies* challenges mainstream approaches to development and places class, imperialism and gender at the centre of discussions of development processes and the search for alternatives. The book contains 37 chapters with contributions from leading scholars in the field from around the world. Each contributor supplements their overview with a guide to the critical development studies literature on the topic, thereby providing scholars and students not only with a precis of the key issues, but also a signpost to further readings. The book has been published in both hardback and paperback; if you order online you can get a 20% discount by using code FLR40. And just in time for Christmas!!

Link: <https://www.routledge.com/The-Essential-Guide-to-Critical-Development-Studies/Veltmeyer-Bowles/p/book/9781138049970>

Congratulations to Dr. Ken Wilkening on his Retirement

August 15, 2017



Dr. Ken Wilkening joined the International Studies Department in 2000. He went on to become Chair of International Studies in 2007. As a researcher, Ken focused on questions of the science-policy interface of international/global environmental problems, especially related to the atmosphere. His book, *Acid Rain Science and the Politics of Japan: A History of Knowledge and Action Toward Sustainability* (MIT Press, 2004) is a key contribution to the field of global environmental politics. His commitment to sustainability was also expressed locally as he was actively involved in the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, the Green University Committee, and the Prince George Air Improvement Roundtable. He was an award winning teacher, having won the UNBC Excellence in Teaching Award in 2005, and was nominated an additional three times. And last but definitely not least, Ken was an outstanding colleague and department chair. Collaboration, kindness, balance and collegiality were the hallmarks of his leadership and he will be missed.

BC Japanese Speech Contest Finalist

March 23, 2017



Aalam Sandhu

Ami Hagiwara, Japanese Language Instructor

The 29th Annual BC Japanese Speech Contest was held on March 4, 2017 at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. This year Aalam Sandhu, a third-year student in Japanese, was chosen as a finalist in the intermediate category. Only the top eight students in BC were selected as finalists in this category this year. Aalam worked very hard on his speech and his effort was rewarded with a second place. Judges and other Japanese instructors commented on how well he expressed himself. Participating in this contest is an excellent way to expand on and test (in the Cereal world!) what one has learned in the classroom.

Aalam Sandhu, International Studies Major

It was an honour to be selected to participate in the B.C. Japanese Speech Contest and an incredible experience from start to finish. It was amazing to listen to other students' speeches and see what they were passionate about.

I was nervous when I stepped up to the podium but was also happy because it was the moment I had been working for. After I delivered my speech, I was satisfied because I had done my absolute best. I never expected I would get second place. I am truly grateful that I was given the opportunity to compete. I would like to thank Ami-sensei for her patience and for helping me practice every day. I also thank everyone in the Department of Global & International Studies for their support in getting me to the competition, and Kim Tran, a participant last year, for sharing her speech contest tips with me and helping me with extra practice every day.

Stephanie Powell-Hellyer's Innovative Teaching in INTS 298, Globalization and Religion

February 22, 2017



Let me, as department chair, give you insight into how one of our instructors, Stephanie Powell-Hellyer, developed a novel class assignment for her fall 2016 special topics course entitled "Globalization and Religion". By chance, Stephanie heard that an elementary school teacher in Prince George wanted to creatively engage her students in learning about First Nation Creation Stories. Stephanie saw in this an opportunity to link what this teacher wanted to what her students were learning in the globalization and religion course. Stephanie presented to her INTS 298 students the option of doing a First Nations Creation Story project as an alternate to a term paper. Four students immediately stepped forward. She then needed to develop with them a way for university students to teach elementary school students (grades 3 to 5) about First Nations Creation Stories. Stephanie first set her students to researching different Canadian Creation Stories. In the meantime, she clarified with the school Principal what was needed to fulfill their curriculum requirements for this topic.

She also consulted with UNBC's Dr. Tracy Summerville about how to formulate this type of unique student-to-student project. Stephanie proposed to use an interactive, art-based activity. In the end, the UNBC students each told a Canadian First Nations Creation Story to the children, who helped act it out and who then also painted the story on tiles that were put together in a large mosaic. It was clearly a challenge for the UNBC students to, instead of presenting to peers, present to young kids. But they pulled it off in brilliant fashion. Everyone seemed pleased with the final result. Both Stephanie and the four students stepped out of the box of typical university assignments to devise a novel, art-based, interactive, "university student to elementary student" learning exercise.

Adrian Walraven, INTS Alumnus (1999), Shares with Students his Global Experiences Working with the Government of Canada

December 19, 2016



On November 23, 2016 Adrian Walraven, an International Studies (1999) alumnus, visited UNBC to talk with INTS students about his work for the Government of Canada. In the morning, he was a guest speaker in INTS 100 (Introduction to Global Studies) and in the afternoon he hosted a session on “What can I do with an INTS degree?” for students interested in pursuing careers in Global Studies. Mr. Walraven has worked with CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) and Global Affairs Canada. His posts include Ukraine (he arrived in Kiev on the day of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States), Russia, CIDA’s Kandahar unit in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Indonesia. He now works for INAC (Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada) on aboriginal issues in the Arctic. Mr. Walraven stressed to INTS students the importance of understanding the social and cultural complexities of the regions of the world. Using examples from his experiences in the Middle East, he further highlighted the importance of recognizing regional variations of ethnic and religious populations and the implications of religion for international relationships. He underscored the potent impact of the media and social media on public perceptions of these populations and the need for awareness of potential bias. Finally, he encouraged students to spend time understanding global trade and finance and how they relate to the pros and cons of globalization.

INTS Major Builds Libraries in Ghana

October 5, 2016



Let me introduce myself and tell you about my experience building libraries in Ghana. It was a hands-on way to learn about development projects. My name is Brett Wieckhoff and I am a Global & International Studies major. I was a volunteer this past summer (2016) with the United Kingdom (UK)-based NGO, Thrive Africa (<http://thriveafrica.ngo>). Thrive Africa has been working in Ghana since 2009 building libraries and assisting orphan caregivers. A friend of mine told me about the organization; she found it advertised on Instagram. My trip began in the city of Kumasi, just four hours north of the capital, Accra. I spent my first two weeks with my volunteer group of some 20 people from the UK, Ireland, Australia, US, Sweden, Portugal, and, of course, Canada in a Thrive Africa group home in Kumasi. Every morning we loaded up a bus with building supplies and headed off to a school that lacked a library. Most of the schools were an hour or two away. At the school we would transform an unused room into a library. We built shelves and tables, decorated the room, and organized the donated books. I helped build five libraries. Thrive Africa has built about 300 libraries since 2010. After the work day we were introduced to Ghanaian culture. We were taken to museums, taught the language (called Twi), and shown Kumasi night life. As well, on weekends we were taken on excursions around Ghana, including a lake resort on Lake Bosumtwi (the lake is situated within an ancient meteor crater) and Mole National Park (Ghana's largest wildlife refuge) where we went on a safari. My last two weeks were spent in Bolgatanga, a large farming city near the northern border. We arrived during the planting season so helped plant crops for the caregivers who take care of over 400 orphans. Farming in the hot African sun was definitely the hardest work I've ever done, and I don't know how Ghanaian women do it all day long.

Friends and Entertainment in Japan

September 29, 2016



Hello, my name is Karlee Nadorozny and I am a joint major in Economics & International Studies, and I am a fan of Japan and the Japanese language. I have taken Japanese for three years with Ms. Ami Hagiwara, the Japanese language instructor for the Department of Global and International Studies. During my time studying Japanese, I had the opportunity to meet and become friends with many foreign exchange students from Japan. And this summer, I got to meet some of them again. In Japan! I went with Kim Tran, who graduated in 2016 with a joint major in Political Science & International Studies, and Aisha Kore, who is a biomedical student. You can see us in the photo above with Saki Oyama, one of the Japanese exchange students I met. From left to right is Saki Oyama, Kim Tran, Aisha Kore, and myself. This photo was taken in the Asakusa, Tokyo, a famous entertainment district. We also went to another famous entertainment district -- Tokyo Disneyland. I was surprised to learn that some people visit Tokyo Disneyland on a regular basis and dress up as their favorite character. Also when one of the employees in the park comes along as a character, visitors do not make a line but instead stand in a circle and try to get the character's attention to have a photo with it. Like we got the attention of the character in Asakusa in the photo. Friends, characters, and entertainment. I recommend Japan to you.

Alex Schare, INTS Graduate, Receives NRES PhD

May 2, 2016



The world is a beautiful mess. It is fascinating yet can be terrifying; it is strangely synchronized yet can seem ready to split at the seams at any given moment. How could one not be mesmerized by it?

Personally, I have always been fascinated by the 'bigger picture' of the world, its people, its environment, and its politics. I spent the first 16 years of my life living in Germany, right in the beating heart of Europe, where driving a couple of hours in any given direction will inevitably take you into a different country with new and exciting things to see. This instilled a curiosity about the world in me that I carry and treasure to this day. When I moved to Canada with my family, my horizons broadened even more with the inclusion of the Canadian perspective. From a European perspective, Canada can seem almost insular, being separated from much of the rest of the world by two massive oceans. However, I soon came to realize that Canada is anything but insular, and that it very much has its place on the world stage. Wanting to learn more about world affairs, I soon found myself gearing up to start my university studies at UNBC, signed up for the Bachelor's program in International Studies and Political Science.

So it was in the fall of 2004 that I found myself at the UNBC campus in Prince George. UNBC was the smallest university I considered in my research. However, being small does come with advantages. Class sizes are small (my biggest class had perhaps 100 students), professors are generally very accessible, and UNBC offers generous scholarship opportunities. Throughout my time in the INTS program, I learned not only about theory, but also the more practical implications of how everything in the world is connected, in most sectors and on most levels. I also learned that while the world is faced with a seemingly limitless array of issues, there are almost as many approaches to addressing these issues, and that although the approaches can seem incongruent, they may all have their individual merits.

After finishing my BA studies, I decided to remain with the INTS program and start a Master's degree. For this program, I studied the greenhouse gas emissions of air travel in BC, and how they can be reduced. This, in turn, was somewhat of a Pandora's box, because no sooner had I finished my MA than I knew that there was so much additional research that could be done into transportation, a sector that is vital for society but also contributes significant greenhouse gas emissions.

I have recently defended my PhD in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies, researching the greenhouse gas emissions of all interurban transportation in BC, and how changes to the transportation system can help the province to achieve its legislated 2020 and 2050 emissions reduction targets. You may wonder what that has to do with INTS at UNBC, but to me, the answer is: a lot. The global climate is something that every person on Earth should be concerned about, and it requires solutions that are both global in outlook but local in being cognizant of individual context. As such, I feel that INTS has given me the basis to ground my knowledge and approaches in, as I now set out to do my part to reduce the impact of human activities on the climate, not only in BC but hopefully on a larger scale as well.

Students Passionately Participate in Japanese Speech Contest

March 5, 2016



Danaya Rankin, Ami Hagiwara and Kim Tran

Ami Hagiwara, Japanese Language Instructor

The 28th Annual BC Japanese Speech Contest was held on March 5, 2016 at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver. Almost every year, UNBC sends students to this event. This year, Danaya Rankin and Kim Tran, were chosen as finalists in the beginner and intermediate categories. Only the top seven or eight students in BC are selected as finalists. Danaya and Kim worked hard to perfect their all-Japanese speeches. Rather than winning or losing, the greatest part of the contest is meeting people who love studying Japanese. Neither student was selected as one of the top three but the experience will inspire further flowering of their study of Japanese.

Kim Tran, Joint International Studies and Political Science Major

It was an honour to be selected to take part in the Japanese Speech Contest, again. I also attended last year. It was an amazing, scary, and fun experience. Simon Fraser University is located in a beautiful part of the Lower Mainland: on a hill, away from the city. It was a pleasant location for such an intense event. Although I practiced countless times, it never seemed enough. Nerves piling high as I stepped up to the podium, I delivered my speech, and when it was over a wave of relief washed over me. I did not win but the experience was unbelievable. The most important thing was that I was happy with my performance; I did much better than last year! I reached my goal of being accepted into the contest again and delivering my speech well.

Danaya Rankin, Anthropology Major

Participating in the Japanese Speech Contest was an eye-opening experience. It was incredible to be surrounded by not only students and their teachers, but also members of the public who were passionate about Japanese language and culture. It was a one-of-a-kind event, and a highlight of my university career! It encouraged me to be more open and confident about trying new things. I hope to have more opportunities like this to foster my interest in Japanese culture and language.

ISSA Hosts 2nd Annual Pub Night

February 26, 2016



The International Studies Student Association (ISSA) held their second annual Pub Night at the Moose on February 26, 2016. This event helped the ISSA raise club funds for their club account. This year it was Pokemon themed. 'Trainers' were able to participate in 8 'gym battles' and compete for prizes. There was also a costume contest and a photo booth. 50 people come to the event and the club raised \$250 for the ISSA to hold other events and socials.

This year the ISSA has held bake sales in support of the Prince George SPCA, a clothing drive for the Prince George Hospice Society Thrift Store, a bowling social, the Golden Keychella Pub Night with funds going to the Jared Parker Memorial Scholarship, and working at the Concession at the NSC.

Our Department joins the Global Studies Association, North America

February 9, 2016



Global Studies Association
North America

UNBC's Department of Global & International Studies has joined the Global Studies Association, North America (<http://www.net4dem.org/mayglobal/index.html>). A Global Studies Association (GSA) (<https://globalstudiesassoc.wordpress.com/>), based in the United Kingdom, was founded in 2000 and the North American branch in 2002.

Here is how GSA and GSA, North America introduce themselves:

“The Global Studies Association (GSA) is a multi-disciplinary scholarly association set up in order to address the vast social, political & economic transformations of global scope which are impacting upon the world today. The GSA provides a forum for scholars to collaborate & explore shared responses to such phenomenon, particularly in the context of globalisation. The commitment to multidisciplinary & to the global context make the GSA unique in its aims & scope & thus offering its members invaluable contacts & connections. In addition, the thematic approach of the GSA allows interests which are not easily accommodated in single disciplinary associations to be fully recognised & encouraged. Thus individuals who share a common commitment to enhancing understanding of global life can find an intellectual home by working with others in the GSA.”

You can find the listing for our department under GSA, North America's "Schools" link: <http://www.net4dem.org/mayglobal/schools.html>.

Jillian Merrick elected as Prince George City Councillor

September 1, 2015



BA Honours INTS, 2007

Here is Jillian's story from International Studies to Prince George City Councillor in her own words:

In 2002, I had a choice to make. After spending a year abroad on an International Rotary Youth Exchange, I was keen to pursue a career in international development. At the time, only three universities in British Columbia offered an International Studies program: UBC, UVic, and UNBC. I had never been to Prince George before, but the prospect

of small class sizes and a more intensive learning experience was appealing. A scholarship offer to attend UNBC sealed the deal.

After completing my first year of studies, I planned to return to my coastal hamlet hometown to live with my parents and sling coffee to save up for the next semester. I loaded my car with all my worldly possessions and traveled the 800+ kilometres back home. When I arrived, I received a life-changing phone call. Dr. Don Munton, founding chair of the UNBC International Studies program was offering me a summer research internship in Prince George. I didn't even unpack. I just turned the car around and drove back north. It's been twelve years since that day, and I've never looked back.

My career path and life goals have changed significantly since 2002, but my focus on small class sizes and intensive learning remain one of the most important parts of my education. My most memorable moments at UNBC were in tiny classrooms with less than ten students and professors who challenged us to dig far deeper than the pages of a textbook. During the course of my studies, I branched into an additional focus on Economics, recognizing the influence of economic systems on global relations. I became more involved with community projects and developed a love for work in the non-profit sector.

Since graduation, I've pursued a more 'local' career path, but the theories and principles that I learned the International Studies program still apply. Thanks to my education, I am well equipped to navigate the complex power relationships and legal frameworks inherent in local to global community change - an exercise I find myself performing every day in my new role as a local government elected official.

In 2014, I was elected a City Councillor in Prince George - a city that, prior to attending UNBC, I had never heard of. I am both the youngest city councillor on record and one of only two elected representatives to have earned a degree at UNBC. Perhaps not coincidentally, my Council colleague Garth Frizzell is also an International Studies graduate. While the election was certainly a life changing moment for me personally, I am beginning to recognize it also represents a change for the community as a whole. While students at UNBC may be studying the 'world out there', the impact of that learning can be seen, heard and felt in the local community.

Outside of my political duties, I still continue my work in the non-profit sector. Over the years I've managed many development projects that connect community with watersheds, forests and farmland. Most recently I developed a program to support the viability of the small farm business in northern BC. In a world of global commodity exchange, food production is rife with complex challenges and opportunities. Every day, my real world experiences build upon the foundation learning gained at UNBC.

Over The Edge members attend 77th Student Journalism Conference

March 3, 2015



The Department of Global & International Studies financially supported members of Over the Edge to attend Canada's 77th annual student journalism conference from January 14-18, 2015 in Ottawa where they had a chance to meet CBC's chief correspondent, Peter Mansbridge (in photo with Suln Lee (L) and Kelley Ware (R)). Over the Edge is UNBC's free, student-run newspaper. The conference gave UNBC's student journalists the opportunity to meet with fellow journalists, share skills, and participate in seminars hosted by professionals in the field. Peter Mansbridge was the first night's keynote speaker. He spoke about the importance of investigation and accountability in journalism. Lisa LaFlamme, Chief Anchor and Senior Editor of CTV National News, was another keynote speaker. Her speech was given as if she was talking to her family and friends beside a fireplace. She spoke candidly of the times when she couldn't take a shower for days due to reporting in war zones or when she was present at Saddam Hussain's execution. Attending the conference made us realize that journalism is not only about being able to write well but also about ethics rooted in humanity. Writing flows from human values, emotions, and action.

Alumna Wins Awards for PhD Research

January 8, 2015



Hello, my name is Miriam Matejova. Dr. Wilkening asked me to tell you my story. He said it may give you ideas and inspiration for your post-INTS and post-UNBC journeys. My Canadian academic journey started when I immigrated to Canada from Slovakia in 2004. I graduated from UNBC with an Honours degree in International Studies in 2009. Then I went on to earn a Master's degree in International Affairs from Carleton University's Norman Paterson School. While in Ottawa, I also volunteered for the United Nations Association in Canada, co-edited a peer-reviewed journal of international affairs (the Paterson Review), chaired the 2011 Model NATO conference, and conducted archival research to co-author a book and articles on Canada's foreign intelligence. I also travelled to Barbados where I spent two months as a project assistant at the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

Upon my return, I began a career in Canada's public service, first working as an analyst at the Canadian International Development Agency and then as an economist at Environment Canada where I served as the national lead in providing economic analysis for federal environmental assessments. My work on Canada's species at risk regulations earned me the 2014 Regulatory Excellence Award for Advancement in Instrument Design.

I also volunteered for a global consulting firm GlobalINT where I conducted research on energy and environmental security largely related to climate change risks. In collaboration with GlobalINT's Strategy Director, Dr. Chad Briggs, I published a book chapter on environmental security and energy in the Arctic.

In 2012, I was awarded UNBC's Alumnus of the Year for Professional Excellence Award. This recognition motivated me to establish my own scholarship at UNBC, the Miriam Matejova Award, currently valued at about \$1,700 per

academic year. The award is meant to help new immigrants who are seeking post-secondary education in Canada. I haven't forgotten that I was once a financially struggling immigrant.

I am now a PhD student in Political Science at the University of British Columbia, working under the supervision of Dr. Peter Dauvergne. My research centers on global environmental politics associated with climate change impacts and responses. In particular, I am interested in energy and environmental security in the Arctic and Asia Pacific.

Since coming to UBC in September 2013, I have been awarded a Vanier Graduate Scholarship, a Killam Doctoral Scholarship, and, most recently the Donald N. Byers Memorial Prize as the highest-ranking Killam Doctoral Scholar of 2014. [INTS Note: The Vanier is a highly competitive award. Only about 50 are given out to social sciences and humanities graduate students in Canada each year. The Killam Doctoral Scholarship is "the most prestigious awards available to graduate students at UBC".]

In addition to my research and teaching assistant duties at UBC, I continue volunteering. As a Liu Scholar at UBC's Liu Institute for Global Issues, I organize public lectures, workshops and gallery exhibits, and actively participate in various student information sessions. I also volunteer as a translator and reviewer for the TED Open Translation Project and, in my free time, write short non-fiction. My creative writing has appeared in the Globe and Mail, Her Circle, and several travel magazines.

ISSA Gift Giving Campaign Fights Poverty in Uganda

November 25, 2014



The International Studies Student Association (ISSA) recent conducted a campaign to raise awareness for the Gift it Twice Program. Gift it Twice is an annual campaign put on by the Toronto-based NGO Raising the Village that works

to alleviate extreme poverty in ten remote villages in Uganda. Gift it Twice encourages people to make a charitable donation in someone's name rather than buying a Christmas present. Donations go towards purchasing goats for economic cooperatives, providing necessary educational supplies (including books, chalk, desks, teacher training and school meals), and investing in the gorilla deterrent program to keep villagers and their crops safe. The picture above shows ISSA member and Treasurer Harjit Pannu raising awareness for Gift it Twice in the UNBC Wintergarden.

English Person in Korea (EPIK) Teaching Program in South Korea Zan Tsang, International Studies Major – 2014

October 28, 2014



Greetings from Zan Tsang in South Korea. I graduated from UNBC in May 2014 with a Major in International Studies. I'm currently with the EPIK (English Person In Korea) Teaching program in Daegu, South Korea, in the southern part of the country. I teach 22 classes a week, and am at school from 8:30-4:30 Monday to Friday. I teach grades 3 to 6. The kids here are wonderful! Korea does not hold back when it comes to spending money on education! There are 33 inch Samsung TVs mounted in every classroom and rather than just a PA system, they have a fully functional video broadcasting room that is operated by students (equipment, announcer, lights, etc.). South Korea is a very beautiful country and when I am not teaching, I am busy making new friends, exploring a new culture and country.

Japan Exchange & Teaching Programme - JET

Nicole Halseth, International Studies Major – 2014

September 22, 2014



Hello, my name is Nicole Halseth. I graduated from UNBC in May 2014 with a Major in International Studies and Minors in Sociocultural Anthropology and Global Environmental Change. Just a few short months later I moved to Japan to teach English as part of the JET Programme (Japan Exchange & Teaching Programme). JET is run by the Japanese government and is one of the largest exchange programs in the world.

I arrived in Tokyo on August 1st for a brief but intensive job training with over a thousand recent graduates from around the world. It was an absolute whirlwind of activity. After two days immersed in Tokyo's lively Shinjuku district, I was put on a plane with other new JET participants and shipped off to Okayama Prefecture in the south of Japan.

Okayama, a land of peaches and sunshine (despite the semi-persistent typhoons), has been more than I could have imagined. I live and work in the lovely town of Niimi in Okayama Prefecture. Niimi is true countryside, with a bustling population of 30,000 spread out over a vast river valley. I walk out my front door and into fields upon fields of rice paddies, heavily forested mountains straight out of Jurassic Park (with wild boars and monkeys in place of the T-rex and Velociraptors), and a never ending parade of the (seemingly inexplicably-placed) vending machines. Bikes and trains are the transportation of choice here.

My modest Japanese language abilities have been getting quite a workout. I negotiated phone contracts, internet service, and everyday tasks. In my spare time, I keep busy with community festivals and volleyball, preparing for an English conversation salon at the local college, and travelling as much as possible. So far, I have had the chance to visit magnificent limestone caves and towering castles, eat delicious food, and take my first ride on the bullet train (which, yeah, was pretty cool). On my weekends and vacation days, I have explored Hiroshima, and the neighbouring prefectures of Tottori and Shimane. I hope to visit the historic city of Kyoto during the changing of the leaves in autumn, as well as the sprawling mountains of Nara prefecture during the springtime Hanami: the blooming of the cherry blossoms.

I work full time at three incredibly lively country elementary schools. I wake up early, put on my business suit, and roll, run, shout, sing, and dance for seven to nine hours before going to bed. Then I wake up and do it all over again. The kids are the best part of the job, without a doubt.

The transition to living and working in a new culture has not been without its hiccups. However, life is pretty sweet here, in this land of peaches. I look forward to every second of it.

World University Services of Canada (WUSC) International Forum 2013

December 5, 2013



Five UNBC students attended the World University Services of Canada (WUSC) International Forum in Ottawa in November 2013 as delegates of UNBC WUSC's local committee. A contribution of \$500 from the Department of International Studies helped to make this possible. The International Forum held workshops and debates on contemporary international development issues and offered a chance to make connections with students from local committees across Canada as well as professionals in the field. The highlight of our trip was the "Great Debate" on the final day of the forum. The question asked was: "What is the greatest development priority of our time?" Our UNBC team position suggested that a holistic, multi-perspective approach is necessary for successful development; context matters. We won the debate!

The UNBC WUSC committee helps sponsor a student to UNBC from a refugee camp through the Student Refugee Program. As well, the local committee plans information and fundraising events for development projects around the world. We are continuously trying to increase community awareness through television interviews, social media, and

information tables. Joining UNBC WUSC is an excellent opportunity for students at UNBC to gain valuable skills, participate in intercultural exchange, and learn about what it takes to change the world at a local and a global level.

For further information on UNBC WUSC:

Email: unbcwusc@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/unbcwusc>.

2013 CIDA Internship in Mexico Meghan Kennedy, International Studies Major – 2011

November 29, 2013



For 6 months in 2013, Meghan Kennedy participated in a CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency; now folded into a new organization called Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, DFATD) internship (specifically, the International Youth Internship Program), sponsored by the Canadian government, in an impoverished, indigenous village called Tlmacazapa in central Mexico. Her title was “Program Officer: Education of Children and Women.” She supported the continued development of the education program of an international non-profit organization called Atzin. In this position, she worked with young “village educators” to teach children who cannot afford to attend school or who are failing grade level in school, and to adult women in order to increase their basic literacy. On a weekly basis Meghan helped the educators plan and conduct their classes, and provided advice, guidance, ideas, and materials. She was also responsible for evaluating students' progress. Meghan says her experience “has been an unforgettable one, providing me with invaluable, on-the-ground community development experience. It has allowed me to learn about and witness the daily struggles faced by people living in poverty along

with the challenges faced by the organizations striving to overcome this plight. Most importantly I have witnessed education's power to build independence and agency.”

Here is advice from Meghan on how to find such internships:

I found this internship through CIDA's website because I knew that they posted new ones every year. The link is: <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/acdi-cida/psij-iyip.nsf/vStsEn?OpenView&Restr....> However, with recent cuts to CIDA, this is the last year for the International Youth Internship Program. The government does have a webpage providing advice/channels for finding a job in international development <http://www.international.gc.ca/development-developpement/jobs-emplois/index.aspx?lang=eng>. You can also search through the DFATD/CIDA links or search out the organizations themselves. For example I know that Free the Children offers an internship. There's also WUSC, United Nations Association of Canada, and Oxfam Quebec.

Their information can be found on their websites so it's often a matter of searching far and wide.

Amnesty International Internship Heather Ritchie, UNBC Graduate 2013

October 8, 2013



A group of twenty youths from across the country made their way to their seats in a meeting room of a small University in Canada's capital city. The room was suddenly overcome with a sense of emotional weight and apprehension as Naser al Raas entered the room, personally escorted by the secretary general of Amnesty International Canada.

Naser al Raas is a Canadian citizen who was detained and tortured in Bahrain for thirty days during a trip to visit his family in March 2011, and now here he was meeting with the participants of Amnesty International's annual Human Rights College located in Ottawa. This was the first time I had ever been able to meet with a prisoner of conscience and no lesson could have prepared me for it. This powerful experience was one of many that made up my position as a planning committee member for the Human Rights College. I sought out this opportunity in order compliment my education and to increase my networks for when my university life had ended but I left with so much more.

This position was available to me because of the dedication and leadership skills I had previously shown during my involvement with the local Amnesty International chapter in Prince George and the networks I had already made. In this position I had the opportunity to plan workshops and meet dedicated and influential citizens from across the country. As an undergraduate student it is important to be involved with as many opportunities as possible because soon your degree will be complete and it will become more important than ever to stay engaged in the world around you. Your university education is valuable but some of the most important lessons you will learn can only be taught outside of the class room.

International Criminal Court (ICC) Internship Kaleigh Milinazzo, Joint International Studies & Political Science Major – 2011

January 31, 2013



From April to August 2012, I completed an internship at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, Netherlands. This year, the ICC celebrated its 10th anniversary as a permanent and independent court established to end impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern, specifically genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The ICC currently has 121 States Parties, with 22 warrants of arrest issued, 16 cases, and seven ongoing investigations.

As a member of the external relations team, I helped support the ICC Presidency in interactions with States, international organizations, civil society and other external actors. An excellent complement to my UNBC International

Studies degree, this 'hands on' opportunity allowed me to gain valuable experience in the fields of diplomacy, public policy and international law.

Interested students can apply for internships at the ICC on the ICC website: <http://www.icc-cpi.int>.