

International Times

News from the International Programs Office

Spring 2008
Issue 7



Acii Nancy, future Boise State student from Uganda

International Programs
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Boise, ID 83725-1145
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Boise State and Invisible Children team together to bring a Ugandan student to Boise State

by Christy Babcock Quintero, International Student Coordinator, International Programs

It is our pleasure to announce that Acii Nancy is the recipient of the Boise State Scholarship for students from northern Uganda. As you may remember from our last IPO newsletter, Phil Kelly, a professor in the College of Education, spent last summer teaching in Uganda. It became Phil Kelly's mission to bring a Ugandan student to Boise State. The Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs has generously agreed to sponsor the student in conjunction with the non-profit organization Invisible Children. Invisible Children's mission is to improve the quality of life for war-affected children by providing access to quality education, enhanced learning environments, and innovative economic opportunities for the community.

Phil Kelly's family has opened their home to our Ugandan student and will provide her

with room, board, and a supportive family environment.

Phil Kelly spent time interviewing numerous potential students and after much review and discussion with the International Programs Office staff, Acii Nancy was selected. Acii Nancy is 19 years old and a recent graduate of Gulu Central High School in Gulu, Uganda. She lost both of her parents to AIDS while in school and would like to study something in the sciences/health care fields so that she may start an AIDS clinic in her home village. During her interview, Acii Nancy clearly stood out as a driven young woman with a very firm grasp of who she is and what she values. While in school, she achieved the position of prefect and was the highest scoring female student on her exit exam. We are eagerly awaiting Acii Nancy's arrival this summer.

To read more about Acii Nancy, go to

<http://www.invisiblechildren.com/news&press/pressreleases/detail.php?PID=671657622>

For information about Invisible Children <http://www.invisiblechildren.com>

- To hear more about Acii Nancy and her fellow students in Gulu as well as Phil Kelly's
- experience teaching there last summer, join us for the **International Connections Brown**
- **Bag Luncheon** presentation by Phil Kelly on: **Wednesday, April 16, 2008, 12:30 pm,**
- **Lookout Rm.**, Student Union Building, Boise State University, Open to the Public, light
- refreshments served, parking stickers for free parking on campus available

You are invited to a FREE LUNCH and Presentation

Understanding International People

Why do they do that? Everything you ever wanted to know but were afraid to ask

Ryan Larsen (back by POPULAR DEMAND) a funny, engaging cross-cultural expert will guide you through understanding people from other countries

When: Wednesday, April 30th, 11:45 a.m.-
2:00 p.m. (come when you can, leave when you need to)

Where: SUB Jordan Ballroom D

What: Lots of free international
food and really great free give-
aways!

Sponsored by: International Programs and Student Housing



The Nursing Department Internationalization Project— Beginning the Journey

by Terri Reyburn, Nursing Department

How can we utilize an open source course site to facilitate dynamic, inexpensive communication with international partners? Is there a case study discussing how pain medication affect different ethnicities of patients? What would it take to create an international service learning experience for a clinical mini-course in South America? Those questions were just a few of the ones circulating in the Nursing Department during the development of the Internationalization Initiative award proposal last fall.

As the first quarter of the award comes to a close, we now have answers to these and many other related questions. Progress toward realizing the project's objectives is realized daily. In January, Barbara Allerton attended the American Council on Education Internationalization conference in Washington, DC. While not specifically sponsored by this award, the information gleaned from the conference related to curriculum development, barriers and facilitators has provided a solid best practices foundation. To date, Sophomore and Junior level objectives related to global world view have been developed, overall objectives for "Global World View" undergraduate curriculum thread have been drafted and submitted to the Department of Nursing Curriculum Team, and initial identification of content for international/diversity topics throughout the curriculum has been completed.

For the graduate nursing curriculum, a working definition of 'global world view' has been developed. End-of-program outcomes for the Masters of Population Health Nursing program related to 'global world view' have been established. Course-specific global world view outcomes have been established for three graduate nursing courses so far: Population Health Assessment and Planning (NURS 524), Health Care Economics, Finance and Delivery (NURS 504), and Educational Leadership (NURS 512).

One recurring theme in internationalization

literature is that to promote change on an individual level, nothing is more effective than providing the opportunity for people to have international experiences. With this in mind, development of three course templates well suited to a short-term study abroad experience is underway. Topics include healthcare system comparisons, cultural competency in nursing care, and an international clinical experience. Contact has been made with international partners in the nursing school at the Catholic University in Cuenca, Ecuador to begin logistical planning for the clinical study abroad course. As a clinical experience in a foreign country is significantly more complex to orchestrate, simultaneous work is underway to offer one of the two other didactic courses in Mexico, tentatively slated for Spring 2009.

For those students and faculty who are unable to leave jobs and families to travel abroad, an open source website will be an effective, dynamic, easy, and enlightening way to engage in dialogue with students and faculty from any of our partner institutions (currently we have partners in China, Ecuador, the Netherlands, Canada, and Thailand). Benchmarking against other open source websites has been done and five key purposes for the web site have been identified. The Department of Nursing has partnered with Academic Technologies to evaluate open source platforms. While a number are available, ease of use for the end-user, site development and management considerations, language translation capability, and web site functionality have narrowed the search down to two platforms, which are being carefully evaluated.

This project is an exciting adventure and we are learning so much along the way. Having institutional support to realize each of these activities is crucial when developing a comprehensive approach to internationalizing a department. The grant group is planning to share our discoveries, successes and challenges with the University community with a presentation in the Spring 2009. Stay tuned!

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Taiwan Interns Lend International Perspective to Boise Businesses

by Jarie Jackson Castelin, M.Ed. Intensive English Program

A hearty welcome to our 11 graduate interns from Taiwan International Trade Institute (ITI). Each spring, Boise State's Intensive English Program welcomes students from ITI for a two-month internship experience in the Boise area. The students will work with area businesses and participate in cultural activities to learn about the US. The International Trade Institute

Imports, Inc, Mishel Vandembush.

A special thank you to Rick Vycital, Region III Director of the Idaho Small Business Development Center located on Boise State's campus for lending his support to these interns on a weekly basis as an advisor. Rick's prior work experience includes President and Owner of Silver Creek Inc. Prior to owning this business, Rick was managing partner of DBF & Co, a regional investment advisory firm. In addition, he was Sr. Vice President and Manager, Trust Investments for Westone Bancorp (now US Bank). Rick is a Chartered Financial Analyst. He attended graduate school at Arizona State University and completed his MBIA at Thunderbird School, the American Graduate School of International Business.

Susie Fisher, a home stay host last year, has acted as the volunteer coordinator to help find local families interested in hosting these students for two months. Thank you's go out to her for her wonderful efforts. Local families are an important part of the cultural experience by providing opportunities to share in their lives through home stays. Thank you to the following families for hosting these graduate students: Rick and Janey Schell, Jenifer Hammond, the Hsu family, Foad and Suzan Roghani, Tom, Mary Anne, and Joe Caterina, Eric and Bernadette Shostrom, Tom and Amy Lynn, John and Loraine Hand, Cyndi and JT Hadlock, and Allan and Kathleen Cawrse.

This is a mutually beneficial experience coordinated by Boise State's Intensive English Program in the International Programs Office.

If you would like to participate by either hosting an intern at your company, or by signing up as a host family for the program next spring (March-May 2009), or would just like more information, please contact chalimarswain@boisestate.edu or call 208.426.3652.



ITI students enjoy a welcome breakfast at Donnie Mac's Restaurant

interns will lend an international perspective to the participating companies, providing them with resources and information about business abroad. The following companies will be involved in this experience: Metageek, Bob Deely; AeroLed's Inc, Mike D'Amico, Nampa; DJM Sales and Marketing, Kati O'Connor; Sloan Fencing, Brice Sloan; Best Bath System, Michael Hensel; Tactical Solutions, Inc, Chet L. Alvord; The Network Group, Danielle Anderson; PCS Edventures Inc., Teresa Kross; Camille Beckman, Susan Roghani; Rosendahl Shoes, David Shippy; and Eyes of the World



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If you are planning any international travel remember to purchase your **International Student Identity Card (ISIC)**. Your ISIC Card will provide some insurance, discounts on airfare, hostels and more than 33,000 locations in 103 countries.

To purchase an ISIC card call the International Programs Office 208.426.3652
For more information on the card go to <http://www.myisic.com>

Canada: Not Just a Carbon Copy of the US, eh!

By Karen Carleton, M.Ed., Boise State international student

Many think Canada is just like the US, since they share popular culture, customs, language, and multinational corporations. Michael Adams's *Fire and Ice: the United States, Canada and the myth of converging values*, explains how Canadians and Americans have unique identities and social values. Despite being dwarfed by America's population (300 million), Canada is geographically larger with

Chinese-Canadian. Gay marriage, something more widespread north of the border, is another example of openness to difference. Adams writes that Canada has a "pragmatic, compromise-crafting culture". This difference comes from history. After defeating the French settlers on the Plains of Abraham in 1759, a compromise was struck allowing 60,000 French people to remain, respecting their rights to keep their language, religion and customs. The seeds of official bilingualism and multiculturalism were sown. Today Canada is a cultural mosaic with various cultures, while the US often uses the metaphor of a cultural melting pot with groups becoming one. Canada's mosaic is a double-edged sword, affording cultural, linguistic and regional freedoms, while possibly deterring a distinctly Canadian identity. Canadians have a long history of accommodating differences, and many see diversity-friendliness as an edge in globalization and workplace diversity.

Canadians are quick to question the American Dream or rise to wealth from humble beginnings, by vision and hard work. Yet the Conference Board warns that Canada's complacency in business inhibits its innovation and competitive

drive. Adams finds Canadians more focused on quality of life, and Americans more driven by a higher standard of living as a symbol of success. Still, higher educated people in both countries tend to have very similar value systems, based on democracy, equality, and balancing the common good with free enterprise.

As a Canadian studying at BSU, some of the differences I have noticed here:

- Tuition is higher, but there are more scholarships
- Practical work-study opportunities (e.g. internships) are more prevalent
- Companies are very innovative with their products and services
- People can be quite sensitive about discussing cultural or racial differences, and
- Many people have never travelled outside the US (including to Canada or Mexico).



Karen Carleton, Canadian student at Boise State - between the US and Canada.

a smaller population (30 million). Besides that difference, other contrasts are subtle. Canada's founding motto: "peace, order and good government", contrasts with the US' "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness". Canada's 2:1 ratio of mini-van to SUV purchases (reversed in the US) seems symbolic of these differences. The US' northern neighbor prizes its social programs and balancing individual rights with the common good. While not a socialist nation, Canada is said to have socialist leanings. By contrast, Americans tend toward individualism, private business, and a traditional mistrust of government.

Modern Canadian trends include an overall lack of deference to authority and a strong egalitarian bent with religion remaining separate from politics. Many traditional symbols of authority are questioned, and multiple, flexible identities harmoniously exist – being both Chinese and Canadian, not



Alternative Spring Break 2008

By Giselle Jeffries

A group of twenty students who are part of the Boise State's Volunteer Services Board spent their spring break in Macuelizo, Honduras installing water filtration systems, passing out clothes, school supplies, providing medication and medical supplies to people in the area. Giselle Jeffries is one of the students who participated in the program and wrote the following account of her experience in Honduras.

I personally enjoyed this year's trip to Honduras. Honduras clearly has a very different culture from our own, which is what I liked about it.

The best part for me was when we got to pass out clothes and school supplies; we got to see the children and play with them. Not all the children go to school, though either because they can't afford the uniforms or because they have to go to work at a young age. But they were all extremely playful. Some played with boxes as if they were swords or guns and others played hopscotch or duck, duck, goose. One girl came up and took my hand so as to lead me around the classroom, one girl came up from behind to hug me, and there were a couple girls who were actually jumping up and down trying to steal my hat off my head and pull my hair. The children all seemed happy to see us and wanted us to join in their games. At the school up in the mountains, parents swarmed around the truck bed full of clothes like bees. I ended up backing out of the crowd to let them grab what they wanted. It was hard to pass out the clothes with so many people grabbing.

I had fun going around with one of my group members and helping her take pictures with an instant picture camera. We took pictures of the

children and/or of their family so they can have a picture of themselves in their house. We did the same thing at the schools along the way.

Honduras is also very green. When you fly into the airport in San Pedro Sula, the first thing you see are fields of banana trees, which are used to make nachos and other types of chips. They also have coconuts, which everyone got to try. Hondurans use a machete to cut their melons and coconuts. At the end of the trip, I think everyone in the group bought a machete. I got one for my dad.

Hondurans, however, barely have enough to feed themselves; so animals, even the few kept as pets, are malnourished. There's no such thing as recycling; litter is everywhere. Another thing was the showers. Our hotel in Azacualpa didn't have warm water, and we were showering in unfiltered water. We used bottled water to brush our teeth; using the sink water would have made us sick. I believe the hotel was asked if they wanted a filter, but they said no. Instead they keep a refrigerator with filtered water (in bags).

The trip was very educational and eye opening for everyone in the group. If I could, I would definitely go again.

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The 14th Biannual English 123 Conference on Language

Tuesday, April 22 (*Bishop Barnwell*)

and

Thursday, April 24 (*Farnsworth*)

10:40 to noon

This series of presentations by multilingual students offers an important opportunity to appreciate the knowledge, experiences, and struggles of multilingual members of the Boise State community. For more information contact Gail Shuck, in the English Department, gshuck@boisestate.edu, (208) 426-1189



Expressing India

by Madhura Phansalkar, a Boise State student and artist from India

Indian civilization is one the oldest civilizations. India is engrossed with an enormous amount of artistic, cultural, and historical places. The Indian art evolved with different religious, political and cultural developments. These developments changed many art forms



such as painting, sculpture, architecture, literature, music, and dancing. Among these art forms I am inspired by the “fine arts.” This art was developed in the post British colonial era (after 1947), to establish new ways of expressing India. The most interesting characteristic about this art is the attention to detail in a sketch and its fineness. These paintings are mostly related to stories involved with Lord Krishna’s life. I learned this art from my grandfather as well as from my father when I was in school. I participated in many competitions; one of them was “Shankar’s International Drawing Competition.” I was awarded a silver medal in the competition by the President of India. Today in the United States, I enjoy my hobby of drawing sketches. Apart from that, I am studying for my MS in Computer Science.



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Order your International Sashes for Graduation

Students who have studied abroad or who are international students can wear a sash representing that country during graduation. It is essentially a flag representing your country of study or home country. We have a sample in the reception area of the International Programs Office.

You can purchase a sash through our office; the cost is \$28. Please come to the International Programs Office by Friday, April 25th and pay for the sash. We will contact you when they arrive.

You can purchase this yourself at this website, but the cost will be higher: around \$35. You can also use this site to see what your country’s sash looks like. <http://www.visionwear.com/intersash.html>



Are you looking for an opportunity to....?

- Be a mentor
 - Earn credit in your Service Learning Classes
 - Possibly earn internship credit
 - Help your fellow students
- Practice your foreign language skills (language other than English)
 - Make a difference at BSU
 - Gain great experience in ESL Education
- Gain experience relating to International Business/Relations

Help other Multilingual Learners of English find a support network!

The **Multilingual Student Advisory Board (MSAB)** is looking for mentors for multilingual learners of English interested in connecting with other students.

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Hiwot Kassaye is an Engineering major from Ethiopia. Hiwot transferred to Boise State from ISU in 2006. She is actively involved in extra-curricular activities on campus. She coordinated the 2007 International Food Song and Dance Festival. This year she is the Vice President for both the International Student Association and Secretary for Multilingual Student Advisory Board.

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The Multilingual Student Advisory Board was originally started by a student from Afghanistan, Yama Shefa, in spring 2003 to provide a supportive network specifically to current and prospective Boise State students for whom English is not a native language and also outreach to the refugees and the immigrant community. Currently MSAB has 24 members and the advisor of the group is Dr. Gail Shuck, coordinator of English Language Support Programs. The objective of MSAB is to assist students in achieving their educational goals and experiences by providing a welcoming, comfortable and supportive atmosphere so that they can adjust to university life, to inform and assist faculty members on cultural and linguistic issues facing non-native speaking students, to provide opportunities for social gatherings and cultural development, to cooperate with other student organizations in promoting cultural and linguistic diversity, and to establish peer mentoring relationships among multilingual students.

The MSAB runs the Peer Mentoring program which provides the environment that links them with successful role models. Peer

mentors help students develop both short- and long-term goals and problem solving techniques, as well as to guide him/her through various life challenges and direct him or her to campus and community resources. Mentors are not asked to take the place or role of parents, teachers, or counselors; instead they are to be a close friend and guide who shares life experiences with a student. How often the mentors and students meet is determined by the mentor and student, but we recommend once a week or once every two weeks for an hour. To become a peer mentor, the qualifications are, to be a current student at BSU, on good academic standing, have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher, and have attended BSU for at least one complete semester.

The MSAB officers and Dr. Shuck, will use information related to hobbies, academic, recreational and career interests, musical and athletic inclinations, and relevant personality characteristics to determine appropriate matches.

We welcome anyone who will be interested in being part of MSAB.

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For further information contact:

Gail Shuck, MSAB Advisor, gshuck@boisestate.edu, (208) 426-1189

OR

Yeng Chi, MSAB President, yengchi@gmail.com



A Perspective from a Kenyan Student

by Abubakar Adbi, VP Multilingual Student Advisory Board, Boise State international student

When I came to the United States, I had many experiences. In this article I'm going to tackle the ones that I think are important to talk about as a member of the Multilingual Student Advisory Board.

One thing that was strange to me when I came to the United States was relationships or friendships between foreign students and American-raised students. In Kenya, if an individual decides to be friends with someone, man to man or otherwise, you can hold hands with a friend of both genders and no one in society will assume a sexual connotation. When I came to the United States, I thought this was the same as viewed in my culture. One day, while I was in an orientation for newly arrived refugees to the United States, I felt confused when my instructor told us, "If you happen to become friends with an American, never hold hands because people will view your friendship in a different way, like sexual partners." I was astonished to hear this because it was the opposite in our culture.

The second experience that I had when I came to the United States was smiling. Usually in my culture people never smile at strangers. If you happen to smile at a person that you don't know, he/she may be offended because he/she may think that you may have noticed something inappropriate on their body or dress. When I came to the United States it was the other way around. Most people I encountered whom I didn't even know smiled at me and some even said hi to me. One afternoon I went to my landlord and asked her, "Why do some people that I don't even know smile and/or say hi to me?"

She said, "That is something obvious

in America and you can also smile and say hi to people that you don't know and they won't get offended." Since then I have become accustomed to smiling and saying hi to strangers. I think it's cool and one way of being nice to others. Remember that I won't get offended or doubtful if you smile or say hi to me now, as I used to before getting used to the American culture.

My third experience was about eye contact, which I now consider to be essential when interacting with a variety of people in daily life. It was not that way when I first arrived in the United States. In my culture having eye contact with someone older than you is regarded as rude and offensive. The only people who have the authority to have direct eye contact are parents; kids cannot look at their parents' faces or eyes. If they do so, they will be viewed as disrespectful and aggressive which may result in isolation and bias from the society. The other figure that

has the authority to have eye contact is an employer but not the employee. If an employee happens to look at his/her boss's eyes, he/she may be suspended or even dismissed from work because he/she is believed to have acted inappropriately.

When I went to a class at the Idaho Commerce and Labor to orient refugees on how to behave during a job interview or work, I was completely puzzled when the instructor said, "I have worked and helped many people from overseas in getting jobs but the number one problem they have during a job interview or at work is eye contact with the interviewer. While you are in America, always try to have eye contact with the employer. If you don't make eye contact with the employer, he/she



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A Perspective... continued from page 8

may think that you are not telling the truth and you are hiding something from them.” This was totally bizarre to me. And in fact, it happened to me. I recall one day after I was employed, my boss called me to her office to tell me what a hard worker I was. During our conversation, she always had eye contact with me and I tried to do the same but I just couldn’t keep my eyes on her. I was raised in a society that viewed eye contact with seniors, bosses, and parents as rude. The other day I went back to her office and asked her if she noticed that I couldn’t keep my eyes on her, and she said that she did

notice. She was happy when I explained that it was my way of expressing respect to her in our culture and I wasn’t hiding anything from her.

These are some of things you may have encountered, or will encounter, when working with either international or refugee students. If you happen to come across an international or refugee student who demonstrates one of the above characteristics, remember this may be one way of revealing their respect to you. Be patient and don’t get offended. This may be the way they were raised and it usually takes time for them to feel comfortable in doing so.

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Where are They Now?

by Christy Babcock Quintero, International Student Coordinator, International Programs

This is a new section of our newsletter that we hope will continue to grow. We wish to maintain contact with international alumni and update readers on where they are now. International alumni who would like to be included in our newsletter, please contact Christy Babcock Quintero at cbabcoc@boisestate.edu

David Stuart, MD. After graduating from Boise State, David went to medical school at Howard University and then completed a general surgery residency. He is now practicing general surgery in West Virginia.

Soumya Rajkumar, from India, graduated from Boise State in the Fall of 2006, with a Masters in Electrical Engineering. Her current name is Soumya Narasimhan. She is currently working as an ASIC (Application-Specific Integrated Circuit) engineer with Hewlett Packard and has a new born, Aadhya.

Kyle Turner was a non-degree-seeking student at Boise State. He now lives in Austin Texas. He is married with a son, and has a daughter on the way. He is the North American and European Engineering Manager for a company called Cabot Microelectronics based in Illinois that makes specialty chemicals for the semiconductor industry.

Christopher M. Mayes is from North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada and attended Boise State from 1991-1994, majoring in Finance. Christopher now lives in Kuna, Idaho with wife Brandi, she is an Idaho native.

Lingzhi Sun, from China, graduated from Boise State with a Bachelors in Accounting in 2003, a Masters in Education in 2004, and a Masters in Accounting in 2005. She is working for Deloitte & Touche LLP, as an auditor. She recently moved to San Jose, CA due to her husband’s relocation, but is still working for Deloitte & Touche. Lingzhi had a daughter in March 2007. Lingzhi says, “I am so lucky to have my education from Boise State.”

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Tired of the same old thing??

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Call the International Programs Office for more information! (208) 426-3652

