

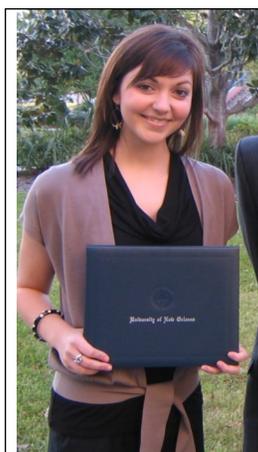
# B.A. IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2008  
ISSUE 2

## BAIS STUDENTS SHINE AT LIBERAL ARTS HONOR CONVOCATION

Several BAIS students were spotlighted at this year's Honors Convocation, held on April 14, in the Recital Hall of the Performing Arts Center. The first award, the **Philip Coulter Award for Excellence in International Studies**, was presented by the BAIS program director, John Hazlett, to the BAIS graduate with the highest GPA. This year's awardee was **Rebecca Elizabeth Finney**, whose GPA was 3.993. Ms Finney was also the recipient of a variety of other College and University awards, including the



**Rebecca Finney**

University of New Orleans Women's Club Award, the College of Liberal Arts Dean's Award and Edward M. Socola Prize, the Phi Beta



**Aaron Larkin**

Kappa Club Award, and a Chancellor's Scholarship. Rebecca was also commended for the work she performed this year in the curricular develop-

ment of the Peace and Justice Studies Concentration.

The second BAIS program award, given out for **The Best Essay in International Studies**, went to the BAIS student who had written the best undergraduate paper for a 3000- or 4000-level course taken in the program during the 2007 calendar year. This year's awardee was **Aaron Larkin**, for his essay, "The Nature of Capitalism in Japan and Germany: A Case of Two National Economies"

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## TIBET IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### **Sugam Singh, BAIS student (2011)**

With the recent protests following the Journey of Harmony Olympic torch relay in Paris, London and San Francisco, Tibet has been in the eye of all the major media. Because of

these events, many people are learning about Tibet for the first time. I myself am a Freshman BAIS student from Nepal, and I am frequently asked where Tibet is located, both politically and geographically. The answer to that question depends upon who is asked.

China, and most world governments, believe Tibet is and always was a part of a multicultural China. However, the Tibetan government-in-exile, situated in Dharamsala, India, and supporters of the Free Tibet Movement are adamant in their assertion that Tibet

was a free nation until 1949 when China invaded the country and took control. On March 10, 2008, on the occasion of the 49th anniversary of the failed 1959 Tibet uprising, protests asking for the release of political prisoners turned

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## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Registration for the summer and fall semesters began in mid-April and students are scurrying to construct schedules that will allow them to organize their work, family, and school responsibilities in a manageable fashion. This can be particularly tricky for BAIS students, who have to find courses across a wide variety of disciplines and make sure that they are getting the course distribution that their concentrations demand. To help you make this process a bit smoother, send the following to your advisor at [jhazlett@uno.edu](mailto:jhazlett@uno.edu):

1. a list of the courses you are taking this semester. Provide

the course number (e.g., HIST 2991) and course title (e.g., African Crises).

2. a list of the courses you wish to take this summer and fall. Again, provide course number and title.

3. your concentration and student number.

4. if you have your checklist, make sure that it is up to date and send it with the other information as an attachment.

In addition, you should consider the following when you are thinking about courses:

1. If you are using Spanish or French to meet your language

requirement, use Spanish or French literature courses to fulfill your General Education literature requirement. Doing so means that with one extra course (in your electives), you can obtain a minor in either of those languages, and a language minor will help you in at least two ways: it will ensure that you get more training in a second language, and it will make you more marketable once you graduate.

2. Do not sign up for electives unthinkingly or at the beginning of your studies. BAIS students have only 7 hours of electives. Use them wisely. Consult with your advisor before signing up for any elective.

3. Course distribution require-



ments for the various concentrations can be found on our website at <http://cola.uno.edu/bais>. Be sure to consult your concentration's requirements as you pick out courses.

Good luck!

John Hazlett

## CRITICAL LANGUAGES PROGRAM OFFERS UNIQUE LANGUAGE STUDY TO BAIS STUDENTS

The UNO Critical Languages Program (CLP), part of Metro College's Division of International Education, has been a very useful adjunct to the BA in International Studies Program. Particularly for those students interested in pursuing careers in Diplomacy or with the State Department, the CLP offers less-commonly-taught languages such as Arabic, Czech, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, and Vietnamese almost every semester, with the highest enrollment in Arabic and Vietnamese. Several BAIS students, including **Jessie Dwyer**, who now works in the CLP office, have taken the Arabic courses in the pro-



gram, and others, such as **Kaylan Geiger**, have used the courses as a starting point before going off to study in Egypt and other overseas lo-

cations. In fact, the US State Department awards extra points to the applications of candidates who have a familiarity with one of the languages on their critical languages list (see State Depart-

ment Website Page at: <http://careers.state.gov/officer/selection.html#FLS>

Mary Hicks, the Coordinator of CLP, informs us that

the program originated with about 30 students taking four languages in the fall of 1997 and grew steadily for several years until Katrina.

Now, even with UNO numbers not quite at pre-Katrina levels, the CLP is experiencing pre-Katrina enrollment figures. This semester,

the Program has an enrollment of 97 students in eight languages. This is undoubtedly the result of the increasing numbers of students who are looking for international opportunities in their degree

programs. Students take these less-commonly-taught languages for many reasons, but the ones most often mentioned are improved marketability after graduation, personal enrichment, and familial heritage. Whatever the motivation, these growing numbers demonstrate that UNO's student profile is becoming increasingly cosmopolitan and globally conscious. !

For more information, or to pick up your registration packet to enroll in Fall 2008 classes, go to the CLP office in the Science Building (SC) Room 1046.

Tel: 504.280-6388,

Web: [clp.uno.edu](http://clp.uno.edu)

## CONVOCAATION (CONTINUED)

written for Prof. Alan Scott, at the University of Innsbruck, during Aaron's post-Katrina Academic Year Abroad in Austria. Aaron was also the recipient of a Chancellor's Scholarship and the UNO International Ambassador Award to pursue studies this coming summer in Frankfort, Germany. Aaron is currently a junior in the program pursuing two degrees, the BAIS in the College of Liberal Arts, and the BS in Business Administration in the Business College. **Rebecca Hicks** received an Honorable Mention Certificate for her essay, "Out of Africa: A Modern Colonial Film" written for Assistant Professor James Mokhiber, in the Department of History.

Other UNO International Ambassador Awards

went to BAIS students **Brek Botne** (Glories of France Program), **Sarah Gelpi** (Costa Rica Program), **Patrick Girard** (Innsbruck International Summer School), and **Duane Williams** (Innsbruck International Summer School).

**Michael Spadora** received the Phi Beta Kappa Club Award, and other Chancellor's Scholarships went to BAIS students **Sarah Gelpi**, **John Mark Maust**, **Sarah Richoux**, and **Chelsea St. Juniors**.

Finally, a number of BAIS students have been honored with the Decennial Scholarship, including **Jessie Dwyer**, **James Smith**, and **Tammy Vu**. The program is very proud of these students and their achievements.



*XploreU.com* is a travelpedia for students, by students promoting global literacy. They are currently looking for student contributors for their website and newsletter. Topics are focused primarily on student p.o.v's of travel, whether domestic or abroad, and can be in short "review" format (at least 1 paragraph), or a full-fledged article (1 page/3 paragraphs) for the website. Special topics will be announced in their newsletter for future issues.

## PHI BETA DELTA

Phi Beta Delta, founded at California State University, Long Beach in 1986, is the first honor society dedicated to recognizing outstanding achievement in international education. Membership is offered to U.S students and international stu-

dents who have demonstrated high scholastic achievement (3.0 GPA for undergraduate students with junior or senior standing) and who have promoted international understanding. Members receive recognition for contribu-

tions to international education and become a part of the UNO network interested in international issues. Student initiation and membership fees are \$50.00.

For more information, contact Irene Ziegler. Tel: 280-7318 E-mail: [pbd@uno.edu](mailto:pbd@uno.edu)



## TIBET (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

violent, and in the following days fierce fighting broke out on the streets of Lhasa, Tibet's capital city. The Tibet government in Dharamsala estimates the number of protestors killed by the Chinese military around 300, but the Chinese government strongly denies this and blames the Tibetan rioters for killing 20 people. Whatever the truth is, the sudden violence was not well received by the international media, especially with the Summer Olympics soon to be held in China. Even in Nepal, under pressure from China to take strong action against the illegal political activities carried out by the Free Tibet Movement, police used brute force, attacking and dispersing the demonstrators with bamboo batons.

After the March unrest in Tibet, massive protests have been staged around the world demanding a free Tibet and an end to human rights abuses there. One organization involved in these recent efforts is the Students for a Free Tibet (SFT). Started in 1994, it is led by Tibetan students out of New York. This chapter-based organization campaigns for Tibet's political freedom and encourages youth to seek social justice. Even UNO has an SFT chapter, headed by Melissa Hughes, a senior sociology major. Their website states that the chapter's main goals are to make people aware of human rights violations in Tibet, the plight of political prisoners, includ-

ing the Panchen Lama, imprisoned since age 6 in 1995, and the various measures taken by the Chinese government to destroy Tibetan history, culture, and land. Hughes, a devout Buddhist, also lived in Dharamsala for a year, helping develop a school and teaching at the Tibetan Transit School. According to Hughes, the liberation of Tibet might not be possible in the near future, but organizations such as the SFT can educate people about the atrocities carried out against Tibet by China. Unfortunately, since China is fast becoming a major economic and political power, few governments are willing to take on the Tibetan cause, which makes it even harder for people to understand the situation. Although the turnout in a March 10 petition-signing event on campus was lower than hoped for, Hughes is certain that with time, the true nature of China's actions in Tibet will be exposed. She adds that if more people learn about the Tibetan cause, the Chinese government will feel the pressure of world opinion and rethink its policies. As Hughes put it, "The bully needs to be confronted before it's too late."

Not everyone agrees. Many people believe the Tibet crisis has been exaggerated to make China look bad, and the media have played a role in publicizing false accusations against the Chinese government. Jiajun Chen, president of the Chinese Stu-

dent Association at UNO, adamantly believes Tibet was and is a part of a multicultural China, and that all Chinese people acknowledge this fact. Commenting on the recent Tibet uprising and the Olympic torch relay protests, Chen maintains that protesters' demand that Tibet be allowed to secede from China is neither accepted by the Chinese people nor by the Dalai Lama himself. He adds that the western media have fabricated stories from Tibet about the Chinese reaction, thus harming relations between the West and China that have been carefully established over the last three decades. Chen comments that China is proud of its multiethnic heritage and is striving to bring about positive change throughout the country, contrary to what is said in the international media. Chen concludes that the Olympic Games this summer will help an international audience understand the real China, as visitors come to see the games and find out the truth for themselves regarding Tibet and China.

So the debate over the future of Tibet rages be-



tween two opposing viewpoints. Recently, the Prime Minister of Britain and the Chancellor of Germany have announced that they will boycott the Olympic Games' opening ceremony; President Bush has suggested that he will probably attend, and the international community has begun to see the issue as a complicated one. It is indeed difficult to know which side is right, but whatever the truth is, let us hope that the end of this conflict will be peaceful and in the best interest of all the groups concerned.



EDITOR: MATT MOSLEY

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

JOHN HAZLETT, DIRECTOR, BAIS

E-MAIL: BAIS@UNO.EDU

TEL: 280-6142