

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS



B.A. IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

NEWSLETTER

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Experience with UNO's AYA

By Ashley Norris (BAIS, 2010)

For the academic year of 2008-2009, I had the pleasure to participate in the Academic Year Abroad (AYA) in Innsbruck, Austria. As one of our resident anthropologists, Martha Ward, describes Innsbruck "The tourist brochures use words: magnificent, extraordinary, breathtaking, awe-inspiring. As the poets say, every vista pleases. In fact, new adjectives fail after awhile and only clichés become possible. So throughout this [article] I will frequently refer to mountains and valleys. Assume each time that I am acknowledging the beauty." Even as I acknowledge the 'trueness' of all of these superlatives, I still don't think you can do Tirol (where Innsbruck is located—like our parishes) justice with words. I'll try.

Tirol is defined by its mountains. Just as the mountains have provided challenges and carved out a tough, hardy people, they have also given Tirol its soul. The people have always looked to these mountains and have had the typical European desire to not only be a part of them, but to conquer them in some way. It's not surprising that the mountains have not only nurtured Tirol's culture and civilization, but have also served as the stadium for their fun. The mountains support everything that is Ti-

BAIS Goes to National Model United Nations Conference

By Marie Hebert (BAIS, 2010)

For the first time, the University of New Orleans is going to participate in the National Model United Nations sponsored by the National Collegiate Conference Association (NCCA) in New York City. A delegation of students was selected from the Bachelor of Arts in International Studies to represent St. Vincent and the Grenadines during this international event in March.

As it happens, UNO's delegation is a kind of mini-UN itself. It members include **Sugam Singh**, **Raju Adhikari**, **Sailesh Acharya**, and **Jason Shah** (all from Nepal),

Ashley Burns (from New Orleans), **Angel Novelo** (from Belize), **Tanja Supranowitz** (from Germany), **Gioel Gioacchino** (from Italy), **Marie Maciejewski Hebert** (from France), and **Babatunde Adeyemi Adeleye** (from Nigeria). Six other students are serving as alternates to the program and will probably participate as delegates to future conferences. Dr. Hazlett, BAIS Director, plans to be accompany the students to New York.

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rol's outdoor bliss: the winter sees the people flock to the mountains to enjoy the snow that blankets the giants, and in the summer, the people head back on foot. Tiroleans are proud of their mountains!

A big part of my experience in both the summer and the winter was on my bike. To me, it's a much more personal way to take in your surroundings: in a car you tend not to appreciate big hills, or you even sometimes forget you are going up a big mountain in the Alps. On a bike, I think it's next to impossible. Walking is great too, but I'm a little too ADD to appreciate the subtle changes that happen in the 2-3 miles I may walk in

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Experience With UNO's AYA...

a day. In other words, a bike is a perfect distraction for me.

My then boyfriend, and now fiancé, was my main motivation for getting involved in cycling. He has ridden for several professional and amateur teams over the past 7 years, and was the perfect person to show me the ways of the bike world. I even met him when he was riding a bike! He is also a bike journalist and writes for several magazines and an online news source. With Jered as my guide, we rode not only in Innsbruck, but in several other countries as well. Innsbruck is arguably the center of Europe, and is a *reasonable* distance to most everywhere on the continent. For example, by car it's 9 hours to Paris, less than 7 to Budapest, 7 to Rome... you get my drift. It was a pretty awesome feeling to ride to the top of Mt. Vesuvius, and see where you've come from below, not to mention a beautiful view.

We had the great luck to have one of the Grand Tours, the Giro d'Italia (it's the Italian equivalent of the Tour de France) have a stage start in Innsbruck. The race literally rode by our front door! It was pretty cool to see riders like Lance Armstrong, Levi Leipheimer, and the likes in my European "hometown." The same afternoon, we went for a ride on the very



same roads they had ridden that morning. You can see the full story here: <http://pezcyclingnews.com/?pg=fullstory&id=7066>

I've had an amazing time seeing different places via bike in both the US and Europe, and plan to do more cycling journalism with *Pez Cycling News* and *ROAD* magazine after I graduate this spring, at least until I can decide an appropriate avenue for graduate school.

UNO's AYA was also a great way to take care of my language requirements for graduation. It made it a lot easier to study German knowing that I'd need these words in the grocery store on the way home from school. My advisor, Dr. Hazlett, patiently worked with me on what courses would work with the rest of my requirements. I was able to take 21 and 18 hours the semesters I was there without much stress at all, not because I'm an amazing student, but

because they structure their schedules differently than we do. I took several block courses (in English) that required intense studying for a few weeks of the semester, but left the rest of the semester open for exploring.

I never would have had these opportunities had I not gone on the AYA. It's opened my mind and doors about different possibilities for the future. As the world gets smaller, it's not only interesting, but also important to have understanding and experience with other cultures. The AYA program is really an inexpensive way to do just that. I received the Joint-Study Stipend, which is a scholarship of several hundred Euros per month to defray the costs of living abroad. You can contact aya@uno.edu for more information on the program, or look at the brochure: http://inst.uno.edu/aya/forms/AYA_Brochure.pdf

Upcoming talks/seminars

- ◆ **Inside Burma: An American Correspondent's Experience and US Policy Analysis**
Mac McClelland, Author : "For Us Surrender Is Out of the Question: A Story of Burma's Never-Ending War"
April 5th; Location TBA
- ◆ **"Mine Action Awareness" by the Humpty Dumpty Institute**
A presentation on the issue of abandoned landmines in Southeast Asia and other former war sites.
March 8th; Location: University of New Orleans

BAIS Goes To...

The National Model United Nations (NMUN) is a program which aims at bringing students from various international universities to simulate sessions, meetings, and conferences of the United Nations. Created in 1945, it takes place in New York City, Washington DC, Latin America, Europe, and China, and lasts about a week. Last year 4000 students came from all over the world to New York City; 480 went to Washington DC.

Each selected college sends a delegation of students, and this delegation is assigned a country which they will represent during the program. Major international issues such as peacekeeping, environmental problems, children's rights, but also regional conflicts are then discussed in specialized committees. There are twenty committees in New York City, which make the program the largest model United Nations in the world. The committees include the General Assembly Plenary to discuss the Elimination of International Terrorism for example, and the Security Council to discuss peace

and security issues such as nuclear disarmament and non proliferation. The International Court of Justice looks at the Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Croatia v. Serbia). The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean deals with the mitigation of the economic crisis at the regional level. Among the committees are also specialized agencies such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Intergovernmental Organizations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Each conference is organized similarly, whether it takes place in New York City, Washington Dc, Latin America, Europe, or China.

Students are expected to be well prepared to take part into any of these committees, and may also act as Non Governmental Organizations, judicial experts, or any party which might intervene at the United Nations. The delegations act as official members of the United Nations. They debate, challenge each other, vote, write reports, and ratify decisions about a wide range of topics related to the

commissions. Finally, each delegation is to write and submit a position paper related to a particular issue of its assigned country. Awards are given to the most outstanding papers and participants.

The main sponsor of this event is the National Collegiate Conference Association. This non-profit organization aims at fostering international cooperation and peacekeeping through various programs. It is a part of the Department of the Public Information of the United Nations.

The BAIS delegation will serve the interests of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, a 32-island archipelago located in the Caribbean Sea. With 118,000 inhabitants, it is a parliamentary democracy and a member of the Commonwealth. Its main economic resources are fishing, agriculture, and more recently, tourism.

The delegation will be proud to represent the University of New Orleans in New York City. The conference will include an opening session in the United Nations and several sessions on the United Nations campus.

Conferences/Summits to look out for in NOLA...

- ◆ **International Studies Association Annual Convention:**
February 17th to 20th: www.isanet.org/neworleans2010/
- ◆ **Amnesty International USA Annual General Meeting:**
April 9th to 11th: www.amnestyusa.org/annual-general-meeting/page.do?id=1691009
- ◆ **Tulane Law School Summit on Environmental Law & Policy: Bound by Water**
April 9th to 11th: www.law.tulane.edu/tlsOrgs/tels/telc/index.aspx
- ◆ **Loyola University Second Annual Students Conference on World Peace**
April 12th to 16th: please e-mail peacecon@loyno.edu for more information

BAIS Student Profiles

Tanja Supranowitz (2011)

My name is Tanja and I am from Germany (Berlin!). After graduating from high school in 2002 I did not really know what I wanted to do with my life or where I wanted to be. Too many options. However, I knew that I wanted to become fluent in French, so I moved to Paris and worked there for about 10 months. In the fall of 2003, I moved back to Germany and decided to study law at the "Freie Universität Berlin." As much as I enjoyed the challenge of law, I realized very soon that I did not want to work as a lawyer or judge in Germany. Part of that realization was an "International Law class" that showed me how much I enjoyed seeing law in a much wider context. I started to research the Internet and found that universities all over Germany and around the world were offering degrees in "International Relations." Finally, I decided in the summer of 2008 to leave Germany for a while and enroll as a BAIS student at the University of New Orleans.

I started in January of 2009. My concentration is Diplomacy. To explain why I chose Diplomacy is, in fact, a little hard. I remember that during the last years of high school I got to meet Richard von Weizsäcker, who was President of Germany when the reunification of East and West Germany took place. I was 6 years old in 1989, and I was born in East Germany. I do not remember much from the GDR, but I remember the night the wall fell. Of course, I did not know what it meant. However, for my future personal life it meant so much. When I met him, he explained to my history class what happened back in those days before the wall fell. How Ronald Reagan, German chancellor Kohl, and Gorbatschow negotiated for the reunification of Germany. For over 40 years Germany had been divided by the Cold War, and it often seemed impossible that Germany would be unified again. However, Weizsäcker explained foreign politics and especially Di-

plomacy in such an amazing and interesting way that I started to be interested in it, because Germany's history proved that Diplomacy is able to bring change and that wars do not have to be inevitable. Even today, in a period of rapid globalization, I believe that Diplomacy is essential for us to live in a peaceful world. Diplomacy changed my life, and I want to learn what Diplomacy means. In the future, I would love to practice Diplomacy.

After one year of studying at the University of New Orleans, I can say that I enjoy it very much, and that I believe I made the right decision. I am looking forward to the coming semesters, and I hope that after graduating I will be able to either work for the European Union, or even better as a diplomat in an embassy. =0)



Gabriel Ruiz (2011)

My name is Gabriel Ruiz, and I am from Venezuela. My concentration in the BA in International Studies program is currently Asian Studies, though I am also thinking about European Studies. We will see! At present, I am a sophomore, but I had some college education before in my own country, where I studied business and administration. However, there was a nearly six-year break between my university studies in Venezuela and my enrollment at UNO due to the social and political problems back

home. Even so, I am not a transfer student because here I had to start everything again from the beginning. I am fine with that because it gives me a chance to review things I had forgotten and correct some of the errors and mistakes I made during my first years of college. I haven't gone on any study abroad programs yet, but I am definitely planning to go to China for an intense Chinese language program. I took two semesters of Chinese here in UNO, and they were great. Actually, as someone from another country living in the United States for four years. I could consider this as a study abroad experience, though it is obviously a long-term

program that has changed my life! I have also traveled to Germany for a two-week stay, and that was the best trip of my life. At this point, I haven't planned what I'll be doing after graduation, and I think it is still too soon to plan. My experience is that things can change suddenly when you least expect it. All the same, I have some ideas about my options, such working in a consulate in China, or working with a transnational company with business in Asia and/or Latin America or the US, or perhaps working with the UN or the government. I think there are some good opportunities for all students in International

Studies. I have also considered going for my masters degree before pursuing a career. Of the courses I have taken so far, those that have most inspired me have been POLI 2600 and 2700, as well as the Chinese language courses I mentioned above. The books that have influenced me the most have been Pablo Coelho's The Alche-

mist, Robert Koyosaki's Rich Dad & Poor Dad, Sun Tzu's The Art of War, and Robert Greene's The 48 Laws of Power. Spanish, of course, is my native language, and I speak English, and I am studying Chinese. Earlier, I took Italian and beginning French, but I decided to put them on hold until I master Chinese. The truth is that I like to

learn new languages, which is something that I admire about Europeans, so many of whom know how to speak three or four languages! At UNO, I have joined the International Student Organization (ISO), the Venezuelan Association of New Orleans, and the World Affairs Council of New Orleans, where I also conducted an internship.

Marie Hebert (2010)

My name is Marie Hebert, I am 24, and I am a junior in the BAIS program planning to graduate in the Fall of 2010. My concentration is Environmental Issues & Policy.

I was born in Paris, France, but I lived most of my life in Picardie, a rural region of France about half way between Paris and Calais. Language study was central to my education there. I started learning English in 5th grade and studied it for 9 years, German in 8th grade and studied it for 8 years, Latin in 7th grade and studied it for 6 years, and Spanish in 8th grade and studied it for 4 years. In college, I studied Russian for 2 years.

I graduated from a European High School with a major in sciences and mathematics as well as English, and then I went to study in Amiens, France. While in middle and high school, I traveled several times to Germany as an exchange student, as well as to Wales to improve my English. I also went to Rome, Florence, and Naples, Italy to study the European Renaissance and to visit Pompeii with my Latin class.

In college, I studied English and German applied to Business and Economics and spent my third year of study in Kassel, Germany as an Erasmus exchange student. There, I studied environmental issues and policy. I graduated in France in 2006. After my graduation, I went on a one-month trip across Europe and visited Prague, Vienna, Buda-

pest, and cities throughout Hungary. I also visited Zakopane and Krakow in Poland; Vilnius and other towns throughout Lithuania; Stockholm, Oslo and the northern fjords of Norway and Denmark. While in Germany, I also met my husband, who is American. Knowing a foreign language helps you make friends from all over the world.

After my graduation from college, I attended a graduate school for one year to become a teacher, but before my graduation, I decided to come to the US as an *au pair*. I stayed in Atlanta, GA for a year. Then, I found a job as a French assistant in New Orleans and was offered a scholarship to study at UNO. I transferred as a sophomore since French and American degrees are not equivalent, and chose the BAIS because it reflected most what I had done throughout my life. I decided to obtain an American degree to be able to attend an American graduate school.

In France and Germany, I took many courses in business and policy-making, but I never saw what was behind all these policies and data. At UNO, I chose to give a more "human" face to my degree and picked sociology classes with Dr. Adeola and Dr. Raabe. These classes helped me to understand the effects of environmental disruptions on human health and societies as well as see how Ameri-



cans live and interact. My geography classes gave me insight into how places determine events and how important it is to preserve our natural resources.

Recently, I decided that I want to apply to a PhD program in French culture and for that reason I will be taking a class in French literature next semester. I have always liked literature and my interest in reemerged recently when I took a course in Major American Writers with Dr. David Rutledge.

I have regularly taught French since coming to the US, and I am now the French teacher at Arthur Ashe Charter School here in New Orleans. I believe that learning a foreign language at a young age not only trains one's brain to learn faster, it also provides invaluable knowledge about the world. I currently teach grades K-8 and none

of my students had been exposed to a foreign language before. Because of what I see as the importance of my teaching in a New Orleans Charter school, I decided to use it as my internship. What I learned at school as a child made me want to see the world, and I would like the children in New Orleans to have the same kind of exposure to foreign cultures and languages that I had. My early education taught me not to be afraid of people who have a different life, culture, or religion, and prepared me to travel with curiosity and enthusiasm.

I am also the Community Coun-

selor for EurAuPair in the New Orleans area. I am the link between families who decide to host an *au pair* and the *au pairs* themselves. I believe that my experience as an international person living abroad and as a former *au pair* gives me a better insight to help families and *au pairs* as they face cultural challenges.

I am the vice president of the UNO Geographic Society and I work to create a link between my charter school work and the UNO campus. I would like to organize an Earth Week which would target UNO students and students from lower grades. Also, I believe it is

very important to work in and identify with the community, city, state, country and continent: Geography can help us understand what makes our location special to try to preserve it.

My education has made me who I am today. I believe that every American student should get a chance to see another part of the world and should be required to take a World Geography class at the college level. As our borders become more and more blurry, it is important to feel that the rest of the world is just another part of our global community.

Tara Cartner (2011)

My name is Tara Cartner and I am a junior BAIS student at the University of New Orleans. My areas of study are Diplomacy and International Organizations and the French language. I am a native of the New Orleans area, 36 years old, and I work in the French Quarter as a cook. After completing my studies, I plan to pursue a master's degree in History and French and enter the prestigious

field of teaching.

I began studying French simply because it was required as part of my International Studies program, and now I am participating in UNO's international exchange program in Orléans, France, living for about 6 months with a host family, and attending the Université d'Orléans for language studies with students from Asia, Europe, Russia, and the Middle East. This is

my first time travelling abroad, and I have to say that the experience is better than I could have imagined. Not only do you see the differences between cultures, you also see the similarities.

You can read my blog on my experiences in Orléans, France on the BAIS Blog site:

<http://unobais.wordpress.com/study-abroad-blog-by-tara-cartner/>

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

JOHN HAZLETT



This issue of the *BA in International Studies Newsletter* has been guest edited by BAIS students, **Gioel Gioacchino** (2010) and **Jason Shah** (2012). The articles they have put together focus on their program peers—where they come from, what they are doing at UNO, and the opportunities they have seized as they shape their educa-

tions and their futures. The program now has almost 150 enrolled students, representing some 25 different countries. The diversity of their backgrounds, their interests, and their experiences is quite astonishing, but they tend to share qualities that I find inspiring: self-sufficiency, a willingness to take risks, a love of adventure and nov-

elty, and a desire to improve the world they live in. BAIS students join the program because they have a strong commitment to its goals: to learn about other cultures in depth, to master foreign languages, to study and travel abroad, to interact with a wide array of people, and to expand their knowledge of the professional possibilities that the wider world offers. The profiles and the articles in this issue of the *Newsletter* highlight students who are doing just that.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
JOHN HAZLETT, DIRECTOR
BAIS E-MAIL: [JHAZLETT@UNO.EDU](mailto:jhazlett@uno.edu)
TEL: 280-1136

BAIS has launched a blog to keep you updated on new internships, international programs, and other opportunities and announcements.

Please visit our blog at:
<http://unobais.wordpress.com/>