Experiential Learning in African Studies

African Studies is delighted to announce its new experiential learning program, which offers a wide variety of opportunities for students to engage in community-based learning, and for faculty course development. The Experiential Learning Program started off the year with a workshop that brought together faculty who received course development grants from the African Studies Program with leaders of Seattle’s African communities, staff of the UW Carlson Leadership and Public Service Center, and the University-Community Partnerships (Educational Partnerships, and Learning Technology). During this workshop, we discussed examples of Experiential Learning, communities’ perceptions of and expectations from the project, and the course syllabi developed by grant recipients. We also invited these groups to our annual Fall reception in October as another step to share information and build relationships between the university and the local African communities. From these efforts, we have developed a database of community partners to share with faculty and students interested in experiential learning projects.

This is a wonderful option for students who want to get involved in “real world” learning partnerships. Examples of our course-based experiential learning include Prof. Ron Krabill’s course, Institutions and Social Change, where students work with local East African media, studying what programs can enhance the adjustment process of refugees and immigrants. In Prof. Nancy Farwell’s Social Work course, Communities in Transition: Empowerment Practice with Refugees and Immigrants, students help design programs and develop funding proposals in key areas of need identified by partner African immigrant and refugee services agencies.

African Studies also offers independent experiential learning opportunities in many venues. We are delighted to work with students to support their interests in getting involved, developing partnerships, and arranging academic credit. If you’re interested in developing such options, either independently as a student or as a faculty member wanting to incorporate experiential learning in a course, please contact our Experiential Learning Coordinator, Yemane Gebremicael, in the African Studies Program Office, 501 Thomson Hall, Tel. 616-0998.—Nancy Farwell, Chair of African Studies

Hands on Experience in Ghana

Restoring clay relief murals at a traditional shrine designated as a UNESCO world heritage site was just one of several unexpected opportunities for seventeen UW students to get hands on experience while participating in the 2nd JSIS/Ethnomusicology UW Exchange Program in Kumasi, Ghana that focused on Religion and Identity: Modes of Empowerment. They also danced with possessed priestesses, volunteered at an orphanage, and learned how to bargain in the Kumasi Central Market. Nearly half the students were JSIS majors. They studied with Ghanaian faculty at Kwanu Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, and with Profs. Ter Ellingson and Linda Itlis, who arranged for site visits to traditional shrines and healers, charismatic and mainline churches, mosques, funerals, an Eid ul Fitr procession (with dancing horses), a Tijaniya Sufi Zikr ceremony, xylophone festival, monkey and hippo sanctuaries, artist communities, and tourism development projects. (cont’d p.6)
Exciting Times at the South Asia Center

The community of students and academics studying South Asia at University of Washington has been enriched further with the arrival of three more faculty members: Dr. Craig Jeffery in the Department of Geography, Dr. Purnima Dhavan in the History department, and Dr. Sanjeev Khagram who has joined the department of Public Affairs.

Last fall, students and faculty members also had the opportunity to interact formally and informally with noted historians Sumit and Tanika Sarkar. The South Asia Center in collaboration with the Simpson Center for Humanities hosted the two historians for two months this fall. With the support of the South Asian community, the Center was also able to host the inaugural Indian Distinguished Visitor Gurcharan Das. Das, a public intellectual and a former business executive, delivered many lectures at UW and also at community events in Seattle. Besides these scholars, historian Seema Alavi also delivered a lecture on the Unani medical practitioner in 19th and 20th century North India.

This quarter, the Center is organizing a series of lectures on South Asian poetic tradition. The first of these events was graced by C.M. Naim of the University of Chicago. His wonderful lecture on the Urdu Ghazal held a large audience spell bound and generated a spirited discussion later. On the second day of his visit Prof. Naim joined many of us in a more informal setting, the South Asia Chai. This fortnightly Friday afternoon event, started last term, is proving to be a popular occasion for students and faculty to assemble for a hot cup of tea, some samosas or pakoras, and discussions, led by faculty, visitors, or graduate students. On this particular occasion Prof. Naim shared his experience with writing about contemporary Islamic youth and related issues in Indian newspapers. As part of the poetic traditions series the Center will also host Prof. Indira Peterson, of Mount Holyoke College who will deliver a talk on classical Tamil poetry.

This quarter, the Center also resumed the popular Indian film series with the help of Visiting Professor S. Charusheela from University of Hawaii. Prof. Zahid Chaudhury of the Department of English has organized a graduate seminar and speaker series on the topic of ‘Postcolonial Visuality’ that is jointly sponsored by South Asian Studies and the Simpson Humanities Center. South Asian film maker Ifthikar Dadi and renowned film scholar Ravi Vasudevan will visit us to lecture and meet students in February and March 2006 as part of this series.

A measure of the growing interest of the University of Washington administration in the promotion of South Asian Studies may be found in the visit made by Prof. Susan Jeffords, Vice Provost for Global Affairs, to India in December 2005. She had a successful trip covering both north and south India and also signed Memoranda of Understanding with Indian universities. All in all, the first two quarters of 2005-06 have been exhilarating for South Asian Studies. Next quarter, we’ll be back with more exciting events.

Canada America Society Study-Abroad Scholarships—in Canada

Four scholarships, of $4,000.00 each, will be awarded for the 2006-07 academic year (August ‘06 - June ‘07) to American undergraduate students enrolled at PNCWSCC universities in Washington, Idaho and Oregon. Students must be pursuing their Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree. The student must attend a Canadian university. Preference will be given to applicants accepted to attend a university in Alberta or British Columbia. The application deadline is June 1st. For additional information or questions:

Kevin Cook, Academic Officer
Canadian Consulate General Seattle
206-770-4065, kevin.cook@international.gc.ca

Bodhi tree leaf from Bodhgaya: where the Buddha reached enlightenment. © Linda Ilitis

UW Exploration Seminars

UW Exploration Seminars take place inside and outside the United States and allow students to participate in a global learning community. Each late summer seminar runs from two to four weeks and students receive 5 credits toward graduation. Several JSIS faculty have organized programs this year.

The following 4 week programs will be offered in 2006. More information is available at: http://www.artsci.washington.edu/explore/index.html

Bangalore, India Explorations in Social Justice - Anu Taranath
Bangkok, Thailand Fuel Cells
- Eric Stuve
Beijing, China History of Modern China - Kent Guy
Bishop, California Human Physiology at Altitude at the White Mountain Research Facility - Scott Weigle
Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia-Montenegro Communities in Transition - Tamara Leonard and Norman Wacker
Costa Rica, The Continuum and Consequences of Coffee - Max Savishinsky
Cyprus, Arab and American Identities in Conflict - Bob Burrowes
Galapagos, Ecuador Environmental Processes and Problems in the Galapagos Islands - Roy Carpenter
Guatemala, The Shifting Terrain of Human Rights in Contemporary Guatemala - Angelina Godoy
Istanbul, Turkey Dialogue vs. Clash: Islam and the Western Civilization in Istanbul - Turan Kayaoglu
Mombasa, Kenya Swahili Civilization, History, and Culture - Seyed Maulana
New Zealand, Energy Generation and Use - Kevin Hodgson
Paris, France Evolution and Revolution of Public Opinion - Patricia Moy
Philippines The Afterlife of Empire: The Case of the Philippines - Rick Bonas
Rome, Italy Cosmology - Bruce Balick,
Rome, Italy Design Seminar - Christopher Ozubko
Senegambia West Africa Culture, Community, and Change, Ylva Hernlund
Shanghai, China Entrepreneurialism in Modern China Cynthia Lavoie
Vicenza, Italy Health Issues in Italy - Janet Lenart
India: An Offshoring Destination and Emerging Business Market - Vandra Huber
Becoming a truly internationally-minded individual requires thinking critically about the world from varying perspectives, and foreign study helps students to gain practical experience outside the domestic comfort-zone. The University of Washington sponsors more than 200 programs and exchanges in 50 countries. Students receive regular UW credit for their work and most forms of financial aid apply. Scholarships are also available. This year Jackson School faculty will lead a number of exciting new study abroad opportunities that are coordinated through JSIS, CHID, and the UW Rome Center. Credits from these programs can often be counted towards your major and foreign language requirement—but remember to check with your adviser to discuss how specific programs might fit into your coursework! Graduate students are also eligible for many foreign study programs.

**Enhance your International Studies experience with FOREIGN STUDY**

**Berlin, Germany – Autumn 2006**  
*Oppositional Cultures, Urban Spaces and Public Memories*  
(Program dates: September 29 - December 09, 2006)  
Sponsored by The Comparative History of Ideas  
Applications will be accepted until April 03, 2006  
During fall quarter 2006, the CHID Berlin program will focus on the changing oppositional cultures and the urban spaces of Berlin as a way of investigating both the city and its role in modern Germany. Since the beginning of the nineteenth century, the cityscape of Berlin has undergone an almost constant process of transformation and rebuilding. In our first course we will seek to investigate how this changing architecture has embodied and represented changing hopes and fears on the part of Prussians, Germans, and non-citizens. While growing to an imperial metropolis Berlin also became the crucible of Germany’s most vociferous oppositional cultures. Our second course will investigate the relationships of these cultures, their intellectuals, and state power since the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961. Following our examinations of literature, film and performance, we will have the opportunity to interview guest speakers who contributed to such disparate movements as the 1960s West Berlin counterculture, avant-garde theater, East German punk, and the post-unification art scene. For information please see:  

**Bergen, Norway — Autumn 2006**  
*Human Rights and International Law: A European Perspective*  
During Fall Semester 2006 (August 15 to December 12), the Jackson School of International Studies will offer a study abroad program at the Law Faculty of the University of Bergen, Norway. This program offers students a unique opportunity to earn 20 or more UW credits while living and studying in an exciting city in western Norway. The primary courses will meet the requirements of the University of Washington Human Rights Minor, including the three credit field practicum. Courses may also be applied toward the Human Rights Track of the International Studies major. This program will be centered at the Law School of the University of Bergen and will focus on international human rights and humanitarian law. The program will be open to undergraduates (junior or senior standing), law students, and graduate students at the University of Washington. Students will take a series of courses at the law school, including Economic and Social Rights and International Humanitarian Law. Jackson School SIS majors can also complete a qualifying paper during the term. For more information please see the web page at:  

**Senegambia—Summer 2006**  
*Living Culture in West Africa: Beyond “Tradition”*  
August 20-September 16  
The West African region of Senegambia, comprising the nation states of Senegal and The Gambia, has a rich and complex history – largely shared, while also divided by French and British colonial histories respectively – and continues to reflect a diverse mix of ethnicities, languages, and modes of life. This course offers students an immersion into contemporary West African life, and will seek to unsettle essentialized notions of “tradition” and “modernity.” In particular, we will focus on the work of diverse community groups engaged in negotiating often rapid change, challenging conditions, and increasingly contested ideas about “culture” and “tradition.” Through literary and ethnographic texts, lectures, and fieldtrips we will delve into regional history and culture, issues of gender, ethnicity and religion, community development, tourism, and the arts. Students will receive and employ basic training in ethnography, and will be expected to keep a journal and complete a final project. Students will spend the first portion of the trip in Dakar, Senegal, where guest lectures and fieldtrips will focus on university life, expressive arts, NGO activism, and the history of the slave trade. For the remainder of the program they will be based in the coastal community of Bakau, near the Gambian capital of Banjul. Through relationships with host families and a number of fieldtrips, students will gain an understanding of everyday life as well as insight into community projects focused on cultural preservation, human rights, conflict resolution, and gender equity.  
http://www.artsci.washington.edu/exploration/15.asp

**Mombasa, Kenya— Summer 2006**  
*A Look at Swahili Culture*  
August 21 to September 15  
During this exploratory visit, students will be immersed in the Swahili culture, studying its long history, the struggle to remain strong during colonial rule, and the way it continues to impact the coastal region today. Students will have the opportunity to experience this culture first hand through home stays with Swahili families. They will also visit well-preserved archeological sites and early Swahili towns near and around the city. Respected community leaders will also be providing lectures and tours on a variety of cultural aspects, including Islam, traditional music, weddings, ceremonies, funerals and the day-to-day life in Mombasa. Although the ability to speak Swahili is not necessary for this trip, learning a few key phrases will be helpful and will go a long way with the locals.  
Program Director: Seyed Maulana, African American Studies. For more information visit the website:  
http://www.artsci.washington.edu/exploration/10.asp
**CAREERS, INTERNSHIPS, and MORE**

**Betsy Bridwell, Director of Career Services, JSIS (124 Thomson)**

Counseling and general advice on career planning, resume writing, and job search skills are available through the U.W. Center for Career Services in Mary Gates Hall. It is also the main point of contact between students and employers on campus. Job interviews are held throughout the year, and the list of on-campus recruiters, as well as part-time and full-time positions, are posted at (http://depts.washington.edu/careers). Be sure to register with the Center in order to take advantage of all their services. A number of organizations with international operations interview on campus (e.g., Amazon.com, CIA, E&J Gallo Winery, Microsoft, Pepsico, Weyerhaeuser). There are JSIS alumni working at some of these places, so it is well worth checking it out!

The Jackson School Office of Career Services provides assistance with internationally-focused internship and employment opportunities. Please stop by Thomson 111 to pick up a handout on the career resources available, and talk further with Betsy Bridwell about your interests. Current job/internship listings are posted on the bulletin board in Thomson 111. A number of other resources are available in Thomson 124, including information on various ongoing internship and employment programs, directories of international organizations, general books, and handouts on international careers.

The Jackson School has limited funds to help support students who are doing unpaid internationally-focused internships. Announcements are sent by e-mail to JSIS students when applications are being solicited:

The Leslianne Shedd Fund, in memory of a JSIS alumna who died in an airplane hijacking in 1996 while serving as a Foreign Service Officer, supports students serving as interns with the State Department, United Nations, or other international governmental or non-governmental organizations, especially those focusing on international health issues and/or Africa.

The Dorothy Fosdick Fund, in memory of Henry M. Jackson’s long-time foreign affairs adviser, supports students who are doing internships with organizations involved in some aspect of international affairs.

(Application for these awards is in late winter/early spring quarter for those planning a summer or fall internship overseas or in other areas of the U.S. JSIS students will receive an email announcement in the near future.)

The George Taylor Fund, which honors the former chair of the department that evolved into today’s Jackson School, provides small awards to students who serve as interns in Seattle-area organizations to gain practical experience in the international field.

**Upcoming deadline:**

Foreign Service Exam, U.S. Department of State: the first step toward becoming a Junior Foreign Service Officer, serving at U.S. embassies and consulates overseas, is taking the written examination. It is being offered again this spring on April 8, 2006. Online registration is currently open, and the deadline to apply for U.S. test sites is March 8. Details on the examination process and on careers with the Department are available at the following website: www.careers.state.gov.

Three Leslianne Shedd Internship awards were given to Jackson School students during fall quarter, all of whom were doing internships as part of their study programs in Africa.

Gloria Cho (SIS) and Chelsey McKnight (SIS) participated in the Ghana program. Gloria served as an intern with Future Island School, a project of the Offinso Centre for the Vulnerable to provide quality formal education to all students regardless of gender, religious affiliation or socio-economic background. Chelsey, whose background and interests are in human rights, worked with African Christian Homes and Rehabilitation Center on HIV/AIDS projects.

Sahnah Lim (SIS) participated in a program in Dakar, Senegal and interned at a local NGO focused on improving maternal and child health. During winter quarter, she is studying in Quito, Ecuador, where she is also focusing on public health issues and volunteering with Children International.

**Interested in Peace Corps?**

Ever dream of traveling to South America, Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa, or the Pacific Islands? The PEACE CORPS is an exciting volunteer opportunity to work with individual communities in developing countries throughout the world. As a volunteer you gain valuable work experience while learning about different languages and cultures. There are also many career advancement and graduate study opportunities for volunteers on completion of service. If you would like to learn more about the Peace Corps, contact UW Campus Representative Heidi Broekemeier in 500 Thomson Hall. She can be reached by phone at (206) 543-5258 or by email at: pcorps@u.washington.edu.

More information about the Peace Corps is also available at the web site: www.peacecorps.gov.

**Job & Internship EMAIL List**

Because so many announcements now come by e-mail, the best way to keep on top of all current listings and career-related events is to subscribe to Betsy’s e-mail listserve, the “JSIS Job and Internship Information Service.” To subscribe, go to the Mailman website: http://mailman.u.washington.edu/mailman/listinfo/jsis-jiis. When you subscribe, current announcements will be automatically posted to your e-mail.
**African Studies News**

The African Studies Faculty would like to welcome the following new members of our African Studies Faculty:

**Dr. Laura Chrisman**: Dr. Chrisman joined the English Department in the Fall of 2005 from York University as the first Nancy K. Ketcham Professor. Dr. Chrisman pursues interests in Postcolonial and Black Diaspora Studies, South African Literature, Black South African Nationalism, and Black Atlantic relations between South Africa and Black America.

**Dr. Clarence Spigner**: Dr. Spigner graduated from U.C. Berkeley in 1987, was an Assistant Professor at the University of Oregon (1988-1994) where he earned tenure, and was recruited to University of Washington's Department of Health Services in 1994. He is a faculty advisor to the Multicultural International Research Training (MIRT) program and is the faculty coordinator for the Puget Sound Partner's for Global Health's Student Travel Grant program. His research and teaching interests are the health of disadvantaged populations, race and ethnic relations, program planning and evaluation, and the intersection of popular culture on social and psychological well-being.

**Dr. Amanda Swarr**: Professor Swarr joined the Women Studies Department in the Fall of 2005 with academic interests in African, Sexuality/LGBTQ, and Postcolonial Studies, gender non-conformity, and medical equity and justice. She holds a Ph.D. in Feminist Studies from the University of Minnesota and was Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at Barnard College of Columbia University from 2003-2005. Her research is based in South Africa and is concerned with apartheid’s policing of gendered and sexual binaries and the relationships between sexual violence and HIV/AIDS.

**Comparative Religion Program News**

Program faculty have recently approved the addition of three new members to their ranks. They are: Philip Ballinger, Director of UW Admissions (Ph.D., Louvain), Clark D. Lombardi, School of Law (Ph.D.; and J.D.; and J.D., Columbia), Clarke K. Speed, Honors Program (Ph.D.; , UW). The Comparative Religion colloquium series continues this spring with: Prof. Joanna Williams, UC, Berkeley. Also, Wendy Cadge (Bowdoin College) will speak here this spring. This past fall Marilyn Domoto Webb and her husband Professor Emeritus Eugene Webb endowed a new fund for graduate student support. The fellowship will be awarded to an entering graduate student and is renewable yearly. No special application materials are required; all students applying to the M.A. program are automatically eligible.

Prof. Martin S. Jaffee delivered the 2006 Founders Annual Lecture in Comparative Religion and Contemporary Life on February 18th to a standing room only audience. His topic was “Remember Amalek! Patterns of Judaic Memory and the Politics of Contemporary Judaism.” The event was co-sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program and the Jackson School. Prof. James Wellman and Scott Noegel co-taught a new undergraduate course on Religion, Violence and Peace this Winter quarter.

**Foundation grant focuses on Southeast Asian American students, communities**

The Ford Foundation has selected the University of Washington as one of 27 higher education institutions to receive $100,000 grants for projects that promote academic freedom and constructive dialogue on campus. The UW’s project will focus on Southeast Asian American undergraduate students and Seattle’s Southeast Asian American communities. The grant, which will extend over two years, will enable the UW to create an integrated program of five innovative teaching workshops, six new team-taught courses, five mediated student dialogues, and a performance at the end of the grant period. The emphasis throughout will be on encouraging dialogue through a series of techniques ranging from oral history and dramatic reenactments to video-conferencing and e-learning, according to Laurie Sears and Francisco Benitez, UW faculty who will direct the project.

Sears is a professor of history and directs the Southeast Asia Center of the Jackson School. Benitez is an assistant professor of comparative literature. The project will be housed in the Simpson Center for the Humanities but the new courses will be taught in JSIS and other units. Sears and Benitez estimate that the new classes and other elements of the Engaging Southeast Asian American Pluralism in Seattle project will reach out to hundreds of students, faculty, and staff at the UW. Seattle has the fifth largest Asian American population in the continental United States and Asian American students now make up nearly 25 percent of the UW student body.

The UW grant is part of the Ford Foundation’s Difficult Dialogues initiative, created in response to reports of growing intolerance and efforts to curb academic freedom at colleges and universities. The goal is to help institutions address this challenge through academic and campus programs that enrich learning, encourage new scholarship, and engage students and faculty in constructive dialogue about contentious political, religious, racial, and cultural issues. For more information, contact Laurie Sears at lsears@u.washington.edu or Benitez at jfbb@u.washington.edu.

**International Studies News**

The Center for International Studies/and Marc Lindenberg Center for Humanitarian Action, International Development, and Global Citizenship have teamed up to present The Global Security and Development Public Lecture Series. The kick-off keynote on Feb. 1, featured Roy Williams, President & CEO of the Center for Humanitarian Cooperation, discussing disaster preparation at home and abroad. Future speakers include Vivian Taylor, lead author of the Global Human Security Commission Report, Univ. of Cape Town, on the role of women in human security, and Peter Eigen, founder and chairman of Transparency International, a non-governmental organization for combating corruption by bringing civil society, business, and governments together in a global coalition to further sustainable development.

**Japan Studies News**

The Japan Studies Program is pleased to announce that preparations are under way for the third Atsuhiko and Ina Goodwin Tateuchi Lecture. Mr. Toyoo Gyohten, President, Institute of International Monetary Affairs, is our featured speaker. His talk, tentatively titled "The Changing Dynamics of U.S. – Japan Relations: Stability during Turbulent Global Economic Change," is scheduled for Monday, April 3, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. in Kane Hall 130. Mr. Gyohten will discuss his views about how the U.S.-Japan relationship is critical to global stability at a time when countries such as China and India are becoming stronger global economic powers.
Many Jackson School programs award fellowships or scholarships to support students in their respective fields of study. In addition, a few scholarships are awarded on the basis of School-wide competition. Three such awards in Spring 2005 were:

**Mitsui USA Scholar:** Elena Reitman, a senior completing degrees in International Studies (Honors) and Economics. The Mitsui Scholarship is awarded to a Jackson School undergraduate or graduate with a strong interest in international trade and investment. It is funded by a contribution from the Mitsui USA Foundation in New York. Mitsui's goal is to support the education of students who, through their training in business studies and international affairs, can develop as potential managers at international companies. The scholarship provides an award of $2500, applicable toward tuition and fees.

**Neal and Helen Fosseen Scholarship in International Studies:** Jennifer Lee, a senior completing a B.A. in International Studies, and a B.S. in Neurobiology, was the recipient of the Fosseen Scholarship, an award for undergraduates based primarily on academic merit. Jennifer also was awarded the 2005-06 **Eleanor M. Hadley Scholarship**, an award given annually for academic excellence in the field of international relations.

The Mitsui and Fosseen awards will be included on a consolidated scholarship application that will be available in late Winter Quarter.

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**JSIS Scholarship News**

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At night the children of Ping performed xylophone and danced to celebrate the groundbreaking. Four boxes of books were also delivered to Ping from the UW Books for Africa group, thanks to Julia Lowe (IS major) and her friends. For information about the Ping Project, see: http://jsis.washington.edu/advises/Ping/Ping.htm. For information about the Ghana Program: http://jsis.washington.edu/advises/catalog/ghana.htm. A big thanks to all who donated to the Ping Project and helped the students raise $5,000! — Linda Iltis

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*UW Ghana Program students stand with Ping community members in the foundation walls of the new Ping Nursery/Daycare Center construction site, Upper West, Ghana. © Ter Ellingson*

*Children of Ping dance with the xylophones to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Nursery Daycare Center, Upper West, Ghana. © Ter Ellingson*

*Hands on Experience in Ghana (Cont’d from p. 1)*

Through interviews and participant observation, each student pursued an individual field research project on a topic related to contemporary Ghana and issues of empowerment, including: biographical studies of traditional priest/healers, economics of charismatic and mainline churches, gender and drumming, HIV/AIDS policy, Liberian refugee migration/repatriation issues, political economy of kente weaving industry, land ownership, child labor, and access to early education. They presented their research in a campus research forum, and received critiques from distinguished Ghanaian faculty at the end of the program.

The most challenging experience of the program involved a two-week visit to the remote Upper West region of Ghana to build a nursery daycare center with funds raised by the UW students in Spring 2005 as part of a service learning project. Braving the hot dry winds of the *harmattan* and staying with families in the dispersed rural farm compounds of Ping, the students worked alongside community members carrying mud bricks and mortar to raise the three room structure from the foundation to the top of the window lintels before returning to Kumasi.

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**Cody Case (Ethnomusicology) dances with possessed priest Nana Baah during an Akom celebration of traditional religion in Sekyere Odumase, Ghana. © Ter Ellingson**
Getting ready to Graduate?

You must apply to graduate on the Graduate School's degree application web site: http://www.grad.washington.edu/stsv/mastapp, beginning the first day of the quarter in which you intend to graduate. The Graduate School requires that you do this by the end of the 7th week of the quarter to apply for your degree without a late fee ($250); the department (JSIS) requires that you apply by the 7th Friday of the quarter so that your file can be reviewed and prepared for the finish. It is best to apply early. In most of the Jackson School graduate programs, the deadlines for submitting drafts of final papers is the end of the 6th or 7th week in the quarter. Probably, if you haven’t begun to think about getting drafts of your papers ready for your committee well in advance of the master’s application deadline, you won’t have time for your committee to read your papers and schedule oral exams.

When you apply on line, the graduate school’s computer will scan your transcript and current courses and generate a list of outstanding Graduate School requirements. Remember that the requirements of your Jackson School program may be different from the Graduate School’s requirements. Be sure that you meet with Paula Milligan to review your file and graduation procedures at least a quarter in advance of your planned graduation. Paula’s calendar is in the Student Services office, Tho 111.

Basic Rules Often Misunderstood

An important source for information on Graduate School requirements is the Graduate School’s web page, “Instructions, Policies and Procedures for Graduate Students”: (http://www.grad.washington.edu/area/currstuds.htm). This is an index of topics you will want to know more about, such as on-leave policies, grading policies, and graduate courses. If you have any questions, though, be sure to check with Paula. For example, the Graduate School allows students to count 300-level classes toward their graduate program, but in any of the Jackson School programs, credit for 300-level courses would require special permission from the Graduate Program Coordinator.

Some things you may not have known: 1) Incompletes received by graduate students do not automatically convert to a grade of 0.0, as they do for undergraduates. Graduate students have two years to convert incompletes to a grade. 2.) For graduate students, the only courses that affect the GPA are graded courses at the 400 and 500 level (excluding 499). This means that 600 (Independent Study) and 700 (Thesis) credits are not calculated in the GPA, even if a decimal grade is received, and these credits do not fulfill the Graduate School requirement for a minimum of 18 graded credits.

Withdrawal and on-leave policies can be found at: http://www.washington.edu/students/reg/wdolfl.html

Note that the quarter-off policy does not apply to graduate students. You must register for every quarter (except summer) or apply to go “on leave” to maintain your status as a graduate student. Should you lose your status as a continuing graduate student, you will have to reapply to the Graduate School. To go on leave, you must file a Petition for On-Leave Status card with the registration office (Schmitz Hall) by the fifth day of the quarter. The fee is $35. The Graduate Program Coordinator (faculty advisor) must sign this form. To return from being on leave, you may register beginning with Registration Period 2.

GRADUATION for Undergraduate and Graduate Students

In order to graduate from the UW, all students must apply for graduation.

Undergraduates must schedule an appointment with their adviser, Linda Ilitis or James Donnen, at least one quarter in advance of their planned graduation date in order to fill out the application. It is strongly recommended that you stop by two quarters ahead in order to have time to complete any “unexpected” requirements. To check progress towards your degree, view your degree audit online through MyUW and see your adviser.

Graduate students apply to graduate through the Graduate School website at www.grad.washington.edu/stsv/mastapp. This must be done within the first two weeks of the quarter in which you plan to graduate. At least one quarter prior, you should meet with Paula Milligan to ensure that you have fulfilled all JSIS requirements and to review program procedures for finishing. Remember, Graduate Students must be registered the quarter they graduate.

Jackson School Convocation

The Jackson School holds its own Convocation ceremony each year to honor both undergraduate and graduate students who graduate Autumn 2005 through Summer 2006. This year the convocation will be on Thursday evening, June 8, 2006 in the HUB Ballroom at 7 p.m. The Jackson School event is separate from the University’s Commencement, which will take place on Saturday, June 10th. If you are graduating this year, you will receive a mailed invitation in May; usually up to five guest tickets are available per student. You must come to 111 Thomson Hall to confirm reservations and receive tickets, without which you cannot attend the event. The UW Commencement website: http://depts.washington.edu/commence provides information for the separate June 10th event.

Library Research Award Winners

Three SIS majors won the 2005 Library Research Award for Undergraduates: Kayanna Warren’s project was To Market: China’s Changing Market Participation in Remote Rural Areas, Jesse Jahnke wrote on The ‘Development Paradox’: the Gap Between Rhetoric and Reality, and Cameron Geasey wrote on: Chained to the Past: The Roots of Russia’s Population Decline.
Asking for Letters of Recommendation

Letters of recommendation are an important part of graduate school applications. Admissions committees read letters carefully. These letters are the only place to learn about a student’s personality and demeanor as well as his/her academic potential. Requesting a letter of recommendation should involve much more than a short email. It is best to see your professor in person to ask about his/her willingness to recommend you and to brief the professor about your aspirations. You should provide a portfolio to your professor, including a current transcript, resume, and a statement of purpose for the program you are applying for. Help streamline the process by providing self-addressed stamped envelopes, addressee information, printed recommendation forms, and polished writing samples of your best work. You may wish to write out a summary of what your strengths are for the professor as well to remind him/her of something you worked on in a class. The more information you provide about yourself, the stronger the recommendation will probably be. Ask for recommendations early to give them time to write good letters.

If you don’t know where you plan to attend graduate school yet, the Center for Career Services, in Mary Gates Hall, can set up a file for you where letters of recommendation can be stored for future use. Often, students seeking recommendations find that faculty members are on leave or visiting professors cannot be contacted at all; this service can be very convenient in such cases.

See the column at right for your Time Line to Graduate School application.

Credential Files at the UW Center for Career Services

Current students and alumni who anticipate applying to several graduate schools are eligible to establish a Credential File at the Center for Career Services in Mary Gates Hall. Files serve as a depository for letters of recommendation from faculty and staff (but do not contain transcripts) and are maintained for seven years. Students and alumni using these services must pay a file establishment fee and a mailing fee per request.

Timetable for Applying to Graduate School

Junior Year:
• prepare for and take graduate school admissions tests (GRE, GMAT, LSAT, etc.)
• research graduate school programs at Undergraduate Advising Center
• search for funding opportunities
• see faculty to discuss letters of recommendation

Senior Year:

Fall/Early Winter
• last chance to take admissions tests
• apply to programs
• apply to awards
• gather letters of recommendation

Spring
• receive decisions and financial aid offers
• visit departments/schools
• accept or decline offers of admission

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