

International Studies Newsletter

Producer of Award-winning Film on Cambodia to Speak at Ship

For Rich Garella, the path toward a coveted Peabody Award began with a New Year's resolution.

A few years after graduating from college with a degree in history, Garella, then living in Philadelphia, felt like making some changes in his life and New Year's Day seemed like a good time to do it. Seeing an ad for an editorial position at a small English-language newspaper in Cambodia, Garella decided to apply, even though he did not know much about Cambodia at the time.

A few years after arriving in Cambodia, Garella recognized that Cambodia was fast becoming a dictatorship. Garella left his newspaper job and became

press secretary for Cambodia's democratic opposition party, which he saw as offering the country's best hope. While serving as a press secretary Garella met Chea Vichea, who led the Cambodian trade union movement. Vichea demanded fair wages and decent working conditions for Cambodia's garment workers, who made clothing for export to the United States and elsewhere. Vichea continued to stand with Cambodian garment workers despite confronting violence and death threats. "I quickly got the impression" Garella explains, that Vichea "was an intensely honest person and totally committed to making life better for the workers he led."

But on a sunny morning in 2004, as he read the paper at a sidewalk newsstand, two men on a motorbike assassinated Vichea. After intense international pressure, the police arrested two men and extracted confessions. Each man received a twenty-year prison sentence.

By the time of Vichea's death Garella had returned to the United States. But the assassination struck Garella hard: "It was very discouraging for people like me who still hoped that things could get better in Cambodia."

Continued on page 4...

Students and Faculty Visit Haiti for Study and Service Learning

In January 2013, Modern Languages faculty Dr. Ragone and Dr. Mitaut took three students studying French, Olivia Ickes, Bryant Snyder (an IS minor) and Samantha Watson, to Haiti for a short study abroad trip (12 days on location) including a service-learning experience. They were assisted in their endeavor by Haitian native Mr. Jonas Celius, who served as facilitator and guide for the group.

The coursework, which included two seminars exploring Haitian culture, literature and linguistics, started online and continued on site.

The service-learning component, conceived at the request of a

local school in Gros Mangles, a village on the island of La Gonave, was to build a playground for the school to allow the children to play in safer conditions. This was seen by the teachers as the most urgent improvement needed for the school, where the very rough terrain and the cattle manure littering the school grounds made it doubly unsafe and unsanitary for children to play outside.

Once the work was completed, children immediately rejoiced at the large, clean, smooth area: they could finally play ball, roll a hoop or simply run around, which they had not been able to do yet.

Continued on page 3...

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|---|
| Study Abroad Information | 2 |
| Research Seminar to the Bahamas | 2 |
| "Building Community in Rural Haiti" | 3 |
| Mardi Gras Celebration | 4 |
| 13th Annual International Film Series | 5 |
| International Studies Program Information | 6 |



Filmmaker Rich Garella with fellow Peabody award winner Stephen Colbert



中文

Chinese 101 to be offered in Fall 2013

For more information, contact Dr. Jose Ricardo, Chair of the Modern Languages Department.
Email: jgrica@ship.edu
Phone: 717-477-1120



Study Abroad Information

Study Abroad 101 information sessions will take place throughout the spring semester for interested students. Spring dates are February 19, March 5 & 26 and April 9, which are all Tuesdays hosted in CUB Room 226 @ 3:30 p.m.

Questions? Contact Mary at meburnett@ship.edu or x1279.

Study abroad deadlines are approaching quickly. The deadline for Summer 2013 is Friday March 22 and the deadline for Fall 2013 is

March 29. Interested students should make arrangements to see Mary about the advising process if they want to study abroad in the 2013 academic year. If a student cannot attend a Study Abroad 101 session, appointments can be made by calling x1279 or by meeting with Mary during walk in hours Tuesday and Wednesday 1-3 in CUB 221.

A Research Seminar to the Bahamas

Political science professors Dr. Sara Grove and Dr. Mark Sachleben led a research trip of four undergraduate (Owen Ecker, Kelsey Hardt, Ariana Tavakoli and T. J. Thomas) and two graduate (Stefanie Pfister and Chad Witmer) students to Nassau, Bahamas for a five-day research trip in January. Hardt, Tavakoli, and Thomas are International Studies minors. The Shippensburg delegation was joined by a small contingent from Shenandoah University, led by Dr. Eric Leonard.

The trip was designed to collect data and information as well as to spark academic research in international and comparative politics among those visiting. In addition to cultural observations and interactions, the seminar engaged in a series of briefings and interviews with officials from the Bahamian Parliament and National Emergency Management Agency, as well as discussions with local entrepreneurs and business people to understand the challenges and

problems facing this small island state. The seminar also made site visits to national heritage sites and culturally significant places to gauge the impact of a tourist economy in a changing global market.

During the trip the seminar was able to observe the political campaign for a referendum that was held on 28 January. The referendum asked Bahamian voters if they approved of the creation of a national lottery and if gambling should be legalized in the country. This controversial referendum was a topic of conversation among Bahamian citizens and was a focal point in many meetings and briefings. (The referendum was subsequently defeated)

Perhaps the highlight of the trip was a day-long visit to the College of the Bahamas, the primary institution of higher education in the country. Members of the seminar attended and participated in a history class, toured the facilities and engaged in a roundtable session with students from



the college. Shippensburg students were able to quiz and receive insight from the College of the Bahamas colleagues about their research projects. The student-to-student exchange has yielded benefits and interests among all. Professors from both of the institutions discussed ways to make such exchanges feasible and routine in the future.

Members of the seminar will present their research findings at several academic conferences, including the Pennsylvania Political Science Association and the Celebration of Student Research (Shippensburg University) in April.



Students and Faculty Visit Haiti for Study and Service Learning

Continued from page 1.

The completion of the project was a true community effort, with the children, several of their teachers and even adults from the village coming to the worksite every day to give a helping hand. Workers ranged from 4 to 80 years of age!

While in Gros Mangles, the SU group enjoyed a very warm welcome from the Celius family, who hosted them and allowed them to experience traditional rural life in Haiti. Mornings were dedicated to the construction project at the school, and classes took place in the afternoon. In the evening, the group interacted with the Gros Mangles inhabitants, feeling very much integrated into the social life of the village.

At the end of the trip, the group traveled to the capital Port-au-Prince to visit cultural landmarks as well as art and history exhibits at the National Pantheon Museum, reinforcing the concepts encountered the class readings.

The project was a complete success: not only was the playground completed on time, it also turned out to be ten times larger than had been anticipated. The cultural and linguistic goals of the project were met as well, with the SU group working side by side with Haitian nationals, while practicing their language skills and learning in the process about a variety of cultural differences between Haiti and the United States.

Drs. Ragone and Mitaut cannot wait to go back next winter with a new group. Feel free to join them! Look out for info sessions throughout the semester, and/or contact them directly: acrago@ship.edu and bmmi-taut@ship.edu.

The group will give a public presentation on their experiences on Thursday February 28th at 6:30 in the CUB Orndorff Theater. (See advertisement on the right).

Shippensburg University International Travel Series
presents

"Building Community in Rural Haiti"

You can go to Haiti too!

Come to learn about the excitement of travel to the Caribbean, service learning, and how you can become involved in this fun and rewarding class project next winter semester! Any Ship student is eligible. You do not need to speak Creole or French to participate.



Thursday, February 28
6:30–8:00 p.m.
CUB Orndorf Theater



Presenters: Jonas Celius, Olivia Ickes, Bryant Snyder, Dr. Blandine Mitaut and Dr. Agnès Ragone

Ship students and faculty traveled to Haiti in January for a class on Haitian culture and a service-learning project to build a children's playground. The group will share slides and tell about their experiences visiting the capital, Port-au-Prince, living in a rural village on the

Haitian island of La Gonâve, and the playground project that turned into a community endeavor uniting the villagers and the Ship team. The island's motto "L'Union fait la force" (Unity brings strength) became the theme of this uplifting experience.

Co-Sponsors: The Modern Languages Department and International Studies Program



Producer of Award-winning Film on Cambodia to Speak at Ship

Continued from page 1.

Garella joined forces with Bradley Cox, who had interviewed Vichea for a film about Cambodia's 2003 elections, to produce the documentary, "Who Killed Chea Vichea?" While the production presented Garella with numerous challenges, "I told myself that working on this film about the Chea Vichea case was the most effective thing I could do to get the truth out."

Besides closely examining Chea Vichea's life and death, "Who Killed Chea Vichea?" also exposes the Cambodian government's flimsy case against Vichea's accused assassins. The framed-up case leaves a trail from the police station and the courtroom to the headquarters of the ruling

party of Prime Minister Hun Sen and to Cambodia's economic lifeblood, the garment trade. It also makes the broader argument that the international effort to bring democracy to Cambodia has been a failure, and that the elections have been nothing but a "sham," as Garella puts it.

Shot over the space of five years, "Who Killed Chea Vichea?" covered events as they happened and tracked down witnesses who agreed to speak on camera only if their faces were disguised. As one witness reveals, "In Cambodia, if you know things, you can die." Since the completion of the film in 2010, the police in Cambodia have halted two attempted screenings while the Cambodian authorities

have banned it.

With eye-dazzling cinematography, excellent editing, and an intriguing narrative, viewers will long remember "Who Killed Chea Vichea?" They will also quickly understand why this documentary has won numerous film festival prizes and a coveted Peabody Award in 2012.

After showing "Who Killed Chea Vichea?" on Thursday, March 7 at 7:00 PM, in the Grove Hall Forum, producer Rich Garella will discuss with the audience some of the challenges he and his production team faced while making this film and offer his thoughts on Cambodia's current state of affairs.



2nd Annual MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION

Come join the French Club for a
Mardi Gras Carnival celebration

There will be food, prizes for the best dressed and
the best dancer.

DANCE LESSONS IN ZOUK
BY DR. RICARDO

When: 19th of February

Time: 6:30-8:30

Where: Grove Spiritual Center

There will be a \$3.00 entrance fee to benefit a
school in Haiti



In 1999, Cambodian garment workers demanding decent wages and working conditions found their leader in Chea Vichea. He stood with them despite beatings and death threats.



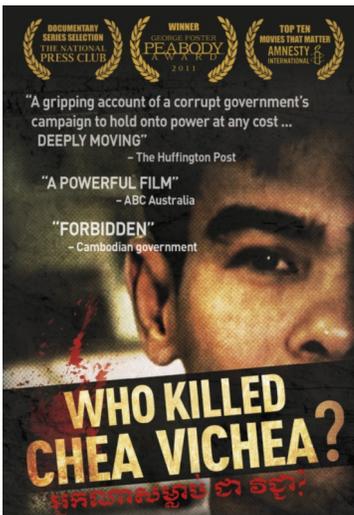
13th Annual International Film Series *From Human Wrongs to Human Rights: A Global Undertaking*

All films at 7:00pm in Grove Hall Forum

Wed., February 20th

Film: *The Reckoning: The Battle for the International Criminal Court* (2009)

Description: *The Reckoning* follows dynamic International Criminal Court prosecutors for three years across four continents as they issue arrest warrants for political leaders accused of genocide. Human rights cases present huge challenges, and the prosecutors have a mandate but no police force. Emmy nominated for outstanding investigative journalism and best documentary. “Deeply moving and engaging”—*Teaching Sociology*



Thurs., March 7th

Film: *Who Killed Chea Vichea?* (2011)

Talk: Rich Garella, “Life and Death in a Fledgling Democracy”

Film Description: Cambodian union president Chea Vichea was assassinated in broad daylight in 2004. As international pressure mounted, two men were swiftly arrested and convicted of the crime, each sentenced to twenty years in prison. Filmmaker Bradley Cox’s five-year investigation reveals an elaborate cover-up that reaches the highest levels of Cambodian society. A “double cinematic whammy: an intense and disturbing true drama and a testament to the power of documentary film”—*Library Journal*. Winner of a Peabody Award in 2012.

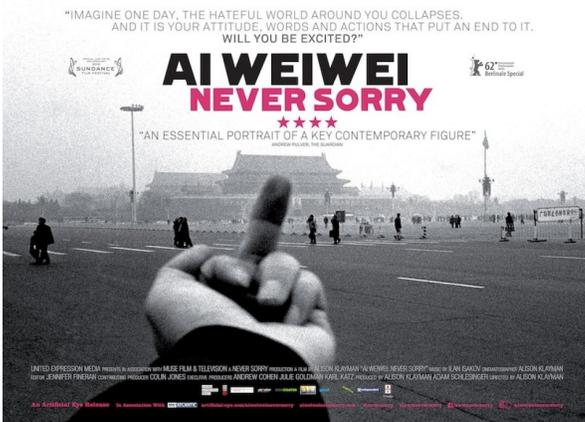
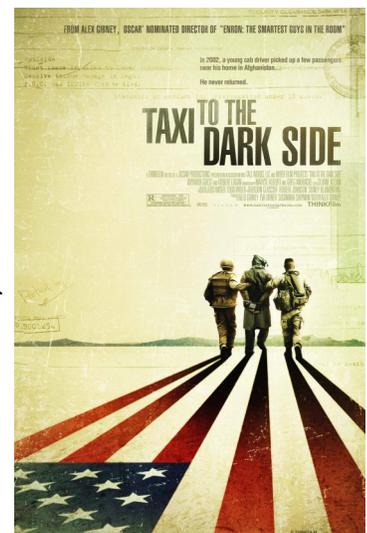
Co-sponsored by the Office of Social Equity and the History/Philosophy Department

Shippensburg University- Day of Human Understanding: Special Event!

Wed., March 27th

Film: *Taxi to the Dark Side* (2007)

Description: The torture and death in 2002 of an innocent Afghan taxi driver throws light on post-9/11 U.S. policy toward suspects in the war on terror. Interviews and news footage tell a story of abuse at Bagram Air Base, Abu Ghraib, and Guantanamo Bay. “A searing critique of the dangers of unmonitored power” —*Minneapolis StarTribune*. Winner of 2007 Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature.



Wed., April 17th

Film: *Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry* (2012)

Description: The film follows Chinese dissident artist and activist Ai Weiwei as he prepares for a series of exhibitions and gets into an increasing number of clashes with his government. “Fascinating portrait of a modern artist and activist trying to make a difference.” —*Detroit News*



International Studies Program Information

The International Studies Program educates students about an increasingly complex international environment. The academic components of the program include an International Studies Minor and four different Area Studies Certificates. The minor and certificates use an interdisciplinary approach to help students understand other countries and cultures, and the forces of globalization. The International Studies Program also sponsors educational events to bring global perspectives to the campus community.

The International Studies minor (21 crs.) uses an interdisciplinary approach to help students understand other cultures, countries, and the forces of globalization that knit the world together. Students learn about:

- The nature of cultural differences that can hinder communication and understanding in personal relations and international affairs.
- The existence of global linkages in the world's economy, politics, media, culture, and ecological environment that can bring benefits, but also cause international tensions.
- Students have 9 credits of electives to tailor the minor to their interests.

Area Studies Certificates (12 credits each) allow students to concentrate on classes in particular world regions:

- African and Middle Eastern Studies
- Asian Studies
- Latin American Studies
- European Studies

International Studies Office

CUB 221B
Shippensburg University
1871 Old Main Drive
Shippensburg, PA 17257
Phone: 717-477-1907
E-mail: ism@ship.edu
Director: Dr. Jonathan Skaff

