

International Studies Newsletter

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SU Graduate Gets Accepted Into the JET Program



Christopher Piper, a former International Studies minor who studied abroad in Japan, was recently selected to teach English abroad and share aspects of Western culture as part of the 2015 Japanese Exchange & Teaching Program (JET). He will leave in April with a group of other participants, known as JETs, from Washington DC to

Tokyo. Piper will then travel to Iwate Prefecture where he will serve as a Prefectural Assistant Language Teacher (ALT) at a public high school for at least one year. He will also fulfill teaching duties at local elementary and junior high schools. Piper will be tasked with aiding in local community events that involve cultural exchange.

JETs are required to complete pre-departure orientation at their regional consulates (in this case the Embassy of Japan in Washington DC) and two days of training at

Tokyo Orientation. Most JETs start their terms in late July/early August. However, Piper will be among a group of “early placements” that begin in April – the start of the school year in Japan. Piper, of Chambersburg, graduated in May 2014 with a major in Supply Chain Management. He also completed a double minor that included philosophy in addition to International Studies. An inductee into the Beta Gamma Sigma international honor society, he founded the campus’ Foreign Film Club and studied abroad in Tokyo dur-

ing the summer of 2012. The JET program seeks to enhance internationalization in Japan by promoting mutual understanding between the people of Japan and those of other nations.

Mr. Stephen R. Johnston to speak on, “The Global Implications of U.S. Drug Policy”

Mr. Stephen R. Johnston will be in DHC 051 on Thursday, April 9, at 6:30pm to discuss the U.S. government’s role in stemming the flow of illegal drugs to the United States from various parts of the world. Some key points that will be addressed in his talk include:

- How does the US position on drug trafficking compare with other developed nations?
- How does the recent legalization of cannabis for non-medical use in two US states impact international drug control policies?
- How have the economics of the international

illicit drug trade impeded the effort to stem the flow of drugs?

- How do efforts to stem international trafficking differ when the drugs are illegal vs. misused/abused prescription drugs?

Mr. Johnston serves in the Office of National Drug Control Policy as International Source Country Branch Chief. He served in the U.S. military with assignments related to counter-narcotics policy at the Pentagon and U.S. Africa Command.

Project Haiti! SU Service Learning *By Dr. Agnes Ragone*



Learning to cook

The French program sponsored its third service-learning trip to Haiti during the winter semester. The trip, to the village of Gros Mangle on the island of La Gonâve, lasted from January 5 to 16 and also included two seminar courses on Haitian literature, culture and his-

tory. In Haiti the student and faculty participants began rebuilding the village medical clinic. By the time the team left, the foundation was laid and the walls were starting to rise. Two previous Shippensburg service-learning teams had built a playground at the re-

quest of the villagers. The two seminar courses, partly taught online by Modern Languages and International Studies faculty Drs. Blandine Mitaut and Agnes Ragone, prepared the students for a better understanding of the island nation and gave them perspectives on its extraordinary history. The courses are available every year in French or in English. The 2015 Shippensburg team included three International Studies majors—Cody Connelly, Maura Delio and Andrew Hutchinson—one International Studies minor, Fallon Finnegan, and one Sociology major, Jessica Strickland. Leading the trip were Dr. Ragone, Dr. Jennifer Pomeroy, and Mr.



Hard at work.



Jonas Celius, a Haitian-American originally from the village. All of the international studies students currently are planning to participate again next year. If you are interested in joining this unique effort, please contact Dr. Mitaut (bmmitaut@ship.edu) or Ragone (acrago@ship.edu) who are presently preparing for the winter 2016 trip.

Reach Out! *By Anna Ridley, IS Major*

Each year, 12 students from Shippensburg's honor's program initiative "Reach Out", travel to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic's Pathways of Learning School where they implement literacy-based curriculum. The school is a low tuition private school based in a low income neighborhood where the children do not have access to a public school. During the spring semester, members of Reach Out focus on fundraising and cultural aware-

ness, and during the fall semester, education majors create curriculum that will be implemented at the Pathways of Learning School. This past trip Reach Out's education manuals focused on fluency through the use of readers-theater, and promoted teaching hands-on activities using mentor texts from books. Reach Out hopes that providing new yearly curriculum will not only make a lasting impression, but meet the needs of both the students



and teachers of the Pathways of Learning School. For more information on Reach Out you can find them on their webpage: [facebook.com/HonorsProgramShippensburg](https://www.facebook.com/HonorsProgramShippensburg).

SU Professor Gets Fulbright Award in India



Dr. Luis Melara, Associate Professor of Mathematics, Shippensburg University has been awarded a Fulbright U.S. Scholar grant to teach Mathematics at the Indian Institute of Technology in Bhubaneswar during the spring 2016 semester.

Melara hopes to gain more insight into the successful aspects of the educational system in India by comparing the teaching of math in the United States and India, and consequently, improve undergraduate teaching practices for SU students. He also seeks to establish a bridge between the American and Indian educational systems by utilizing oral reviews which, he implements in his calculus sequence courses at Shippensburg University. The Fulbright Program, which is a U.S. government's flagship international exchange program, is designed to increase mutual understanding between American citizens and those of other countries.



National Scholarship Information Session: Fulbright Scholarships

Dr. Jonathan Skaff, Director of International Studies
Dr. Agnes Ragone, Ship Fulbright Committee Member

Tuesday, April 7
3:30 p.m.
DHC 208

Learn how to apply for Fulbright grants that support post-graduate study around the world!

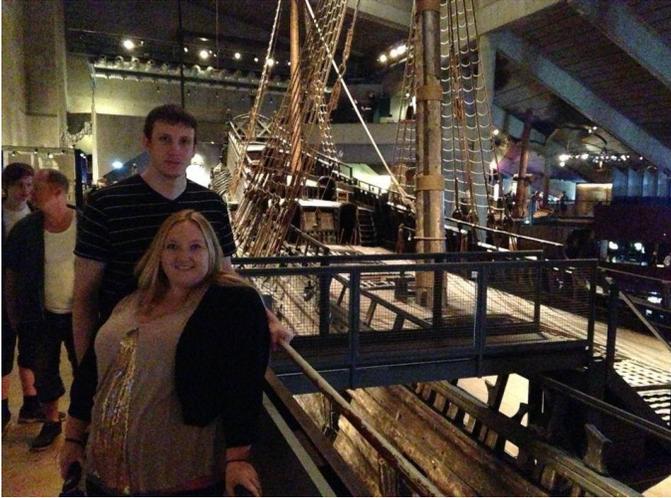
Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors & Seniors are welcome to attend. Minimum 3.5 GPA recommended.

For more information on Fulbright please visit:

<http://us.fulbrightonline.org/>

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A Taste of Foreign: My Swedish Experience



Traveling to Sweden was one of the best experiences of my life. I was privileged to stay with a family that I knew, so it was comfortable and fun. The six hour flight to Iceland (our first stop on the trip) was my first flight ever. Fortunately, I was with someone I loved and trusted so I felt more at ease. Living in a

family home and experiencing their everyday life really gave me a chance to see what it is like to live in Sweden. They also made sure I visited some tourist attractions that Sweden has to offer. In this photo, I am at the Vasa Ship museum. It houses the actual Vasa ship that sank fifteen minutes after its departure from Sweden. Everything in the museum is in both Swedish and English. Tours are conducted in many other languages, as well.

Sweden is a great place to travel as an American, because most people speak English and

love to practice with Americans. Converting prices may be tricky since they have a different currency system. Overall, my experience in Sweden was amazing and I highly recommend going there! I may even see you there, as it is a place that I will be visiting often. Other places I would like to visit include France, England, Japan, and anywhere in the Caribbean!

Ashley Geckle is a graduate student worker for the International Studies Program.

Do Not Miss the Films Showing in April!

15th Annual International Studies Film Series

Pot, Penicillin and the Pill: A Global View of Drugs

All showings in DHC 051 at 6:30 p.m.

Thurs., February 12 Children of Tobacco

Double
Feature

Description: Eighty thousand Malawian child workers are enslaved by a worldwide addiction to tobacco. Despite serious health risks and missing out on an education, the exploitation continues without effective government or industry action.

Director: Chloé Henry-Blaubaud
Year: 2013
Country: Malawi
Language: English
Running time: 26 minutes



Thurs., April 2 Drug War

Description: Timmy Choi (Louis Koo) just got caught making tons of meth. Now he's in police custody. His only chance to avoid a death sentence is to inform on his powerful cartel. Over the next 72 sleepless hours, a sting spins out of control during an unnerving thrill ride through the criminal underworld. "Filled with intrigue and plot twists... expertly crafted." —*Montreal Gazette*

Director: Johnnie To
Year: 2013
Country: Hong Kong, P.R.C.
Language: Cantonese
Running time: 107 minutes



We Love Cigarettes

Description: A love of nicotine has united many people across the globe, regardless of color, wealth or creed. But as smoking bans in the U.S. and Europe abound, what is happening in poorer nations? Their love affair is still in its first flush.

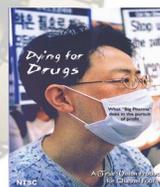
Director: Bill Nighy
Year: 2006
Country: United Kingdom
Language: English
Running time: 50 minutes



Thurs., April 16 Dying For Drugs

Description: A powerful investigation of the global pharmaceutical industry, the most profitable and powerful business on earth. Drug companies go to great lengths to get their drugs approved and obtain high prices — even when profits are put before people. An "inscive, informative and gripping 90 minutes." —*The Guardian*

Director: Brian Woods and Michael Simkin
Year: 2005
Country: United Kingdom
Language: English
Running time: 90 minutes



Thurs., February 26 Big Sugar

Description: *Big Sugar* explores the dark history and modern power of the world's reigning sugar cartel. Not only are consumers slaves to a sugar-based diet, cane cutters still live in slave-like working conditions on plantations in countries such as the Dominican Republic. "A must see!!!" —IMDB

Director: Brian McKenna
Year: 2005
Country: Canada
Language: English
Running time: 89 minutes



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ship.edu/ism

"Taya's voyage to the South Pacific."



Join SU faculty
member Alan Cre-
swell on a trip to
the South Pacific

To learn more, visit:
sailblogs.com

Boat Name: Taya
Blog Name: Taya's Voyage to the
South Pacific

Spotlight: Dr. Gretchen K. Pierce



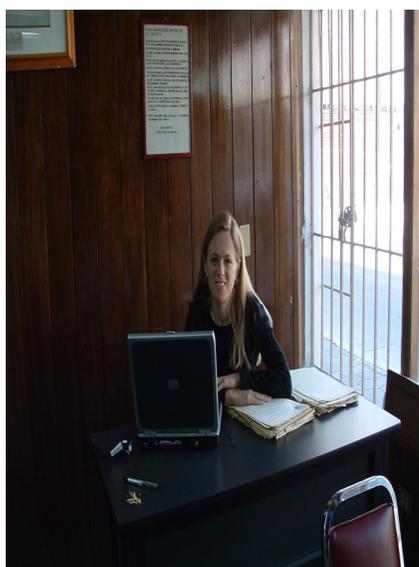
Teaching reading skills to 3rd graders in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Dr. Gretchen Pierce, is one of International Studies faculty who has a great passion for serving others. She participates actively in program/functions; including the 2015 International Studies Film Series. (Don't miss the movie that is coming up on April 16 titled: Dying for

Drugs). Dr. Pierce enjoys traveling and has been to several countries in the Caribbean region and North America. She is enthusiastic about helping students discover the world around them. Feel free to say hello when you see Dr. Pierce anywhere on campus.



The Atlante, a statue representing a warrior from the Toltec culture in Tula, Mexico



Photos: Top left, dissertation research at State Historical Archive in Hermosillo, Mexico. Top right, canoeing on the Napo River (a tributary of the Amazon) in Ecuador



Selarón Stairs--a stairway designed by a Cuban-Brazilian artist, Jorge Selarón, with thousands of tiles--in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



Study Abroad: China



International Studies requires its majors to take one study abroad or internship experience. The aim is to get students to experience firsthand what has been taught in the classroom. Dr. George Pomeroy is one of the many International Studies faculty who have taken students on study abroad trips. His trip in 2014 was to China for GEO 450. For more information go to:

http://www.ship.edu/ISM_Study_Abroad_Programs/