



Ninth Annual
International Symposium
Beloit College • November 17, 2010



The International Symposium celebrates Beloit College as an international college. In this ninth annual event, 47 student presenters and 41 faculty sponsors and moderators will directly participate as Beloit students share their international studies with the community.

The Symposium is organized by George Lisensky, Chemistry Department,
with special thanks to Doreen Dalman.

Grant Opportunities for Student Research, Internships, Volunteering, and other Projects

<http://www.beloit.edu/oie>

Venture Grants (*for 1st year students*)

To support first year students in stimulating and rewarding projects undertaken the summer before or during the sophomore year. Grants from \$500 - \$1500. The application process starts in January. See <http://www.beloit.edu/syi/venture>

Study Abroad Enhancement Grants (*for projects undertaken during study abroad*)

To support critical engagement with local environments leading to a better understanding of the lived realities of the host culture(s), through projects and other experiential learning activities. Grants from \$100 - \$300. Application Deadlines: mid-August & mid-October for fall; mid-January and March 1 for spring.

Asian Studies Student Grants

International Education Grants

Weissberg International Human Rights Grants

These grant programs supporting experiential learning related to the program theme are aimed primarily at juniors and seniors. Deadlines: mid-October for winter break activities, March 1 for summer activities. Average award: \$1,500. Awards may be combined with other sources.

Ivan and Janice Stone Travel Scholarships for Study Abroad

This scholarship provides funding to make study abroad possible for students who could not otherwise afford to do so. Students approved to study abroad are automatically screened for these scholarships; no application is required. The scholarships are made possible by a bequest from Ivan and Janice S. Stone.

Many of the students presenting in this International Symposium received funding for their projects and studies from one of these programs. Many thanks are due to the donors who make these opportunities possible.

The orthographic projection map images on the cover are from Wikimedia Commons
<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Grey-green_orthographic_projections_maps>
and used under the terms of the GNU Free Documentation License [CC-BY-SA-3.0, GFDL or GFDL-GMT].

RICHARDSON AUDITORIUM, MORSE-INGERSOLL HALL		
Moderator: Paul Stanley, Department of Physics & Astronomy		
8:35	Paul Stanley	Opening remarks
8:40	Carlos De Cordoba	Homestay: An Effective Way to Understand and Experience Chinese Culture
9:05	Lauren Jones	Potential Human Rights Activism in China: Two Case Studies
9:30	William Locke	(In)authentic China: The Difficulties of Finding Identity in the Former Imperial Capital Kaifeng
9:55	Karla Figueroa	Lucius Porter: The Study of a Beloit Pioneer in Beijing, China
10:20	Break	
Moderator: George Williams, Department of Art & Art History		
10:30	George Williams	Opening remarks
10:35	Kyle Bohrer	Feeding the World: Transgenic Rice Research in Beijing, China
11:00	Kun Zhang	Mounting Change: The Survival of the Traditional Art of Calligraphic Mounting in China's Modern Society
11:25	Briana Berkowitz	Glaciers, Gers and Goats: Cross-Cultural Geologic Research in Mongolia
11:50	Joe Klein	Five Primate Species at the Feeding Platform: Sense of Place and Orangutan Conservation in North Sumatra, Indonesia
12:15	Break	
Moderator: Diep Gnoc Phan, Department of Economics & Management		
12:30	Diep Gnoc Phan	Opening remarks
12:35	Midori Bowen	Mudbloods and Blood Traitors: Japanese-Latin American Community Identities in Japan
1:00	Alex Finn	Akita Japan: Rediscovering the Kimono
1:25	Ann Listerud	Clash of Civilizations: World War II From Japan's Perspective
1:50	Lilian Lara	Is This Normal? Cultural Misunderstandings in Japan
2:15	Break	
Moderator: Chris Johnson, Department of Theatre Arts/Dance		
2:25	Chris Johnson	Opening remarks
2:30	Tami Ramirez	The Language of Food: Japan
2:55	Zachary Adams	The Understated Importance of Dialects in Japan
3:20	Kaitlin Stainbrook	<i>Kisha</i> Clubs, Slander and Lies: Freedom of the Press in Japan
3:45	Kate Carroll	Methanotrophs and Their Applications in Bioremediation and Greenhouse Gas Emission Mitigation in New Zealand
4:10	Break	

WOOD ROOM, MAYER HALL		
Moderator: Lisa Anderson-Levy, Department of Anthropology		
8:35	Lisa Anderson-Levy	Opening remarks
8:40	Kidan Araya	Challenges of Sustainable Development in the Lower Ninth Ward, New Orleans
9:05	Cat Kealey	From Beloit to Lima: Cultural Connections in Youth Development
9:30	Cayetana Polanco	Exploring Teen Pregnancy in Beloit through Film
9:55	Ted Liu	Suffering May End: Buddhism and Chinese Immigrants in New York City
10:20	Break	
Moderator: Carey Pieratt-Seeley, Department of Sociology		
10:30	Carey Pieratt-Seeley	Opening remarks
10:35	Jesse Lopez-Cepero	Encountering 'the Other', Encountering Ourselves
11:00	Caitlin Gorevin	Man, @#\$% That Guy! An Exploration of the Manifestations of Exilic Response
11:25	Stephanie Previc	Traditional Medicine without Borders: <i>Curanderismo</i> in the Southwest and Mexico
11:50	Liz Chaney	Teaching English in Argentina: How an Argentine Learns the Language
12:15	Break	
Moderator: Kevin Braun, Department of Chemistry		
12:30	Kevin Braun	Opening remark
12:35	Renée Barlett-Webber	<i>Pura Vida</i> : An Analysis of Costa Rican Culture
1:00	Eric Koenig	Undertaking Anthropological Fieldwork in Belize: Maya Archaeological and Ethnographic Research within an Identity-Eluded Country
1:25	Jenny Gilbertson	The Reemergence of Nontraditional Medicine on the Island of Martinique
1:50	Briana Berkowitz	Exploring the Concept of Islandness through Signage in Martinique, Dominica and Saint Lucia
2:15	Break	
Moderator: Beatrice McKenzie, Department of History		
2:25	Beatrice McKenzie	Opening remarks
2:30	Araia Walsh-Felz	Freezin' for a Reason: <i>Amigos de las Americas</i> in Ecuador
2:55	David Pedigo	Reform and Public Protest in Ecuador
3:20	Jessica Rardin	Lessons from Volunteering Abroad: A Perspective from Lurinchincha, Peru
3:45	Krista Lowe	¿Qué Onda con la Nutrición? A look at Nutrition during Pregnancy in the Public Health System in Arica, Chile
4:10	Break	

ROOM 150, SCIENCE CENTER		
Moderator: Phil Shields, Department of Philosophy & Religion		
8:35	Phil Shields	Opening remarks
8:40	Josie Albertson-Grove	<i>Un avenir commun</i> : Comparing Environmentalism in France and the United States
9:05	Oliver Wyckoff	Human Rights and Development in Rwanda
9:30	Kendall Stauffacher	Healthcare versus Wealthcare: A Contrast of Danish and American Medical Practices
9:55	Allison Cook	The Life of (the Imported Study of) the Mind: A History of Psychology in Turkey
10:20	Break	
Moderator: Carol Mankiewicz, Departments of Biology & Geology		
10:30	Carol Mankiewicz	Opening remarks
10:35	Ariella Gladstein	From Lab to Lubavitch: An Examination of Judaism in Russia
11:00	Andrew Yarbrough	Victory Park: The Challenge of Memory in Post-Soviet Russia
11:25	Kate Wolf	Where Cranes Dance and Children Laugh: Crane Ecology and International Relations in Eastern Russia
11:50	Michelle Donahue	From Wonderland to Hogwarts: Exploring the Influence of Location in British and Irish Children's Fantasy Novels
12:15	Break	
Moderator: Susan Rice, Department of Music		
12:30	Susan Rice	Opening remarks
12:35	Eric Frenkil	Creating Change in Cairo: Socio-political Constraints on Egyptian NGOs
1:00	Kelly Allen	More than Hunted: Issues Surrounding Albino Persons in Uganda
1:25	Miranda Bernstein	Fair Trade Cooperatives and Women's Empowerment in Swaziland
1:50	Kiera Hayes	Healthcare in Nzinga, South Africa: Ancestors, Prayers, and ARVs
2:15	Break	
Moderator: Jingjing Lou, Department of Education & Youth Studies		
2:25	Jingjing Lou	Opening remarks
2:30	Kritika Seth	Smiles on the Inside – Working with the Refugees in Ladakh, the Indo-Tibetan Border
2:55	Anna Wolf	The Limitations and Possibilities of Making Sustainable Impacts through Volunteerism in Rajasthan, India
3:20	Marco Castelan	Traveling Intelligently: How a Liberal Arts Degree Enhanced My Study Abroad
3:45	Parker Gasset	Rediscovering Our Oceans
4:10	Break	

Zachary Adams '10

Portland, Oregon

Major: East Asian Languages and Cultures

Sponsor: Akiko Ogino

The Understated Importance of Dialects in Japan

People often erroneously assume that Japanese is a completely homogenous language. However, within the Japanese language there is considerable linguistic diversity, especially in regards to regional dialects. There is a “standard,” officially sanctioned form of Japanese based on the dialect of Tokyo which is used as the foundation of language curriculum in schools across Japan. However, each region of Japan has its own unique local dialect.

During my year abroad in Japan at Kansai Gaidai University, I developed a great affinity for the local dialect known as Kansai-ben. Because I had only been taught standard Japanese in the classroom for the three years prior to studying abroad, I was greatly surprised to learn that dialects play such an important role in daily conversation. This raised many interesting questions. For example, what makes standard Japanese “standard?” Is the use of dialects popular in Japan? Are there rules governing when it is acceptable or not to use dialects in conversation?

To answer these questions, I will examine the issue of dialects in Japan through the lenses of culture, history, and politics. I will trace the roots of standard Japanese beginning in the Meiji-era (1868–1912), and analyze the various transformations that have taken place since then, including Japanese peoples’ attitudes towards the use of dialects, and what role dialects play in Japanese daily life.

Josie Albertson-Grove '13 Saint Paul, Minnesota

Major: Political Science; Environmental Studies

Sponsor: Jack Street

***Un avenir commun:* Comparing Environmentalism in France and the United States**

In December 2009, French voters rejected a carbon tax because it had too many loopholes for industry. The French public transportation system is highly sophisticated, and organic food is readily available in the *hypermarchés*, the giant supermarkets of France. However, the government offers no tax incentives for insulation or any other energy efficiency work in homes,

as the United States does, and retains less than 0.2% of its primeval forests.

I spent twelve weeks in France this summer to study French environmentalism, and to observe and understand differences and similarities in environmentalism in France and the United States. I worked on organic farms, stayed in the homes of environmental activists and Green party politicians, and participated in the *Vélorution* bicycle demonstration in Paris.

During my stay, I was able to identify a few key cultural and political differences between the US and France that have contributed to differences in environmental culture and policy. These include France’s strong central government, the collectivist mentality of the people left over from the World Wars, and the famous French appreciation for good food. I will discuss how these and other factors have influenced French environmentalism, and how environmentalism is different in the US.

Kelly Allen '11

Louisville, Kentucky

Major: International Relations

Minor: African Studies; Philosophy

Sponsor: Rachel Ellett

More than Hunted: Issues Surrounding Albino Persons in Uganda

The condition of albinism, a genetic disease which prevents the production of melanin pigment, is believed to affect 1 in 5,000 persons in east Africa; nearly four times the rate in Europe. Recently there has been a barrage of news stories revealing the heinous black market in albino body parts. Though fear of albino hunters is justified, in Uganda and the rest of east Africa, the real challenge for persons with albinism lies in the day to day obstacles.

Since most of the discrimination faced by albino persons is not directly caused by their medical condition, it is difficult to define these persons within a specific category. Race and minority categories are unable to incorporate the biological aspect of albinism.

In my research I find a discordance between international and domestic disability theory, which prevents albinism from being officially recognized as a disability in Uganda. This presents a puzzling and troubling question for the Human Rights community: how does a state protect a marginalized minority undefined by Human Rights statutes?

Kidan Araya '13

Sacramento, California

Major: International Relations; Environmental Studies

Minor: Health and Society

Sponsor: Marion Fass

**Challenges of Sustainable Development
in the Lower Ninth Ward, New Orleans**

Five years after Hurricane Katrina, the situation in the Lower 9th Ward in New Orleans remains almost the same. Wild, tall grasses and empty dirt plots replace hundreds of homes that used to exist before the storm. Even though it's considered the city, you might as well call it a desert; there are still no grocery stores, high schools, or health clinics in the neighborhood. Families must choose between shopping for their groceries 25 minutes away at a Walmart or at Magnolia's, the corner liquor store.

In order to attempt tackling the food desert, Our School at Blair Grocery was opened in 2008. An urban farm and alternative high school, OSBG's mission is to establish food security and sustainable development in the L9W by promoting urban farming. With an emphasis on youth empowerment, urban farming is meant to create a healthy, sustainable food system that empowers residents to restore the L9W grassroots style, from the ground up. Yet what happens when one group's idea of empowerment is the other group's idea of oppression?

As an intern this past summer at OSBG, I witnessed how the idea of urban farming clashed with the culture of the L9W and the difficulty of getting community members involved. Attendance rates at the weekly OSBG farmers market were low and barely any youth were involved in the farming process. My presentation will discuss and analyze the challenges of community involvement in this sustainable development initiative. I will explore the cultural mindset of community members in the L9W as shaped by their racial backgrounds, history of the L9W, and effects of Hurricane Katrina. Additionally, I will compare and contrast the L9W to the Gulf Coast community of Dulac, LA and explore the possible reasons why the concept of community gardening is more accepted in Dulac.

Kevin Axe '11

Madison, Wisconsin

Major: History; German

Minor: European Studies

Sponsor: Rob LaFleur

**Hanseatic Architecture:
Tracing a Baltic Empire**

During the Late Middle Ages and Early Modern era, the Hanseatic League, also known as the Hanse, was a power feared throughout the Baltic area. At its height, this trade alliance was composed of as many as 200 towns throughout Northern Europe, held a monopoly on trade in the Baltic Sea, and was a Scandinavian kingmaker. Dominated by German traders, the Hanse spread northern German trade and culture along the Baltic coast. Although the Hanseatic League dissolved centuries ago, its effects can still be seen throughout the Baltic area in the form of buildings erected by its wealthy traders.

In the summer of 2010, I visited Bremen, Hamburg, and Lübeck in Germany, and Tallinn in Estonia, cities which were once important members of the Hanse. Although the first three cities were heavily damaged during World War II, and the last city has frequently switched hands since the Hanseatic era, careful renovation and reconstruction efforts have allowed these cities to preserve some architectural aspects of their past. These buildings, many of which were built in the same distinctive Brick Gothic style, share various elements. In this presentation, I will use photographic evidence to demonstrate the common historical ties between three cities in northern Germany, and the capital of Estonia.

Renée Bartlett-Webber '11

Southfield, Michigan

Major: Anthropology

Sponsor: Rob LaFleur

**Pura Vida: An Analysis
of Costa Rican Culture**

Pura vida is an expression that is plastered in restaurants, surf shops, and tourist venues throughout Costa Rica. Not only is this phrase part of the everyday lexicon and advertising, but it is often used to identify the "simple, happy, passive, and optimistic Tico (the preferred term for Costa Rican) lifestyle." Although the phrase originates from several Mexican films, Costa Ricans have adopted the phrase as part of informal speech and the government as Costa Rica's national motto to illustrate the country's "true essence." Why have Costa Ricans accepted this phrase as their own? What are

the political, historical and cultural implications that the phrase illustrates? How, if at all, do the interpretations of the phrase differ among the Costa Rican residents themselves?

My introduction to Costa Rica began when I read an article written by a Tica entitled “Costa Rica is *pura vida*”, before I arrived in what is known to be the “happiest country in the world.” Immediately, this term piqued my interest. While I started to adjust to the language and Costa Rican lifestyle, *pura vida* continued to grab my attention because daily, I would come across the phrase. With the progression of my Spanish speaking ability, my interest in the term evolved into an ethnographic project that involved interviewing not only Tico friends, but strangers of varying ages and professions about their ideas of *pura vida* and began comparing the results while researching historical, political and cultural indications of the “*pura vida* lifestyle.”

This symposium will discuss how my investigation of the political, cultural, and historical implications of *pura vida* coincided and supported my total immersion in a new language and culture.

Briana Berkowitz '11

Madison, Wisconsin

Major: Environmental Geology; Modern Languages

Sponsor: Jim Rougvie

Exploring the Concept of Islandness through Signage in Martinique, Dominica and Saint Lucia

Imagine that you enter the capital city of a small island nation. As a foreigner, you don't know anyone. You may not even speak the language. One thing that you can immediately use to orientate yourself is signs. Signage can tell us a lot about a place, from cultural heritage, to historical significance, to directions on how to get somewhere. This can be particularly resonant on small islands due to their ruralness and complicated histories. I attempted to capture the utility that signs can have in foreign countries, particularly islands, through my study abroad enhancement grant this spring.

I spent the spring studying on the French Caribbean island of Martinique, and made trips to the neighboring Anglophone islands of Dominica and Saint Lucia. I found living on and visiting islands to be a significantly different experience than the continental way of life that I am accustomed to, a unique feeling that I discovered can be summarized in the term ‘Islandness.’ By photographing and analyzing the signage on these islands, I developed

my concept of what islandness is, and got a better feeling for the geography and culture of these islands.

Briana Berkowitz '11

Madison, Wisconsin

Major: Environmental Geology; Modern Languages

Sponsor: Sue Swanson

Glaciers, Gers and Goats: Cross-Cultural Geologic Research in Mongolia

Mongolia is called ‘The Land of the Blue Sky.’ This sparsely populated country is full of rolling plateaus and mountains that are dotted with yurts, sheep and goats. I got to witness these sights firsthand this summer while spending a month doing geologic research in Mongolia. This experience was sponsored through the Keck Geology Consortium, a group of 18 colleges and universities who organize research projects for undergraduates every summer. The project I participated in was entitled ‘Lake Hovsgol: An Integrative Natural Laboratory for Quaternary Tectonics, Glaciation, and Climate Change in Northern Mongolia.’ It enabled me to complete research on past glaciations in the Lake Hovsgol region.

A main goal of the project was fostering cross-cultural scientific exchange. A group of Mongolian students accompanied the American students on this trip, and we spent four weeks working closely in the field with them. Through this, we became good friends with the Mongolians, learned a great deal about Mongolian culture and gained familiarity with the language. We also saw a good amount of the Mongolian countryside during our days-long drive to and from Lake Hovsgol. In this symposium, I will talk about some of the unique experiences I had in Mongolia, and the importance of doing scientific research abroad.

Miranda Bernstein '11

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Major: Health and Society

Minor: Political Science

Sponsor: Georgia Duerst-Lahti

Fair Trade Cooperatives and Women's Empowerment in Swaziland

Swaziland, a small, land-locked country in Southern Africa, currently holds the unfortunate distinction of the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the world. Moreover, women are substantially more likely to be infected than men. In a country where polygamy is a state sanctioned virtue and the king himself has 14 wives, to teach women to define themselves as equals rather than chattel

presents a challenge. Through one month of research in Swaziland, I have learned that what we know as “empowerment” is extremely difficult to achieve or measure when no local translation exists for the concept.

I worked with Swazi Indigenous Products (SIP), a fair trade cooperative focused on women’s empowerment. SIP purchases wild-harvested and traditionally cracked marula nuts from rural Swazi women. My research tested the propositions that women (1) gain greater autonomy when they earn their own income and (2) spend their income to improve the health and well-being of themselves and their families. Through structured interviews with participants, I examined how the income from SIP impacts the lives of these women. I find that this small-scale, local effort successfully contributes to the empowerment of Swazi women.

Kyle Bohrer '14

Medford, Minnesota

Major: undeclared

Sponsor: Marion Fass

Feeding the World: Transgenic Rice Research in Beijing, China

This past summer, I spent two months in China as a Borlaug-Ruan International Intern through the World Food Prize Foundation. Working with scientists at Peking University, I worked towards answering one of the biggest questions facing us today; how do we by 2050 grow 70% more food and feed 2,300,000,000 more people with less land, more demand for biofuels, and an ever increasing standard of living? China is a rapidly expanding country, and the goal of my research was to develop rice that could be grown in non-traditional circumstances, thus increasing yield and food security.

I was one of 16 high school seniors and juniors who were awarded an expense paid, hands on international internship through the World Food Prize Foundation, established by Dr. Norman Borlaug and John Ruan to recognize contributions in any field involved in the world food supply. The majority of my time was spent at the National Laboratory of Protein Engineering and Plant Genetic Engineering at Peking University. Under the guidance of Dr. Dingming Kang and Dr. Wei Tang I worked primarily on gene extraction and gene preparation through the use of PCR reactions, TOPO reactions, bacterial transformations, and plasmid extractions. The second part of my research used *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* and *Agrobacterium rhizogenes* to genetically modify common rice for drought and salt resistance.

My internship was as much a cultural experience as a scientific experience. With other interns and representatives from the World Food Prize Foundation, I not only spent time in Beijing, but also in Tianjin and various rural agricultural communities. As I learned, China is a confluence of opposites. Urban development next to subsistence farming, poverty living next to wealthy business owners, and while working with other international students and Chinese citizens, I learned that we are all nevertheless more similar than different.

Midori Bowen '11

Port Townsend, Washington

Major: International Relations

Minor: Asian Studies

Sponsor: John Rapp

Mudbloods and Blood Traitors: Japanese-Latin American Community Identities in Japan

Nikkeijin: a non-Japanese person of Japanese descent. Between the late 1800s and the mid-1940s high concentrations of Japanese people migrated to the Americas. Today there are nearly 3.7 million *Nikkeijin* worldwide. Brazil is home to over 1.5 million *Nikkeijin*; the United States, 1.2 million; and Peru, about 90,000. I am *Nikkeijin*.

During June 2009 I researched Latin American *Nikkeijin* in Oizumi, Japan, a small yet very culturally diverse town. I was first drawn to this topic two years ago while researching minorities in Japan. Having focused on Asian Studies, I knew next to nothing about Latin American cultures. However, I was drawn to this topic by what I read of the Latin American *Nikkeijin* experience, which seemed strikingly similar to my own family’s history. I wondered who these people were, why they went back to Japan, and if they felt the same confusion and disconnect that I felt as a multi-ethnic person.

After extensive research I felt a strong desire to see and understand these communities for myself. I went into the field research process with the following questions: What is the Nikkei-Latin American experience? In the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis and the Japanese government’s subsequent repatriation plan, what kind of community was left and how is it structured? Is there a sense of collective identity within Latin-American communities in Japan?

While I came out of this first research venture with more questions than I when I began, I was successful in that I gained a clear sense of how one Latin American

community functions and communicates. More particularly I focused on the story and dynamic of one family. In my symposium, I will first lay out the basic historical background and then present the unique story of migration, culture, law, nationality, and identity that is the Nikkeijin experience.

Kate Carroll '11

Cincinnati, Ohio

Major: Cellular, Molecular, and Integrative Biology; Literary Studies

Sponsor: Yaffa Grossman

Methanotrophs and Their Applications in Bioremediation and Greenhouse Gas Emission Mitigation in New Zealand

New Zealand is unique among developed countries in that nearly 50% of its total greenhouse gas emissions are comprised of methane rather than carbon dioxide, which is significantly higher than the ~10% reported by most countries. Methane (CH₄) is a potent greenhouse gas with a global warming potential 23 times that of carbon dioxide, and the concentration of atmospheric methane has risen rapidly since the Industrial Revolution, from 0.75 to 1.75 ppm. Methanotrophs are microbes that use methane as an energy source and are ubiquitous in the environment wherever methane exists. While 70% of methane sources are anthropogenic, methanotrophs are the only biological methane sink. Because the sources exceed the sinks, a small decrease in emissions or increase in degradation could stabilize atmospheric methane or even significantly reduce it, a particularly pertinent fact for New Zealand. It has been predicted that global temperature increase could be reduced by 25% if methane emissions could be stabilized or if sufficient degradation could be achieved. Because of their importance in methane breakdown, there have been attempts to cultivate methanotrophs for environmental use. Researchers have studied them in efforts to mitigate methane generation in farmland (which generates 96% of New Zealand's methane emissions) and landfills, as well as in their bioremediation abilities. Some species of methanotrophs have the ability to break down toxic compounds such as trichloroethylene (TCE), can sequester heavy metals, and can remove contaminants from wastewater and from aquifers. Methanotrophs appear to be an extremely good option in both bioremediation and the mitigation of atmospheric methane emissions, predominantly from landfills and dairy farms, especially for primarily agricultural countries such as New Zealand.

Marco Castelan '11

Saint Paul, Minnesota

Major: Psychology; Spanish

Sponsor: Greg Buchanan

Traveling Intelligently: How a Liberal Arts Degree Enhanced My Study Abroad Experience

Last semester I traveled from the west coast of the United States to the east coast; but I did not take the overland route. As I explored twenty different cities in ten different countries, the one thing I carried with me that was more valuable than my passport was my liberal arts education. Despite being taught in a small Wisconsin town, my education from Beloit helped me to see and learn so much more than I would have previously. The skills and methodologies I learned in my course work in history, modern languages, psychology, physics, gender studies, and music all allowed me to expand my spectrum of knowledge to include many other disciplines, thus providing me background information in order to understand each culture just a little bit more. Whether I was visiting a psychiatric ward in Ghana or was learning about the construction of the Taj Mahal in India, I was consistently able to draw on a body of knowledge and skill-sets that I had been taught at Beloit. In traveling to so many countries and cultures I was faced with many novel and at times awkward challenges. Thanks to my Beloit education, I was able to find workable and creative solutions to them. Through stories, pictures, and video I will demonstrate exactly how my education was the most priceless tool in my arsenal and how it enriched my experience tenfold. As only one of many Beloiters to have trotted the globe, I am lucky to have had this opportunity and hope to encourage others to do so as well because you are already armed with your most important resource; a Beloit College education.

Liz Chaney '13

La Crosse, Wisconsin

Major: Education & Youth Studies; Spanish

Sponsor: Sonja Darlington

Teaching English in Argentina: How an Argentine Learns the Language

What does it take for an Argentine student to learn English? How do Argentines instruct language classes? Believe it or not, I met only a handful of Argentine students who could speak English. They can write and read in English, but they cannot speak it. Why? One reason is because they have never met a native speaker;

and, more importantly, they only study English grammar. English is not spoken in many classrooms in Argentina, so students do not hear or speak it. Helping Argentine students of all ages learn conversational English is what brought me to Argentina last summer.

I volunteered for four weeks in a small town outside of Córdoba, Argentina with an organization called Projects Abroad. I was placed in three diverse settings: a public high school, an English institute, and an orphanage. Within the schools, I worked alongside a few of the local teachers and tutored students. I played games with them and helped them with their English conversational skills. At the orphanage, I was assigned to help four pre-teen girls with their English. At all three sites, I became more independent and learned to fend for myself.

My presentation will focus on the challenges and the roles that I had in each of places that I visited and will address the methods of teaching English. I will also discuss other aspects of my experience overseas, such as living with a host family and taking a Spanish class. Finally, I will conclude by identifying the positive outcomes of volunteering with Projects Abroad and how this organization is bringing a positive change to countries all over the world.

Allison Cook '11

Menomonie, Wisconsin

Major: Psychology

Sponsor: Lawrence T. White

The Life of (the Imported Study of) the Mind: A History of Psychology in Turkey

Psychology is a relatively young and pre-paradigmatic science. Like any youth grappling with big ideas, it stands much to gain from travel. International collaboration has already enhanced the discipline in developing a new sub-field, cultural psychology, in which researchers investigate the influence of culture in shaping thought, feeling, and behavior. Such psychologists apply their culturally-informed knowledge toward the revision of existing (or development of new) internationally relevant constructs and methodology. In this sense, the world, too, stands to gain from a well-traveled psychology.

While considering the challenges and benefits of such a reciprocal relationship (between global host and international discipline), I propose we examine the nearly 100-year-tenure of psychology in Turkey. Historically, Turkey has maintained a rich cultural heritage despite rapid social change, and thus provides a well-equipped laboratory for psychological inquiry. In return, applied

psychological research has helped Turkey understand and address issues surrounding modernization. A closer look at the history of psychology in Turkey not only illustrates the worth of psychological scholarship without borders, but also affords a unique perspective on modern Turkey, one informed by the topics and directions of culturally-relevant psychological research.

Carlos De Cordoba '11

Miami, Florida

Major: International Relations

Minor: Asian Studies

Sponsor: John Rapp

Homestay: An Effective Way to Understand and Experience Chinese Culture

My one year study abroad was a rich experience that gave me many powerful memories that are still alive in my mind. My China experience was a long series of adventures and life changing events that matured me in many ways. I was in a country that was on the other side of the world and living in a culture that was entirely alien from my own. A common mistake that many students make when they go abroad to China to study is staying with a "foreign clique" and seldom reaching out to the Chinese community. I personally made that mistake my first semester. Based on my experience, I believe that China has very different customs, social rules, ways of thinking, and values from those of Western countries. It is impossible to fully understand China but one can better understand the social customs of China by mingling with the Chinese community. The best way to do so, I believe, is to experience a home-stay with a Chinese family. I lived with two Chinese families during my study abroad trip; I lived with a Chinese professor in Beijing and a typical Chinese family in Jinan. I will share with you what I learned from them including aspects of the following:

1. The social norms and etiquette of eating and drinking in China
2. The role of the Chinese police state in the lives of the families I stayed with
3. The role of the father, mother, and child in the family I stayed with
4. The importance of the Guanxi network
5. The phenomenon of Confucian relationships in Chinese culture
6. Common social rules in China

Michelle Donahue '11

La Verne, California

Major: Creative Writing; Environmental Biology

Sponsor: Fran Abbate

From Wonderland to Hogwarts: Exploring the Influence of Location in British and Irish Children's Fantasy Novels

One of the first things I noticed about Lancaster, England was how many fantastical elements were present in everyday life in the UK. In Lancaster alone there was a castle, a pub called the Witchery, and signs with unicorns, witches and griffins. Being a long-term lover of fantasy novels, I realized that many of the great children's fantasy works like the *Harry Potter* series, *Alice in Wonderland*, and *Peter Pan* were written by authors from the United Kingdom and Ireland. I was curious about the ways the fantasy rich setting of Britain and Ireland might have inspired and influenced different children's fantasy novels.

To explore this, I received an enhancement grant from Beloit College to travel to locations around the UK and Ireland where fantasy authors wrote and chose to set their novels. I traveled to Edinburgh, London, Oxford, Belfast, and Dublin to examine the possible influence of location in the following fantasy novels: the *Harry Potter* series, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Peter Pan*, *His Dark Materials* trilogy, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, the *Artemis Fowl* series, and the *Bartimaeus* trilogy. Through my travels and an examination of literary theory, I will be discussing how the everyday presence of fantasy elements in British culture offers an ideal setting for fantasy novels and I will examine the influence the British landscape has had on works of children's fantasy.

Karla Figueroa '13

Memphis, Tennessee

Major: International Relations

Sponsor: Warren Palmer

Lucius Porter: The Study of a Beloit Pioneer in Beijing, China

Lucius Porter, a prominent Beloit alumnus, served as a professor at Yenching University from c.a. 1920–1949. Yenching University was a Christian school in the city of Beijing, China, and would later be absorbed by Beijing University. Today, the Boya Tower, the most recognized symbol of Beijing University, still remains standing. The tower was built in the 1920s and named for Lucius Porter's uncle, James W. Porter, who provided the funds to build it. The Boya Tower displays the long-lasting connection that Beloit has with Asia.

This symposium will present the life of Lucius Porter in China and the ways in which the international experience has changed in the last 90 years. I will present Porter's view of his time in China from my findings in his correspondence with family and close friends. Photography will be displayed to show the changes that Beijing University has gone through since the 1920s. Last, I will analyze how changes in Chinese society have influenced the international experience, specifically in regards to my time in China compared to that of Porter.

Alex Finn '11

Madison, Wisconsin

Major: Education; East Asian Languages and Culture

Sponsor: Scott Lineberger

Akita Japan: Rediscovering the Kimono

The image of the Kimono is considered to most of the world, especially in the United States, the cultural costume of Japan. Other than this image there is no other general knowledge about Kimono that is accessible to the non-Japanese speaking public. The Kimono is not a single item of clothing, but is a clothing category that has 11 main types with their own individual subgroups. Over the 500 years that the Kimono has been in existence each of these categories has developed individual sets of rules. While the younger generation tries to make the Kimono their own, all these rules deter a large portion of them from trying out this clothing item for themselves. Throughout this talk I hope to educate people on the types of Kimono, all the accessories that go into creating a proper Kitsuke, way of wearing a Kimono, and the simple statements that can be made by adding little details to your outfit. While in Japan one of my best experiences was learning how to perform a good Kitsuke and was also lucky to be favored by the older women in a local Kimono shop to be shown personally a more traditional way of coordinating a Kimono and obi.

Eric Frenkil '11

Baltimore, Maryland

Major: International Relations

Minor: African Studies

Sponsor: Beth Dougherty

Creating Change in Cairo: Socio-political Constraints on Egyptian NGOs

Cairo, Egypt is a fast-paced city, where nothing happens too fast. I worked with a small organization based out of Cairo in late 2009. That experience taught me how Egyptian NGOs – otherwise determined to better their country – must first overcome a gamut of societal and political constraints.

These constraints may be broadly defined using terms such as classism, gender politics, bureaucracy and linguistics. My symposium, however, takes a closer look at day-to-day obstacles often overlooked from a Western lens.

Using stories, photographs, and personal accounts, I highlight how social progress is impacted by traffic jams caused by the president's motorcade, a religious fast that spans thirty days, and culturally specific notions of obligation between friends, family and peers.

Many of the needed changes in making Egyptian NGOs more effective may seem truly unexpected to those outside of the Arab world – whether the British Embassy chooses to serve its guests tea, when the European Commission chooses to hire translators, and whether Egypt will ever finish that elusive third metro line.

This symposium examines Egyptian NGOs from a local perspective, offering anecdotes and some recommendations for actors both in Egypt and donor states.

Parker Gassett '11

Camden, Maine

Major: Ecology Evolution and Behavioral Biology

Sponsor: Ken Yasukawa

Rediscovering Our Oceans

When did tuna equate to sandwich? Why does the term shark prompt the theme song of Jaws? And how is it that the vast and seemingly indefectible marine world is now dramatically changing and in danger? After a year spent sailing through the Atlantic Ocean, and exploring the waters of the Galapagos Islands, I developed a greater awareness of the role of the marine world. Though the oceans make up 70% of the Earth's surface and 99% of the livable space, these ecosystems are largely unexplored by science, unseen by the average individual,

and, as I will discuss, undervalued and mistreated by our current conduct. This presentation will reveal the many wonders and significance of our oceans while addressing the current threats that face our seas and obstacles in marine conservation.

Jenny Gilbertson '12

Novato, California

Major: Chemistry; French

Sponsor: Brock Spencer

The Reemergence of Nontraditional Medicine on the Island of Martinique

Martinique, an island in the Lesser Antilles, was a French colony until the mid 19th century. Following the abolition of slavery on the island, it became an overseas department of France and has remained so ever since. Populated by descendents of slaves, but still dependent upon its former colonizer, Martinique has been struggling to find a sense of self as its citizens balance thoughts of independence with the reality of their economic dependence on France.

During the years of slavery on the island, the inhabitants of Martinique utilized the natural resources of the island to cure their maladies. When their status changed to an overseas department, France implemented a purely academic medicinal approach to health, which supplemented rural medicinal beliefs and practices. Only recently has the idea of *créolité*, a completely Martiniquan sense of cultural identity, been replacing aspects of their French identification.

During my time in Martinique I studied the reemergence of plant-based medicine, an aspect of *créolité*, on the island, and the role it plays in defining a truly Martiniquan identity. Plant-based medicine has implications on a larger, more global, scale as health disparities and lack of availability increase worldwide.

Through my interviews conducted with Martiniquais and Martiniquaises of varying ages and backgrounds, I will address the balance between Western and traditional medicine in the lives of Martiniquan citizens, how plant-based medicine has been passed down from generation to generation, the importance of a holistic approach to healing, and what has to happen to guarantee its survival into the future.

Ariella Gladstein '11

Silver Spring, Maryland

Major: Mathematical Biology; Russian

Sponsor: Donna Oliver

From Lab to Lubavitch: An Examination of Judaism in Russia

As a double major in Russian and biology, my primary goal for studying abroad was to increase my understanding of the field of biology in Russia. To accomplish this, I took biology classes at the Moscow State University alongside Russian students and interned at the Laboratory of Population Genetics at the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences.

While in Russia, I did not expect to be thrown into the Jewish world. What began as occasional visits to a synagogue on holidays became a central part of my Moscow experience. I felt that in Russia my identity was Jewish, not American, which turned out to be both good and bad. When dealing with non-Jews in Russia I encountered many preconceived notions about Jews, but my Jewish-American identity also gave me the unique opportunity to be part of a fairly insular community as both an outsider and an insider.

From my own experiences and talking to other Jews and Russians, I have learned a lot about Jewish life in Russia. In my presentation I will talk about the history of Jews in Russia, anti-Semitism and how other ethnicities view Jews, and the renewal of Judaism in Russia.

Caitlin Gorevin '11

Madison, Alabama

Major: East Asian Languages and Culture

Sponsor: Rob LaFleur

Man, @\$% That Guy! An Exploration of the Manifestations of Exilic Response

"When fortune smiles on something as violent and ugly as revenge, it seems proof like no other, that not only does God exist, you're doing His will."

--*Kill Bill: Vol. 1*

Exilic: of or pertaining to exile.

Response: an answer or reply, as in words or in some action.

Exilic response is a mode of behavior that everyone has experienced at one point or another. If you have ever dealt with emotions like rage, hurt, betrayal, or disappointment, you have experienced the fresh beginning of exilic response in your life. Revenge, vindication, vengeance, and retribution are all present within exilic responses, as are the idioms "Cut off your

nose to spite your face," "Revenge is a dish best served cold," and "Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned." If you have ever felt so wronged by someone that you considered doing anything—even to the point of jeopardizing your relationships, grades, or job—you have known exilic response. I wrote my thesis on the specific ways in which exilic response manifests itself in human behavior with a focus on demonstrations within popular culture and history; come to hear me explain exactly what it is that *The Divine Comedy*, @\$% You by Cee Lo Green, *The Princess Bride*, Deng Xiaoping, Columbine, and Bernie Madoff all have in common.

Kiera Hayes '11

Seattle, Washington

Major: Anthropology; Biochemistry

Sponsor: Rob LaFleur

Healthcare in Nzinga, South Africa: Ancestors, Prayers, and ARVs

Fifteen years after the end of Apartheid, South African communities still have extremely unequal access to medical resources. In an attempt to bring more resources to under-served black communities, the South African Government has tried a variety of methods from granting rewards for doctors to work in rural areas to incorporating Traditional Healers into the National Health Plan.

The goal of this research was to assess the level of cooperation between Traditional Healers and Western medical practitioners and evaluate whether community members desired access to both. To investigate this subject, I interviewed Traditional Healers, nurses, and community members in Nzinga, South Africa, a deep rural village in the province of Kwa-Zulu Natal. Interviews investigated informants' opinions of different health care resources and their reasons for making certain treatment choices.

Members of the Nzinga community had access to herbalists, religious healers, spiritual healers, and western doctors and nurses. Although differences abounded in informants' opinions about health care resources, Traditional Healers, community members, and nurses felt that Traditional and Western practices were important for health in the community. However, nurses implied that Western practices were more important and effective than Traditional practices. Also, community members, Traditional Healers, and nurses had different goals driving their desire for cooperation, goals which often conflicted.

Overall, it became clear that the community was impacted by religious, traditional, and western influences,

and these ideological influences greatly affected how inhabitants chose treatments. Each individual did not just follow one group's policy about treatment. How the informants chose between treatment options depicted how they identified themselves between these three ideological influences. The system of cooperation between Traditional Healers and Western practitioners is desired by the community, but has much room for improvement.

Lauren Jones '11

Milton, Wisconsin

Major: Modern Languages

Minor: Asian Studies

Sponsor: Natalie Gummer

**Potential Human Rights Activism in China:
Two Case Studies**

How is it possible for ordinary people in China to express their human rights? In two case studies, I will address my answer to this question based on my findings. The Song Capital Water System in Kaifeng, China was built to encourage tourism to the city, and was one of the most beautiful parts of the city. The water system was still under construction at the time of my study, and was modeled after architecture from the Song dynasty, a period during which Kaifeng was the capital of China and one of the most powerful cities in the world. Despite its grandeur, the water system represents certain ethical issues in economic development and their implications for the city's residents. The residents living in the area of construction were given mandates to move, and offered compensation for their houses. While the forced move may have improved the living standards of these residents, several neighborhoods were destroyed. Banners hung along the course of the canal demonstrated the discontent of the citizens.

In another part of the province, former Ph.D. student Li Dan abandoned his studies when he learned of the appalling outbreak of AIDS in Henan. But after his school for AIDS orphans in Henan was shut down by the government, Li Dan created the Dongjen Center for Human Rights Education and Activism in Beijing as a way to promote human rights education and action. To support this mission, this past summer I worked to help him establish a human rights library in Beijing, which is still in the process of being created. My symposium will focus on the level of tolerance of the Chinese government of human rights-related discontent, and whether, based on these two projects, actions of protest in accordance

with human rights have any impact on the outcome of these issues.

Cat Kealey '11

New Rochelle, New York

Major: Mathematics

Sponsor: Ben Newton

**From Beloit to Lima: Cultural
Connections in Youth Development**

Working with children often allows for a clear understanding of critical thinking processes. Outspoken children explain things exactly as they understand them to be without fear of seeming rude, unintelligent, or overzealous.

In Beloit, I've participated in the Wright Elementary School Reading Club for two semesters. In this capacity, I work with students on readings that frequently lead to interesting discussions. The students are economically diverse and many speak Spanish at home. Once a week we work through pronunciations of difficult words, themes and character analysis, and share stories of our personal lives.

In Lima, Peru, I volunteered three days a week at Hogar de Cristo (Christ's House) during the facility's summer break teaching the orphan boys both English and soccer. The boys ranged in age from 5 to 17. They were eager to learn English and excited to play soccer with a female for the first time in their lives. The days I was not within the city limits of Lima I traveled to Pachacutec, a slum town built on mountains of sand. There I worked on soccer skills with the older boys and helped everyone in the English classrooms.

In comparing the two experiences, I will explore cultural commonalities, the setting of standards, the effects of praise, and character education and development. How are Crispin and Gerardo from Peru similar to Sincere and Geselle from Wisconsin?

Joe Klein '13

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Major: Anthropology

Minor: Integrative Biology

Sponsor: Nancy Krusko

**Five Primate Species at the Feeding
Platform: Sense of Place and Orangutan
Conservation in North Sumatra, Indonesia**

Conservation in Sumatra over the last several decades has been characterized by a series of failures despite tremendous efforts by scientists, non-profits, and

advocates. Conservation has failed to stop deforestation (less than 15% of original forest cover remains), failed to stop rapid disappearance of biodiversity, and failed to improve the lives of local people.

A shift in approach is clearly necessary. Previous conservation efforts have focused mostly on preserving pristine forest and flagship species such as the critically endangered Sumatran orangutans and have largely ignored the presence and needs of humans. We need to integrate humans into conservation models. Instead of focusing on species, we need solutions that allow all Sumatran great apes, orangutans and humans, to coexist.

Sumatra is home to 13 species of primates, humans included, who all directly rely on the rainforest for survival. The forest is a source of food, medicine, drinking water, and more. It also regulates the climate of the island, and deforestation is linked to extreme weather events, flash flooding, and increased occurrence of wildfires. This sense of place, common reliance on the forest, is shared among all primates and provides a foundation for the work of conservation. The question is which ecological niches are available for humans to exploit that are sustainable and allow coexistence with other species?

In this presentation I will explore the connected fates of both Indonesian great apes. These observations are from June 2010 when I volunteered with the Orangutan Health Project, a group studying orangutan diet, self-medication, and disease in Bukit Lawang, North Sumatra, Indonesia. Bukit Lawang is unique in being home to both wild and semi-wild orangutans. These semi-wild orangutans draw international crowds and tourism comprises a significant portion of the town's economy. By exploring the co-dependence of orangutans and the local people on one another, I hope to give a sense of what it means to be a primate living in this changing world.

Eric Koenig '11

Boulder, Colorado

Major: Anthropology

Sponsor: Daniel E. Shea

Undertaking Anthropological Fieldwork in Belize: Maya Archaeological and Ethnographic Research within an Identity-Eluded Country

With a population of just over 300,000 and over nine major constituent ethnic groups residing within, Belize is a country experiencing an identity crisis. The integration among the largest two ethnic groups residing therein, the Creoles and Mestizos, have created uncertainty as to

whether the culture of Belize is more "Latin" (Central American) or Caribbean (Creole) in nature. A series of immigrations and melding of cultures throughout Belize's history has constructed a mainstream culture that expresses multiple identities.

Through anthropological fieldwork I undertook at a domestic structure at the ancient Maya site of Baking Pot and among a contemporary Yucatec Maya community during my time abroad in Belize I found varying perspectives on Belizean national identity. While Maya archaeological sites remain a large source of national pride and as an economic interest for tourism, contemporary Maya communities are increasingly pressured to integrate into mainstream society, resulting in the limitation of cultural expression and the dispossession of communal land holdings. However, some contemporary Maya and other communities are attempting to assert, maintain, and teach their unique cultural traditions in the pursuit of self-determination. Tension between individuals and groups seeking to preserve distinct cultural identities and those pursuing integration into the mainstream Creole-Mestizo society is being played out in the forum of Belizean national identity.

In this presentation, I reflect upon my experiences conducting archaeological fieldwork at Baking Pot and brief ethnographic fieldwork within the contemporary Maya Masewal community of San Antonio in the Cayo district of Belize. I analyze how the ambiguity of Belizean identity is performed within the realm of everyday interactions between Belizean people and through the fusion and coexistence of multiple ethnic groups within the social and physical domain of Belize.

Lilian Lara '11

Houston, Texas

Major: Psychology

Minor: Asian Studies

Sponsor: Scott Lineberger

Is This Normal?: Cultural Misunderstandings in Japan

Bowing, chopsticks, and taking your shoes off before entering a house are some of the first things that come to mind when one thinks about Japan. But what about mandatory souvenirs, compliments, and passive aggressiveness? Navigating a different culture isn't easy, especially when you can barely speak the language. As a home-stay student I learned the difficult way how some of my mannerisms were offensive, funny, or just plain too

American. Through my cultural blunders, I'll introduce a side of Japanese culture that isn't often in guide books, but should be considered before going to Japan.

Ann Listerud '11

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Major: International Relations; East Asian Languages and Cultures

Minor: Physics

Sponsor: John Rapp

Clash of Civilizations: World War II from Japan's Perspective

In the United States, World War II is often portrayed as a battle between good and evil. Within Japan, World War II is treated as part of a longer narrative of Japan coming into its own as a modern nation as the rest of the Eastern world was becoming colonized by Western powers. When looking back on the invasions of Korea and China, there are some in Japan who are deeply ashamed and embarrassed. When looking back at Hiroshima and the firebombings of Tokyo and Osaka, there are some in Japan who feel victimized and angry. The outward message is usually one of extreme ambivalence.

After visiting several museums, including the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, and the controversial Yasakuni Shrine, and after talking to peers in Japan, I was exposed to a number of opinions on the war. As part of my Kansai Gaidai history class on modernization, we studied some of the reasoning and rhetoric leading up to the war as well as ordinary Japanese people's reactions to the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. My visits to museums, combined with the perspectives I learned about in class and in conversations, create a picture of pride, sorrow, and indifference. It is a picture that most American history books barely mention.

Ted Liu '13

Sichuan, China

Major: Anthropology; Economics

Sponsor: Jennifer Esperanza

Suffering May End: Buddhism and Chinese Immigrants in New York City

What is the religious/spiritual life like in Chinatown? With this question in mind, I spent a month conducting research in the Chinatown located in Manhattan, New York City during the summer of 2010. By conducting participant observation in a Buddhist temple, I discovered that Buddhism is deeply rooted in many Chinese immigrants' everyday life and serves an important role in maintaining their cultural identity. While there, I was

fortunate to meet and interview Chinese immigrants. Their life stories not only offered me much knowledge about Buddhism and Chinatown community, but affected me personally that I could not help wondering about my own identity.

This presentation aims to articulate the interplay between Buddhism and Chinese immigrants' cultural identity. I start with an overview of Chinatown and then a brief introduction of Chinese Buddhism as a syncretic religion—a complex combination of orthodox Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, and Chinese folklore. Buddhism identifies the prevalence of “suffering” in the secular life and the central goal of devoting to such a belief is to relieve the suffering. People believe that the faithful will achieve this goal and even receive salvation in the afterlife. Further, the presentation steers to the descriptions which emphasize how important this religion is to many Chinese immigrants, whether they are true Buddhists or not.

The descriptions include my informants' life stories associated with Buddhism, some common rituals practiced in the Buddhist temple, Chinese immigrants' own perspectives of Buddhism, and my own personal experiences. I conclude that Chinese immigrants, especially those who lack cultural capital to integrate into mainstream American society, often resort to Buddhism to relieve their frustration (“suffering” in their perspectives) of being caught between Chinese and American cultures. The presentation consists of oral interpretation and a slide of photos taken in Chinatown.

William Locke '11

St. Charles, Missouri

Major: Comparative Literature; Chinese Language

Sponsor: Natalie Gummer

(In)authentic China: The Difficulties of Finding Identity in the Former Imperial Capital Kaifeng

On the outskirts of the city of Kaifeng, next to the beautiful Yu-Wang-Tai (禹王台) park but actually settled in a somewhat dilapidated neighborhood nearby, one can find the PoTa (繁塔), a Buddhist tower dating back to the Northern Song dynasty, when Kaifeng was the imperial capital of China. You may have trouble getting to the site, however, because it is far enough from downtown to necessitate taking a cab, and many people in the city, including some cab drivers, don't know how to get there! By contrast, a place in the city where almost everyone can and in fact is eager to direct you is the centrally placed

Millennium Park (清明上河園), an historical theme park that recreates the imperial city of Kaifeng as it supposedly existed during the Northern Song. This creates the juxtaposition of the historical site that nobody knows about and the historical theme park that everybody will take you to instead.

Such juxtapositions fueled an ongoing discussion over what could be called “authentic” in today’s China, from a morally problematic, Song-dynasty inspired canal system, to an American student’s complaint that you couldn’t find real orange juice in Kaifeng. Were the constructions of Song dynasty architecture we saw going up in the place of peoples’ homes disingenuous for having been built yesterday? Was there something missing in modern Kaifeng, some loss of identity alongside a loss of history? The symposium reopens this discussion in examining what made up for us this notion of authenticity, both historical and otherwise, and whether a similar concept entered into how people living in the city imagined its identity. It asks whether the American student at PoTa is looking for the same thing as the Chinese visitor to Millennium Park.

Jesse Lopez-Cepero '11

Berkeley, California

Major: Political Science

Sponsor: Natalie Gummer

Encountering ‘the Other,’ Encountering Ourselves

From September 2009 to June of this year I committed myself to participation in an agriculturally-based, educational community committed to shared living with the developmentally disabled. In the course of the nine months I spent living and working alongside people with developmental disabilities I was forced to acknowledge and grapple with my deeply held assumptions of what it means to be human and the way those assumptions and the power of naming I possessed dis-empowered people with intellectual disabilities. Drawing from my experience encountering ‘the other’ of the intellectually disabled, I am now forced to confront several interlocking questions of privilege, agency and pain. The gift of this time was to see the weakness and needs that are so openly accounted for in the developmentally disabled as a mirror my own pain and weaknesses. What I hope to suggest is that the recognition of emotional and physical pain might hint at ways to break down the borders and walls that separate us from ‘the other,’ and lead to a questioning of assumptions that lie behind our liberal ways of thinking.

Krista Lowe '11

Annapolis, Maryland

Major: Health & Society

Sponsor: Marion Fass

¿Qué Onda con la Nutrición? A Look at Nutrition during Pregnancy in the Public Health System in Arica, Chile

In the fall of 2009 I studied abroad in Arica, Chile on an SIT program focused on Public Health and Community Welfare. Arica is a city of 185,000 people in the region of Arica y Parinacota, in northern Chile.

During this program, my group visited all of the public health facilities in the city, and shadowed various health care professionals at each site. At the same time, we learned about the structure and function of the Chilean national public health system, and various issues that affect the country’s overall health.

We were given the duration of the final month of the program to carry out a qualitative research project, which we had designed earlier in the semester. My research sought to discover the content and quality of the nutritional information provided, along with the women’s feelings and attitudes surrounding nutrition during pregnancy. The research consisted of interviews with nurses and pregnant women.

Interviews with nurses found that women meet with the nutritionist at their first pregnancy appointment for about an hour to discuss their current nutritional habits. They then receive a standardized, one page handout with nutritional guidelines for the pregnancy. They meet with the nutritionist at regular points throughout the pregnancy.

Interviews with women found a great deal of apathy surrounding nutrition in general, but a little bit less so during pregnancy. The most frequent finding in interviews with the women was that they understood the importance of drinking the enriched milk provided by the hospital.

In this symposium I will discuss my research, and some of my personal experiences in Arica, both inside and out of the academic world.

David Pedigo '11

Flossmoor, Illinois

Major: International Relations

Minor: English

Sponsor: Beth Dougherty

Reform and Public Protest in Ecuador

In 2009, Rafael Correa became the first elected Ecuadorian president to complete a term in office in more than ten years. Although this seemed to mark the end of a long period of discontent and instability in the country, there are still sectors of society that feel excluded or cheated by government policy. In the last two years, the Correa administration has fought to pass a series of reforms that have been met with some heavy opposition in the form of frequent (and often violent) protests.

This symposium examines the reaction of Ecuadorian society to the laws recently introduced by the Correa administration that seek to reform the country's education system, among others. These reactions will be viewed in the historical context of political change in Ecuador during the twenty-first century. Among the questions that this symposium seeks to answer are: which sectors of society protested the most? What means did they use? What historical trends have motivated the methods of protest today? How are these protests different from the ones that ousted some of Correa's more short-lived predecessors?

Cayetana Polanco '12

Quito, Ecuador

Major: Health and Society

Sponsor: Marion Fass

Exploring Teen Pregnancy in Beloit through Film

Beloit's high teen pregnancy and early-childbearing rates are a widely discussed and controversial topic in this community. There is speculation that the increase in teen pregnancy rates is due to the lack of a human growth and development curriculum in the school system. Others believe that the socio-economics of the city are the leading cause. The causes for the increase, more likely than not, will never be fully understood. However, there is a need to embrace the facts and start thinking of possible rate reduction strategies. Last year, a Beloit alumnus and I, intrigued by this topic, interviewed Beloit community members to explore what they thought about the subject, and possible solutions.

Last spring, I performed an extensive research project on teen pregnancy trends in developed countries to

provide background for a film. After putting the short documentary film together, it was screened for a group of pregnant teens to explore their reactions and incorporate their perspectives. The film will be played during my presentation. Following this, I will take questions about the film making process and other relevant topics.

Stephanie Previc '11

Gainesville, Florida

Major: Health & Society

Sponsor: Marion Fass

Traditional Medicine without Borders: Curanderismo in the Southwest and Mexico

The traditional medicine of Mexico and the southwestern United States draws on indigenous knowledge, faith and culture as well as European, African and Asian influence. The word *curanderismo*, a term derived from the Spanish *curar* (to heal), is commonly used to describe the spectrum of healing techniques indicative of this region.

The mind, body and spirit are all addressed in *curanderismo*. A *curandero* (healer) offers guidance and support, though it is the responsibility of the patient to facilitate the healing process. Wellness is maintained through an equilibrium between the individual and their environment and *curanderismo* seeks to restore this balance when it is disturbed by either physical or psychological trauma.

The two-week course that I attended at the University of New Mexico this summer was facilitated by healers who demonstrated the modalities of massage, acupuncture, psychotherapy, herbal medicine and spiritual cleansing; all commonly performed in the *curanderismo* tradition. This class examined the dynamic between holistic and contemporary medicine through discussion, lecture, participation and observation of rituals.

The art of *curanderismo* continues to evolve as this knowledge is integrated with the discipline of contemporary health science. I will discuss the techniques and history of *curanderismo*, and examine concepts of health and illness in this context alongside the allopathic approach to medicine.

Tami Ramirez

San Salvador, El Salvador and Washington, DC

Major: International Relations, Japanese Language & Culture

Sponsor: Scott Lineberger

The Language of Food: Japan

The elusive perspective of “being there” is not enough to immerse ourselves in a new culture. In order to truly make such an immersion we must find our own ways to approach new cultures. My approach to learn about Japanese culture was delicious, enjoyable, and by far, the best way to make that cultural immersion happen. I used food as my tool of learning. During my study abroad in Nagasaki, Japan, I learned about Japanese society, religion and politics every time I sat down to eat a meal. By simply asking questions such as “What is this?”, “How do you eat it?”, “When do you eat it?”, and “Why do you eat it?” I acquired a feast of information about Japanese culture. My research uncovers the stories that ramen, soba and udon noodles, sashimi, takoyaki, yakitori, and other popular Japanese dishes have to tell about Japan. The Language of Food highlights subjects such as food and patriotism, the link between Japanese table etiquette and Japanese funerals, and Japanese food naming.

Jessica Rardin '13

Normal, Illinois

Major: Undeclared

Sponsor: Amy Tibbitts

**Lessons from Volunteering Abroad:
A Perspective from Lurinchincha, Peru**

On August 15, 2007 an earthquake with the magnitude of 8.0 struck the southern coast of Peru. As a result of this disaster, many Peruvians have lost their homes and livelihood. Since this event, the area has slowly been trying to rebuild, which is where my time in Peru begins. During International Symposium I will discuss my experience volunteering for seven weeks in Lurinchincha, Peru.

Having never experienced international development work, I went with the feeling that what I was about to do was going to be beneficial for the community. I ventured to Peru with 17 people interested in volunteer work and exploring a culture very different from our own. I ended up in Lurinchincha working with a Peruvian Non-Governmental Organization called *Asociación Civil Pro Niño Intimo*. This organization works to empower youth through the use of street soccer and encourage them to make changes in their local communities. ACPNI has been

working in Lurinchincha since the earthquake and has helped to slowly rebuild and reinforce stability in the community.

Though I thoroughly believe that development work has its benefits, my trip to Peru demonstrated some of the problems associated with this type of work. From problems in the community, to issues with the organization, to the question of sustainability of these projects, I now have a new perspective about what it really means to be a global citizen.

Kritika Seth '13

India, Mumbai

Major: International Relations; Russian

Sponsor: Sonja Darlington

**Smiles on the Inside - Working With the
Refugees in Ladakh, the Indo-Tibetan
Border**

17th May, 2010! My flight to Ladakh had been scheduled at 5:40am but ended up departing at 8:00am. “What a great start,” I thought to myself, and then I wondered what the next 30 days would bring. Students’ Educational and Cultural Movement in Ladakh (SECMOL) was the place where I had my soul stirring experience. I knew for a fact that I was going there to make people smile—those who don’t know who their parents are, those who don’t know what a mobile phone is, and those who don’t know what a dollar looks like. Until I met the people in Ladakh, I thought I had a lot of knowledge and skills to share with others. But I was wrong. I went there with the intention to give but instead got a lot more in return.

My daily conversations with people there were about how many cows they had owned and what kind of crops were grown on their fields when they lived in Tibet/Pakistan/ China. I worked with 23 Tibetan refugees, two people who came to the camp from the Indo-Chinese border, 15 Pakistani refugees and 24 Ladakhi villagers. During the process of encouraging them to talk in English, they often told me how their childhood was spent hearing gun shots instead of lullabies and looking at fighter planes instead of dreaming to reach the sky. There were not a lot of things that I felt I could do to help them, but what I hope I achieved in giving them was happiness—hopefully something they will always remember, as I know I will never forget my experience with them. As His Holiness Dalai Lama says, “the purpose of our life is to be happy.”

Kaitlin Stainbrook '11

Racine, Wisconsin

Major: Japanese, Creative Writing

Minor: Journalism

Sponsor: Scott Lineberger

***Kisha Clubs, Slander and Lies:
Freedom of the Press in Japan***

In 2001, Yasuo Tanaka, the mayor of Nagano Prefecture, declared that reporter *kisha* clubs would be abolished from Nagano's prefectural offices and a center established where anyone could come and see for themselves what was going on in their local government. However, banning *kisha* clubs tends to be the exception to the rule.

Kisha clubs, organized groups of journalists from various magazines with close ties to the government, are just one aspect of Japan's sometimes topsy-turvy publishing world where news shows are required to give the same amount of coverage to all political parties, yet a person can be sued for libel even if what she's published is true. Although Japan is a developed and democratic country, Japan's journalistic activity and defamation law is drastically different than in any other developed country.

As a Japanese major/journalism minor, I've become very interested in seeing what happens when the two disciplines meet. In my presentation, I will be discussing *kisha* clubs, the differences in defamation law between the United States and Japan, and where journalism and news media in Japan might be headed.

Kendall Stauffacher '11

Beloit, Wisconsin

Major: Cellular, Molecular, and Integrative Biology

Sponsor: John Jungck

**Healthcare versus Wealthcare: A Contrast
of Danish and American Medical Practices**

Healthcare within the United States and the services that are offered to citizens has been a topic of great interest. There is great concern with insurance and the coverage available for each person. Depending on the coverage given, each person will be held responsible for paying for a different amount of his or her care. Lately there has been much discussion as to how to improve this system and possible changes that can be made in order to be able to better serve the most number of people.

One country that has served as a model for a different kind of healthcare system has been Denmark with its welfare state. The Danish healthcare system is very different from that of the United States; within this system

every person receives coverage for the services they receive within the healthcare system. This system is able to function because every person that is part of it is responsible to put money in to it and then they can in turn take money out of it to receive services.

This symposium is meant to compare the Danish healthcare system to that of the system within the United States. Particularly, there will be a focus on an explanation of the Danish welfare state and how the healthcare system is governed.

Aria Walsh-Felz '11

Madison, Wisconsin

Major: Anthropology; Ecology, Evolution, and Behavioral Biology

Sponsor: Ken Yasukawa

**Freezin' For a Reason:
Amigos de las Americas in Ecuador**

Ecuador is a small country, approximately the size of Nevada, and is famous for its animal, plant, cultural and climatic diversity. It is also a place where American, Dominican, and Ecuadorian youth had the opportunity to work together, participating in a program called *Amigos de las Américas* (AMIGOS). AMIGOS is a nonprofit organization that focuses on youth empowerment through leadership, sustainable community development activities, and intercultural understanding throughout the Americas. Volunteers are responsible for planning and carrying out summer-camps side-by-side with Latin American youth; they also help facilitate a sustainable community-based, community-driven project.

As a former AMIGOS volunteer I was able to participate as a Project Supervisor this past summer, which meant that I was in charge of the emotional and physical health of seven volunteers in three communities as well as establishing positive personal, professional, and working relationships within our working area (Cotopaxi) and in my host communities. The personal growth in my volunteers and the community youth, and my own growth, were incredible. I began the summer nervous that the volunteers for whom I was responsible would not have the courage or the strength to stay in their mountain communities due to intense wind and cold, intimidating language gaps, and homesickness; by the end of the summer they were sad to leave the country because they had forged such wonderful friendships in their communities. I will try to convey the value and amazing experience of living and working in Ecuador as part of the AMIGOS team. If you are interested in international service opportunities this is the perfect symposium to attend!

Anna Wolf '11

Silver Spring, Maryland

Major: International Relations; Spanish

Sponsor: Elizabeth Brewer

The Limitations and Possibilities of Making Sustainable Impacts through Volunteerism in Rajasthan, India

According to India's Ministry of Statistics, there were 3.3 million active non-governmental organizations (NGOs) operating in India in 2009, which is one for every 400 people. Not only have NGOs been proliferating, but volunteering abroad with NGOs has become an increasingly popular trend among U.S. college students seeking to "make a difference" in less-developed countries. The conventional wisdom is that charitable service is beneficial for everyone involved. However, based on personal research and travel to India, I have found that not all NGOs are created equal, and that good intentions do not always translate into positive outcomes for those who are "served." Thus, it is critical that students interested in volunteerism understand the function, structure and impacts of the NGOs they support, in order to make the best decisions about where and in what ways to contribute their time, energy and resources.

To illustrate this argument, I will use examples from three NGOs that I worked with during the summer of 2010 in Rajasthan, India. The first is a grassroots-based advocacy network called Pahal, which promotes environmental awareness through bicycle rallies. I will then focus on Seva Mandir, a regional NGO that works with village institutions to increase rural livelihood opportunities. Finally, I will discuss Rotary International, a philanthropic club that strives to alleviate poverty worldwide. A comparison between these local, regional and international NGOs will shed light upon the benefits and setbacks associated with their different outreach methods and internal governance structures. It will also provide students with an understanding of the limitations and possibilities of making a positive, sustainable impact through volunteerism.

Kate Wolf '13

Portage, Wisconsin

Major: Ecology, Evolution, and Behavioral Biology

Sponsor: Ken Yasukawa

Where Cranes Dance and Children Laugh: Crane Ecology and International Relations in Eastern Russia

In an ever-shrinking world, environmentalists will begin to face serious ethical and politic dilemmas while seeking to preserve the unique and pristine habitats depended upon by wide-ranging species. One such ecosystem, Muraviovka Park in far-eastern Russia, supports beautiful and breath-taking cranes, which follow international migration routes and rely on resources that span the East-Asian continent. I will explore the efforts of world-renowned ornithologist Dr. Sergei Smirenski and his dedicated staff to preserve the unique wetland and to educate the people who live near and depend upon the park in the Amur Region of Russia. I will also talk about the successful annual youth summer camps at Muraviovka Park, which have served to connect Russian students with scientists and professional environmentalists around the world working to save our wild places.

Oliver Wyckoff '12

Seattle, Washington

Major: Political Science

Sponsor: Rachel Ellett

Human Rights and Development in Rwanda

Over the winter of 2009/2010, I traveled to Rwanda to participate in the Global Youth Connect (GYC) Winter 2010 Delegation. While in Rwanda, the delegation held a human rights workshop, visited prominent genocide memorials, met with key officials from the US and Rwanda Governments, attended a Gacaca trial, traveled to Kibuye to work with local NGOs, and held an Alumni event with members of the press. I also volunteered with 5 other delegates for the Center for Information and Social Mobilization (CIMS), a local Rwandan NGO focused on land reform and development. This presentation will reflect on my experiences in Rwanda as they relate to Rwandan politics, human rights, and development.

Andrew Yarbrough '11

Middlebury, Vermont

Major: Russian

Minor: Political Science

Sponsor: Donna Oliver

**Victory Park: The Challenge of
Memory in Post-Soviet Russia**

Few wars have affected a country as much as World War II affected the Soviet Union, where it came to be known as the Great Patriotic War. With more than twenty million people dead over the course of four years, along with countless wounded and otherwise affected individuals, the scale of devastation was unprecedented. The challenge of later generations became how to both effectively memorialize the tragedies and celebrate the final victory. Victory Park in Moscow is one such area that seeks to encompass the various high and low points of the war from a Russian perspective. The Park is massive, comprised not only of monuments, statues, museums, and religious buildings, but also restaurants and other service establishments for visitors. This variety in the park's environs, however, has led to a distortion in people's reactions to and usage of the Park. During my semester in Moscow last fall I studied Victory Park for my final project in my "Moscow in Transition" class. The question I sought to answer was whether it was successful in its original role as a memorial, despite the presence of food stalls and the general irreverence of the people visiting the park. In my study I examined both the people who went there and how they reacted to the monuments. I also collected an assortment of pictures of the monuments themselves and how they relate to the park's function, and I examined whether they are successful in their role as commemorative icons of victory and loss.

Kun Zhang '13

Jiaxing Zhejiang, China

Major: Mathematics; International Relations

Sponsor: Daniel Youd

**Mounting Change: The Survival of the
Traditional Art of Calligraphic Mounting in
China's Modern Society**

My interest for this project stems from my own fifteen-year study of Chinese calligraphy. The art of mounting calligraphy and traditional ink-wash painting is an important part of Chinese culture. Nevertheless, practitioners of this ancient art are becoming fewer and fewer; it now faces an uncertain future.

After spending 6 weeks in a local mount workshop and talking with both customers and workers, I learned and practiced some basic mounting techniques. At the same time, I realized that this traditional art form's struggle to survive is related to the growing distance between it and modern Chinese daily life, which has become strongly impacted by changes in the Chinese economy and influences from the West.

My presentation will focus on the mounting technique and the relationship of this traditional art to the fast changing modern Chinese society. Also I will show videos, photos and two pieces of my calligraphy that I have mounted.