



Join us in D.C. on Sunday, December 7th!

This coming Sunday, December 7th, from 5:00 - 7:00PM, IAFS is hosting an alumni lecture event, "**The New Congress and the Final Two Years of Obama's Foreign Policy**," led by Ken Bickers, CU-Boulder Professor and the Director of CU in DC Internship Program. [RSVP TODAY!](#)



Message from the Director

The end of the year is a time for reflection, and especially for us to thank our many supporters in the international affairs worldwide community. We hope you are among them - helping our students at CU-Boulder and abroad who depend on your generosity to study, learn, and develop as global citizens. Won't you take advantage of the holiday season to be part of our program? Please donate, and know that not only are you making an impact in the lives and careers of our students, but you are boosting global understanding as well!

Tom Zeiler
Director, IAFS



Alumni Spotlight: Seeing the World (and Shredding Paper)



When Lord Walker graduated from CU-Boulder in 2009, he was eager to find a career in international affairs. A former engineering student who was drawn to global events, he knew he needed a place to start. Walker found his chance with a temporary ten-day job at the World Bank.

The job wasn't what he had initially planned: he was tasked with shredding confidential documents for the World Bank. Even so, Walker showed up in a suit every day, determined to make his mark. He says, "I wanted them to know I took the opportunity seriously and I would be there regardless of the task. I must have been good at it, because when the ten days were up, they asked me to shred more paper and assist with other general duties."

His World Bank shredding skills opened doors in other departments, and eventually landed him a one-year position working with the Latin America and Caribbean Region as an Extended Term Temporary Operations Assistant. Currently, he is responsible for international sales and serves as Global Loadout Sales Manager at Kanawha Scales & Systems, Inc. in West Virginia.

[Read more about Walker's path to a career in international affairs](#)

IAFS Alum Events

Washington, DC - December 7, 2014
New York, NY - January 3, 2015
Boulder, CO - April 2015

Be connected and join our [IAFS Alumni LinkedIn Group](#).

Community Notes

Congratulations to **Professor Robert McNow**, CU-Boulder Professor of Economics and former Director of the International Affairs Program, on being awarded the Office of International Education's Campus Global Citizen of the Year 2014 award.

Living and Learning Alongside the Mapuche People

In spring 2014, IAFS senior Elizabeth Vickstrom studied abroad in Valparaiso, Chile, helped by a Global Grant scholarship funded by the International Affairs Advisory Board and donors like you. As part of the SIT Chile: Cultural Identity, Social Justice, and Community Development program, Vickstrom lived with the indigenous Mapuche community in the Chilean countryside village of Chapod. During those two weeks, she was exposed to the culture of the Mapuche people in the thriving South American country.



Staying with a family was a central part of her experience during her two week stay in Chapod--her host family shyly said that she was the first foreign person they had ever met. "The village harvested all their own food and ate together as a community every night a large hut, also known as a ruka,"

Vickstrom explains. She adds, "This [Mapuche] style was different from what I observed with urban Chileans, who typically eat in their own homes or at restaurants, with food bought from stores." Vickstrom embraced the differences of her Mapuche host family and lifestyle compared to her urban Chilean host family and daily life. There was daily work on the farms; potable water was delivered to the community every three weeks; and the people came together most nights to drink tea in the ruka.

[Read more about Vickstrom's experience in a traditional Mapuche community](#)

Abroad in Israel and the West Bank: Global Seminar on Justice, Democracy, and Human Rights



Last summer, Lauren Elder (IAFS '15) stepped off a plane in Jerusalem, determined to make the most of her Global Grant scholarship. She had jumped at the opportunity to join the global seminar offered by the Program in Jewish Studies and International Affairs at CU-Boulder, "Justice, Democracy, and Human Rights in Israel and the West Bank."

As an International Affairs major with a geographic concentration in the Middle East, this program gave her a unique opportunity to see the daily reality of current Middle East issues she had been studying. During the five week seminar, Elder spent two weeks interning in Tel Aviv at Kav LaOved, a non-profit organization which serves to protect the rights of disadvantaged workers in Israel. "It was an incredible, intense, and perspective-altering experience," explains Elder. She adds, "I spoke with many activists who work for rights of Palestinians, religious pluralism, LGBTQ, environmental conservation, worker's rights, refugee rights, and peace between Israelis and Palestinians."

[Read more about Elder's visit to Israel and the West Bank](#)