



International Affairs Program

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

Alumni Newsletter, Vol. 4 No. 2

May 2016

Reconnecting and Reminiscing at the IAFS Spring Welcome Reception



On April 6, we hosted our second annual International Affairs Spring Welcome Reception, held at CU-Boulder's historic Koenig Alumni Center. Our featured speaker, counterterrorism expert Mark Fallon, shared experiences of his time as a senior executive from the Department of Homeland Security, and as a special agent with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS). Alums and enthusiastic community members had the chance to connect and talk about international interests, current affairs, and share personal stories. Held during the Conference on World Affairs week,

there were numerous reunions of people coming together to reminisce of former days after many years. Thank you to everyone who joined us!

Congratulations to the IAFS Class of 2016!



On May 6th, the Glenn Miller Ballroom was buzzing with excitement as 165 students prepared to walk across the stage and receive their diplomas. Student speaker Jason Hofmann urged his peers to contribute their ideas, values and perspectives to the world by challenging the norm. Families, faculty, and staff celebrated the achievements of the graduating class. For Aldwin Yusgiantoro, this was also a rare opportunity to have his grandmother visit the United States from Indonesia, but the visa process was proving harder than he hoped.

[Read more about Yusgiantoro's family journey to celebrate at the IAFS graduation ceremony](#)

Become Involved

To donate to our IAFS Global Grants program, which makes possible the study abroad experiences of our students, please click here:



When you donate, please add the following to the Comments box during check-out: *Global Grants Fund #0125429*

To donate to the IAFS Gift Fund, please click here:



Community Notes

The United Nations Association of Boulder County welcomes the public to its upcoming event on June 30th: [Climate Change, Environment and Boulder](#)

Take part in a variety of exciting summer events available as part of the [One Action 2016: Arts + Immigration Project](#)

The graduating class awarded the International Affairs Distinguished Teaching Award to [Dr. Benjamin Teitelbaum](#)

Stay Connected

Be part of the IAFS LinkedIn group



Alum Spotlight: Global Economics and the Wizard of Oz



When Charlie Neiman ('09) graduated from CU-Boulder, he didn't predict that he'd soon be the Director of Sales for one of the fastest growing learning technology providers in the world. In fact, when he came to the university, he had no idea at all that he'd study International Affairs and become fluent in Spanish.

Neiman took several economic and Spanish classes at CU-Boulder. On the advice of his advisor, he declared an International Affairs major and immediately connected to his new program. He enjoyed his introductory classes, but wasn't sure what he would do with his degree. Then, during his junior year, Neiman enrolled in a class that would guide him on his future path.

"I took International Economics and Policy, with Prof. Robert McNown, and he related the history of global economics to the Wizard of Oz," explains Neiman, "He discussed how the yellow brick road was symbolism for the Gold Standard Act, and also how the Tin Man represented the industrial revolution."

[Read more about Charlie Neiman and how he ended up in San Francisco, CA](#)

Learning to Understand Egypt: Trading Textbooks for Historic Tours

Erin Neale ('17) was fascinated with her classes about the Middle East, and she knew it was only a matter of time before she studied abroad in the region. After being accepted into the Arabic Language Institute American University in Cairo, Egypt program and receiving a Global Grant from IAFS, Neale embarked on a yearlong program in Egypt. Here are a few excerpts written during her time abroad:

September/November 2015

I have been in Egypt about a week and a half now and I recently started my classes. Currently, I am taking 25 hours of Arabic intensive courses a week. About 80% is learning Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) and the other 20% is the Egyptian Colloquial Dialect (ECA). By communicating with the Egyptian students and living in Egypt, I am furthering my understanding of ECA. Recently, I've been participating in tours of historic Islamic and Coptic areas of Cairo. I visited the Mosque of Sultan Hassan in Cairo. I was fascinated with its large size and being able to feel peaceful and quiet amidst all the people. My first experience entering a mosque was very enjoyable!

February/May 2016

In my classes, I have been learning a lot about Middle Eastern history and the Arab Spring. It is fascinating to be in the Middle East so soon after the Arab Spring. It is one of the most talked about subjects among the students at the university. Recently, I traveled to Lebanon and got to hear the Lebanese dialect of Arabic. This semester, I've also been volunteering as an English tutor at an institution for refugees from Sudan and Ethiopia now living in Cairo. My experiences in Egypt have significantly shaped the way I view the Middle East and the world in general. Studying abroad for a year has also encouraged me to stay in Egypt this summer and continue my Arabic language learning, which I am confident will serve me well in my future career endeavors.

[See more photos of Neale's year abroad in Cairo, Egypt on our website](#)



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