



International Affairs Program

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

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International Affairs Celebrates Class of 2017



IAFS faculty Dr. Ben Montoya, Catharine Helmers, and Victor Vera

On May 12th, the International Affairs Program honored 195 candidates for graduation during commencement in the Glenn Miller Ballroom. Student speaker Catharine Helmers urged her peers to “challenge ignorance” and be “unflinchingly certain” in their abilities to make changes for the better. Director Tom Zeiler encouraged graduates to live in a manner consistent with the values of the program’s motto – be inspired, be involved, be international. After the ceremony, family, friends and faculty mingled at the reception, celebrating the newly minted alums as they end one chapter of their lives and start another. Congratulations graduates, and we invite you to stay connected with the program through alum events and communications!

Thank You For Attending our Spring Reception

On April 13th during the Conference on World Affairs, we hosted our third annual International Affairs Spring Reception at the Koenig Alumni Center in Boulder, CO. Our featured speaker, Darby Parliament, joined us for a special presentation on "Geopolitics, Foreign Policy, and Democratization" and shared experiences from his time working abroad with the U.S. Foreign Service. Guests had a chance to connect and talk about current affairs, international interests, and share personal stories. Thank you to everyone who joined us!



Darby Parliament and IAFS Director Tom Zeiler at the IAFS Spring Reception

Alum Creates Immigration Awareness in Boulder

Manuela Stewart Sifuentes (IAFS '01) didn't know what to expect when she signed up to live in the Smith Hall International Program (SHIP) her first year at CU Boulder. She had a general understanding of university residence halls, but she didn't anticipate the impact it would continue to have sixteen years later. SHIP, the precursor of what is now known as the [Global Studies Residential Academic Program](#), shaped Sifuentes' interests in diversity and current affairs and allowed her to develop a career promoting immigration awareness and community engagement.



*Manuela Stewart Sifuentes,
IAFS '01*

Today, Sifuentes is the Director of Community Partnerships with [CU Engage](#), which allows her to create connections between academics and those working on complex public issues. CU Engage is the University of Colorado Boulder's Center for Community-Based Learning and Research, which develops and sustains equity-oriented partnerships, organizing opportunities for students to learn alongside community members, and supporting faculty and students to implement ethical and rigorous engaged research. She sees the role of a state university as both providing education opportunities and leveraging its knowledge and resources to improve the community. "I've always been attracted to the idea of bridging communities," shares Sifuentes.

Previously, she was the Project Director for [One Action 2016: Arts + Immigration Project](#), an arts-based, countywide project that fosters conversations on both historic and contemporary issues of immigration. This opportunity gave Sifuentes a chance to use the arts to engage and inform Boulder county residents on historic and contemporary issues of immigration, with the intent to foster a more informed and inclusive community.

Her recent work, along with a grant writing and language translation background, has refined her views on the central importance of diverse, community engagement. Sifuentes believes in working *with* communities to embrace and honor the knowledge and resources unique to each community. "This requires listening to understand, not just listening to respond, and being patient and flexible while the relationship builds," explains Sifuentes. Building relationships is a pivotal lesson learned directly from being in SHIP, as it allowed her build connections with people of different interests and backgrounds.

Become Involved

Be a part of our Global Grants endowment! The Global Grants support students as they study abroad and experience the world. Help International Affairs continue to grow our endowment by giving today. Please add the following to the Comments box during check-out: *Global Grants Endowment Fund #0151296*

Donate

Contributions to our IAFS general gift fund are used for a variety of special projects and student programming, including speaker events, graduation ceremonies, and student awards. To donate to the IAFS Gift Fund, please [click here](#):

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Community Notes

Congratulations to Cristina Steif (IAFS '15), for receiving the [Alpha of Colorado chapter of Phi Beta Kappa Crisp Fellowship](#) in support of her graduate studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

We would like to recognize [Professor Emeritus Jerry Peterson](#) for his appointment as Chair-Elect of the Forum on International Physics as part of the American Physical Society.

Stephanie and Sarah Meyers (IAFS '17) recently [launched the Meyers Family Foundation Scholarship Fund](#) to support incoming students with financial need.

IAFS Student Cherishes the Comforts of Home in India



Kayla Malcy, IAFS '18

Kayla Malcy (IAFS '18) knew she was going to live with a host family as part of her spring 2017 semester abroad experience, but wasn't sure what to anticipate. After being accepted to the SIT India: Sustainable Development & Social Change program and receiving a [Global Grant](#) from IAFS, Malcy traveled to Jaipur, India to meet the people she would call family for the next three months.

Within her first days in India, she fell in love with her host family: mom, dad, grandmother, brother, sister, and a family dog. Her mother ran a beauty parlor on the roof of their home, and Malcy admired her entrepreneur spirit. She often spent her free time with her host siblings because they shared similar hobbies and were close in age. Having a stand-in family while far away from her own was a big advantage, especially when she wasn't feeling well or needed guidance. Malcy recalls, "As if I were her own, my grandmother knew just what I needed in times I was sick or needed comfort."

In classes, Malcy learned about different issues facing India, ranging from national parks and displacement to the green revolution and migration. During excursions, she learned methods for saving indigenous crops, and gained first-hand experience on how to farm organically and make vermicompost, a rich compost processed by using specific worms to break down organic material. At home, she refined her Hindi language and talked frequently with her family about India's history, the city of Jaipur, and its fascinating culture. "The most important thing I learned is that nothing in India exists separately," explains Malcy. "India is a diverse country and everything is intertwined." She saw this firsthand during her homestay, living in a home with a family spanning three generations. Her relationship with them developed into that of a real family. India has become more than her study abroad destination; it is a place where she has family and will always call home.

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Be inspired. Be involved. Be international.

Be Boulder.



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