



UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS

B.A. IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES PROGRAM

DECEMBER 2008
ISSUE 4

BAIS, INTERNSHIPS and UNO'S ACADEMIC YEAR ABROAD

For years, BAIS students have been earning credits towards their degrees through classroom course work, field work, and a variety of internships available through UNO's Academic Year Abroad (AYA) program at the University of Innsbruck, Austria. Whereas most of the UNO community is well aware of the 6-week Summer School in Innsbruck, AYA is something of an "all too well-kept secret," as one participant in 2007-2008 pointed out. We hope to help change that.

AYA is currently in its eleventh year of active operation. AYA is UNO's first and only fully-structured, fully infra-structured, and fully administered program abroad conducted year-round. AYA participants are matriculated concurrently as UNO and University of Innsbruck students, may attend with or without prior knowledge of German for one or more semesters, and choose from many course options conducted in English and/or German in a variety of disciplines.

Further, the availability of a limited number of standing internships is a unique feature of AYA. Work with refugees and asylum-seekers at the CARITAS Integration House, with the American Corner information clearing house (with internship con-



Joelle Robertson (right) and friends at Integration Haus

firmation certificate from the U.S. Embassy), with a bilingual children's group, for example. Other internship possibilities are available on an individual basis. While these internships are non-paid, they also cost nothing in addition to the AYA fees paid and UNO credit received for the work. For example, Joelle Robertson (AYA 2005-06, 2007-08) conducted an internship for BAIS at the CARITAS Integration House during the Spring/Summer 2008. A few weeks into her work duties, she wrote: "I LOVE the internship!"

Joelle completed an excellent internship paper on the meanings of "integration" (a small part of which is included in this *Newsletter*) and received 6 hours of UNO credit towards her BAIS degree, even as she was earning additional hours in other course work. Applications for Spring/Summer 2009 may be submitted through

December 2008. For more information on UNO'S AYA program in Innsbruck, contact the UNO-Innsbruck Office (ED 115, x7116, e-mail aya@uno.edu) or e-mail AYA director Dr. Margaret Davidson directly at: (margareth.davidson@uibk.ac.at).

**Interested in learning more
about internship
opportunities?**

**Go to our website and
check it out!**

**[http://cola.uno.edu/BAIS/
BAIS_internships.htm](http://cola.uno.edu/BAIS/BAIS_internships.htm)**

IN THIS EDITION:

News From BAIS Students

Internship Opportunities

Notes From The Director

Changes to BAIS website

STRAIGHT FROM THE DIRECTOR

JOHN HAZLETT



The semester has finally come to its conclusion, and by the time you read this, you will probably have finished your finals and term papers and settled into a well earned break. This issue of the *BAIS Newsletter* focuses on internships. Our intent is to get you to start thinking now about the kind of internship you'd like to include in your own program. The three internships highlighted here include one that BAIS student Joelle Robertson ('09) pursued in Innsbruck, Austria; another undertaken by Angel Novelo ('11) at the UN in New York, and a third, student-initiated, internship that allowed Brekk Botne ('08) to pursue a project specifically designed to meet his career interests in non-profit organizations. He did most of his work here in New Orleans, but the internship included possibilities for travel to other countries. We encourage students to be as adventurous as possible and to take advantage of the freedom they have before graduation to explore the world. For those who cannot go to Austria or elsewhere abroad, there are internships with an international orientation here

in the US. Students who have been unable to leave Louisiana have interned locally at the World Affairs Council of New Orleans, the World Trade Center, the Asian-Pacific American Society, the International School of Louisiana, the Hispanic American Business Center, the Honorary Swiss Consulate of New Orleans, the Honduran Consulate of New Orleans, and the French-American Chamber of Commerce. While we are continuously developing local internship possibilities and can give you contacts for your search in the New Orleans area, locating your own internships is also possible.

A few things to remember as you think about internships:

- ◆ International internships are competitive, so make your application as strong as possible. The U.S. state department internship program received over 3800 applications for the summer of 2005. This includes both domestic and overseas internships.
- ◆ Research your possibilities. One of the best ways to research possible internships is by using the internet. Choose what type of internship you would like to

have. Non-profit oriented? Business oriented? International Relations oriented? Find at least five that you think would be interesting and rewarding. Find out when the applications are due, and begin completing them. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE!**

- ◆ If you are Googling for information, key words that you can use are "international development," "nonprofit," "internships," etc. To find out if an organization has an internship program, go to their web site and click on their link to careers. Many organizations list their internship programs.
- ◆ Consider why you want to have an international internship. Is it to **work abroad** or to obtain **career-related work experience**? This will determine where and what type of internships you apply for. Many career-related internships are located in Washington, D.C. or New York, but one can sometimes combine career experience with an overseas location.
- ◆ Write your resume. Almost all internationally-oriented internships require a resume and a statement of purpose. This is great practice for the job search after college.

My Favourite Island

Jeffrey Ahlemeyer, BAIS '10

Jeffrey spent the spring semester of 2008 on UNO's student exchange program with Middlesex University in London, England. This is a report on his experiences there.

The land of St. George, they call it. A land where beer is drunk in pints, where nude "glamour models" are featured freely in newspapers, where "football" involves a ball being played with solely the feet, where "smoking a fag" does not involve any form of bigotry.

It is the home of the picturesque (and slightly overrated) "Big Ben," the Crown Jewels, a river that beats the

Mississippi as the dirtiest and ugliest in the world, and unconventional, anti-tourist driving laws. This is England. This is London.

I have lived here for four and a half months now, and while on the safe side of the channel from the eccentric Italians, Lederhosen-sporting Germans (do I have to mention the French?), I can enjoy the good old-fashioned English culture on my own island (actually pretty much everywhere else as well, more on this later).

Yet London is different from the rest

of England. Don't think Mary Poppins or Oliver Twist; these stereotypical figures of Olde England no longer correspond to the real place.

Think instead of modern London as you would think of modern New Orleans: an innovative, laid back melting pot, a society based on sport, alcohol consumption, good taste, and old-fashioned culture. A relatively lax school schedule (an hour and a half a day, more or less, for four days each week) gave me the opportunity to explore the city at my own pace.

(Continued Page 4)

[Integrations Haus: My Internship](#)

Joelle Robertson (BAIS, '09)

My internship at Caritas Integration House in Innsbruck, Austria helped me understand the problems of foreigners and the challenges of integration by personally exposing me to immigrants living in Austria. One of the main goals of Integration House is to help people who suffer from social alienation integrate into the culture. At Integration Haus, immigrants and Austrians suffering from addiction, sickness, etc. live together and interact.

Integration House residents are also encouraged to interact with the greater Innsbruck and Austrian community by finding employment, enrolling and advancing their children through college preparatory school, and mingling with Austrian locals. Integration House facilitates its goals by means of different social programs. I worked with two of these, one was *Dinnerclub*, a program where people from Integration House, the Innsbruck community, and other parts of the world met to eat and converse. Each week I helped organize the program and serve food to the participants. Doing this allowed me to meet the participants and gain insight into their backgrounds and the challenges they faced in this new country.

Twice a week, I also participated in *Lernhilfe*, a tutoring program for foreign primary and secondary school children on the college track. Through working with Turkish and African children, I realized that my ideas about integration were unclear. These children seemed completely integrated to me. They went to *Gymnasium* (college preparatory

school), used public transport, had friends of many different backgrounds, and spoke German and the Tirolean dialect. Although the Turkish students spoke Turkish, listened to Turkish music, and were proud of their culture, I couldn't see how this love of their home culture hindered their integration in the least. Over time, however, I came to understand that children adjust more easily than adults. I realized this when one of my Turkish students asked me how long I had been learning German. "Two years," I said. "Wow," she replied. "Your German is pretty good. My aunt has been here almost ten years and she can't speak a word." Being in contact with Turkish families, I realized how this could be so. Not only do Turks have tight family bonds, they tend to stay in Turkish communities where they speak their native tongue and feel comfortable while living in a new place.

Through my work with *Dinnerclub*, I was able to become friends with several African immigrants. They were friendly, open and almost always participated in social events. They seemed outwardly happy, but inwardly troubled, because, despite their open and tolerant attitudes, the closed attitudes of many Austrians made it nearly impossible for them to integrate. One Ghanaian man once complained that out of a whole train car of passengers, he alone was asked to present his passport. He told me that he asked the man, "Did you check anyone else's passport? Tell me honestly, are you singling me out because of the color of my skin?" He never told me the man's reply. The same Ghanaian went on to tell me that everywhere he goes he tries

to make friends, though many times they reject his friendliness. "I don't care, though," he said. "Hate me all you want. I will just love you back."

I was able to get to know another man from Cote D'Ivoire who had problems more far reaching than social integration. Because his mother and father were in his home country, he fled Cote D'Ivoire and sought asylum in Austria. The Austrian government refused to grant it, and each day he was in danger of being taken away by the authorities. If anything like that were to happen, there would be hundreds of outraged people pleading his case. He had more friends than anyone I knew, a job delivering newspapers, and was fluent in German. He seemed the perfect example of a person in need of asylum, but also the perfect example of successful integration.

My experiences at Integration Haus opened my eyes to the challenges of integration faced by immigrants in Austria and sparked my curiosity about the reasons for the invisible barriers to social cohesion. Most importantly, I realized what real integration involved. In the words of the director of Innsbruck Integration House, "integration is not assimilation. Too often people get those two concepts mixed up." My experience has led me to conclude that merely fulfilling the conditions dictated by Austrian immigration policy does not bring about successful integration; it can only be brought by openness and flexibility by foreigners and locals alike. Integration is the peaceful and successful coexistence of different people. It does not require that immigrants change their past, religion, or culture, but allows those with differences to live in harmony with one another.

NOTICES:

Washington Internship Institute (WII) summer internships. We invite you to apply for the Capital Experience, Embassy Scholars, and Building Democracy programs. WII students are highly motivated undergraduates, graduate students and recent graduates. Admission decisions are based on applicants' academic records and recommendations. In most cases, WII makes decisions about Capital Experience and

Building Democracy applications within 48 hours of receiving the completed application. For Embassy Scholars, all decisions are made after the regular deadline. Application information can be found here:

<http://www.wiidec.org/admissions-overview.shtml>

Cirque Du Soleil : Saltimbanco
Mississippi Coast Coliseum Biloxi, MS
Wed, 01/14-18/09 7:30 PM

Senior Portfolios! Recent BAIS grads, if you haven't already done so, don't forget to turn in your graduation portfolios! We need 'em to help us improve the program.

My Favourite Island *(cont'd. from page 3)*

The main sights were all a mere underground journey away: a theater musical scene that rivals Broadway, nightclubs, and double-decker buses. All of these were part of living in a global city. Certainly I fell in love with it all. I have sat in the House of Lords in Parliament, posed with the lions in Trafalgar Square, called a friend at 4 in the morning from a red telephone booth, and I can tell countless unforgettable stories of adventures I've had since I arrived. I have seen the breath-taking, world renowned performances of *Les Miz* and *Phantom of the Opera*, and my empty wallet reminds me of my nights spent out on the town. I have lived and breathed the superficial, tangible London. But what ties true Londoners, no matter where they are from, to the city is completely different from the "tourist rubbish" that has occupied my time and attention.

A cozy seat in the local (everyone has his or her own place in the pub), away from the hustle and bustle of the cold, rainy streets, is more welcoming than anything our "big apple" could offer. Local pubs represent England like nothing else. Friends unite after dinnertime to cheer on their "favourite football club on the telly,"

talk about the job, the wife, Gordon Brown, and the "dreadful new Tube laws."

Like other great global cities, London offers glimpses of cultures from all around the world. Denizens of this city hail from everywhere--Sri Lanka, Yemen, Nigeria, Russia, and just about any other country an American can think of.

London's signature dish is no longer fish and chips (or as I call it "greasy goodness") but curry (they take off the "made in India" stickers, just as we usually do.) Studying here introduced me to friends from Norway, Hong Kong, Pakistan, and Qatar. I give you London, a true global city (thank you, European Union). Yes, London has it all. Its long list of venues and sights must be the delight of the people at Frommers. One trips over history at virtually every step; these are the same places that Shakespeare, Dickens, Marx, Churchill, and Mandela walked. What makes London such a fascinating place, a place not only where I study, but also *that* I study. Its relaxed, rhythmic flow of interactions, laissez-faire, and good times, is the product of its people. Their spirit is present everywhere. This London reminds me of a place far away, in a time that now seems so long ago. God, I miss New Orleans.



*Jeffrey in front of Big Ben
London, England*

Interning with Flights for Change

For my BAIS internship, I am working for a charity organization called Flights for Change (FFC), created at the beginning of 2008 by a friend, Bonny Roualet, and her flight attendant co-worker, David Leong.

Bonny got the idea for Flights for Change after going to a charity in Ethiopia with a friend and visiting an orphanage for HIV positive children. While there, she came up with the idea that she and some of her fellow airline employees could make periodic trips to deliver donations to places that have difficulty receiving aid. Together, David and Bonny sought specific donations, which they and some other friends packed and delivered to the orphanage in Ethiopia and another charity in Guatemala. In the spring of 2008, I became aware of what Bonny was doing and told her I would like to assist her. I realized that I could help her organize and legitimize

(in the eyes of the IRS) Flights for Change and also make an internship project out of my contribution. I had recently taken a course at UNO in Urban Planning on financial management of non-profit organizations. Initially, I thought that I could research the various types of forms needed, fill them out, and receive the IRS's 501(c)(3) rather easily. I found various sources of information on the web and applied for the appropriate documentation, but I felt that I needed some professional advice.

After some searching, I discovered the Louisiana Small Business Development Center (LSBDC), a non-profit designed to assist Louisiana small businesses. Its New Orleans offices are located in UNO's Jefferson Center on North Causeway Boulevard. Through the LSBDC, I met Bonnie Canal, a counselor who helped guide my thinking about the organization. During our meeting, she encouraged me to re-

analyze the organization, so as to see it in a broader context. She advised that I anticipate organizational pitfalls, successes, objectives, legalities, and so on and gave me some ideas about how to prepare for such things. After our meeting, I spoke to my airline friends about what I had learned and realized that we were at square one.

I see this internship and the way I've approached this work falling into 3 phases. What I have described above was the first phase, figuring out what we wanted to do. The next phase, I view as gathering information, research, and planning. The final phase, at least for my internship, would be the completion of the business plan/model of operations, organizing future events, preparing our media publications, and filing the necessary paperwork for IRS non-profit status, which includes articles of incorporation, bylaws, and other forms related to establishing a non-profit charity.

(Continued Page 5)

A Letter from Brekk Mazimpaka Botne (BAIS, '08)

Interning with Flights for Change

After my meeting with the LSBDC, my friend Bonny and I got together for a meeting in which we discussed the direction in which she and David wanted the charity to move. We decided that it would be best to work as an intermediary organization serving as a conduit for donations collected by others (many donations for international beneficiaries come from charities here in the US that have difficulty with transportation and logistics) and, based on the requests of our recipients, we would have teams of four people, each with two 50 lb bags of donations, deliver the donated items to their respective locations. Also, our volunteers have collected art from local artists in Guatemala who wish to donate proceeds from their art to one of our partner charities, *Niños de Guatemala*.

The artwork has been taken to Holland to be auctioned off to raise funds for *Niños*.

Bonny and I created an outline of various aspects of operations for **Flights for Change**, including such things as criteria for the NGOs or charities that we partner with, ways to train and screen new volunteers, and methods to ensure that we do not transport anything illegal or potentially damaging to the organization. At present, I am working on the documentation needed for official 501 (c)(3) status for a charity.

In addition to material I found on the internet, I read Anthony Mancuso's *How to Form a Non-Profit Corporation*, which is a step-by-step book on all facets of creating a non-profit charity in any state, except California which has several different requirements. I have also completed a draft of a **Flights for Change** brochure and I fully intend to complete a draft of our business plan as well as the necessary

forms for the IRS. By acquiring 501(c)(3) status, donors will be able to receive tax deductions for their donations as well as deductions for some travel expenses. Also, we will have a well formed plan when we approach Continental Airlines with the intention of forming a partnership.



*Bonny Roualet and Brekk Botne
with Flights for Change*

Internship Journal Excerpts from the United Nations

Angel Novelo (BAIS, '02)

06/26/08: First Day on Job Apprehensive is the adjective to describe how I felt my first day of work at the UN. Although I made all the preparations for my internship, I was nervous and unsure about what to expect. The train ride from my apartment to Grand Central Station was forty-five minutes of mental turmoil. What would the first day be like? I wanted to be received with open arms and bright smiles, which is fortunately exactly what happened. The first person I met was Janine Coye-Felson, Deputy Permanent Representative of Belize to the United Nations. She greeted me warmly and introduced me to the UN website, Handbook, *inter alia* (daily UN journal), ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council) documents, and SALW (Small Arms & Light Weapons) document. I did not have a UN ID card, so I spent my first day three blocks from the UN, doing desk work.

07/01/08 Small Arms/Light Weaponry I had one meeting, called by the Barbados Mission, concerning the Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) working document. I was excited, since I knew I would be meeting with four other missions, Guyana, Jamaica, Bahamas, and my own from

Belize. Mr. Mohammed Deji, the chair, told me he was not expecting many people to attend due to staff shortages at the missions. Delegates, representatives, interns, and ambassadors must select and focus their resources on the most relevant issues to their nations.

This was my first major lesson; my second was that the UN is not as perfect as it appears on television. I was shocked at the behavior and manners of some ambassadors. I saw a very different form of diplomacy in action from what I expected.

07/02/08: Day of Meetings Things are really going well for me. My boss assigned me to attend three meetings. At 9:30 am. I walked over to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Chambers. After the ECOSOC session ended at 1 pm, I had a quick lunch and then went to another meeting with the Third Biennial Meeting of States (BMS-3) on Small Arms and Light Weaponry (SALW). I was surprised by the amount of information that is available on how to monitor and stop illicit trade in arms. My last meeting today was devoted to a discussion of what countries are doing to conserve the environment and find alternative fuel.

07/03/08: Duties as Elections Officer This morning, I was asked to meet with a CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination

of Discrimination against Women) candidate from Afghanistan. Before the meeting, I was joking that Afghanistan and women's rights were oxymoronic, but after meeting the candidate, I quickly realized that the nation has made significant progress. She convinced me she would make a good candidate for the position. Shortly afterwards, I met with a candidate from China who has been on this committee since 1997 and knew what needs to be fixed. In fact, she drafted the Beijing Platform for Action in relation to CEDAW. She had an impressive CV and convinced me she would continue to make great efforts on behalf of women's rights.

07/09/08: Climate Change Yesterday and today I have been dealing with climate change issues. I listened to a well organized presentation on the various effects of climate change and attended a seminar hosted by the bilateral relationship between Malta and Switzerland on Climate Change Diplomacy. I was grateful for the information though it meant I had to miss a luncheon organized by The Netherlands on Victims Rights and Defence Rights. At the seminar, I also met other interns, exchanging contact information.

(continued on page 6)

Internship Journal Excerpts from the United Nations *(contd. from page 5)*

07/10/08: Election's Officer/Diplomat

Today, my boss invited me to a meeting with the Central American System for Integration (CICA). The meeting was attended by all regional ambassadors to discuss issues that affect the area. In Central America, becoming the ambassador to the UN is the pinnacle of a diplomatic career. I was working beside people who had direct phone lines to their presidents. They looked every bit the statespersons they were: the women looked like they had just stepped out of a telenovela (Latin American soap opera), and the men looked like presidents. Beyond looks, what they said was also impressive. These people clearly wanted to see real change. They declared that less talking and more action was needed (I was later told they say that at every meeting).

Later in the day, I met with the Malaysian CEDAW candidate for lunch and a discussion entitled "Strengthening the Implementation of the CEDAW convention." Afterwards, I met with the Malaysian elections officer who told me that the UN was "all talk and no walk."

I was feeling this might be true, but did not want to believe it because I had long dreamed of working for the UN, the one organization I was convinced could

bring change. Today I got the impression the Security Council's permanent members control everything. If they cannot agree, nothing comes of proposals from other members. I met with the French CEDAW candidate and saw her impressive CV. She told me what she will propose if elected to the committee. She has been active in Europe, Africa, and Asia and plans to move to Latin America to see more programs started. After the meeting I headed back to the office to eat Godiva chocolate, a gift from the Taiwan delegation.

07/14/08: Job Offers/"Working" a Diplomatic Reception

Today, my boss asked if I could stay beyond my internship to help out when the General Assembly meets with heads of states in September/October. I attended a reception in honor of the new chair of the BMS-3 committee—yet another opportunity to meet people after hours. Luckily, attending these receptions still counts as work! One must walk around greeting ambassadors as "Your Excellency," shaking hands and smiling. What I enjoyed most this evening was my crash course on guerrilla diplomacy. The Dominican diplomat told me the best people to befriend at receptions are security guards, waiters, and bartenders. The security guards ensure

that you have a parking spot and that you can find the nearest fire escape. The waiters make sure you get plenty of good food. The bartenders ensure your drink is always made to your liking and that you do not have to stand in line.

After you make the acquaintance of these important people, then you befriend the ambassador. Who knows? The ambassador's security guard might put in a good word for you. That is how the man from Dominica met Secretary General Ban Ki Moon. Humility was the lesson of the day. We may be wined and dined, but we should never forget our manners.



Angel Novelo at the United Nations



EDITOR: CYNTHIA HUNTER SUMMERLIN
Phone: 504-280-1283
E-mail: chunters@uno.edu

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
JOHN HAZLETT, DIRECTOR
BAIS E-MAIL: jhazlett@uno.edu
TEL: 280-1136