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National Student Exchange

Jahi Mackey, BAIS 2015

Study abroad allows college students to obtain a better understanding of their world. It shows them more than the mere differences between nationalities and languages. Because of study abroad and exchange programs, American students can travel across the planet and study at other universities in other countries, facing the same challenges and triumphs that international students face in our American institutions. Study abroad also creates a sense of community among people, allowing students from different cultures to unite with each other, to start new friendships, and to discover new worlds. Unfortunately, the program costs may prove problematic for students who don't belong to the middle or upper socioeconomic classes. In addition, the thought of being thou-

sands of miles away from home, even if it is just for a summer, can be intimidating to young people who have never left their country.

I'd like to suggest an affordable and psychologically less threatening alternative for students in those situations. We undervalue the multiculturalism of America's fifty states and their neighboring Canadian provinces by neglecting our domestic exchange programs. While traveling abroad is something we should all experience, any opportunity we have to enhance our cultural fluency should be embraced. Students with shallow pockets and a desire to diversify their cultural experience can enroll in the National Student Exchange (NSE) program. For students who may not travel often, this program is a practical introduction to being away from home and experiencing a

new environment. Students who participate in the program can choose any NSE-affiliated school in the United States, Puerto Rico, and Canada. A list of these schools can be found on the NSE website (NSE.org). International studies majors wanting to take a first step towards being a global citizen can travel to cosmopolitan cities like New York, Montreal, or Los Angeles--and experience a new university environment for a semester or full academic year. You will experience the same challenges that students face abroad, considering that many NSE affiliated universities are culturally diverse within themselves, and the cultures of many of the cities in which they are located are quite different from the culture of New Orleans.

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National Student Exchange



Jahi Mackey, receiving the Student Leadership Recognition Award

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The opportunity to participate in the National Student Exchange came my way in the spring of 2013, and I wanted to seize it immediately. For someone who had traveled abroad, but who had never studied away from Louisiana, the risk that I was taking was a great one. With only a year of college under my belt, traveling to Towson University required that I give up a lot. While the culture shock I experienced in Maryland made me uncomfortable, I learned to balance my personal identity and a new environment to become a better person. I was able to get involved on campus, participating in various organizations. Ulti-

mately, I was one of fifty participants selected to participate in the Retreat for Social Justice, where I was able to learn from others how to address social inequality and injustice. In addition, I was able to share my experience and life story with students from all over the Northeast region—and to the Ambassador of Panama to the United States, Mario Jaramillo, who I discovered was an LSU alum with a strong love of my state and the Big Easy.

One of the greatest tragedies we can commit is embracing the narrow idea that one can become culturally fluent in only one way—through study abroad. I plan on studying abroad in France this summer, but if I hadn't gone to the Eastern seaboard on the NSE, I would not have

been able to develop the skills to deal with culture shock and insecurity, nor would I have felt empowered to take chances and challenge myself. The memories created and relationships cultivated in Maryland were just as character shaping as the relationships I developed while traveling abroad prior to my college career. All International Studies majors should dare to be different and reach beyond the norm, for one can learn the same lessons in cultural competency on this side of the pond as one can learn by crossing it.

Students who are interested in the National Student Exchange should contact the UNO campus representative, Dan Harper in the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies, at email address dhharpe1@uno.edu.

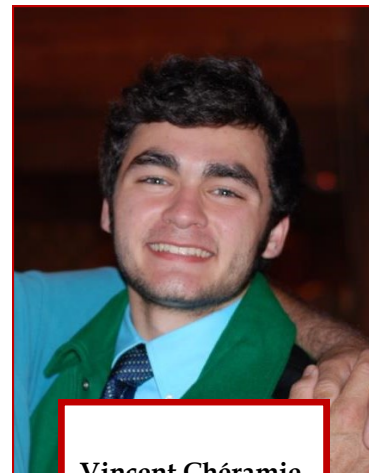
Dr. Huelshoff's POLI 2700: Introduction to World Politics

Vincent Chéramie, BAIS 2017

If you are developing an interest in world politics, be sure to sign up for Introduction to World Politics (POLI 2700). The course poses many intriguing questions on the function of our bureaucratic society and offers a vast array of overlaying explanations. All in good spirit, Dr. Huelshoff understands that not everyone has the natural knack pronouncing his German last name so he prefers to go by his

first name, Michael. The man is a quality professor in his own right and shows great character while he is lecturing. His course covers the entire gamut of global political institutions and how each one interacts with the others. We also look back at history to recognize the significant political landmarks that redefined diplomacy and bureaucracy in their time and that still deeply affect our modern

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Vincent Chéramie

Dr. Huelshoff's POLI 2700: Introduction to World Politics

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times. The class is a little heavy on the note taking but I can assure you that all of the information you write down is beneficial. The class is comprised of only two tests, a mid-term, and a final. It's an entry level class so students in any major can take it. On Fridays, we discuss various topics related to current international events. It's my favorite part of the class because we get to cover so many important top-

ics and thoroughly discuss them in class. Beginning early in the semester, we then pick topics based on those discussions and write a monthly opinion paper. Because the class size is about 30 students, lots of interesting personal opinions and beliefs are passed around and you really get to be able to build on your own knowledge of the world around us.



**Dr. Michael
Huelshoff**

Jessica Markstrom's POLI 2900: Political Science Research Methods



**Amanda in New York at the
2014 Model United Nations
Conference**

Amanda Mancilla, BAIS 2016

This course introduces students to the methods used to conduct empirical research in political science, or, as Professor Markstrom puts it: it

teaches students how to do the "science" part of "political science." In this class, a student learns how to use scientific methods to investigate topics in the political realm, both domestically and internationally. Mathematics (Statistics) is involved when conducting this research, but don't fret! We only employ basic math to verify the quality of our research. Students in the class work in the computer lab with STAT, a software program that allows one to gather statistical data and create graphs. All BAIS majors pursuing one of the eight BAIS concentrations have to take at least one methods course in a social science. It can be either SOC 2708, or POLI 2900, or GEOG 2801. International Business Track

students take BA 2780 (Software Applications for Business) instead of a social science methods course. Before students can take POLI 2900, they have to take at least one 2000-level Political Science course. However, since all BAIS students have to take either POLI 2600 (Comparative Government) or POLI 2700 (World Politics), this is not a real issue.

Students who come out of POLI 2900 are able to understand how statistics work in political research because Professor Markstrom is a very dedicated teacher who wants her students to succeed and understand the material.

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Jessica Markstrom's POLI 2900: Political Science Research Methods

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She even prefers that her students call her by her first name. She starts the course with lectures, and she assigns readings from the required textbook. Additional assignments come from the course workbook. She goes through the material in a way that allows students to grasp the concepts. The only exam given is the final research paper that students work on gradually over the course of the semester. The material is difficult at times, but she is always helpful and ready to answer questions and give examples that help the students understand.

The class has an enrollment cap of 30, so students are comfortable asking questions and they can get individual help. Jessica was also glad to meet with me during her office hours for extra help. I highly recommend her as a professor because although she may give challenging work, she is great at motivating one to be a better student. She has truly increased my professional skills in writing and speaking for my future career. Her office is located in the Milneburg Hall 243 and her e-mail is:

jlgibso2@uno.edu if you have any further questions about the course or any of the other courses she teaches.



Get involved with BAIS

- ◇ Get advised for Spring/Summer Semesters: Email jhazlett@uno.edu
- ◇ Join Phi Beta Delta Honors Society: pbd@uno.edu
- ◇ Receive BAIS email: listserv: jhazlett@uno.edu
- ◇ Contribute to BAIS Facebook and Blog: jhazlett@uno.edu
- ◇ Start looking for an internship: jhazlett@uno.edu
- ◇ Join the World Affairs Council of New Orleans (WACNO): director@wacno.org
- ◇ Join international organizations on campus: sil@uno.edu
- ◇ Start planning for Study Abroad: isep@uno.edu
- ◇ Join the Model United Nations Club: adahal@uno.edu
- ◇ Join the UNO International Studies Association: fjuelle@uno.edu

A Word From the Director: Dr. John Hazlett



*Janet Dupuy Colley
Professor of Inter-
national Studies
Director, BAIS
Professor, English
Dept.
PhD, U of Iowa, '84*

This *Newsletter*, edited by BAIS grad Mary Grace Bernard (2014), showcases two of the outstanding faculty in the BAIS Program. Dr. Michael Huelshoff and Ms Jessica Markstrom, members of the Political Science Department, are leaving an indelible imprint on the minds of students seeking to understand the complex dynamics that govern international relations. They are but two of the many dedicated faculty members in various departments who contribute to the success of our interdisciplinary program. In addition to faculty, Mary Grace wanted

to highlight two programs that students have found to be particularly valuable in their undergraduate experience: The Model United Nations (MUN) and the National Student Exchange (NSE). The first UNO MUN group in recent memory was established in 2009 by BAIS graduates Gioel Gioacchino (2010) and Jason Shah (2012). For the past five years, the BAIS program has worked hard to ensure the success of the MUN Club and IS 3060, the course that prepares students to compete in the National Model UN Conference in

New York. UNO MUN has won the highest awards available at the conference for each of the past four years, and we are looking forward to another intense and rewarding year ahead. The NSE is one of the great sleeper programs available to UNO students. Jahi Mackey (2015) took advantage of it to spend a semester at Towson University, an experience he aptly describes as comparable to study abroad. We hope his experience may inspire other students to follow suit at one of the many NSE institutions in the US, Canada, and Puerto Rico.

Jennifer Dumas' Issues in Conflict & Diplomacy

Dawn Williams, BAIS 2014

POLI 4885: Issues in Conflict and Diplomacy is a Political Science course offered at the University of New Orleans and taught by Instructor Jennifer Dumas. This class is by far the most interesting course that I have ever had the pleasure of taking at UNO. It's not an easy course. If you are looking for easy, this is not the course for you. However, if you are looking for a course where you practice many of the skills that you have been developing as a BAIS major, this class is perfect! There is a lot of reading for this class, but

in the end it all pays off! Toward the end of the course, students in the class form into delegations that represent specific countries during World War I. Each delegation's responsibility is to defend its country's actions at a mock post-war conference. For a few days in this class you are among the most powerful people in the world. In no other class have I had the opportunity to take what I have learned and actually apply it in such an active way. Most teachers assign you a paper and you rehash everything they have taught you over the course of a se-

mester in four or five pages. Instructor Dumas takes this course to another level with the class debate and negotiations. Her style is engaging and challenging; I only wish more classes included this kind of active role playing.

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Dawn Williams

Issues in Conflict and Diplomacy

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When asked about the course, Ms Dumas said: "Issues in Conflict and Diplomacy was one of the most fun and enlightening classes I have had the privilege to teach so far as an instructor in Political Science at UNO. Although the material itself is very interesting and students usually come ready to engage in lively discussions in such a class, I wanted to make the course interactive in a way that students may not have experienced before. That's why I settled on holding a class debate wherein students would argue the causes of World War I

from the perspectives of the major actors in the conflict as teams assigned to participating countries at a post-war peace conference. I was very happy with the creativity and effort that I saw on the part of the students, and I feel that they gained a better understanding of teamwork as well as the difficulties of determining root causes of conflict and navigating the complexities of diplomacy. In all, it was a very enjoyable and rewarding class, and I hope to teach it again soon!"

Ms Dumas' office is located in Milneburg Hall 231 and her e-mail is:

jldumas1@uno.edu if you have any questions about the course or other courses she teaches.



Are you looking for an internship?

Here is a list of internships other BAIS students have undertaken:

- ⇒ French American Chamber of Commerce, NOLA
- ⇒ Hispanic American Chamber of Commerce, NOLA
- ⇒ World Trade Center, NOLA
- ⇒ Sierra Tarahumara Foundation, Mexico

- ⇒ Woodrow Wilson Foundation for International Scholars, Washington, DC
- ⇒ World Affairs Council, NOLA
- ⇒ The U.S. State Department, Washington, DC
- ⇒ The Washington Center's DC to London Internship
- ⇒ Devonia Plantation, Honduras
- ⇒ Coaxum Enterprises, Inc. NOLA
- ⇒ Botanical Gardens, Austria
- ⇒ Puentes, NOLA
- ⇒ Institute of Cultural Diplomacy, Germany

- ⇒ Project Hope, Palestine
- ⇒ New Orleans Citizen Diplomacy Council
- ⇒ Honorary Swiss Consulate, NOLA
- ⇒ Louisiana Office of Public Health HIV/AIDS Program
- ⇒ Oportunidades, NOLA
- ⇒ Honduran Consulate, NOLA
- ⇒ Catholic Charities, NOLA
- ⇒ Acción, Louisiana, NOLA
- ⇒ Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana, NOLA
- ⇒ International Student Exchange Program, UNO
- ⇒ International Admissions Office, UNO

For more information on BAIS internships, visit our website:
<http://www.uno.edu/cola/Departments/bais/internships.aspx>

A Student's Experience with Model United Nations Before the Conference in New York City



Gabrielle with MUN partner
Samip Neupane

Gabrielle Gallon, BAIS 2015

I first heard about UNO's Model United Nations Club when I changed my major to International Studies as a sophomore. The director of the program, Dr. Hazlett, told me about the club, and I said I would think about joining. As I be-

gan meeting friends at UNO who also majored in International Studies, I discovered that many of them were part of the MUN delegation, or were taking the class as an elective. Hearing about their experiences developed within me a strong curiosity for the organization, so when it came time to apply for the delegation in the fall of 2013, I decided it was something I would like to do. I wrote a political analysis paper about the current Syrian conflict spreading into Lebanon's borders, and filled out the application with the hopes of being accepted. Originally, I was only accepted as an alternate, which was a little disappointing. But when I attended the country reveal party, I was informed that one delegate already had to drop out, and I was asked to take his place. Throughout the winter break, I

spent time looking at the NMUN website and researching the country we were going to be representing at conference—Syria. Representing Syria with my fellow classmates seemed like a daunting task, considering the current crisis the country is facing. However, I am always up for a challenge, so I was excited to have the chance to learn about the country and represent the Syrian Arab Republic with the rest of our delegation. When the spring semester started, our delegation was split into several two-partner committees. I was assigned to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and with my partner, Samip Neupane, we began researching our three topics

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Reminder!

If you are taking French or Spanish as your second language, you can easily obtain a minor without surpassing your 120 hours.

Take both literature requirements in target language and add one 3000-level or higher French/Spanish course to your electives, and voila!



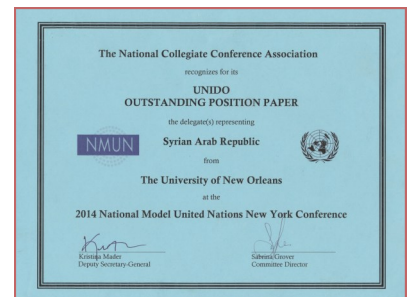
A Student's Experience with Model United Nations Before the Conference in New York City

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which included the sustainable development of biofuels, human security and post-crisis rehabilitation, and increasing corporate social responsibility in developing countries and economies in transition. The first part of the semester we spent many hours researching everything we could find related to the assigned topics and writing a position paper from the perspective of the Assad regime in Syria. It was a challenging exercise because we constantly had to think and speak like Syria, but it was certainly rewarding in the end. In writing the paper, we were able to grow our understanding of politics and the United Nations. I had the chance to practice speaking in front of the class and learned how to write a paper with political jargon I didn't even know I

had. It was so rewarding to read our final presentation to the class and hear the positive feedback from our advisors and classmates. But we hadn't finished yet. Once our position papers were completed, we began to prepare for the conference which will take place April 13-17 in New York City. I have heard so much about conference, and I'm looking forward to attending. We will meet within our committees, set the agenda, and write proposals and resolutions about the topics we've researched this semester. This will help us learn to work with other people, some of whom will have opposing views on how to resolve the issues we discuss. I am looking forward to working with other students from other universities as we attempt to arrive at solutions to very real problems facing our world

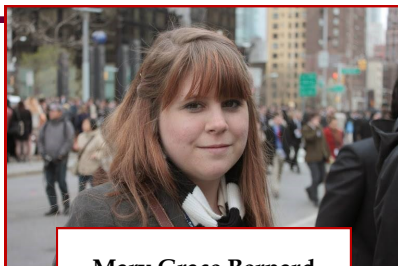
today. I also look forward to making new friends at conference and learning how the United Nations works in a hands-on way. This course takes learning out of the classroom at conference, which makes it a very worthwhile experience. NMUN has challenged me to grow as a writer, thinker, researcher, and group member. I'm looking forward to conference now with the rest of the delegation and I know we will do our very best when we arrive in New York!



Gabby and Samip won Outstanding Position Paper Award at the Conference in New York!

Editor: Mary Grace Bernard

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Mary Grace Bernard

JOIN TODAY!



B. A. in International Studies Program Newsletter

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