

IECA

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Greetings from Professor Ames

A warm welcome to campus to all incoming IECA majors. This year the program welcomes 5 new freshmen: Brian Smith (French), Janel Couch, Emily Newport, Adrian Ortiz and Mackenzie Flaharty (Spanish). If you know them from class, social groups or your resident hall, introduce yourself as a fellow IECA major.

We also welcome back to campus many students who were abroad last semester or over the summer: **Susan Van Dyke** (Spain in the Fall and the Washington DC semester last Spring; **Tony Le-Clerc**, on our Tübingen program in Germany all year; **Courtney Presson**, **Patrick Sullivan** and **Anni Metz**, in Puebla, Mexico last Spring; **Blain Keller** in Japan all last year, **Jennifer Clessas** in the Czech Republic last Spring, and **Megan Lee**, in China on VU's summer program.

We proudly congratulate those IECA majors who received awards last Spring for their achievements in foreign language study:

Harry Cassin: Outstanding Student in Second Year Chinese

Andrew Zimmer: Outstanding First Year Student in Japanese

Elizabeth Balge: Outstanding Student in French



We also recognize **Marcus Chaffee**, who received the Judith Peters *Aprender ayudando* Spanish Service Award for his work with the Spanish Club and his volunteer work with the Spanish-speaking community.

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Indiana Crusader Connection

Looking to start putting some of your IECA skills into practice? Consider taking advantage of the **Indiana Crusader Connection**, an exciting internship opportunity available to Valparaiso students in the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, and Engineering. Funded by a Lilly Endowment grant, the Indiana Crusader Connection offers \$1,000 scholarships to students who complete unpaid internships of at least 100 hours with Indiana employers.

Several IECA students have done these internships recently. Read their accounts on the next page.

If you are interested in pursuing one yourself, contact Sarah Farmer in the Career Center and visit: valpo.edu/crusaderconnection

Internship Testimonials

Susan Van Dyke, IECA, Political Science

As both an IECA and a Political Science major, I have always been thoroughly interested in many different areas of politics and interpersonal relations. This semester, I have been fortunate enough to be able to intern at the campaign headquarters for Indiana Congressman Pete Visclosky. Through the Crusader Connection Program at VU, I have been given the opportunity to intern for the Congressman while receiving a scholarship and academic credit in addition to real-life experience. Twice a week I spend

my afternoon at the office assisting the campaign manager with daily tasks and general constituent relations. Most days I spend the majority of my time working on database maintenance and confirming contact and personal information for the Congressman. I am also responsible for answering and directing phone calls in addition to greeting any constituents who come into the office. Although the work I do is not always glamorous or overly-stimulating it is a wonderful experience just to be in the office and witness how a campaign is run and how different members of the staff relate to the process. In addition, the basic office and public relations skills and tips

I have picked up will be valuable in any area of work. My internship with Visclosky for Congress will help me to discover what area of political and governmental relations I would like to pursue after graduation.

This internship definitely augmented my IECA major. I was able to use what I learned in my IECA classes out in the business world. — Blain Keller

Anni Metz, IECA/Spanish

I'll be interning this semester at the Valparaiso International Center, a not-for-profit in-the-works that hopes to help meet the needs of new international residents to Valparaiso and also to educate American-born Valparaiso residents about other cultures. The VIC has not yet opened its doors and is definitely still in the planning stages, so this internship is a really exciting opportunity for me! I'll be working on a lot of fund raising efforts, as well as renovating

the building to meet the needs of the VIC. I highly doubt that I'll ever have the chance again to aid in the formation of a non-profit from the ground up. In addition to meeting and working with tons of wonderful, internationally-minded people in the Valparaiso area, I'll also be able to put my economic and cultural knowledge to use in helping to make budgets, plan programming, and make contacts with people who are interested in serving the international community in Valparaiso.

Blain Keller, IECA/Chinese & Japanese Studies

This past summer, I did an internship at the Japan-America Society of Indiana (JASI) in Indianapolis, which manages relations between the state of Indiana and Japan, focusing on relations between Japanese companies throughout the state, and promotes Japanese cultural awareness through a variety of programs and activities. JASI coordinates conferences and banquets designed to create a sense of community among Japanese companies in Indiana. Many important state government officials and business figures attend these events.

I helped out with preparations for JASI's Annual Fundraising Gala, the biggest event that the society holds yearly. My responsibilities included contacting companies, processing payments, and decorating the Indiana Roof Ballroom. Many prominent Japanese and Americans attended the event (which included Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman and Hachiro Ishida, Deputy Consul General of the Japanese Consulate in Chicago). A government delegation from Tochigi Prefecture (the sister Japanese Prefecture to Indianapolis) visited, and I was in charge of greeting the delegation.

The most valuable experiences that I

gained from my internship were working in a business environment and networking. I learned so much about Japan-US business relations by helping out and attending various events. I enjoyed being able to use my knowledge of the Japanese language and culture often and working with people who had the same passion for Japan.

Through my internship, I have been able to gain a better sense of my future career path. This internship definitely augmented my IECA major: I was able to use what I learned in my IECA classes out in the business world. I would encourage anyone who has an interest in an internship to participate in the Crusader Connection scholarship.

Rights and Wrongs

This year's seniors returned to campus and immediately plunged into their Senior Independent Research Project, required of all IECA majors. Seniors take a one credit course in the Fall to guide them through the process of crafting a proposal on a topic related to the year's theme, **Rights and Wrongs**, and in the Spring semester, under the guidance of 2 faculty readers in appropriate disciplines, they will conduct their research and write the 30-40 page paper.

Our seniors will be examining human rights violations in a particular country or geographic region, studying the causes behind them as well as the efforts made to rectify such transgressions against human dignity. Students are still honing their exact topics, but their

current interests include minority rights (Roma in the Czech Republic, Muslims in France and Spain, indigenous women in Mexico), police corruption in Mexico, land reform in Brazil, working conditions in the controversial maquiladora factories near the US-Mexico border, water pollution in areas inhabited by indigenous communities in Nicaragua, and discrimination in Japan against those who do not integrate into society.

We look forward to hearing our seniors give a summary of their findings at the annual IECA Presentation Night in April.

Thursday October 25:

*Why the European Union
Will Not Become a
Superpower*

Friday October 26:

*States, Nations, & the
Problem of the Nationstate*

Through the courtesy of the prestigious national honor society Phi Beta Kappa, VU will be hosting as a Visiting Scholar

Renowned Historian to Lecture at VU

Professor James Sheehan of Stanford University. A former President of the American Historical Association, he has written extensively on modern European history. Dr. Sheehan will be involved in two events during his stay:

- On Thursday, Oct. 25th at 6:30 in the Great Hall of the Union, he will lecture on the provocative topic **Why the European Union Will Not Become a Superpower.** Come listen and see if you agree!

- On Friday, Oct. 26th at 3:00 in the German House, Dr. Sheehan will be part of a faculty panel discussing **States, Nations, and the Problem of the Nationstate.** He will be joined by VU faculty Professor Kevin Ostoyich (History), Dean Jon Kilpinen (Geography) and Professor Matthew Lundin (Lilly Fellow, Christ College). Refreshments will follow.

Second Annual International Film Festival

Once again this year, VU will host an International Film Festival featuring six films in their original language with English subtitles. Following each one, a Valpo faculty member will lead a discussion of the film. Screenings will begin at 7 p.m. in Neils Science Center on campus and admission is free to students. The next film in the series will be *Indigènes* (French), with the discussion led by Dr. Tim Tomasik, Assistant Professor of Foreign Languages and Literatures, on Friday, Nov. 9.

Upcoming films:

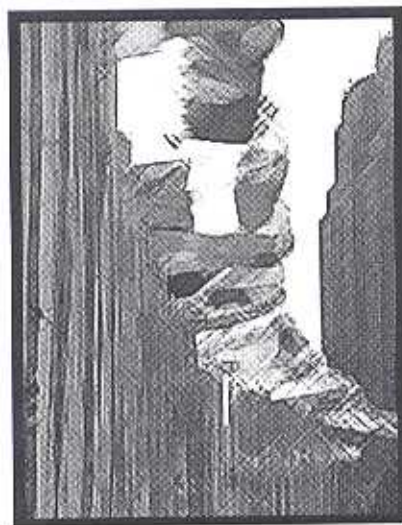
- Nov 9: *Indigènes* (French)
- Jan 18: *Curse of the Golden Flower* (Chinese)
- Feb 15: *Tsotsi* (South African)
- April 4: *The Lives of Others* (German)

valpo.edu/foreignlang/filmfestival



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What are IECA Graduates Doing?

Katie Jajtner ('07): Works for Delasco (a Dermatology supplier) in their international department.

Melissa Loomis ('05): Chicago Mercantile Exchange in the Electronic Trading Division.

Julie Maddox ('04): Program Assistant in the International Center at the Illinois Institute of Technology

Amy Highness ('03): Community Activities Support for the Northwest Area Foundation — St. Paul, MN, a group dedicated to building capacity toward systemic, long-term poverty reduction in rural Latino communities in the Northwest.

Elizabeth Dickmeyer ('01): Translator for a translation company in Reutlingen, Germany, "transline Deutschland."

Julie Scheetz ('01): Coordinator of German-American Exchange Program at the Hochschule Reutlingen in the European School of Business (ESB)

Maria Brewer ('95): Special Assistant with the United States Department of State

Lora Ries ('93): Policy Director for Immigration at the Department of Homeland Security

Professor Ames is working on an alumni survey project which will provide not just job titles but actual descriptions of what our graduates do in these different fields. Look for information soon on our program website, valpo.edu/ieca

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