

The Center for Global Studies can now be found on Twitter @CGSPennState



We will be using Twitter in an effort to reach a wider audience when publicizing upcoming CGS events and to share photos and updates as they happen.

Also be sure to "Like" The Center for Global Studies at Penn State on Facebook!

## UNIVERSITY PARK EVENTS

10/7 and every Monday , 12:15 p.m., 102 Kern  
Comparative Literature Luncheon lecture series

10/16

*Inconsistent input and amount of exposure:  
child language acquisition of Fering, a dialect of  
North Frisian*

Alison Eisel Hendricks  
430 Burrowes, 1:30 pm

10/30

*The Persian Period at Ashkelon in Light of  
Recent Excavations*

Sara Hoffman  
Old Botany Building 1:30 pm

## OUTREACH EVENTS

10/15 and 10/29 5:30-7:30p.m., Discovery  
Space of Central PA, 112 W. Foster Ave  
America Reads /CGS Family Nights

11/9

World on Trial: 2004 Headscarf Law  
K-12 Teacher's Workshop  
114 Katz, 1:30 pm

Full event listings can be found at  
<http://cgs.psu.edu>

## Welcome to the Real World: The Importance of Internships

By Annie Goodrich

On September 12<sup>th</sup>, I had the opportunity to attend a lecture given by Taimoor Choudhry (School of International Affairs and Law) who interned this past summer at An-Najah National University located in Nablus in the northern West Bank of Palestine. The purpose of the lecture was to not only talk about his experience, but to discuss the importance of finding an internship that is appealing as opposed



to settling for one that you are only half-interested in. Choudhry discussed the steps one should take when trying to find the right internship; the first step was to narrow your focus by identifying positions and companies that are of interest to you. Next, it is important to tailor your resume and cover letter to highlight what makes you a valuable candidate and the skills and experiences that prove it. He also mentioned that opportunities come from anywhere, including professors, so it is important to work on building and maintaining relationships throughout your years as an undergraduate or graduate student. He stressed that if the internship is overseas, it is imperative that background research is conducted to learn about societal norms, cultural and religious practices, and other relative information.

Right away, Choudhry emphasized that internships give you, "a familiarity with an experience that you can't get with books." While in Palestine, he worked on human rights issues and gained a deeper appreciation for the complexity of the conflict between Palestine and Israel that can only come from first-hand experience. Choudhry believed that networking within his environment made his experience that much more rewarding.

*Continued under "Importance of Internships" on page 2*

## CGS Director gives Keynote Address

By Matthew Bloss

A brief glance around the Penn State campus clearly shows the growing impact of globalization on the world around us. Penn State, and schools across the country, caters to a wide range of students (and faculty) from a myriad of national backgrounds. This increased diversity has the benefit of introducing both American citizens, as well as foreign visitors, to the various different cultures/peoples that we share the world with.

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THE CENTER FOR GLOBAL STUDIES

The Pennsylvania State University ▪ 427 Burrowes Building ▪  
University Park, PA 16802

*“Importance of Internships” continued from Page 1*

From reaching out to people, creating relationships, and connecting with other professionals he was able to go beyond what was expected of him and prove that he really cared about people’s concerns. Another positive aspect of internships is that they give you an accurate look into a certain field without fully committing to it. For example, before Choudhry left for Palestine he was interested in working with people at the grass root level. However, his experiences made him believe that the best method for change is to work for a public corporation to impact policy at a higher level, which would then have an effect on lower levels.

Overall, Choudhry’s talk was especially rewarding because he focused on the significance of getting an internship while using his experience in Palestine to illustrate their importance they can have on your future career.



A packed house of student advisors wait for Dr. McClennen to deliver her keynote address, “How do we talk to others?”

*“CGS Director” continued from Page 1*

However, it also presents a challenge for those who may not be as accustomed to interacting with people of vastly different cultural backgrounds. It’s with this in mind that the director of the Center for Global Studies, Ph.D. Sophia McClennen, delivered the keynote address at a recent conference on academic advising entitled: *Updating the Advising Toolbox: Understanding the Complex Needs of Today’s Students*. Dr. McClennen provided a much needed global perspective on how faculty at Penn State can reduce bias and discrimination in their social interactions and provide a positive environment for individuals of all nationalities and ethnicities to come to Penn State and teach and learn. Having taught and conducted research across Europe and South America, Dr. McClennen was well suited to address the issues that a diverse campus, like Penn State, must contend with. Along with learning how to work effectively with students from different national backgrounds, participants at the conference also attended talks on how to better accommodate other special student populations such as students with disabilities, veterans, adult students, LGBTQ students, and underprepared students.

Join Penn State University’s Center for Global Studies for:

**K-12 Teachers Workshop on World on Trial: Headscarf Law**

Saturday, November 9, 2013  
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

114 Lewis Katz Building, Penn State University, University Park, PA

To register:  
<http://cgs.psu.edu/register.shtml>

## Sri Lankan government bans screening of film at home and abroad

By Sheryl-Amber Edmondson

The screening of the film *Flying Fish* (*Igillena Maluwo*) coordinated by the Center for Global Studies, the Migration Studies Project, the Sri Lankan Student Association, and the University Libraries seems to have swam Penn State through a bit of mucky waters as the University was asked not to show the film based upon its banning in Sri Lanka, the country where it was filmed.

Sri Lanka has a long history of censorship and has subsequently been ranked one of the worst countries for press freedom in the world. The primary outlets for news are highly regulated and outside of the government only include mainstream, pro-Sinatra media. The reasoning behind such censorship is that the government is highly nervous about any publications that might reveal human rights violations during the civil war that ended just a few years ago.

The film *Flying Fish* indeed has the civil war in Sri Lanka as the backdrop and also the catalyst for several scenes. The film is centered on three narratives in a country divided by civil war. Producer and director Sanjeewa Pushpakumara has been labeled a traitor by the government who claims that the film insults the security forces of the nation and illegally depicts the military uniform. Pushpakumara denies both of these claims. Alternatively, critics label the film “deeply humane”, “sexually candid” and a “remarkable work of restraint” (Tony Rayns, a British writer, commentator, film festival programmer and screen writer) referring to the way the film was able to portray such crude and obscene incidents in a “cool manner”. Despite such wonderful critiques and winning several awards, including Best Director Award, Best Asian Film, Critics Choice Award and many others the film ban is still in place in Sri Lanka as well as internationally.

Attendees of the scheduled screening hosted in Foster Auditorium in Paterno Library were given the opportunity to video chat with Pushpakumara via Skype. The director seemed unfazed by the controversy surrounding his film and was even delighted that the film made its way overseas to the west.



Concerned students asked about the situation in Sri Lanka and the effects the film had on those involved. Pushpakumara stated that he was banned from his country and is not set to return any time soon.

His family has been questioned by authorities, as they are also seen as a threat to the government for their relationship with the director who is said to be involved in an “international conspiracy”. And still, Pushpakumara spoke coolly. He says that these are the consequences one must face when one wants to be a true artist; his passion will not allow him to let go of showing the reality of the Sri Lankan population. Pushpakumara says that he can but does not want to film in other countries because these countries are not his home; in order for his audiences to imagine the true situation in Sri Lanka they must really see Sri Lanka in its authenticity.

The question here is where does government censorship and protection become government infringement on human rights? Freedom of speech is guaranteed by the Sri Lankan constitution in section 14(1)(a) which states that “every citizen is entitled to the freedom of speech and expression including publication”. Though this right is limited in section 15(2) such infringement of rights may only be possible as prescribed by law. The United States can only look at such restrictions with a face of shame as our citizens enjoy the liberty and beauty of absolute free speech. Where exactly this controversy leaves Pushpakumara is unknown, but passion for art and for reality should be something any American citizen can admire.

## UK and French Culture Club at YSCP

By Kelly Diaz

For the last few weeks, Katie Black and I have been co-leading an afterschool club at the Young Scholars of Central Pennsylvania charter school. Drawing on my experience studying abroad in London and her experience studying abroad in Brussels, we decided on the theme “UK and French Culture.” So far the kids have been very responsive to our lessons! In the first week we presented them with words, which are commonly used in the English language, but are in fact French words. In addition, we wrote American English words and phrases on the board, and tested to see if they knew how you would say it in British English (e.g. bathroom/toilet or loo; subway/tube, etc.)

The following week we chose “Olympics” as the theme. We explained why French is one of the official languages of the Olympics and gave a brief history of the event in general. We put a special focus on the Olympics hosted by the United Kingdom or French speaking countries, and spent a lot of time talking about the London 2012 Olympics. We split them up into Team GB and France and had them compete against each other in “Olympic”-like games. Members of the winning team were rewarded with gold medals made of construction paper and ribbons, and members of the second place team with silver ones.

In the third week, Katie and I chose “Sports” as the theme, and focused on “Football”/soccer, and Rugby and Cricket, which are much more common in Europe than they are here. We gave the children an indoor lesson on the rules and history of cricket and rugby, followed by a lesson on the most famous professional football clubs in the United Kingdom, their uniforms, their logos, and their players. Since it was such a nice day, we took the kids outside and split them into England vs. France and let them play soccer. In upcoming weeks, we hope to also do lessons on: London, Paris, music and movies, the Royal Family, poetry, and art.



*Bonjour tout le monde!* CGS Intern, Kelly Diaz, teaches kids about the world outside of State College.

### Did you know that...?

The civil war in Sri Lanka ended in 2009 after over 27 years of fighting. Today the Sri Lankan government is banning films that may reveal human rights violations committed during the war.

*Read the story on page 3 to find out how this ban even reached PSU!*

#### Our Mission

The Center for Global Studies (CGS) has been designated a Title VI National Resource Center by the Department of Education. Working in collaboration with Penn State’s many excellent international initiatives, faculty and students from multiple disciplines, and K-12 schools in the region, the CGS is dedicated to the growth and support of global studies.

#### Our Staff

Dr. Sophia McClennen, Director  
 Sarah Lyall-Combs, Associate Director  
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 Molly Appel, Graduate Assistant  
 Kathryn C. Black, Lead Intern  
 Matthew Bloss, Intern  
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