



Global Correspondent

HAMLIN UNIVERSITY

Spring 2009

VOL. 5, NO. 1

INSIDE

FINDING THE PACE

Hannah Kuether '09 shares her experience studying journalism through the CIJ in Chile.

Page 2

JAMM REKK!

Melissa Hruza '09 reflects on the importance of the Wolof language in Senegalese culture and communication.

Page 3

WORLD PRESS FORUM

Visiting foreign journalists share their views on subjects ranging from media coverage of the Republican National Convention to racism in America.

Page 5

REPORTING HONORS

Sean Bailey '07 updates the *Global Correspondent* from Kentucky about some of his award-winning stories.

Page 5

VISITING PROFESSOR

Updates on the comings and goings of CIJ faculty.

Page 5

Lindsay Messenger: Starting a Career in Shanghai

By Melissa Hruza '09

Despite the downturn in the global economy, CIJ alumni continue to find opportunities to work in media around the world. One of those is Lindsay Messenger, CIJ '07.

Messenger is currently a senior account executive in Shanghai for Hill & Knowlton, a global public relations firm. She has also worked as a news editor for the International Channel Shanghai (ISC).

Messenger has lived in Shanghai for two years now. She calls it "the ultimate city if you're looking for excitement and career opportunities." Even though she decided to move there for her last semester of college, she said she didn't have any solid plans. Since she had built up journalism experience at Hamline through internships and the university newspaper, when she was in Shanghai, she had to use the skills and contacts she brought with her to take the next step.

"Within two weeks of my arrival, I was offered an internship at *EuroBiz* [magazine] and at the same time, a part-time job at STV Shanghai. I didn't want to miss out on either, so I went with both," she said.

During her first few months in China, Messenger said, she was doing a variety of journalism tasks.

"I reported and wrote feature articles, wrote news briefs and chose corresponding pictures, reported on European Chamber [of Commerce] events. I was also sent on numerous photography assignments by the editor of *China Economic Review*, another magazine owned by the [same] publisher," she said. "Assignments ran the gamut, from portraits of CEOs to the grand opening of the first H&M [store] in Shanghai."

Messenger was then hired by ISC to be a full-time news editor and narrator, and continued her work at the TV



Photo courtesy of Lindsay Messenger

station until the end of the Beijing Olympics.

Being an American journalist in China has plenty of challenges, Messenger said. "Writing news for a large Chinese TV station is very limiting. "The news is quite watered down and it lacks any critical edge. It is interesting to experience this, but frustrating to stay with it for very long."

However, working in journalism abroad also affords opportunities that are difficult to find on American soil. Messenger emphasized that these opportunities did not just fall into her lap; she had to aggressively pursue them, but once she did, things began to fall into place.

"One interesting thing about being in an emerging economy like China's is that you can jump start your career; you get opportunities that you wouldn't find elsewhere," she said. "I've been able to immediately become a senior staff person or an 'expert.' In any field that involves writing English, for example, I'm the senior editor. It's my job to have the final say on what's going to go on air, to decide what sounds right for a client to read or the public to hear."

At this point, her plans are to live in China at least until the end of 2010. Shanghai is now home, she said, especially now that her boyfriend of five years, Nils Weisensee – a CIJ graduate of 2003 and native of Frankfurt, Germany – has joined her there.

Messenger is currently working in communication, although now in the field of public relations. Amidst her PR work within the H&K Marketing Communications department, however, she has not completely abandoned journalism. Besides working with international media,

Continued on pg. 4

Semester in Chile Evolved at Its Own Pace

By Hannah Kuether '09

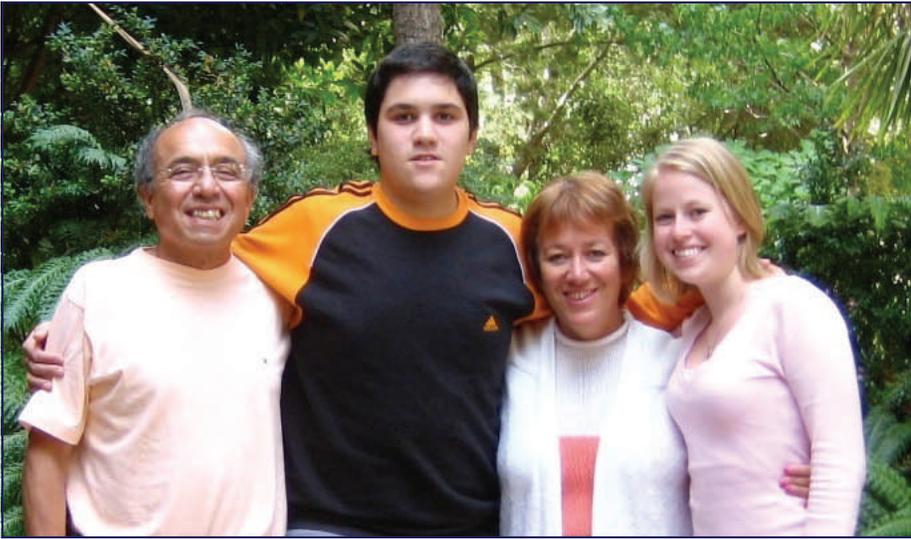


Photo courtesy of Hannah Kuether

I arrived at the Santiago International Airport for my CIJ semester abroad in Chile with two enormous pieces of luggage and more excitement and anxiety than I had ever felt in my life. Dealing with a different language and a new culture, I had lots to learn.

I immediately found out why Latin America is not known for its punctuality – I waited by myself on a bench in the airport no less than an hour for the three other international students' planes to arrive then followed our taxi driver as he unhurriedly strolled through the parking lot to his van. At home in Minnesota, I am consistently on time, if not early, and I don't like waiting – three minutes for the new Jason Mraz album to download tests my patience!

On the long, bumpy ride through the mountains and desert to my new home, I nervously practiced my mediocre Spanish with two students from Spain and another from Germany.

I arrived at my new home and was overwhelmed when my host dad showed me around, comprehending most of his Spanish through his thick Chilean accent (thank goodness for those four years of high school Spanish, plus two and a half years at Hamline).

Those first few days were a whirlwind. I had about three hours to eat lunch with my new family and get a feel for my new home before orientation at my new

school, Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Valparaíso.

The several days that followed were packed with new information, people and places: I registered for classes, had my picture taken for my national identification card and got a hurried tour of the main school building. At home, I went on a driving tour of the neighborhood, bought a prepaid cell phone and followed my host mom like a lost puppy through a grocery store appropriately named Jumbo.

After the first week, life became what Chile is really like – *tranquila* (laid back). It took more than a month to get my identification card back and, although the maid had lunch ready at 1 p.m. every day, it wasn't uncommon for a member of my host family to come in 10, 15 or 20 minutes late.

My internship was with a local newspaper called *La Estrella*. My assignment was to write what I knew – being a *gringa*, the affectionate term for a female person not from Central or South America, usually fair-skinned and quite blond. Three times a week, I interviewed other international students and wrote a column about their experiences; the good, the bad, the funny, the scary, the surprising and the comforting.

I found everyone had a story about the *micros* – the public buses. Some had their pockets picked, some got in arguments with the drivers, some took the wrong bus

and ended up in the hills with no clue where they were or where to go, while others thought *micros* were the best thing since sliced bread.

I turned all three of my articles in on time every week but, à la Chile, they didn't always get published in a timely manner. Often, only one or two would end up in the paper in a week, with some suffering a time lapse of a week or more.

At first, I was frustrated with the delay, wanting things to be in the paper immediately after I wrote them, wanting instant gratification. After a while, I realized that's just how it is in Chile – no one is in a hurry, no one feels rushed, and everything works out in its own good time.

The person who supervised my internship was Senõr Pinto, who was mild-mannered with a quick smile. I e-mailed him my columns every week and we met periodically to review my performance. He told me once he kept a few of my numerous mistakes in the columns to let people know that it really was a *gringa* writing the column.

At the end of the semester, Sr. Pinto and two women who work on the website took me to an upscale local restaurant for a farewell lunch. I couldn't thank him enough for his kindness and for the incredible opportunity that had been given to me. I hope they understood how much impact they had on this *gringa's* life.

I arrived back at the Santiago airport with fear and excitement almost matching what I had experienced four and a half months before – excitement to see my family and old friends, fear of being thrown back into a fast-paced culture with a language I had tried not to use in months.

I wasn't scared, however, of navigating the airports, interacting in Spanish with Chilean flight attendants or of the future that awaited me. I knew that, after a semester of trials, mistakes and successes, I could do anything I set my mind to.

I had learned so much not only about journalism and the Spanish language, but about myself and what I was capable of.

I also learned to slow down, be late if you have to, let life happen and enjoy it while you can.

Every day, I'm grateful that this incredible semester is part of the foundation on which I'm building the rest of my life.

Searching for the Unheard Voices of Senegal

By Melissa Hruza '09

When I arrived in Senegal, an entirely different world was before me. I hadn't expected to find a traditional western city, but donkeys and cows roaming free in the streets weren't exactly what I had pictured.

My first-ever experience abroad was in Saint Louis, Senegal. The former colonial capital of western Africa, Saint Louis is full of clashing cultures. The downtown area is home to many buildings built by the French colonials. French bakeries sell beautiful cakes, and pastries are the favorites of tourists and Senegalese alike.

Although I have never been to France, I could see how the comforts of home attract European tourists. For me, *croissants* and *pain au chocolat* will always remind me of Africa.

Senegal is a place where different cultures and beliefs blend together. All of the Senegalese I met had many different allegiances – their religion, their families and their tribal/ethnic background are all extremely important parts of their identity. It doesn't take long to look around and observe this sentiment. Among the French architecture there are the green towers of mosques. Families eat baguettes with their *cebbu-jen* (the national dish of rice and fish).

Everyone speaks Wolof (the predominant tribal language in the country) more than they speak French. Many Senegalese come from different ethnic backgrounds and speak three or even four languages regularly.

So, from my first day in Senegal, I learned the value of language and its impact on culture. Maintaining local languages had allowed Senegalese to resist French cultural domination. If I really wanted to feel like I was experiencing Senegal, I had to learn Wolof.

Even my internship at *Radio Dunya* was almost completely in Wolof. I had anticipated working mostly in a French-speaking environment. I did provide some scripts in French. Yet I would arrive a few times a week to groups of people (most who didn't work there) moving in and out of the station speaking Wolof. Out of courtesy, they would speak French to me then continue their conversation in Wolof. The station delivered most of its programming in Wolof. I was completely immersed in Wolof.

My study-abroad semester was filled with entirely unexpected experiences. I had wanted to arrive and get started working in journalism the second my foot hit the sand, but that wasn't the case. I had to adjust.

Still, these were some of the best months of my life.

Africans are known to value social relationships more than material possessions. I found this to be more true than I had ever anticipated. While I was in Senegal, I had a home stay with the Maiga family. The moment I entered their house I felt at home. My African friends were the most welcoming and kind-hearted people I've ever met. Even my relationships with other U.S. students were solidified by a common African experience.

It was good that social relationships were so important because our academic lives were a struggle. Strikes are frequent in Senegal and we started class six weeks late due to several of them. Being able to understand lectures in a foreign language is always difficult, but most courses did not have books to fall back on (because students could not afford them). Luckily, we made friends who would let us copy their very detailed notes. The internet was often difficult to find, even when there weren't power outages. However, the lack of technology left us more time to have three-hour dinners with friends over bottles of Gazelle beer.

As journalism students, we are pushing ourselves to see stories no one has written before. We are searching for the voice that hasn't been heard. We want to describe events and places that others can never witness. When we go abroad, we find all of these things.

We also find out more about ourselves. I still don't think I "understand" Senegalese culture. There is a level of understanding that you just cannot have unless you've lived somewhere for years. However, my time in Senegal has helped me better understand all kinds of social constructs that I hadn't seen before in my own culture. Stepping out of my comfort zone into another environment helped me to understand America in ways I'd never considered.

It is nearly impossible to bring the voice of Senegal to anyone. The culture is complex and influenced by religion and the colonial experience, yet is completely unique to any other in the world.



World Press Forum: Seeing Ourselves Through the Eyes of Others

By Young Shin Park '10

Nine journalists from around the world came to Hamline last fall to share their impressions of the United States as well as insights into their home countries.

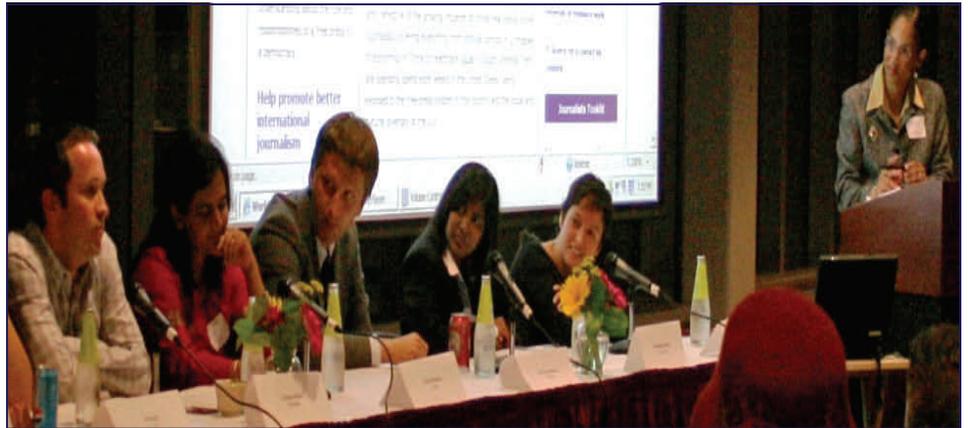
The World Press Institute (WPI) Forum 2008, "Seeing Ourselves Through the Eyes of Others," was hosted by the CIJ program. The WPI fellows from Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, Hungary, India, Lithuania, South Africa and Spain had spent two months studying and traveling in the U.S. Denise Johnson, editorial writer for the *Star Tribune*, served as moderator of the discussion.

The journalists attended the Republican National Convention and visited Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., New York and Chicago, paying particular attention to the presidential campaign.

Antoinette Lazarus of South Africa especially admired the political freedom in the U.S.

"People are free to express political affiliation. You are free to do what you feel right," she said. "Third World countries have a lot to learn from the U.S., and actually they use U.S. as a role model."

Ermin Zatega from Bosnia and Herzegovina said the WPI experience allowed him to know America better, to look beyond George W. Bush and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He was disappointed, however, with the way the news media covered the presidential campaign. American news coverage "is much more about show business," Zatega said.



"Journalists [in Bosnia and Herzegovina] ask more difficult and right questions," he added, noting the heavy media coverage of Sarah Palin's personal life.

Several of the journalists expressed surprise and dismay at the state of race relations in the U.S. Indian reporter Nidhi Sharma said her first impression of America was that racism is still widespread in American society. And Tatiana Tavares of Brazil found it "very weird" when she visited a charter school on the South Side of Chicago.

"It was pretty much all black people," Tavares said. "That doesn't exist in Brazil. I'm used to seeing people [of all races] living together." The WPI fellows also talked about their home countries.

"There are a lot of things to know [about Brazil] besides soccer and carnival," Tavares said. For example, when Brazilians apply for a job, they may be asked to show that they've voted in recent elections.

Lazarus said her country, South Africa,

is "the destination to go to," with beautiful mountains and beaches and spectacular wildlife. It's true that South Africa has problems with crime and poverty, she said, but people are working hard to solve those problems.

As a political reporter and producer for South African Broadcast Corporation, Lazarus noted that in the post-apartheid era the discussion of politics is an "everyday thing" in her country. "Politics is the most important thing I think you should know about South Africa," she added.

Since 1961, the World Press Institute has brought more than 500 journalists from 95 countries to the United States to learn firsthand about our life and culture, to study our political and economic institutions, and especially to consider the role of a free press in a democratic society. This year's focus, in addition to the presidential campaign, included such issues as health care, immigration and the American economy in a global marketplace.

MESSENGER IN SHANGHAI continued from front

she also writes a weekly news brief about preparations for the Shanghai 2010 World Expo (called EXPO Express). As a member of her company's Expo team, Messenger said the Expo, or World's Fair, is "the next big topic for the city," not to mention for China and the rest of the world.

Even in China, Messenger continues to be an advocate for the CIJ program. "If you pursue any kind of journalism or

communication career after college, CIJ will always be of use," said Messenger. "All of the opportunities I've had in Shanghai relate to my journalism experience – a good amount of it from the CIJ program. Why? Because the certificate program implies learned skill and experience in the field of journalism. And in addition, it implies an understanding of how the media works in countries other than your own."

Guest Professor Studies Reporting from GOP Convention

As part of the ongoing exchange of students and faculty members between Hamline and Universität Trier, Germany, Professor Christof Barth of the Media Science department at Trier was a guest lecturer for two weeks in autumn 2008.

During the first week of his visit, Professor Barth joined the foreign press corps at the Republican National Convention. He brought back information and materials from the convention to help students in Professor Suda Ishida's Media in Global Perspective class analyze the reporting of various international news media. The class

discussed journalism concepts such as agenda setting, framing, news management, infotainment and politainment.

Students then undertook their own research project, comparing how the GOP convention was reported in newspapers and on news websites in several countries, including Canada, China, Germany, France, Egypt, Qatar, and Thailand.

As part of the continuing faculty exchange, Professor Ishida will travel to Trier this summer to offer a course in Media and Global Environmental Conflicts.



CIJ Graduate Honored for Reporting



Congratulations to Sean Bailey (CIJ '07), who recently won two awards from the Kentucky Press Association for articles published by the Corbin *Times Tribune*. Sean is in his second year as a full-time reporter

at this daily newspaper in southeastern Kentucky.

The first award was a second place for best enterprise or analytical story for the article "Topix of Concern," discussing Corbin Independent School District's decision to ban access to the Topix website, which was seen as spreading gossip and rumors. Occasionally, the gossip turns out to be real news. In his article, Sean noted that people in small towns often depend on such websites to scrutinize the actions of local public figures. The ban is squarely in the middle of the debate over how guarantees of press freedom apply to new media.

Sean also won an honorable mention for best investigative story or series for a piece called "Free money? It's too good to be true"

about a check scam that hit the Corbin area. The 2006-2007 editor-in-chief of Hamline's student newspaper said, "I was a bit surprised to win anything for this story, mainly because I only worked on it one afternoon.

"It was a slow news day and our publisher came to me with a check he had got in the mail claiming that he won some large amount of money. It was clearly a scam, so with a bit of time on my hands, I started calling every phone number on the checks. I even did a little undercover work using my favorite pseudonym, Raoul Duke.

"Corbin is an aging town, as are most of the other communities I cover, and these check scams often target older people, so ultimately I may have done some good. Maybe there is one older lady out in Corbin, Kentucky, who learned a lesson or two from Raoul Duke."

To read Sean's award-winning articles, go to the following websites:

- "Topix of concern"
http://www.thetimestribune.com/archivesearch/local_story_273090042.html
- "Free money? It's too good to be true"
http://www.thetimestribune.com/archivesearch/loca_story_161140002.html

CIJ Faculty

Suda Ishida
Assoc. Prof. of Media Studies and Director of International Journalism Program
Telephone: 651-523-2768
sishida@hamline.edu

David Hudson
Assoc. Prof. of English
Telephone: 651-523-2893
dhudson@hamline.edu

Verne A. "Van Dusenbery
Prof. of Anthropology,
Chair of the Global Studies Program
Telephone: 651-523-2129
vdusenbery@hamline.edu

Terry Wolkerstorfer
Adjunct Asst Prof.
(Supervisor of internships and capstone media projects)

About the Certificate in International Journalism

Mission Statement: Certificate in International Journalism is a program that culminates Hamline CLA's commitments to the three Is: Interdisciplinary, Integrated Technology and International/intercultural learning.

Launched in 1998, the CIJ is proud to be the first undergraduate program in International Journalism in the U.S. Using an interdisciplinary model, the CIJ integrates communication studies, modern languages, journalism and global studies into an intensive curriculum which promotes intercultural understanding and international cooperation through solid journalism practice. Besides learning how to report news, students find themselves empowered with in-depth theoretical understanding of local and global media systems. They not only learn *how* but also *why* journalists work the way they do.

More information can be found at our website:
<http://www.hamline.edu/cij>

Don't Forget to Apply!

Students with strong international interests and second-language skills can supplement their majors with courses in journalism and media studies, advanced seminars, and media internships both at home and abroad. Finally, students complete a capstone media project in which they can apply both their international expertise and their journalism skills.

Students can participate in bilateral exchange programs at:

United International College, Zhuhai, China
Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Valparaiso, Chile
Université Gaston Berger, Saint Louis, Senegal
University of Trier, Germany

Students also participate in internships and mentoring at several Twin Cities news organizations, including:

Asian American Press
KFAI Radio
La Prensa de Minnesota
Minnesota Women's Press
St. Paul Neighborhood Network
American Refugee Committee
Twin Cities Daily Planet
Internet Broadcasting

Hamline University
1536 Hewitt Avenue,
St. Paul, MN, 55104-1284