We are excited to announce that CICS has received a series of significant gifts from Northwestern alumna Roberta Buffett Bialek that will be used to create an endowment to support and broaden the Center’s research and educational programs. Center will be re-named The Roberta Buffett Center for International and Comparative Studies in honor of her generous support of Northwestern.

“Bertie Buffett Bialek’s vision and concern for world affairs have helped shape international studies at Northwestern,” Northwestern President Henry Bienen said. “We’re grateful for her continuing support of this important University center.”

Ms. Buffett Bialek’s first gift to the Center, made in honor of her 50th reunion, created the Roberta Buffett Visiting Professorship in International Studies, which brings to campus leading scholars from around the world to build Northwestern’s international relationships and provide educational opportunities for Northwestern students. Buffett Visiting Professors have included Louis Pauly, an expert in the politics of the international economy from the University of Toronto, Ariane Chebel d’Appollonia, a prominent scholar on immigration and discrimination in Europe from Sciences Po, France, Fredrik Engelstad, a leading professor of sociology and human geography from the University of Oslo, Norway, Stephen Kinzer, an award winning correspondent for the New York Times, and Aleš Debeljak, one of Eastern Europe’s leading poets and most prominent intellectuals.

Ms. Buffett Bialek’s support has been instrumental not only in promoting educational opportunities to Northwestern students, but also in furthering research and strengthening CICS. Center Director Andrew Wachtel commented, “This generous support creates a strong financial base from which CICS can enhance its role as a central hub of internationally oriented research, education and outreach at Northwestern.” CICS currently has over 180 faculty affiliates, supports vibrant interdisciplinary working groups, research travel for graduate students, and speaker series to stimulate awareness and discussion of important international issues.

According to Ms. Buffet Bialek, “I’m pleased to be able to support international studies at Northwestern. The opportunities that the Center provides to students and the research that the Center directs is important in improving our understanding of the complex situations in our world today.”
Paul Liffman (pliffman@yahoo.com), one of this year’s fellows in the CICS-Rockefeller Foundation program *How the Poor Constitute Community*, is a Research Professor at the Center for Anthropological Studies of the Colegio de Michoacán and a member of the National Research System (Mexico). Prior to that, he worked as a consultant for the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington DC. Based on that experience, his most recent publication (*Museum Anthropology*, forthcoming) deals with the representation of indigenous territoriality in both US and Mexican museums (see photo). Liffman is also interested in indigenous cosmology and history in western Mexico. His earlier research and the dissertation stemming from it, *Huichol Territoriality: Land and Cultural Claims in Western Mexico* (University of Chicago, 2002), form the basis of the book manuscript he will be developing during his stay at Northwestern.

Sadik Rddad is Assistant Professor of English at Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University in Fez, Morocco. He teaches American, British and Moroccan literatures, postcolonial studies, tourism studies, and cultural studies. He received an MA in English in 1990 and is currently completing a Ph.D. in English, focusing on Anglo-American travel writings on Morocco. He was recently awarded a Joint-Supervision Doctorate Grant by the Moroccan American Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange (Fulbright). He is a founding member of the Moroccan Cultural Studies Center and co-editor of the Moroccan Cultural Studies Journal. He has translated and published articles on Moroccan and Anglo-American travel literature, and Moroccan culture. He is currently editing a book on travel literature on Morocco. Sadik can be reached at: s-rddad@northwestern.edu

Mette Sandbye is Associate Professor at the University of Copenhagen, Department of Arts and Cultural Studies. Her main research field is the history and theory of photography. Mette was the editor of the first comprehensive history of Danish photography (*Dansk Fotografihistorie*, 2004), and since 2002 she has been the chair of “The Nordic Network for the History and Aesthetics of Photography” (www.hf.uib.no/mnhap). She is currently working on a book to be published in Danish during 2007 (English title: “Boring Images. The Snapshot Aesthetics of Photography”). It is a survey of the use of snapshot aesthetics in mostly American and Danish avant-garde practices in the 60s and 70s. Here she connects traditionally separated fields such as avant-garde art, documentary photography, and amateur/family photography. Mette Sandbye will be visiting scholar at CICS Jan.-June 2007 working on a new project entitled “Photography and Everyday Life”. Her theoretical approach to the study of photography has always been interdisciplinary, but with a foundation in cultural theory, theory of photography, and French phenomenology. During her stay at Northwestern she wants to explore new theoretical ways to approach the study of “photography and everyday life”, primarily in the tradition of “Visual Culture Studies” and in “Visual Anthropology”. Two of its central theorists are Chicago-based, namely W.J.T. Mitchell and James Elkins, and she wishes likewise to profit from the interdisciplinary foundation of CICS.

Political scientist Richard Sobel explores the national and cross-national influence of public opinion on foreign policy. He analyzes privacy policies, particularly constitutional questions about governmental identification schemes. The foreign policy and privacy strands intersected after 9/11 around international issues of anti-terrorism policy, human rights, and civil liberties. After teaching and researching at Princeton, Smith College, University of Connecticut, and Harvard, last year he was Inaugural Visiting Carnegie Senior Lecturer at the Medill School in “The Press, Pentagon, and the Public.”
This year he returns to teach at Medill and in Political Science. He’s been a Fellow at the Kennedy, Law and Medical Schools at Harvard. He’s also been a consultant to the New York Times/CBS poll, Chicago Council on Foreign Relations study, American Public Opinion and U.S. Foreign Policy, and privacy organizations. His books include The Impact of Public Opinion on U.S. Foreign Policy Since Vietnam: Constraining the Colossus, International Public Opinion and the Bosnia Crisis, People and Their Opinions: Thinking Critically about Public Opinion, and Public Opinion in U.S. Central America Policy: The Controversy over Contra Aid (under Princeton’s Center for International Studies auspices when Henry Bienen was director). In addition to privacy articles, he has contributed to Supreme Court amicus briefs on related cases. His current works include a crossnational study of public opinion on the decisions of members of the coalitions of the willing and unwilling in Iraq, and why a national ID is un-American. His comments on the public, foreign policy, and privacy have appeared in the Boston Globe, Chicago Tribune, Christian Science Monitor, Los Angeles Times, New York Times, USA Today, Time International and Washington Post, and on radio and TV. A native of Chicago, Dr. Sobel graduated from Princeton and University of Massachusetts, Amherst and can be reached at: richard_sobel@northwestern.edu

Second-Annual International Summit Promises Heightened Capacity Building

After immense success in its inaugural run, the International Youth Volunteerism Summit is back for a second year, and the sequel promises to extend its capacity-building impact further and deeper than its debut.

“This is really a training, more than a conference,” says IYVS2007 co-director Alex Lofton, “we put together a curriculum that involves not only conceptual knowledge but applied skills building. Moreover, we give people an opportunity to connect with potential peers and partners to hopefully act with their new capacity.”

The event was founded in 2006 to remedy the educational gap faced by young people who wish to be a part of global problem solving. While volunteer abroad programs have provided new opportunities for young people to connect across borders, the founders of IYVS, Jon Marino (SESP06) and Nathaniel Whittmore (WCAS06) recognized that those programs rarely had the desire or capacity to make student development a primary goal.

IYVS2006 brought together participants from more than 40 universities in 20 countries to think critically about the pitfalls and potentials of global engagement and to build their capacities to effect responsible, effective and sustainable change. Workshops and discussions facilitated by founders, directors and staff of more than 30 innovative nonprofits helped them develop skills and approaches ranging from strategic planning to cultural competency.

In 2007, the new leaders of IYVS say that the event will go even further to help students translate their unique passions into global change assets.

“This year, in addition to the skills and knowledge we introduced last year, we’ll be providing the students customized content tracts such as ‘music and engagement’ or ‘engineering and engagement’ that really take their individual abilities to the next level,” says Content Director Emily Eisenhart.

Already, international interest in the event has exceeded that of last year. At the time of writing, almost three hundred prospective delegates had applied, complementing more than 100 organizations expressing interest in workshop facilitation.

“Yeah, its gonna be big.” Says co-director Page Hubben. “We’re excited.”

IYVS is a program of the Northwestern University Center for Global Engagement, with additional advising and support from the Division of Student Affairs and the Center for International and Comparative Studies.
New Working Paper Series Launched by the Graduate Program in Comparative – Historical Social Science

The Graduate Program in Comparative-Historical Social Science (CHSS) is pleased to announce a new Working Paper Series. The series will provide a venue for students and faculty associated with CHSS to have their work in progress formally available to scholars within and outside of Northwestern University. According to James Mahoney, “The new Working Paper series is an exciting opportunity for CHSS participants to make their work visible to the larger scholarly community. This is clearly true for graduate students, who need a format that allows their ideas to have an impact in the academic market but that simultaneously protects their authorship. Faculty should also welcome the series as an opportunity to have their work listed as they circulate preliminary drafts to colleagues. I know am eager to have my work listed here, and I am thankful to CICS and Brian Hanson for suggesting this possibility.”

The Working Paper Series on Comparative-Historical Social Science will be directed by Edward Gibson and James Mahoney. It will feature papers focused on comparative and/or historical work, very broadly defined. Students and faculty who would like to have their papers considered for this series should contact Gibson (egibson@northwestern.edu) and Mahoney (james-mahoney@northwestern.edu).
**FACULTY AFFILIATES PRESENT THEIR WORK**

Thom McAdie is a biological anthropologist specializing in human population biology. His work is primarily concerned with the dynamic interrelationships among biology, culture, and individual psychosocial environments, with an emphasis on stress and the ecology of immune function. The development and application of minimally-invasive methods for integrating physiological measures into population-based research is also a major area of interest. Prior research in Samoa, and ongoing research in Bolivia, investigates how local cultural transitions associated with globalization affect child/adolescent health, while research in the Philippines is exploring the long term developmental consequences of early nutritional and pathogenic environments. He is currently applying conceptual and methodological tools from this work to US-based research on stress and health, with an emphasis on the potential contribution of stress to health disparities. Dr. McAdie is also a Director of the Laboratory for Human Biology Research, and associate director of Cells to Society (C2S): The Center on Social Disparities and Health at the Institute for Policy Research (IPR). McAdie’s work has been supported by grants from the National Science Foundation, The National Institutes of Health, and the Wenner-Gren Foundation, and he was a 2002 recipient of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE).

**How did the Cells to Society project get started?**

Cells to Society (C2S) was founded as a new research center as part of IPR, which provided the necessary seed money to get the ball rolling. Most of our knowledge regarding human health comes from laboratory or clinic-based studies, and as a result we don’t have a good understanding of how social, economic, and cultural factors affect the health of everyday people living their everyday lives. Social scientists interested in health explore these issues in large community-based surveys, but typically rely on self-report measures of health, rather than objective measures commonly used in clinical settings. With these disciplinary divides in mind, C2S has set out to pursue a new direction and promote integrative, multi-level research on how social and cultural factors affect human physiology and health. One of the main areas of innovation of C2S concerns the development...
and application of minimally invasive methods for measuring physiology and health in community-based settings. In other words, our aim is to adapt “gold standard” clinical methods for use in the field so we can use them to explore the effects of social and cultural contexts on health around the world.

What are examples of such methods?
Dried blood spots—drops of blood collected on filter paper from a simple prick of the finger, provide a minimally-invasive method for collecting blood that overcomes many of the logistical constraints associated with venipuncture blood draws. The collection of saliva is another easily implemented method that a number of C2S investigators employ. In the dried blood spot samples we measure a wide range of biomarkers, one of the primary ones being C-reactive protein (CRP). CRP is a biomarker of inflammation, and in post-epidemiologic transition populations CRP has been found to be predictive of risk for cardiovascular disease. We measure CRP in a number of our studies. For example, in an ongoing study of healthy aging in Chicago, we have found that Chicagoans with higher burdens of psychosocial stress have higher concentrations of CRP, perhaps putting them at greater risk for having a heart attack or stroke. In this way we are documenting how an individual’s social environment is “getting under the skin” to affect their health, even though they may not be aware of it. Cortisol is another hormone related to stress that can be measured in saliva, and by collecting a series of samples we can see how stressors throughout the day affect well-being. These methods are such that just about any researcher is in a position to collect samples, across a wide range of research settings, both domestic and international.

Where does field research come in the equation?
An interdisciplinary/comparative approach allows researchers to investigate the way biology and culture interact. My primary interests are in how cultural factors affect health and human development, and in my current research I am applying biomarker methods in order to investigate the health consequences of globalization in lowland Bolivia. In a remote Amazonian community at the margins of market integration we are finding that ethno-botanical knowledge—what people know about the plant resources in their environment and how to use them—is being eroded. Since this population relies heavily on the local environment for their livelihood, we are concerned that a loss of knowledge may be bad for health, child health in particular. We are using objective indicators of health to investigate this process, and we have found that mothers who have higher levels of ethnobotanical knowledge have healthier children. In this research our methods for measuring health are helping us document an important adaptive function of culture—a function that is currently threatened.

Although the setting is quite different, the models and methods I use in my work apply in the U.S. as well. In particular, with colleagues at C2S, we are investigating the effects of social factors on biomarkers of health in a national study of 17,000 young adults! This study will be the largest application of minimally-invasive biomarker methods to date—methods that were developed in large part to overcome logistical constraints in remote settings around the world that are now finding use in the U.S. as well. To me this demonstrates the kind of synergy that can be gained from pursuing international and comparative research.

How is the setting in the United States different?
For the study in the U.S. we focus on socioeconomic status—income, education levels, occupation—neighborhood quality, as well as on the quality of social relationships (marriage, friendships, etc) in order to investigate how contextual factors affect health in diverse populations within the U.S. It is too early to speak of any results yet as we are in an early stages of the research. There is a lot of interest in this project and it shows the importance of C2S in promoting interdisciplinary research and hopefully shaping policy for the future.

For more information on Cells to Society visit:  http://www.northwestern.edu/ipr/c2s/index.html
For more information on Thomas McDade visit: http://www.northwestern.edu/ipr/people/mcdade.html
or  http://www.cas.northwestern.edu/anthropology/faculty/mcdade.html