

SPAN

SUMMER 2004

STUDENT PROJECT FOR AMITY AMONG NATIONS

It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.

Destinations 2004 A New Europe in a New Century

Does the European Union spell the end of diversity in Europe, of multilingualism and national identities?

Does this organization,



which has just grown to 25 countries, mean a super state and the weakening of democracy?

What challenges and

opportunities will this bring for U.S. trade and foreign policy?

SPAN 2004 students are about to set off for sites in the European Union to investigate

Europe's ambitious effort to create an integrated, connected continent.

As enrollees in SPAN's "Discovering the Changing Face of Europe: The European Union," the students' experience will be as diverse as their departmental affiliations. These students, who are majoring in global studies, political science, business, and communication, will conduct research in France, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden.

The EU group will begin together in Switzerland, a

country sharply divided between supporters and opponents of membership in the EU. The SPANners will meet with Swiss citizens on both sides of the issue and visit the Jean Monnet Foundation for Europe based on the Lausanne campus. (Jean Monnet was the architect and the first president of the European Coal and Steel Community and gave all his archives to the Foundation.)

Students will visit the International Red Cross in

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Bound for Ethiopia

For the first time since 1966, the SPAN program is traveling to Ethiopia, a nation in the process of rebuilding itself.

Ethiopia is the only country on the African continent never to have been colonized. It has a rich cultural heritage and is home to major anthropological discoveries — from Lucy to the very recent findings in the Awash valley.

The twelve graduate and undergraduate students bound for East Africa this summer represent a broad range of academic areas, including agricultural economics, public

health, nutrition, medicine, education, international development, cultural studies, and archaeology.

In preparation for their studies abroad, students have listened to guest speakers, including the dean of a major regional university, a former World Health Organization director who managed a famine relief station serving 30,000 people, and a former Ethiopian government health minister.

In addition to studying the history of Ethiopia, they are reading the book, *Ethiopia*, by Ben Parker, which focuses on

the lives of ordinary people and the major development issues affecting them.

SPANners also have been conducting extensive pre-departure research, compiling comprehensive annotated bibliographies, and writing critiques and research papers, which will serve as the underlying foundation for individual in-country field studies.

"When students signed up last fall to travel to Ethiopia, they knew they would be getting off the beaten path," says Margaret Demmessie,

faculty adviser for the group.

"Now, as these SPANners plan their itineraries and arrange for accommodations, the students are discovering Ethiopia, as a whole, has very little infrastructure to receive guests who are not arriving strictly as tourists."

Eager to spend a summer abroad like none other, the students are heading for a place where visitors are as welcome as they are uncommon.

The Challenge Grant:

Added incentive to financially support SPAN

For more than fifty years, the Student Project for Amity among Nations (SPAN) has been internationalizing higher education, one student at a time.

Today, being able to communicate across borders is increasingly important. It's all the more

Challenge Grant:
Your \$25 donation to SPAN means SPAN will receive \$50. A \$100 donation will translate to \$200 for SPAN.

of the three-year SPAN Challenge Grant, with a total of approximately \$15,000 in grant funds for 2004—an amount that should be sufficient to match all contributions SPAN expects to receive this year. Several others made smaller contributions to SPAN's operating funds.

The Challenge Grant provides that all contributions made to SPAN in 2004 from alumni and friends (up to a maximum of \$100 per person or family) are being matched, dollar for dollar, by the SPAN Challenge Grant fund.

This means that your \$25 donation provides SPAN with \$50. A \$100 donation will translate to \$200 for SPAN.

Donations of more than \$100 mean that SPAN will receive the amount of your gift plus \$100.

While there is reason to be optimistic about the first year of the SPAN Challenge Grant initiative, the jury is still out on the outcome.

Your donation is doubly important this year! Contributions from alumni and friends cover only about half of SPAN's annual operating expenses. We would like to avoid "borrowing"

from funds set aside for student loans to finance day-to-day operations. The only way to ensure that we have enough funds to cover expenses this year is with a substantial increase in donations to SPAN.

Only about 200 of the approximately 1,400 SPAN alumni and friends who receive the SPAN newsletter contribute to SPAN.

Some may feel that SPAN doesn't really need financial support or that modest contributions won't make a difference. However, if many modest contributions are doubled by the SPAN Challenge Grant, they add up, and they *can* make a significant difference.

If there are any SPAN alumni or friends who might be willing to make a financial commitment for the second or third years of the SPAN Challenge Grant program, SPAN'S Executive Director, Professor Theofanis Stavrou, will be happy to discuss it with you. Please contact Professor Stavrou at stavr001@umn.edu or phone 612-624-5734.

By Dean Lund

Thank you!

Heartfelt gratitude and many thanks to the alumni and friends of SPAN who generously responded to our appeal during the recent PhonATHon. We called. You answered. Your tax-deductible gift will enable SPAN to continue to help students develop a global mindset, speak a foreign language, and build bridges of international understanding. During times when state-supported institutions face budget cuts and students are being asked to pay higher tuition, your generous support is appreciated more than ever.

For those who were not contacted and would like to donate to SPAN, please send your gift to

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reason, then, to keep SPAN on solid financial ground.

The SPAN board recently decided to initiate a Challenge Grant for the organization by seeking out SPAN alumni or friends who would donate \$1,000 or more for the next three years to fund a matching gifts program.

After contacting a number of donors who have consistently contributed to SPAN, ten agreed to support at least the first year



Destinations 2004

European Union

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Geneva to interact with international civil servants, then cross Lake Geneva to visit France.

The group leader, Catherine Guisan, Ph.D., recently published a book on the political ethics of European integration, *Un sens à l'Europe. Gagner la paix (1950-2000)* published by Éditions Odile Jacob, Paris. As a

lecturer in the U of M political science department and the CLA honors program, she is eager to introduce students to the largest political experiment in international governance in the world thus far.

Reflections from SPAN 2003

In November, Chiapas 2003 SPANers reported on their work and adventures in Mexico last summer. Julie Grossman and Jonathan Kirsch were their faculty advisers.

Lillian Magidow spoke about *maize* (corn) and culture in this era of free trade. Her talk focused on the importance of maize as it extends beyond its role simply as food, as well as NAFTA and free trade and its effect on production and consumption of maize, and changes that have affected the way people feel about maize.

Kristina Vick's topic was tuberculosis. The high rate of TB in this area is attributed to isolation and lack of money in rural areas, making it difficult for patients to obtain health care. In Chiapas, Kristina helped analyze and document a training program for 25 doctors and

health professionals from different backgrounds.

Michele Confeld, who says she always has had an interest in skin, studied skin ailments among street children in Chiapas. Michele volunteered with *Melel Xojobal* (The True Light), an organization involved in education, day care, and health monitoring. Michele is working on a visual aid to send back to Chiapas that will help local health practitioners identify and treat these ailments.

Lacey Raak's research examined the effects of Coca-Cola on the culture of Chiapas. She chose the topic after her adviser described a town called Chamula, where people drink Coke, then burp to release evil spirits inside their bodies. Lacey did her research and observation in various regions around the state of Chiapas, instead of just

Chamula, for more insight into the region as a whole. She found that Coca-Cola was available to everyone, from a Zapatista autonomous community to villages deep in the rainforest.

Landon Nelson discussed "Zapa-tourism," the vital participation of international visitors in the Zapatista struggle. Landon found that visitors were welcome, in part because local peasants are harassed less when tourists are around. Zapa-tourists, together with local peasants, have been important players in recent political changes in Chiapas.

Kris Hagen studied conflict and natural resource management in the Montes Azules



Lillian Magidow, Kristina Vick and Lacey Raak wield their machetes while doing work in an organic coffee field.

Biosphere Reserve. His research focused on the Lacandon jungle in the eastern part of the state of Chiapas. People are living in that region whom the government says are occupying the area illegally, and government officials are trying to move them out. Kris's report discussed how these people came to be there and why the government wants them off the land.

Impressions of Chiapas

By Landon M. Nelson
Chiapas, Mexico, SPAN 2003

About two hours from the Mayan ruins of Palenque, in the Lacandon jungle which sprawls out over the southern portion of Chiapas, Mexico, there is a shining example of the natural beauty of Chiapas

A beautiful river with clear water and falls every 300 feet or so is owned by the people who live along it, indigenous Tzeltal and Chol people. The population is divided politically between Priistas, members of one of the major establishment political parties, and the Zapatistas, the infamous masked rebels with big plans to change Mexico. The fate of the river lies in their hands, and each group has its own plan. The Zapatistas want to conserve the river and its falls. Some of the Priistas want to convert it into a tourist attraction, complete with hotel and buffet.

One day I found myself in this area, on indigenous land where electricity is pirated from government power lines. The sign at the entrance reads "Welcome to Rebel Territory." I had ventured "out" of Mexico. I was bathing in the small portion of the river that outsiders or foreigners are allowed to use. It would be bad politics, we were told, if foreigners ventured to the falls in light of the current political situation.

Just around the bend of the river was what was considered the indigenous bath. I was surprised to see seven Tzeltal boys, whom I had met previously, come along the bank and join me on the gringo side of the river.

"Grande!," they shouted, a name I acquired while playing *basquetbol* with them. "We planned a trip for you."

I left my shoes, soap, and towel on the bank and started following the boys down into the river. Ten minutes later, we stopped, climbed out of the water, and found some fallen trees. We stripped off the bark and rubbed a certain plant on the logs so the bugs would fall off, then we threw the logs in the water and jumped in.

We climbed atop the logs, four to a log, and began paddling. We swam and paddled for two hours, laughing and joking. We passed people cooking or bathing or washing clothes. I realized I was far beyond the gringo territory.

We reached a waterfall where the water had molded the underlying rock into a natural masterpiece. The sun was going down. We sat at the bottom of the falls and watched the sunset. We were all dumbfounded by the beauty of the falls, even though the boys had seen it hundreds of times before.

I have always understood the

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Landon Nelson (foreground) and Kris Hagen (background) go to work in the milpa, or cornfield.

2004 SPAN Budget and Statement of Financial Activity

(Unaudited statement, fiscal year ending June 30, 2003)

By Kelly McDermott

Development Coordinator

Scholarships and financial assistance provided through generous support from donors have made it possible for many SPAN students to study overseas during the past 50-plus years.

What follows is an account of how the monies are being used to prepare students to excel at home and abroad.

The 2003 - 2004 financial picture

2003-2004 operating budget (Approved by SPAN Executive Board) \$28,460

Projected 2003-2004 operating expenses:

Salaries, payroll taxes, other state/federal taxes, filing fees (81.5%)	\$23,195
Workers compensation insurance (0.8%)	\$230
University student organization membership fee	\$15
Accounting services (5.6%)	\$1,600
Marketing, outreach communications (1.5%)	\$300
Web site design, maintenance (not including in-kind donations)	\$50
Postage, bulk mail (including two newsletters, PhoneAthon) (4.1%)	\$1,170
Refreshments (orientations, SPAN Days, PhoneAthon) (2.1%)	\$610
Banquet (2.5%)	\$700
General office supplies, printing, and miscellaneous (1.1%)	\$340
Emergency/contingency fund (0.8%)	\$250
Total projected 2003-2004 operating expenditures (Gen. Acct.):	\$28,460

Other anticipated expenses, including direct student financial assistance

Scholarships	\$9,500
<i>*Offset by established scholarship monies in designated scholarship CUFS account and SPAN long-term investment accounts</i>	
Loans and ExSPANd loans	\$13,000
<i>*Offset by established SPAN long-term investment accounts</i>	
U of M CUFS account expenditures for phone, Internet, printing	\$1,600
<i>*Revenue source: University of Minnesota, College of Liberal Arts</i>	
Total projected 2003-2004 expenditures from all sources	\$52,560
<i>Financial assistance, i.e. direct aid paid to students in the form of SPAN scholarships (18%) and loans (25%) accounts for 43 percent of our projected expenses in this fiscal year.</i>	

Projected 2003-2004 income

Student fees (application, course packet, program) (12%)	\$5,550
Alumni donations (36.5%)	\$17,000
Miscellaneous (5%)	\$200
Total projected income (General Account)	\$22,750

Other 2003-2004 projected sources of revenue

Long-term investment-related income based on recent earnings (earmarked for student scholarships and loans) (7.5%)	\$3,600
The SPAN Challenge Grant Initiative (43%)	\$20,000
Total projected 2003-2004 income from all revenue sources	\$46,350

Impressions of Chiapas

Continued from Page 3

indigenous connection to the land and nature—understood it, but that day I felt it. My feet were scraped and bruised from walking over sharp-edged rock. My skin was as red as a tomato from the sun. I felt a connection to the land. I felt sick to my stomach when I tried to picture a hotel there. I understood their fight.

The sun went down, and we walked together through the jungle. My bare feet padded against the damp jungle floor. I had made the trip like the indigenous people do. No tour buses, no guide jabbering through a microphone, no hotel accommodations. I laid in my hammock that night and thought about how lucky I was that the river had carried me so far.

Financial highlights

In recent months, SPAN has undertaken a number of activities to better monitor and improve its financial reporting. We have established a computerized filing system to track income and expenditures and have updated the system by inputting data from three previous years. We've created more accurate timelines and guidelines for our bulk mail, workers' compensation insurance, and mandatory State of Minnesota filings.

This will improve office efficiency and our ability to meet external financial deadlines. We've remedied a "glitch" in the system that prevented many contributors from receiving a PhonAthon letter, which, in turn, resulted in recording the receipt of revenue in FY2003-2004, when, in fact, it should have been recorded during fiscal year

2002-2003.

This past year, steps have been taken to organize SPAN's finances in a manner that eases reporting, allows for comparisons, and aids in projecting our costs. Our ability to envision a budget and operate within it has improved due to better monitoring and fiscal tracking. Costs have been trimmed where possible. We are searching for new revenue sources.

Looking back, 2002-2003 was a busy year for SPAN, and 2003-2004 is proving to be equally challenging. With continued support from SPAN alumni and friends, we expect to make more progress on the road toward financial stability.

A complete picture of the SPAN financials is available for review through the SPAN office.

SPAN Staff Positions

SPAN is now accepting applications for two part-time staff positions, Development Coordinator and the Program Coordinator.

The Program Coordinator is responsible for recruitment of faculty advisers and students and is the key contact for SPANners and instructors throughout the year. In addition, the Program Coordinator conducts student/faculty orientation and post-trip sessions, coordinates SPAN's pre-departure educational program and course packet, and is responsible for marketing, outreach, newsletter, and board communications.

The Development Coordinator advises SPANners about the availability of financial

assistance and identifies financial aid/scholarship opportunities for SPANners. This position is responsible for managing the operating budget and oversees financial reporting for the organization. The Development Coordinator is the key fundraiser for SPAN and serves as the contact for alumni.

If you are interested in either of these positions, please send a cover letter and resume to: Minnesota SPAN Association 658 Heller Hall 271 19th Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55455

Please call 612/626-1083 or e-mail the SPAN office at span@umn.edu with questions.

SPAN Alumni News

A new arrival: Welcome to Oliver, 7-lb.5 oz., born on January 23, 2004, to the SPAN co-advisers to the 2003 Chiapas group, Julie Grossman and Jonathan Kirsch. Congratulations!

**

Regional alumni coordinators: SPAN now has three volunteer coordinators in areas where a number of alumni are living. In New York City and surrounding areas, the coordinator is Becky Lijewski, Haiti 1999. Her home telephone number is 718-380-7384 and e-mail is haitilady99@yahoo.com.

In the Seattle, Washington, area, Georgia Conti, Turkey 1976, will help out. Her home number is 206-937-6076 and e-mail Antep9@aol.com.

In the San Francisco Bay area, the coordinator is David Madson, Fiji 1977. His home number is 510-525-7939 and e-mail is dmadson@ucsf.edu.

Thanks very much to these volunteers. Anyone else who would like to lend a hand, please contact the SPAN office.

**

Robin Benesh Reimer, a St. Olaf SPANner, Australia 1984, moved from the Gulf Coast to the Pacific Northwest, where she takes care of twins, Alyeska and Cameron. The family is living in Corvallis, Oregon, where they enjoy outdoor activities.

**

Herbert "Herb" Graebner, England 1949, is spending winters in Naples, Florida (239-262-2080). Herb lives in Birmingham, Michigan, during the summer. He sold his company, Acadia Health Care, seven years ago.

**

Glen Hemerick, Guatemala 1948, still corresponds with Guatemalans he met on his SPAN trip. His field is agriculture and he worked for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome and later for the U.S.

Department of Agriculture and several universities. He is now retired and lives in Olalla, Washington.

**

Pat Kennedy Comfort, Czechoslovakia 1968, now lives in Tempe, Arizona. Building on her SPAN study of the Czech early childhood educational system in Prague, she completed her Ph.D. and has a private psychology practice in Scottsdale. She has three children and travels with her husband for research and pleasure.

**

Delbert Anderson, India 1953, a SPANner from Gustavus Adolphus College, is retired and lives in Palatine, Illinois. He and his wife served as Lutheran missionaries in Hong Kong 1959-69. From 1970-1977 he was Program Director for East Asia for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), based in New York and later Chicago. The Andersons have four children, two of whom live in Minneapolis.

**

Carolynn Erickson Townsend, United Kingdom 1956, is enjoying retirement in New York City. Carolynn was a student at Gustavus Adolphus College. She had a career teaching home economics, both in Minnesota and Manhattan, and is the author of seven textbooks on nutrition. Later she worked for David Rockefeller, Jr., as an administrative assistant involved in his philanthropic efforts.

**

Patricia Harman Nortwen, England 1952, is living in Minneapolis. Two years ago she finished a term as state president of the Minnesota Music Teachers Association.

**

Duane Swanson, Sweden 1968, a Hamline University student, is now living in Braham, Minnesota. He accompanied a group of Braham high school students on

an exchange program to their sister city, Mora, in the Dalarna area of Sweden. He spent time at the Genealogy Center in Leksand, renewing studies that started with his family history project in 1968. Duane remains busy with his dual appointment in the Reference and Processing Department of the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul.

**

Cherry Merritt-Darriau, France 1950, is teaching in her log cabin Yoga Center at Indiana University. She writes that 1,000 students a year take yoga for credit and may save the world!

**

Patrick and Carole Gerster, co-advisers to the 1989 SPAN group to Denmark, left Minnesota in 1998. Carole is currently teaching at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and Patrick is dean of Humanities and Social Studies at San Jose City College. They send greetings to all, and especially to members of the

Denmark 1989 SPAN group.

Jeffrey Range, Hong Kong and Mainland China 2002, says there is no question SPAN changed his life. When he left Minnesota for China and Southeast Asia, Jeff was a journalism major. After returning from his travels, Jeff will soon be graduating with a Bachelor of Individualized Studies (BIS) degree, which is a non-traditional degree in which three areas of concentration (anthropology, global studies and journalism) are combined in lieu of a major. What's next for Jeff? A degree in international law for social development or maybe the Peace Corps – or perhaps something he hasn't thought about yet. But, definitely, he says, something that he wouldn't have dreamed of doing had it not been for SPAN.

In Memoriam



SPAN has lost two of its dearest friends, **Jim and Ruth Brown**. Their daughter, Kathy LaForge, wrote SPAN recently and said, "My parents, Jim, 93, and Ruth, 84, died this past year. They left behind letters and trip diaries from all over the world. All of their lives they loved traveling, from camping trips to the western United States to the first overseas trip we took as a family visiting France in 1959. That was the year Dad was an adviser for SPAN.

"The last year of his life, when mother was in a care center, Dad traveled with us to England and France.

"I am pleased they were so involved with such a valuable program like SPAN."

Jack L. Hervey, Ph.D., Turkey 1959, died March 21, 2003, at the age of 64. He was a senior economist in the research department of the Federal Reserve Bank in Chicago where he was highly regarded for his work on agricultural and international issues related to monetary policy. Harvey received his undergraduate degree in agronomy from the University of Minnesota, an M.S. in agricultural economics from the University of Nebraska and a Ph.D. from Michigan State University. His wisdom, integrity, and compassion are greatly missed by those who knew and loved him as a friend, neighbor, uncle, cousin, brother, father and husband. He will live forever in the hearts of his brother, son, daughter, and his wife of 28 years, Susan Barwise Hervey.

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*To request this information in alternative format, please call (612) 626-1083.
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Faculty Advisers Needed for Summer 2005

The Minnesota Student Project for Amity among Nations (SPAN) is seeking faculty advisers for summer 2005. Applicants must propose a foreign destination based on knowledge of the international location, personal language proficiency, cross-cultural competence, and host country connections. Candidates must have a Master’s degree; a Ph.D. is preferred. The adviser’s responsibilities include recruiting undergraduate and graduate participants from Minnesota colleges and universities; advising students on how to conduct research; providing outbound instruction, including traveling to the destination and being accessible to the group during an eight-week summer, in-country stay. Upon return, faculty advisers assist students in organizing their research findings and grade students on the writing of a 50-page research paper. (University of Minnesota FSSP 5960 and FSSP 5970; 8 credits) Advisers are employed as 2005 summer session faculty, however, the duties associated with these positions extend over approximately 20 months. Please call 612-626-1083 or e-mail the SPAN office at span@umn.edu for more information.

Where are you?

We would like to hear from SPAN alumni with information on where you are and what you’re doing now. Please take a few minutes to tell us what is new and exciting in your life. The members of your SPAN group will be happy to read about you in an upcoming issue of the SPAN newsletter.

 Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip/Country _____
 E-mail _____ Country/SPAN year/College attended _____

Your update or message:

Mail to: Minnesota SPAN Association, University of Minnesota, 658 Heller Hall, 271-19th Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55455
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