A Letter from the Director

Norman Namark is Robert and Florence McDonnell Professor of East European Studies and Burke Family Director of the Bing Overseas Studies Programs.

The BOSP office continues to buzz with activity. We have hired a Director for our new center in Madrid, Dr. Santiago Tejerina-Canal, who will begin his duties July 1, 2007. Dr. Tejerina-Canal is Professor of Spanish Literature at Hamilton College and has been responsible in part for its excellent operation in Madrid. He brings with him a fort of new ideas and a wealth of experience in Spain. We are thrilled with the appointment and now feel confident we can open the center by the spring of 2008. Since our previous program in Salamanca was shut down in 1992, setting up a superior program in Spain has been a cherished common goal of faculty, students, and administration. We are close!

We also approved an exciting series of seminars for next fall in Cape Town (on the politics of transformation in South Africa); in Oxford (on Shakespearean drama); in Louvain, Belgium (on the political economy of the European Union); in Australia (on aboriginal economy); in Ulsanbawi (on Mongolian culture and politics); in England (following the footsteps of Darwin); in Rome (on Jews and Christians); and in Thessaloniki (on Greek music, ancient and modern). These seminars continue to provide students with intense educational and cultural experiences abroad and are taught by some of the most innovative and dedicated professors in the university. The only problem is that we don’t come even come close to satisfying students’ demand for these seminars.

David Boyer (’96), formerly Assistant Registrar, has been hired as our new Manager of Student Affairs. Dave (Santiago 1993-94) has initiated a whole series of changes in our procedures. A new orientation program focuses on academic preparation of students for their time abroad. New outreach seeks to attract more underrepresented groups to our programs, including athletes and students in the sciences and engineering. Taking advantage of our new relationship with the office of the Vice Provost or Undergraduate Education, we now coordinate advising about BOSP with overall student advising at Stanford. We have also developed new admissions procedures to insure that students meet the criteria for attending the specific programs every year, we thank our donors for the opportunities the Bing Cultural Fund provides. The day was capped off with a fantastic, and thrilling, “Splendid Dinner” at a Tibetan-themed restaurant. Parts of Western Sichuan were actually parts of Tibet before the People’s Republic of China revised the borders after the invasion in 1950 and subsequent occupation, and Chengdu is still the gateway to Tibet for most anyone who wishes to visit the “roof of the world.” Our delicious dinner was highlighted by Tibetan singing and dancing.

Similar delightful reports arrive regularly from the other centers, and Abroad is glad to convey thanks from BOSP’s students, faculty, and staff for the opportunities the Bing Cultural Fund provides.

The newsletter of the BING OVERSEAS STUDIES PROGRAMS

Bing Cultural Fund Widens Students’ Horizons Overseas

Through the generosity of Dr. and Mrs. Peter Bing, the Bing Cultural Fund provides each center overseas with the capacity to offer events over the course of each quarter that would not be available for students otherwise. Students are asked to pay a portion of the cost, and the Fund adds the rest. Examples of events are concerts, operas, short excursions and field trips, and visits to classic restaurants. Abroad wishes there were space to include a report from each center, but here are two that will describe these wonderful experiences.

From Florence: January 24th, 2006: First Bing Opera.

For our first Bing opera, we attended a production of Giacomo Puccini’s Turandot. Turandot is the Italian composer’s last masterpiece and one of his most grand operas. This production was particularly special because in addition to being conducted by Zubin Mehta, it was directed by Zhang Yimou and was exactly the same version of the opera that was performed in China not too long ago. For some students, this was their first opera experience, and it was the topic of many discussions among students and faculty both in and out of class. All of the students agreed that this opportunity to see an opera in Florence has opened their perspectives and opinions on classical opera.

From Beijing: November 4, 2005, Field Trip to Chengdu.

All 17 students, accompanied by two staff members, flew to Chengdu, capital of Southwest China’s Sichuan province, from which in 1 in 50 human beings hails. Throughout Greater China, Sichuan is known for its spicy cuisine, abundance of historical sites, fertile soil and stunning scenery. We began our first afternoon by visiting Du Fu’s Thatched Cottage. Du Fu is one of China’s most famous poets, who wrote in the 8th Century during the Tang Dynasty. His one-time home has been turned into a public park, and it makes for wonderful, venturing wandering. All along the way we were treated to the expertise and engaging observation of Professor John Wang from Stanford’s Department of Asian Languages.

Next we shuttled over to the Wu Hou Ci Tower, where again we were regaled by Professor Wang with tales of love and conquest. The temple was built to commemorate one of Chinese history’s great military strategists, Zhuge Liang, who came to prominence during the Three Kingdoms period of the 3rd Century. One of China’s most famous epic novels, the Romance of the Three Kingdoms, is based on this period. The students were thrilled to see two millennium-old history before their eyes.

The day was capped off with a fantastic, and thrilling, “Splendid Dinner” at a Tibetan-themed restaurant. Parts of Western Sichuan were actually parts of Tibet before the People’s Republic of China revised the borders after the invasion in 1950 and subsequent occupation, and Chengdu is still the gateway to Tibet for most anyone who wishes to visit the “roof of the world.” Our delicious dinner was highlighted by Tibetan singing and dancing.

Many of our donors appreciate just how important studying abroad at Stanford was for their own development as individuals and world citizens and want future generations to be able to have those experiences as well. Funds for BOSP are used for highly diverse purposes, from developing ambitious new programs—like the ones in Spain and eventually, we hope, in South Africa—to enriching the experiences of the students presently enrolled. We sometimes can offer additional research money for worthwhile projects abroad or help needy students with the cost of their flights. We continue to expand the number of exciting internship opportunities for students and try to respond to their individual needs for academic and personal support abroad. We’ve rented instruments for serious musicians and found sports facilities for dedicated athletes. This is all in addition to the wonderful cultural programs funded by Helen and Peter Bing. In the name of the roughly 725 Stanford students who attend our programs every year, we thank our donors and friends for their ongoing support.

Norman Namark
abroad

the newsletter of the
BINS OVERSEAS STUDIES PROGRAMS

Britain II Celebrates 40th Anniversary at Harlaxton
by Kathleen Williams

Perhaps you can’t go home again, but some stalwart alumni of Britain II happily returned to Harlaxton Manor near Grantham, Lincolnshire, the castle of our young dreams. With cheerful help from Cynthia Marks, administrator for the University of Exeterville [the current owner and occupant of the Manor], a planning committee orchestrated our stay. On August 11, 2006, a release of the 70 students from Britain II, plus Bill Kirschner from Britain I, made a “Triumphant Return to Harlaxton.” Four hundred indigent and generaly members and friends joined us for this three-day celebration.

“As we came over the hill from Grantham and saw those improbable spires set against the woods, it was as if nothing had changed since we all lived there 40 years ago,” observed David Hibbert. Memories, and the delight of seeing our old campus, meshed with the joy of sharing the excitement with family and friends. It was wonderful to see how well-restored the Manor was and how much it had retained its character.

Why were we so happy to be at Harlaxton? It had been amazing, living there as kids. I think most of us wondered: would it seem as great now? So many elements triggered a feeling of place: the massive chandelier in the Great Hall; rooms panelled with paintings, tapestries, sculptures; and gleaming walls and ceilings. The grand cedar staircase and its ball—ah, those days of Sunday Prayer, then pounded against the windows, blown by gusts and its ceiling—a trompe-l’oeil sky. Rain drizzled then pounded against the walls, beaten by gusts as right fell, in spite of which some of us bundled up and walked the miles down the drive to the coziness of the Gregory Arms for a warming glass of gilt or pint. August in England can be chilly.

Most of us arrived Friday afternoon in time for high tea, joined by some local host families, former staff members, and their children. Among our 20 guests were our former M.D., one of the headmaster’s daughters, and several elderly who had cleaned and cooked for us. Among those charming stories of how we had been kind of kinless or (formally). On Saturday morning, the group dispersed, some touring Grantham (the nearby “Big City”) and elegant Belvoir Castle, others exploring the Manor from basement to ballroom. That afternoon, a guided led us through the Manor, filing in gaps in our knowledge of its quirky history and construction oddities (for example, the beautiful wood paneling in the ballroom is faux, painted plaster). Some remodeling was disconnecting: a few dorm rooms had been turned into bathrooms or fire exits. On the bright side, although we weren’t allowed to crawl in the secret passages. The glow of stained-glass windows and dozens staircases, and the promise of hidden rooms in the ballroom is faux, painted plaster). Some guide led us through the Manor, filling in gaps in our knowledge of the place and the time were vivid. The memories of the place and the time were vivid. The glow of stained-glass windows and dozens of staircases, and the promise of hidden rooms.

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Thus on September 15, 2006, France VII’s reunion began. The opening event was a reception in Paris at the early 17th-century walk-up apartment of group member Tony Kleitz (’66), and Eileen MacIndoe Tanner (’65) contributed to the event. Forty-five years after the first group of 80 Stanford students inaugurated Stanford’s campus in Tours, France, nine members of the Class of ’66 had gathered with spouse to reminisce. Hosted by Sally Nusler Jenkins and husband, Jim, in their beautiful Atthorn homes, we savored exquisite French cuisine and wines from the Tours region.

We told our France I and professor of honor George Knoles, who is sneaking up on 100th birthday. He amazed us with his total recall of events and incidents and chummed us with colorful anecdotes. Besides his brilliant lectures, fluid delivery of his late wife, Amanda, we remember with awe and gratitude for the personal interest they took in each student. Many of those in our group provided messages for the “memory book,” which Professor Knoles. We enjoyed reading those letters and looking at photographs and news clips from that eventful six-month period.

High points especially remembered were the spectacular dedication ceremony in the Town Hall with robust dignitaries led by Stanford’s President Wallace Sterling and the representative of the French government Charles daGallée as well as adventurous week-long field trips to London and Rome. All agreed that the match-up with French families in Tours greatly enhanced our exposure to French culture and family life. Some have maintained that connection with “their family.” We hope the tradition has continued for subgroups. Truly our experience at Stanford’s campus in France impacted our lives enormously. It opened the world to us. Several later pursued overseas, others lived abroad, many have travelled extensively. We are all tremendously appreciative that this remarkable international dimension was integrated into our Stanford preparation for life.

France VII Enjoying Revisiting Tours
Joyce Raddaugh Berg (’66), Elvige Rudback Daniel (’69), and Eileen MacIndoe Tanner (’65) contributed to the event. Forty-five years after the first group of 80 Stanford students inaugurated Stanford’s campus in Tours, France, nine members of the Class of ’66 had gathered with spouse to reminisce. Hosted by Sally Nusler Jenkins and husband, Jim, in their beautiful Atthorn homes, we savored exquisite French cuisine and wines from the Tours region.

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On the final day of the reunion, we traveled by bus through the beautiful Loire Valley, stopping first at the Château du Chauart, where a garden festival was in progress. In the afternoon we went to Vouvray and tasted wine at the oldest cave in the area. Our last dinner together was a banquet at the Abbaye de Portloucy, where we were greeted—surprise!—by a pair of Stanford students. Amy Aniobi (’06, American Studies) works at the abbey, and Michelle Odemwingie (’07) was completing a summer internship there.

And so our special time together drew to a close. Amidst discussions of our next reunion, but where, we reluctantly began to go our separate ways the following morning. “Having those professors and administrators...at this dinner in Tours and seeing and FEELING what it meant to them was extremely heartwarming...I made me realize once again that all of us on the globe are tied together at the heart.” (Erv DeSmet, ’66)

Alums of Stanford in Italy Visit Florence and Rome
Carolina Farina (’73, Italy), XXX Fall Winter, 1972-73) reports on a large reunion of Florence alums.

Some 175 Stanford alums and guests gathered in Rome in June, 2006, to honor Ronald D. Spigoli (’70, Italy, IV Fall, Winter, 1968-69, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Italy. The reception honoring Ambassador Spigoli took place at Villa Taverna, the Ambassador’s family residence in Rome. This villa and formal Italian gardens, which sit on acres were the backdrop for a very special Stanford evening. Col Blacker, Director of the Freman Spogli Institute for International Studies, and Dr. Giuseppe Mammarolla, former Director of Stanford-in-Italy and Stanford Professor of Political Sciences, offered remarks honoring Ambassador Spigoli and his many contributions to Stanford. The organizers also prepared a spectacular album of photographs from respective stays in Florence and presented it to Ambassador Spigoli. In addition to attending the splendid reunion, 75 alumni enjoyed a 5-day visit in Rome wonderful organized by Dr. Mammarolla. Fosca D’Acerio and Anna Nocette, both on the current staff at Stanford in Florence, coordinated many of the details of the program with grace and skill. The schedule in Rome included various speakers and guides, a panel audience, private visit at the Vatican Museums and Stinna Chapel, and visits to Ostia Antica, the Villa Borghese and the Galleria Doria Pamphilj. Dr. Mammarolla also chose wonderful Italian meals for all participants. The tour and reunion was organized by four alumni of Stanford in Italy, Joan Robertson Lamb (’73), Helena Barbey Lankton ’72, Jo Bufalino (62) and Caroline Anne Fierar (’73). It was wonderful to connect with Stanford-in-Italy alums from all over the world, and many guests attending the reunion traveled to Rome from various offices in Italy. Others came from the United States in order to honor Ambassador Spigoli. One guest traveled from Australia to be present, and the oldest guest celebrated his 87th birthday in Rome. This very special tour and the reception at Villa Taverna highlighted a marvelous Stanford experience in Italy for scores of alums.

The building belongs to the University of Tours, and arranged to look around. What a step back in time! Very little had changed, and memorials came flooding back—food, old friends and the hilarious adventures or, in some cases, misadventures.

That evening we came back together for a gala dinner at the Hôtel de Furens, where the members of honor were six members of the French faculty and staff, who had worked at the Center forty-three years earlier and two serving spouses. Although their lives had gone in different directions in the intervening years, they had not forgotten each other or Stanford in France. Former Administrative Assistant Madame Alain, now Madame Durand, could remember individual students! Professor Girard took great pleasure in being reminded of the works he students had studied with him, the animation in the room was enhanced as former students and teachers rediscovered one another and their shared past. In fact, the last to say goodnight that evening were our guests of honor, who were extremely touched and grateful.

Italy, Fall Winter, 1968-69, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Italy. The reception honoring Ambassador Spigoli took place at Villa Taverna, the Ambassador’s family residence in Rome. The villa and formal Italian gardens, which sit on acres were the backdrop for a very special Stanford evening. Col Blacker, Director of the Freman Spogli Institute for International Studies, and Dr. Giuseppe Mammarolla, former Director of Stanford-in-Italy and Stanford Professor of Political Sciences, offered remarks honoring Ambassador Spigoli and his many contributions to Stanford. The organizers also prepared a spectacular album of photographs from respective stays in Florence and presented it to Ambassador Spigoli. In addition to attending the splendid reunion, 75 alumni enjoyed a 5-day visit in Rome wonderful organized by Dr. Mammarolla. Fosca D’Acerio and Anna Nocette, both on the current staff at Stanford in Florence, coordinated many of the details of the program with grace and skill. The schedule in Rome included various speakers and guides, a panel audience, private visit at the Vatican Museums and Stinna Chapel, and visits to Ostia Antica, the Villa Borghese and the Galleria Doria Pamphilj. Dr. Mammarolla also chose wonderful Italian meals for all participants. The tour and reunion was organized by four alumni of Stanford in Italy, Joan Robertson Lamb (’73), Helena Barbey Lankton ’72, Jo Bufalino (62) and Caroline Anne Fierar (’73). It was wonderful to connect with Stanford-in-Italy alums from all over the world, and many guests attending the reunion traveled to Rome from various offices in Italy. Others came from the United States in order to honor Ambassador Spigoli. One guest traveled from Australia to be present, and the oldest guest celebrated his 87th birthday in Rome. This very special tour and the reception at Villa Taverna highlighted a marvelous Stanford experience in Italy for scores of alums.
Alums and Friends Offer Strong Support for Bing Overseas Studies Programs

This gift of Abroad lists the names of 1) all donors who have established or given to endowed funds for Bing Overseas Studies Programs (BOSP) and 2) all other donors who have given since January 1, 2003, in support of BOSP. For many years after Overseas Campuses were founded in the late fifties and have given since January 1, 2000, in support of Programs (BOSP) and 2) all other donors who endowed funds for Bing Overseas Studies Program. Now, nearly 50 years later, over 22,000 Stanford students have benefited from opportunities to study abroad at a variety of Stanford Centers around the world. Programs (BOSP) and 2) all other donors who endowed funds for Bing Overseas Studies Program. Now, nearly 50 years later, over 22,000 Stanford students have benefited from opportunities to study abroad at a variety of Stanford Centers around the world.

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The list of donors is in alphabetical order by last name.

We gratefully acknowledge our contributing alumni and alumnae, parents, students, and friends for their generous gifts in support of Bing Overseas Studies Programs.

Two Centers Named

Thomas Kell Montag, ’79, and his wife, Janet, recently established an endowed fund to support the operation of BOSP’s center in Oxford. Mr. Montag attended Stanford in Britain when it was located at Cliveden House; his tutor there was none other than Dr. Geoffrey Tyack, now Director of The Thomas and Janet Montag Center for Overseas Studies in Oxford. In 2001 James Breyer (’83) and Susan Zarrat Breyer (’83) led the way with their endowed gift that now supports the operation of The Breyer Center for Overseas Studies in Florence.

These endowed gifts help ensure that the benefits of study abroad will be available to Stanford’s undergraduates far into the future and are examples of strong attachments many alums feel toward the Program. The entire staff of Bing Overseas Studies Programs and current students benefiting from the Montags’ and Breyers’ gifts thank them for their generosity.

Alums and Friends Offer Strong Support for Bing Overseas Studies Programs

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Through the almost forty-nine years of Overseas Campuses and Overseas Studies, high percentages of students attending rated their experience overseas as a major highlight, if not the most important part, of their undergraduate education. And now many of those same alums and other friends of the University are featured in the list of donors, Overseas Studies’ target of $50,000,000 in support as a part of the recent Campaign for Undergraduate Education was met—and surpassed. We are especially gratified that so many serious graduating in 2006 directed their contribution to the Senior Class Gift to Overseas Studies (see the message from Bryan Bentrott on this page).

Most significantly, we see all of the gifts recognized as not only substantiating the meaning of enormously important experiences, but also helping to enable future generations of Stanford’s undergraduates to have similar stay overseas. We ask all readers of Abroad to join us in thanking everyone on the list.

“I directed my class gift donation to the Bing Overseas Study Program because of the breadth and depth of the experiences I had while studying in Santiago, Chile. The Bing Program enabled me to connect with a wonderful Chilean family with whom I continued to stay in touch, gave me the opportunity to travel and explore places like the South of Chile and Machu Picchu through sponsored trips, placed me in an environment where I was able to really develop my Spanish language skills and gifted me the chance to learn more about both South America and myself through the experience of cultural immersion. For all these reasons I wanted to show my gratitude and will continue to do so through further gifts to the program.”

— BRYAN A. BENTROTT (’96, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS)

HOLD THE DATE!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN 2008!

In June of 1958, Stanford in Germany opened at Langeland Burg near Brandenburg, launching the Stanford Overseas Campuses program. New, nearly 60 years later, over 22,000 Stanford students have benefited from opportunities to study abroad at a variety of Stanford Centers around the world. Programs (BOSP) and 2) all other donors who endowed funds for Bing Overseas Studies Program. Now, nearly 50 years later, over 22,000 Stanford students have benefited from opportunities to study abroad at a variety of Stanford Centers around the world.

Please plan to join us the weekend of May 2-4, 2008 for what promises to be a nostalgic view of where we’ve been and an exciting look at what study abroad is more important than ever before. If you have ideas for this event or would like to participate in a planning group please contact Irene Kennedy, Executive Director, at imk@stanford.edu.
A Storybook Wedding at Stanford in Oxford

Lauren Oster ('10, English) and Joe Soldevilla ('10, Philosophy and Political Science) met as students at Stanford in Oxford in Spring Quarter, 1999. Here, Lauren tells Abroad about resuscitating festivities.

Wyn Kaughn, once a Harvard College student, contended that Oxford is "simply a very beautiful city in which it is convenient to segregate a certain number of the young... while they are growing up." My time in the city had a far happier ending, and I couldn't agree more: I took a trip to shape Oxford.

Stanford in Oxford offers a one-of-a-kind experience abroad: the tutorial system allows students to develop individual academic relationships with their British advisors, and living at 65 High Street gives them the chance to absorb their adopted home together. In sharing their experience abroad: the tutorial system allows a "second" home to drop its qualifier and become a "home."