

# Impariamo

"A newsletter for the Intelligence Community Centers for Academic Excellence"

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Ms. Deborah Kircher, Chief Human Capital Officer for the IC at the Faculty Professional Development Seminar



31 July, 2015

## FIU Puts New Spin on "Spring Break"

### Intelligence Career Seminar Spring 2015

One of the goals of the IC-CAE Program is to connect students with IC professionals. An effective way of connecting students to professionals is to visit professional settings and meet with (preferably younger) professionals and with recruiters and/or hiring managers. Students learn "from the horse's mouth" about daily job activities, hiring processes, internship opportunities, etc.

During the Florida International University 2015 Spring Break week, eleven students and three faculty/administrators participated in an Intelligence Career Seminar (FIU's 4th such) in Washington, D.C. This activity can be very impactful on students. Connections may be brief or contact information may be exchanged for longer-term mentoring or information sharing.

In previous seminars program funding enabled students to participate at very low cost (i.e. meals and ground transportation such as Metro system passes). This time students had to pay the bulk of their expenses. The 2015 itinerary indicates what can be accomplished:

Sunday: Fly to Reagan National Airport; check into hotel

Monday: Defense Intelligence Agency

Tuesday: Homeland Security Intelligence Training Academy and Treasury Office of Intelligence and Analysis

Wednesday: NGA and CIA

Thursday: Marine Corps Intelligence Activity and FBI National Academy

Friday: Fly home

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## Calendar of Events

**3-14 August, 2015**, National Security Analysis and Intelligence Summer Seminar

**24-27 August, 2015** Visits to Florida Universities:

24 Aug - University of South Florida

25 Aug - Florida International University

26 Aug - University of Central Florida

**1-2 September, 2015** Visits to NC Triangle:

Duke University

University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill)

North Carolina State University

**16 September, 2015** University of New Mexico

Greetings to all!

It was a pleasure meeting so many of the IC CAE program leaders and faculty at the Annual Meeting and Professional Development Seminar in June. Your participation and interaction added greatly to our discussions and to the successful exchange of program ideas. An event summary of the event is published elsewhere in this edition.



We spent the month of July preparing for the National Security Analysis and Intelligence Summer Seminar, better known as the “Summer Seminar,” held August 3-14 in Arlington, Virginia. Upon as requested, the IC CAE schools nominated participants to attend two weeks of intelligence-related activities, including presentations by intelligence officers, an intelligence simulation experience directed by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (past grantee and a sustaining member of the IC CAE), and tours of both the Office of Naval Intelligence and the Central Intelligence Agency. Nominations far exceeded capacity and 40 highly competitive participants were chosen. We will be publishing the reports of their experience at the seminar by the participants themselves in the next *Impariamo*.

At this time, I am happy to introduce our new Program Manager, Patrick Dowden. Pat will be the Team Lead in the IC CAE program office, and will soon be joined by two more Program Managers to liaison with our schools in support of our community. Specific school assignments to the new program managers will be communicated at a later date, however Pat or I can be contacted for all your needs until the assignments are finalized. *cont...*

Sincerely,

*Edie Alexander*

Dr. Edith Alexander  
IC CAE Program  
Director

*continued from previous column...*

Pat began his professional experience as a public school teacher in Indiana and after a short period, he changed careers and attended Officer Candidate School in the U. S. Coast Guard. During Pat's 23 year career in the Coast Guard, he specialized in Search and Rescue operations, Maritime Law Enforcement and Leadership Development/Training (including one tour at the Coast Guard Academy). Upon his retirement from the military, Pat has been working at the Defense Intelligence Agency where he has been in charge of a high potentials leadership development program, professional education opportunities and has been the program manager for the Agency Senior Executive Seminars. Pat has earned two graduate degrees; the first degree from Indiana State University (MS) and a second from the University of San Diego (MA).

As the summer and the fiscal year wind down, we will begin preparations for the forthcoming grant year. Our goals include: 1) Increasing Program Manager visits to the IC CAE schools, 2) Helping the community find more ways to collaborate, exchange, and gain from each others' programs, and 3) Increasing opportunities for member contributions, publications and presentations. We hope our goals and yours are aligned, ensuring a mutually beneficial partnership for years to come.



Senior Advisory Board at the IC CAE Annual Meeting

By CSU-ACE Members

On April 17, 2015, the California State University Intelligence Community Center of Academic Excellence (CSU-ACE) held its 9th Annual Colloquium. The Colloquium hosted some 190 registrants, with students and faculty from twelve different universities including: CSU San Bernardino, CSU Fullerton, CSU Long Beach, CSU Northridge, CSU San Marcos, CSU Cal Poly Pomona, the University of Redlands, Azusa Pacific University, UC Riverside, Chaffey College, San Bernardino Valley College and Victor Valley College. Over a dozen federal and local agency representatives, along with representatives from the private sector, were also in attendance.



Before the official opening of ceremonies, our senior CIA Directorate of Intelligence liaison held an intelligence simulation for about 30 undergraduate and graduate students from the various campuses. Students worked in teams to analyze a potential conflict that could affect U.S. interests, followed by a briefing to our liaison about the situation.

Opening the Colloquium, Dr. Mark T. Clark, the Director of the National Security Studies M.A. program at CSUSB, spoke of some exciting developments and recent student success stories. First, he announced that the National Science Foundation awarded he and Dr. Tony Coulson, Director of the Cyber Security Center at CSUSB, a 3-year grant to develop two new degrees in Cyber Security and Intelligence Analysis. A new B.S. will be housed in the College of Business Administration and a new M.S. in National Cyber Security Studies will be offered alongside the existing M.A. degree. The B.S. and M.S. degrees will both start Fall 2015. Interest among students and potential employers is already evident.

In addition, Dr. Clark mentioned that this year, students have obtained conditional offers of employment (COEs) at the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National Security Agency, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and private companies. Furthermore, the CSU-ACE grant will fund 9 students to pursue summer intensive critical language training in Arabic, Korean, Mandarin, and Russian. In addition, the Department of State awarded a prestigious, fully funded critical language scholarship to one of our students.

The Colloquium then featured two student presentations. The first, the Cyber Security Challenge Project, from the fall quarter's Research Methods seminar, discussed the relationship between the principles of cyber and physical security. The second presentation, from the winter quarter's Strategic Intelligence seminar, presented an analysis on the terrorist use of drones against the United States. A question and answer session followed each presentation.

After a break for lunch, students and faculty reassembled for an Intelligence Community discussion panel. Representatives from the Central Intelligence Agency, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, National Protection and Programs Directorate within the Department of Homeland Security, National Security Agency, United States Naval Intelligence, and the Government Accountability Office participated in the information session. Although not on the panel, representatives from the Los Angeles Police Department, ESRI, and the Wells Fargo Cyber Division were also in attendance. In addition to careers with the respective agencies, representatives also talked about the application and security processes. Following the discussion panel, students also had the opportunity to individually meet with the representatives to discuss specific questions related to their career goals. The event served as an important gateway for students, faculty, and guests alike to establish connections to gain valuable insight into the U.S. Intelligence Community. For more information about next year's Colloquium, please visit [www.csu-ace.org](http://www.csu-ace.org)



By: Dr. Barbara Bennington

Ten of the USF CAE Program In National Intelligence students traveled to Washington DC for a fast-paced and unique visit from 10-17 May 2015. Mr. Walter Andrusyszyn, USF Program Director, and Dr. Barbara Bennington, Deputy Program Director accompanied them. The trip was an extraordinary opportunity for students to visit many of the IC Agencies, the Department of State, Congressional offices, and the National Security Council. Students were able to meet and interact with representatives from each organization.



The trip began with a day at the Headquarters of the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA) where the students were given a tour of the facility and briefings by a panel of GEOINT analysts. The NGA employees shared their career experiences and discussed their current assignments. Students were even allowed to enter the Director's private conference room to receive additional NGA mission briefings and view NGA product displays including a mock-up of the UBL compound.

The next day began with program briefings from the IC CAE program office, a team of DIA analysts, and a representative from DIA Human Resources. Many of the students commented on how useful these presentations were and how much they appreciated the detailed information on an analyst's day to day life and the advice from the HR representative on how to find and obtain employment at DIA. Ms. Julea Wade from the Program Office coordinated the DIA presentations for us and provided an excellent overview of the CAE program office.

Next on the agenda was a visit to CIA Headquarters in McLean, VA. The students were able to visit the famous main entrance lobby and to hear from a veteran CIA employee about the history of the Agency, the building, and the commemorative wall of stars. Our hosts then provided a narrated tour of the CIA museum, which contains many fascinating displays of tradecraft artifacts and traces the history of Agency operations from the earliest OSS days up to the present. After the museum visit, students were able to meet and have in-depth discussions with several current Agency employees and retired annuitants who described their current positions and career paths. As we were leaving the building we were humbled to witness a ceremony taking place in the main lobby where two new gold stars were being engraved into the wall to honor and remember two more fallen heroes.

Our next day took us to the U.S. Department of State (DOS) where students received a tour of the 24/7 Operations Center and met with two Deputy Assistant Secretaries in the EUR Bureau, Mr. Eric Rubin, and Mr. John Heffern. Students had an opportunity to ask questions and engage in substantive discussions on a variety of current foreign policy issues. They also met with several other high-ranking DOS officials including Ambassador Joyce Barr, the current Assistant Secretary for Administration. Amb. Barr discussed her career path and offered advice to students interested in the Foreign Service. Students were also treated to a special visit to the 7th floor reception rooms where the Secretary of State hosts foreign dignitaries.

On Thursday the students visited the Pentagon where a Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Mr. James Townsend, whose current focus is on Europe and NATO, hosted them. Students were able to participate in a lively discussion about the future of NATO and the challenges facing the European Union. Following this very interesting morning, we visited the McCain Institute, a prominent Washington “Think Tank” to become familiar with the think tank culture and presence in the Washington community. Afterwards, we traveled to Capitol Hill. There we were invited to meet with staff members and legislative assistants from three Congressional (House) Representatives. They were also able to meet with a staff member of the Senate Intelligence Committee.



On Friday the students were privileged to meet with two retired Ambassadors, Ms. Rozanne Ridgway, and Mr. John Beyrle (see photo below) who came to our hotel for informal round table discussions on current political events and to give their perspectives on current and past challenges in U.S foreign policy.



The highlight of the trip was to the White House Old Executive Office Building (OEOB) where we were hosted by Ms. Jessica Brooks, Director of the NSC



our Friday afternoon visit Executive Office Building hosted by Mr. Chip Dean from the European and Mr. Rohan Patel,

Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Inter- Governmental Affairs. Mr. Patel discussed his professional journey from a grass roots political campaign staff position to his current position in the Obama administration. Despite all of the many exceptional experiences of the entire week, the students were extremely impressed to be allowed inside the White House offices and to walk out the East Side of the OEOB to see the West Wing directly in front of them. Many selfies were taken.



# Teaching Valuable Intelligence Skills through Gaming

By Derek McOmber  
University of Mississippi Student of Intelligence and Security Studies



I have been an avid gamer for most of my life and worked at Nintendo as a game tester. I worked on many games where I tested development software, identified programming issues, evaluated products for content guidelines, documented quality-assurance checks. The skills I learned from my time working at Nintendo helped build my analytical, strategizing, and group dynamics skills that can be beneficial in the Intelligence Community (IC).

Analytical skill is how someone visualizes, articulates, and solves problems to make decisions based on the information available. Games like Portal can give players a problem that is multi-dimensional and make them think of every facet of their surroundings. The player then has to use their portal device to manipulate the environment to get to the room's exit. This also ties into strategizing to solve the problem.

Strategizing is the ability to plan the steps needed to solve a problem. In Starcraft, a Real-Time Strategy (RTS) game, players build bases using their units to fight enemy players or computers. They plan how their base will be defended, send scouts to survey enemy territory, and devise a mental schema for how they will defeat the enemy. Using this knowledge, people can become better at brainstorming different ways to solve a problem. This also leads to working with others.

Group dynamics is a skill that allows people to work together to solve problems. In World of Warcraft, a Massive Multiplayer Online Roleplaying Game (MMORPG), players will join in groups to complete tasks in different areas. These groups can be just two people or can be as big as 40 where leaders will delegate assignments to everyone to complete goals. These skills will bolster a person's ability to work with others.



While video games can be a fun entertainment platform to play with friends, the analytical, strategizing, and group dynamic skills that are taught can carry over with that person to be used in jobs at IC agencies to analyze threats to the United States, understand how to disrupt enemy plots, work with teams on a better level, and disseminate information collected and send it through proper channels to be assessed by policy makers. Using video games as a tool to learn will help people to look outside the box on issues and see the forest through the trees.

# Florida International University Student Offered Position Following Internship at SOUTHCOM

If you've ever asked yourself..."why should I be involved in this IC-CAE Program?" "What's in it for me?" Just look at the message below.

Not only is Tatiana benefiting from her affiliation with the program, but the nation will continue to benefit from her many contributions to National Security that are sure to come.

**Congrats Tatiana - You Go Girl!**

*From: David K. Twigg, PhD, Director, Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy and Citizenship Studies, Florida International University*

I want to share this late-breaking news. Yesterday I spent most of the day at FIU's 10th Annual Statewide Federal Career Conference. 20+ federal agencies were there, including friends from the FBI, CIA, State etc. We met a Political Advisor from the State Department who is embedded with J9 at SOUTHCOM. Coincidentally, she told us how terrific one of our interns is, who she works closely with. I returned to the office this morning to see that the very same intern (Tatiana Escudero) has been offered a position!

She is not the first to transition at SOUTHCOM, but it shows the great opportunity the internship provides.

**\*We are eager to publish all good news of employment by IC CAE graduates into the Intelligence Community.**

*Dr. Michael J. Gonzales, Executive Editor, Impariamo, "THE Newsletter for the Intelligence Community Centers for Academic Excellence"*