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BOREN FORUM NEWSLETTER

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By John-Marshall Klein (Fellow '98), Stephanie Larsen (Scholar '99), and Stacia Falat (Scholar '00)

SNAPSHOT: Uzbek Art



Tea Time – 2002 Scholar **Meagan Landry** snaps a close-up of traditional gold embroidery on a velvet wall covering at the Museum of Applied Arts in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The embroidered figures are depicted drinking tea.

Dear Alumni,

As the largest government agency and home to the National Security Education Program, the Department of Defense takes pride of place in this issue of the Boren Forum Newsletter. Not surprisingly, nearly 25 percent of Boren alumni have fulfilled their service requirement through opportunities with the Defense Department. Read up on the Defense Language Institute and test your defense knowledge prowess.

Summer is here and we are eager to celebrate the season with alumni. Share travel stories and your favorite couscous

salad at the first Boren BBQ on July 24. Also, check out [The Bridge on the Drina](#) by Ivo Andric, and keep your smarts in tune at the first Boren Book Club meeting in August.

Thanks to a kind donation from Arthur J. Collingsworth, the Boren Forum has its first Founding Member. We are grateful for his generosity, which strengthens our programs and generates opportunities for members. Have a great summer.

- *The Boren Forum Staff*

FIRST FOUNDING MEMBER

Mr. Arthur J. Collingsworth is the first *Founding Member* of the Boren Forum. Mr. Collingsworth made a major donation to the alumni organization, which will memorialize his name on a plaque.

Mr. Collingsworth is a Presidential appointee of the National Security Education Board. He has been advising NSEP since 2002. His generous donation will be used to develop the Boren Forum website, <http://www.borenforum.org>, and to sponsor a speaker series in the fall.



Donors giving \$500 or more to the Boren Forum will be recognized as *Founding Members* and will also receive an official certificate of recognition.

BOREN FORUM BBQ



Americans revere baseball, the American flag and mom's apple pie. We also love a good barbecue.

Join the Boren Forum for a **Summer BBQ** like no other from **4 to 8 p.m. Saturday, July 24**, at the house of alumna Stacia Falat, **1227 N. Utah Street, Arlington, Virginia**.

The BBQ is potluck style. The Boren Forum will provide meat and vegetarian items for grilling, as well as sodas and paper products. Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert, enough for five to eight people, and BYOB. We welcome exotic and international foods!

Please **RSVP** to meaganopa@yahoo.com by **July 23** if you plan to attend, and to tell us what dish you will prepare. All members

are welcome to bring friends, just let us know!

BOREN BOOK CLUB

The Boren Forum Book Club will meet to discuss The Bridge on the Drina by Ivo Andric at 2 p.m. on Sunday, August 22, in Café Matisse at Olsson's Books and Records in Courthouse, 2111 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.

The novel centers on a great stone bridge built in the heart of Balkans in the sixteenth century by a Grand Vizier of the Ottoman Empire and destroyed in the World War I. Spanning generations, nationalities, and creeds, the bridge highlights the continuities and changes in human culture over 400 years. Andric's novel earned the author the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1961.



The Bridge on the Drina in all its glory.

Send an email to bgoldyn@yahoo.com before **Aug. 21** if you are interested in attending. You do not have to have completed the book to attend. Escape from the heat of Washington in June! Relax with a cool beverage and enlightening conversation with the Boren Forum Book Club. All members are welcome to bring friends.

BOOK NOTES

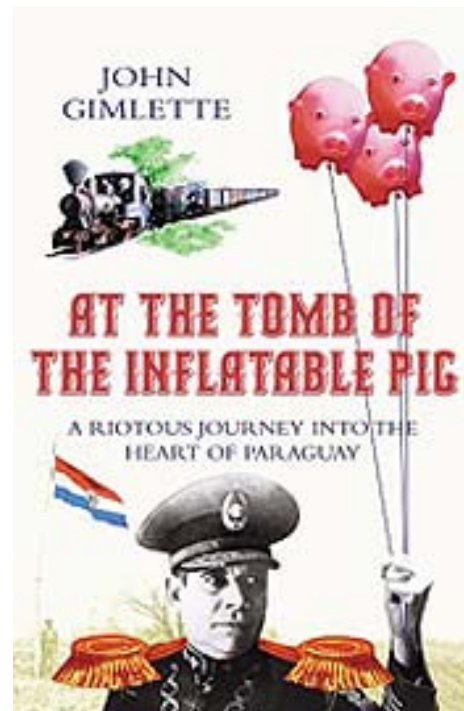
At the Tomb of the Inflatable Pig: Travels Through Paraguay by John Gimlette, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2003), pp. 362.

This work proves highly entertaining as it illuminates both the tortured past and Byzantine present of Latin America's most insular, and in many respects, impenetrable country. Paraguay is a vast under-populated nation in the heart of South America surrounded by deserts and jungle and little known to the outside world, an injustice this book ably helps redress. The author, a burnt-out British lawyer, came to Paraguay by chance, fleeing anti-British sentiment in Argentina during the run-up to the Falkland War. But then Paraguay has long served as a bolthole for all manner of eccentric outcasts. Gimlette wryly observes that it has offered refuge to "Nazis, cannibals, strange sixteenth-century Anabaptists, White Russians and fantastic creatures that ought long ago to have been extinct."



The odd title reflects the author's love-hate relationship with a land he finds fascinating and endearing but also intensely alien and uncomfortable. The "inflatable pigs" were a marketing gimmick imported from one of Paraguay's neighbors that became bizarrely popular in the capital city of Asunción during the author's stay. For Gimlette, these rather sinister objects symbolize a Paraguayan penchant for importing ideas, goods, and people from abroad without any discernible logic. It is also a thinly veiled allusion to the nation's political leaders past and present. The author persuasively demonstrates, without ever explicitly stating so, that Paraguay has never had a ruler who was both sane and competent. The country's first post-independence dictator, Doctor Francia aka "El Supremo," (1814-40) managed the latter, more or less, but not the former. His successors have generally managed neither.

As Gimlette shows, the results for Paraguay have been tragic. For example, one dictator with an intense Napoleonic complex, Francisco Solano López, embroiled his realm in a needless war against Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay at the same time in the 1860s. Nine out of 10 Paraguayan males died during the savage five-year conflict. The book brilliantly follows the physical and cultural traces this war left on the national landscape, visiting the major battlefields as well as the haunts and final resting places of the flamboyantly degenerate dictator and his iron-willed Irish mistress. Paraguay's other devastating and utterly senseless conflict, the Chaco War (1932-35), versus Bolivia receives less attention but is persuasively explained (the Bolivian government wanted to pick on someone and thought, wrongly, that Paraguay might serve). Thousands of the combatants died of thirst while fighting over worthless desert.



The book is at its best delving into the Solano López period and the brutal-but-tacky Stroessner dictatorship (1954-1989). The author also provides excellent descriptions of the country's diverse

geography and strange plant, animal, and (voracious) insect life. The reader is left feeling grateful to Gimlette for letting one experience the Paraguayan interior vicariously from the comforts of home.

If you plan to visit Asunción, this work also offers helpful insights about the ex-pat communities and local elites who live in a section of the capital the author terms “Legoland,” a peculiar fairyland of gross materialism and bad taste. The lower classes do not emerge as clearly from the text. Still, Gimlette does a good job of describing the roles different indigenous groups have played in the country’s history. He also explains how Paraguay became the only Latin American country to adopt an indigenous language, Guaraní, as its co-official language (with Spanish) and the extensive presence of this tongue in everyday life. Maps, photos, a chronology, and a guide to further reading provide useful orientation to the reader as well.

DEFENSE DEPARTMENT: **In a Nutshell**



What, me? Work for the Department of *Defense*? If these words sound familiar it’s time to rethink the opportunities you may have by choosing to work for the largest department in the federal government.

The Defense Department is more than just a military organization. DoD hires nearly 24,000 civilians to support the military branches, and these people perform a wide variety of jobs, from teacher to chemist to archaeologist to spy. There could be something for you.

To start, it is important to know what the Department of Defense does. DoD is responsible for providing the military forces needed to deter war and protect the security of the United States. The major elements of these forces are the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps. The primary job of the military departments is to train and equip

their personnel to perform warfighting, peacekeeping and humanitarian and disaster assistance tasks.

The rest of the Defense Department is made up of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, three Military Departments, nine Unified Combatant Commands, the DoD Inspector General, fifteen Defense Agencies, and seven DoD Field Activities [but no partridge in a pear tree; that would be the USDA’s responsibility].



The Defense Department has a long history as the first official department of the United States. The Army, Navy, and Marine Corps were established at the time of the American Revolution in 1775. The War Department was established in 1789 and served as the precursor to what is now the Defense Department, which was formed in 1949.

Stretching across 30 million acres of land at more than 6,000 different sites, DoD employs civilians and military personnel in more than 146 countries performing nearly 650,000 jobs. At any given time there are about 1,000 jobs available in the Defense Department. Most jobs for DoD are posted on USAJOBS (<http://www.usajobs.gov>). Pay level range from \$20,000 a year to \$150,000. Most people with a college degree will qualify for a job in the \$35,000 and up range.

Many NSEP Scholars and Fellows work in the Defense Agencies, such as the National Security Agency, Defense Intelligence Agency, Defense Information Systems Agency, Defense Logistics Agency and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency. Still others have interesting jobs in one of the

Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marines. Your international and educational background may mesh well with Defense activities.



The world is connected with DoD.

If you would like to talk to someone who works for an agency within Defense, contact the Boren Forum at info@borenforum.org.

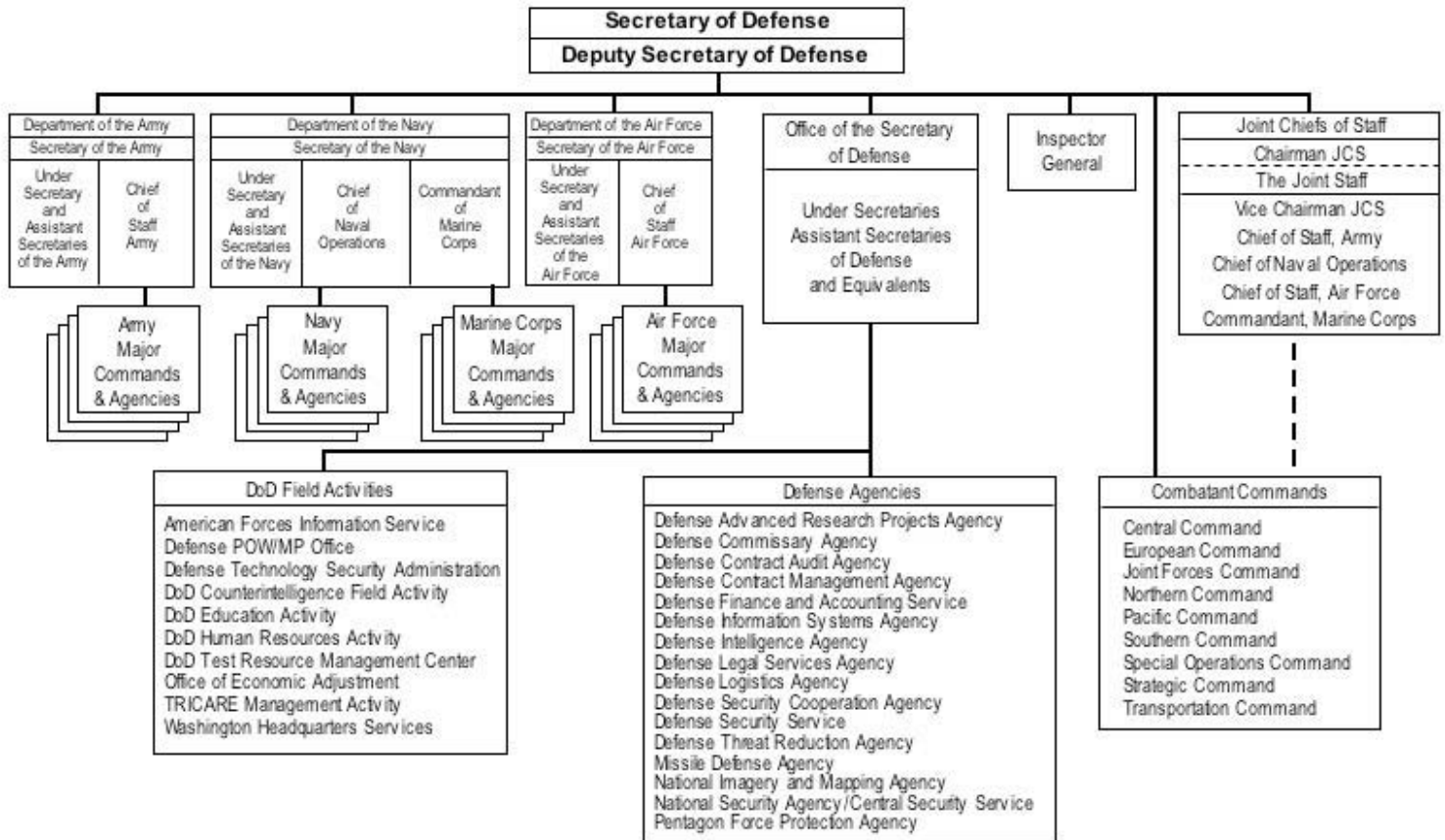
This chart breaks down the Defense Department into something manageable and easy to grasp.

Ten Jobs for Ten Majors

A quick search on USAJOBS matched these majors with positions at Defense agencies.

1. English – Writer/Editor, Defense Logistics Agency
2. Economics – Budget Analyst, Defense Threat Reduction Agency
3. Business – Contract Specialist, Defense Intelligence Agency
4. Education – Speech/Language Pathologist, Defense Education Activity
5. Science – Environmental Protection Specialist, Army Corps of Engineers
6. Engineering – General Engineer, Defense Contract Management Agency
7. Political Science – Historian, Navy Field Offices
8. International Relations – Foreign Affairs Specialist, Office Sec. Defense
9. Management – Civil Affairs Program Manager, U.S. Southern Command

Department of Defense



Date: May 2003

10. Anthropology – Museum Curator,
Navy, U.S. Marine Corps

BOREN BOASTS

The Boren Forum is pleased to announce that alumna **Ranjeet Singh** was recently recognized as a finalist for the 2004 Service to America Medals.

More than 500 federal employees were nominated for their dedication to federal civil service. This year's finalists were narrowed down to 28, eight of whom will receive awards. Ranjeet was nominated for the *Call to Serve Medal*, which honors employees at the beginning of their careers.



Ranjeet is a program analyst for the Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs at the Department of State. She was nominated for developing expertise on Afghanistan's ethnic groups, geography, and economy which has made her the State Department's leading expert in formulating U.S. policy to deal with opium poppy cultivation and narcotics trafficking in that country.

Ranjeet won an NSEP fellowship to study international relations and security issues in South Asia, including Northern India, Kashmir and Pakistan, in 1999.

The Service to America Medals were first created in 2002. Sponsored by the Partnership for Public Service and Atlantic Media Co., the program selects a winner in each of eight categories and awards them a medal on Sept. 28 at a black-tie ceremony in Washington. Winners receive prizes ranging from \$3,000 and \$10,000.



AGENCY PROFILE:

Defense Language Institute

Do you know the way to Monterey? While many are attracted to Monterey for its world-famous aquarium, playful sea otters and breathtaking coastlines, others find Monterey unique as home to one of the world's premier centers for foreign language instruction: The Defense Language Institute's (DLI) main campus.

DLI's Monterey location reflects its World War II origins when Japanese was the main language taught there. Since then, it has evolved considerably to respond to the various challenges faced by U.S. interests around the globe. Today, the Institute provides instruction in 23 languages to approximately 3,500 students at its campus in Monterey and in DC (through contract schools or the Foreign Service Institute).



As part of the Department of Defense, DLI's mission is to equip military personnel with functional language and cultural skills necessary to excel in any assignment. According to Scott McGinnis with DLI in DC, the largest programs are in Arabic, Korean, Chinese, Russian and Persian Farsi language study. To be considered for admission, applicants must demonstrate a sufficiently high score on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery as well as the Defense Language Aptitude Battery.

Once admitted, students complete intensive language training ranging from 25-63 weeks. All training is structured to provide students with functional skills to succeed on

the job. “DLI has an absolute focus on pragmatically-oriented language training,” noted McGinnis. The faculty features over 1,100 civilian instructors from more than 40 countries, of whom 98 percent are native speakers of the language they teach. Upon completion of study, graduates return to their respective service branches ready to serve as military attaches or in a variety of other roles such as voice intercept and crypto-analysis.



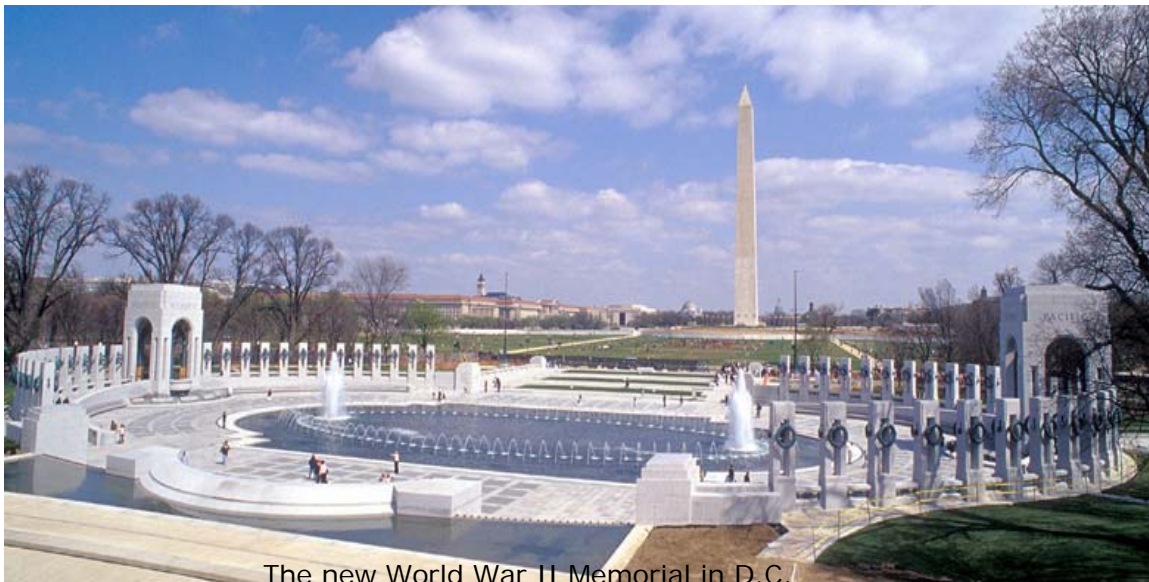
Most recently, following September 11, the Institute established the Operation Enduring Freedom Task Force to respond to the growing need for language capability in previously less-commonly taught languages critical to the global war on terrorism.

In short, DLI serves as the federal government’s principal “in-house” resource for language study. As such, it provides an essential complement to the NSEP program, which harnesses academic and other resources to the same end of providing the government with a pool of specialists in less-studied languages and cultures.

SPECIAL FEATURE: **Big Stones Talking**

Monuments lead surprisingly interesting lives. They are not simply static receptacles for pigeon droppings and graffiti. Their design, site, financing, construction, inauguration, and subsequent histories often trigger intense passions and controversy and they may well undergo significant physical and/or symbolic transformation as political events change the meanings we attach to the past.

The World War II memorial inaugurated on the National Mall provides a good case in point. The site itself – on the axis between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial – was highly controversial. Supporters insisted that our WW II veterans deserved nothing less than a memorial on such a hallowed spot, which places it at the heart of American historical memory and commemoration. Detractors worried that an overly grandiose monument would block sight lines and interfere with treasured memories of historic speeches from the Civil Rights movement. Opponents lost the battle over site selection but managed to reshape the design, resulting in a more sunken memorial with less-lofty pillars. Current events have influenced reception of the finished memorial. A strong national



The new World War II Memorial in D.C.

desire to reinforce American unity and patriotism in the wake of 9/11 has helped increase the memorial's popularity as has, quite possibly, nostalgia for a morally clear-cut conflict at a time of growing debate over Iraq. The memorial's most inspiring aspect, however, would almost certainly have occurred even under different circumstances. Family and friends of deceased veterans have begun spontaneously leaving photos and flowers at the memorial, in essence creating their own personal conversations with it.

The subject of memorials and the politics of memory have inspired some brilliant historical works. Two particularly noteworthy examples for the United States are: Shadowed Ground: America's Landscapes of Violence and Tragedy by Kenneth Foote and David W. Blight's Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory.



Model of Germany's Holocaust Memorial. The Memorial consists of 2700 concrete stelae on a large site in the very center of Berlin.

Boren alumni of course know how other countries have developed often quite different commemorative traditions and politics from the United States, even for the same historical events. Most notably, Germans face starkly different choices when it comes to remembering World War II. In fact, German monument designers have developed some of the world's most radically innovative memorials precisely because of the commemorative challenges posed by the Holocaust. The classic study

of this process is provided by James E. Young in his highly influential (and readable) book The Texture of Memory: Holocaust Memorials and Meaning.

DO YOU KNOW AMERICA?



Americans abroad sometimes meet people with more knowledge of American history than they do. True patriots know their history. Test your skills and Happy Independence Day! (Answers are below.)

1. In what city did the Continental Congress take place??
 - A. Trenton
 - B. Philadelphia
 - C. Pittsburgh
 - D. New York
2. Whose famous quote is, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal"?
 - A. George Washington
 - B. Abraham Lincoln
 - C. Martin Lincoln King, Jr.
 - D. Thomas Jefferson
3. Where was the first national capitol located?
 - A. Pennsylvania
 - B. Washington D.C.
 - C. New York
 - D. Massachusetts
4. How did the first Liberty Bell get its crack?
 - A. Lightning
 - B. It was dropped
 - C. It was made that way
 - D. Cracked when it first rung
5. Which denomination of U.S. currency has a painting of the signing Declaration of Independence on the back?
 - A. \$1
 - B. \$5
 - C. \$10
 - D. \$20
6. The most common occupation of the men who signed the Declaration of Independence was...
 - A. Farmer

- B. Merchant
- C. Ironmaster
- D. Lawyer



7. What are the first three words of the Declaration of Independence?
 - A. Once upon a...
 - B. When, in the...
 - C. We the People...
 - D. All men are...
8. How many times is King George III of England mentioned in the Declaration of Independence?
 - A. 0
 - B. 1
 - C. 5
 - D. 10
9. Who was the youngest delegate at the Continental Congress?
 - A. Thomas Jefferson
 - B. Benjamin Franklin
 - C. John Hancock
 - D. John Adams
10. Which of the following men made the original motion for independence?
 - A. Richard Henry Lee
 - B. John Adams
 - C. Thomas Jefferson
 - D. John Hancock

Answers to quiz: 1-B, 2-D, 3-C, 4-D, 5-B, 6-D, 7-B, 8-A, 9-A, 10-A

PHOTO ALBUM

Boren Scholar **Meagan Landry**, from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, was an NSEP scholar to

Uzbekistan in 2003. She studied Uzbek at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from September to December 2003.

Here she shares pictures from her time in Uzbekistan with us. For more of Meagan's pictures visit the photo album at <http://www.borenforum.org>.



Men and women shop in one of the older sections of the massive *Chorsu bazaar* in Tashkent.



Meagan visits the lavish guest room of the Museum of Applied Arts in Tashkent (formerly the residence of the Russian governor in the early 20th century)



The *dutar*, a traditional Uzbek stringed instrument, in the hands of **Meagan** is a new musical experience.



Meagan Landry (right) in the host home of another American student, both wearing men's traditional blue velvet robes (*chopons*) and hats (*doppis*).

Do you have great pictures from your study abroad? Share them with the Boren Forum. Email your pictures in high resolution JPEG format to falats@ndu.edu. Be sure to include brief captions to your pictures.

The Boren Forum Photo Album is now online at <http://www.borenforum.org>. Register at the Members Corner to view alumni's best pictures of their study abroad.

THE MANY USES OF KANGA

A kanga is a brightly colored piece of rectangular cotton fabric with pictures and bold designs popular in East Africa. They are long enough to cover from nose to knee, and wide as one's outstretched arms. Kangas are used for everything from skirts to baby carriers to head wraps to dust rags. Bought in pairs, young girls often share a kanga to show ties of friendship.

Kangas were first brought to East Africa from India and Europe more than 150 years ago. Today most are printed and designed in Tanzania and Kenya. Swahili expressions, which line the bottom of most kangas, are a unique feature. Best described as proverbs, riddles, or "encoded" messages, these expressions are usually quite ambiguous in their meaning, which is part of their appeal.



USILAUMU SISIMIZI SUKARI HAIMALIZI
(Don't blame an ant, it won't finish all the sugar)

Kangas are an integral part of East African culture as a medium for artistic, political, social, personal, and religious expression, as well as essential items in every woman's wardrobe. The material is also light and cool, making it perfect to don in hot weather or when you just feel like lazing around the house.