



Annual Newsletter
November 2009


www.spanalumni.org

Student Project for Amity among Nations

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

2010 SPANners bound for Russia and South Korea

Recruitment is underway for students eager to travel to Russia or South Korea this coming summer as a participant in the Student Project for Amity among Nations (SPAN) program. Applications are available online at: www.spanalumni.org

Editor's note: Please know whenever this symbol  appears within the newsletter the reader will find more to read on the SPAN Web site.

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Impressions from 2009 students in the E.U. and Greece

Brussels, Belgium was the first stop for 2009 SPANners who had prepared themselves to conduct research in two destinations, namely the European Union and Greece. The visit to the *defacto* capitol of the E.U. was arranged by Professor Elizabeth Klages, adviser to the E.U. group. Brussels, however, was only the starting point for each SPANners' self-designed itinerary. As excerpts from the students' journals reveal, they did, indeed, get a world away to enjoy an anything-but-ordinary summer.



Professor Anna Tahinci and students (pictured from left) Jacob Walls, Anna Burger, Bethany Procopio, Andrew Knutson, Laura Kwong, Yeoryia Christoforides, Aili Kotnik, and Mary Thrall rendezvous in Athens.

Central Greece – "I am in a little slice of paradise. I have arrived at the farm of Andy Agouropoulos near the village of Bralos, in Central Greece. Andy has 110 sheep, two cows, chickens, a turkey, seven dogs, an armload of cats, 100 acres of land to graze the sheep, an overgrown garden, and a son to help him run the farm."

– Laura Kwong, Greece '09

Berlin – "I had two days to wander around Berlin before my German classes began. I don't think I have been that quiet in some time. But, it was nice to take everything in and decompress before getting started with my project."

– Christine Parcells, E.U.'09

See where these SPANners and their classmates traveled. Read their journals online at: www.spanalumni.org/blogs



A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Theofanis G. Stavrou
 Professor of History, University of Minnesota
 Executive Director, Minnesota SPAN Association

Moments in our life

About three months ago George Soros, the American billionaire and philanthropist of Hungarian background, calmly explained, during an interview, that he had decided to contribute something like thirty-five to forty million dollars in order to help needy high school students from New York State attend the college of their choice. There were to be no strings attached. It was inspiring, to say the least, to hear him state that the main reason he embarked on this philanthropic venture was because he remembers vividly how much he had been touched when as a university student in England he received an unexpected check of forty pounds from a philanthropic association on the recommendation of his adviser. There were no strings attached on that occasion either. The money helped Soros in continuing with his studies and moving on to his brilliant career as a businessman and as a philanthropist. Most likely, Soros would have excelled in his chosen objectives anyway, but judging by the emphasis he put on that happening, that gesture of generosity left an indelible mark on him. Our lives hinge on small details, it has often been pointed out. I want to share this moment of generosity as stated by George Soros, because I want to remind our many wonderful donors of the tremendous impact that contributions to SPAN can have on the life of our students who choose to have a study abroad experience through this program.

I have frequently said: Once a SPANner always a SPANner. This is reinforced every time I meet a former SPANner regardless of how many years may have elapsed from the last time we chanced upon each other or regardless of which part of the world such happy events occur. Such occasions are indeed extraordinary. I was fortunate to experience one such moment this summer when after nearly half a century I reconnected with the person who was chiefly responsible for introducing me to SPAN. This was Carlyle E. Hystad, a 1960 SPANner to the Soviet Union. I had just joined the faculty at the University of Minnesota as a junior professor of modern Russian history. Carl was majoring in International Relations (he received his B.A. in 1961), with a strong interest in the Soviet Union (he received his M.A. in Russian Area Studies in 1962), and found himself enrolling in the first course on Soviet history I taught at

the University. I also agreed to be a reader of his SPAN paper which dealt with “Reorganization of Industrial Management in the Soviet Union,” and later I served as his major adviser. The important thing is that it was he, as Executive Secretary of SPAN (1961-62), who invited me to explore the possibility of serving as a SPAN adviser and for this moment, which has revolutionized my life, I am eternally grateful to Carl. As many of you know, SPAN has been an integral part of my life ever since. I was fortunate to meet Carl and part of his family in Minneapolis over dinner at the “It’s Greek to Me” restaurant, and to thank him in person for introducing me to SPAN. During this pleasant visit I also heard the story of his life and career, a story I am happy to share with the rest of the SPAN family. It is another example of the power of lighting a candle as opposed to cursing the darkness, as our SPAN motto admonishes us to do.

After completing his studies at Minnesota, in 1962 Carl Hystad joined the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission as an International Affairs Specialist. While with the AEC, he served as Assistant Atomic Energy Attaché at the American Embassy in London (1963-65), and in 1969 he joined the White House Office of Management and Budget as the Budget Analyst for Federal Science programs, including the National Science Foundation programs. He was later selected to direct a group of analysts to advise the President on budgets and legislation for commerce, business assistance, and international trade programs of the federal government. In 1976, Carl Hystad was named Associate Administrator of the Federal Energy Administration in charge of planning the U.S. Petroleum Reserve Program. In 1978-79, he served as director of the program, in charge of building the 500-million barrel oil reserve, before being named Director of the Office of Emergency Response Planning for the new Department of Energy. He served in this key position during the oil-supply crisis resulting from the American Embassy hostage situation in Iran, which involved another SPANner, Bruce Laingen. In short, his government service was extensive and useful.

During our conversation, Carl kept reminding me of the connection between his career and his SPAN experience. This connection became even more evident when he described the current phase of his many internationally-oriented involvements. After leaving government service Carl founded an energy consulting (*continued on page five*)

Bon Voyage banquet reflections

By Teresa Callies, Greece '88

As former SPANners, when Lisa Hoff (Greece '86) and I (Greece '88) walked into Coffman Union at the University of Minnesota last spring on the night of the SPAN *Bon Voyage* banquet, we sensed the same air of excitement, anticipation, restlessness, and nervousness as when we were preparing to depart on our own "odysseys" abroad.

We asked the students (bound for the European Union and Greece) about their proposed research projects, and listened with delight as they told us their plans.

In this sense, SPAN hasn't changed over the decades. The program still provides a rich tapestry of life experiences for those with the courage to embark on new intellectual and—let's face it—incredibly fun adventures.

It was wonderful to hear Professor Theo G. Stavrou, Ph.D., deliver a stirring and inspirational speech about SPAN's history and the importance of the educational program. And, it was a privilege to be among the alumni who stood briefly to talk about our SPAN experiences. Everyone who has been involved in SPAN has a rich treasure of stories to share.

To face the unknown during two or more months of travel takes patience and persistence, too. This seems to be the hallmark of every generation of SPANners.

For me SPAN marked a turning point, both professionally and personally. Although I had been to Greece before, through the SPAN program, I learned the difference between being a tourist and being a foreigner.

For the first time, I learned the language, studied the history and culture, and came home with a new appreciation for my American life. In addition, I developed a deep appreciation for my (Greek) grandfather's roots, as well as his experience as an immigrant to this country. I think of SPAN as a microcosm for life – when you wholeheartedly embrace new adventures, and stretch your intellectual curiosity, you're taken down roads you never dreamed of travelling – and, oh, the stories you have to tell! you have to tell!



Teresa Callies (Greece '88), SPAN Executive Director Theofanis G. Stavrou and Lisa Hoff (Greece '86) reconnect during the spring *Bon Voyage* banquet.

Save the date!

The 63rd Annual *Bon Voyage* SPAN banquet is slated for **Sat., April 10, 2010**. It will be held at the University of Minnesota Coffman Memorial Union from 5 p.m - 8 p.m. If this is your SPAN group's anniversary (the 10th, 20th, 30th, etc.), you will be receiving an invitation to this celebratory, send-off event for 2010 SPAN students.

RECONNECT WITH SPAN

We would like to hear from alumni. Please tell us what is new in your life. Members of the SPAN group you traveled with will be eager to read about you in the next newsletter or online.



www.spanalumni.org

Japan '59 reunion

Read online about a reunion held 50 years after SPANners traveled to Japan. This past summer **Zita Kennedy, Ida Sather Martinson and Roger Morcombe** (pictured below, left to right) shared memories and photographs from their 1959 summer together.



"It was a wonderful reunion -- beyond my expectations," said Zita. "I thought it might be awkward because we had not seen each other in 50 years, but that was not the case. Don't wait 50 years to get your group together. We had a wonderful time."

2009 SCHOLARSHIPS

The following scholarships were awarded to SPANners who traveled to Greece and the European Union during the summer of 2009:

Kathryn M. Sederberg Scholarship

Recipients: Richard Barnes, Megan Benrud, Anna Burger, Yeoryia Christoforides, Matthew Eldred, Aili Kotnik, Andrew Knutson, Laura Kwong, Sarah Radick, Mary Thrall, Patrick Wilz

Anne E. Hammill Scholarship

Recipient: Holly Rud

Judee Kleffman Scholarship

Recipient: Jacob Walls

Theo and Freda Stavrou All-SPAN Scholarship

Recipients: Andrew Knutson, Mary Thrall

Stavrou Condon Scholarship

Recipient: Anna Burger

John Scanlan Scholarship

Recipient: Jacob Walls

John D. Lindstrom Scholarship

Recipient: Patrick Wilz

JoAnne Buggey Scholarship

Recipient: Christine Parcels

Dean and Janet Lund Scholarship

Recipient: Bethany Procopio

Kenneth Norquist Scholarship

Recipient: Matthew Eldred

In addition each of the students named above received the **Ruth Elliff Scholarship**.

First Scanlan Scholarship Award

By Jacob Walls, Greece '09

As a first-year graduate student at the University of Minnesota Hubert H. Humphrey Institute, SPAN is giving me a head-start researching policy issues relevant to my degree in public policy. Additionally, this experience is allowing me to focus on conflict resolution, a concentration that will help sculpt my masters program and advance my future career in the Foreign Service.

Former U.S. Ambassador John Scanlan (Turkey, '54) also used SPAN, both as a researcher and later as an adviser, before he went on to join the Foreign Service as a U.S. diplomat and later as U.S. Ambassador to Yugoslavia. Throughout his career with the U.S. State Department, he maintained contact with SPAN and even received SPAN students while serving in Poland. This lifelong commitment to "building bridges of understanding across borders, cultures, and continents" is something I've noticed in all SPAN alumni while discussing their post-SPAN careers and experiences, but it was especially present in Scanlan's work over his lifetime.

I am honored to be the first recipient of the John Scanlan scholarship. The Scanlan scholarship is an important contribution toward making the making the SPAN program possible for me; at the same time the scholarship has connected me to someone whose life journey and career path I would like to emulate. As Scanlan wrote to SPAN Executive Director, Professor Theofanis Stavrou, "I am convinced that without my SPAN experience I probably would not have had the inspiration to seek entry via the Foreign Service examination into a diplomatic career nor the confidence to pursue that career as effectively as I have." As a current SPANner who is pursuing a career in the Foreign Service, the experience of Ambassador Scanlan gives me confidence and excitement; I am optimistic about my own career path and the potential impact I hope to have on the lives of future SPANners.



John Scanlan, Turkey '54



Carl Hystad, U.S.S.R. '60

(Stavrou: continued from page 2) firm, providing services to several government agencies and corporations. In this capacity he also founded International Career Employment Opportunities, a weekly publication that collected and distributed information on current job openings for professionals who wished to work with international programs, including humanitarian assistance, health care, economic development, education, and international understanding. The International Career Employment

Center has evolved into a leading Internet source of information for international job seekers, as well as a service to international employers. Carl Hystad continues to oversee this operation as Chairman of the Board of the Carlyle Corporation.

I am sure that, just like George Soros, Carl Hystad would have most likely succeeded in his major objectives anyway. But it is a matter of great satisfaction to know that he credits SPAN with the international vision that has characterized his busy and productive career. Perhaps this is the reason he has remained such a loyal SPAN alumnus and a faithful contributor so that others may continue to benefit from research abroad experiences, becoming thus citizens of the world. In a recent communication with me, Carl assured me that we can continue to count on his support and that he is willing to help us think of new ways by which SPAN may continue to serve students creatively. He can do so, he maintains, from rural Virginia, near Charlottesville, where he lives with his wife, Lisa, and where the shouts of his four children and eight grandchildren can reach him most readily.

We salute you and thank you, Carl, and look forward to seeing you again in Minnesota. There are many more great moments to share and to explore.

SPAN reunions are encouraged

SPAN staff want to encourage and help arrange reunions among SPAN alumni. If this interests you, visit the Web site at www.spanalumni.org to learn more about planning a reunion for your group.



Sharing contact information: SPAN staff are very protective of your privacy. However, we are inclined to share your contact information when a fellow SPANner inquires about contacting other members of his/her SPAN travel group (year and country) for the purpose of reconnecting or organizing a reunion.

Action requested: If you would prefer *not* to have your contact information released to members of your travel group contact the SPAN office by Dec. 31, 2009. Call: 612-626-1083 or e-mail: alumni@spanalumni.org

IN MEMORIAM

Mary Lundberg, Iran '68 passed away in March of this year. Mary is survived by her husband, Paul McArthur, and two children. After completing a master's degree at the University of Minnesota, she went on to become founding President of the Independent Health Association, a major insurer in Western New York. She later became a health care consultant, focusing on the provision of health care to people with limited incomes. In 2007 she was inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame in honor of her many contributions to communities around the country.

Paul Shaw, England '49 passed away in July of 2008. His son, Andrew, wrote: "Paul was an ardent fan of SPAN which provided my father with his first great adventure -- going to Europe right after the war with fifty dollars in his pocket for the entire summer trip. His SPAN experience created many memories that he shared with his children."

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Building a SPAN community

By Jessica Powers, SPAN program coordinator

The SPAN staff recognizes that our small, non-profit organization, the Student Project for Amity among Nations, operates in some ways very much like a family. For new, incoming SPAN students, our alumni roster is a huge draw. If you are a former SPANner and, as an alumnus, want to be active again, the student members of the 2009-10 SPAN Executive Board are working hard to connect our fantastic pool of alumni with new and current students and the board members would like your help! Check out what the board chairs are up to:

Alumni: Unfortunately we've lost track of nearly one-third of our alumni. We need your help to track them down! Please consider joining a concerted effort to search for alumni which is slated to get underway in January. Currently we are looking for former SPANners who are willing to lead the search effort and supervise alumni volunteers who will be trying to locate SPAN alumni from a specific decade, all of the SPANners from the '70s for instance. We also need volunteers who are willing to search for individuals using the phone book, Google, LinkedIn, Facebook and the white pages directory. For more information, please contact alumni@spanalumni.org

Program: We are looking for mentors! This year SPAN students are headed for Russia and South Korea. If you traveled to one of these destinations and would like to share your experiences with a new student, please contact mentor@spanalumni.org

Publicity: Are you a member of an organization that would like to host a SPAN speaker? Our 2009 European Union and Greece students are ready to share their experiences!
Contact span@umn.edu

2008-09 SPAN Executive Board

Executive Director	Prof. Theofanis G. Stavrou
Program Coordinator	Jessica Powers
Development Coordinator	Katherine Goertz
Special Projects Coordinator	Susan Wiese
Alumni Volunteer	Charlaine Tolkien
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