



BY JIM CASTAGNERA

Counter-terrorism is a growing business on college campuses

The photo imprinted on many minds from the September 11, 2001 World Trade Center attacks shows a billowing, black cloud of burning jet fuel climbing skyward, seconds before the Twin Towers collapsed. Joseph Conrad's Captain Kurtz would certainly have muttered, "The horror, the horror."

The aftermath of those attacks is today's War on Terror. And Uncle Sam has few reservations about recruiting academic participants. On May 26th of this year, I was among 44 Academic Fellows on Terrorism who traveled together to Israel for 10 days of briefings and base tours at the expense of a Washington-based think tank named the Foundation for

the Defense of Democracies (FDD). Among FDD's high-end donors and directors are Edgar Bronfman, Sr., patriarch of Seagrams; Steve Forbes; Jack Kemp and Jeanne Kirkpatrick.

FDD recruits university professors and lecturers who serve in a teaching capacity to apply for academic fellowships. According to David Silverstein, FDD's vice president for campus education & grassroots programs, the 2007 invitation garnered a bumper crop of applicants for its fifth annual harvest. The 44 fellows were selected from Auburn, Duke, Georgetown, UC Berkeley and the like.

It's little wonder that they came from all across the U.S. FDD promised, "The course of study takes place in the classroom and in the field with lectures by academics, diplomats, military and intelligence

officials, and politicians from Israel, Jordan, India, Turkey and the United States. It also features visits to military bases, border zones and other security installations to learn the practical side of deterring terrorist attacks."

FDD delivered on the promise for 10 remarkable days, and we Fellows feasted our eyes on facilities to which even most Israeli citizens are denied access, one such a prison that houses real, live terrorists.

Cal State cues up for three million-plus

Mark T. Clark, director of National Security Studies at Cal State, San Bernardino, was impressed. Clark has a Ph.D. in Defense and Strategic Studies from USC, and he's been in national security studies since the war was still cold. Clark chuckled

Counter-terrorism

ruefully, recalling how he started at Cal State in 1989, the year the Evil Empire began its rapid disintegration. The Soviet Union was his program's focus, and it soon suffered from an economic downturn, a string of base closings and a loss of student interest. "Our program slipped to about 30 students a year, and we had to shift gears," he remarked wryly.

He added, "The upsurge began before 9/11, which then accelerated it." Today some 80 graduate students are working their way through the program, which places a heavy emphasis on languages. Clark mentioned, "I speak Russian and read classical Greek." You can guess which languages are promoted these days.

Even sweeter than the surge in students is a multi-year, multi-million-dollar grant awarded to CSU last fall by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) that establishes an Intelligence Community Center of Academic Excellence. The acronym is CSU-

ACE, and the center is a consortium involving seven Cal State campuses.

"I wrote the grant application a year ago," explained Clark. "We were one of six institutions that got funded, and the only one which got the full amount," which he pegs at more than \$3 million.

Meanwhile, ODNI has so far funded 10 such centers since 2003 with plans to support 20 by 2015. Since finding its seat at the ODNI banquet table, Cal State has not been shy about touting credentials. An April 2007 press release crowed, "Cal State bumps Ivy League in security role." The release continued with very interesting language. "When Britain needed analysts and agents for its spy services in World War II, it turned to Oxford and Cambridge. The CIA long followed a similar model, recruiting top officers from influential east coast families and agents on Ivy League campuses. But in the wake of the 2001 terrorist attacks, the nation's intelligence agencies are seeking applicants with more diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds."

The PR piece follows with some explanation of the academics. "The curriculum concentrates on foreign language study, critical thinking and writing, national security and intelligence studies and graduate studies in related programs. Top students also will receive scholarships for foreign study, said Mark Clark, the consortium director."

The largesse indeed trickles down, Clark assured me. "If students show a high level of interest, we send them abroad for up to \$5,000. I insist they use it for languages. Currently, we have three studying in Spain, six in Morocco, one in Brazil and one in Turkey." While the funding and student interest are great to have, added Clark, "I'm in it for the adventure."

Del Val College fights agro-terrorism with funds from 'down under'

Farmers used to drive their trucks through America's towns and cities, hawking their fresh-picked produce. Today we are eating seafood from Southeast Asia, fruit from Mexico and Chile and beef from Australia. With the globalization of the agri-business, the list of threats to our food supply is as long as the Klumps' grocery order. It includes pesticide-laden peapods, drug-laced catfish, filthy plums and crawfish contaminated with Salmonella from China. There's avian flu in poultry from Southeast Asia and Eastern Europe and mad cow disease, botulism, and anthrax in beef from a variety of sources. No wonder seventy-seven percent of Americans polled believe a terrorist attack on the global food chain is likely.

Tom Kennedy, director of the Food and Agribusiness MBA at Delaware Valley College in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, fears these folks may be dead right. "The system is very porous," he told me. Consequently, "Food security has now become food defense."

Kennedy is a lanky, gray-haired Irishman. He first became involved in "food defense" at St. Joseph's



Greentree Gazette's
Jim Castagnera gets the feel of Israeli weaponry while traveling in Israel as an Academic Fellow on Terrorism of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, May 2007.

Counter-terrorism

University in Philadelphia, where he was a principal investigator on a grant awarded under the 2002 Bioterrorism Act by the Food and Drug Administration. The goal was to educate executives up and down the food chain, as well as first-responders, who might have to deal with an attack on our food supply.

How vulnerable are we Americans? Explained Kennedy, "With profit margins razor thin, the food industry operates on a just-in-time delivery model. This means there's only a three-day food inventory in most of the U.S. On the East Coast we have the greatest population densities and the largest port facilities.

"Do you remember that a little bit of anthrax shut down the Hamilton, New Jersey post office for years? Just imagine an anthrax attack on the food center in the port of Philadelphia," he suggested. "After 9/11, I wondered what an ordinary guy like me could do. I've since found out there is a lot."

Delaware Valley College is unique among the hundreds of campuses in eastern Pennsylvania. Some 1,600 undergraduates, plus a couple hundred grad students, study everything from horticulture (which makes for a gorgeous campus) to dairy farming. The 600-acre campus just south of Doylestown includes the cornfields where M. Night Shyamalan filmed *Signs*.

Kennedy continues to work on 'table-top exercises' with colleagues at St. Joe's. Food industry personnel and first-responders are presented with a food product, a contaminant and a scenario, then they work at a table together on the response solution. When a recent exercise involved the dairy industry, Kennedy trekked 65 participants through Del Val's dairy barns to give them the feel of the business. "Some Philadelphia police had never been on a farm," he chortled.

Kennedy has recently gone international, taking on a study of Philly's port facilities, financed in part by sources in Australia. He won't say how much the Aussies have

kicked in — "That's proprietary." He wishes that information on U.S. food inspection and security practices were equally proprietary. "We're a democracy," he explained. "Under the Freedom of Information Act, anybody targeting the food supply can get lots of information." He added, "We can't build walls around our farms." From the window of his car, as we toured the Del Val campus, I noted the cattle munching grass right along the highway... point taken.

Jumping on the bandwagon

Dr. Kalu N. Kalu is an associate professor of Political Science and Public Administration at Auburn University Montgomery. I spoke with him in late July after he had just returned from a two-week trip which included a conference in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, and stops in Singapore and Malaysia. Wrapping up a globalization course at the Air War College, he was getting ready to spend the final two weeks of his summer at Yale's MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies, where he's a research fellow. Professor Kalu is also a 2007 FDD Fellow.

With those credentials, he struck me as someone who might see the national security and counter-terrorism forest and not merely a few of the trees. "It's a growing business," Kalu assured me. "Lots of schools are starting national security programs and tying them to globalization and terrorism."

"This is a very rich opportunity," he continued. Pedagogically, "it removes some of the dryness and drudgery of international relations theory. New security situations open the way for new paradigms of intellectual inquiry."

A quick review of the recent literature will confirm his assertions. From NIH grants for bioterrorism defense to the Pat Roberts Intelligence Scholars program, which recruits anthropologists for the CIA, counter-terrorism is big business on American campuses.

OPENING PHOTO: NEWS.COM/COLIN ANDERSON
CASTAGNERA PHOTOS: THE AUTHOR

Castagnera (left) and Professor Mark Clark of Cal State on the fence line between Israel and the West Bank, June 2007.

Jim Castagnera is a Philadelphia lawyer and writer who is the associate provost and associate counsel at Rider University.

