University at Buffalo, NY - October 30, 2008– International Education Week (IEW) will be celebrated at the University at Buffalo on November 17-21, 2008. IEW is a joint initiative of the U.S. Departments of State and Education to promote programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to experience the U.S.

The keynote event of the week will feature award-winning author Dahr Jamail speaking on “The Occupation of Iraq: Its Impact on Iraqi Civilians and U.S. Soldiers” on Tuesday, November 18. Jamail will discuss his experiences as an unembedded journalist in Iraq, as chronicled in his book Beyond the Green Zone: Dispatches from an Unembedded Journalist in Occupied Iraq. Jamail’s book provides an honest, first-hand account of the occupation, presenting the raw stories of average Iraqis in some of the most dangerous areas of Baghdad, Samara and Fallujah. It offers an Iraqi perspective unseen in mainstream media, redefining resistance, occupation and insurgency. Jamail has won numerous awards, including the 2008 Martha Gellhorn Award for Journalism, the James Aronson Award for Social Justice Journalism, and the Joe A. Callaway Award for Civic Courage. This event is free and will take place at 7:30 p.m. in the Student Union Theater on UB’s North Campus. There will be a book signing after the program.

Prior to Jamail’s address, there will be a screening of the 2007 Academy Award Nominee for Best Documentary, “Iraq in Fragments”. The documentary is a story in three parts which offers a series of intimate, passionately-felt portraits: A fatherless 11-year-old is apprenticed to the domineering owner of a Baghdad mechanic’s shop; Sadr followers in two Shiite cities rally for regional elections while enforcing Islamic law at the point of a gun; a family of Kurdish farmers welcomes the U.S. presence, which has allowed them a measure of freedom previously denied. American director James Longley writes, “My aim with ‘Iraq in Fragments’ was to introduce the viewer to the
breadth and complexity of the country, showing not only the divisions, but the unifying forces that tie it together”. This free event will take place at 5:45 p.m. in the Student Union Theater on UB’s North Campus.

UB’s global outreach efforts will also be showcased during IEW. The School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences will present “UB Research Makes a Difference in the World”, focusing on “Global HIV Pharmacotherapy: Building Minds, Changing Lives”. This presentation will highlight the International Center for HIV/AIDS Pharmacotherapy Research and Training (ICHAPRT) program, which has built a bridge between programs in pharmaceutical sciences and changed the lives of Zimbabweans living with HIV/AIDS. Participants will find out how they can make a difference in the world through participation in this unique research program on Wednesday, November 19 at 5:00 p.m. in Natural Sciences Complex 201 on UB’s North Campus. Other lectures include Anthropology Without Borders: “Going Home to Pakistan: Reconstructions of the Past in the Contemporary Balkans”; Dental Medicine Without Borders: “Ordinary Miracles”; Medicine Without Borders: “Why Bother to Leave the U.S. for International Electives During Medical School?”

This year’s “Culture in Motion” film selection is “The Edge of Heaven” (“Auf der anderen Seite”, Germany/Turkey, 2007), which will be shown on Thursday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m. in 120 Clemens Hall on UB’s North Campus. A panel discussion by UB Turkish students will follow the film. Awarded Best Screenplay at the 2008 Cannes Film Festival, “The Edge of Heaven” is a coming-of-age story of six characters whose lives cross and intertwine, but in many ways clash and never truly meet. Writer-director Fatih Akin, the German-born son of Turkish parents, explains how his cultural experiences influenced this film, “I was born in Germany, but I’m in between the two cultures…it’s natural that my films are in between too”.

Other IEW events include films, food, presentations, performances, a photo exhibition and interactive displays. The topics of the week’s events range from Vietnamese cuisine, Japanese Origami, and Middle Eastern dance to work opportunities abroad.
IEW events at UB are made possible through generous support from AT&T Mobility, Bank of America, the English Language Institute, Haylor, Freyer & Coon, Inc., HSBC Bank, M&T Bank and UB’s Office of International Education.

The University at Buffalo is No. 13 among 2,700 accredited U.S. universities in international enrollment, according to an annual report released by the Institute of International Education (IIE). The University has exchange agreements with more than 45 institutions in over 25 countries. UB is the largest and most comprehensive campus in the State University of New York. UB’s more than 27,000 students pursue their academic interests through more than 300 undergraduate, graduate and professional degree programs. Founded in 1846, the University at Buffalo is a member of the Association of American Universities.

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