



UW-inSPIRE



Students **P**resenting **I**nternational **R**esearch **E**xperiences

(Est. April 2003)

A University of Washington Educational Outreach Program

...from University Students - TO - Students K-12...

"Promoting an appreciation of research, international experience, and cultural diversity"

Background:

For the past several years, I have given PowerPoint (photo) presentations to classes in some of the local elementary schools focusing on my international research activities in Indonesia, Nepal, China, Thailand, D.R. Congo, Bangladesh, etc. I talk about the environments, the wildlife conservation concerns, as well as interesting aspects of the cultures and the need for respect and tolerance of different ways and beliefs.



The opportunity for International experience is a hallmark of a Univ. of Washington education.

I have conducted an annual study abroad program in Indonesia (the *International Field Study Program-Indonesia*, www.wanprc.org/ifsp) for UW students since 1995. Additionally, I supervise graduate and undergraduate students engaged in various research projects in a number of foreign countries. I firmly believe that these international experiences not only enhance the students' education, they can have a profound effect on one's life. For many of my students, these experiences are "life changing."

Based on the enthusiastic response I have received from the elementary schools, coupled with my students' excitement to share their own international experiences, I began encouraging my students to consider developing PowerPoint presentations for children in the local area schools. The students' enthusiasm and passion about their research and international travels has been well received by the children. The reciprocal enthusiasm from the children has, in turn, fostered a true sense of purpose and leadership on the part of our university students. I believe our students are in an excellent position to serve as role models for our up and coming "young scientists" and a program such as *UW-inSPIRE* helps make this a reality.

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