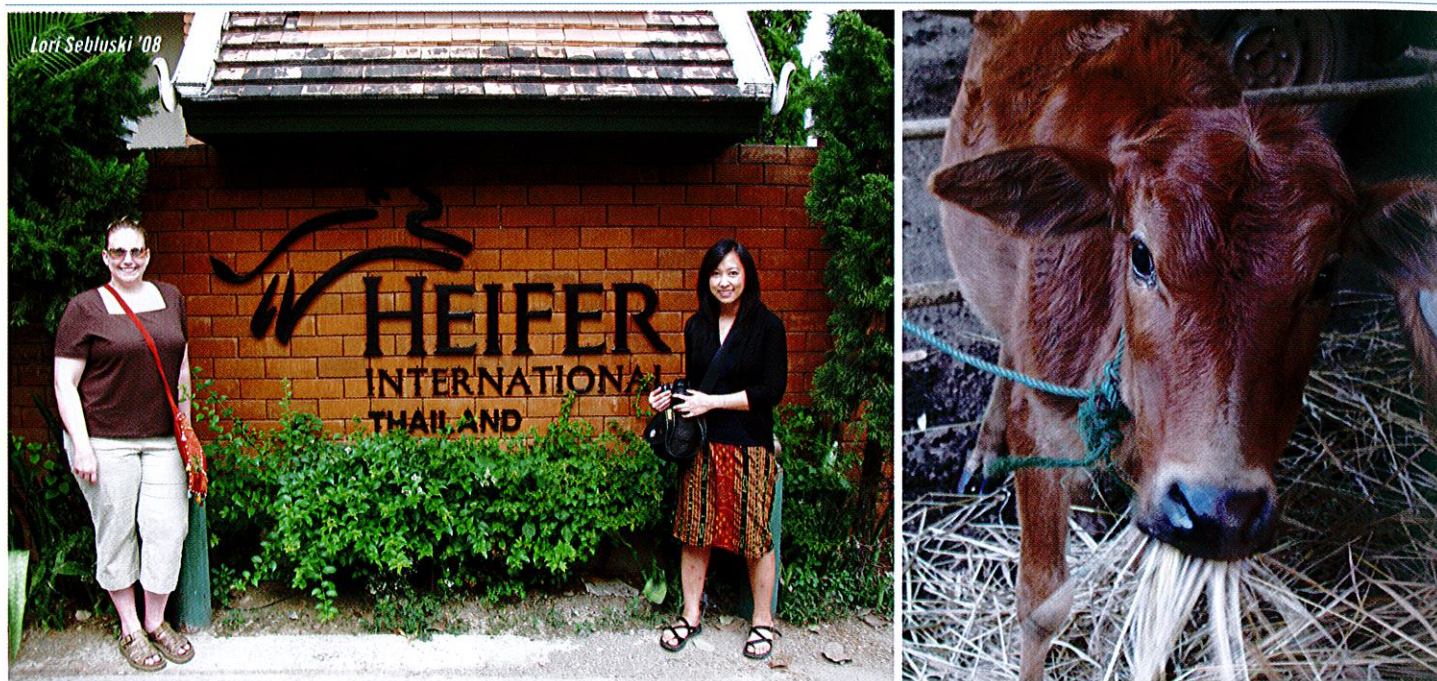


Class Notes



Lori Sebulski '08 (Mentor OH) recently traveled to Northern Thailand on a study tour with Heifer International. The mission of Heifer International is to work with communities to end hunger, poverty and to care for the earth. Sebulski is a graduate student at John Carroll University working on a Master's degree in nonprofit administration. She currently works for the United Way of Geauga County and has been involved in the nonprofit sector for over 18 years. While researching internship programs for her graduate work, she discovered that Heifer International offered study tours and decided that the program was a good fit for her. This past January, Sebulski traveled with 12 other people from around the United States, including Heifer International staff members, to Thailand.

While in Thailand with Heifer International, Sebulski had the opportunity to spend time with two hill tribes, the Karen and the Lu'a. Along with her group, she traveled to four villages and studied projects that Heifer International supports. In addition to providing farm animals for sustainability, Heifer provides educational programming on empowering the women of these villages. Sebulski stated, "It was inspiring to see the women of the Lu'a tribe speak up and talk about their work and because of the training that Heifer provides, the women are often even more powerful than the men in the village."

Another program that Heifer International supports is a savings program. Members of the Lu'a tribe strive to save 12 cents per family each month. This money is put into a village savings account so that if an emergency arises, the villagers have a place to borrow money from when needed. Sebulski was impressed by how proud the people were that each family in the tribe was able to save the money each month. She commented, "I can walk through a parking lot or empty my purse and find 12 cents. What is so little to us, means so much to them." Sebulski returned to Cleveland with a renewed sense of what she finds important. For her, the trip was a life changing experience and she was struck by how little the villages she worked with had, yet they were the happiest people that she had ever met.

Class Notes



"I will never be the same after this trip. I will never walk the same or see things the way I once did. I thank Heifer International and especially the Karen and Lu'a tribes for showing me what is truly important in life."

Class Notes

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