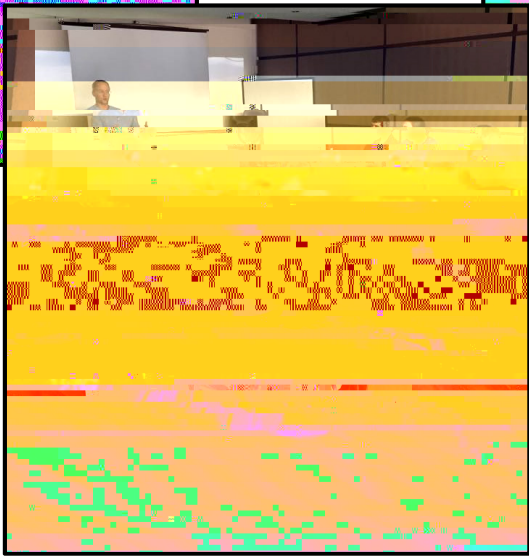
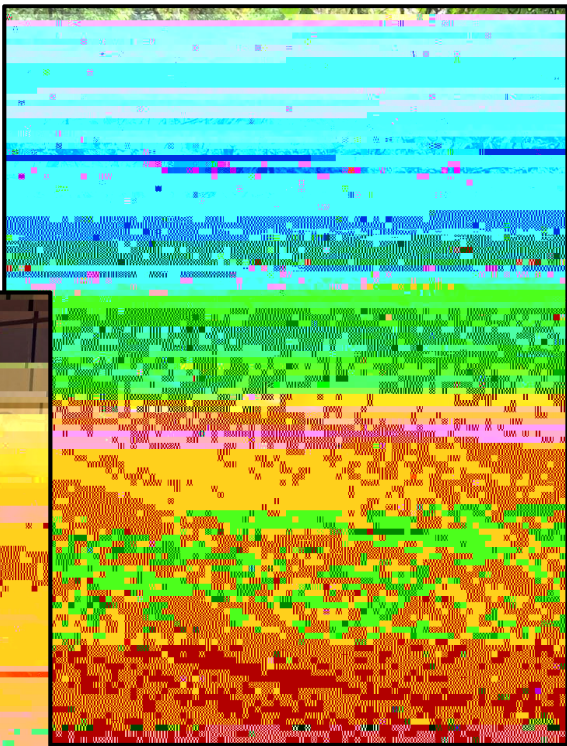
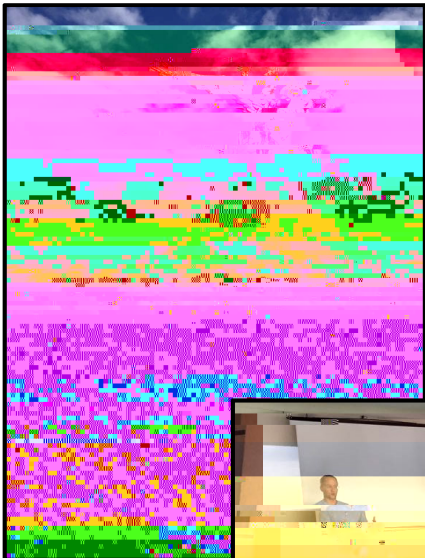
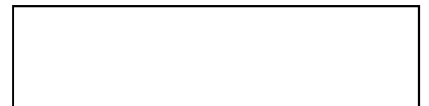


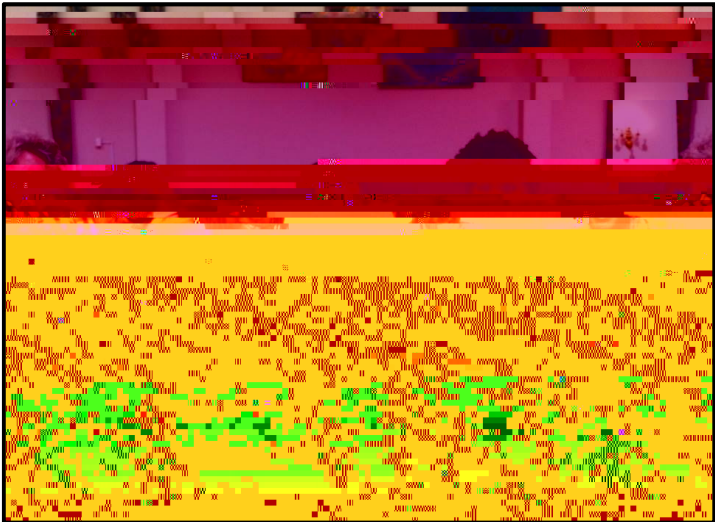
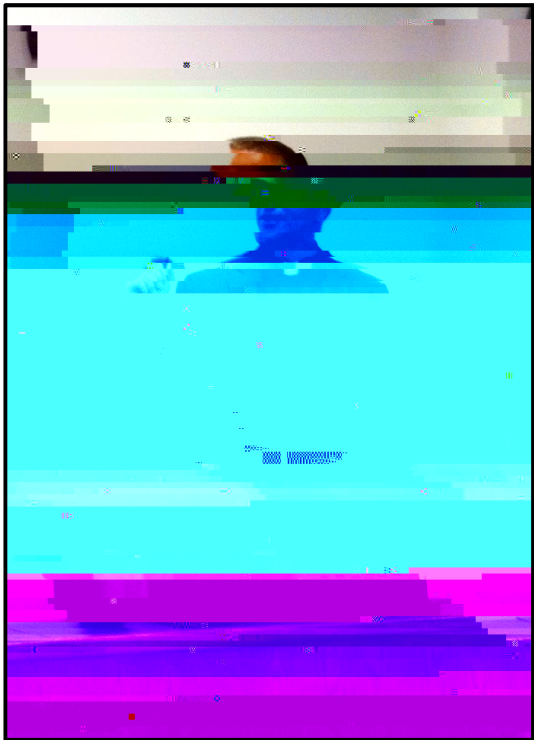
In May, Dr. Bowen took a group of undergraduate students to Ecuador for a short ten day study abroad trip. Students were mostly freshmen from the Diversity and Global Citizenship learning community. The trip was a mix of planned activities and free time to explore Quito. They visited the capital city (Quito) and straddled the equator, hiked through the cloud forest, shopped in an indigenous market high in the Andes mountains, canoed through the Amazon rainforest... and learned a lot about Ecuador's history, environment, culture, economy, and politics in the process.

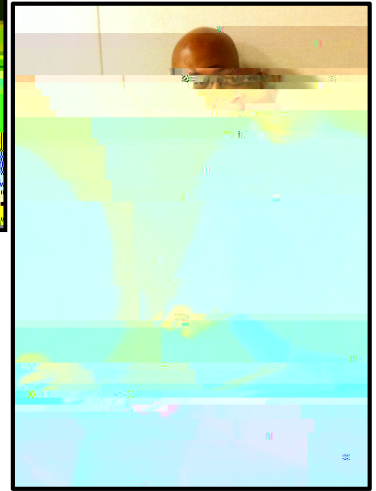
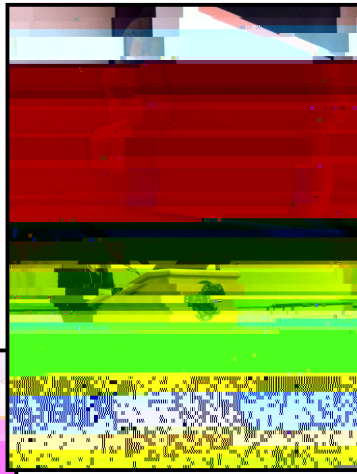


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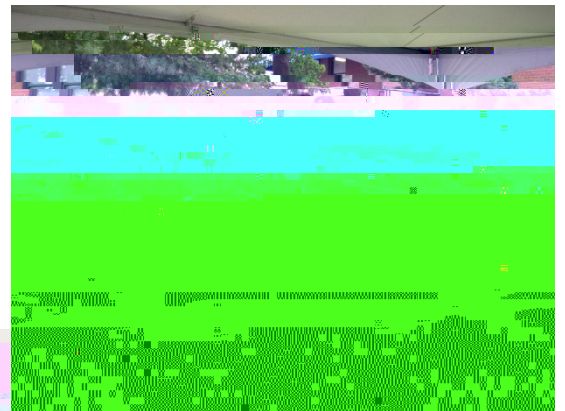
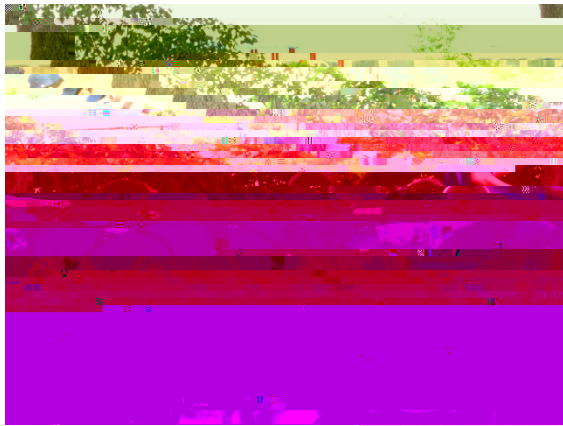
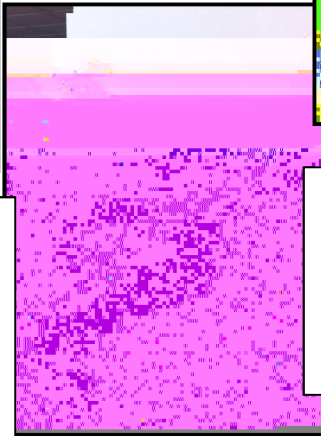


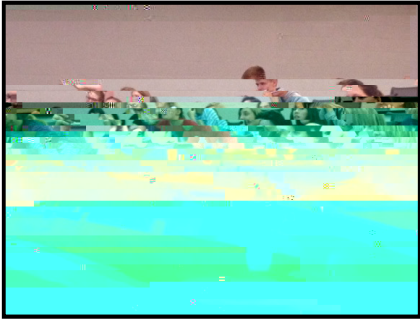




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What do you work on for research?

I work on international security issues. My first book was on how violent insurgent groups, like al-Qaeda and the Islamic State these days, fight and beat more powerful countries in war. So it is about "asymmetric" warfare, insurgency and counterinsurgency, and terrorism to some extent, and I drew a few strategic implications for US policy in Afghanistan, Iraq, and beyond. I worked on similar projects at RAND Corporation and during my service for the US Air Force.

I'm now writing my second book on Asian security and Japanese military power. This project took me to several places like Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, and I learned so much from the process, interviewing military officials, lawmakers, and people. As part of my efforts to understand how armies in Japan work, I did some flight training and flew an F-15 fighter aircraft last year. It was a combat training mission we ran near Tokyo, and after a few air maneuvers pulling 6.8G (nearly 7 times gravity of my weight), and crossing the Mach threshold, I found the experience physically exhausting but absolutely rewarding. People in Taiwan's military and academia were very nice, when I visited them at universities and bases this summer. So my research has benefited from a lot of people enough to support it in many ways.