

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

news & views

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TUFTS PROGRAM IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Ambassador Finn to Speak on Afghanistan

By Sadaf Gulamali



Street vendors in Afghanistan

Former U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan, Robert P. Finn, will visit Tufts on Tuesday, April 13, 2004, to deliver a lecture on "Afghanistan Today."

Finn, who served from March 2002 to August 2003, was the first U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan in more than 20 years; indeed the

first since the fall of the Taliban in October 2001. He is currently the Ertegun Visiting Professor in the Near Eastern Studies Department of Princeton University.

A career Senior Foreign Service diplomat, prior to Afghanistan, Finn was the U.S. Ambassador to Tajikistan from 1998 to 2001. His other diplomatic posts include Turkey, Pakistan and Croatia. He opened the U.S. Embassy in Baku, Azerbaijan in 1992. Finn has received numerous awards from the U.S. government, including one for heroism.

Ambassador Finn has a B.A. in American literature and European history from St. John's University, an M.A. in Near Eastern Studies from New York University, and an M.A. and PhD in Near Eastern Studies from Princeton University. He was also a Fulbright Scholar at Istanbul University. Finn reads in fifteen languages and speaks in eight, including Turkish, Azeri, Ottoman, Farsi, Dari, Tajik and Urdu. His book, The Early Turkish Novel, is

published in both English and Turkish. His poems and translations have appeared in the United States, France, Turkey and Pakistan.

At an event at Princeton University in October 2003, President Hamid Karzai described Finn as "the best friend of Afghanistan." As a U.S. Ambassador, Finn played a critical role in Afghanistan's reconstruction efforts following the fall of the Taliban.

Nearly 24 years of war and political instability left Afghanistan in a state of ruins. Whereas in the 1960's Kabul was known as the "Paris of Central Asia," it is now an overcrowded city of dust, withered by drought, haunted by the legacy of the Soviet invasion, and wrecked by the missiles and bullets of civil war.

U.S.-led military operations in Afghanistan resulted in the fall of the Taliban in October 2001. An Interim Government, headed by Hamid Karzai was established in December 2001. In June 2002 a Loya Jirga, or Grand Council, of regional representatives convened

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Cultural Survival Intern Shares Experience

By Rebecca Adler

Internships are key to learning about a particular field as an undergraduate or graduate student, regardless of what field this may be. Many of the Tufts International Relations majors have partaken in various internships, some with government agencies, others with grassroots organizations. Rebecca Adler, a senior IR major, shares her internship experience at Cultural Survival.

One Wednesday in March, everyone in my office squeezed around a table to listen to Beatriz Manz, a Chilean anthropologist, discuss her work of two decades in a Guatemalan village, and enjoy a lunch of Thai food. Over the next hour, in an informal setting, we learned about the challenges this political anthropologist faced as she struggled for decades in the Mayan rainforest to gain the trust of Guatemalan peasants who had survived the military repression and genocide

in the early 1980s. The meeting with Manz was typical of the weekly office meetings I've attended at my internship.

The weekly meeting, where we come together to learn and eat, is one of my favorite internship experiences. Ten to fifteen interns and ten staff members stop their work to meet and listen to the weekly speaker – someone who is either an indigenous person or someone who can explain their recent work with an indigenous group. Listening and talking to people who have dedicated significant amounts of time to helping indigenous groups is inspiring. Meeting them and learning about their lives and work makes it clear that one person can make a difference. It's helped me realize that I too can make a difference.

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Flashmob Hits Paris

By David Polk



One ordinary Tuesday December afternoon in Paris, right before Christmas, I received a mysterious message in my email inbox that read like it could have been from MI6 or the CIA: "meet at 106 rue Hénard. 19h34. Front of blue door. Await further instruction. And bring a lighter. Don't forget the lighter!" I thought about the email for a while, trying to figure out where this bizarre message came from and what it was about. Under normal circumstances, I would have deleted it like any other Spam promising to lessen my debt, but I was feeling especially curious and adventurous, and decided to investigate. After some internet sleuthing, I figured out that, no, the email was not a note destined for James Bond and mistakenly sent to me, but rather an invitation to participate in the latest global fad around – a "Flashmob".

One of the most recent consequences of globalization is not more McDonalds in China or the creation of the "World Idol" competition. It's an event large enough to stop the least curious tourist in his tracks, if only for a few minutes. A phenomenon with American roots and an Internet spine, Flashmobs are web-organized meetings, planned at the last possible minute, with no real purpose except to create spontaneous, absurd public spectacles. Previously seen in Chicago, New York, London, and other international cities, Flashmobs just hit Paris in September of 2003 and I was ready

to jump on this international bandwagon.

A few hours after having received the mysterious email, I arrived at the pre-determined location half a block from the world's chicest boulevard, the Champs-Élysées. Cautious at first, I circled the block a couple of times looking out for suspicious characters, making sure this wasn't a strange religious cult meeting, or a terrorist trap for unsuspecting and naïve American students studying abroad. I let my eyes adjust to the relative darkness of this small side-street after having just been in the shadow of the powerfully illuminated Arc de Triumph and the expensive stores of the Champs, and saw a mix of people: raggedy looking college students, well-dressed businesspeople, teenagers and a few tourists. Nobody looked especially "louche" ("sketchy" in French), so I declared this area safe for human habitation and proceeded to join the crowd to see what was happening.

Since this was the fourth Paris Flashmob, even camera crews and professional photographers from the major newspapers and news organizations were there, no doubt hoping for a

"Flashmobs are spontaneous and absurd and occur simply because they can."

fun feature-story clip to transition between the latest bombing in Iraq to tomorrow's weather forecast on the TV news. At the meeting point, little slips of paper with specific instructions were passed out, along with a sparkler for each one of the couple hundred Flashmobbers in attendance. I received my supplies from a guy with a beard who looked like he had just returned from a Johnny Hallyday concert, and had no idea who he worked for or how he got involved. There was no time to ask him since, in no more than two minutes, the empty street block had become overwhelmed with people picking up their own Flashmob gear.

The official note said to "leave the area quickly and head towards the Champs-Élysées. The mission of this Flashmob is to form a human chain along one side of the street stretching for blocks. At exactly 20h, light up your sparkler and hold it up. Then start laughing. Finally, disperse like nothing unusual has happened." As if each individual were a robot alien having just received instructions from the mother ship, each Flashmobber proceeded to claim their spot on the grand boulevard in preparation for the big show.

Several minutes before 8pm, window shoppers started noticing a sudden crowd of people, and tried desperately to figure out from which direction Jacques Chirac or the Pope or Julia Roberts were coming. The lack of a Pope-mobile or security force meant something else was going on, and, desperate for answers, pedestrians started asking questions. More often than not, however, the answers only confused them more.

Pedestrian: "What is going on?"

Flashmobber: "A flashmob"

Pedestrian: "...but why are you doing this? What's the point?"

Flashmobber: "There is no point."

Indeed, there is no real purpose or point to a Flashmob. Flashmobs are spontaneous and absurd and occur simply because they can. Despite this lack of official meaning or purpose, the Flashmob was thrilling, exciting, and fun in the strangest possible way. At 8pm exactly, hundreds of Flashmobbers started laughing, lit up their sparklers, held up their arms, and added even more light to the already magnificently lit up and most beautiful boulevard in the world. As police watched with terrified eyes, running around frantically trying to make sense of it all, hundreds of smiles appeared, and then within a matter of minutes, disappeared as if nothing had just happened. Hundreds of people came and quickly left, thoroughly content with their temporary work of human art.

When it was all over, I boarded the subway train home, where I recognized some of my

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IR Program News

Congratulations to the 2003-2004 IR Research Scholars Award and Borghesani Memorial Prize Winners!

IR RESEARCH SCHOLARS AWARD



Wen Cai

Major(s): International Relations

Title of Project: "Legal Protection in the Chinese Real Estate Law"

Location: New York City, NY and Xi'an, China



Karina Lorenzana

Major(s): International Relations

Title of Project: "Exploring Legacies of a South American Dictatorship: Post-Trauma Culture and Mentality of Chile's Youth"

Location: Santiago, Chile



Laura Elizabeth Schenkein

Major(s): International Relations, Political Science

Title of Project: "Cross-National Variations in Public Opinion Towards Humanitarian Military Intervention"

Location: Boston, MA, Madrid, Spain, and Santiago, Chile

ANNE E. BORGHESE MEMORIAL PRIZE



Natawnee Fritz

Major(s): International Relations, Comparative Religions

Title of Project: "Educating AIDS Orphans, HIV/AIDS Prevention, and Community Development"

Location: Ndejje Village, Uganda



Douglas Glandon

Major(s): International Relations, Community Health

Title of Project: "Health Effects of Western Business Expansion on Senegalese Communities"

Location: Dakar, Senegal



Anastasia Konstantakatou

Major(s): International Letters and Visual Studies, Political Science

Title of Project: "Greek Immigration to Latin America"

Location: Argentina



Eva Skillicorn

Major(s): Peace and Justice Studies

Title of Project: "Internet Access Project: Santiago, Chile"

Location: La Pintana, Santiago, Chile

Changes in the Economics Core Requirements

Beginning in Fall 2004, IR majors who have not yet begun Economics' "basic principles" sequence (i.e. EC 1 and EC 2) will take EC 5 ("Principles in Economics") in its place. Thus, EC 5 will now serve as the minimum requirement prerequisite for IR's Core Requirement course in international economics.

IR majors who have taken EC 1 ("Principles of Macroeconomics") or who have the equivalent through transfer of AP work will be offered EC 2 ("Principles of Macroeconomics") through Spring semester of 2006. In this case, the completion of EC 1 and EC 2 will serve as the minimum prerequisite for IR's core requirement in international economics.

Students who intend to transfer economics principles courses (EC 1 and EC 2 equivalents) into the IR major have three options:

- 1) If they have transferred EC 1 (microeconomics) or have AP equivalent credit, they must take EC 5 to complete the "basic principles" sequence. They will be awarded one unit of academic credit for the transferred work and one for EC 5;
- 2) If they have transferred EC 2 (macroeconomics) or have AP equivalent credit, they must take EC 5 to complete the "basic principles" sequence. They will be awarded one unit of academic credit for the transferred work and one for EC 5;
- 3) If they have transferred both EC 1 and EC 2 or have AP equivalent, they will also place out of the "basic principles" sequence. If they have transferred a course that is a microeconomic/macroeconomic combined course (thus equivalent to EC 5), they will also place out of the basic principles sequence and be awarded one unit of academic credit for transferred work.

Ambassador Finn Visits Tufts

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to establish a transitional government that would steer the country until democratic elections are held. Originally scheduled for June of this year, elections will now take place in September amidst security concerns and delays in voter registration. Thus far, UN teams have registered 1.5 million of Afghanistan's 10.5 million eligible voters.

The Loya Jirga assembled again in January 2004 to adopt unanimously a new constitution that will guide Afghanistan in its re-assimilation into the international community. The constitution defines Afghanistan as an Islamic republic, calls for a strong presidency with a two-chamber parliament and independent judiciary, and stresses equality amongst men and women.

While in Afghanistan, Finn witnessed the implementation of many American initiatives including the reconstruction of the Kandahar-Kabul-Herat highway, the training of Afghan National Police Service, as well as the restoration of the facilities of the Kabul Medical Institute.

On numerous occasions, Finn has urged the international community to support the reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan. At a meeting of the Afghanistan Implementation Group in Kabul in April 2002, Finn stated that "the international coalition [is] winning the military conflict in Afghanistan. The more difficult task is to build on this success by rapidly implementing a comprehensive, Afghan-led and Afghan-implemented

reconstruction effort that stabilizes Afghanistan and establishes a platform for sustained economic recovery."

Inadequate funding is hindering reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan. Initial reports in 2001 estimated Afghanistan needed \$15 billion over five years. Approximately \$4.5 billion was pledged at an international donor's conference in Tokyo in January 2002. However, this aid is trickling into Afghanistan at a very slow pace. Undeniably, the Karzai government has little control outside the capital. Insufficient resources imperil an environment of renewed instability, within Afghanistan and the region as a whole.

Narcotic production is also on the rise in Afghanistan. It is currently the world's biggest producer in opium. President Karzai has repeatedly reminded the international community that drugs and terrorism are interrelated. Unless Afghanistan receives foreign aid and support to tackle these issues directly, among others, the country will enter into chaos once again.

International donors are meeting this month in Berlin to pledge further aid.

Ambassador Finn's lecture will begin at 5pm in Robinson 253 and is open to the public. The event is sponsored by the International Relations Program and co-sponsored by the Tufts' chapters of "Why Me?" and SPARKS International.

The IR Program Welcomes 3 New Student Assistants

The IR Program is happy to announce that **Daniella Burgipalomino**, **Pedro Rodriguez-Paramo**, and **Mayeluz Verdecia** have joined the IR Program team.

The three first-year students usher in a new chapter as the IR Program says goodbye to their three current student assistants,

graduating in May this year.

We are grateful to Sadaf Gulamali, Anna Filatov, and Naushin Shibli for their valuable contributions to the IR Program Office and we wish them the very best for the future.

Cultural Survival

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I intern for 16 hours a week at Cultural Survival, a small NGO in Central Square in Cambridge. Cultural Survival's mission is to promote the rights, voices and issues of indigenous groups around the world. The organization creates curriculum materials such as lesson plans and writes articles for magazines, websites and other media outlets in order to educate the public about indigenous peoples all over the world. In addition, Cultural Survival funds special projects to directly help groups in need. The organization is connected to indigenous groups in a variety of ways. Its particular focus is educational in that it provides information about indigenous peoples, gives them attention and creates links between organizations that would not exist otherwise.

I work in the news and information area and have chosen the Middle East as my area of interest. The organization offers a reporting service that provides information about indigenous peoples around the world. Each week, I research and write up news briefs that cover what is happening in the indigenous groups in my region. Unlike many other jobs that I've had, at CS, I have a great deal of freedom in selecting and creating my projects. I choose what stories to cover, who I want to contact and how I want to cover these stories. Each week, I first scour the web for stories about the indigenous people in my region. The largest groups are the Kurds, Bedouins,

Druze and Berbers. I then contact people from these groups or NGOs who work directly with these groups who might be able to provide me with personal reports. Each of the indigenous groups that I cover face difficult issues and are oppressed by the governments who now control their land. Most recently, I have researched the Kurds in Northern Iraq and learned about their desire to create an autonomous state. I was able to analyze the consequences that a separate state would have for the rest of the region and how officials are responding to Kurdish nationalism while creating a new Iraqi government.

One of the most unforeseen but very valuable aspects of this internship has been my work with my fellow interns. I am one of the few interns at CS who is still in school; almost all of the other twenty or so are recent graduates from across the country. These interns volunteer in order to change the marginalized and oppressed statuses of these groups and cultures. They want to dedicate their time and energy to help improve the lives of others. Their energy and passion about this work, along with their advice, stories and friendships has greatly changed my feelings about the "real world" after graduation that I'll enter next year.

Through the education I have received at Tufts and my work at Cultural Survival, I have become

very interested in the politics and issues of the Middle East. So although it is difficult to contact some of these groups to get reports about what these groups are facing, I eagerly take on this task and am always ready to learn more about the intricacies of such a complex region. I have learned a great deal from this experience and have found that it complements my course work. In my internship, I can focus on the details of these situations and groups, and learn as much as I can about very specific topics. Equally important, I have developed a set of investigatory and analytical skills. I have learned to be assertive, to call people to ask questions and to develop my own interests, reports and writing style.

While it has been difficult to fit in the demands of an internship which means spending 16 hours a week at a work setting, the experience and excitement that this internship has provided has been incredibly valuable. Instead of just accruing information, I now know how to research and apply knowledge in the real world. Giving me an important set of responsibilities and autonomy, my internship at Cultural Survival has provided me with an opportunity to make a contribution and develop a useful set of skills.

For more information about Cultural Survival and how to get involved, go to www.cs.org.

Flashmob

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fellow Flashmobbers, still giddy from the recent spectacle they had helped put on. I don't know if it was the thrill of being in a crowd, the possibility of being on the evening news, or simply just having been on the famous boulevard that made this experience so exiting. Personally, I felt as if I had just participated in a sort of protest, but could not decide against what I had just protested.

Absurdity and spontaneity in the world usually signify danger, but Flashmobs exist

perhaps to demonstrate that evil does not lurk around every corner and that spontaneity can be harmless. Although there is no official purpose of a Flashmob, I see this phenomenon as a sort of protest against fear. Just when people expect the worst out of a sudden mob of people -- after seeing so many terrifying images on television, in newspapers, and in magazines -- to me, Flashmobs are a sort of positive slap in the face to say that -- surprise! -- the whole world has not gone bad.

David Polk, an International Relations major, is currently abroad on the Tufts-in-Paris program.

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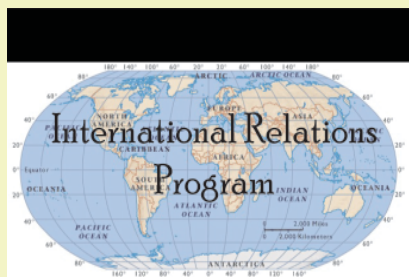
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The IR News & Views newsletter highlights events and people in the Tufts IR community and provides selected information about the larger Boston community. The publication appears twice a semester and welcomes feedback from students and faculty.



FALL 2004
COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT

Fall 2004 Course Announcement Booklets Now Available!

Stop by the IR Office (Cabot 605) for your copy, or visit the IR website at <http://ase.tufts.edu/ir> to see complete Fall 2004 course listings



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