

International Relations

news & views

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Tufts Program in International Relations

Lions and Tigers and...America and Russia Today

By: Zachary Witlin, A'10

On the advertisement flyer for the Symposium on US-Russian Relations held April 10th, I included a cartoon from The Economist of Uncle Sam shaking hands with a bear, both covered in icicles. It seemed to capture a number of legacies that still have a foothold in the American political discourse. First, it implied that the two countries have been making efforts to build closer ties, but that America and Russia have yet to completely thaw from decades of cold warfare. But what proved to be more striking was the bear paw itself. On the symposium's opening panel on security issues in US-Russian Relations, Ms. Maria Yulikova (MALD '10, previously associated with the Committee to Protect Journalists in Moscow and the Moscow Carnegie Center) pointed out that the image

is outdated. "I am not a bear," she reminded the audience.

The bear has not been dying easily. When Russia invaded Georgia last fall, a number of American political commentators still asked what "the bear's" intentions were, and whether this meant "the bear" had returned to an aggressive military posture (bears do hibernate, I suppose). But as both Ms. Yulikova and the symposium's keynote speaker Dr. Thomas M. Nichols (Professor of National Security Affairs and Forrest Sherman Chair of Public Diplomacy at the US Naval War College) pointed out, Russia today is a far cry from the Soviet Union. "The Cold War's over," and President Medvedev may have been justified in urging the White House to stop listening to Sovietologists.

It was in this spirit that the Director's Leadership Council of the International

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Q&A with New IR Core Faculty Member, Ichiro Takayoshi

During the 2008-2009 academic year, the IR Program began a new faculty interview feature, to introduce the newest members of the IR Core Faculty to the wider community. For this spring issue, we are pleased to introduce you to Professor Ichiro Takayoshi of the English Department. – The Editors



What brought you to Tufts? What are your impressions so far?

Two things that drew me most to Tufts were its strong English department

and its commitment to the study of diplomacy and international relations, as exemplified by the thriving IR program for undergraduates and the Fletcher School for graduate students. English is my institutional home, so obviously I find it extremely lucky—and intellectually invigorating—to be able to work with some of the most accomplished scholars in the fields of American literary history, British literature, and cultural theory.

The community of scholars engaged in all kinds of cutting-edge research in international relations and diplomacy as well as a large body of students who are internationally-minded and interested in these fields of study were also a great draw for me, because in my research and teaching, I look at the history of American culture and politics in a global context. My impressions so far are exceedingly positive! Tufts really has a feel of a tightly knit community. Everyone knows each other, and I very

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Photo by: Sean Smith, Tufts Daily

Chayes and Joseph Debate: Genocide Intervention

By Soraya Alivandi, A'11

The Director's Leadership Council hosted its third annual debate on the evening of Tuesday, March 3, 2009. The debate is a standing tradition of the DLC, and has previously focused on such issues as active citizenship in the academy (Devigne-Teichman) and democratization in Iraq (Mufti-Taliaferro). This year, the debate focused on an issue pertinent to the new Obama administration: the United States' Responsibility to Protect (R2P). Responsibility to Protect is a relatively new, complex concept of increasing importance in the international community. Overall, the idea posits that it is the responsibility of the international community to intervene in situations of serious foreign crises, such as

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Congratulations



SIGMA IOTA RHO

The Honor Society for International Studies

Congratulations to the newest members of Sigma Iota Rho's Beta Chi Chapter. The induction ceremony for academic year 2008-2009 took place on April 23, 2009, was officiated by chapter advisor, Professor Jeffrey Taliaferro, and featured a keynote address by Professor Richard Eichenberg.

Corey Banks
Toby Bon throne
Petr Bouchal
Chuen Sing Cheung
Kate Cilke
Lauren Citrome
Thomas Eager
John Galvin
Victoria Gilbert
Joshua Gordon
Matthew Gordon
Jeffrey Goldberg
Dena Greenblum
Scott Hagerty
Shana Hurley
Kennedy Kearney-Fischer
Eleonora Kinnicutt
Matthew Kypta
Travis Lowry
John Meyers
Brett Newman
Schuyler Olsson
Rory Parks

William Perry
Bharath Potti
Graham Rogers
Katherin Santoro
Michelle Sargent
Sarah Schreiber
David Shein
Austin Blair Siadak
Jane Ga Youn Song
Denise St. Peter
Helaina Stein
Kelsi Stine
Debbi Sutuntivorakoon
Emilie Sweigart
Galen Chern Tan
Veronica Turk
Elena Vanko
Jennifer Watkins
Theodore Weisman
Nick Welch
Zachary Witlin
Sera Patricia Yoshino

Congratulations to our 2008-2009 IR Senior Thesis Writers!

Aliza Bach

Rishikesh Bhandary

Amanda Hahnel

Laura Zachary

Rachel Bergenfield

Carter Koppelman

Leslie Hayward

Scholarship and Award Winners

Anne E. Borghesani Memorial Prize

Emily R. Anderson, A'11
Marsala Hinterland Field Survey
Italy

John Paul Makilya, A'10
*The Politics of Liberation: Slavery, Servitude
and Citizenship in Post-Colonial Africa*
Senegal, Mauritania, Togo

Michael Niconchuk, A'11
*Security, Influence, Development: Bolivia's Aid
Vacuum and U.S. Strategic Concerns*
Bolivia

Benjamin James Sacks, A'10
*New Perspectives on Global Empires in Europe
and America*
United Kingdom

Alice H. Tin, A'10
*Roger That: Evaluating Best Practices for
Communicating Infections Disease Risk in
Local Communities in Nicaragua and Across
International Borders*
Nicaragua

IR Major Awards

Distinguished Achievement in IR Award
Thomas Eager, A'09

IR Major Recipients of University General Awards

The Class of 1911 Prize Scholarship
Saskia Chanoine A'09
Breese McIlvaine A'09

The Class of 1942 Prize Scholarship
Lena Andrews A'09
Carter Koppelman A'09

The Alex Elias Memorial Prize Scholarship
Elizabeth Aronson A'09

The Ethel M. Hayes Scholarship
Jeffrey Greenberg A'09

The Philip E. A. Sheridan, M.D., Prize
Stephen Graham A'09

IR Research Scholars

Jessica Bidgood, A'10
*Moral and Political
Implications of Shared
Sovereignty*
Tufts University
Medford, MA

Marla Spivack, A'12
*Evaluating the Efficacy of
NGO HIV Outreach Education
in Kenyan Secondary Schools*
Kenya

Phoenix Tso, A'10
*Langi Women's
Perspectives on
War-Related
Reconciliation*
Uganda

IR Program IR Core Faculty

2009 IR Program Award for Outstanding Service Professor Jeanne Marie Penvenne, Department of History

At the annual IR Core Faculty meeting on April 22nd, IR Director Malik Mufti presented the Outstanding Faculty Service Award to Prof. Jeanne Penvenne. He offered the following remarks as part of her commendation on behalf of the IR Program. – The Editors



The IR Outstanding Faculty Service Award was established to recognize exemplary faculty contributions in support of the IR Program, its mission,

and students. Last year, the inaugural award was presented to Richard Eichenberg. Admittedly this set the bar high, but we are pleased to recognize someone this year who is equal to its measure.

This member of the Core Faculty has had an impact on nearly every aspect of the IR Program. Just during my tenure with the program she has taken on two major committee positions (with the Awards and Curriculum Committees) and serves as her department's liaison to IR. She was instrumental in helping to design the award-winning, online International Research Network, and assisted in shaping and has repeatedly co-taught the International Research Colloquium classes (INTR 91 and 92). Writers of Senior Honor Theses know her as the convener of the Thesis Exchange (a key support for thesis writers, where Jeanne offers a mix of expert guidance,

welcome encouragement, and better wine and cheese than students could otherwise afford).

Her students universally report her to be exceedingly conscientious in her advising and she thoughtfully supports their development as young scholars – always nominating her best students for a range of IR awards, and pushing all to take full advantage of the resources provided by the program.

The IR Staff refers to her as “the Gold Standard” and “Tufts’ equivalent of a national treasure.”

Ladies and gentleman, I am pleased to present the 2009 IR Outstanding Faculty Service Award to Jeanne Penvenne.

Congratulations, Jeanne!

A SPOTLIGHT on this year's IR Core Faculty and their newly published books and musical recordings.

Newly Published Faculty Books:

Baskins, Cristelle, et al.. *The Triumph of Marriage: Painted Cassoni of the Renaissance*. Boston, MA: Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 2008.

Conceison, Claire and Ruocheng, Ying. *Voices Carry: Behind Bars and Backstage During China's Revolution and Reform*. Plymouth, Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2009.

Inouye, Charles Shirō. *Evanescence and Form: An Introduction to Japanese Culture*. New York, NY: Palgrave MacMillan, 2008.

Mazzotti, José Antonio. *Incan Insights: El Inca Garcilaso's Hints to Andean Readers*. Frankfurt, Germany: Iberoamericana, 2008.

McCabe, Ina Baghdiantz. *Orientalism in Early Modern France: Eurasian Trade, Exoticism, and the Ancien Régime*. New York, NY: Berg, 2008.

Taliaferro, Jeffrey W., et al., Eds. *Neoclassical Realism, the State, and Foreign Policy*. : Cambridge University Press, 2009.

Newly Published Faculty Musical Recordings:

Locke, David. *Drumming for Dagomba Chiefs: Tamale, Ghana, 1985*. Makanda, IL: EarthCDs, 2008.

IR Program IR Core Faculty

Dean Robert Sternberg recently recognized a number of IR Core Faculty Members for distinctions and achievements. These included:

Professor Peter Winn (History) has received a Ford Foundation grant to write a book about memory in Latin America.

Professor David Ekbladh (History) has received a Fulbright Award to do research in Georgia.

Professor Yannis Evrigenis (Political Science) is a recipient of the Laurance S. Rockefeller Visiting Fellowship at Princeton, which is awarded annually to outstanding scholars interested in devoting a year in residence at the university to write about ethics and human values.

Professor Cristelle Baskins (Art and Art History) received a glowing review in the New York Times as the co-curator of “The Triumph of Marriage: Painted Cassoni of the Renaissance,” which ran at Boston’s Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum.

Professor Heather Curtis (Religion) won the Frank and Elizabeth Brewer Prize for the best first book in the History of Christianity.

Tips from the IR Office

Planning on studying abroad this summer or next year?

Find out all you need to know about the transfer credit process (for both Tufts and the IR Program) by visiting the following link: <http://ase.tufts.edu/ir/abroad.htm>.

Important: The transfer credit process should be completed before you leave to study abroad. Follow the steps at the above-mentioned web link to secure pre-approval for the courses taken on any foreign study program (Tufts and Non-Tufts programs). Please note that courses taken on Tufts AND Non-Tufts Programs must be approved by the IR Program in order to be used to fulfill IR requirements!

Q&A Takayoshi continued from pg 1:

much appreciate that kind of intimate collegiality. Students I have met so far are also on the whole incredibly serious about learning. With each passing semester, I find myself raising my expectations higher and higher, for what my students are capable of as well as my own teaching.

What have you been researching lately?

I'm currently working on a cultural and political history of a foreign policy debate that took place on the eve of WWII. The debate was simply called the "Great Debate." It was "great" because it divided the whole nation on the question of whether or not America should take an aggressive, or "interventionist" to use that day's parlance, stance against Germany, Italy, and Japan, those emerging powers that challenged the global status quo. This debate raised a host of intellectual, cultural, religious, and political questions about America's interests and values, America's past and future. My book offers the most comprehensive collective portrait to date of prominent Americans—politicians, writers, intellectuals, religious leaders, academics, and so on—who fought a war of words on these important questions.

English as a discipline does not always feature in International Relations programs. In what ways do you think the two fields fit together/inform one another?

This is a great question, and my answer is this: they don't "fit together" but it is up to you to figure out how to make your interest in and mastery of one field inform your approach to the other.

Let me explain. "Interdisciplinary" has been a buzzword, justifiably, in universities for quite a while, and my research and courses quite self-consciously adopt an interdisciplinary approach. But, I don't draw together different fields—IR theory, history, literary studies, and religious studies, to name but a few—expecting that these fields somehow seamlessly harmonize with one another. Each of these fields has a degree of autonomy, which should never be underestimated. The important thing for any scholar, any student whose research ranges across multiple disciplines is precisely to learn to live productively with this insurmountable difference between these different ways of analyzing different kinds of objects. Let me use my own course, "War and American Values," as an example. The central questions that guide this course are: "how does war influence our understanding of the nation's core values?"; "what values do America's enemies represent?"; "what are America's vulnerabilities?" I ask my students to work through these questions by looking at how historically politicians, soldiers, fiction writers, poets, journalists, intellectuals, theologians, and so on have grappled with these questions in wartime (the course focuses on the Great War, WWII, the Vietnam, the Cold War, and the War on Terror). Because no single discipline has ever worked with such a diverse cast of historical actors, the literature that my students read and discuss in this class are culled from diverse disciplines (sociologists and philosophers writing about soldiers' combat experience; IR theorists and political psychologists writing about the decision-making process; poets and novelists representing violence). Students instantly see that these different modes of knowledge don't "fit together," and this sense of surprise

often creates what I call "a zone of productive discomfort." In my class and in my research, true breakthroughs happen when these fields that refuse to "fit together" force you to think outside the conventions and create a new paradigm.

What types of students would be interested in your classes?

Open-minded, intellectually curious, voracious readers. I cannot emphasize the word "curious" enough, because I'm realistic enough to acknowledge that while I can teach facts and arguments, I cannot make my students want to know more. That deep desire for knowledge has to come from inside the students. Writers who care about the art of writing. Thinkers who draw intellectual sustenance from asking big, complex questions. Thinkers who have intellectual stamina to follow through all lines of inquiry ramifying from these questions.

Can you tell us a bit about where you are from? What are your hobbies or interesting facts about you?

I was born in Tokyo, Japan, grew up in a small town—almost a village—in the southern part of the country, and went back to Tokyo for college. The town I grew up in was by the ocean, one of the most beautiful coasts in Japan, and I had this fishing bug when I was a boy; I fondly remember going fishing almost every day, especially in the summer. So, naturally, I'm a bit radically fastidious about the freshness of fish I put in my mouth. I just moved to Boston, so I welcome any information on good local sushi restaurants.

***Look for more Q&A interviews of IR Core Faculty members
in next year's issues of IR News & Views!***

IR Program News & Views

DLC Debate continued from pg 1:

genocide, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity.

The debate resolution was specifically, “Were the international community to call for the U.S. to uphold the Responsibility to Protect in an ongoing genocide, the Obama Administration should lead a military intervention if necessary?” The resolution involved such questions as What are the benefits of intervention in a humanitarian crisis? and, How should the United States handle the responsibility to protect in a genocide?

The DLC was fortunate to have two highly respected professors grapple with this timely and complex set of questions. It was even more fortunate that the debaters were very conscientious of both sides of the

resolution which helped the audience to understand the intricacies of this highly complex topic. Professor Paul Joseph currently serves as the Director of the Peace and Justice Studies Program at Tufts, and has previously served as the Chair of the Sociology Department. Professor Joseph argued the importance of intervention in places such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, stressing that the inflictions incurred by the victims of such crises compels the international community to intervene under the R2P framework. Professor Antonia Chayes is a visiting Professor of International Politics and Law at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, who taught for many years at Harvard’s Kennedy School and is a former Under Secretary of the US Air Force. While also acknowledging the importance of responding to humanitarian crises, Professor Chayes asserted that

existing mechanisms in international law should be followed – that the US should seek UN Security Council approval for the use of force. While the debate was not highly contentious, each side enlightened the audience to the reasoning behind their opinion, stressing the way in which intervention would be deemed acceptable for either side of the resolution.

Following each speaker’s remarks, the audience was given the opportunity to pose questions, which led to further elucidation of a nuanced topic. Overall, the DLC was quite pleased with the relevance of the debate topic, as well as the audience’s reception of, and engagement with, it. Once again the DLC debate took on a timely and relevant topic, and showcased the expertise of Tufts faculty in a lively and informative format.

For more information on the Director’s Leadership Council, please visit the following link:

<http://ase.tufts.edu/ir/leadershipDLC.htm>

COMING SOON! - The 2009-2010 DLC application will be available on the IR website

US/Russia Symposium continued from pg 1:

Relations program organized this symposium, a great collaboration with Sigma Iota Rho, Pi Sigma Alpha, the Russian Circle, the German, Russian, and Asian Languages and Literature Department, and ALLIES. The symposium began with a panel on security and political-military issues comprised of Ms. Yulikova, Mr. Charles Bergen (master’s candidate at Harvard’s Davis Center for Russian, Eastern European, and Central Asian Studies), Mr. Kuban Kabaev (MALD ’10 and mid-career diplomat from Kyrgyzstan), Dr. Rouben Shougarian (Lecturer at the Fletcher School, former Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia, and former Ambassador to the U.S.). A second panel on the role of energy in Russian politics featured Mr. Jan Havranek (MALD ’09 with experience in the Czech non-governmental sector),

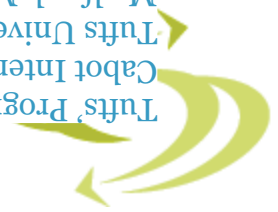
Mr. Charles Interrante (PhD candidate at Fletcher specializing in energy security, irregular warfare, NATO, and intelligence policy), and Mr. Leonid Polyakov (former Vice Minister of Defense of Ukraine and research fellow at Harvard’s Ukrainian Research Institute).

The latter panel devoted a good portion of discussion to the recent gas crisis in Eastern Europe, in which Russian monopoly Gazprom cut off energy supplies to Ukraine following what seemed on the surface to be a commercial dispute, and which caused problems for a number of other countries’ energy and heating supplies. Mr. Polyakov made particularly clear his concern that Russia could use this or similar tactics to exert influence over neighboring Ukraine, though other

panelists added that Gazprom did suffer some large profit losses following the crisis, and Dr. Nichols mentioned in his keynote address that such tactics may not be sustainable. “They need to sell the gas at some point,” after all.

A concert of Russian music organized by the Russian Circle and the Music Department followed Dr. Nichols’ keynote address, capping off the day and reminding me of Socrates’ assertion that the best guardian of virtue is “argument mixed with music,” even if the Greek didn’t quite mean it that way. It is my hope that the day’s events gave our audience the opportunity to think a bit more critically about America and Russia today, and to temper argument with a bit of music (with the harmonious meaning that Socrates did intend).

Tufts' Program in International Relations
Cabot International Center, Rm. 605
Tufts University
Medford, MA 02155
USA



Announcements

IR Program Staff

Director

Malik Mufti

Assistant Director

Kirk Lange

Program Administrator

Moira Todd

Program Coordinator

Elizabeth Gottlieb

Student Assistants

Robin Carol

Daniel Enking

Breese McIlvaine

Katie Santoro

*The IR News & Views
newsletter highlights
events and people in the
Tufts IR community.
The publication appears
twice a semester and
welcomes feedback from
students and faculty.*



International Relations
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*Congratulations to the IR Class of 2009
and a special thank you and good-bye
to our graduating student assistants,*

Breese McIlvaine

Katie Santoro

Best wishes for a bright future!