Tufts International Alumni Reunion: “The Financial Crisis and the Future of Europe”
By: Prof Drusilla Brown, IR Program Director

Last June at the Tufts European Center in Talloires, France, Jane Etish-Andrews (Director, International Center) and Professor Drusilla Brown (Director, International Relations Program) hosted a weekend of old friends, new friends, and interesting debate and discussion. The reunion event featured a program entitled “The Financial Crisis and the Future of Europe” presented by Tufts faculty and alumni.

The looming crisis of the Eurozone has been a slow motion disaster set off by the financial crisis of 2008. The consequences of a financial meltdown would be far-reaching, ranging from the political and economic to the social and cultural. Last June, a roundtable of Tufts International Relations core faculty, Tufts alumni and Talloires students joined together at the European Center for a day of discussion on the events that led up to the crisis and speculation on the outcomes.

We began the morning with presentations from Erin Arvedlund (A’92) and Eric Schliesser (A’93). Erin and Eric are Tufts alums who have devoted themselves to the study of the underlying causes of the financial crisis of 2008. Erin provided the group with a riveting account of her experience exposing the financial misconduct of Bernie Maddoff. In her best-selling book *Too Good to be True: The Rise and Fall of Bernie Madoff*, Erin details the case against Maddoff, how the key pieces of evidence came to be in her possession and her efforts to bring order to the pieces of the mystery.

Erin was followed by Eric, who many faculty at Tufts recall as student extraordinaire. After graduating from Tufts in 1993, Eric went on to complete a Ph.D. in Philosophy at the University of Chicago and is currently a Professor of Philosophy and Moral Sciences at Ghent University (Belgium). Eric has been fascinated by “black swans” and the technical features of asset markets that produce all too frequent crises.

In the afternoon, we turned to the specifics of the Eurozone crisis. Echoing the misdeeds of the morning, Professor Ioannis Evrigennis (Political Science Department) detailed the misuse of accounting loopholes that allowed the Greek government to take on far more debt than is allowed under the terms of membership in the Eurozone. However, the weaknesses of the Eurozone are more profound than simply the misdeeds of Greek politicians. Professor Enrico Spolaore (Economics Department, Chair) addressed more fundamentally the challenges of merging together in a single currency area a group of countries with the high degree of cross-country heterogeneity exhibited in the zone. Countering these pessimistic views, Professor David Art (Political Science Department) made a compelling case for the need to preserve the Eurozone despite the challenges.

The opportunity to discuss, reflect on and ponder the most pressing issues of our time with distinguished and expert Tufts faculty and highly accomplished Tufts alums in the exquisite beauty of the Alps is one I will treasure. For me personally, seeing Eric Schliesser return to Tufts was such a special pleasure. A University has no greater meaning or accomplishment.
Welcome New IR Core Faculty Members

**Professor Christopher Schmidt-Nowara, Department of History**

Prince of Asturias Chair in Spanish Culture & Civilization

Research Interests: Prof Schmidt-Nowara’s research concentrates on two broad areas: the history of slavery and emancipation in the Hispanic world and the history of politics and ideas in the Spanish empire, especially during the imperial crises of the nineteenth century.

When asked to describe the origins of his interest in Spanish history, this is what Prof Schmidt-Nowara had to say:

I grew up in New Mexico where the sense of connection to the Spanish past is very strong, unusually so for the United States. So throughout my childhood I read Spanish literature and studied the local varieties of Spanish history. When I was in college, I spent a year in Madrid and an Art History class that met every week in the Prado convinced me that I needed to keep coming back.

Courses (current and upcoming):

- History 86: Medieval and Early Modern Spain (Fall 2011)
- Modern Spain (Spring 2012)
- History of Madrid (Spring 2012)

Faculty Profile Page: [http://ase.tufts.edu/history/faculty/nowara.asp](http://ase.tufts.edu/history/faculty/nowara.asp)

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**Assistant Professor Nimah Mazaheri, Department of Political Science**

Research Interests: Prof Mazaheri’s research and teaching interests center on comparative political economy with a focus on developing countries, oil and energy sectors, and private sector development. His primary regions of interest are the Middle East and South Asia.

When asked to describe the origins of his interest in the Middle East and South Asia, this is what Prof Mazaheri had to say:

My interest in the Middle East is partly due to my personal background, but it accelerated after I lived for a year in Iran upon finishing my bachelor's degree. I became deeply interested in issues regarding oil and natural resource wealth, particularly the policy-making, economic, and social issues that emerge in oil dependent countries. During graduate school, I started to read about the mineral-producing regions of India and wondered if there were similarities between these states and countries in the Middle East. I lived in India for 8 months during graduate school and was there recently as part of a World Bank project. Overall, I think that both the Middle East and South Asia are really fascinating places to study for anyone interested in political economy and issues in development.

Courses (current and upcoming):

- PS 138-09: The Political Economy of Developing Countries
- PS 138-10: The Politics of Oil and Energy

Faculty Profile Page: [http://ase.tufts.edu/polsci/faculty/mazaheri/index.htm](http://ase.tufts.edu/polsci/faculty/mazaheri/index.htm)
What’s Next after Tufts? An Optimistic Outlook from a Tufts alumnus from the Class of 2010.

Last year at this time, as autumn descended on the Hill, I had more on my mind than upcoming midterms. The seasonal change often sparks one simple yet daunting self-imposed question – “what am I going to do after Tufts?” More specifically, like I was, you might be wondering what you can do while still at Tufts to maximize chances of success after college. Just like the midterm exam for ‘Intro to International Relations’ – there are no simple or straightforward answers to these questions.

Looking back, I learned that the lack of clarity about the future can actually instill excitement – not anxiety. The outlook is positive – in my opinion, Tufts IR students in particular should be invigorated to hear that they are better-prepared than most students to handle the challenges of post-college life. An IR student’s interdisciplinary skill set – which includes strong writing skills, language proficiency, and in-depth economic literacy – is highly sought-after in today’s difficult job market. Employers desperately need well-rounded students who understand international issues from a myriad of perspectives.

A strong skill set alone, however, isn’t enough to secure a job in the post-recession world. Students should take advantage of all that the IR program has to offer, including events, mentorships, student groups, and career help. It’s never too late to get involved in important, non-class-related aspects of Jumbo life – activities which will jumpstart your impending career. Often it is through activities outside the classroom that students will land their first jobs – not that extra tenth of a point in their GPAs.

Graduating from Tufts is the end of something – but it’s the start of something even better. My hope for you is that you relish your final years at Tufts, always cognizant of the reality that exists beyond the Hill. So keep taking chances and trying new things – you never know when your next opportunity will walk right across your path.

Ross Thuotte, A10, is a researcher at the Center for Global Development, a prominent, international development-focused Washington DC-based think-tank. He assists in the authoring, publication, and outreach of research which concentrates on African economic policy-related issues.

Current IR major, Marie Murphy, A12, reflects on her junior year studying abroad.

I am a senior majoring in International Relations concentrating in Global Health, Nutrition and the Environment. Throughout my Tufts career I have also taken the science and math requirements to apply to Medical School.

I spent the last year studying International Health and Development at University College London on the Tufts-In-London Study Abroad program. I was involved in MEDSIN, the society of Medical Students at UCL and was able to publish in their global health magazine, Perspectives, on my views on the crossroads between Gender Equity and Health. The entire year was an incredible and unforgettable experience that expanded my knowledge of the world and the field of International Relations to new proportions.

My journey took me all the way to India, where I shadowed an Indian Physician at his practice and researched laws prohibiting female feticide and its impact on rates of young orphaned girls.

Returning as a senior at Tufts, I am exploring the cholera epidemic in Haiti post-earthquake as a part of my directed research project.

Marie Murphy, A12, studied International Health and Development last year while attending the Tufts-in-London program.

IR students (past and present) are encouraged to submit their “news” for future publication in an IR News & Views issue. Send your submission in an e-mail to Kathleen Devigne (kathleen.devigne@tufts.edu). Keep us posted—we want to hear about the exciting opportunities you are involved in.
“Everyday Nakba”: A film about everyday life in a refugee camp on the West Bank

Have you ever waited to use the washing machine, your impatience mounting? After waiting for a long time you finally toss your load into the machine. But now you worry that the water might stop running before the wash cycle is complete. And what about your dirty dishes and the shower you need? It’s hot, too, and you’re thirsty. What a disaster, you think. Now imagine a reality where one never knows for sure when the water will flow, if it will flow, and if it does, how long it will last. These concerns are ongoing for Palestinians living in Aida Refugee Camp on the West Bank.

Anthropology Professor Amahl Bishara conducted field work over the past 8 years at the refugee camp. Among other activities, she mentored a local young man in his early 20s, Mohammad Al-Azza. Mr. Al-Azza wanted to tell the story of everyday life for his family, friends, his people. He managed to get his hands on a camera and crafted a powerful 12 minute film that depicts the daily catastrophe of life without water for families, livestock, crops, even a shrub in a simple would-be garden.

The film’s title, “Everyday Nakba,” is a play on words. Nakba Day is an annual day of commemoration of the displacement of the Palestinians following the events of 1948. Nakba means day of catastrophe or disaster.

Images like those so poignantly presented in Mohammad Al-Azza’s film are visible across the Middle East and elsewhere. Increasingly, water is a topic of political, environmental and moral debates. Solutions have been suggested, stalled, denied, and on and on. The power of Mr. Al-Azza’s film is that it holds its focus on ordinary people who persevere under the worst of conditions. “Everyday Nakba” is heartbreaking while inspirational.

Spotlight on IR Core Faculty

IR Core Faculty teach a variety of courses across the disciplines. They also conduct their own research, contribute to scholarly conferences, and publish in prestigious journals and presses. Here is a sampling of some of their current and upcoming projects:


**David Dapice** (Economics) is currently working on several papers as follows: One is on water management issues in the Mekong Delta. The local overuse and misuse of ground water and building of upstream dams (especially by China) threaten to damage or destroy large parts of the rice and fish economy of southern Vietnam. The paper discusses various fixes. A second paper is on the electricity situation in Indonesia - they spend many billions of dollars a year on consumer subsidies but cannot supply about 40% of what is demanded. Policy options are explored. A third paper is on Myanmar agriculture and a fourth, related paper, is on the exchange rate in Myanmar which is killing large parts of agriculture. I also recently completed a paper on the price of land in Vietnam (up to $5000 a square foot!) and the reasons it is so high and what might be done about it, but probably will not be done.
Kelly Greenhill (Political Science) had a very busy September 2011 presenting “Weapons of Mass Migration: Implications for US and International Security,” at a meeting in the Washington, DC area (September 20-22, 2011). An earlier version was presented at the US DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, Washington, DC (February 2011); “Unconventional Sources of Threat Perception and Proliferation,” as part of a panel at the AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING, Seattle, WA (September 2, 2011); and “Better Than the Truth: Threat Perception and the Perpetually Imperfect Marketplace of Ideas,” as part of a panel at the AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING, Seattle, WA (September 1, 2011).


Bruce Hitchner (Classics) recently published “Change course, overhaul Dayton, fix Bosnia.” Published August 1, 2011. Available at http://www.peacefare.net/?p=4128.

Christopher Schmidt-Nowara (History) recently completed two works that explore aspects of slavery and the struggles against it in Latin America and the Caribbean: Slavery, Freedom, and Abolition in Latin America and the Atlantic World (University of New Mexico Press, 2011) and Editor of a special issue of Social History (August 2011) on “Caribbean Emancipations.” He is also busy giving talks on the history of slavery, abolitionism, and colonialism in the Iberian world at the Center for the Humanities at the CUNY Graduate Center, the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (Madrid), the Department of Romance Languages at Washington University, and the International Congress of Americanists (Vienna). In addition, he will host the annual meeting of the Association for Spanish & Portuguese Historical Studies at Tufts, March 22-25, 2012.


David Locke (Music) continues his work on the music theory of traditional African music. His recent article for Music Theory Online contains an interactive online mixer that enables readers to hear ensemble parts one-by-one or in any combination ("Yeyu in the Metric Matrix." Music Theory Online, 16 (4.4) http://www.mtosmt.org/issues/mto.10.16.4/mto.10.16.4.locke.html

José Antonio Mazzotti (Romance Languages) recently edited the volume Renacimiento mestizo: los 400 años de los Comentarios reales (Madrid/Frankfurt: Iberoamericana/Vervuert, 2010), based on a conference he organized at Tufts in 2009. He also edited two new issues (73 & 74) of the Revista de Crítica Literaria Latinoamericana, a leading journal in the field of Latin American literary studies, and served as external evaluator of the Department of Romance Studies at the University of Zurich. He is currently conducting research on colonial creole cultures and on endangered languages in the Amazon.
The Anne E. Borghesani Memorial Prize is an incentive award that enables the recipients to undertake a research project, an internship, a volunteer activity, or a plan of study in any field involving international issues. Designed to foster the spirit of the award, the prize encourages personal growth and independence, while increasing one's understanding of all peoples and encouraging a commitment to the world community.

Second-semester sophomores and juniors from ANY department or major with a minimum GPA of 2.8 or above are eligible for the prize. Ultimately, the quality of proposal will determine prize selection.

Over the past decade, students from a variety of Tufts majors have used the prize to venture abroad and study, conduct research, participate in international internships, and become involved in social change movements. Borghesani award recipients have carried out their plans in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, and South Asia.

For more info or to download an application, visit http://ase.tufts.edu/it/researchOppBorghesani.htm.

**This Year’s Student Presentations:**

- **Kristin Johnson, A12**  
  Major: International Relations  
  Grassroots Micro-Finance: An Informal Savings Study (Ghana)

- **Maimuna Majumder, E12**  
  Major: Engineering Science  
  The Intervention Point: Cholera Prevention Methods in Matlab (Bangladesh)

- **Jennifer LaMotte, A12**  
  Double Major: Spanish and Latin American Studies  
  Restoring Reciprocity: Healing Susto in the Andes (Peru)

- **David E. Wang, E12**  
  Major: Biomedical Engineering  
  Examining the Immune Responses to gp15, a Surface Protein of Cryptosporidium (Kenya)

- **Lillian Prueher, A12**  
  Major: Interdisciplinary Studies  
  Bridging the Gap: Understanding the Chinese Conception of Terminal Illness (China)

- **Lisa Pinals, E12**  
  Major: Electrical Engineering  
  Research and Promotion of Engineering Abroad Specifically for Children (Australia)

The Tufts community wishes to extend a special thanks to the Borghesani family, friends, Anne E. Borghesani Community Foundation, and the In Anne’s Spirit Foundation for their generosity.
**IR Events and Tips from the IR Office**

**IR Events**: For the most up-to-date information, go to [http://ase.tufts.edu/ir/events.htm](http://ase.tufts.edu/ir/events.htm).

**Event Spotlight on the IR Core Forum (a year long series of discussions):**

**IR Core Forum** is designed to help students examine the interdisciplinary connections between IR core courses with both peers and faculty, promoting student discussion outside the classroom. Students and IR Program staff meet one evening per week, and are usually joined by another faculty member or outside practitioner.

In 2011, the Core Forum developed into a true intellectual community of IR students looking at significant international issues, such as the Arab Spring, the Fukushima nuclear accident, and the effectiveness of humanitarian aid.

The group is unique in that students do not just listen to a lecture or ask questions, but they engage with faculty and outside experts in deep conversations about various issues. **All IR students are invited to join these conversations.** Students can email John Taylor (john.taylor@tufts.edu), IR Program Administrator, for more information.

**IR Core Forum meets every Thursday night at 6:00 pm in Laminan Lounge, Olin Center.**

Upcoming Core Forum speakers include:
- Matthew Williams (Sociology) - Oct 13
- Richard Eichenberg (Political Science) - Oct 20
- Professor Vickie Sullivan (Political Science) - Oct 27

**Tips from the IR Office:**

**Attention Class of 2012! IR DEGREE SHEETS are DUE this semester.**

By now IR seniors should have received one e-mail from Dowling Hall and one from the IR Program office explaining in detail the degree sheet process for graduation. If you did not receive these e-mails, please contact Elizabeth Gottlieb (elizabeth.gottlieb@tufts.edu), IR Program Coordinator, as soon as possible.

**Key Points and Reminders for IR Major Degree Sheets:**

- **For May 2012 grads, IR degree sheets are DUE to the IR Office (Cabot 605) on Monday, Nov 7.**

- **Fill out ALL required forms completely and have your advisor sign them BEFORE you submit them to the IR Office (Cabot 605).**

- **When listing Spring 2012 courses, please write/type “TBT” (to be taken) and list the courses you think you will register for. If for any reason you end up not taking the courses you listed on your degree sheet, contact Elizabeth Gottlieb (elizabeth.gottlieb@tufts.edu) ASAP!**

- **IR staff will review and submit to Dowling Hall ONLY COMPLETED degree sheets with advisor signatures. Incomplete paperwork will be returned to students.**

- **Questions? Contact Kathleen Devigne (kathleen.devigne@tufts.edu), IR Asst Director or Elizabeth Gottlieb (elizabeth.gottlieb@tufts.edu), IR Program Coordinator**

- **What are the most common mistakes made on IR degree sheets?**
  Go to [http://ase.tufts.edu/ir/curriculumFAQs.htm](http://ase.tufts.edu/ir/curriculumFAQs.htm) and scroll to the bottom of the page.
The new 2011–2013 IR Handbook has arrived! Stop by the IR Office (Cabot 605) to pick up a copy.

Delicious chocolate cake from this year’s IR Cake Social held on Sept 9, 2011.

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