The Summer 2013 IR course listing is now available on the IR website (via homepage, click on Curriculum, then click on Courses).

Look for the Fall 2013 IR Course Announcement in the coming weeks!

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Inaugural IR Alumni Career Symposium

One of the major goals of the IR Program this year has been to supplement its academic excellence with an emphasis on building a strong IR community. While the program has made strides in building connections among students and among faculty, one critical group had been missing: alumni.

With this in mind, the IR Program, in partnership with the IR Director’s Leadership Council student organization, organized the first IR Alumni Career Symposium, held on February 16, 2013. The full day symposium, held in the Cabot Center, welcomed over 20 alumni back to campus, with the goals of providing lifelong learning opportunities for alumni, expanding opportunities for alumni to mentor current IR students, and providing forums for alumni to connect with each other.

Participating alumni came with a wide range of work experience and background. We were joined by alumni working at the federal level, as a Foreign Service officer and with the Federal Reserve Bank; at the state level with the Attorney General’s office; and in the private sector with management consulting firms and firms advising on investment strategies in developing economies. We were also joined by teachers, journalists, Peace Corps volunteers, and even the very first student to major in International Relations at Tufts.

The day kicked off with a lunch for all alumni, students, faculty and staff in attendance, followed by the keynote lecture with Professor Eichenberg. After the keynote, attendees broke up into smaller panel discussions organized by career field and general theme, where alumni shared their work and life experiences with current IR students. The first session of panels consisted of discussions on Careers in Public Service, Careers in Business, and Careers in Journalism. The second session of panels featured discussions titled Life After Tufts: The First Few Years; Choosing the Right Graduate Program; and Setting Out on Your Own: Entrepreneurship and Self-Employment. The day wrapped up with a reception for all IR alumni participants.

The IR Program hopes the event will become an annual tradition, and that the event will help kick-start the renewal of a relationship between IR alumni, the program, and its students and faculty.

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IR Alumni...in their own words...

Expect to evolve...if you feel uncertain, think about what you do not want to do, but stay open to new paths that you might not have considered.

In those first jobs after graduation – paid or unpaid – it’s wise to always go the extra mile. Along the way, you’ll grow and be noticed.

I would not have been able to participate in an international AIDS conference in Ecuador without the strong language skills that I developed at Tufts. Language fluency is critical in patient care.

Articulate your passions. Employers know that your drive can be transferrable.

There’s really NO excuse for not having strong writing skills. They are expected.
The Rewards of Doing Research

Research Anyone? Everyone

What happens when the language of a people is lost or forgotten? Professor José Antonio Mazzotti, chair of the Department of Romance Languages, opened a recent research symposium hosted by the IR Program with this question. As he presented his interdisciplinary research project, Documenting and Revitalizing Iskonawa in Peru, Mazzotti stated that linguists believe that at least half the world’s nearly seven thousand languages will be lost in this century. The Iskonawa language is almost extinct.

The goals of the Iskonawa project transcend language documentation and involve community development, language revitalization and cultural empowerment. Mazzotti’s team is producing a comprehensive database in a website that will organize the basic information about grammar, vocabulary and oral tradition of the Iskonawa people. The training and participation of both students and native speakers in language documentation, linguistic analysis and development materials will contribute to a better education of Peruvian people about the richness of their linguistic and cultural diversity. The knowledge gained through Mazzotti’s study of the Iskonawa language and people contributes to the fields of anthropology, cultural studies and linguistics. It also helps preserve a vast legacy of cultural production in the form of songs, rituals, dances and oral narratives. The project was funded primarily by a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). IR major Carolina Maria Reyes, A14 participated in the Iskonawa project as a research assistant through an IR grant known as Field Experience for International Relations Students (FEIRS). FEIRS supports scholarly collaboration between IR students and faculty engaged in field research.

After Mazzotti’s presentation, three seniors who were selected as IR Research Scholars last year presented an overview of their summer research at the symposium. Averi Becque conducted research in Cuba, examining access to and impact of family planning services. Caitlyn Doucette spent several weeks on the West Bank, researching aid and housing under occupation. And Arlen Weiner investigated international environmental security through a gendered analysis. Caitlyn and Arlen are now in the midst of writing their senior honors theses and will formally present their findings on April 19th in the Chase Center (see more info about this event on page 7).

Doing research can be a daunting task. The rewards, however, can be immeasurable. The primary goals are discovery, documentation, interpretation and the development of methods and systems for the advancement of human knowledge. The exploration brings the researcher to the limits of human knowledge and then beyond.

Whether for an independent summer project, a research paper for a seminar course, or a senior honors thesis, conducting research and developing the requisite skills enables students to elevate their learning to the next level. Academics value research, but employers, too, recognize its importance and the skills it engenders. In just about any career, a leader is the person who poses the significant questions, obtains and evaluates the data, organizes thoughts and articulates them clearly, draws conclusions and substantiates them.

Regardless of your career choice, you will need to analyze complex data in one form or another and make sense of it.

At the recent IR Alumni Career Panels (see page 1) several IR alumni from various careers paths encouraged current students to seek courses and opportunities that will build their skill sets. For example, Ross Thuotte, A10 described a job interview for his first position in a Washington D.C. think tank. He said that he mentioned his senior honors thesis on regional economic integration in Africa in passing, but his interviewer kept veering the conversation back to his thesis. Ross is convinced that completing a research project distinguished him from the other candidates for the position. After being selected for the job, he went on to collect a salary for doing research. Another panelist, Nick Burns, A10 also urged current students to enroll in courses where they can learn quantitative reasoning skills. Others echoed his suggestion, stating that regardless of your career choice, you will need to analyze complex data in one form or another and make sense of it.
Tufts IR students discover the importance of global health through real life field experience in Guatemala
By: Rebecca DiBiase, A13

Passion for international outreach and exploration is ingrained in every student who passes through the Tufts International Relations Program. Over winter break, a group of undergraduates put their education to practice in the highlands of rural Guatemala.

The group worked through Timmy Global Health, a national organization founded in 1997 by Dr. Charles Dietzen and named after his brother, who died in infancy. The organization empowers students to help expand healthcare access in local and global communities. Timmy currently has over forty-four student chapters across the U.S. that travel to Guatemala, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic. Its current executive director, Matt MacGregor, was an undergraduate international relations and history major at Tufts, and received his Master of Arts in International Affairs from the Fletcher School. In addition, two young Tufts alumni, August Longino (2011) and Nitin Shrivastava (2012) currently work for Timmy Global Health in Ecuador and Guatemala, respectively.

This year’s Tufts Timmy team is an eclectic group of nineteen students with a variety of majors and interests. Its international relations majors are Dahiana Duarte (2015), Eric Wellers (2015), Alejandra Garcia-Pletsch (2015), team trip leader Rebecca DiBiase (2013), and team president Alexa Rosenthall (2013).

For seven days this January, the students worked in Xela, Guatemala, a city 7,500 feet in the mountains with cornfields lining its roads and the volcano Santa Maria towering above it. The students worked in a number of tasks, including triaging, translating for the medical professionals, administering fluoride, and conducting pharmaceutical consultations.

Upon returning to Boston, the students reflect on how the experience supplemented their Tufts education. “It is quite amazing being able to see how the many hours of studying play an integral role in real life work,” comments Garcia-Pletsch. Duarte adds: “I often find myself applying the information I learned when I took Social Psychology for Core Requirement 5…The theories on group and helping behavior are particularly important and integral to service work.”

The experience also helped the students craft their future academic plans. Rosenthall says: “I was eager to take classes that were related to the clinical and community experiences I had in Guatemala.” Garcia-Pletsch is incorporating the trip into a research paper this semester, and DiBiase is writing her senior honors thesis on the coexistence of traditional Mayan medicine and western biomedicine in present-day Guatemala.

The students agree that academics should be coupled with primary experience to achieve a fulfilling educational experience. Wellers remarked on how eye-opening it was to see the differing Western and Guatemalan worldviews, while Duarte marveled at how the experience “[forced] you to think beyond the realm of history as it relates to war and peace or economics, and [to] consider how health affects the everyday life of individuals in a nation.”

All the students agreed that the experiences inspired them to pursue their international relations education with heightened enthusiasm. Garcia-Pletsch shares: “The hugs we received in return for our clinical work and the many words of thanks will always stick with me as a tangible moment depicting the importance of global health.”

For more information on the Tufts Timmy Global Health chapter, visit: http://tuftstimmyglobalhealth.wordpress.com/
2012-2013 IR Senior Thesis Research Projects

12 IR seniors are well on their way to completing senior honors thesis projects. They will present their findings at the April 19th Thesis Exchange (see page 7 for details).

Caitlyn Doucette (International Relations and Arabic) is examining the intersection between humanitarianism, aid, economic development, and politics in the housing sector of the West Bank. While abroad, Caitlyn traveled across the West Bank in order to learn about how various cities and villages’ interactions with the Israeli occupation shape the housing crisis. She was able to conduct research through two organizations that mitigate housing issues and hopes to shed light on the policies that bar hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from securing adequate housing. The project was made possible through a generous grant from the IR Scholars Program.

Jessica Wolff (International Relations and Economics) is examining the relationship between conflict and urbanization in sub-Saharan Africa. Through a literature review and econometric analysis using data from the UN, World Bank, World Development Indicators, and Uppsala Conflict Data Program/Peace Research Institute Oslo for 41 countries, this thesis sets out to explore if the presence of conflict can explain the apparent ‘over-urbanization’ of sub-Saharan Africa. It will explore the intricacy of the relationship between these two phenomena through both fixed effects panel data regressions and an instrumental variables regression.

David Meyers (International Relations and Community Health) is writing his thesis on the impact of mobile technology such as cellphones on global health initiatives in different international contexts. The new field of mHealth technology offers a great deal of promise in changing the ways that non-governmental and governmental organizations do their public health work in resource-limited settings alike. Using case studies from Kenya and Nepal, and interviews with experts in the field, the thesis aims to evaluate the effects of this new toolset, and to look at how these tools are being used in different countries.

Mark Rafferty (International Relations and Arabic) is writing his thesis on the management of water resources shared between Israelis and Palestinians and the ways that water issues are framed. Mark is using constructivist theories to show that discourse matters; whether policymakers and academics present water scarcity as a technical, political, or economic issue leads them to recommend different policies and institutions for managing shared water. The thesis analyzes these disputes and shows the practical effects they have on regional water development policies. Mark argues that a joint management strategy in Israel and Palestine must address multiple paradigms to be acceptable and sustainable.
Megan Wasson (International Relations and Spanish) is examining the state of public opinion in the European Union, and particularly in Spain, on both NATO and the EU’s own Common Security and Defense Policy/Common Foreign and Security Policy. She hopes to identify major trends in public opinion on these two collective security organizations and isolate the causes behind shifts in opinion. Her goal is to discover what future public opinion holds for the CSDP/CFSP and for the EU’s changing relationship with NATO.

Arlen Weiner (International Relations and Peace and Justice Studies) is examining the gender dimensions of environmental conflict. Feminist security scholars have argued that conflict and peace are gendered activities and gender must be incorporated more systematically into conflict analyses. However, the examination of gender has been largely absent in environmental conflict literature. Through an analysis of two case studies—the Cauvery River dispute in India and pastoralist conflicts in Turkana, Kenya—this thesis explores the gender impacts of each conflict, the gender symbolism of the natural resources parties are fighting over, and the structure of gender in society and government. The ultimate goal of the research is to bridge the gap between two sets of conflict analyses and provide a more comprehensive view of environmental security.

Rebecca DiBiase (International Relations and Biology) is examining the fundamental theoretical similarities underlying traditional Mayan medical beliefs and practices and Western biomedicine. She also identifies points of disjunction between the contemporary Guatemalan and United States healthcare systems, and differences in the institutions supporting their medical practices. Rebecca conducted her investigation first-hand in Guatemala by observing and interviewing various Guatemalan healthcare providers, including doctors, nurses, pharmacists, midwives, clinic administrators, traditional healers, and medical anthropologists. She compares her results with those from other documented studies conducted in the same regions of Guatemala, as well as Mayan-based communities in Puerto Rico. The ultimate goal of the study is to identify whether the theoretical and practical aspects of the two healthcare systems have enough fundamental overlap to allow for an integrated system to be successfully established in Guatemala.

Ilana Hosios (International Relations) is writing her thesis on China’s pursuit of energy security and the implications of said pursuit on U.S.-China relations, specifically, whether China’s oil acquisition policies are part of a broader systematic challenge to U.S. power around the world. Ilana is analyzing four aspects of China’s energy security policies: the structure of China’s energy sector, China’s maritime strategy (with particular focus on the disputed territories in the South and East China Seas), China’s oil acquisition in the Middle East (Saudi Arabia and Iran) and China’s oil-for-loan deals (Sudan and Venezuela).
**2012-2013 IR Senior Thesis Research Projects**

Want to learn more about all the amazing research projects highlighted here? Don’t miss the April 19 Thesis Exchange event (see details on page 7)!

**Sarah Schiferl** (International Relations and French) is writing her thesis on a comparative analysis of the policies of France and Spain towards native minority groups within their borders. She is studying four cases: the Bretons and the French Basques in Spain, and the Catalonians and Spanish Basques in Spain. She will first determine that differences in policies towards these groups are formed at a state level, rather than being specific to individual groups. Then, she will evaluate theories to explain what factors motivate the creation of state policies towards native minority groups.

**Shauna Pierson** (International Relations) is writing her thesis on the intersection of women in politics and global health. She is investigating what happens to a country's developmental health policies when a female holds the position of Prime Minister for the first time. Specifically she is interested in the policies regarding maternal and child health, as these are historically gendered issues, yet universal in scope. For her case studies she is examining the budget allocations and health policy interventions that occurred in Pakistan under Benazir Bhutto, in India under Indira Gandhi, and in Bangladesh under Khaleda Zia.

**Brent Yarnell** (International Relations) is writing his thesis on national interest and grand strategy in the Arab-Israeli Wars between 1967-1970. According to neorealism, the distribution of power among states is the primary factor influencing the formation of states' national security interests and foreign policy behavior. He is investigating the extent to which domestic factors had a role in shaping the foreign policy behavior of Middle East states in the initiation, conduct and aftermath of the 1967 June Six Day War and the 1969 War of Attrition. Specifically, Brent is exploring how character of regime influenced the conduct of war and diplomacy in Egypt, Israel and Syria during this period.

**Natasha Jessen-Petersen** (International Relations and Studio Art) is writing her thesis on political art as an effective tool for human rights. She describes how political performance art is becoming increasingly ubiquitous in both the formal art world and the world in which we live. Rather than be confined by words, political art can often transcend the barrier of language. Art in Japan has therefore become an effective means of communication, in large part, because of the proliferation of information through the Internet. Political art provides the Japanese people with an outlet to express their increasing vocalization.

Thinking about doing research or writing a senior honors thesis? It’s never too early to start thinking about research projects.

**First and second year students** should consider taking courses that develop research skills and methods; for instance, courses that employ statistics, research methods, historiography, textual analysis, GIS.

**Juniors** who plan to write a senior honors thesis should take steps **now** during registration period for Fall 2013. Begin with your research question. Consider sources for data collection and existing scholarship on your topic. Confirm that your question relates to your IR concentration. Prepare your thesis prospectus in consultation with your thesis advisor. Contact the IR assistant director for certification that the content of the project is applicable to the student’s thematic concentration.

Specific steps for thesis registration can be found here: [http://ase.tufts.edu/ir/curriculumCapstone.htm](http://ase.tufts.edu/ir/curriculumCapstone.htm)

Visit the IR office in Cabot 605 for more details.
IR Upcoming Events and Important Reminders

**IR Core Forum**
**Spring 2013 Schedule**
**Thursday Evenings, 6pm-7pm, Mugar 235**

The Core Forum is open to all IR majors. Its primary purpose is to identify and explore the intellectual themes that cut across the disciplines within International Relations and assist students as they make the connections. The speakers are experts in their fields and start each meeting with a topic for discussion. Then the group engages in open dialogue. Meetings are very informal and include a light dinner. All are welcome.

**March 28**
Amahl Bishara (Anthropology)
*Anthropological approach to the understandings of the state*

**April 11**
Eulogio Guzmán (SMFA)
*Art as a Political Weapon of Hegemony*

If you are interested in attending the Core Forum, contact John Taylor (john.taylor@tufts.edu) to RSVP. You will be given access to Trunk, where updates, podcasts, and articles are posted weekly prior to each meeting.

**SAVE the DATE!**

**Thesis Exchange**
**April 19, 2013**
9am-5pm (five panel sessions)
Light breakfast, lunch and afternoon snacks
Chase Center Dining Room

20+ AS&E students (many of them IR majors) will present their research projects throughout the day long event in five panel sessions. Panels will be grouped by topic/theme and each student will present for 12-15 min with Q&A time available at the end of each session. The schedule will be posted on the IR website, in the IR weekly e-mails as well as in the Tufts Daily closer to the event date.

**Important Reminders**

**Fall 2013 registration begins April 8!**

Here are some tips on getting prepared for registration:

- **Look for the Fall 2013 IR Course Announcement** available on the IR website at the end of March—via the IR homepage. Click on “Curriculum,” then “Courses.”

- **Meet with your IR advisor** to discuss the best strategy to complete your IR major requirements. Plan early for study abroad and research opportunities. Use the IR planning sheets (available on the IR website) to help keep track of your plans.

- **If your IR advisor is on leave**, make sure you know who is assigned to “release you for registration” **BEFORE** your registration day. Contact your advisor’s home department with questions if you have not heard from your IR advisor. If you are not sure who is filling in for your IR advisor, contact the IR office as soon as possible.

- **SPECIAL NOTE for IR Advisors:** If you are on leave (or plan to go on leave), please arrange for a colleague to look after your advisees during your leave. Please e-mail your IR advisees with instructions on who to contact in your absence—especially for registration questions. If you need assistance, please contact Kathleen Devigne.

**For the most up-to-date info on upcoming IR events, visit the IR website:**
http://ase.tufts.edu/ir
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Pablo Jimenez, A15
Dylan Saba, A15

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.

SAVE THE DATE!!!!
4th Annual IR Barbecue
Monday, April 29
12:00-1:00pm
Tisch Library Roof
Open to the entire IR Community (faculty, staff, majors)