In Focus: IR Students Conducting Original Research and Other Unique Summer Experiences

Whether preparing for a senior honors thesis or a research project, conducting original research is an invaluable opportunity for students to become scholars: seeking out new knowledge, constructing and testing hypotheses, and formulating their own conclusions—and in the process becoming vital contributors to international understanding and a global society.

Throughout this newsletter, you will read about IR students who recently completed a senior honors thesis, returned from studying abroad, and conducted summer research abroad. Other students participated in internships and other amazing opportunities this past summer. Interested in sharing with us what you did this past summer? If so, see details below.

Alexandra Bukowski (A15) spent part of her summer working as a research assistant at the Ministry of Health in Namibia with Dr. Steven Hong of Tufts Medical Center. Alexandra’s main work was on the yearly study the country of Namibia conducts on HIV drug resistance early warning indicators (EWIs), a tool developed by the World Health Organization to help predict the emergence of HIV drug resistance in resource-limited settings. Early Warning Indicators are part of a surveillance strategy that allows countries—those that may not have the proper financial or scientific resources to individually test patients for HIV drug resistance—to evaluate their antiretroviral therapy (ART) programs and inform policy changes to improve those programs at both the individual site and national levels.

Lizzy Robinson (A15) spent ten weeks in Ibr, Oman this summer studying Arabic through the State Department’s Critical Language Scholarship program. She climbed date trees, learned about the conservative side of Islamic culture, spent the Eid al-Fitr Muslim holiday with her host family, and now barely gives a second glance to camels riding in the back of pick-up trucks. She will miss using the dialect word “wagid” (“much;” “many”) in daily conversation, but will not miss the 115 degree heat.

Attention IR Majors! We want to know what you did last summer!

Send a short e-mail detailing where you worked, studied, interned, or conducted research to Cristina Logg, cristina.logg@tufts.edu

Don’t forget to send your pictures too!!

Info received will be used for future IR publications and on the IR website.
Anika Ades (A14) spent her senior year writing about three core interests she developed at Tufts in her dual IR/French degree: Feminist political theory, French culture and history, and female political behavior. Her recently published senior thesis, titled *Female Suffrage and Gender Politics in France*, originated from a research paper she completed her junior year, attempting to explain why states with large Catholic populations tended to give the right to vote to women significantly later than states that were predominantly Protestant. Anika’s longitudinal approach to female voting behavior in France from the Third Republic to the present day was a unique perspective, and one that had not been formerly studied.

William Rose (A14) recently published his thesis called *Thirties Throwbacks: Explaining the Electoral Breakthroughs of Jobbik and Golden Dawn*. As the name implies, Will wrote about the contemporary European political parties Jobbik (in Hungary) and Golden Dawn (in Greece). He came up with the topic in consultation with his advisor, Professor David Art, who has written extensively on the European far right. In his thesis, Will attempted to present not only his own theories about these parties, but also detailed profiles of them. He did this not only because it made it easier to make his case, but because there did not exist a comprehensive English-language account of either party.

Caitlin Durand (A15) spent this past summer interning with The Rendon Group, a strategic communications firm in Boston that performs public relations for nonprofit organizations and Massachusetts government agencies. Through this internship, Caitlin worked with The Rendon Group’s own nonprofit, Empower Peace. Empower Peace strives to bring together high school age students from across the world to connect on an interpersonal level while sharing leadership skills that promote international understanding. During her internship, Caitlin organized and participated in Empower Peace’s annual Women2Women International Leadership Conference, which hosted 70 young women from 17 countries for a week this past August.

Ananda Paez (A16) spent this past summer interning with the Center for Applied Nonviolent Action and Strategies (CANVAS) in Belgrade, Serbia, for 7 weeks. CANVAS is founded and directed by the leaders of the student group Otpor! which overthrew Dictator Slobodan Milosevic in 2000. Today, CANVAS works with activists from around the world to provide training on strategies for nonviolent revolutions to challenge authoritarian regimes that threaten human rights. Ananda worked on a variety of projects which gave her insight into the organization’s work worldwide and how it functions internally.

Sharon Lam (A15) spent the summer of 2012 interning at the Bauhinia Foundation Research Centre. While there, Sharon prepared a presentation pitch to the board titled, "Substandard and shortage of urban public housing in Hong Kong and current policy measures," in addition to revising resources for a press conference. While there were a lot of administrative tasks involved, including compiling and sending the report to consulates, chambers, libraries, universities and political advocacy groups, Sharon’s ideas were taken into consideration when she pitched questionnaire ideas for joint partnerships between the Pearl River Delta and various Hong Kong start up companies. In addition to her internship in Hong Kong, Sharon also studied abroad in Madrid where she had the opportunity to intern at OPEX, or Fundación Alternativas. Sharon wrote brief policy papers (transcribed in both Spanish and English) regarding the Spanish political economy, issues of sustainable development, economic venture, and converging interests in the wake of the XVII Congress of the Communist Party of China.
In Focus: IR Student Experiences

Kyle Daniels (A16) Over the summer Kyle Daniels spent two months in Havana, Cuba taking classes through Northwestern University on the Cuban Public Health System. Cuba is home to an iconic healthcare system because it has achieved health indicators on par with a high-income country but with significantly less expenditures. The Cuban model is a unique example of a healthcare approach driven by a heavy emphasis on primary prevention. Through el medico de la familia (family doctors) preventative healthcare is intended to be easily accessible to everyone in the neighborhood as well as community oriented. Lectures and discussions with both healthcare professionals and beneficiaries of the healthcare system illuminated different dimensions of public health in Cuba. Informal conversations with Cubans from a variety of backgrounds provided invaluable insight into the nuances of this distinctive manifestation of healthcare. Additional areas of focus were infant mortality and maternal health, eradication of communicable diseases, training and living as a healthcare professional in Cuba, and Cuban medical internationalism. Kyle intends to continue researching different global healthcare systems and looks forward to synthesizing her observations in a senior honors thesis.

Abuzar Royesh (A16) spent this past summer interning with His Excellency Salih Mohammad Saljuqi, the second vice speaker of the Afghan parliament. Abuzar attended general assembly meetings and researched and discussed laws and legislative processes with His Excellency, Mr. Saljuqi. Abuzar also attended several meetings between His Excellency, Mr. Saljuqi and parliament members and other government officials. Through this internship Abuzar experienced and learned about the legislative process in Afghanistan first hand. He was also fortunate to see the parliament pass several laws (some simple and some very controversial), such as the Law of Access to Information, Marriage Law, Parliamentary Privileges Law, and Anti Money Laundering Law during his time there.

Elza Lambergs (A15) spent two months this past summer interning and conducting research in the small, Baltic city of Riga, Latvia. She worked with PROVIDUS Centre for Public Policy, a think tank, which studies areas such as human rights issues, government corruption, criminal justice, and immigration in order to inform and shape policy. As an intern, Elza mainly focused on citizenship and integration policy, but she was also able to learn more about many of these other IR related topics. Elza’s own project looked at the most recent amendments to Latvian citizenship law, which went into effect last October. These measures simplified the naturalization procedure for non-citizens and recognized dual citizenship. Elza’s research involved collecting naturalization data from various government departments and other non-profits and analyzing how these legislative changes have affected Latvia’s citizenship over the past year. Working on this project was also personal for Elza as she was born in Latvia and much of her family still lives there.
Congratulations to the following IR Core Faculty who recently received faculty promotions!

Promotion to Professor:
- Nancy Bauer (Philosophy)
- Marcelo Bianconi (Economics)
- David Gute (Civil and Environmental Engineering)

Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor:
- David Ekbladh (History)
- Kenneth Garden (Religion)
- Kris Manjapra (History)
- Dennis Rasmussen (Political Science)
- Ichiro Takayoshi (English)

Get to know an IR Core Faculty member TODAY!

Faculty constitute one of the most valuable resources available to Tufts undergraduates, and the IR Program strongly encourages its students to get to know and work with their professors from the moment they arrive at Tufts. Many students go through Tufts knowing only their advisor's signature, which is a lost opportunity to make use of or take advantage of one of their most valuable resources. Advisors can suggest multiple academic alternatives to accommodate students' needs and potential career paths, and they are often the best resources for letters of recommendation. Visit the IR website for more information on the 100+ IR Core Faculty members as well as tips on how to find an IR advisor. IR Faculty Web Page: [http://ase.tufts.edu/ir/faculty/](http://ase.tufts.edu/ir/faculty/)

Check out the SPIRIT FUND too! SPIRIT (Students and Professors Integrating Recreation, Intellect and Teaching) is a program designed to promote informal and/or intellectual contacts between instructors and their undergraduate students or advisees outside the classroom. [http://uss.tufts.edu/undergradEducation/facultyResources/spirit.asp](http://uss.tufts.edu/undergradEducation/facultyResources/spirit.asp)


Newly Appointed Diplomat-in-Residence and New IR Program Administrator

Newly Appointed New England Diplomat-in-Residence

Please join the IR Program in welcoming the newly appointed New England Diplomat in Residence, Ambassador Mary Beth Leonard.

Ambassador Leonard, a native of Massachusetts, was sworn in as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Mali on November 7, 2011. Her two previous assignments were as Director for West African Affairs at the U.S. Department of State and as Deputy Chief of Mission in Bamako, Mali.

After joining the State Department in 1988, Ambassador Leonard served overseas as an Economic and Consular officer in Yaoundé, Cameroon; Windhoek, Namibia; and Lomé, Togo. She also worked in the Department’s Operations Center and in its Office of Central African Affairs. She then served as Political and Economic Officer in Cape Town, South Africa and thereafter as Deputy Chief of Mission in Paramaribo, Suriname.

Ambassador Leonard graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. from Boston University, with a major in economics and minor in French. In 1988, she earned a Master’s degree in international relations, with an emphasis on African studies, from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. In 2004, she graduated from the U.S. Naval War College with distinction.

For more information on the Diplomat in Residence Program at Tufts, please visit the IR website: http://ase.tufts.edu/ir/career/diplomatResidence.htm

New IR Program Administrator

The IR Program is pleased to announce our new IR Program Administrator, Cristina Logg. Cristina comes to us from Washington, D.C., where she was a Program Analyst and Staff Assistant at the U.S. Department of State’s FOIA office for over 5 years. She received her undergraduate International Affairs degree from the Elliott School at The George Washington University and her graduate degree in Conflict Resolution from Georgetown University’s Government Department. Her past research interests have included environmental conflict resolution and impact assessments, the role of extractive industries in developing stable governments in Africa, and U.S. cyber-security policy.

She brings a wealth of knowledge to the IR Program and is always willing to discuss her past research and her time as a Civil Servant with the U.S. Department of State.

In her free time, Cristina enjoys traveling, reading science fiction and fantasy, and yoga.

For more info on Cristina’s role in the IR Program, please visit the IR website and look under Finding Us, Staff Contact Information.

Cristina can be reached via e-mail at cristina.logg@tufts.edu.

Current State Department Opportunities and Other Fellowship Award Opportunities

- U.S. State Department Internship
  http://careers.state.gov/students
  Application deadline: October 17, 2014

- Critical Needs Language Scholarship Program
  http://www.clscholarship.org
  Application deadline: TBA

- Thomas R. Pickering Undergraduate and Graduate Foreign Affairs Fellowships
  www.woodrow.org
  Application deadline: TBA

- Rangel International Affairs Program
  (2 programs below)
  www.rangelprogram.org

  - International Affairs Graduate Fellowship Program
    Application Deadline: January 14, 2015

  - Undergraduate Summer Enrichment Program
    Application Deadline: February 4, 2015

- Boren Awards for International Study
  www.borenawards.org
  Application Deadline: February 4, 2015
Tips from the IR Program Office: Navigating the IR Major

Navigating the IR Major: A four year plan

Freshmen:
- Start IR language requirement: 8 course equivalent
- Start IR Core Courses: 5 courses by end of sophomore year
  * New IR Methodology Course Requirement
  * Enroll in INTR 91 or 92 (highly recommended and fulfills methodology requirement)
- Attend IR Program activities

Sophomores:
- Finish IR Core Courses: 5 courses
- Officially declare your IR major at Dowling Hall
  * Choose a Thematic Concentration and let the IR Office and Dowling know
- Acquire methodology skills (e.g. enroll in INTR 91 or 92)
- Think about a summer internship

Juniors:
- *Study Abroad
  - Join a Research Project (e.g. FEIRS Fellowship)
  - Design a Civic Project (e.g. Borghesani, Tisch)
  - Design a Research Project (e.g. IR Scholars, Summer Scholars)
- Apply for an internship and/or fellowship (visit Career Center)
  * Planning on a senior thesis? Finish all thematic concentration coursework by end of junior year and contact Kathleen Devigne in the IR Office.
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  * Planning on a senior thesis? Finish all thematic concentration coursework by end of junior year and contact Kathleen Devigne in the IR Office.

Seniors:
- Prepare for graduation:
  * IR Degree Sheets due Nov 10
- Get a job or apply to graduate school
  - Fulbright, Rhodes, Marshall
- Life Long Engagement & Learning

Tips from the IR Program Office by Class Year

First Years:
* Starting with the Class of 2018, IR majors are required to take a research methods course as one of their thematic concentration requirements. The first approved list of methods classes will be available in the Spring 2015 IR Course Announcement, however, please note that INTR 91 (Qualitative Research Methods) and INTR 92 (Quantitative Research Methods) both fulfill the methodology requirement.

Sophomores:
* When you declare your IR major this year, make sure you also e-mail Elizabeth Gottlieb (Elizabeth.gottlieb@tufts.edu) and Carol Downing (carol.downing@tufts.edu) with your full name and thematic concentration.
* Thinking about studying abroad next year? Visit Kathleen Devigne during her office hours to discuss how courses abroad can count towards your IR major requirements.

Juniors:
* For those of you studying abroad this year, contact Kathleen Devigne (Kathleen.devigne@tufts.edu) with questions about how your courses abroad can count towards your IR major requirements. Reminder: 3 courses from abroad are permitted towards the core/thematic concentration requirements (note: only 1 of which can count towards the core) and an unlimited # of courses are permitted for the language requirement.
* Thinking about writing a senior honors thesis next year? Before the end of your junior year, contact Kathleen Devigne (Kathleen.devigne@tufts.edu) if you are thinking about writing an honors thesis.

Seniors:
* Do you want to graduate? For May 2015 grads, IR Planning and Concentration Forms are due to the IR Office (Cabot 605) by November 10. Forms can be scanned/e-mailed to Elizabeth Gottlieb (elizabeth.gottlieb@tufts.edu). Once approved by the IR Office, all IR forms (and iSIS advisement reports) will be sent directly to Dowling Hall. Questions? Contact Elizabeth Gottlieb (elizabeth.gottlieb@tufts.edu) or Kathleen Devigne (Kathleen.devigne@tufts.edu).
Upcoming IR Sponsored Events and Other Important Due Dates
(See the IR website Events Calendar for more details on all the following events—including event descriptions, dates, times, and locations.)

**OCTOBER**

6th DLC Crash Course: Against the Odds: Economic Development in 21st Century Myanmar/Burma
8th Peace Corps Information Session
14th DLC Thematic Concentration Fair
15th Fletcher Information Session
15th DLC Crash Course: Umbrella Revolution

**NOVEMBER**

4th Dining with the Stars
10th Attention Seniors: IR Planning and Concentration Forms are due to the IR Office.

Stay Tuned!
Anne E. Borghesani Symposium
When? Week before Thanksgiving
Date/Time/Location Coming Soon!

The Anne E. Borghesani Memorial Prize was created to inspire personal and intellectual growth, increase understanding of all peoples, and encourage a commitment to community by providing students with funding to travel and conduct research abroad.

Come listen to last year’s Borghesani Prize recipients share their experiences and learn how you can receive support from a Borghesani Prize (grants range from $1,000 - $3,500). Refreshments will be provided.

**Student Presentations:**

Kathryn Bullard, A15
Learning for Living: Student-Centered Pedagogy in Kibera (Nairobi, Kenya)

Jihoon Kim, A15
Volunteering on Leyte Island, Philippines, after Typhoon Haiyan (Leyte Island, Philippines)

Nicholas Macaluso, A15
Establishing “Child Clubs” in Rural Nepal with GlobeMed at Tufts and PHASE Nepal (Kathmandu, Nepal)

The IR Program Fall Pie Social, held on Oct 23rd, was a GREAT success!

Over 100 guests including current IR majors, alumni, faculty, and even staff from Career Services, Study Abroad, and the Tufts Library attended the event. Guests enjoyed “dessert PIES” and “pizza PIES” on what ended up being a beautiful fall evening.

We hope to see YOU at our next IR sponsored event!
International Relations
Program

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Medford, MA 02155

Phone: 617-627-2776
E-mail: internationalrelations@tufts.edu
URL: http://ase.tufts.edu/ir

IR Program Staff

Drusilla Brown, Director
Kathleen Devigne, Asst Director
Cristina Logg, Program Administrator
Elizabeth Gottlieb, Program Coordinator

Student Interns:
Lise Guerrier, A16
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.