IR Class of 2015: Student Voices

We asked the IR Class of 2015 to submit comments reflecting on their senior year, the IR major, time at Tufts, plans for the future or what they want other IR majors who follow them to know. Here is what some of them had to say:

I didn’t choose the IR major because I wanted to be the next Hillary Clinton or Christine Lagarde. I chose it because I didn’t know who I wanted to be, and the IR program lets you study a little bit of everything. For me, the flexible but rigorous nature of this interdisciplinary major provided the perfect framework under which to explore those more existential questions. (Which is what a liberal arts education is for, no?) My non-IR friends sometimes ask me what International Relations majors do. I could tell them we study the relationships among states and non-state actors, but in truth, such wonky language is misleading and restrictive. More accurately and simply, IR teaches you how the world works.

~Annie Goodman

In my home country, if I tell people that I study IR, they will say “oh, international trade?” I say, “no, not business.” They seem to immediately get the other side of the Winn Diagram, “oh, then international politics, you want to be a diplomat?” If I did not study IR myself, that would probably be my natural response as well. The truth is I am into international development, with the goal of improving the well-being of each individual, and business or politics, to me, are merely means to achieve that ends. I do not know exactly which aspect of my IR education will be so “useful” to help me secure a decent and easy life after graduation, maybe none of them can do that, nor do I desire an easy and boring life. But I do know my perspective looking at the world has changed, and I do know there are a lot of things I can do to make the world a better place.

~Yufei Du

Often, friends and family who are unfamiliar with Tufts will ask me what I study as an International Relations major. It’s a hard question to answer because the true response is, “a little bit of everything.” For many, this is a difficult idea to understand. Why, for instance, are classes such as History of Science and Technology and History of Consumption credit courses? Admittedly, as a sophomore beginning to work my way through the IR curriculum, I often found myself wondering the same thing. Yet, through my four years at Tufts I have come to understand not only the importance, but also the necessity, of these courses. If we only learned theories, like the ones we all struggled to memorize in Intro to IR, then we would lack something crucial to the understanding of how people and nations interact with one another: worldview. An IR degree from Tufts provides this necessary context from which we can appropriately interpret and analyze the global events that happen each day. My advice, therefore, for IR students who have the privilege to spend a few more years learning is to take advantage of this broad and diverse major. Take a class that seems inapplicable, and figure out why it is relevant to your own understanding of the world.

~Arielle Steinhart

I transferred to Tufts my sophomore year of college looking for a diverse, stimulating, and rigorous academic experience that I had not been able to find at my previous institution. I decided to major in International Relations after taking stock of my interests - politics, economics, languages, culture, sociology - and realizing that I could pursue all of these interests in International Relations. The International Relations degree also offers a lot of opportunities to personalize your degree without losing its rigor. Many of my most interesting, yet most difficult and demanding, courses in college have been toward my International Relations major.

~continued on page 2
work and research with amazing facul-

Being an IR major was kind of like being at

ons, thanks Economics!), but in the end I

I came to Tufts knowing I wanted to study

international finance. While all of my courses

I began my IR career having traveled outside

them. Thank you to

Many people.

I cannot overemphasize the importance that

tion curriculum is no

economics and Arabic, I feel that I have

and just life. They truly are concerned about eve-

The IR major at Tufts
doesn’t just change perspectives, it crafts them;
or more accurately, allows students the capacity to

craft their own.~Allison Jeffery

I can’t think about the people here because it

is the people that make Tufts. Thank you to

and friends for making my col-

room, as students can explore the places and

view of another culture and people. Particu-

ly for international relations majors, study

abroad is a chance to actually experience

what you might learn about in the classroom and

gain important experience in the region or field you specialize in. ~Patrick McGrath
IR Event Recap from 2014-2015: During the 2014-2015 academic year, the IR Program staff and student groups worked tirelessly to provide quality service, support and numerous events and programs to the vast IR community.

Academic and Career Resource Events

**IR Orientation**
On Aug 29, the IR Program staff hosted an orientation (info session) for the incoming Class of 2018. Over 100 first year students attended.

**IR Concentration Fair**
On Oct 14, the IR Program held a two hour concentration fair where students could stop by and learn about the 14 different concentrations of the International Relations major.

**Occupy Hong Kong (a DLC Crash Course)**
On Oct 15, the DLC hosted an event on the Occupy Hong Kong protests.

**Fletcher School Info Session**
On Oct 15, Fletcher staff and current Fletcher students who did their undergraduate studies at Tufts presented on Fletcher programs.

**IR Study Abroad Panel**
On Oct 17, Tufts IR seniors discussed their study abroad experiences, challenges, and suggestions, and fielded questions that undergraduates had about where, when, and how they can study or work abroad.

**Oliver Stone: Responding to Terrorism: Do we have to bomb ISIS?**
On Oct 20, the IR Program co-sponsored a special event with Oliver Stone and Peter Kuznick, which included a screening of the last episode of their 10 part documentary and discussion.

**Will Singapore become a liberal democracy?**
On Oct 20, the DLC and Singapore Student Association hosted a dialogue with Associate Professor Kenneth Paul Tan, Vice Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy.

**One-Health Event Series: Ebola**
The IR Program helped co-sponsor the One-Health Event Series: Ebola during the month of October with the following events: Ebola Outbreak: Causes and Consequences at a Global Scale, Ebola: Pathophysiology of the Virus and an Overview of the Outbreak, Ethical Considerations of the Ebola Outbreak, and Ebola: Mutations, Markets, and the Military.

**Fletcher Mentors Kick-Off Reception**
On Oct 28, the Fletcher School mentors and IR undergraduates met for an hour-long reception.

**Fletcher Career Panel**
On Oct 29, Fletcher graduate students hosted a career panel for undergraduate and graduate students.

**So are you still thinking about IR?**
On Oct 30, the DLC held an informal reception in the Distler Lobby to talk to students who were thinking about majoring in IR.

**Both Ends Burning Campus Tour**
On Nov 7, the IR Program hosted speaker, Izidor Ruckel, from the Both Ends Burning North American campus tour for a discussion on improving the global child welfare system.

**Islamic State (a DLC Crash Course)**
On Nov 12, the DLC hosted a panel discussion on the Islamic State with Amb. Rugh, Prof Mufti, Shahla Al Kli, LTC Kobs, and moderated by Prof Shutlz.

**Niccolo Machiavelli’s The Prince: Cruelty and Mercy, and Whether it is Better to be Loved and Feared**
On Nov 24, the IR Program hosted a special lecture by Prof Benedicto Fontana.

**Career Services Resources for IR Students**
On Feb 4, Nicole Anderson, Assistant Director of Career Services, presented an info session tailored for IR students. Attendees learned about the online and in-person resources available to IR students as well as a brief discussion of the international and domestic internship search and grant process.

**The Joint Plan of Action and the Iranian Nuclear Program (a DLC Crash Course)**
On March 9, the DLC hosted two distinguished speakers to share their insights on the Joint Plan of Action and the Iranian Nuclear Program. Dr. Payam Mohseni is the Iran Project Director and Fellow for Iran Studies at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard’s Kennedy School and Avner Golov is a PhD candidate at the Fletcher School who previously worked at the Israeli Institute for National Security Studies.
The Implications of Cheap Oil in a Global World (a DLC Crash Course)
On March 25, the DLC hosted two speakers, Professor Kates-Garnick and Ph.D. student, Mohamad Al-Suwaidan, for a discussion on issues related to the significant drop in oil prices and how producers and consumers alike must re-evaluate their current positions.

ILVS and IR Forum on Freedom of Expression
On March 26, the IR Program hosted a roundtable event with faculty and students discussing freedom of expression, visual representation, the tradition of satirical publications, and cultural and religious sensitivity of diverse traditions and beliefs; in wake of the Jan 7 Charlie Hebdo Paris office killings.

Fletcher Spring Info Session
On April 1, representatives from The Fletcher School’s Office of Admissions discussed options and requirements for graduate school and careers in international affairs. Special focus was paid to the needs and interests of current Tufts juniors and seniors.

Study Abroad Info Session (presented by the DLC and SIR)
On April 8, the DLC and SIR student groups along with Kathleen Devigne hosted a casual info session for underclassmen interested in studying abroad.

Future Food: Eco-Friendly GMOs
On April 9, the IR Program hosted a public lecture and conversation with Professors Pickett and Griffin on the controversial topic of genetically modified crops as a tool to increase sustainability in our food production systems.

Professor Eichenberg on Gender and IR (an SIR Core Forum discussion)
On April 13, the IR Program hosted Prof Eichenberg for a discussion on gender differences and international relations policy.

SIR Induction Ceremony
On April 15, 74 IR students were inducted into the Beta Chi Chapter of Sigma Iota Rho, the Honor Society for International Studies. See page 5 for a complete list of the newly inducted students.

Towards an Economic Analysis of Internet-Wide Encryption
On April 17, Michael Specter, a first-year MIT PhD candidate, gave a presentation on computer security, privacy, and policy as well as his research on formulating an economic analysis of internet-wide encryption.

Women in Academia
On April 21, the IR Program hosted a panel of five Tufts professors for a discussion on gender issues in academic institutions and in the IR career field.

Anne E. Borghesani Symposium
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. On Nov 17, three Borghesani Prize recipients (the 2014 winners) shared their experiences with the Tufts community.

IR Summer Research and Funding Information Session
On Jan 28, IR students were invited to learn about various funding opportunities for domestic and international summer research projects and internships. Opportunities discussed included: Summer Scholars Program, IR Scholars Program, Anne E. Borghesani Memorial Prize, and other opportunities available across the University.

Thesis Exchange
The annual event is an opportunity for Tufts seniors to present their research findings in a full day celebration of undergraduate scholarship. On April 24, sixteen students from the IR Program and Departments of History and Political Science presented their senior thesis projects. Photo to the left: Liana Abbott presented Buying Stress: Is there a business case for implementing penalties to increase production?

Thesis Seminar (Friday Lunch Meetings)
The thesis seminar meetings provided an opportunity for current thesis writers to share their research and experiences with each other as well as with the director of the IR Program. Feedback and support received during these meetings was an invaluable resource.
IR Alumni Outreach Event

IR Alumni Career Symposium
On Feb 7, the IR Program hosted a half day symposium that welcomed thirteen IR 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. Dr. David Proctor gave the keynote address, followed by a networking luncheon, career panels, breakout sessions, and reception at the end of the afternoon for alumni, seniors, and DLC members.

IR Social Events

IR Program Fall Pie Social
On Sept 23, the IR Program welcomed back IR majors and faculty to the 2014-2015 academic year with PIE!

Dining with the Stars: An IR Student-Faculty Dinner
On Nov 4, the IR Director’s Leadership Council hosted the annual IR Dining with the Stars Faculty-Student Dinner. Guests enjoyed a seated dinner with a keynote speech from Professor Kelsey Jack.

SIR Social Hour
On Dec 3, the newest members of SIR (the IR Honor Society), met with current members for a social hour.

SIR Trivia Nights at PJ Ryan’s
On March 10 and April 7, current SIR members enjoyed food, friends, and fun at trivia night.

IR Program Barbecue (BBQ)
On April 27, the IR Program held the annual IR BBQ. This year, due to rainy weather, the BBQ took place in the Distler Lobby. Over 100 students and faculty attended for an end of the year celebration.

Upcoming IR Event for IR Faculty, Seniors and their families!

IR SENIOR RECEPTION
Saturday, May 16, 4:30-5:30 PM
Hodgdon Hall Lounge on Talbot Avenue
All IR faculty, seniors, family and friends are welcome. Light refreshments will be served.
We look forward to celebrating the IR Class of 2015!
Spotlight on IR Core Faculty

A special thanks to IR faculty from the IR staff…Year after year IR faculty devote a great deal of time and energy to the IR Program and its students in addition to responsibilities and commitments in their home departments. They teach, advise, supervise honors theses and directed research projects, write letters of recommendations and nominations, serve on IR committees, and attend IR meetings and events…the list goes on and on.

We want you to know that we are enormously grateful for all that you do. In addition to maintaining the highest academic standards of a rigorous major, you continuously support new IR initiatives and programming that enhances the major and strengthens the IR community. Students often tell us about their classes with you, highlighting your expertise and enthusiasm. They share in your excitement and follow your lead in learning and creating new knowledge. We appreciate you and acknowledge your contributions as the cornerstone of the IR Program. We offer many, many thanks to all of you.

Congratulations to the following members of the IR Core Faculty who published books and journal articles this past academic year. The list below is courtesy of the Deans’ Annual Publications Party, held on April 23, 2015.

Newly Published Faculty Books


Newly Published Journal Articles


The purpose of this organization shall be to promote and reward scholarship and service among students and practitioners of international studies, international affairs, and global studies and to foster integrity and creative performance in the conduct of world affairs."

Sigma Iota Rho’s Beta Chi Chapter: 2014-2015 New Inductees

Yasmin Badr, A16
Stacey Bevan, A15
Napassorn Boon-Long, A16
Bridget Boyle, A15
Juan Felipe Celia, A16
Joey Cheung, A16
Jiahe Chi, A16
Jacob Clark, A15
Rebecca Cooley, A16
Abby Curran, A16
Yufei Du, A15
Dirayati Ardelia, A16
Jessica Duda, A15
Mario Feola, A15
Sean Fernald, A15
Christopher Jarmas, A16
Ryan Fleer, A16
Annelise Friar, A15
Timothy George, A16
Meghan Gillis, A15
Weiyi Gong, A15
Hadley Green, A15
Lise Guerrier, A16
Noah Habeb, A16
Demetra Hatzis-Schoch, A15
Kristi Hill, A15
Stephanie Hon, A15
Pablo Jimenez, A15
Jasmin Khan, A15
Natasha Kieval, A15
Noah Kirsch, A15
Katherine Koch, A15
Jacquelyn Koo, A15
Robert Korycinski, A16
Sharon Lam, A15
Elza Lambergs, A15
Sarah Lawton, A15
Joseph Leone, A16
Pauline Leong, A15
Derek Yan Ting Li, A15
Anneliese Luck, A15
Elizabeth McAvoy, A15
Chenji Meng, A16
Audrey Michael, A15
Joshua Mintz, A16
Eleanor Monroe, A15
Kelly O’Grady, A15
Ananda Paez Rodas, A16
Damanpreet Pelia, A15
Robert Persky, A15
Alison Pinkerton, A15
Caitlin Pohl, A15
Matthew Reynolds, A15
Christopher Rickard, A15
Lindsay Rogers, A15
Molly Rothschild, A15
Abuzar Royesh, A16
Marcos Sacal, A15
Jennine Sawwan, A15
Joseph Sax, A15
Michela Schena, A15
Rachel Siegler, A16
Anna Simonovsky, A15
Vidya Srinivasan, A16
Arielle Steinhardt, A15
Mengqi Sun, A16
Kwanki Tang, A15
Shen Tang, A16
Anna Vanderspek, A15
Kelsey Wade, A15
Erica Warfield, A16
Linus Kang Wai Wong, A16
Vanessa Zhan, A16

(all from the Class of 2015)

Yufei Du
Jessica M. Duda
Sean Michael Fernald
Annelise Friar
Kristi Hill
Kristin C. McConnell
Patrick Eamon McGrath
Alison Rose Pinkerton
Arielle H. Steinhardt

Class of 2015 IR Senior Thesis Writers

Liana Abbott
Kayley Abell-Hart
Angad Bagai
Carolyn House
Sarah Lawton
Elizabeth (Libby) McAvoy
Joseph Sax
Jennine Sawwan
Claire Schupmann
Kwanki Tang

IR Major Awards

The Distinguished Achievement Award in International Relations and the John S. Gibson Award will be announced at the IR commencement ceremony on May 17, 2015.
2014-2015 Scholarships, Prizes, and Awards

2014-2015 IR Research Scholarship and Prize Winners

**Anne E. Borghesani Memorial Prize**

Whitney A. Ceesay, A16
Research Topic: Empowering Women to Fight Poverty in Sanyang, The Gambia

Will G. Freeman, A16
Research Topic: Theory and Practice of Teaching English: Volunteering and Studying in Buenos Aires

Christopher M. Jarmas, A16
Research Topic: U.S. Embassy Kyiv Political Section Internship

Sabrina Khan, A17
Research Topic: GROW (Grassroots On-Site Work)

Nicholas L. Roberts, A17
Research Topic: Implementation of Primary Health Research in Rural Nepal

Michelle O. Sodipo, A17
Research Topic: Borehole Sustainability in the Eastern Region of Ghana

**IR Research Scholars**

Jiahe, Chi, A16
Research Topic: Aspiration or Illusion: Analyzing the Prospect of China’s New Silk Road Project in Kazakhstan

Dirayati Djaya, A16
Research Topic: A Study of Indonesian Nationalism: Perhimpunan Indonesia and the Partai Nasional Indonesia

**Summer Research Awards (Anonymous Donors)**

Alexandra Kiesling, A16
Research Topic: Application of Geographic Information Systems to Early Warning Indicators of HIV Drug Resistance in Namibia 2015

Zhuangchen Zhou, A16
Research Topic: China’s New Frontier and its Long March to Modernity

Aniket De, A16

2015 Tufts University General Awards

IR Major Recipients

Sean M. Fernald, A15
Marion Ricker Houston Prize Scholarship in Economics

Katherine E. Koch, A15
Arabic Language, Culture and Literature Prize

Maxim M. Kondratenko, A15
Russian Prize

Sarah A. Lawton, A15
William Howell Reed Prize in German

Elizabeth J. McAvoy, A15
Ivan Galanti Special Achievement in Humanities Prize

Hye Seon Park, A15
Chinese Language & Literature Prize

Jennine O. Sawwan, A15
Community Service Award

Thomas F. Stack, A15
Chinese Program Alumni Prize

Yasmine T. Swanson, A15
Elizabeth Verveer Tishler Prize in Music Performance

Robert E. Wallace, A15
Paul Montle Prize

Other Prestigious Scholarships and Awards

**Carnegie Junior Fellows Program Finalist**

Yufei Du, A15

**Critical Language Scholarship**

Neha Bhatia, A17
Shawn Patterson, A17
Dylan Saba, A15
Elizabeth Robinson, A15

**Fulbright Scholarship**

Patrick McGrath, A15
Hiram Reynolds, A14

**Humanity in Action Fellowship**

Jennine Sawwan, A15
IR News & Views

Planning on studying abroad this summer or next year? Find out all you need to know about the transfer of credit process (for both Tufts and the IR Program) by visiting the following link:  http://ase.tufts.edu/ir/abroad.htm.

3 Important Things to Keep in Mind:

1. 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).

2. Courses taken at Tufts and Non-Tufts Programs must be approved by the IR Program in order to be used to fulfill IR requirements!

3. The IR transfer of credit limit is as follows: 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.

4. Visit the Tufts International Travel Safety link below for important info on staying safe while studying abroad:  http://finance.tufts.edu/risk-ins/international-travel/

Questions: The IR Assistant Director is available for questions and concerns regarding study abroad. Visit the following link for office hours and contact info:  http://ase.tufts.edu/ir/contact.htm.

ANYONE considering a senior honors thesis should visit the following links for important guidelines and suggestions.

http://ase.tufts.edu/ir/researchOppThesis-Directed.htm#honorsthesis—info from the IR Program website

http://uss.tufts.edu/arc/writingresources/thesis.asp—info from the Tufts Academic Resource Center

http://uss.tufts.edu/undergradEducation/research/undergradResearchFund.asp—info about potential Tufts funding

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**IR Class of 2015 in Numbers**

Total # of IR seniors graduating = 197
Total # of double majors = 111
Number of IR seniors nominated for magna or summa honors = 73

**Thematic Concentration breakdown for the Class of 2015**

| TC1A | Europe and the Former Soviet Union = 16 |
| TC1B | East and Southeast Asia = 15 |
| TC1C | Africa = 4 |
| TC1D | Middle East and South Asia = 12 |
| TC1E | Latin America = 10 |
| TC2A | International Economics: Trade = 5 |
| TC2B | International Economics: Finance = 26 |
| TC2C | International Economics: Environment = 4 |
| TC2D | International Economics: Development = 17 |
| TC3 | Global Health, Nutrition, and the Environment = 27 |
| TC4 | International Security = 50 |
| TC5 | The United States in World Affairs = 6 |
| TC6A | Ideas and Identity in IR: Ideologies = 3 |
| TC6B | Ideas and Identity in IR: Empires/Colonialism/Globalization = 2 |

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**Tips from the IR Office**
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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.

IR FUN FACTS:
Total # of declared IR majors as of May 2013: 507
Looking to the Future: Of the 3400+ students accepted to Tufts for the Class of 2019, 432 expressed an interest in International Relations.
Wishing everyone a relaxing summer break!