

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

news & views

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TUFTS PROGRAM IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Senior IR Mentor Program Launched

By Katherine Schaefer



The IR Mentors offer advice on the IR major experience

The IR Program recently launched the IR Mentors Program, a student-initiative comprised of IR senior volunteers who are available to give an IR senior perspective on the International Relations major. The mentors serve as a complement to both faculty advisor and IR Program office resources.

The IR Mentors Program, which currently has 34 members, is the brainchild of IR senior, Kirit Radia. Kirit approached the IR office last fall, eager to discuss ways in which IR seniors could be of help to underclassmen who are new or prospective IR majors. Kirit said he had come across many seniors who wished they had had a senior perspective on the IR major when they were just starting out at Tufts.

A list of the mentors can be found on the IR website.

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IR Director Establishes Leadership Council

By Katherine Schaefer

As part of his aim to increase student leadership within the IR program, IR Director Malik Mufti has created a student leadership council. The Director's Leadership Council is comprised of 11 IR students, each of whom was nominated by IR Core Faculty to serve on the council. The students were selected based on academic achievement, previous leadership roles, diversity representation, and networks to other important Tufts student organizations.

The Director's Leadership Council (DLC) will serve as a liaison between the IR student body and the IR Program staff. The DLC, while still a new body, has already started developing its role, meeting three times since its inception at the beginning of February. While part of their vision is to become involved in event planning and programming, the DLC would primarily like to assist in IR curriculum development, social outreach within Tufts and the IR community, and alumni network development.

In the future, nominations to the DLC would be

both faculty and student initiated, rather than appointed. The IR Program and the DLC envision the council to be a representation of the IR student body, and would therefore encourage IR student involvement in the selection of the council each year. In the minutes of their first independent DLC meeting, they set forth a vision for the future: "It is important to let our existence be known around the IR community and for the body to be transparent."

The 2004-2005 Director's Leadership Council members are:

Mauricio Artinano	LA '06
Shaharris Beh	LA '05
Gabriela Calderon	LA '05
Anita Gardeva	LA '07
Ipek Gulec	LA '06
Melody Hildebrandt	LA '05
Matthew Holbreich	LA '05
Farzana Hoque	LA '05
Daniela Perdomo	LA '07
Kirit Radia	LA '05
Laura Schenkein	LA '05

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Tufts Students Respond to Ugandan Humanitarian Crisis, New Internship Created

By Kirk Okano-Lange

In Northern Uganda, a brutal civil war has been raging for nearly 18 years. According to the United Nations, over 20,000 children have been abducted to serve as soldiers, sex slaves, and porters and approximately 1.6 million people have been displaced. This war and its impacts are largely unknown outside Uganda and have somehow failed to capture the attention of the international media.

Three Tufts students, however, know these realities well. Ana Martinez (IR/Community Health '05), Tiffany Chen (IR '06), and Sarah Arkin (IR '06) traveled to Uganda in June and July of 2004 to research the conditions in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps and explore the political, cultural, and historical forces which have enabled a desperate humanitarian crisis. Their visit was made possible by support from the Institute for Global Leadership (IGL), University College for Citizenship and Public Service (University College), and the Tufts Undergraduate Research Fund.

While conducting interviews with international and local humanitarian agencies, the students made strong connections with two NGOs: Friends of Orphans (FRO) based in Uganda and United Movement to End Child Soldiering (UMECS) based in Washington, DC. Both organizations recognized the contributions of these students and perceived a potential role for Tufts students into the future.

When Arthur Serota, Executive Director of UMECS, spoke at Tufts in November, it became exceedingly clear that numerous Tufts students were prepared to join such an effort. Over the last three months, Martinez, Chen, and Arkin have been working with Tufts faculty and staff, and Serota on an innovative initiative to make this possible. Martinez received a stipend from University College's Civic Engagement Fund (CEF) to lead a planning process to bring a pilot program for Tufts student into fruition for



IDP camp where pastoralists, primarily the Acholi people, once connected to significant land and cattle resources, have been forced to eke out an existence in the wake of the violent insurgency of the Lord's Resistance Army against the government of President Yoweri Museveni.

Summer 2005.

The Tufts Uganda Internship Program (TUIP) is the result. According to IR Director, Malik Mufti, TUIP "represents the realization of two goals important to Tufts as an institution and IR as a program: promoting active global citizenship and engendering cross university collaboration." Mufti has recently named an IR faculty committee to examine how IR can help operationalize the concept of active global citizenship. TUIP, Mufti notes, "promises to be an important model." A key strength of the initiative is the collaboration that has made it possible. Representatives of IR, IGL, University College, the Peace and Justice Studies Program, and the Department of Education all sit on the TUIP working group chaired by Martinez.

Applications for Tufts undergraduate and

graduate students who want to join the first TUIP cohort are now available from the working group partners. (See box below.)

Internships during summer 2005 will focus on a pair of the highest priorities for families, women, and children in the IDP camps: education and entrepreneurship.

In Uganda's Jinja District, FRO has launched various programs to provide education to children in the IDP camps and entrepreneurship training to women who have been disconnected from land based and other livelihoods by the war. Tufts interns will provide support to these projects. In addition to practice, internships will also have a research component. Research will advance a number of significant purposes. At the local level it can represent an important contribution to

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Benson Komakech, FRO staff member, and David Manyonga, an intern from Africa University's Institute of Peace, Leadership, and Governance in Mutare, Zimbabwe, teaching children how to record interviews in Pader Town IDP Camp. Manyonga is a journalist who also works with war abductees to help them tell their own stories with their own voices.

Uganda Internship

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NGOs and communities as they assess their challenges and assets in program planning and evaluation. In as far as research serves to heighten attention to the crisis, it can also build momentum behind efforts to end the conflict, currently critical as peace negotiations hover around a tipping point. Finally, and importantly, research also intends to link the experience back to the student's academic work—ensuring that the internship not only provides knowledge unavailable on the Medford campus, but brings understanding of theories and concepts learned in the classroom to an entirely new level.

To provide further context and background to the experience, interns will participate in a pre-departure orientation program. Tufts has impressive institutional resources it can bring to bear to this project, and distinguished faculty not only from Arts and Sciences, but also from academic units like the Fletcher School and the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, will be invited to lecture in this orientation program.

What began as a summer research project for three Tufts women has, in just a few months, grown into a significant commitment of effort and resource on the part of many across Tufts. For the organizations and communities in Uganda that have been contending with war for almost two decades this solidarity is deeply welcomed.

Applying for the Tufts Uganda Internship Program 2005

- Application forms are available from the IR Office and on the IR website (<http://ase.tufts.edu/ir/>).
- Completed applications are due by 4:30 pm Monday, March 21st and can be hand delivered to University College Lincoln Filene (c/o Mindy Nierenberg) or sent electronically to internshipuganda@yahoo.com.
- An application information session, where applicants can learn more about the internship and application requirements, will be held Wednesday, March 2nd at 5pm in the Zamparelli Room (Campus Center).

IR Program News

Daphne LaBua Awarded Gibson Prize

By Jeff Taliaferro and Katherine Schaefer

Tufts junior, Daphne LaBua, has recently been selected for the John S. Gibson Prize for her essay entitled, "A Constructivist Explanation of the Prussian Annexation of Alsace and Lorraine in 1871."

For Professor Jeff Taliaferro's PS 164 course, "The Rise and Fall of Great Powers," Daphne wrote an exceptional paper that examined Germany's annexation of the northwest French provinces of Alsace and Lorraine after the 1870-71 Franco-Prussian War. Specifically she sought to explain why Otto von Bismarck decided to annex all of Alsace, but only one-fifth of Lorraine, despite the fact that the control of both provinces would have given the new German Empire a more defensible western border. Drawing upon constructivism -- a body of international relations theory that stresses the role of ideas, subjective understandings of context, and identities in shaping international politics - she made a strong case that conceptions of German nationalism and identity, not strategic concerns, drove Prussia/Germany to annex these provinces.

Named after John S. Gibson, Professor of Political Science and first Director of Tufts Program in International Relations, the Gibson Prize recognizes annually Tufts' best undergraduate research paper in the field of international relations. Tufts students from any major are eligible, as long as their research paper deals with substantive international issues.

The winning essay is selected from a group of faculty-nominated essays, and the winner is acknowledged at April's academic prize ceremony.

IR Mentors

Continued from page 1

Mentors are listed by thematic cluster, thereby sorting mentors by their main area of interest. Other information provided by the mentors includes any study abroad or internship experience they have had, double majors or minors, advisors, and courses they have taken to fulfill the IR requirements.

The mentors held their first meeting this month. Among topics of discussion were advertising methods to inform undergrads of the mentors program, website design ideas, and program development suggestions. IR Director, Malik Mufti, emphasized how important the Mentors initiative was to the IR Program and the leadership role he saw Mentors taking alongside the newly created Director's Leadership Council.

One student suggested that the program evolve into an alumni mentor network which would continue advising students, specifically upperclassmen, who may be looking into jobs or graduate school. Rising seniors would replace the current IR mentors once the mentors graduate.

Another student recommended creating language groups that would bring together mentors and mentees who are studying the same language for their IR language requirement. These groups could serve as study groups or support groups. A similar idea was floated which would group together mentors and mentees who have the same IR thematic cluster.

Last October, the IR Program hosted the Inaugural IR Summit and Social, which brought together IR majors, faculty, staff, and prospective IR majors. Those present were asked to brainstorm ideas on how to increase participation within the IR community. The summit provided a place for IR majors to voice any concerns or suggestions they had regarding the program.

2004-2005 IR Representatives at International Affairs Conferences

Noah Trugman and William Wittles
56th Annual Student Conference on
International Affairs
US Military Academy at West Point
"Beyond Hegemony: The Goals and
Consequences of American Action at
Home and Abroad"

Andrew Churella
47th Annual Academy Assembly
US Air Force Academy and Columbia
University's American Assembly
"Spreading Democracy: America's
Obligation?"

Bree Sposato
45th Annual Naval Academy Foreign
Affairs Conference (NAFAC)
US Naval Academy at Annapolis
'Power and Purpose: Defining
America's Role in the World'

See the next edition of IR News &
Views for a story on the 56th
Annual Student Conference on
International Affairs

New or prospective IR majors who would like to contact a mentor should visit the following website: <http://ase.tufts.edu/ir/mentors.htm>.

Boston Area Upcoming Events

Joseph E. Stiglitz, Nobel Prize in Economics

Date: Monday, March 7 2005
Time: 5:00pm - 6:30pm
Location: ASEAN Auditorium, Fletcher School (Tufts University)

Joseph E. Stiglitz is currently Professor of Economics and Finance, Columbia University Graduate School of Business, Department of Economics and School of International and Public Affairs.

"Women, Power and Global Health," Her Excellency, Dr. Specioza Wandira Kazibwe

Date: Tuesday, March 8 2005
Time: 4:30pm
Location: Coolidge Room, Ballou Hall (Tufts University)

To commemorate the International Women's Day on 8 March, Women's Studies Program at Tufts is bringing in the former Ugandan Vice President, Her Excellency, Dr. Specioza Wandira Kazibwe.

"Reconstructing Iraq/Comparative Insights: Marshall Plan, Japan, and Iraq," John Dower, Prof. of Japanese History at MIT, and Charles S. Maier, Prof. of History at Harvard University

Date: Monday, March 7, 2005
Time: 5:30pm - 7:30pm
Location: Building 1, Room 190 (MIT)

"Human Rights in Haiti: Health and Gender Issues," Prof. Erica James & Dr. Joia Mukherjee, Medical Director of Partners in Health

Date: Friday, March 11, 2005
Time: 7:00pm - 8:30pm
Location: 4-237 (MIT)

"Arafat Revisited: An Assessment of His Role in the Search for a Two-State Solution." Herbert C. Kelman, Harvard University

Date: Thursday, March 10, 2005
Time: 4:00pm
Location: Mezzanine Room 11, WCFIA, 1033 Mass. Ave (Harvard University)

"Global Citizenship and International Business," Dr. Daniel Vasella, Chairman and CEO of Novartis AG

Date: March 17th, 2005
Time: 9:00am
Location: TBA (Babson College)

TUFTS' PROGRAM IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
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IR Program Announcements

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The IR News & Views newsletter highlights events and people in the Tufts IR community and provides selected information about the larger Boston community. The publication appears twice a semester and welcomes feedback from students and faculty.

Deadline Extended: March 31, 2005

IR Research Scholars Program

Supports original, high-quality undergraduate international research. Aimed at IR juniors who anticipate producing an upper-level research paper in their senior year, whether for an IR thesis, directed research, conference submission or external essay competition, the scholarship will support a minimum of eight weeks of IR Core Faculty-mentored summer research for the gathering of materials and data. Awards will be granted to both students and faculty mentors.

The Luce Student Research Scholarship in Science and Humanitarianism

Tufts students of any major (junior-standing and above) are welcome to apply for this scholarship from the Henry R. Luce Program in Science & Humanitarianism. Applicants should have demonstrable interest in public health and international humanitarian assistance and the capacity to engage in original research at home or abroad. Topics in psychosocial humanitarian assistance, migration and health, and the ethics of humanitarian aid with particular reference to nutrition and/or health will be considered for this award.

For more information or application materials please stop by the IR Program Office at Cabot 605 or visit <http://ase.tufts.edu/ir/irresearchscholars.htm>



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