

# INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

## news & views

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TUFTS PROGRAM IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

## A Major Network: IR Alumni Return to Tufts for Career Development Night

By Kirk Lange, IR Assitant Director

IR majors are famously broad-minded—their scope of interest extending to every global region and countless international issues. Yet at this time of year, many IR majors, particularly seniors, fix their attention on a single, thorny issue: What after Medford?

To help students answer this question, the IR Program is ramping up its career development activities in a growing partnership with the Tufts Office of Career Services (CS) and IR alumni. The kick-off event in this effort was the inaugural IR Career Panel and Alumni Networking Night, held March 6th in Dowling Hall. It was a promising start on multiple counts.

Back on the Hill

Without question, one of the most exciting aspects of the evening was the involvement of IR alumni. Approximately twenty graduates returned to campus, from as far away as New York and Washington, D.C., to offer students personal insights about pursuing careers in international affairs, and to reconnect with the IR Program.

The evening began with a seven person panel, speaking to a standing room only crowd. Alumni panelists represented a range of organizations (such as The Council on Foreign Relations and The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination

Committee) and professional roles (including international business consult and intelligence analyst). Each offered general remarks about their personal career paths and then fielded specific questions from students.



Peter Kaldes, Esq. (IR '98) talks with Odmaa Otgonbileg (IR '06)

Students and panelists next made their way to the Dowling Library, where a larger group of alumni had been gathering, for a networking reception. Alumni were stationed at different tables according to their IR profession or organization, so students would know whom to approach with their particular questions.

The reception provided not only an informal setting where students could ask targeted questions, but also an opportunity for alumni to catch up with the IR program. IR Director, Malik Mufti, officially welcomed alumni back to campus, while Profs. Cruz, Dapice, Manz, and Winn were on hand to meet-up with former students. At least 100 students flowed through the networking (and food) tables over the course of the evening.

As another sign of alumni enthusiasm, a number of IR graduates unable to attend in person provided their bios and contact information for the event program and invited students to contact them by phone or e-mail. Equally impressive, a group of students from the Fletcher School, who were not alumni of Tufts IR but who were interested in offering their insights about professional development and graduate school, participated in the networking reception.

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## Iraq Veterans Panel

By Neil Sood

On Tuesday, April 11 the Director's Leadership Council (DLC) sponsored a panel titled An Evening with Iraq War Veterans. The veterans who participated on the panel were also students of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. The event was very unique because it was informal and the veterans candidly shared their experiences and perspective about the war. Because rules similar to Chatham House were evoked, the audience was free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s) may be revealed or may it be mentioned that the information was received at the panel.

The veterans who participated were Captain Ben Parry of the US army, Captain Jeff Walsh

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### Congratulations!!

IR recipients of the  
2006 Presidential Awards for  
Citizenship and Public Service

Mauricio Artinano

Douglas Glandon

J. Jeremy Sueker

&

New Members of the

International Relations

Director's Leadership Council

Sarah Newton

JeeYung "Angi" Kang

David Rawson

Rodrigo Armstrong

## From Tufts to ABC: An IR Alum Shares His Post-Graduate Story

By Kirit Radia, IR Alum, LA '05

*Kirit Radia, currently ABC News' off camera reporter/producer at the State Department, shares his experiences since graduating from Tufts last year.*

Just 14 months ago I was living the Senior Year nightmare – scrambling around the country in search of a job, hopping from one uninspiring interview to another. As an International Relations student at Tufts, I had always imagined that I would end up in a career in the foreign service or in a Washington think tank or perhaps even working abroad for an NGO. I had never thought much beyond those obvious applications of my IR education, even though I was constantly reminded how universally applicable my studies really were.

Finally, upon realizing that perhaps my true aspirations lay beyond those I had originally envisioned for myself, I began to consider other avenues. A professor suggested an internship with ABC News in Washington, DC. The thought of working in a national newsroom was foreign to me, having had no previous media experience. I applied thinking that my chances of being accepted were, at best, slim.

When I received word that I had been accepted, I began to think how this might really be a perfect situation for me. I had always enjoyed the news and the thought of being paid to stay on top of current events was very attractive. I would be in my favorite city getting access to our country's decision making process. The combination seemed certainly worth a try. I would do the internship for the summer and, if I didn't like it, I would take my other job offer – a vanilla desk job as a glorified telemarketer (and I'm using the word 'glorified' quite liberally).

My internship was an incredible, intoxicatingly exciting experience. By my second day I was



Photo of Terry Moran doing a live shot outside of the Supreme Court.  
Photo courtesy of Kirt Radia

calling embassies arranging interviews with African presidents for our then Senior White House Correspondent Terry Moran. That next Monday I was shaking hands with the President of Botswana as we interviewed him about the upcoming G-8 Summit in Scotland, during which Africa was to figure prominently. The G-8 nations, at the behest of host Tony Blair, were to consider canceling the debt of some of Africa's poorest countries as a means of improving economic conditions there.

Now, as I approach the one year anniversary of my graduation from Tufts, I am preparing to take over as ABC News' off-camera reporter/producer at the State Department. In that capacity I will be attending daily press briefings, consulting sources on day-of stories, and I will even have the opportunity to travel with Secretary Rice when she embarks on trips abroad. In addition to my duties

reporting on the State Department I will also be helping our Justice reporter, Pierre Thomas, on longer investigative stories.

Since I did not yet understand all of the production aspects of the news business, I focused my energy on what I did know: international relations. I used my IR background to write reports preparing our White House Unit for President Bush's trips to the Summit of the Americas in Argentina and to India and Pakistan earlier this year. As part of the latter project I was invited, along with a small group of 20 other White House journalists including Matthew Cooper, Suzanne Malveaux, and Elisabeth Bumiller, to dinner with the Indian Ambassador to the United States to discuss Bush's upcoming trip. At only age 22 it was an extraordinary experience that helped me better understand the unique relationship between politicians

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# Scholarship Winners

## 2005-2006 IR Research Scholars



**AMANDA FENCL**

**Location:** Tulear, Madagascar

**Project:** Analyzing the Sustainability of Microfinance in Tulear, Madagascar Through Environmental, Economic, and Gendered Indicators



**MILES MATTSON**

**Location:** Medford, MA

**Project:** WIPO: Compulsory Licensing and the Attainability of Essential Medicines in Third World Countries



**JAMIE MORGAN**

**Location:** Washington, D.C.

**Project:** Before and After Iraq: Public Opinion on Military Intervention

## Luce Student Research Scholarship in Science & Humanitarianism



**MATTHEW BENSON**

**Location:** Uganda

**Project:** Field research/internship with the University of Makerere Medical School



**HIRUT FASSIL**

**Location:** Spain

**Project:** Research/internship with the Comision Espanola de Ayuda al Refugiado



**MARGARET SUDA**

**Location:** Medford, MA

## Tufts Debate Team and Cambridge Union Society Debate Over Recognition of Hamas

By Robert Silverblatt and Oleg Svet

On Thursday, March 30th, a group of Tufts students in Pearson 104, by a vote of approximately 34-22, recognized Hamas on behalf of the United States government.

The vote followed a debate featuring members of the Tufts Debate Society and the Cambridge Union Society, a group of debaters from England. The debate, which focused on the policy that the United States should take toward Hamas, was moderated by Sherman Teichman, the Director of the Institute for Global Leadership.

Each of the two teams in the debate consisted of two Tufts and two Cambridge debaters. Junior Corey Miller and freshman Rob Silverblatt of Tufts, and David Tite and Stuart Smith of Cambridge argued in favor of U.S. recognition of Hamas.

Sophomores Josh Wolf and Nate Grubman of Tufts, along with Daniel Warents and Adam Bott, opposed recognition. The debate focused primarily on the role of Israel in negotiation, the legitimacy of Hamas, and the reasonableness of the United States' preconditions for recognition.

The affirmative side, which argued in favor of recognition, focused on a need for negotiation. This negotiation, they argued, can only take place if the United States extends recognition to Hamas.

They stated that recognition does not amount to complete support, but instead opens the door for reasonable conditionality on money. This money, which Hamas desperately needs, could serve as an incentive to reform if it is based on practical demands.

The negative side responded that negotiation is impossible because Israel would never agree to negotiate with Hamas. Israeli politicians in power have taken a particularly harsh and uncompromising stance toward Hamas, a position that the negative side said made a trip by Israel to the peace table with Hamas virtually unobtainable.

The negative side also said that Hamas is not yet a legitimate government. They argued that it must make further efforts to completely sever itself from terrorism and to pursue democratic reforms. The United States could eventually give Hamas money, but only after they prove themselves.

The negative side argued that Hamas should start by fulfilling the conditions that the United States, along with the European Union, the United Nations, and initially Russia, placed on recognition. The conditions are the renunciation of violence, the recognition of Israel, and recognition of the 1993 Oslo Accords - a treaty that focused on mutual recognition and the furtherance of the peace process. Only then, argued the negative side, would Hamas prove itself worthy of aid. Until then, diplomatic pressure and a denial of aid are the appropriate response.

The affirmative side responded that the United States would be hypocritical if they support democracy in the rest of the Middle East but deny recognition to a democratically elected government. The affirmative focused on Hamas' potential for reform, as evidenced partly by its 2004 call for a 10-year truce. They said that the United States must be reasonable in their goals. Hamas was elected

democratically, they argued, which means that if they suddenly recognize Israel on the eve of their election, the people would rebel. Therefore, the U.S. should focus on small, gradual steps in the region.

The negative side responded that Hamas was not elected on its own merits, but rather because of the failure of the previous ruling party, Fatah. Therefore, their mandate was not as strong as the affirmative side claimed it to be.

According to Corey Miller, the President of the Tufts Debate Society, the debate successfully illuminated many of the complications in the region. "If this debate proved anything, however, it reaffirmed that there is no easy or simple solution to the region's strife," he said. Nevertheless, he said, while debate is a first step forward, it is not a solution in and of itself. "The speakers did an excellent job of illuminating the tangles and complexities of the issues involved, but the kind of healthy, respectful dialogue the debate was designed to encourage can only be a preliminary step toward any significant advance."

The event was co-sponsored by the International Relations Program and the Tufts Debate Society.

## IR Career Night

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### Successful by Design

Key to the success of this event was thoughtful planning by CS. Director Jean Papalia and Assistant Directors Nicole Anderson and Emily Ryley Miller sought to design an event that would be of greatest value to students. They solicited student input on the event format and in formulating questions around which panelists could structure their remarks. The IR Director's Leadership Council (DLC) was instrumental in this regard, thanks particularly to the efforts of Unaza Khan and Ipek Gulec. While the hybrid panel-and-networking format was seen to offer students a range of times and circumstances in which to gather career information, CS is now analyzing an evaluation of the event to ensure that next year's IR career development night is an even greater success.

### Looking Forward

What is already clear is that the March 6th event laid important groundwork for future IR initiatives. CS and IR are now contemplating a series of career development events for the 2006-07 academic year. The two units will also be encouraging student and alumni use of the Tufts Career Network (<http://careers.tufts.edu/alumni/network/>)—a powerful tool for finding Tufts alumni, as well offering and getting career advice.

IR also plans to heighten connections with and among its alumni. As one of Tufts' biggest majors, IR graduates represent a large and potentially significant network. Alumni have much to offer not only current students and the ongoing life of the IR program, but also one another. An alumni advisory committee is being planned as a first step toward

building a network that takes the IR major far beyond the Medford campus.

If you have any suggestions for advancing IR alumni or career development goals, or want to get involved, please contact IR Assistant Director Kirk Lange ([kirk.lange@tufts.edu](mailto:kirk.lange@tufts.edu)).



A capacity crowd gathers for the career panel



Congratulations to the first members of the new Tufts Chapter of Sigma Iota Rho—The IR Honor Society!!

Camille Agon, Mauricio Artinano, Susannah Bechtel, Adam Buckley, Julia Clark, Derek Dieu, Serena Fan, Sarah Fiorillo, Matthew Fortier, Paula Fortner, Douglas Glandon, Caroline Glickler, Jennifer Gray, Shai Gruber, Ipek Gulec, Jessica Harris, Emily Hershburdick, Sarah Kafka, Emily Kenney, Barbara Magid,

Miles Mattson, Daphne McCurdy, Ariela Nathusius, Julie Ng, Amara Nickerson, Chao Pan, Bryan Prior (President and Founder), Niyati Shah, Jessica Sklarsky, Chloe Snider, Jennifer Snow, Andrea Steinberg, Adam Stober, Judah Sueker, Alexis Tsang, Danielle Warner, Riyo Yoshioka

## 2006 Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference: Africa Turning Attention into Action

By Jocelyn Edwards, LA '06

One might assume that the answer to the question, "Does Africa matter?" would be taken for granted at a conference focusing on the continent. Yet at least one speaker still felt compelled to grapple with it at the 2006 US Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference titled, "Africa: Turning Attention to Action."

Serving as the delegate from Tufts International Relations Program, I traveled to Annapolis from April 10th - 13th to take part in the conference. Speakers including National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley and round table discussions along with social events filled out the schedule over the three days.

Through the conference, I not only gained insight into the various issues affecting Africa but how hard it frequently is for the continent to hold the attention of the foreign affairs establishment. Interactions with midshipmen, students at the Naval Academy, provided a window into military life and culture in the United States.

It was General Fulford, Director of the Africa Center for Strategic Studies at the National Defense University, who posed the question of Africa's significance during his speech on "The Importance of Africa to U.S. Security Interests." He went on to tell of a colleague who, faced with the question of whether or not it would make a difference if Africa were to drop into the sea, had responded that the event would result in more direct communication and shipping lines between North America and the rest of the world.

In his speech, Fulford countered this response of apathy towards Africa, arguing that the continent is of increasing significance to America. He pointed out that by 2015 the continent will supply the U.S. with 25% of its oil.



Jocelyn Edwards, second from left, and other attendees of the Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference. They are pictured here at the Naval Banquet.

Photo courtesy of the Jocelyn Edwards

Robert Rotenberg, the current director of the Kennedy School of Government's Program on Intrastate Conflict and Conflict Resolution and a former Vice President at Tufts, countered the traditional western image of Africa. He mentioned the importance of taking into account the modernization that has taken place on the continent when considering it. He offered up the spread of cell phones across Africa as proof of the many changes it has undergone in recent decades.

Outside of the roundtables and auditorium, military hosts went to great lengths to ensure that we were comfortable. The Navy housed delegates in the Radisson Hotel and shuttled us back and forth from the Academy for events. A senior staff member who described himself as in charge of "hospitality," told me

his duties extended right down to making sure guests knew where to find toiletries at 3AM if necessary.

Social activities at the conference included dinner at Buddies Crab Shack in Downtown Annapolis, a visit to the Superintendent's House and hanging out at the "Firstie," the Naval Academy's on campus bar. Perhaps the most authentic taste of Navy life was provided at lunch when delegates ate with the general student population in the cafeteria of "King Hall." Tables were loaded down with brownies, chips, and depending on the day, sandwich or wrap ingredients. "They think we need lots of calories," said one female cadet. "It's bad."

Midshipmen at once both confirmed and contradicted preconceived notions of military member attitudes towards the politics

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# IR Program News

## IRAQ PANEL

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of the US marine corps, Captain Josh Jones of the US army, and Mike Spiros who served the Civilian Provisional Authority (CPA) and the State department; he is also a graduate of the Naval Academy. The CPA was the body that ruled Iraq until a government was elected—Paul Bremer had spearheaded that effort.

The evening was intended to be an informal discussion with these gentlemen and to provide an opportunity for queries from the audience. Each veteran introduced himself and then answered a couple of prepared questions from the moderator and then the audience. As the moderator and organizer of the event, I introduced the speakers and expressed hope that the event could possibly help to clear our misunderstandings about the War in Iraq given the public's lack of information or misinformation about the

situation on the ground.

In the beginning of the event, the audience members were timid and hesitant to ask questions; however, once they observed the veterans enthusiasm and candor when answering questions, a third of the audience had their hands raised by the end. The questions ranged from personal ones such as, 'Did you need to reconcile you own personal political or moral belief to fight. If yes, what as that like?' or 'Was it easy to walk around the cities when off-duty?' Others were more heated and about specific policies of the governments involved in regards to security, politics, and oil. Since the veterans enjoyed answering all the questions and the audience was so receptive and inquisitive, the event went forty-five minutes longer then intended.

Each of the veterans who spoke had very different missions in Iraq, dates of their tours, and diverse backgrounds before joining the armed forces. This allowed the audience to gain a broader perspective. Since all the veterans are also Fletcher students, the most recent tour ended in June 2005. Mr. Spiros was in Iraq from Sept. 2003 until Dec. 2004. Mr. Jones was stationed in Iraq from Oct. 2003 until Nov. 2004 while acting as a liaison officer to the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps, which later became the Iraqi National Guard. Mr. Parry was in Iraq from Jan. 2004 until Feb. 2005 and he conducted neighborhood patrolling in Baghdad neighborhoods and also did counter-fire in Fallujah and North Babel. Mr. Walsh was stationed in Iraq from Dec. 2004 until June 2005 in Tall Afar, Iraq, as an adviser and trainer of the new Iraqi Army.

## IR Alum

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and the media in Washington, DC. There have been other highlights during my short time here at ABC News. I spent countless hours analyzing thousands of documents released by the National Archives in preparation for the Supreme Court nomination hearings for John Roberts and Samuel Alito. During the State of the Union I was positioned in a Senate office building with a camera crew

interviewing Senators to get their reaction to the President's speech.

In my new position I will undoubtedly rely on my IR education to report on international situations. It has already helped me to understand the correlation between world events and the larger integrated picture of global political tectonics – an asset when

incidents on the other side of the globe seem random and isolated to the average news consumer.

I don't know where my career will take me, but given what I have seen in just one year since graduation, I'm looking forward to more adventures in broadcast journalism.

## Naval Conference

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surrounding the establishment they are a part of. The moderator of our roundtable showed us a glowingly positive video as an introduction to Academy life, but before hitting play, jokingly called it "propaganda." Later, the same cadet asked me if my opinion of the military would be affected by knowledge that he didn't agree with what was happening in Iraq.

Ultimately, even at a conference named for it, it was sometimes difficult for Africa to get attention, however. Other world

hot zones often stole the spotlight. The Ambassador of Egypt, Nabil Fahmy, told us about the battalions his country has supplied to help manage the crisis in Sudan and the scholarships it provides for African students. He then proceeded to focus the remaining two-thirds of his remarks on Egypt's position on Iraq and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. In addition, of the seven speakers and panelists who addressed issues on the continent, Dr. Umunna H. Orjiako was the only one actually from Sub-Saharan Africa.

Despite this, the conference served an important purpose in increasing Africa's profile among America's future military and civilian leaders. Of the many International Relations majors in attendance at the conference, few were specifically Africa focused in their studies. One delegate told me that I was the first person he had met there who was. Perhaps these three days in Annapolis will have sparked an interest in others as well.

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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 and submissions  
from students and faculty.*



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# Announcements

## Still Looking For An INTERNSHIP?

Check out the IR Program website - it's a step in the right direction!

- The IR Program website provides a vast listing of internship resources, providing organization information, contact information, as well as links to the organization sites.
- The listing is divided into types of organizations, so you can quickly find what you're looking for.
- Internship organizations listed are NOT limited to the Boston area!

<http://ase.tufts.edu/ir/internship.htm>