

International Relations news & views

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Tufts Program In International Relations

Issues as Muse 2008: A Night of Artistic Inspiration

By: Mathew Plitch, LA'08

On February 2nd, 2008, the International Relations Director's Leadership Council (DLC) put on the First Annual "Issue as Muse 2008: A Night of Artistic Inspiration." Hosted by the International Relations Program, "Issue as Muse 2008" was an exceptional event that bridged the arts and academia and will hopefully enrich the Tufts community for years to come.

This special multicultural evening was based on a challenge to some of the most creative and dynamic groups on campus to use their incredible passions and talents to design performances inspired by global issues of their choosing. Students showcased their talents in song, dance, mime, acting, and poetry; which were prefaced by a reading of the international issue that inspired them.



Turbo "Movement"

Photo taken by: Sam Dupont, LA'08

The evening of performances included the following acts: Essence, Sarabande, Spoken Word Poets, Tufts Filipino Cultural Society, B.E.A.T.S., Social Justice Arts Initiative, Turbo, Spirit of Color, HYPE!, and BlackOut. Issues chosen by these groups included human trafficking, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, global warming, domestic violence, and racial inequality, among others.

Through this unique opportunity to use global issues as muses for the stage, the Tufts community witnessed their peers



SOC "Natural Blues"

Photo taken by: Sam Dupont, LA'08

and favorite performance groups as they had never seen them before. After four months of hard work, designing, organizing and running the event, "Issue as Muse 2008" was a tremendous success with over 100 students participating and a full house in Cohen Auditorium! Beyond an extensive advertising campaign, the packed auditorium was truly a testament to the deep appreciation and love that the students of Tufts University have for the groups performing that evening and their unswerving roles as global active citizens far beyond the classroom walls.

Ultimately, significant global issues were brought to the forefront on Cohen stage and in the minds of over 600 audience members -- in what will hopefully set a poignant, innovative precedent for years to come in the life of "Issue as Muse" here at Tufts.

Be sure to look out for "Issue as Muse 2009" in the spring of next year!

See a sampling of the "Issue as Muse" performances and read more about their chosen issues on page 3.

Life After Tufts: Alumni Share Their Thoughts on Working at the "Council on Foreign Relations"

Interviewees: Sebastian Chaskel (LA'07); Rachel Leven (LA'07); Negar Razavi (LA'06); Erika Wool (LA'06) - interviewed by Samantha Goldman (LA'08)

Samantha: How did you end up working at the Council on Foreign Relations?

Negar: When I first graduated from Tufts, I wanted to leave the United States for a little while and spend time abroad—specifically in the Middle East. After a few months, though, I realized I would need more work experience if I wanted to be taken seriously in the region. That is when I started searching for work in the U.S., and came across a job posting on the CFR website for the "Women, Development, and Middle East" Research Associate. Interestingly, it was my experience abroad that helped me get the job at CFR.

Sebastian: I started looking for jobs early on in January and by March had not found anything that fit my interests. Then in March I saw a posting for the Latin America Studies Research Associate position. I was very interested in the Council to begin with, and the position seemed right up my alley. I sent my information in to the Human Resources department and I also e-mailed Shannon O'Neil, the Latin America Studies Fellow directly. We met and had a great conversation, and I was eventually offered the job.

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IR Program News & Views

Council cont. from pg 1:

Rachel: Like Sebastian I was interested in CFR from the beginning. In my search I was aiming for jobs with publishing houses and news organizations. When the job for Publishing Associate with “Foreign Affairs” came up on the CFR website it seemed to fit in with all of my requirements. After I turned in my application I coincidentally met a CFR affiliate. I asked him if he would be willing to write a recommendation after seeing my resume. I don’t know or if this helped me get the job but it certainly did not hurt my chances.

Erika: I was interested in working at CFR, so I checked the website for job listings and applied directly to HR.

Samantha: *What is a typical day like?*

Negar: A lot of reading—newspapers, articles, reports, and even my boss’s writing. I also write and edit on occasion. I also do a fair amount of follow-up with funders and setting up of meetings.

Sebastian: My work is divided between research and administrative duties such as organizing meetings and managing budgets. On a typical day I spend quite a bit of time doing research online, some time doing administrative work, and usually I have one or two meetings a day.

Rachel: My job is different from Negar’s, Erika’s and Sebastian’s. In a typical day I will switch on and off from writing permissions contracts and conversing with book authors to emailing customers with website customer service help. There are a lot of random tasks to do everyday as well as creative projects, like redesigns and new initiatives for the magazine.

Erika: There really is not a typical day, rather typical things that I do. The fellow I work for published a book last year. Consequently, I am not

doing any long-term research projects. I do shorter-term research for articles, speeches, and congressional testimony. I also do administrative things like coordinate a series of small meetings, fill out vouchers, draft all the fellow’s CFR-related correspondence, and keep budgets. For example, today I’m researching missile defense for a senate hearing next week, writing up a voucher for the AmEx bill, and playing “gatekeeper” to some annoying media who will not take no for an answer.

Samantha: *What is the best and worst part of your job?*

Sebastian: The best part is being surrounded by a fun and intellectually stimulating group of people. I really value the conversations I have at work every day. I don’t know if there is a worst part - but for me the hardest part of being out of college and working in an organization like this one is realizing your different role. While at Tufts a lot of the programming was meant for us, the students, here we are organizing programming for the CFR members. I think to a certain extent Tufts spoils us - we feel as students that we’re at the center of it all- and it can be challenging to enter a different environment.

Negar: I will just reiterate what Sebastian said. The best part of this job is definitely the people I interact with on a daily basis, and then of course, the occasional personal hero I get the honor of meeting. For me, it was seeing Muhammad Yunus sitting on stage with my boss! The worst part—I’ll plead the fifth.

Rachel: Ditto on all the above... but sometimes, the job can get a little tedious - especially when it comes to dealing with budgets. However I have a lot of fun brainstorming new ideas for the magazine and seeing the issue as it is closing and going to print. Seeing my name in the masthead is also a cool perk.

Erika: Best...The fellow I work for is

probably the nicest person at CFR. He is incredibly passionate and animated about his work so it’s really exciting to work with him. Worst...This fellow also travels constantly and is not around to give much feedback.

Samantha: *What, in your experience, is the role of networking in finding jobs in the IR field?*

Sebastian: I don’t like to think that I meet people just for the sake of networking - but I do think personal relationships are very important in this field, and I do think it is important especially for young people in the field to try to meet as many people as possible and try to develop meaningful relationships. This has not only helped me to better understand how this all works, but it’s also opening doors for future opportunities.

Negar: Networking is important, but only if done with tact and sophistication. If you have developed a real relationship with someone who has influence, it is not bad to ask them to put in a good word for you. In fact, it is a very effective way of getting your foot in the door. However it is important that you know the person well and that you are not pushy and overly aggressive in following up with them.

Rachel: Networking is the constant terror that wakes me in the night. But you have to do it so just grit your teeth and get used to it.

Erika: I did not take advantage of networking to get my job at CFR. When I applied I was discouraged by the number of people who said that networking was the end-all, be-all of getting a job. I would not discount networking as a job-finding strategy, but I would not overemphasize it. Don’t be afraid to apply to jobs directly without the use of networking.

Samantha: *What advice would you give to Tufts students looking for internships and jobs in the IR field?*

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IR Program News & Views

Issues As Muse continued from pg 1:

B.E.A.T.S. “No Usa la Gasolina”

The issue we chose to focus on is climate change and the US’s dependence on fossil fuels. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states “most of the observed increase in globally averaged temperatures since the mid-20th century is very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations” via the greenhouse effect. Industrialization is a huge source of greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to the problem, and the most important effort to combat global warming is the development of alternative energy sources.



B.E.A.T.S. “No Usa la Gasolina”
Photo taken by: Sam Dupont, LA’08



Essence “Staying Strong”
Photo taken by: Sam Dupont, LA’08

Essence “Staying Strong”

Around the world, at least one in every three women has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused during her lifetime. This issue of domestic violence is an extremely important issue and one which affects us all. In our performance tonight, Essence will be dedicating our songs to those who have survived domestic abuse and for everyone who believes in doing their part to help end this critical global issue.

Hype! “Pepto Abysmal”

While enjoying the fruits of nature, it is important to remember that you can impact the environment in ways you might not expect. Make sure you pay attention to the little things; reduce your ecological footprint as much as possible in order to leave the wilderness as harmonious as you found it.



Hype “Pepto Abysmal”
Photo taken by: Sam Dupont, LA’08



Spoken Word “Issue as Muse”
Photo taken by: Sam Dupont, LA’08

Spoken Word “Issue as Muse”

This performance was inspired by global issues of the poets’ individual choosing.

SOC “Natural Blues” (photo on front cover)

SOC’s performance was inspired by the very real and present issue of human trafficking. Many countries, mainly in East Asia and the Pacific, are plagued by the illegal practice of human exploitation and the coercion of innocent lives into forced labor in industrial, commercial, and sexual industries. This piece focuses on the victims of human trafficking and how their lives are affected by this atrocious practice.

Turbo “Movement” (photo on front cover)

This performance was inspired by the global issues of Turbo’s choosing.

IR Program News & Views

Tufts IR Students Network with Fletcher Students

By: Louise Place, LA'08

On the evening of February 5, 2008, Tufts undergraduates and Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy students congregated in Cabot's Hall of Flags to discuss common interests, and make social and professional connections. With the help of the International Relations Program (IR), Sigma Iota Rho, Tufts' IR Honor Society, sponsored the third annual Fletcher Networking Night as a community-building opportunity. Tufts IR majors, approximately 200 in each graduating class, are fortunate to have access to Fletcher's human and academic resources, especially on a campus brimming with languages, activism and passion for international issues.

Approximately 25-30 people attended, with representation from first year through seniors to Fletcher first years and veterans. Conversations between undergraduate and graduate students

were facilitated by the use of nametags -- on which people wrote their name, year, and area(s) of interest. Interests ranged from "water" to "diplomacy" to "U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East." After an initial focus on the free food, the networking began in earnest.

Saba Haq, a Fletcher student in her second year, attended the Networking Night for the first time, and had a great time. She met several interesting undergraduates including Arun with whom she was very impressed. "If I were working at a bank," she said, "I would hire him." She suggested that for the next networking night, the IR honor society e-mail a spreadsheet containing the undergraduate students' interests and Fletcher students' work experience and concentrations in order to help people match up.

Daniel Enking, a sophomore interested in international relations, economics, energy and the environment, also attended this event for the first time. He met Anna, a Fletcher student who shares

his interest in rural electrification.

Samantha Barthelemy, a senior, thoroughly enjoyed the event, particularly since she got the chance to dialog with a Fletcher mentor she was paired with through Fletcher's Global Women group. The mentor also introduced Barthelemy to her roommate and friends -- all of whom shared very similar interests to Barthelemy. According to Barthelemy, they were able to offer her thoughtful insights into a more "real world perspective," on international relations, diplomacy and international law. "It is amazing how much you can get out of so little time talking to Fletcher students," Barthelemy exclaimed. "[The event was] definitely very beneficial!" The only improvement Barthelemy suggested was to make the event longer than an hour.

Sigma Iota Rho and the IR Program look forward to building on this success with the next Fletcher Networking Night, which will take place next fall!

Tufts Alumni Offer Interactive Guide to Careers in International Affairs

By: Kirk Lange, IR Asst Director

Every year, long before the snow has melted and flowers come into bloom, another marker of spring is apparent on the Medford campus: seniors swinging into high gear to figure out their post-Tufts lives. The search for that first post-collegiate job, perfect graduate school program, or other career building experience usually has students visiting prospective employers, scanning online job websites, conducting informational interviews, or poring over Careers in International Affairs and other key texts in the career development canon. And every year, too, Tufts Career Services and the IR Program bring a small sampling of impressive Tufts alumni back to Medford -- to share invaluable insights about key employers in the field, job seeking strategies, and the building blocks of the successful

careers they have built in the field of IR. In essence, IR majors are given access to an interactive guide to careers in world affairs. Live. In person. In their backyard.

This year the "Careers in International Affairs" panel was held on the evening of March 5th in Dowling Hall and included five former Jumbos drawn from a range of IR fields: Daniela Burgi-Palomino ('07), Program Associate for the international humanitarian and development non-profit Oxfam America; Jeremy Fischer ('00), formerly Academic Affairs Officer for the Consulate General of Israel to New England and currently a student at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government; Jerome Lebleu ('99), a former consultant for the International Organization for Migration, who has just graduated from the Fletcher School; Richard Marshall ('98), Foreign Affairs Officer for the National Security Agency; and Lynne Salinger

('77), Senior Economist at Associates for International Resources and Development, a Cambridge based think tank.

The panelists remarks, and the highly interactive question and answer session that followed, were rich with insights as panelists drew anecdotes and patterns from decades of combined experience. (To offer a glimpse, please see the adjacent box "The Role of Internships.") Perhaps even more importantly, the panel demonstrated what a rich resource Tufts has in its alumni. And these alumni resources are available to every student via a critical resource offered all year long on-line through Tufts Career Services: the Tufts Career Network (<http://careers.tufts.edu/students/network/>). This rich database, gives contact information for hundreds of alumni who are willing to communicate with Tufts students about IR fields, organizations, and suggestions for

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IR Program Special Event

The Fares Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies Conference 2008

The United States and the Middle East: What Comes Next after Iraq?
March 27-28, 2008, Cabot Intercultural Center, Tufts University, Medford Campus

This conference aims to identify issues pertaining to the Middle East that will be of concern to Americans in the coming years. Questions and discussions will center on how other Middle Eastern states have been affected by the war in Iraq and by regional challenges; how the new leadership in Washington should understand and deal with political and military developments that are unfolding in the Middle East; and how the United States should best serve its own interests while helping parties in the Middle East manage ongoing conflicts.

View the Conference Schedule and Register online via
<http://farescenter.tufts.edu/events/conferences/>

The United States and the Middle East: What Comes Next after Iraq? A Student Colloquium Saturday, March 29, 2008 9am - 12pm, Cabot Auditorium

This event will feature two consecutive panels that address current international and domestic issues facing the Middle East. As a follow up to the Fares Center Conference on March 27-28th, Tufts students will share their insights on the conference topics and discuss the issues outlined below. Light refreshments will be served.

The International Dimension **9:00am - 10:15am**

Discussion of the current Middle Eastern balance of power, and the dynamics of US and other external intervention in the region.

Discussant: **Rami G. Khouri**, Director of the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut

Participants: Toby Bonthron (LA'09), Monica Camacho (LA'09), Vicki Gilbert (LA'10), and Oleg Svet (LA'08)

Domestic Dynamics **10:30am - 11:45am**

Discussion of domestic issues including political development, democratization, and Islam in politics.

Discussant: **Fawaz Gerges**, Christian A. Johnson Chairholder in International Affairs and Middle Eastern Studies, Department of Political Science at Sarah Lawrence College

Participants: Mohammed Al-Ghanim (LA'08), Alexander Gladstein (LA'08), and Jacki Silbermann (LA'08)

Sponsored by: Tufts Program in International Relations, Fares Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies, and the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Education

Council cont. from pg 2:

Sebastian: I'd say, meet as many people as possible in the field to understand the different opportunities in IR. I'd also recommend that everyone seriously consider the possibility of working abroad, and to use the Tufts [Career Network] database. [<http://careers.tufts.edu/students/network/>] There are lots of alumni out there, and I've found them very approachable and interested in helping us out.

Negar: Improve your language skills and try to get abroad as much as possible. People in the foreign policy field are on the look out for advanced level speakers of foreign languages and they are looking for young people who have personal experience in the countries they have studied.

Rachel: There is no definitive explanation for "International

Relations." Having graduated an IR major I believe this is an advantage as most any job you're interested in can be linked to your college studies. However because of this you really have to be ready to present yourself and define your interests.

Students graduating from Tufts and particularly from the IR major, have this major sense of guilt if they are not out there changing the world or at least in a "do-gooder" industry. That is great and all if you're actually passionately dedicated to a topic. But RELAX! If world peace and solar power aren't your thing, you are still good person. Every industry has its own benefits and consequences so test the waters. Keep in mind if you feel like giving back to the community there are tons of opportunities for charity and volunteer work outside of the office.

Finally, you may be facing your first

job or your first year out of college, but it is still just a summer and just a year. All you really have to do is figure out what your priorities are for the next 365 days. In my opinion, if you can land a job that lets you get up (most) mornings without regret or hesitation then you've already won the game.

Erika: Be respectful and mindful of the appropriate channels. For example, I receive so many unsolicited resumes from people trying to contact my boss (my email is listed for him on the CFR website). He doesn't want to see them and neither do I. If you want to target an organization, I think its ok to send your resume to someone you know, but if you do not know the person and he or she has not requested resumes, try your luck with HR. CFR has a very thorough HR department. They read EVERYTHING that is sent to them, and there is no need to worry that your materials will not be seen.

Alumni Career Panel cont. from pg 4:

building a career in international affairs. As they forge their paths into a career in international affairs, students are also reminded that they can visit Career Services in Dowling Hall to access career counseling, the career library, and other resources, that they can learn of IR relevant internships and future career events on the IR website or via its weekly e-bulletin (email: internationalrelations@tufts.edu).

Career Tip: The Role of Internships

With the senior year job hunt still fresh in her mind, Daniela Burgi-Palomino directed a number of her insights not only to the class of 2008, but also to the first, second, and third year students, emphasizing that it is never too early to begin career planning. For her, a succession of internships were critical in getting her to her current position: she was able to parlay one internship into another, taking on progressively

more responsibility and allowing her to explore different organizational settings, job types, and issue interests. Ultimately, an internship at Oxfam played a vital role in getting her noticed for her current position. While an internship does not typically mean professional entrée in most fields and organizations, Burgi-Palomino noted, doing your best work and developing networks of professionals who know your capacity can only help.

IR-Fletcher Event Addresses Regional Integration Issues

By: Kirk Lange, IR Asst Director

NAFTA and the EU provide perhaps the most familiar case studies of regional economic integration, but Central America has also been experimenting with different models of integration since the birth of the Central American Common Market in 1960. Today, DR-CAFTA (the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement) has once again



Dr. Jorge Nowalski

brought debate over integration to the fore. On February 4th, the IR and Fletcher communities were fortunate to host one of the leading experts on Central American integration, Dr. Jorge Nowalski. After introductory remarks by Fletcher professor Katrina Burgess, Nowalski, a former presidential adviser and

diplomat in the Costa Rican government and frequent advisor to UNDP and the World Bank, offered an assessment of the region's socio-economic context, and the ways in which the design of DR-CAFTA spoke to development goals or seemed to work against these. Nowalski, now Academic Director at the International Center for Sustainable Human Development (www.cidh.ac.cr), also informed students about academic and internship opportunities to investigate these issues further at his Costa Rica based institute.

IR Program

Tips from the IR Office

Missed the IR Majors Week Event? Here are a few important things you should know about declaring a major in IR.

Declaring the IR Major:

To officially declare a major in International Relations, students must submit two forms:

1. Undergraduate Major Form - Liberal Arts (blue)
- turn in to Dowling Hall
2. IR Major Supplemental Declaration Form (yellow)
- turn in to the IR Program (Cabot 605)

Both forms are available outside the IR Program office (Cabot 605). Students are encouraged to declare any-time freshman or sophomore year and need to do so by the end of sophomore year.

IR Mentors Program:

Want to ask a question from a current IR major? Recognizing that peer advice could be a valuable complement to formal faculty advising, the IR Program collaborated with students in 2005 to create the IR mentors program, which provides new and prospective IR majors with a resource for questions about major requirement, study abroad experiences, internship questions, etc.

To contact an IR mentor, please visit (<http://ase.tufts.edu/ir/leadershipmentors>), and review the numerous IR mentor profiles. Pick someone who matches your interests and email them directly.

Choosing an IR Advisor:

To complete the major declaration forms, students need the signature of an IR Core Faculty advisor. The intent is to link you to one of your most important resources as soon as you have decided to pursue IR. Majors typically choose their faculty advisor in one of two ways:

1. If they know a professor through previous course experience, they may wish to select them, pending availability.
2. They may prefer to choose an advisor on the basis of common interest or career goals even if there is no prior familiarity. (Example - Students interested in working in finance upon graduation might wish to look for an economics advisor.)

Students should review the faculty websites through the IR

website (<http://ase.tufts.edu/ir>) or departmental websites to narrow down their choices and then introduce themselves to a few prospective faculty members during their office hours in non-registration periods. This is the best way to discover shared interests and find an advisor who best suits their interests.

Before visiting a prospective faculty advisor, students should prepare an "IR Major Planning and Concentration Form" outlining both courses taken and the requirements fulfilled to that point. They should also think through what their tentative academic and career goals are and ask the faculty member to suggest how the IR major can best meet those goals. Students who need additional help finding an advisor that suits their needs should meet with the IR Program's Assistant Director during office hours.

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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.

Don't miss the Special Event Announcement on pg 5!

Upcoming Events on Campus:

Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Symposium

April 4th, 2008

Presentations in Braker 001 and Tisch Library

(Visit the <http://ase.tufts.edu/undergradeducation/> for more information)

2008 Senior Honors Thesis Exchange

April 23rd, 2008

12:00pm - 1:30pm, Crane Room, Paige Hall

