

International Relations

news & views

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Tufts Program In International Relations

A Watershed Moment for IR: 30th Anniversary, New Curriculum, and More

By: Kirk Lange, IR Assistant Director

In 1977, the International Relations Program was born at Tufts. To mark its 30th anniversary, the IR program will introduce special programming and resources during academic year 2007-08. A new IR curriculum, the first major overhaul in over a decade, will also be launched. Here's a preview of some of the most significant developments to look forward to:

30 Years

Over the last 30 years, IR has come a long way, growing into the largest undergraduate major at Tufts and earning a reputation that extends well beyond the Medford campus. As a multi-disciplinary program with more than 15 contributing departments and 75 affiliated faculty, IR today offers resources of considerable depth and breadth to its 600 plus majors. In '07-08, IR will organize and jointly sponsor a number of events that will bring our large community into discussion about some of the most pressing issues in current world affairs. Details will be found in these pages, in the weekly IR E-bulletin, and on our website in coming weeks and months.

New Curriculum

The last major curriculum restructuring in IR was in the early 1990s, when the end of the Cold War had realigned understandings of the global landscape and prompted a reorganization of the field. IR's current reform was prompted by the sense that the curriculum could be strengthened not only by ensuring relevance to a changing field, but also greater coherence in the curriculum's organization of knowledge (and requirements). The new curriculum reflects two major changes. First, two requirements previously under the Core and the Seminar Requirement will all be brought into the student's Thematic Concentration—giving it greater depth and coherence. Second, the number of concentrations a student can choose from will expand to 6—allowing students to study new and critical concerns like Global Health,

Nutrition and the Environment and The US Role in World Affairs. A set of requirements will also organize course choice within the concentrations. Please see page 3 for an overview of the new curriculum framework. Students matriculating at Tufts in Fall '07 will be asked to follow the new curriculum; students matriculated before will have the option to pursue either the existing or new curriculum.

Diplomat in Residence

A fortuitous arrangement between Tufts and the US State Department will also bring a valuable resource for learning and career development to campus in '07-08. IR has arranged jointly with the Fletcher School to host a Diplomat in Residence. The State Department places only around 15 senior diplomats in universities around the nation, so IR is particularly pleased that this individual will join our Tufts community.

Alumni

When Professor of Political Science, John Gibson, founded the IR Program in 1977, educating students for a life in international affairs was an explicit aim of the program. We still hold to that aim, and in '07-08 will seek to strengthen our links to IR Jumbos after graduation. If you are graduating in May, we want to keep you informed of forthcoming networking and career development initiatives as they unfold. To ensure you stay connected, please send an e-mail where you might be reached after commencement to internationalrelations@tufts.edu.

Whether an alum, returning student, faculty member, or friend of the IR Program, wherever 2007-08 finds you, we hope you will help us celebrate this benchmark and offer your ideas and energy as we embark on our next 30 years.



Colombian Ambassador Carolina Barco

Colombian Ambassador Visit

By: Juan Escobar, IR 2007

On March 27th, Tufts University had the pleasure of hosting Ambassador Carolina Barco, Colombia's Ambassador to the United States. The ambassador's visit to Tufts University kicked off an entire week of Colombian related events put together by the Colombian Consulate of Boston and other Colombian organizations in the Boston area. Ambassador Barco was appointed in 2006 by the president of Colombia, Alvaro Uribe, as the Ambassador to the United States. She is the daughter of a former Colombian president, Virgilio Barco, and has had an extensive career in public service, including the post of Foreign Minister which she held from 2002 to 2006. Ambassador Barco visited Tufts and other local Universities in an effort to increase awareness about Colombia and some of its most pressing issues, including the current peace process and U.S- Colombian relations.

President Bacow warmly received the Ambassador in his office, and proceeded to introduce her to an audience of about 60 Tufts students, professors, administrators, and students from other universities that gathered in the Coolidge Room to hear the ambassador speak and have lunch with her.

Continued on pg. 2

In This Issue

IR Events	p. 2	IR Students	p. 5
New Curriculum Overview	p. 3	News Articles	p. 6
IR Alumni	p. 4	Tips from IR: Studying Abroad and Transfer of Credit	p. 7

Colombian Ambassador, continued from pg. 1

The Ambassador's talk focused on the ongoing conflict in Colombia, and the peace process that has been collectively undertaken by the Colombian government and the armed groups with the support of the international community. She highlighted the efforts of the current Colombian administration in combating violence and creating security while improving the country's economy. The ambassador painted a hopeful picture for the future of Colombia. She is confident that every measure possible is being taken to put Colombia on the road to peace and economic prosperity.

According to the Ambassador, in the years since Uribe has been president, kidnappings have drastically decreased and people finally feel safe traveling through many areas of the country. The ambassador pointed to the United States as an essential partner in its war against drugs. She spoke of Plan Colombia, which has been instrumental in helping Colombia eradicate its drug problem, combat the insurgent movements, and help its internal development. With more than \$4 billion in military and development aid, the United States has become Colombia's

biggest partner in the war against drugs and violence in the country. "[US-Colombian] partnership has evolved over the past quarter century across many fronts- not only a shared fight against drug trafficking, but in a growing economic relationship, and an interest in promoting stability and integration with the Andean region and throughout the Western Hemisphere," she stated. The ambassador announced proudly that with the help of the U.S., and the innovative initiatives of President Uribe, every indicator of violence – homicides, kidnappings for extortion, massacres, and acts of terrorism- have declined significantly over the past five years; "Homicide has decreased by 50%, while massacres by 70% and kidnappings by 80%."

In addition to this, Ambassador Barco also pointed to the revival of Colombia's economy, with an increase in employment, investment and a decrease in poverty levels. Colombia has seen a 7% increase in growth in the last quarter alone, and a drop in its unemployment rate from 20% to just 11%. Foreign direct investment is higher than ever with more than 6 billion per year. US- Colombian economic have improved, and a free trade agreement is

currently under negotiations. According to the ambassador, a strong economy is a critical component in achieving peace, and she is confident in the current economic progress. "There is a new confidence in Colombia. For the first time in a generation, Colombians believe we are on the right path to peace. Our nation today is united behind a leadership and a policy that is bringing real change, and very definable progress."

The ambassador's visit to Tufts has opened a door for those interested in Colombia. The ambassador's presentation as well as the informal discussions during lunch allowed the Tufts community to learn about the situation from the government's point of view. The well-attended event is testament to the increased interest in Colombia and Latin America at Tufts, and we will hopefully have more similar Latin America related events in the future.

IR Alumni Career Events

By: Jackie Silbermann, IR 2008

On Monday, April 9th, IR students gathered to hear from Tufts alums about navigating the job market in the field of International Relations. Covering a wide range of topics, including careers in international development, government work and postgraduate education, a panel of alums, illustrating their own experiences, spoke about the numerous options available to IR majors upon graduation.

From seniors in the midst of the job-hunting process to freshmen looking to get an early start, everyone benefited from the valuable career advice that this panel of alums had to offer.



IR Alumni Career Event Panelists (from left to right): Eamon Aghdasi '02, Martina Bovey MA '06, Dominic Ju '01, and Lynn Salinger '77, Fletcher '81



From left to right: Heather Sensibaugh, Fletcher '07 talks with IR seniors, Sebastian Chaskel and Matthew Benson at the Fletcher Networking Night held on Monday, March 5th. Undergraduate students joined current Fletcher students for an evening of informal conversations and networking.

IR Program

IR New Curriculum

An Overview of the IR Major

I. Core Requirements (5 courses)

1. Introduction to the Politics of International Relations (PS 61)
2. Principles of Economics (EC 5)
3. International Economics (one course from approved list)
4. The Historical Dimension (one course from approved list)
5. Theories of Society and Culture (one course from approved list)

II. Thematic Concentration Requirement (7 courses) Most concentrations should follow the guidelines below; however, TC2 and TC3 have a few different requirements (see details in the upcoming Fall 2007 publication of the IR Handbook).

- 2 social science
- 1 history
- 1 culture
- 1 must include a critical study of the role of the US in the world.
- 1 must be a capstone course (senior seminar, honors thesis, or directed research).
- No more than 3 of the 7 courses may be an introductory level course

Choose *one* concentration from the list below:

1. Regional and Comparative Analysis (choose one sub-concentration)
 - 1a. Europe and the Former Soviet Union
 - 1b. East and Southeast Asia
 - 1c. Africa
 - 1d. Middle East and South Asia
 - 1e. Latin America
2. International Economics (choose one sub-concentration)
 - 2a. Trade
 - 2b. Finance
 - 2c. Environment
 - 2d. Development
3. Global Health, Nutrition, and the Environment
4. International Security
5. The United States in World Affairs
6. Identity and Ideology (choose one sub-concentration)
 - 6a. Political Ideologies
 - 6b. State, Empire and Colonialism
 - 6c. Constructions of Personal Identity

III. Language Requirement (8 semesters or equivalent)

IR Majors must display oral and written proficiency in a foreign language, defined as completion of eight semesters (or the equivalent) of a university-level foreign language study.

Note: If you are exempt from the Tufts six semester language requirement or you are a non-native English speaker, it does NOT necessarily mean that you are exempt from the IR language requirement. For more information on language exemptions, please refer to the IR Handbook or IR web site (<http://ase.tufts.edu/ir>).

Total # of courses for completion of the IR Major: 12 courses + Language Requirement

Watch for the August 2007 Special Edition of the IR New & Views, as well as, the Fall 2007 publication of the IR Handbook for more details on the new IR curriculum.

IR Program

IR Alumni

Reflections from an IR Alum

By: Karina Weinstein, IR 2002

I first became introduced to Tufts University through my high school, which participated in the Institute for Global Leadership's Inquiry program. For two years in a row, Inquiry brought me to the Tufts campus to discuss world affairs with other high school students. Inspired by the articulate EPIIC students who facilitated our discussions—and aware of the University's strong International Relations Program—I knew Tufts was the right place for me.

As an International Relations major with a regional focus on Latin America, I took a wide range of economics, political science and history classes. The rigorous, interdisciplinary academic program and

many hands-on learning experiences Tufts offered prepared me well for later work in the development and non-profit sectors. In particular, a study abroad opportunity in Santiago, Chile played a critical role in shaping my professional life. Two aspects of that experience stand out. Peter Winn, professor of Latin American history and founder of the Tufts in Chile program, framed our experience with an intense two week orientation which allowed us to gain a deep understanding of the historic and present day social, political and economic issues facing Chile. In Santiago I was also able to do an internship in an impoverished community which helped inspire my senior thesis and subsequent work following graduation. The International Relations Program also made possible a unique opportunity to conduct summer field research through the Anne Borghesani

Prize. Building on my internship and research, I pursued a Senior Honors Thesis when I returned to Medford—where my advisor Peter Winn's expertise on Chile and on Latin America again served as an invaluable resource.

Beyond International Relations, two other involvements at Tufts contributed immensely to my professional and personal growth: EPIIC and Ex College. I enrolled in EPIIC as a freshman and was challenged to tackle the issue of global crime, corruption and accountability. Sherman Teichman and Heather Barry dared their students to examine the world from a critical perspective and to be creative in finding solutions. The lessons I learned in EPIIC have stayed with me for many years and I constantly think back to the daunting task of organizing the symposium.

Continued on pg. 6

My Rotary Scholarship Experience

By: Emily Kenney, IR 2006

I am currently studying at the University of Cape Town on a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship. I graduated last year in International Relations, and am now working on a Masters degree in Justice and Transformation Studies. As a part of my coursework here I also have an internship at the International Center for Transitional Justice's Cape Town office.

The Ambassadorial Scholarship is similar to many other competitive international scholarships in that it typically lasts for one year, pays for airfare, university tuition and living expenses in the host country. Rotary also provides a small stipend for travel-related expenses, as they expect scholars to see much of their host country on their visit. In addition, it sets the recipient up with a host Rotary club and host Rotarian in the destination. For me, this has been one of the most special perks of the scholarship.

My host club is in Hout Bay, just outside of Cape Town. My host Rotarian allowed me to stay at his home until I found my own apartment here, and other Rotarians have gone so far as to provide me with free concert tickets and a private flight



over the Cape peninsula. Rotary is first and foremost a service organization, so I have participated in several volunteer activities that my club has organized.

Applications for Rotary Scholarships are done on a local basis, so applicants

must contact their local Rotary clubs for application deadlines. Applications materials are available online at www.rotary.org. Although Rotary provides scholarships in all academic fields, nearly all scholars hope to use the degree they obtain for the benefit of their communities, local and global, in the future. As a result, most scholars are centered around the fields of international relations, community health and political science. Scholars must be able to speak the language of the country where they hope to study, so scholarships to English-speaking countries are especially difficult to come by.

I would strongly encourage anyone considering a Master's degree program abroad to apply for this scholarship. Rotary and Rotarians have provided me with a welcoming and caring environment that I do not believe any other scholarship can provide, in addition to ample funds to study for a year in one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Please contact me at Emily.kenney@gmail.com with any questions.

IR Program

IR Students

49th Annual Academy Assembly

By: Sebastian Chaskel, IR 2007

Last February I had the honor of participating in the 49th Annual Academy Assembly at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado with the support of the International Relations' Program Conference Scholarship. This year's theme was "Continent at a Crossroads: Prosperity, Justice and Security in South America" and, being from Colombia, I was particularly interested in attending in order to learn about Latin American region from a different perspective. Upon arriving in Colorado and meeting a few cadets, I realized that we were being immersed in a unique environment that had its own subculture. There are about 5,000 cadets at the Academy who attend the Academy for free, but must work for the Air Force once they graduate. Cadets wake up early in the morning, wear uniforms, have all their meals together, and live much more structured lives than most college students. They wanted to learn about life at Tufts, and I wanted to learn about their life at the Academy. I was also surprised to see the diversity of opinion among the cadets when it came to the United States' role in Latin America. Only about half of the conference participants were American cadets. The other half was composed of cadets from Colombia, Bolivia and Brazil and American college students. Every day, we listened to two topic briefs by two distinguished speakers and divided into small roundtable groups in order to discuss the themes discussed and come to conclusions. A representative from each roundtable group met with all the other group representatives at night in order to come up with conclusions for the entire day, and on the last day all of the conference participants met



IR Senior, Sebastian Chaskel (second from the right) with members of his round table discussion group.

to come to conference conclusions. The four topic briefs were about international trade, democratization, security and market economics. I was lucky in that the leader of my assigned roundtable was Professor Terry McCoy from the University of Florida who was the speaker on international trade. The conversation in my small roundtable was particularly interesting because it soon turned into a debate about Latin American politics and the best strategies to solve the problems of inequality and poverty in the region. We did spend a lot of time discussing Venezuelan President Chavez and drawing distinctions between Chavez and other left-leaning Latin American Presidents. Nevertheless, Venezuela did not dominate our conversations. We discussed Plan Colombia and the United States' changing role in the region and the Bolivian cadets who participated in my roundtable added a unique perspective. It was extremely hard, however, to come up with conclusions. Lack of clear information

and knowledge of the effects of different policies often prevented us from reaching strong conclusions. I found it interesting to see how our conclusions at the final plenary session were slowly watered down in order to ensure that everyone agreed with them. Soon enough, we had conclusions that most of us could agree to, but which did not state much. Participating in the conference was not only fascinating for me because of what I learned about Latin America, but also because of the interactions I had with cadets and students from around the world. It was exciting to meet the Colombian cadets, people I probably would not have met in Colombia, and learn about how they made the decision to join the Colombian Air Force. It was also thrilling to listen to American cadets and understand how they view my country. Overall, attending the Academy Assembly gave me the opportunity to learn about inter-American relations and sharpen my thinking about the region. Thank you, International Relations Program, for this wonderful opportunity!

IR Program News Articles

Reflections from an IR Alum, continued from pg. 4

Besides gaining confidence and critical thinking skills, I became exposed to many international leaders and activists who came to speak to the class. EPIIC, too, played a large role in shaping my work in Chile after graduation.

Taking numerous courses at the Experimental College and serving on its board was one of my most memorable experiences at Tufts. The Ex College provides students with opportunities to think in innovative ways and to actively engage in the learning process. Robyn Gittleman and Howard Wolf serve as a wonderful support network for students who wanted to take on leadership roles and engage in active learning. While teaching a freshman Explorations course about Art

and Social Change, I learned a great deal from my students who had come to Tufts with their own great ideas and unique perspectives. The classes that I took at the Ex College, such as Global Child Labor and International Human Rights Law, provided an important complement to my other courses.

After graduation from Tufts, I received the Samuel Huntington Award to create the Esperanza Cultural Center in Santiago, Chile. I spent one year working closely with community leaders and local grassroots organizations to create a safe space for children and youth. The year I spent in Chile allowed me to put in practice what I had learned at Tufts. After returning to the United States, I started

the Esperanza Scholarship Fund which helps exceptional impoverished children attend private schools. After returning to the United States, I worked for a Jewish non-profit organization in NYC organizing social justice programs and cultural events. I am currently pursuing a Masters in Public Policy at the Kennedy School of Government. My passion is to eradicate urban poverty and create educational opportunities for children living in slums. Following that passion, I will travel to Mumbai, India this summer to work with Akanksha, a grassroots NGO that empowers slum children and youth through education. As I go, I will think of the inspiration and foundation that Tufts offered for my life's work.

Congratulations to Sigma Iota Rho's (IR Honor Society) newest members, who were honored at an induction ceremony on April 4th, 2007.



New members include (in alphabetical order): Veronica Adamson, Samira Alic, Leah Averitt, Meena Bhasin, Sebastian Chaskel, Elad Cohen, Meghan Fenzel, Margaret Fitzgerald, Matthew Fortier, Rachelle Goh, Natalie Grano, Shikha Gupta, Justin Ho, Lisa Kalajian, Sheena Keller, Joshua Kessler, Martin Kielmanowicz, Kenneth Kitchin, Kathleen Koehler, Kenneth Koh, Rachel Leven, Adam Levy, Sarah Licht, Matthew Malinowski, Miles Mattson, Sarah Newton, Julie Ng, Peter Olivier, Chao Pan, Daniela Perdomo, Caroline Pronovost, Julie Schindall, Jillian Soucy, Danielle Stein, Jarrett Szeftel, Adrienne van Nieuwenhuizen, Radosveta Vassileva, Danielle Warner, and Deborah Weiner

Tips from the IR Office

**Planning on studying abroad this summer or next year?
If so, here are some TIPS for Transferring Credits for the IR Major.**

**The transfer credit process should be completed before you leave to study abroad.
Follow the steps below (1-4) to secure pre-approval for the courses taken on
any foreign study program.**

**Please note that courses taken on Tufts AND Non-Tufts Programs must be approved by
the IR Program in order to be used to fulfill IR requirements!**

Step 1. University Credit

Non-Tufts Programs:

All transfer credit forms are done online.
To access the online transfer of credit form, go to
<http://studentservices.tufts.edu/WebCenter/>
and sign in. Print out the approval form that you receive
once the course has been approved - you will need this form,
along with the course description, when petitioning
the IR office for IR credit.

Tufts Programs:

All courses taken on Tufts Programs Abroad automatically
receive Tufts credit. However, you will still need to secure IR
Program approval for those courses to count toward
fulfillment of IR requirements.

Step 2. IR Credit

Bring copies of the completed transfer credit form and
course description along with one copy of the green
“Request for IR Credit” form for each course. Be sure to
indicate on this form specifically which IR requirement
you would like each course to fulfill.

Here’s a tip: Before coming to the IR Program, look carefully
at the list of approved courses in the *IR Handbook*. This will
provide clues as to where the course will most appropriately fit
within the IR requirement structure. For example, since there
are no political science courses offered at Tufts that have been
approved for CR3 International Economics, it is highly unlikely
that a political economy course taken abroad would count
there; similarly, if you want to use a course for CR6 Historical
Dimension, it should be pre-approved by the Tufts
History Department.

Step 3. Course Approval

Your request will be evaluated by the IR Program, which will
indicate on the green “Request for IR Credit” form whether or
not the course indicated may be used toward the IR major. The
completed form will go into your IR file; you will receive an email
from the IR Program stating the approval or non-approval of
your course for IR Credit.

Step 4. Change of Plans?

If you arrive at the host institution and find that you are unable
to take the courses you had pre-approved, you will need to go
through the transfer credit process outlined above while you
are abroad for the courses you do decide to take. It is your
responsibility to contact the relevant departments at Tufts as
well as the IR Program to secure approval. Use fax and e-mail
to complete the process in a timely manner, and you will avoid
unpleasant surprises on your return to Medford.

**Contacting the IR Program: The best way to contact the IR Program from abroad is by email
and fax, in that order.**

Email (for general inquiries):
Email (for transfer credit issues):
Fax:

internationalrelations@tufts.edu
kirk.lange@tufts.edu
(617) 627-3083

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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.

Upcoming Event: Thesis Exchange
Wednesday, April 25th
12 - 1 pm, Paige Hall

*Congratulations to the IR Class of 2007
and a special thank you and good-bye
to our graduating student assistants,
Daniella Burgi-Palomino and
Mayeluz Verdecia*

