



The International Relations Program, Honors Society, and students expand their commitment to IR at SJU and internationally.

**Hawks Abroad, p. 2**  
**IR Courses Spring 2016, p. 3**

## International Relations Program Updates

A Happy New Year!

During the fall semester, we welcomed 25 new majors, including 14 incoming frosh and 11 new majors from other parts of the campus. We also added 3 new minors.

As the IR program has continuously grown physically, we also witnessed several major developments in the program. Major highlights in this winter edition includes a new program developed by our honor society, Sigma Iota Rho (SIR). Seniors in SIR started a new mentorship program in which they pair with IR frosh and sophomore and serve as mentors throughout school year. SIR has also launched highly successful midterm and final study nights (see the picture on this page).

The IR Facebook has continued to play a major role as a communication device for the program.

We continuously strive to develop our sense of academic community among our students, alumni, and faculty members.

Kazuya Fukuoka  
Director, IR Program

### Connect with the IR Program!



Saint Joseph's University  
International Relations  
Program



@SJUIR



<http://www.sju.edu/int/academics/cas/internationalrelations>

## Sigma Iota Rho

Sigma Iota Rho (SIR), the International Relations Honor Society, launched a number of new programs this semester. Here are some of the highlights:

### Mentorship:

Freshman and sophomore IR majors were paired with seniors in SIR this semester in our new mentorship programs. In groups of 4-5, freshmen met with their senior mentors at a Meet and Greet lunch and were able to contact them throughout the semester to check in about midterms, course selection, GEP requirements and more. All sophomores were assigned to the same mentor to check in with newly declared IR majors and to have their questions about major requirements, internships, career paths, and study abroad opportunities answered.

### Midterm & Finals Study Nights:

SIR launched the first midterm and finals study nights this semester. Open to all IR majors and minors, these study nights provided opportunities for students to study with classmates, ask upperclassmen for help, write papers, and develop effective study skills. SIR partnered with PSA (the Political Science Honor Society) for the finals study night. Over 35 students attended for midterms in October, and more recently 57 students joined us in studying for finals. SIR and PSA provided pizza, cookies, chips, and soda during the three-hour study period. Thanks to all who attended; we look forward to continuing these nights next semester!



### End of Semester Meet and Greet:

The IR and POL departments hosted an end of the semester celebration for all majors and minors at Landmark Americana on the final day of classes. Over 50 students and faculty were in attendance.

## Co-Sponsored Events

In Fall 2015, the IR Program co-sponsored the following events:

- Panel Discussion, "Changes and Challenges to Human Rights and Social Justice in Latin America," SJU Latin American Studies Program (September 24)
- "The Alta Gracia Speaker Tour, "Human Rights in the Garment Industry: Meet the People Who Sew St Joseph's Clothes!" (November 3)
- Films & Lecture Series, "Ciao, Philadelphia 2015" SJU Italian Program (October and November)
- Panel Discussion, "CRISIS IN SYRIA, CRISIS IN EUROPE: The Human and Political Dimensions of The Current Refugee Emergency" (November 12)
- Documentary Screening - "Gringo Trails" (November 16)
- The 2015 ASEEES (Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies) Convention (November 19-21)

## Hawks Abroad

In this issue, we feature a student recently back from a semester abroad in Spain.

### “Seize Every Opportunity”: Adventures in Spain

By Kierra Dolton '17

As an IR major, studying abroad was never a question for me. Before I knew where I wanted to attend college, I already had plans to study abroad. This past fall, I spent four months in Madrid, Spain. Not only did I fall in love with Spain, but it changed me. I met some incredible people from around the world, including Olympians, backpackers with Ph.Ds., and polyglots traveling to learn languages. I traveled to 9 countries and 21 cities, which only fueled my desire to travel more. I stood above the clouds in the Swiss Alps, hiked through waterfalls near a Spanish monastery, rode a camel, and bartered with Moroccan vendors.



A girl once told me to seize every opportunity while abroad, and that is what I did.

The only questions that remain are whether it was all worth it; whether I have regrets; and whether I would recommend studying abroad. My answer to each question is simple: yes. Studying abroad was worth more than I could have imagined. I learned more in four short months than I have ever

learned in my life. Aside from the classes I took and the culture I immersed myself in, I learned how to leave a piece of my heart in each place that I visited and with each person that I befriended. As for regrets, only one comes to mind: time. I wish that I could have seen more, eaten more, and slept less, but in my opinion, those are not true regrets; they are signs that I made the most out of my experience. Finally, I would recommend studying abroad to everyone who has considered it. I have never met a person who regretted studying abroad; but I have met many people who wish that they had.

## Bringing IR Outside the Classroom

### *International Relations Society*

The IR Society (IRS) is the official SJU student organization for anyone interested in international affairs and global news and events. This Fall the IR Society held a pizza party as well as a Quizzo night to test everyone on their global knowledge! For any questions, contact: [sjuir society@gmail.com](mailto:sjuirsociety@gmail.com)

### *IR Twitter*

With 196 followers, our IR twitter keeps students, faculty, and alumni up to date on breaking news both in the world and in the IR program.

### *IR Facebook*

Along with IR Twitter, IR Facebook has become an indispensable tool for the program to communicate with students, alumni, and the outside world. On this page, along with announcements of upcoming on-campus events, IR faculty members also share articles/links they find interesting. This way, we are trying to share with our students (and perhaps people outside the campus) the ways we acquire the information about on-going global issues. We believe it is very important that the IR program, faculty and students, share what we study, publish, and achieve. The number of followers is now over 210. This semester we covered a lot about global climate change, ISIS, the presidential election, Russia, the Paris attacks, and the European migration crisis.

## International Relations Faculty

### IR Committee

Lisa Baglione (POL)  
 Divya Balasubramaniam (ECN)  
 James Carter (HIS)  
 Melissa Chakars (HIS)  
 Kazuya Fukuoka (POL), Director  
 Richard Gioioso (POL)  
 Cristian Pardo (ECN)

### Affiliated Faculty

Amber Abbas (HIS)  
 Milica Bookman (ECN)  
 Erik Huneke (HIS)  
 Susan Liebell (POL)  
 Benjamin Liebman (ECN)  
 Katherine Sibley (HIS)  
 Brian Yates (HIS)

### Newsletter Editor

Caley Rolt '16  
 Andrew Cheatile '16

## International Relations Courses Spring 2016

### *Economics*

ECN 101 Introductory Economics (MICRO) / MULTIPLE SECTIONS  
 ECN 102 Introductory Economics (MACRO) / MULTIPLE SECTIONS  
 ECN 321 International Trade / Liebman T 2:00-3:15  
 ECN 477 Chinese Economy / Balasubramaniam TR 3:30-4:45

### *History*

HIS 202 American History 1865 to the Present / Miller TR 8:00-9:15  
 HIS 202 American History 1865 to the Present / Sibley TR 2:00-3:15  
 HIS 340 Stalinism 1920s to 1950s / Chakars MWF 11:15-12:05  
 HIS 343 African Ethnicities / Yates MWF 2:30-3:20  
 HIS 357 History of Islam in Asia / Abbas T 2:00-3:15  
 HIS 389 Modern Gender & Sexuality in Global Perspective / Huneke  
 MWF 1:25-2:15

### *International Relations*

IRT 211 World Regional Geography / Gioioso TR 3:30-4:45

### *Political Science*

POL 113 Intro to Comparative Politics / Fukuoka MWF 11:15-12:05  
 POL 115 Intro to International Politics / Gioioso TR 9:30-10:45  
 POL 231 Soph Sem: 1989/2011 / Baglione MWF 2:30-3:20  
 POL 305 Politics, Ideology, and Film / Liebell R 6:30-9:15  
 POL 336 Euro Politics & the Euro Union / Baglione MWF 1:25-2:15  
 POL 337 Cuban Politics & Society / Gioioso TR 5:00-6:15  
 POL 350 Haunted by Past: Memory & Reconciliation / Fukuoka MWF  
 12:20-1:10  
 POL 403 Sr Seminar: Nations & Nationalisms / Fukuoka MW 3:35-4:50  
 POL 491 Philadelphia-Area Internship / Liebell

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<http://www.sju.edu/int/academics/cas/internationalrelations/index.html>