International Relations Program Updates

In this edition, we highlight our wonderful graduates and celebrate the Program’s accomplishments. If we missed you, we apologize! Please tell us your good news! 😊

IR had a great end of the semester. Highlights included the return of alumna Dr. Mary Fran Malone ’95, a discussion on the normalization of Cuban-American Relations led by Dr. Gioioso, Julia Burke ’15, and Kevin Barrow ‘15, a presentation on the history and culture of Mongolia, and a conversation on graduate school between Drs. Gioioso and Baglione and many students.

I look forward to Dr. Fukuoka’s return next fall and hope you have a great summer. I encourage all of you to contribute to Sigma Iota Rho, either the online or the published version. For the digital version, SIR is looking for short pieces -- book reviews and op-eds. Think about writing something this summer based on what you are reading or thinking. For those of you who have longer papers of which you are proud, consider submitting them to the print version. For more information, see http://www.sigmaiotarho.org/about-the-journal/. Honestly, your faculty want to support you in these efforts, so share an idea or draft with us via e-mail, and really, really consider submitting.

Lisa Baglione
Acting Director, IR Program

Congratulations, Graduates!

The International Relations Program proudly recognizes the accomplishments of this year’s graduates:

- Emma Balkin
- Erin Caffrey *
- John Contosta
- Patrick Curley
- Megan Duffy ***
- Timothy Ferguson
- Laurence Roy **
- Dominique Viel ***
- David Furman
- Silvia Garcia Pena *
- Kevin Harburda
- Taylor Heil
- Graziella Iole
- Kathleen Karpicki
- Gabrielle Saxon
- Anna Kesaris
- Michael Kowalek
- Elise Moore
- Anne Mrazak *
- James Muehring
- Christophe Rodelli
- Michael Iacono Walsh

* cum laude  ** magna cum laude  *** summa cum laude

Please know that we hope you will always keep in touch with the Program, as well as individual faculty members. Best wishes to all!

The Program hosted a wonderful reception in the Presidents’ Lounge, in conjunction with the History and Political Science Departments, prior to the graduation ceremony. The party was a wonderful time for faculty to meet parents and guests and for students to gather for one last time.

Students Committed to Service!

The IR Program is proud of the great number of its graduating seniors who have given of themselves throughout their time at SJU in weekly service and service immersion trips. You do us proud in your solidarity with and service to others. Some like, Graziella Iole, have a four-year service resume that is truly impressive, including helping others even when she was studying abroad! As a senior, Graziella participated in the POL Internship course and worked at Lutheran Children and Family Services in their Refugee Resettlement department. Graziella continues this work with newcomers to the US throughout the summer and hopes that her post-grad plans include working with immigrants and refugees.

Anne Mrazik is going to be using her IR major, Latin American Studies minor, and Spanish language proficiency in a year of service with the Border Servant Corps http://www.borderservantcorps.org/. Congratulations, Anne!
Senior Spotlight

In this issue, we feature six graduating seniors for their honors, Erin Caffrey, Laurence (Lauren) Roy, Anna Kesaris, Patrick Curley, Dominique Viel, and Megan Duffy.

Erin Caffrey has been the President of Sigma Iota Rho in its inaugural year, and in that capacity she has been a tireless promoter of the IR Program. In addition to her service to us, she maintained an outstanding academic record which led to her induction into the nation’s oldest and arguably most prestigious honor society, Phi Beta Kappa. Erin presented her fall senior capstone paper “Rated PRC: A Study of Film Censorship and National Unity in China” at the Greater Philadelphia Asian Studies Consortium (GPASC) at Villanova this April. Her paper examined the extent to which the conventional wisdom that the government of China controls the film industry for the purpose of creating national unity is true and whether or not these policies have been successful overtime. Erin found that in some time periods this dominant perspective was true, but not in all. Sometimes, threats to the nation, like during Tiananmen, drove censorship.

Lauren Roy has been a four-year varsity athlete (women’s tennis) who came to IR after entering SJU as an International Business major. Wanting more of a challenge (her words), she changed majors after spending a semester in Leuven, Belgium interning at the EU and taking classes in History, Political Science, and Economics. This semester, Lauren earned an honorable mention for outstanding work on gender issues with her senior seminar paper, “Building Peace like a Girl: Gender and the Reconstruction of Bosnia-Herzegovina,” which she submitted to the Gender Studies Program’s Clavan Prize competition.

Anna Kesaris is an IR major who also earned her B.S. in Biology (many of us can say is “Wow!” to that achievement). Like Erin, Anna presented a paper at GPASC based on her spring Contemporary Peace building seminar. In “Land of Beauty, Corruption of the Beast: The Power of Government Legitimacy in Sri Lankan Peace Building,” Anna investigated how an ethnically divided country that has suffered a brutal civil war can move toward a sustainable and multifaceted peace. Anna found that the military success of the government in defeating rebel fighters combined with policies that have sought to provide the minority with some say have worked in the short-run to reduce violence and improve living conditions for Sri Lankans. The state today has more legitimacy and that legitimacy is central to building peace. Thus, “give-war-a-chance” may work as an early strategy for peace, but only if governments follow with wise policies thereafter to provide benefits for the defeated.

Patrick Curley is an Economics and IR double major who spent all last year studying at the London School of Economics and performed a year of research under the mentorship of Dr. Ben Liebman. His thesis “An Economic Analysis of Intellectual and Property Rights in Section 337 Investigations by the US International Trade Commission” earned him Departmental Honors. In addition, Pat also shared his senior seminar paper at the GPASC. Pat argued in “Developing Theory: Economic Development as the Crucial Factor for Peace in Indonesian Provinces,” that being better off economically was actually a detriment to regions seeking to secure autonomy and peace. Indonesia let separatists from poor areas have more control over their fate, while those from more valuable areas remained under the center’s thumb, thus generating more backlash to that domination and confrontation with Jakarta.

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Senior Spotlight

Dominique Viél has a double major in English and International Relations and is a prolific writer, activist, and perfectionist (in all the best ways). She has earned Departmental Honors for her senior project, a young adult novel, Just Remember, written under the mentorship of Dr. April Lindner in the English Department. (And this is not her first such work. Dominique is seeking a literary agent, and she hopes to have this most recent novel published someday soon.) In addition, Dominique has been working on issues of health and services for pediatric patients. After volunteering for many years at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), Dominique has started her own nonprofit organization InvisiYouth Charity, which will launch in June. This charity promotes awareness and fundraising for teens in pediatric care with medical conditions. And even with her writing and activism, Dominique still has the time (and the brainpower) to be an excellent student. She is graduating with General Honors, summa cum laude, and she was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa as a junior, an honor that typically goes to fewer than 10 SJU graduating students each year (less than one percent of the class). Dominique is also a member of Alpha Sigma Nu, the prestigious Jesuit honor society which recognizes “students who distinguish themselves in scholarship, loyalty to the ideals of Jesuit education, and service to others” (http://alphasigmanu.org/). Finally, the IR Program owes Dominique a huge thank you for her leadership of the new IR Society - a group designed for students interested in discussing international affairs and promoting campus awareness of world events.

Megan Duffy received the graduation award in International Relations from the IR program. Megan earned General Honors for completing the Honors curriculum, as well as Departmental Honors for a thesis on Russian foreign policy, "Reinforcing an Illusion: Putin's 'Created Reality' and Russian Foreign Policy toward the Former Soviet Republics." An outstanding effort, Megan won a Claver Prize from the University for her honors thesis. Earlier in the year, Megan’s senior capstone paper, “New York or Nashe: A Study of National Identity Fluctuation in Russia, 1991-2014,” was among the first selected for presentation at Georgetown University’s Walsh Exchange, a student conference for outstanding papers in foreign policy and global affairs. Megan was one of only twelve students selected from around the country to participate in this weekend of events, including presentations, lectures, professional development, and discussions held at the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University (https://walshex.wordpress.com/2015-conference/2015-presenters/). Megan’s 2014 Summer Scholar’s project contributed to this work and her honors thesis. Megan was elected to both Alpha Sigma Nu and Phi Beta Kappa in 2015, and she had an internship at the University of Pennsylvania’s Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program in fall 2014. In previous years, she volunteered at the ELS Center working with adult English-language learners and on political campaigns. In addition to her IR major, Megan graduated with English, Political Science, and Philosophy minors.

IR Society News

The International Relations Society (IRS), a student club founded to promote community among IR majors and the discussion of and interest in world affairs, selected a new leader. Tatiana Pulido will be the IRS President next year, taking over from Dominique Viél who did a fantastic job in 2014-15.

Honors Society News

The members of Sigma Iota Rho have chosen officers for 2015-16. They are:

- Caley Rolt, President
- Andrew Cheatle, Newsletter Coordinator
- Bailey McIntyre, Recruitment Coordinator
- Mary Korchak, Event Coordinator

Congratulations, officers! And everyone should realize that the honors society and IR program depend on the efforts of its officers; this is not simply honorific. While welcoming in our new staff, we need to show our gratitude to our wonderful staff from last year: Erin Caffrey, Dominique Viel, Silvia Garcia, and Caley Rolt. You were a wonderful help, and your faculty thanks you for all you did. So new officers, you have big shoes to fill. We look forward to watching you keep up!
Late Spring 2015 Events

IR sponsored/co-sponsored events at the end of the semester

| Fri 3/27 | President’s Lounge, 5-6:30 pm | Honor Society Induction. Reception and induction for Sigma Iota Rho, the International Relations Honor Society. |
| Tues 4/28 | Barbelin 264, 11-12:15 | Information Session. “Thinking about Graduate School in Political Science, International Relations or Public Policy/Public Admin? When and Why to Go,” hosted by Drs. Baglione & Gioioso |
| | | Class Discussion. Conversation with Dr. Mary Fran T. Malone on her book, The Rule of Law in Central America with the students in POL 331 Latin American Politics. *** |
| | | Dr. Malone is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of New Hampshire. ***also funded by the Karen and Ronald Thomas Family Fund |
| Tues 5/5 | Landmark Restaurant, 1-3 pm | End-of-Year Meet & Greet. Students and faculty get-together to celebrate the end of the semester. |

Other News

Congratulations to Caley Rolt! She was one of an extremely select group of juniors inducted into Phi Beta Kappa this May.

International Relations Faculty

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

Affiliated Faculty
Amber Abbas (HIS)
Milica Bookman (ECN)
Richard Gioioso (POL)
Erik Huneke (HIS)
Susan Liebell (POL)
Benjamin Liebman (ECN)
Katherine Sibley (HIS)
Richard Warren (HIS)
Brian Yates (HIS)

Newsletter Editor
Caley Rolt ‘16

International Relations Courses Fall 2015

Economics
ECN 101 Introductory Economics (MICRO) / MULTIPLE SECTIONS
ECN 102 Introductory Economics (MACRO) / MULTIPLE SECTIONS
ECN 322 Intl Macroeconomics / Pardo TR 12:30-1:45

History
HIS 210 Hist Intro to Modern Africa / Yates MWF 2:30-3:20
HIS 311 Nazism-Fascism Global Perspective / Huneke MWF 1:25-2:15
HIS 359 India & Pakistan: Colony to Nation / Abbas MWF 3:30-4:45
HIS 491 Philadelphia-Area Internship / Chakars

International Relations
IRT 250 Research & Writing in IR / Baglione MWF 10:10-11:00
IRT 495 IR Sr Capstone: Natns & Natlisms / Fukuoka MW 3:35-4:50

Political Science
POL 113 Intro to Comp Politics / Baglione MWF 9:05-9:55
POL 115 Intro to Global Politics / Gioioso TR 3:30-4:45 or 5-6:15
POL 334 Russian Politics / Baglione TR 9:30-10:45
POL 352 Global Political Econ/ Gioioso TR 9:30-10:45
POL 364 IR of East Asia / Fukuoka MWF 12:20-1:10