



The International Relations Program expands its presence both in and outside of the classroom during the Fall 2014 semester.

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International Relations Program Updates

We welcomed 18 new IR Majors and 6 new IR Minors this past fall. The IR program has steadily developed this fall semester with the exciting addition of these new students and the development of several key projects.

This winter edition of the International Relations Newsletter updates our current and new projects. Our IR honor society, Sigma Iota Rho, has just started a new mentorship program. Also our student organization, the IR Society, has expanded its network. The IR Facebook page has become an indispensable tool for the program to connect to the students, alumni, and the outside world.

In this issue, we also feature two students currently abroad, both a current and a past student. The newsletter also includes a short interview with Dr. Melissa Chakars (IR/History) regarding her recent book on indigenous people in Russia.

Through those current and new projects, we continuously strive to develop our sense of academic community among our students, alumni, and faculty members.

Kazuya Fukuoka
Director, IR Program

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

IR Program Projects & Developments

Co-Sponsored Events

In Fall 2014, the IR Program co-sponsored the following events;

- Public Service and the Law Networking Night (Oct 1)
- "China Town Hall" (Oct 16)
- "Panel Discussion: The Fall of the Berlin Wall: 1989 in Historical and Contemporary Perspective" (Oct 23)
- "Representing the U.S. in Latin America, 1975-2014" by the Honorable John Caulfield ('73), former U.S. Chief of Mission (Oct 23)
- Panel Discussion: "The Fall of the Berlin Wall: 1989 in Historical and Contemporary Perspectives" (Nov 13)

Sigma Iota Rho and a New Mentorship Program

This Fall semester, IR's honor society, Sigma Iota Rho (SIR), began a mentorship program with incoming IR students. In this program, IR juniors and seniors are paired with new IR students to be a friend and a resource. Mentors answer questions about registration, courses, professors, study abroad, and other opportunities to get involved on campus, including clubs, trips, service, and more. We hope that this will be great new tradition for SIR and the IR Program. We appreciate the initiative and leadership of Erin Caffrey ('15), SIR President.

International Relations Society

The IR Society (IRS) is the official student organization of the IR Program and has spent the past year building a community for all IR majors and minors. Through events such as Quizzo night and IR Meet and Greet/Happy Hour, IRS is trying to unite the IR student body. For any questions, contact: [sjuir society@gmail.com](mailto:sjuirsociety@gmail.com)

Open Houses

SJU has held two Open Houses this fall. Both Sigma Iota Rho and the IR Society sent their members to represent the International Relations program. Along with IR faculty members, they spoke with potential SJU applicants and their family members about the IR major and opportunities for IR majors at SJU. Those IR students include John Contosta ('15), Taylor Heil ('15), Bailey McIntyre ('16), Caley Rolt ('16), and Lauren Roy ('15).

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 170. We covered a lot about American foreign policies, Russia, ISIS, and North Korea.

Hawks Abroad

In this issue, we feature two students currently abroad, both a current and a past student.

An IR Major's Journey from Hawk Hill to Spain

By Joseph Cerrone '14

Almost all college students wonder what they will use their degrees for after graduation. This is particularly true for International Relations majors, who have a wide variety of potential careers to choose from. After graduating last year I decided to gain some firsthand international experience by moving to Spain to work as an English language and culture teaching assistant.

I applied through the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE). This non-governmental organization facilitates teach abroad programs around the world and offers invaluable guidance throughout the year spent abroad.



While placements are available all over Spain, I obtained a spot in a bilingual primary school just north of Madrid; this allows me to live in the capital city and commute to work. Since I am a teaching assistant, but not the primary instructor, I only work four days a week (for a total of 16 classroom hours) and receive a moderate monthly stipend from my school.

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Costa Rica: Environmental Sustainability and Human Rights

By Allison Hinkel '16

During my semester here in Costa Rica, my month long course at EARTH University has been one of the most eye opening experiences I have ever experienced in my life. EARTH University is well known for their agronomy and sustainability program. Students learn about different aspects of agronomy and how to create sustainable projects back in their home countries, promoting a more sustainable lifestyle in less developed countries around the world. EARTH University promotes the idea of community development --

a result of globalization. The passion of the students here in wanting to create a more sustainable world is inspirational.

Here at EARTH I have had the opportunity to relocate banana plants, learn about dairy farms, work on a family-run farm, find solutions to the problems caused by pineapple farms, meet hundreds of students from around the world, understand how a bio-digester works (and how cool it is to convert animal waste into energy), as well as create my own project which I plan on implementing at SJU once I return.

After my class at EARTH University, I began a new class, focusing on Human Rights in Central America. I have learned much about politics between the United States and many countries in Central and South America,

My day-to-day responsibilities in the second and third grade classrooms include helping students complete assignments, working one-on-one to improve students' pronunciation, collaborating with my lead teachers, and serving as a general language and cultural resource for the school.

Living in Europe is also a dream come true for a student of International Relations such as myself. There are countless opportunities to explore the region and continent, seeing firsthand places I have studied about for years. Being immersed in a foreign culture and language is a highly educational experience, and has led me to appreciate even more the topics I studied in college.

which I was unaware of before. It is very different to see and learn from a perspective different than the United States perspective.

From wanting to reduce my ecological footprint in order to become more self-sustainable to becoming more aware of different perspectives in regards to politics I have grown in so many different ways. And of course I have had a ton of fun along the way and could not be happier with the experience I have had here so far.



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International Education Symposium

The Center for International Programs (CIP) held an International Education Symposium on November 20, and

five IR students made poster presentations and discussed their global / cross-cultural experiences, studies, and internships during their time abroad.

Those students includes, Pat Curley '15 (UK), Taylor Heil '15 (Germany), Graziella Ioele '15 (Italy), Anna Kesaris '15 (Belgium), and Gabby Saxon '15 (Belgium).

Meet the Faculty: Dr. Melissa Chakars (History)

Dr. Chakars recently published her book entitled *The Socialist Way of Life in Siberia: Transformation in Buryatia* (Central European University Press, 2014), which discusses the Buryats, indigenous peoples of Siberia, and their experiences as well as their political and social position in the Soviet era and present day Russia.

Q: Would you tell us how your academic interest in indigenous groups started?

A: I have always had an awareness of indigenous people and their experiences. I am from Colorado and my father worked on a Navajo Reservation.

Q: Can you tell us about your experiences in Russia? How did they impact the way you developed your research?

A: I spent a year in the Russian Far East as an undergrad in the mid 1990s. I traveled a lot in Siberia and met a lot of people. Because of my experience there and my interest in indigenous people's experiences, I went to graduate school at Indiana University for History, concentrating in Russian and Mongolian studies. I wanted to study the indigenous people of Russia, including the Buryats. [...] I also took two trips to the Buryatia for research. These were productive trips, but they were sometimes also difficult because there are limits on the archives in Russia. It is also harder to get at people's feelings from the Soviet period sometimes because of censorship and fear, so instead I have focused more on information about institutions for my research.

Q: How do you incorporate your passion for Russian history and understanding indigenous people in your classes here at SJU?

A: I'm teaching a course on the Mongol Empire [HIS 339 The Mongol Empire 1100-1500] next semester, which definitely ties to the Buryats and the country of Russia, which was once a part of the Mongol Empire. Also I try to bring up ideas and issues of nationality, ethnicity, empire and minorities in all my classes from HIS 154 Forging the Modern World to Imperial Russian History and everything in between. Last fall I even brought a man who is seeking asylum in the US into my Imperial Russian History course to speak to students.

Q: What has your research on the Buryats for your book led you to investigate further?

A: I have studied many subjects because in studying a whole people, such as the Buryats, you learn about many different aspects of their culture and society, from gender and women's experiences to how Russian institutions and literature are markers of national identity.

Q: Would you tell us about your future projects?

A: That's a difficult question because I'll have to hold myself to whatever I answer. I would like to further explore the history of Buddhism in all of Russia, not just amongst the traditionally Buddhist peoples of Russia. These topics haven't been researched before, so the research will be new.

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

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Milica Bookman (ECN)
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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 Spring 2015

Economics

ECN 101 Introductory Economics (MICRO) / MULTIPLE SECTIONS
ECN 102 Introductory Economics (MACRO) / MULTIPLE SECTIONS
ECN 475 Asian Economies / Balasubramaniam MWF 10:10-11:00
ECN 370 Economic Development / Bookman T 2:00-3:15, W 2:30-3:45

History

HIS 202 American History 1865-Present / MULTIPLE SECTIONS
HIS 206 Intro to East Asia / Carter MWF 11:15-12:05
HIS 301 U.S. and Latin America / Warren MWF 10:10-11:00
HIS 356 Modern South Asia / Abbas MWF 2:30-3:20
HIS 381 U.S. as a Global Power, 1914-Present / Sibley TR 12:30-1:45

International Relations

IRT 211 World Regional Geography / Gioioso MWF 9:05-9:55

Political Science

POL 115 Intro to International Politics / Gioioso MWF 10:10-11:00
POL 331 Latin American Politics / Gioioso MWF 1:25-2:15
POL 335 Comp Politics of MENA/ TBA TR 12:30-1:45
POL 404 SrSem: Contemp Intl Peacemaking / Baglione TR 9:30-10:45
POL 491 Philadelphia-Area Internship / Liebell