The Center for Forced Migration Studies (CFMS), founded and directed by Galya Ruffer, International Studies Program Director, provides a way for international studies students to learn about and research issues in refugee protection, resettlement, law and policy. Housed at the Buffett Center for International and Comparative Studies, the CFMS integrates naturally into the IS curriculum where students study topics such as international security, international development, human rights, global health and international organizations which they then have the opportunity to put into practice in applying the knowledge to the causes and consequences of refugee movement. This winter quarter IS was pleased to be able to draw Tara Magner, Senior Counsel to the Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, to teach a professional linkage seminar on refugee law and policy. According to IS Major Andrea Silva, “Getting a chance to learn about refugee issues by reading relevant cases, analyzing them, and applying basic refugee laws from one who is currently working in Washington is amazing. Professor Magner gives great insight into what decision makers in Washington are accomplishing in regards to refugee policy”. 

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Get to know the Global Café

Every year we recruit some outstanding graduate students to mentor our undergrads to become leaders in a global world. Learn about this year’s cohort of mentors below:

Juri Bottura is a third-year student in the History PhD program and a member of the Latin American Studies Cluster. He specializes in modern Brazil and he is devising a dissertation project on 20th-century right-wing agrarian reformism in Brazil under the guidance of Professor Brodwyn Fischer. His broader academic interests include fields as diverse as political and intellectual history, Brazilian and Spanish American literature, and Italian studies. He earned the equivalent of an Honors degree in History and Geography in his own country (University of Trento, Italy) and two MA’s in the United States: one in Latin American Studies at Vanderbilt University, and one in History here at Northwestern.

“I had the opportunity to mentor undergraduate students in small groups when at Vanderbilt, and to work as a TA here at Northwestern both in International Studies and History courses. They have been among the most rewarding experiences. I consider the Global Café program a unique chance for me to keep providing advice and improving my skills while I contribute to undergraduates’ learning, especially in areas that are decisive in a variety of careers: the formulation of research questions, the collection and analysis of data, and the process of writing.”

Arda Gucler is an Advanced Ph.D. Candidate at the Department of Political Science. His dissertation project combines political theory and international relations, specifically the political representation of the Kurdish population in Turkey. My other interests include the questions related to human rights and refugee resettlement.

“This is my fourth year teaching at Northwestern University and it was with Global Café that I had a chance for the first time to work with students on their thesis projects. My teaching philosophy when it comes to writing a thesis is to value the process of writing. I believe that once you learn how to tackle problems as you progress in your project, your writing improves quite substantially. So my advice for interested students would be to use Global Café as frequently as possible and let us work with you to make this journey worthwhile.”

Laila Ballout is a fourth year in the History department. She specializes in the relationship between the United States and the Middle East during the late Cold War. Her dissertation explores the relationship between the United States and Lebanon during the Lebanese Civil War from 1975 to 1990 with a particular interest in the role of religion and the media.

“Too often people think of writing as a solitary project—I think it’s wonderful to have a space like Global Café where students can come, hash out ideas and get feedback. I feel like the process of verbalizing thoughts and engaging in dialogue with other people about your ideas is critical to clarifying your own thinking. I feel lucky to have the opportunity to work with and learn from our amazing undergrads!”

Asst. Director Note continued from page 1

teaching all across the world! One of the greatest resources we have are our wonderful alumni and now you can create direct links to them via the International Studies group page. They can be found all across the U.S. and throughout many parts of the world working in non-profits, media, government and the arts. If you are a current IS major or an IS alumni and would like access to group just email us at international-studies@northwestern.edu. Speaking of alumni, be sure to check out former IS major, Doug Kuzniar’s article about life after Northwestern on the following page!

We had a great start to the year will continue with more programming, career opportunities, and student support during spring quarter. See you all soon!

-Bianca Ramirez
After my time at Oxford, I returned to Northwestern and began working in business (and love it), I would have laughed them off. Truth be told, I wasn’t entirely sure what I wanted to do when I graduated. I did, however, know that I was not interested in a business-focused position. Looking back now, of course, I can see the steps that helped guide me to my current role with the British Government and I can easily say that my International Studies major was key.

I originally decided to take on an IS major because, like so many others, I found the classes incredibly interesting and was easily able to incorporate the degree plan into my Political Science track. I spent my first two years really figuring out what I wanted to study, taking a myriad of classes across several different disciplines. I eventually decided on Middle Eastern politics, but that’s (somewhat) besides the point.

As I learned more and more about how the world works, I developed a real interest in actually going out and seeing it up close and personal for myself. Half way through my sophomore year, I started to discuss studying abroad with the IS Department. Professor Frank Safford, the head of the IS program at the time, walked me through the entire process and helped guide me to my current role with the British Government. My seminar paper ultimately touched on many of the same job market themes I explored in my thesis, albeit from a more general, globalized world sense.

Upon graduating from Northwestern, I accepted a merit-based half tuition scholarship to study International Relations at the University of Chicago. I completed my MA in the summer of 2008, just as the housing market and overall economy were starting to go under. It was a little ironic and humorous (at first) when I had trouble finding a full-time position, one that matched my interests and background. But it got old, really fast.

I know now that I was slightly disillusioned when I finished at U of C. Like so many of my classmates and friends that graduated before me, I figured that I would have my pick of meaningful, well-paying positions after studying for five years. Unfortunately, that is just not the case in this economy. My one piece of advice for upcoming graduates is to not feel entitled. Rather, (apologies again for the cliches) work hard, keep learning, and don’t give up on what you really want to do.

After spending several months looking for full-time jobs on all the major job recruitment sites, I turned to Craigslist on the advice of a friend. I found a listing for an internship at the British Consulate-General, Chicago. I applied, got the internship, and secured a full-time position (it opened up upon my arrival) within two weeks. Moral of the story: Don’t be too good for an internship.

Currently, I work in the commercial section of the British Consulate-General, which is known formally as “UK Trade & Investment” (UKTI). UKTI is the official international business development agency of Her Majesty’s Government and it has two parent bodies: the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.
Catching up with our Alumni, continued from previous page

Those parent bodies task UKTI with two main objectives: assist British companies to export via a tailored consultancy service and encourage foreign direct investment into the country. I specifically sit in the Life Sciences sector, which means I work with British and American Biotechnology, Pharmaceutical, and Healthcare companies.

The aspect I enjoy most about my job is that I am actually helping to create jobs. When we assist British companies break into the Midwestern market here in the US, they develop their business and eventually (if everything goes right) build facilities in the US and hire employees. It’s the same on the flip side: When we encourage US firms to go to the UK (and make no mistake companies need to internationalize these days if they want to keep growing), we help ensure their business stays strong so, for example, they don’t have to let workers go due to low sales.

As I first alluded to, don’t be afraid to work in an industry just because you have some silly preconceived notions about it. And be open to working in a sector that you might not be the most familiar with. As long as you’re ready to learn on day one and can be passionate about what you’re doing at the end of the day, you’ll be just fine.

Doug Kuzniar graduated in June 2007 with a double major in Political Science and International Studies. His senior thesis in Political Science was entitled, “Governance by the Taliban: The Development and Installation of Radical Islam in Afghanistan.”

The Newsletter of the International Studies Program

Phone: 847.491.7980
E-mail: international-studies@northwestern.edu
Web: http:www.northwestern.edu/intstudy
Program Director: Galya Ruffer, J.D., Ph.D.
Asst. Director: Bianca Ramirez, M.A.
Program Assistant: Victoria Schiffman

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International Studies Newsletter edited by:
Bianca Ramirez, Asst. Director
Galya Ruffer, Director
International Studies: Classroom Focus on Development

The International Studies office, in line with the University Strategic Plan, was thrilled to once again offer students the opportunity of learning how to engage with the world through our course entitled, Intro to International Development: Issues and Practices. The University Strategic Plan calls for us to engage locally, nationally, and internationally to heighten our global impact for the greater good and this precisely the goal of the International Studies Program. This unique course, offered winter quarter, was a survey of leading international development issues, such as education, microfinance, health, women’s empowerment, sustainable development, poverty alleviation, urbanization, corruption, and violent conflict, and contemporary approaches to address them. This comprehensive course also hosted frequent guest lectures by prominent development experts who brought insights and lessons from their own experiences.

Joining our faculty cohort this year were two shining stars in the international studies field. Ambassador Williamson who has served in several government positions including US Ambassador to the UN Commission on Human Rights, Senior Staff in the White House, Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations, Ambassador to the United Nations for Special Political Affairs and the President’s Special Envoy to Sudan among other posts. He is the author of 8 books and editor of 3 volumes. He has taught at NU since 2009 and taught an IS course this past winter on Human Rights and U.S. Foreign Policy. Tara Magner is Senior Counsel to the Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont. Her issue responsibilities include immigration, refugee protection, human rights, and national security matters. She has served as a member of Pres. Obama’s Transition Policy Working Group on Immigration, Commissioner on the American Bar Assoc.’s Commission on Immigration, Director of Policy at the National Immigrant Justice Center in Chicago, and Deputy Director of the Winston Foundation. This winter quarter she taught a course entitled, International and American Refugee Foreign Policy. Both courses were filled to capacity before winter registration even ended. Given the high level of student interest, be on the lookout for more innovative and engaging IS course in the upcoming quarters.

A Hidden Treasure: Explore your University

Most users of the Northwestern University Library (NUL) are very familiar with its general collection and services. Who has not heard the call of the books and had to rush to the towers to select a volume to read for research or leisure? One can sit at home in his or her pajamas and find vast amounts of information by searching a plethora of databases and electronic journals. Students can even ask a real life human being for research assistance at the Information Commons or Reference Desk. However, many members of the University community are still unaware of the treasure trove of information riches located in the University Library.

One of these hidden jewels is the U.S. Federal Documents Collection. On July 4, 1876 Senator John A. Logan designated the current Government and Geographic Information and Data Services Department a Federal Depository Library to commemorate the centennial of the United States. As a member of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP), NUL collects, organizes, maintains, and provides access to U.S. government information distributed by the country’s largest publisher, the Government Printing Office (GPO).

What does this mean for the typical International/Area Studies Scholar? Well, the U.S. Federal Documents Collection is an interdisciplinary social sciences collection and is a really great asset because not only does it have tons of publications put out by the U.S. State Department but also really wonderful resources pertaining to U.S. foreign policy, American intervention abroad, strategic studies, and global security. The Collection has books and journals in many formats (paper, microform and electronic) as well as Internet based resources such as the Homeland Security Digital Library-HSDL (http://www.hsdl.org/) and United States Institute for Peace publications and reports (http://www.usip.org/publications-tools) so don’t feel shy about asking for assistance in locating materials. Additionally, the U.S. Federal Documents Collection holds a wealth of documents in other subject areas such as early American history, education, justice, public policy and demographic and legislative information; making it a great research tool for many other topics.

So, if you are interested in perusing historical or current documents of importance like the 9/11 Commission Report, want information on issues such as international crime or are just curious and really want to know if indeed there was only one gun on the grassy knoll and what really happened in Roswell; come and visit the U.S. Federal Documents Collection in the Government and Geographic Information Department located on the first floor of Deering Library.
We Need Your Help!

The International Studies staff welcomes you to become a supporting member of our program by donating to our gift funds. Every year International Studies alumni make donations to support IS students pursuing international endeavors.

If you would like to support the Anderson Global Education & Engagement Fund, the Guetzkow Prize or other student initiatives please contact us at: 

international-studies@northwestern.edu

You can also mail checks made out to Northwestern University and include “International Studies Program” in the memo line to: Office of Alumni Relations and Development 2020 Ridge Avenue Evanston, IL 60208

Additionally gifts can be made online at: http://development.northwestern.edu

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Seniors:
Petition to Graduate with International Studies

All adjunct majors and minors in International Studies must complete a Petition to Graduate with an International Studies advisor. If you fail to do this, the Registrar will not be aware of your adjunct major/minor in IS and will not give you credit for the work you have done. All Juniors should file a Petition to Graduate during Spring quarter with the International Studies Office. If you are a senior and have not completed a Petition to Graduate with us please set up an appointment to do so as soon as possible. To set up an appointment to file a petition to graduate please send an e-mail to international-studies@northwestern.edu.

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Seniors:
Call for Applications for the Certificate of Distinction in Foreign Languages

The International Studies Program awards Certificates of Distinction in Foreign Languages to adjunct majors who have studied one or more languages above and beyond the two-year minimum requirement set by Weinberg College. The award is open to all graduating seniors and application materials can be found on the International Studies web site here: http://www.internationalstudies.northwestern.edu/research/deptprizes.html. Please set up an appointment with an International Studies advisor to submit an application by Friday, May 11, 2012.

International Studies Listserv:

Anyone can join the international studies listserv. All Northwestern students are welcome to sign up. Alumni who are interested in remaining in the loop about public events at Northwestern can also join our listserv. We send out announcements once a week with events both on campus and the greater Chicago community, about job/internship/fellowship and research opportunities and upcoming deadlines. To sign up please send an e-mail to international-studies@northwestern.edu and request to be added to the list.

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Guetzkow Prize
Call for Papers

The Guetzkow Prize in International Studies was created by the Program and first awarded in 1992 to bring together various perspectives and modes of disciplines engaged in the field of international studies. The prize is awarded to the most outstanding senior research paper written for the Integrating Senior Seminar.

The Prize was named for Harold Guetzkow, Professor of Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology from 1957-1986, a distinguished scholar of international studies.

The International Studies Program seeks nominations throughout the year so Winter quarter and Spring quarter papers are eligible for the prize. The prize is awarded at the end of the year during our Graduation reception in Spring quarter. A paper may be submitted by a student or professor and must be accompanied by a faculty letter of recommendation.


All submissions can be sent to the International Studies Office located at 2010 Sheridan Road.
Anderson Grant Report Summer 2011:

In May of 2011, junior Kaleb Tsang and senior Junzi Shi were awarded an Honorable Mention for the Lee F. Anderson Memorial Global Education and Engagement Grant. Kaleb and Junzi are members of Project Thirst, which is an Engineers for a Sustainable World (ESW) project that is working on providing improved drinking and agricultural water to two villages in northern Chile. Kaleb and Junzi helped in organizing a one-week surveying trip to Chile in the summer of 2011 to conduct preliminary interviews, meet with contacts, and take water samples.

Background:
In the high altitude plains of Northern Chile, nearly 200,000 people depend on tributaries of the Lluta River for drinking water and crop irrigation. The water from the Lluta River itself, however, is not fit for consumption or growing most marketable crops. Natural hydrothermal sources and the dotted mining landscape both contribute to contaminating the Lluta River with boron, arsenic, high concentration of dissolved salts, and other contaminants. This burden has led to compromised public health and poor variety of crops. In Fall 2010, Northwestern’s Engineers for a Sustainable World (ESW) formed “Project Thirst” as the start of a long-term collaboration alongside Professors Pablo Pasten and Gonzalo Pizarro from the Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile (PUC).

Summer 2011 Trip:
To decide the best approach to the overarching water quality problem in the area, Brooke Jarrett (second year graduate student, Environmental Engineering) and Kimberly Huynh (sophomore, Environmental Engineering) conducted a surveying trip of the Lluta River Valley from July 11th to July 15th. Together, they traveled to the villages of Los Molinos and Chapisa to conduct interviews with residents, photograph water resources and gather water samples. In addition, the team became familiar with measurement techniques for flow rate, conductivity, pH, temperature, and particulate matter measurements at the intersection of the Colpitas and Caracarani Rivers. Further sampling was accomplished at the Volcano Tacora, the Borateras, the origin of boron contamination in the Caracarani, and various bridges in the region.

Next Steps:
From the trip, the group developed a better understanding of the very real human need for water quality improvement in the area and found that they could approach the problem in three different ways: working on a watershed level, a community level, or an individual level. With this knowledge, Project Thirst is now researching different appropriate technology methods such as electrocoagulation, phytoremediation, and distillation. Detailed planning and prototyping will take place during winter quarter and plans for implementation will occur during Spring and Summer 2012.

ESW students Brooke and Kimberly with teammates from the PUC Pablo, Gonzalo, Cristian, and Christian

Ready to engage with the world on your own terms?

The Lee F. Anderson Memorial Global Education & Engagement Grant will provide funding for a Northwestern University rising junior or senior who demonstrates initiative and commitment in making a difference in the world. The grant will support student engagement, volunteerism or service projects either locally or abroad.

For more information about the Lee F. Anderson Global Engagement and Memorial Grant please visit the International Studies web page at:

www.internationalstudies.northwestern.edu/research/deptprizes

Application information is available online. The Grant is open to individual student projects as well as group projects. Awards range from $1,500 for individual projects to $3,000 for group projects.
Global Cafe events Winter Quarter 2012