

## 2006-07 Annual Report International Affairs Program

In 2006-07 the International Affairs (IA) program successfully completed its twelfth year, graduated fifteen majors and nine minors, offered a faculty-led travel seminar (TX 201-202) to Germany and Poland, organized or supported numerous internationally focused events, developed an IA steppingstone theory and methods course, offered a two-week Maghreb Faculty Development Workshop in Morocco and Tunisia, and completed our two-year Title VI-A Grant from the United States Department of Education, Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Languages Program (UISFL).

### Curriculum

The Skidmore faculty teach over 200 IA designated courses, of which 51 were offered in Fall 2006 and 53 in Spring 2007 for a yearly total of 104 courses.

Since its introduction in Spring 1999, the IA core course, “IA 101: Introduction to International Affairs,” has been popular and often oversubscribed. In Fall 2006, co-instructors Roy Ginsberg (GO) and Gary McClure (MB) taught one section of IA 101 with 36 students and in Spring 2007 Chris Whann (GO and UWW) and Gerry Erchak (AN) taught the course with 38 students, for a yearly total of 74 students. The chart below illustrates how IA 101 has generated continuing student interest and steady enrollments over the last nine years.

IA 101 Enrollments

S 99	S 00	S 01	S 02	S 03	F 03	S 04	F 04	S 05	F 05	S 06	F 06	S 07
40	37	40	37	42	37	34	38	30	36	33	36	38

In Fall 2006 Mary-Beth O’Brien taught one section of the four-credit IA 371D: IA Independent Studies and in Spring 2007 Hedi Jaouad taught one section the three-credit IA 371C: IA Independent Studies. In Spring 2007 Mao Chen taught one section of the one-credit IA 375: Senior Seminar with 15 students. Mary-Elizabeth O’Brien (FLL) and Ela Lepkowska-White (MB) taught one section of the two-credit course TX 201B: International Affairs Regional Topics on “From Marx to Coca-Cola: transitions in Germany and Poland” with 16 students and one section of the one-credit course TX 202: International Affairs Faculty-Led Travel Seminar with 14 students.

### Students

Between 1995 and 2006, Skidmore graduated 136 students with an IA minor and 9 students with an IA major for a total of 145 degrees. In 2006-2007 Skidmore graduated 15 majors and 9 minors bringing the twelve-year total to 169 IA degrees awarded.

Of the fifteen seniors graduating with an IA major in 2006-07, eight students completed a double major in International Affairs and in the following areas: one in Anthropology, one in Art History, one in Economics, one in Women’s Studies, two in Government, and two in French. Two IA double majors also had a formal minor: one in French and one in Latin American

Studies. One IA major had a regional concentration in Francophone Maghrebian Studies. The remaining six IA majors had minors in the following areas: one in Italian, one in Management and Business, one in Sociology, two in Government, and three in Asian Studies.

The nine seniors graduating with an IA minor in 2006-07, had majors in the following areas: one in Government, one in Theater, two in Spanish, two in Spanish-Management and Business (Interdepartmental), and three in Management and Business.

This year's recipient of the Jerome Solomon Ginsberg Memorial Award in International Affairs was Katherine (Katie) Weber, a double major in International Affairs and Art History. Katie studied abroad in Italy and Vienna and enjoyed a distinguished career as an athlete playing Lacrosse. Her insightful and meticulously researched senior capstone addressed Adolf Loo's *Raumplan* to explore the issues of space, gender, and domesticity in early twentieth-century Vienna.

The IA program continues to assume full faculty advising responsibility for the Model United Nations and the Model European Union, which prepare students to participate in simulations of international negotiations. In 2006-07 Kate Graney (GO) and Jordana Dym (HI) were the Model UN Faculty Advisors and David Wildermuth (FLL) was the Model EU Faculty Advisor.

The IA Program sponsored five sessions at this year's Academic Festival. In three separate sessions, all 15 IA majors presented their capstone projects centered on "The Middle East and Gender Issues," "Globalization and Economics," and "Economic and Environmental Issues in Africa and Asia." At the fourth session, students who traveled on the IA Faculty-Led Travel Seminar, "From Marx to Coca-Cola" discussed their experiences in Germany and Poland. Finally, at the fifth session, IA major Joseph Kaifala '08 presented his 20-minute documentary film on "The Second Independence: A New Face of Africa."

### **Faculty**

66 faculty members representing 19 departments and programs are affiliated with the IA program and teach at least one IA designated course. The academic departments and programs represented by IA faculty are:

Academic Department or Program	Faculty
American Studies	1
Art History	1
Biology	1
Classics	1
Economics	5
English	3
Environmental Studies	2
Foreign Languages and Literatures	15
Geosciences	4
Government	6
History	6

Library	2
Management & Business	9
Mathematics & Computer Science	1
Philosophy & Religion	2
Physics	1
Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work	3
Theater	1
University Without Walls	1
	66 total

The total number of faculty affiliated with the IA Program dropped by 4 since last academic year. While 2 faculty (one each in Economics and English) joined the program, 8 IA faculty left the college, due in part to retirements, in the fields of American Studies, Anthropology, Foreign Languages and Literatures, Mathematics, and Special Programs.

The IA program held formal meetings for all IA faculty in Fall 2006 and Spring 2007. The agenda at these meetings included discussions on transitions in IA leadership, intercultural and international literacy, staffing IA core courses, and an update on Title VIA Activities.

In 2006-07 IA Faculty advisors were Mary-Beth O'Brien (FLL), Gerry Erchak, (AN), Roy Ginsberg (GO), and Gary McClure (MB). The IA Steering Committee consisted of Mary-Beth O'Brien (FLL), Roy Ginsberg (GO), Pushi Prasad (MB) and Ela Lepkowska-White (MB).

### **IA Faculty-Led Travel Seminar (TX 201-202)**

In Spring 2005, Skidmore's IA Program launched an annual travel seminar for students interested in a focused learning experience that combines preliminary course work and research on campus, travel abroad, and subsequent reflection upon return. The inaugural IA travel seminar, "Chocolate and Gold: Politics and Culture in Ghana, West Africa," was taught by Chris Whann (GO) and Gerry Erchak (AN). In 2005-06 the IA program offered a travel seminar on "Safaris, Slaves and Spice" in Tanzania, West Africa taught by Chris Whann (GO) and Gerry Erchak.

This academic year Ela Lepkowska-White (MB) and Mary-Beth O'Brien (FLL) taught "From Marx to Coca-Cola: Transformations in Germany and Poland." Highlights of the trip included a meeting with Nobel Peace Prize winner and former Polish President Lech Walensa, a discussion with young American businessmen in Poland, a tour of a secret Stasi prison by a former inmate imprisoned for political dissent, a meeting with a man who built three tunnels under the Berlin wall, and a discussion with German architects and city planners on pre- and post-communism renovation of heritage sites.

As a result of a call for proposals, the Director of IA, the Director of OIP, and the Associate Dean of the Faculty read and tentatively approved in April 2004 the following IA faculty-led travel seminars:

- "A Cultural and Sociopolitical Journey to the Southern Cone: Buenos Aires and La Plata (Argentina); Santiago and Valparaíso (Chile)" taught by Patricia Rubio (FLL) and Aldo Vacs (GO) in Spring 2008
- "Global Governance in Action: The United Nations in the Modern World" taught by Kate Graney (GO) and Jordana Dym (HI) in Spring 2009.

The Curriculum Committee approved "A Cultural and Sociopolitical Journey to the Southern Cone" to be taught by Patricia Rubio (FLL) and Aldo Vacs (GO) in Fall 2008 with travel to commence in January 2008. Professors Graney and Dym have recently decided not to offer the travel seminar on the United Nations during the 2008-2009 academic year. The IA program will therefore need to review proposals for the upcoming years in consultation with OIP and the DoF offices, in order to coordinate efforts in international education.

### Events

In 2006-07, the IA program co-sponsored numerous events with an international focus, which included:

- September 2006. Brad Swanson, an environmentally-socially responsible investment banker and former Foreign Service Office in West Africa, spoke on micro lending versus World Bank big-project lending and the travails of postwar economic reconstruction in Iraq. Co-sponsored by IA, Government, Management and Business, and Environmental Studies.
- September 2006. Dr. Mick Moloney, ethnomusicologist on Irish music performed at Filene Recital Hall and followed up with a tradition "seisuin" (or music session) in the Intercultural Center after his talk/performance. Co-sponsored by the Office of the Chaplain, Office of Campus Life, OIP, IA and the Music Department.
- October 2006. Amy Hart presented her film, *Water First*, a documentary that aims to raise awareness of the magnitude of the global water crisis. Co-sponsored by the International Student Union and IA.
- November 2006. Dr. Stefan Mayer, press officer of the regional government of the Land of Salzburg, lecturer for Austrian and European Politics at Salzburg College, gave a lecture entitled "Insights into Austrian Politics: Political Developments and current Challenges." Co-Sponsored by IA and the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures.
- February 2007. The Honorable Riza Türmen, a judge to the European Court of Human Rights since 1998, spoke on "Democracy, Terrorism, and Human Rights." Sponsored by IA, Law and Society, FYE, and the departments of Government, Economics, and Foreign Languages and Literatures.
- April 2007. Professor Stephen Brockmann of Carnegie Mellon University spoke on „Contemporary Germany and the Paradox of Normalization.“ Co-Sponsored by IA and the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures.
- April 2007. Professor Andrzej Rabczenko, Minister Counselor in the Science and Technology Section at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington D.C. gave a lecture on Polish culture and history. Sponsored by IA.

- April 2007. Iwona Korga, historian at the Jozef Pilsudski Institute of America, gave a lecture on the Polish independence movement in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Sponsored by IA.

### **Title VI-A Grant Activities**

In 2006-2007 the IA Program completed its second and final year of a U.S. Department of Education, Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Languages Program (UISFL) Title VIA grant entitled "*The Building Blocks of a New International Affairs Major at Skidmore College: From Cornerstone to Capstone and Beyond.*" Skidmore College was awarded a two-year grant in the amount of \$173,000 to develop the IA major and improve international education opportunities. Mary-Beth O'Brien and Roy Ginsberg were the co-directors of the grant.

The three overarching project objectives in support of the new IA major were: 1.) to develop and enhance the three IA required core courses; 2.) introduce twelve new courses in international studies to fill gaps in the curriculum; and 3.) create six new advanced language-across-the-curriculum (LAC) courses and four internship abroad programs to cultivate usage of foreign languages in content-specific areas.

The first project objective was to insure that the three core courses form a coherent program. In 2006-2007, IA faculty developed the new theory and methods course, which will act as a steppingstone course to the major. In May 2006, twelve IA faculty met for a two-day workshop to determine the basic outline of the course. Mary-Beth O'Brien (FLL), Ela Lepkowska-White (MB) and Pushi Prasad (MB) received grants to develop the course syllabus, which they submitted to the College Curriculum Committee in May 2007 for approval. In addition, three IA faculty, Roy Ginsberg (GO), Bob Jones (EC), and Kate Berheide (SO), received grants to develop modules for the theory and methods course on the use of case studies, GSI, and UN water statistics respectively. IA 201 Theory and Methods in IA will be offered in the 2008-2009 academic year and taught every other year as a requirement for the IA major. The course will center on case studies in international affairs and introduce students to both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies (including experiments, surveys, interviews, focus groups and statistical, historical, and comparative analysis) as well as canonical theoretical texts and approaches.

The IA Program requires high-intermediate foreign language competency and advanced Language Across the Curriculum (LAC) training for all majors. To deliver the new foreign language requirements, the FLL department submitted advanced LAC courses proposals in Chinese, Italian, and Japanese to the curriculum committee for approval. The FLL department now offers LAC courses at the 200- and 300-level in six language areas. Management and Business Professor Susan Belden receive a grant to learn Italian in Rome, Italy in June 2007. In addition to language training, Susan Belden has agreed to work with Shirley Smith (FLL) to establish internships in Italy so that MB students will reach high-intermediate to advanced competency in a shorter period of time.

In the second year of the UISFL Program grant, faculty developed seven new courses with a regional focus:

- Perspectives on Culture and the Arts in the Arab World (Hedi Jaouad, FLL)
- Confucian Values and the Rise of East Asian (Mao Chen, FLL)
- The Economics of European Integration (Joerg Bibow, EC)
- Narrative and Identity in Quebec (Cindy Evans, FLL)
- Caribbean Politics (Chris Whann, UWW and GO)
- Global Perspectives of the US (Dan Nathan, AM)
- Global Media (Joann Devine, EN)

The largest project of the year was the Maghreb workshop held from May 19 to June 3, 2007. IA faculty who committed to teaching the three IA core courses traveled for two weeks to the Maghreb, where they were introduced to foreign cultures not well represented in the curriculum but of vital interest to the United States. The Maghreb workshop had two functions: one, it prepared faculty to infuse non-Western perspectives across the IA curriculum; and two, it cultivated a deeper sense of community in and commitment to the new IA major program for participants who will teach the three required IA core courses. The faculty engaged in this project were Berheide (SO), Bray (MA), Chen (AS), Jaouad (FLL), Lepkowska-White (MB), O'Brien (FLL), Norelli (Library), Prasad (MB), Ginsberg (GO), and Whann (GO/UWW).

As a prerequisite for participation in the Maghreb Workshop, the following faculty agreed to teach the IA core courses as indicated in the table below. All faculty listed here secured the written approval of their chair and the Dean of the Faculty.

Fall 2007  IA 101 McClure, Chen  On Sabbatical: O'Brien FYE: Berheide, Bray, Ginsberg, Jaouad, Kennelly	Spring 2008  IA 101 Norelli and Whann IA 375 Ginsberg  On Sabbatical: O'Brien
Fall 2008  IA 101 Kennelly, O'Brien  On Sabbatical: Jaouad FYE:	Spring 2009  IA 101: Berheide, Whann IA 201 Lepkowska-White and Prasad IA 375 Ginsberg  On Sabbatical: Jaouad
Fall 2009  IA 101 Bray and Jaouad  On Sabbatical: Lepkowska-White FYE: Chen, O'Brien, Prasad	Spring 2010  IA 101: open IA 375 Ginsberg  On Sabbatical: Lepkowska-White,

Six Skidmore faculty were awarded Title VIA grants to conduct research in spring and summer 2007 on international topics: Joerg Bibow (EC), Una Bray (MA), James Kennelly (MB), Mehmet Odekon (EC), Lori Silvers (RE), and Joel Smith (RE).

In May 2007, the IA Program invited Professor Jean Stern from Sienna College as our outside evaluator.

The Scribner Library used federal funds and Skidmore matching funds to purchase extensive resources in support of the UISFL program project and the new major in international affairs.

In November 2006 a teaching workshop brought together ten IA faculty to present curricular development projects for feedback. Six faculty introducing new courses on regional issues, three faculty developing new LAC courses, and the project co-directors were in attendance.

Project co-director Roy Ginsberg attended and participated in the annual meetings of the Title VI-A Project Directors at the International Studies Association Convention, March 2007, which proved useful in terms of evaluating and assessing Skidmore's own project.

The UISFL Program Title VIA Grant has been a unique opportunity for Skidmore's IA Program to explore new avenues of teaching and research on international issues. With the support of both the US Department of Education and Skidmore administration, IA Program hopes to demonstrate how an international education in the liberal arts best prepares students to engage in responsible global citizenship and undertake the intellectual and ethical challenges posed by a changing world.

### **Assessment Plans**

Since the IA program has just completed its third year of granting a major and its second year of the UISFL Program grant, a full program review is scheduled for 2008 or 2009.

The outside evaluator for the UISFL grant, Professor Jean Stern from Sienna College, submitted a report of her findings on April 27, 2007. Her recommendations follow:

1. The International Affairs program has been very successful, graduating over 145 minors and 24 majors. Working with students and the large number of affiliated faculty and departments to implement the components of the program leaves little time for extra activity. If the college wishes to implement Goal 2 of its strategic plan, it should consider the introduction of the position of Director for International Education, who would be responsible for internationalizing the campus and coordinate the objectives of the strategic plan with the activities of the International Affairs program, study abroad, the students' international Affairs Club and develop funding opportunities through work with sponsored research.
2. The capstone course, Senior Seminar, is currently a one-credit course linked to a content course from the previous semester. The program might consider expanding the course to three credits in order to assess how well the students have met the program's goals. The research

project could be linked to the stepping stone course, Theory and Methods, which would provide the basis for the senior project's research design.

3. The IA program should revisit the idea of stand-alone business internships, in terms of student interest and language facility. The language for business courses are in place and faculty training is important for developing contacts and student interest and should be encouraged. Currently some CIEE study abroad programs offer internships but these are in English or Spanish speaking countries and not in the languages that the college wishes to promote. This source might be a beginning.

4. The IA program might consider where there should be a formal international experience component to the major. The program offers a wonder travel/study course TX 201-202 IA Faculty-Led Travel Seminar, every year. It might be incorporated into the major as an option as well as study abroad/international internships, which are currently strongly encouraged.

5. The International Affairs web site is very informative and the worksheets for the major and minor are helpful to students planning their major or minor. As a result of this grant, the requirements for the major and minor are now in transition as new IA core and LAC courses become available. The program should update the web site as the major requirements change and indicate under which calendar year's requirements incoming students are bound.

6. Continue the assessment workshops, at least on an annual basis. Since all the components of the new major will not be available until 2008-2009, it would be useful to see the effects of the new major's ability to fulfill the program's mission as compared to the old system.

### **The year ahead**

In the year ahead the IA Program will have a change in leader. Mary-Beth O'Brien will step down as director after four years of service. Professor Gary McClure will serve as director in the 2007-2008 academic year and in 2008-2009 Professor Jim Kennelly will take over as director.

Respectfully submitted,

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Director, International Affairs Program