

**2003-04  
Annual Report  
International Affairs Program**

The International Affairs (IA) program successfully completed its ninth year with many vital achievements. 2003-04 was a banner year for the IA program, which hosted two faculty workshops, organized or supported over 20 internationally focused events, launched a newly designed web page, offered for the first time a section of the IA core course (IA 101) in both Fall and Spring Terms, developed several new courses, instated a new director, and graduated 10 minors. By far, the most significant task accomplished this year was that the IA faculty crafted, debated, and approved an IA major proposal to be implemented starting in the 2004-05 academic year with five seniors and two juniors already committed to completing a bachelor of arts degree in International Affairs.

### **Major**

During the 2002-03 academic year, the IA Major Steering Committee comprised of Adam Chau (SASW), Roy H. Ginsberg (GO), Matthew Hockenos (HI), K. Gary McClure (MB), Mary-Elizabeth O'Brien (FLL), Mehmet Odekon (EC), Christopher Whann (UWW and GO), and Marc-André Wiesmann (FLL) wrote a draft proposal for the IA major. In Fall 2003, the IA Review Committee consisting of Catherine White Berheide (SASW), Mao Chen (FLL and AS), Judy Halstead (CH and ES), James Kennelly (MB), Tad Kuroda (HI), Roy Rotheim (EC), Patricia Rubio (FLL), Ron Seyb (GO), and Aldo Vacs (GO and LAS) read and refined the proposal before it was submitted to the Curriculum Committee for consideration.

In Spring 2004, the Curriculum Committee approved the IA major proposal and the IA program hosted a series of open fora for the faculty to discuss the new curriculum, resource issues, and the broad impact of the proposed IA major on contributing departments and other interdisciplinary programs. At the March 2004 faculty meeting, the Skidmore faculty voted to approve the IA major and in May 2004 it was approved by the Skidmore board of trustees and the New York state department of education.

The approval of an International Affairs major is a momentous accomplishment, not just for the IA program but also for the entire college. It will give students the means to concentrate on international issues, a new senior seminar, a stronger language component, more opportunities for common experiences, and a built-in assessment component that asks students to take responsibility for their own education and helps them to measure their successes. It is a demanding, stimulating, and coherent program, in keeping with the expectations and standards of other liberal arts colleges, but with a unique Skidmore imprint.

### **Curriculum**

The Skidmore faculty now teach 203 IA designated courses, of which 45 were offered in Fall 2003 and 56 in Spring 2004 for a yearly total of 101 courses.

Since its introduction in Spring 1999, the IA core course, “IA 101: Introduction to International Affairs,” has been oversubscribed. Responding to the overwhelming student interest and increased enrollment pressures, IA 101 was offered in both Fall and Spring Terms for the first time this year. In Fall 2003, co-instructors Marc-André Wiesmann and Elzbieta Lepkowska-White taught one section of IA 101 with 37 students and in Spring 2004 Elzbieta Lepkowska-White and Mary-Elizabeth O’Brien taught the course with 34 students, for a yearly total of 71 students. The chart below illustrates how IA 101 has generated continuing student interest and steady enrollments over the last six years.

IA 101 Enrollments

Spring 99	Spring 00	Spring 01	Spring 02	Spring 03	Fall 03	Spring 04
40	37	40	37	42	37	34

In Fall 2003, the IA Director drafted proposals for four new courses and submitted them to the Curriculum Committee for consideration. In Spring 2004, the Curriculum Committee approved IA 371: Independent Study, IA 375: Senior Seminar, TX 201: International Affairs Regional Topics, and TX 202: International Affairs Faculty-Led Travel Seminar, which will all be offered in the 2004-05 academic year.

IA 375: Senior Seminar is a one-credit seminar required of all international affairs majors in the Spring Term. It is designed to enhance students' research, written and oral communication skills relating to international affairs, and to strengthen their awareness of international issues and professional opportunities. The course culminates in the oral and written presentation of senior capstone projects to international affairs faculty, students, and the community. Marc-André Wiesmann (FLL) will teach IA 375 for the first time in Spring 2005 with an anticipated enrollment of 5 seniors.

TX 201: International Affairs Regional Topics (1-2 credits) and TX 202: International Affairs Faculty-Led Travel Seminar (1 credit) are taught in tandem and comprise the annual IA travel program offered in the Spring Term 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 faculty-led travel seminar is taught in conjunction with a regional topics course, so that students have an opportunity to study the political, economic, cultural, and environmental background of their travel destination before departure. Students meet with two faculty members from different disciplines one to two hours per week during the regular semester to discuss assigned readings, writing exercises, and debate issues in a one or two-unit regional topics course. During travel abroad (offered for 10 days during spring break in March) students visit appropriate sites and interact with local students, professors, and public figures while exploring the course theme. Upon conclusion of the travel segment, students compare their research and first-hand experiences in order to measure the relationship between theory and practice. Course topic and destination vary each year. Students may enroll in only the on-campus regional topics course, but the regional topics course is required for all students who participate in the one-unit travel seminar.

The rubric for the IA travel program (TX 201 and TX 202) is in place and each year the Associate Dean of the Faculty, the Director of International Affairs, and the Director of

International Programs will review the specific proposals. In Spring 2005, co-instructors Joseph Hodge (HI) and Christopher Whann (UWW and GO) plan to inaugurate the IA travel program with the regional topics course “TX 201: Chocolate and Gold: History and Politics in Ghana, West Africa,” focusing on Ghana’s development from the Gold Coast, a European colonial possession and strategic center of the slave trade, to the first independent African state. Based on the instructors’ fields of expertise, the faculty-led travel seminar “TX 202: Travel to Ghana” will emphasize Ghana’s political history and current environmental issues. (The final draft will be presented to Curriculum Committee in Fall 2004.) Future seminars will be determined based on an open call for applications. The first call for applications will be sent out in Fall 2004.

### **Students**

The IA program successfully completed its ninth year with 10 graduates out of 38 students at the end of Spring Term 2004 (see table below for yearly comparison).

International Affairs Students

	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04
Graduates	1	13	9	20	20	16	12	22	10
IA students	19	31	25	37	36	25	20	62	38

Of the 10 seniors graduating with an IA minor this year, two were from Management and Business, two from Government-Spanish, and one each from Economics, French, Government, Italian (SDM), Management and Business-Economics, and Spanish.

The Jerome Solomon Ginsberg Memorial Award in European and International Integration Studies was modified this year to widen the scope of consideration for the award to any area of international studies. Renamed “The Jerome Solomon Ginsberg Memorial Award in International Affairs,” this award established by Professor Roy H. Ginsberg and family in memory of his father, Lt. Jerome Solomon Ginsberg (1928-1962), who served in the United States Army of Occupation in Germany after World War II, is granted to an international affairs junior or senior for academic excellence in the study of international affairs.

This year’s recipient was Jonathan Vallejo, a Government-Spanish Interdepartmental Major and International Affairs Minor. Jonathan exemplifies the spirit of informed global citizenship inherent in the Ginsberg award. Born in Puerto Rico and educated in the United States and Brazil, Jonathan has become a bridge-builder, helping to foster understanding between diverse cultures. He speaks not only English and Spanish but also Portuguese and Arabic. His sense of volunteerism extends well beyond his participation in Raices, ALANA, and Multicultural Student Affairs (MSA) here at Skidmore College. Jonathan also applied to the Peace Corps and anticipates a placement in Morocco after graduation.

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. The Faculty Advisors for 2003-04 were Marc-André Wiesmann (FLL), Model EU, and Kate Graney (GO), Model UN.

Together with Faculty Advisor Marc-André Wiesmann and Model EU Co-Presidents Fred Beddard '04 and Ben Petok '04, a group of Skidmore students traveled January 8-11, 2004 to Tilburg Holland to take part in the EuroSim 2004 at the Tilburg University and debate the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC).

Under the guidance of Faculty Advisor Kate Graney and Model UN President Jesse Haladay '04, Skidmore students participated in the National Model UN Conference in New York April 6-10, 2004, where they represented the NGO, the Institute for Sustainable Development. In 2004-05 Yael Katz '05 will be the Model UN President and Kate Graney (GO), and Jordana Dym (HI), will be the Faculty Advisors for Model UN.

The IA program also supported activities by the SGA International Affairs Club, led this year by Co-Presidents Tara Desjardins '05 and Max Fishko '05.

### **Faculty**

71 faculty members representing 21 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	2
Art History	1
Biology	1
Chemistry	1
Classics	1
Economics	5
English	2
Environmental Studies	2
Foreign Languages and Literatures	17
Geosciences	4
Government	6
History	7
Liberal Studies	1
Library	1
Management & Business	9
Mathematics & Computer Science	2
Philosophy & Religion	1
Physics	1
Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work	5
Theater	1
University Without Walls	1
	71 total

The IA faculty held 2 formal meetings for all IA faculty during the year, the Fall Meeting in October and the Spring Meeting in February. The focus of both meetings was the IA Major proposal.

The 2003-04 departmental representatives to IA were Lynda Vargha (EC), Mary-Elizabeth O'Brien (FLL), Roy H. Ginsberg (GO), Matthew Hockenos (HI), Gary McClure (MB), Gerald Erchak (SASW), and Christopher Whann (UWW). Carol Spring (FLL) was the IA secretary.

### **Events**

In Fall 2003, the IA program co-sponsored numerous events including "Different Chinas," a series of lectures, films, and art exhibitions organized by Asian Studies and devoted to the many different identities of contemporary China. In October 2003, the IA program hosted a faculty workshop on "Building Academics Bridges: Coordination of International Affairs and Regional Studies," which addressed disciplinary boundaries and how Regional Studies and International Affairs can work together to better the college's commitment to international education. This event was co-sponsored by Asian Studies, International Affairs, Latin American Studies, and the Office of the Dean of the Faculty. In November 2003, the IA program organized a Faculty-Student debate on the Doha Development Agenda and the results of the World Trade Organization's Cancun Ministerial Conference. This event was scheduled to coincide with International Week and was co-sponsored by International Affairs and the Office of International Programs.

In Spring 2004, Skidmore College hosted a conference on "Jihad, McWorld, Modernity: Public Intellectuals Debate the Clash of Civilizations," organized by *Salmagundi Magazine* and cosponsored by the Skidmore College Office of the President, the Student Speakers Bureau, the Honors Forum, and the International Affairs Program. This remarkable event brought together 15 leading thinkers to debate such issues as the conflict between religious/tribal fundamentalism and secular consumerist capitalism, the ethics of globalization, terrorism's challenge to democracy, and the concept of a just war against terrorism. In April 2004, faculty and students from International Affairs and Latin American Studies meet to discuss Samuel Huntington's controversial article on "The Hispanic Challenge" published in *Foreign Policy* (March/April 2004). In April 2004, the IA program and the department of Management and Business hosted J. Joseph Lee, Director of NYU's Glucksman Ireland House and author of *Ireland 1912-1985: Politics and Society* (Cambridge, 1989) and *The Modernisation of Irish Society, 1848-1928* (Dublin, 1973), who spoke on Ireland's role in the European Union. In May 2004, the IA program hosted a dinner reception for graduating seniors and also a faculty workshop to prepare for the upcoming Title VI-A grant proposal to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education to support the new IA major at Skidmore.

Alumni played an important role in IA events this year, exemplifying how a Skidmore education can be a portal to the world. In Fall 2003, Major Robert Resnick ('88), Chief of Military Justice, U.S. Army, who just returned from duty in Iraq, gave a lecture and slide presentation on "A Soldier's Perspective: On the Frontline in Iraq" and also led a discussion on the "Reconstruction of Iraq and the Reestablishment of a Judicial System," including his work in al Falusha near Baghdad. In addition, in Spring 2004, Paul Hockenos ('85) presented a lecture on "Diaspora

Activism and the Balkan Wars” and read from his new book, *Homeland Calling: Exile Patriotism and the Balkan Wars* (Cornell UP, 2003).

### **Title VI-A Grant Proposal**

In May 2004, the IA faculty and interested staff met to discuss ideas for a Title VI-A grant proposal to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education in Fall 2004. The co-directors of the grant, Roy Ginsberg (GO) and Mary-Elizabeth O’Brien (FLL), will write the grant proposal seeking \$150,000 over two years to help deliver the new major in International Affairs. The workshop participants identified six main areas of international education at Skidmore, which could benefit greatly from external funding and strengthen the IA major program.

1. The primary goal of the grant will be to develop and enhance the three levels of the IA curriculum: a review of the established Cornerstone (IA 101: Introduction to International Affairs), the creation of a Stepping Stone (IA 2XX: Theories and Methodologies of International Affairs), and the fine-tuning of the new Capstone (IA 375: Senior Seminar in International Affairs).
2. The IA faculty firmly believes that both students and faculty need regular opportunities to learn about the world beyond the borders of the United States, recognize their own cultural biases, and develop skills to communicate with people from other cultures. It is imperative for the IA program to afford opportunities for students and faculty to spend extended periods abroad, acquire cultural familiarity, foreign language fluency, and the skills necessary to work collaboratively with others in an increasingly interconnected world.

Firstly, the Title VI-A grant will allow the IA program to develop a pilot project for pre- and post-departure activities that integrate students’ study abroad experiences more systematically into the broader Skidmore education.

Secondly, the grant will support the implementation and fine-tuning of the new travel courses, TX 201: International Affairs Regional Topics and TX 202: International Affairs Faculty-Led Travel Seminar, so that students and faculty at the foreign sites can participate fully in an exchange of ideas with the Skidmore community.

Thirdly, the grant should support the creation of a deeper sense of community and commitment to the IA major program by funding an IA Faculty Workshop Abroad with stipends for faculty committed to teaching IA 101, IA 2XX, and IA 375 to travel abroad together for approximately two weeks. The faculty engaged in this project will meet during the academic year to discuss and debate a common reading list. Upon their return, they will give a multimedia panel presentation to the Skidmore community and will also be available to give a panel presentation to the Hudson Mohawk Consortium. All faculty participants will commit to teaching IA 101, IA 2XX, or IA 375 at least once in the three years following the trip and will participate in at least two guest lectures/panels discussions in IA 101 as deemed appropriate by the faculty teaching the course. In addition, they will modify the IA 101 curriculum to reflect the collective knowledge gained from travel. The tentative destination for the first IA faculty workshop abroad is Tunisia.

Finally, the IA faculty would like to seek funding for Individual Travel Grants for faculty to work on specific projects.

3. The IA faculty have identified several areas of the international education, which are not currently covered adequately in the Skidmore curriculum and are deserving of course development. The Title VI-A grant will provide stipends for faculty to develop courses in FX 300: Language Across the Curriculum for IA majors, Canadian Culture, Arabic Language and Culture, Hebrew Language and Culture, Migration, International Law, Human Rights, and Comparative Constitutional Systems.

4. With the advent of a new major, the IA program will need to assess not only the effectiveness of its curriculum in regards to academic standards and expectations but also the impact of requirements on contributing departments and other interdisciplinary programs. The Title VI-A grant will help the program to conduct both academic and administrative assessments of the major program. The first priority will be to evaluate the Foundation Courses (GO 103, HI 223, EC 103, EC 104, AN 101, GO 241, ES 100, ES 105) to determine whether these courses fulfill the IA program's mission and also whether they increase enrollment pressures and unduly affect resource allocation. Since the vast majority of IA minors have taken GO 103 and it is anticipated that IA majors will likewise choose this course, the IA assessment plan will begin with GO 103. The IA Director will work closely with the Government Department faculty and chair to ensure that the results are acceptable to both the program and department involved.

5. The Title VI-A grant will help support Library Acquisitions in the area of international affairs.

6. The IA faculty strongly believe that there should be adequate remuneration for secretarial work done on behalf of the program. The Title VI-A grant should provide a stipend for the secretary who will help to administer the grant.

### **The year ahead**

In the year ahead, International Affairs will introduce the new major and several new courses, launch a new travel program, apply for a Title VI-A Grant, and begin a thorough assessment of the program. The IA program assessment timetable is listed below.

#### Year 1: 2004-2005

- Instructors in IA 101 will take sample think-piece papers, assess levels of student performance, and provide a benchmark to monitor progress through the major. Instructors and IA faculty committee will establish scoring rubrics based on learning objectives.
- Faculty committee will evaluate student capstone presentations in IA 375: Senior Seminar (first time offered). This direct assessment of seniors will continue yearly.
- Continued survey of senior IA minors. Introduction of survey of seniors IA majors to be continued yearly.

- Pre- or post-departure essays for students studying abroad will be evaluated by faculty advisors in the approved minor or major program. The OIP and faculty advisors will establish scoring rubrics based on learning objectives. This assessment will continue yearly.
- IA director, and if necessary IA faculty committee, will evaluate each student's course proposal and rationale for the separate minor, major, or regional concentration. The IA director and faculty committee will establish scoring rubrics based on learning objectives. This assessment will continue yearly.
- The IA program has a curriculum committee, which continually evaluates course offerings and requirements.

The IA Director would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire IA student body and faculty, the IA major steering and review committees, the department representatives, the Model UN and Model EU faculty representatives, the Skidmore administration and board of trustees, and our secretary Carol Spring for all their time and efforts throughout the year. It was only with the hard work and dedication of numerous individuals working tirelessly this year to complete the IA major proposal and advocate for its approval, that this new and exciting academic program could become a reality for the entire Skidmore community.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary-Elizabeth O'Brien  
Director, International Affairs Program