

## 2004-05 Annual Report International Affairs Program

The International Affairs (IA) program successfully completed its tenth year with several important milestones. In 2004-05 the IA program graduated for the first time six majors as well as twelve minors, offered a new senior seminar (IA 375), launched the annual faculty-led travel seminar (TX 201-202), organized or supported over 20 internationally focused events, and was awarded a Title VI-A Grant from the Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Languages Program (UISFL) of the United States Department of Education.

### Curriculum

The Skidmore faculty now teach 203 IA designated courses, of which 47 were offered in Fall 2004 and 55 in Spring 2005 for a yearly total of 102 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 2004, co-instructors Marc-André Wiesmann (FLL) and Roy Ginsberg (GO) taught one section of IA 101 with 38 students and in Spring 2005 Elzbieta Lepkowska-White (MB) and Mary-Elizabeth O'Brien (FLL) taught the course with 30 students, for a yearly total of 68 students. The chart below illustrates how IA 101 has generated continuing student interest and steady enrollments over the last seven years.

IA 101 Enrollments

Spring 99	Spring 00	Spring 01	Spring 02	Spring 03	Fall 03	Spring 04	Fall 04	Spring 05
40	37	40	37	42	37	34	38	30

In Spring 2005, Marc-André Wiesmann taught one section of the one-credit IA 375: Senior Seminar with 6 students. Christopher Whann (GO) and Gerald Erchak (AN) taught one section of the two-credit course TX 201B: International Affairs Regional Topics with 19 students and one section of the one-credit course TX 202: International Affairs Faculty-Led Travel Seminar with 17 students.

### Students

Between 1995 and 2004, Skidmore graduated 115 students with an IA minor and 2 with a self-determined IA major. In 2005, the College graduated 6 majors and 12 minors bringing the decade's total to 135 IA degrees awarded.

Of the six IA majors, three were members of the Honors Forum, two had a minor (one in Economics and one in Government), and four had a double major with one in Asian Studies, one in German, and two in Government.

Of the twelve seniors graduating with an IA minor this year, six had a double major: five were in Government, three in Economics, two in French, an one each in American Studies, Asian Studies, English, Government-History, History, Psychology, and Spanish.

This year's recipient of the Jerome Solomon Ginsberg Memorial Award in International Affairs was Elizabeth (Lilli) Baldwin, a double major in International Affairs and German. Lilli studied her junior year at the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin and participated in the Model European Union Club. Her insightful and meticulously researched senior thesis addressed the question of whether Turkey should be admitted to the European Union.

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 2004-05 Kate Graney (GO) and Jordana Dym (HI) were the Model UN Faculty Advisors and Marc-André Wiesmann (FLL) was the Model EU Faculty Advisor.

Under the guidance of Professors Graney and Dym and Model UN Co-Presidents Yael Katz '05 and Andrew Clarke '05, eight Skidmore students participated from March 22-26, 2005 in the National Model UN Conference in New York City, where they represented Haiti. A total of 3,263 student delegates from 226 schools on five continents attended the simulations. In 2005-06 Professors Graney and Dym will continue to serve as the Faculty Advisors for Model UN.

A group of Skidmore students took part in the EuroSim Conference on EU Neighborhood Policy from April 7-10, 2005 at SUNY Fredonia, where they represented both Italy and the Luxembourg Presidency of the EU. Model EU President Gabsy Goldman '05 led the delegation, since the faculty advisor was unable to attend the conference. Starting in 2005-06 David Wildermuth (FLL) will be the Model EU Faculty Advisor and accompany Skidmore students to the EuroSim Conference to be held in Prague in January 2006.

The IA Program also sponsored two sessions at this year's Academic Festival. At the first session on "Chocolate and Gold: Politics and Culture in Ghana, West Africa," students who traveled on the first IA Faculty-Led Travel Seminar discussed their experiences in Ghana. At the second session, the six IA majors presented their capstone projects on the following topics:

- "Is the World Bank a Hindrance to Development?"
- "Is there Room in the Christian EU-Club for Muslim Turkey?"
- "Three Gorges Dam: Taming Environmental Dragons with Technology"
- "Paradox of Power: The International Criminal Court, The United States, and the Dichotomy of Public Opinion"
- "The WTO in the 21st Century: The Opportunity for Global Economic and Social Change"
- "The US Embargo on Cuba: Examining the Origins and Effectiveness of the Economic Sanctions"

### **Faculty**

71 faculty members representing 20 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
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American Studies	2
Art History	1
Biology	1
Classics	1
Economics	4
English	2
Environmental Studies	2
Foreign Languages and Literatures	17
Geosciences	4
Government	6
History	6
Liberal Studies	1
Library	1
Management & Business	9
Mathematics & Computer Science	2
Philosophy & Religion	3
Physics	1
Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work	6
Theater	1
University Without Walls	1
	71 total

The IA program held an open forum in Fall 2004 to collect ideas for the Title VIA grant proposal and held a formal meeting for all IA faculty in February 2005.

The 2004-05 departmental representatives to IA were Mary-Elizabeth O'Brien (FLL), Roy H. Ginsberg (GO), Matthew Hockenos (HI), Gerald Erchak (AN), and Christopher Whann (GO). Carol Spring (FLL) was the IA secretary.

### **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 Christopher Whann (GO) and Gerald Erchak (AN). The seminar explored the trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, the impact of colonial capitalism on modern-day economic development, the political dynamics of colonialism and the independence movements in Ghana, the cocoa and gold industries, IMF intervention and structural adjustment, and contemporary environmental issues. The Ghana travel seminar was a resounding success for faculty and students alike.

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 the following IA faculty-led travel seminars:

- "The Swahili Coast: Crossroads of Culture" taught by Gerald Erchak (AN) and Christopher Whann (GO) in Spring 2006

- "A Baltic Journey: Politics and Culture in Germany and Poland" taught by Elzbieta Lepkowska-White (MB) and Mary-Elizabeth O'Brien (FLL) in Spring 2007
- "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.

### **Events**

In 2004-05, the IA program co-sponsored numerous events with an international focus, which included:

- Jacob Perlow Scholar-in-Residence Professor Dror Ze'evi lectured on "Israelis and Palestinians: The Burdens of the Past, the Shape of the Future."
- Film showing of *Good Bye Lenin!* (2003)
- Prof. Wu Xiaolan, Department of History at Peking University, lectured on "A Chinese Diaspora: The History of the Choong Family, 1857-1960."
- A panel discussion with faculty from both Peking University and Skidmore on the subject of comparative conditions for research in China and the US.
- Film festival on "Haiti: Moving Images"
- Film showing of Israeli film director Keren Yedaya's "Or" followed by a conversation with the director.
- Professor Nimrod Hurwitz, Ben Gurion University and Harvard University, lectured on "The two faces of Wahhabism: The struggle between radical and conservative visions of Islam."
- A Town Meeting on "Views of the United States of America in the Foreign Press." A panel discussion of foreign media sources on America and Americans.
- Jacob Perlow Scholar-in-Residence Professor Dror Ze'evi lectured on a topic related to his forthcoming book on sex, sexuality and gender in the Middle East.
- An IA Faculty-Student Debate on "Intellectual Property Rights and the Pharmaceutical Industry" organized for International Week.
- Charlene Makley, Luce Assistant Professor of Asia Studies, Department of Anthropology, Reed College lectured on "Speaking Bitterness: The Politics of Memory on the Sino-Tibetan Frontier."
- Staging of the *Vagina Monologues* as part of Diversity Week.
- A panel on "The Rising Peril of HIV/AIDS in China; Sex Work, Human Rights and Challenges to Public Policy." Speakers included Joan Kaufman, Director, AIDS Public Policy Training Program, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University; Sandra Teresa Hyde, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Public Health, McGill University; Sara Davis, researcher in the Asia Division at Human Rights Watch, visiting scholar at Columbia University's Weatherhead East Asian Institute.
- Dr. Victoria Wells Wulsin, a physician-epidemiologist, who has worked in the prevention and the mitigation of the effects of AIDS for two decades, lectured on "The Global AIDS Pandemic: How Skidmore Can Make a Difference."
- Mr. Simon Aban Deng, a native of the Shiluk Kingdom and a refugee from Sudan, lectured on his experience as a child slave in Sudan.

- Film showing of “Hotel Rwanda” followed by an IA faculty panel discussion.
- Stephen Fox, current Deputy Director of NEA/RA at the Department of State, spoke with IA students about careers in the Foreign Service.
- Earth Day Celebration.

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

In Fall 2004 Mary-Elizabeth O’Brien and Roy H. Ginsberg wrote a Title VI-A grant proposal for “*The Building Blocks of a New International Affairs Major at Skidmore College: From Cornerstone to Capstone and Beyond*” and submitted it to the Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Languages Program (UISFL) of the United States Department of Education. In Spring 2005 the College was awarded a two-year grant in the amount of \$173,000 to develop the new IA major and improve international education opportunities.

The three overarching project objectives in support of the new IA major are to develop the three IA required core courses; introduce twelve new courses in international studies to fill gaps in the curriculum; and 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 is to insure that the three core courses form a coherent program. Faculty will revise the program cornerstone (the existing Freshman core course in IA, introduced a decade ago) to reflect changes brought about by the new major as well as global systemic changes; introduce the program steppingstone, a new theory and methods course in IA for Sophomores, to equip them with the tools to conduct research and to prepare them for Junior study abroad; and develop the program capstone, a seminar in IA, which integrates study abroad experience and methods into an independent research project for Seniors.

The second project objective is to introduce twelve new IA-designated courses needed to strengthen the major: Human Rights in International Affairs; Arabic Language and Culture; HIV/AIDS: A Global Perspective; Islamic Religious Sciences; Global Feminisms; Maghreb in International Affairs; International Law; Franco-Québécois Identity in History and Literature; International Migration; Dynamics of Caribbean Political Economy; Comparative Constitutional Systems; and Confucian Values and the Rise of East Asia.

The IA Program requires high-intermediate foreign language competency and advanced LAC training for all majors. To deliver the new foreign language requirements, the College will: introduce advanced LAC courses in Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish; establish summer internships in China, Germany, Italy, and Japan so that students will reach high-intermediate to advanced competency in a shorter period of time; and provide faculty with advanced foreign language training.

The mortar that holds the project together is the faculty workshop conceived in four parts. The assessment workshop evaluates the mission, delivery, and performance of the program and its curriculum. The teaching workshop brings together faculty to present their curricular development projects. The theory and methods workshop focuses on the development of the steppingstone course. The faculty development workshop in the Maghreb introduces IA core

faculty to foreign cultures not well represented in the curriculum but of vital interest to the United States. The Maghreb workshop prepares faculty to infuse non-Western perspectives across the IA curriculum and cultivates a deeper sense of community in and commitment to the new IA major program for participants who teach the three required IA core courses.

With the support of a Title VI-A Grant, the Skidmore IA Program will 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 first year of granting a major and will need some time to assess the new major, the IA Director and Associate Dean of the Faculty agreed to schedule a full program review for 2008 or 2009.

The IA Program will conduct an assessment workshop for approximately twenty IA faculty members who will meet for three days in August 2005. The workshop will reevaluate the IA mission statement, program objectives, core curriculum, major requirements, and use of new outcomes assessment techniques. It will also assess the cornerstone course in light of the goals of the new major, consider the basic framework for the new senior seminar, and help evaluate the foundation course requirements to ascertain enrollment patterns and implications for resource allocation. The program hopes to invite Professor Kelleher, Pacific Lutheran University, and Professor Gabara, University of Richmond, to serve as workshop consultants.

### **The year ahead**

The Title VI-A Grant from the UISFL will allow the International Affairs Program to explore new and exciting avenues in the year ahead. Faculty will work together in assessment and pedagogy workshops, develop new courses, acquire new library resources, invite noted scholars to our campus, train in foreign languages abroad, and conduct internationally focused research. In addition, the entire community's continued dedication to the IA major, travel seminars, international exchanges, and global awareness will help Skidmore to fulfill its mission of being a portal to the world.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary-Elizabeth O'Brien  
Director, International Affairs Program