

Department of International Studies

Chair: Stephen Ceccoli

January 2007 Newsletter

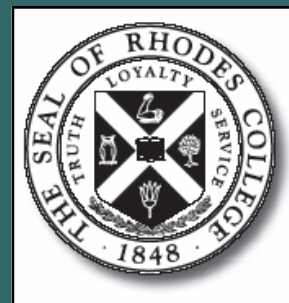


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The Semester in Review

The International Studies Department recently concluded an exciting and eventful fall semester. The following is a brief overview of some of the things that you may have missed....

The I.S. Department opened the fall term by holding its first annual "Meet and Greet" open house session. This was an opportunity for all I.S. majors and minors to gather together, renew acquaintances, and catch up on the various summer activities. It was also a chance for the new faculty members to introduce themselves and engage in departmental fellowship. Following the informal session, students and faculty members gathered in Blount Auditorium to view the film *Syriana*. The I.S. Department started the year with over sixty majors and eight faculty members.

On September 12th, the Department hosted the Honourable Julian Brazier, a Conservative Party member of the British House of Commons and an expert on defense and national security issues. Mr. Brazier presented an engaging public lecture on the security challenges in Central Asia and also spoke to students in the IS 190 class on the nature of British-American security relations, past and present. Mr. Brazier was first elected to Parliament in 1987 and was appointed to the All-Party Commons Defence Select Committee in 1997. Last year, he was appointed as the Shadow Minister for Transport with responsibility for aviation and shipping.

As a supplement to his IS 100 classes, Professor David Romano launched a Departmental Film Series. Films were shown weekly on Wednesday evenings in Blount Auditorium. The inaugural film for the series was "Land and Freedom," a British-Spanish production offering a lucid introduction to the Spanish Civil War and many of the ideological contests surrounding it.

On September 29th and in conjunction with the Rhodes Parents and Family Weekend, four I.S. majors made presentations on their experiences last summer as participants in the Mertie W. Buckman International Internship Program. Professor Steve Ceccoli hosted the event and each student gave a brief presentation about their experiences. The students reflected on their summer experiences, relayed personal anecdotes, and shared photos with the rest of the campus community. The Mertie W. Buckman International Internship Program provides an opportunity for some of the department's best students to gain valuable and practical experience working in a foreign setting. An informal reception with light refreshments was held afterward.

The four students making presentations and their internship locations included:

- Senior Lauren Anderson of Mandeville, LA went to London and worked at the British House of Commons and the UK Center for Social Justice
- Senior Lori Dowell of Carthage, TN went to Mexico City and worked for FedEx
- Senior Laura Sellers of Kansas City, MO went to Madrid and worked at an area employment assistance agency
- Senior Lizzie Phillips of Little Rock, AR went to Brussels and worked at the Defense Operations Unit of NATO

As part of the Rhodes Homecoming Weekend, the Alumni Office sponsored an event in Buckman Hall for students with an interest in starting their post-Rhodes professional careers in Washington, DC and New York City. Three of the panel members – Christopher (Clark) Ogilvie (Class of '91), David Phillips ('02) and C. Kyle Russ ('04) – were former I.S. majors now working in Washington, DC. Along with the other panel members, Clark, David and Kyle provided guidance, insights, and personal anecdotes on how to seek employment and cope with the expensive cost of living in these two cities. We salute them for sharing their valuable insights!

On December 4th, the I.S. Department inducted its most recent class of members into Sigma Iota Rho. The event was hosted by Professor Shadrack Nasong'o, the faculty advisor for SIR, along with Senior Anna Cantrell, (SIR President) and Caroline Owens (SIR Vice-President). (Be sure to view some photos from this event on pages 5-6.) The following students were inducted this year:

Lauren Anderson	Paul Burmenko	Megan Colnar	Allen Daniel
Aubrey Diaz	Emily Donelson	Nora Fischer	Katie Frink
Ellie Hahn	Kathryn Henderson	Erin Herbert	Leah Hirsch
Paul Justice	Taryn Kaselonis	Kristin Marchell	William (Nathan) Maxwell
Emma O'Hagan	Julie Pasch	Robert Purple	Laura Sellers
Kristin Wood			

SIR President Anna Cantrell commented, "SIR is currently in the middle of lining up a series of activities for the spring semester. In the past SIR has hosted a "What to do with an IS major" discussion between faculty and students, and plans are being made to facilitate this again soon. The International Studies journal, *Modus Vivendi*, features student authors and will once again be published towards the end of the semester." The I.S. Department is delighted to welcome yet another class of distinguished SIR inductees.

On December 6th, the I.S. Department hosted a Holiday Open House for students, faculty and staff members. The Open House was held on the last day of classes for the semester while students were in the midst of preparing for final exams. In addition to the refreshments, fellowship, and holiday good cheer, one of the highlights of the event was the passing around of the I.S. Department's collection of old "Faces" books. Various departmental alumni (including students, faculty, and staff members) were fondly chatted about. Incidentally, browsing through the collection of old "Faces" books also generated more than a few giggles regarding the inability of current students to recognize the "faces" of current college faculty and staff members as they were "back in the old days."

What's Ahead in Spring 2007?

MidSouth Model United Nations Conference. For 27 years, students from the I.S. Department has hosted the Mid-South Model United Nations Conference (MSMUN). High school students from throughout the Mid-South region convene at Rhodes to participate in the region's most competitive high school Model UN conference. Approximately 200 high school students from 20-40 schools typically attend the conference to engage in rigorous debates on relevant topics of international importance, and seek to find solutions to the toughest issues facing the modern world. Rhodes students' not only become mentors to the high school participants, but also must become experts on the topics at the conference, the United Nations, and diplomacy in order to be prepared for questions and discussions at the conference. This year, an International Court of Justice has been added to the committee list and the International Press Corps figures to further energize student delegates. This spring's MSMUN, under the leadership of current I.S. majors Amanda Cellini, Megan Colnar, Lori Dowell and Ben Lyon (among others) is scheduled for February 9-10th.

Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference. In April, one or two current I.S. majors will head to the campus of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland to attend the weeklong conference. The theme of this year's conference is "Asia at the Crossroads." The Naval Academy conference invites outstanding undergraduates to meet and discuss major contemporary issues facing the United States and the U.S. armed services.

Kudos to:

- Juniors Megan Colnar and Erin Hebert for being awarded Buckman Scholarships for Study Abroad for the Spring 2007 Semester. Megan will be spending the spring semester studying in Sao Paolo, Brazil while Erin heads off to Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- Professor David Romano, whose recently published book, *The Kurdish Nationalist Movement*, was among those nominated for consideration for the Albert Hourani Book Award.
- Professor Shadrack Nasong'o for being invited by Idelwild Presbyterian Church to give two lectures on Africa to the Sunday School Class of Peacemakers.
- Juniors Katie Frink and Laura Owensby, who are spending the spring semester at American University in Washington, DC on the Washington Semester Program.
- Senior Courtney Denson for recently being selected as a Peace Corps volunteer following his upcoming Rhodes graduation .
- Junior Alex Heit, who was recently accepted for a Summer 2007 State Department internship in Beijing, China.
- The many I.S. alumni who stopped by the office during the Homecoming Weekend. If you didn't have a chance to do so this year, please stop and see us the next time you are back on campus. We'd enjoy the opportunity to spend some time visiting together.

I.S. Department Alumni Updates

- Terry Harris ('83), Tim Parish ('84), and Ben Scott ('94) currently work in various divisions of the FedEx Corp. in the Memphis area. They recently lent some of their time and creativity by speaking to a small delegation from Rhodes (including Prof. Ceccoli) about developing future internship possibilities for Rhodes students at FedEx. Typically, between 2-4 I.S. majors intern locally with FedEx during a given semester and 2-3 more intern with FedEx internationally over the summer.
- Matt Preston ('92) and Ashley Mickle ('92) relocated to Brentwood, TN along with their children—Sarah, Emily, and Jacob.
- David Mickle ('02) and his wife Miriam recently returned to Memphis after completing Master's degrees at Trinity University in Dublin, Ireland. As the winner of an Ambassadorial Scholarship from Rotary International, Dave pursued his degree in International Peace Studies. Along the way, he had a chance to meet both the Irish president and prime minister along with former Nobel Peace Prize winner, John Hume. He encourages both present and former I.S. majors to consider applying for the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship.
- Gelsey Bennett ('03) recently completed her Master's degree in International Development from the Elliot School of International Affairs at George Washington University. While a graduate student, Gelsey completed field work in the Philippines. She recently accepted a position with Winrock International.
- Allen Hodges ('05) is a second year Master's degree student at Texas A&M University's Bush School of Government and Public Service. He is working toward a degree in International Affairs with a concentration in National Security. This past summer he interned with the State Department at the American Embassy in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.
- Katie Ackerman ('06) and Patrick Rhamey ('06) were married in December 2006 in Kerrville, TX and now reside in Athens, GA. Katie is working at a real estate development firm and preparing for the LSAT, while Patrick is a graduate student at the University of Georgia. In addition to taking courses in international relations and security studies, Patrick has served as a teaching assistant for introductory political science courses.
- Rachel Boulden ('06) has spent the past several months working with United Action International in Kenya.
- Scott Douglass ('06) is working in Washington, DC, as a Legislative Correspondent for Senator Jon Kyl of Arizona. One of Scott's projects has been to research immigration issues.
- Marie Francis ('06) recently began a new job in Washington, DC at CropLife America in their communications department.
- Leslie Longtin ('06) is now a counterterrorism analyst for the Department of Defense.

If you have an alumni update you'd like to share with us, please email your update to Brenda Somes at somes@rhodes.edu.

Faculty and Staff Updates

Professor Steve Ceccoli was appointed as Department Chair. Professor Ceccoli returns to Rhodes this year after being away on sabbatical leave for the 2005-06 academic year. During his sabbatical leave, he spent some time teaching during the summer at Tianjin Normal University in Tianjin, China. Professor Ceccoli spent most of his leave in Washington DC participating in the American Political Science Association's Congressional Fellowship Program. As one of five political science professors selected for the program, Prof. Ceccoli worked in the office of Sen. Blanche Lincoln (D-AR). In Sen. Lincoln's office, he worked primarily on health policy issues and enjoyed the opportunity to witness the policymaking process from such a close vantage point. During his year long stay in Washington, Prof. Ceccoli also enjoyed visiting with many former I.S. majors as well as serendipitously bumping into a number of Rhodes grads around town. He is continuing his work on the regulation of prescription medicines and is currently researching a project involving citizen attitudes regarding the direct-to-consumer advertising of prescription medicines. An article he co-authored for Professor Andrew Michta and former departmental colleague, Karl Kaltenthaler, on support for privatization in European post-Soviet economies recently appeared in the *European Journal of Political Research*.

Professor Geoff Cockerham, who joined the International Studies faculty in Fall 2006, received his Ph.D. from the University of Arizona and his Juris Doctorate from Louisiana State University. Prior to joining Rhodes, Professor Cockerham was an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Arizona and a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Louisville. He has also taught at the University of Louisville's campus in Panama. Professor Cockerham has co-authored publications in a journal article and book chapter. He has also presented several papers on issues in international and comparative politics. He is currently working on a paper examining the creation of regional trade agreements and a project examining the legalization of treaties under the purview of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Professor John Copper is currently on sabbatical leave during the 2006-07 academic year. Professor Copper has recently completed work on two separate book projects. His book, *Playing with Fire: The Looming War With China Over Taiwan* (Westport, CT: Westview Press, 2006) came out earlier this year. In addition, a reference book that he authored, *The Historical Dictionary of Taiwan (Republic of China)—third edition*, will be published in 2007. He has also completed a number of policy papers and book chapters, including "A Referendum on President Chen," in the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, December 2005 and "US China Policy: Is the Neocon Perspective Fading?" in the *EAI Bulletin* in November 2005. While on sabbatical he has also been busy conducting a number of television, radio and newspaper interviews.

Professor Robert Ingram joined the faculty of Rhodes College this academic year as an instructor for the International Studies Department. He is a graduate of Lipscomb University in Nashville and the University of Memphis where he studied Political Science. His areas of specialty are International Relations, International Political Economy and Comparative Politics. His research interests include international relations theory, international conflict, human rights and American foreign policy. In addition, he is a research associate at the University of Memphis's Center for Urban Child Policy where he studies social mobilization for child policy and its effectiveness. Robert is a native of Nashville, and besides teaching, he enjoys backpacking, independent and foreign films, and college football. He is happily married and has two dogs.

Professor Andrew Michta is currently on leave from Rhodes while working for the Department of Defense at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies in Germany. This year, in addition to lecturing and teaching at the Marshall Center's Program in Advanced Security Studies (PASS), Dr. Michta has served as Deputy Director of the Senior Executive Seminar, a course for senior diplomats and general rank officers from the United States, Europe and Eurasia. This year's SES topics included "Transatlantic Relations," "Countering Ideological Support for Terrorism," and "Mediterranean Security Cooperation." Dr. Michta has published a book this year, *The Limits of Alliance: The United States, NATO and the EU in North and Central Europe* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2006), and articles in *The National Interest* and *Orbis* (winter issues of both journals). In addition, Dr. Michta is a member of the Transatlantic Relations Group, organized by the American Enterprise Institute and hosted by GICAT in Paris, and a member of the Black Sea Security Working Group, organized by the National Defense University in Washington, DC and the Ministry of Defense of Romania (Bucharest). Dr. Michta lectured in Europe and in the United States, as well as participating in a number of security conferences and outreach activities, including the Second Black Sea Conference in Athens, organized by the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government and the Hellenic Ministry of Defense.

Professor Shadrack W. Nasong'o, who joined the International Studies faculty in Fall 2005, received his PhD degree in Public and International Affairs from Northeastern University, Boston. In addition to numerous refereed journal articles and peer reviewed book chapters, Dr. Nasong'o is author of *Contending Political Paradigms in Africa: Rationality and the Politics of Democratization in Kenya and Zambia* (New York: Routledge, 2005), and co-editor of *Kenya: The Struggle for Democracy* (London: Zed Books, forthcoming). He is currently working on two papers: "Ecological Roots of Social Conflict in Kenya," and "Statism, Kleptocracy and the Democratic Imperative in Kenya," which he presented at the Association of Third World Studies and African Studies Association conferences, respectively, in November. He is a member of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national Political Science Honor Society.

Professor Amy Risley joined the International Studies faculty in Fall 2005 after completing her doctorate at the University of Texas at Austin with a specialization in comparative politics and Latin American politics. Her main research interests include civil society, social movements, and democratization. She recently published an article, "The Political Potential of Civil Society: Advocating for Freedom of Information in Argentina," on activism in favor of a freedom of information law in Argentina in *The Latin Americanist*, and her article on gender violence entitled "Framing Violence: Argentina's Gender Gap" is forthcoming in the *International Feminist Journal of Politics*. Last spring, Professor Risley presented papers at two academic conferences: the Latin American Studies Association congress in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and the Southwestern Political Science Association meeting in San Antonio. Originally from Madison, Wisconsin, she is proud to call herself a "Cheesehead."

Professor David Romano, who joined the International Studies faculty in Fall 2006, received his Ph.D. from the University of Toronto in 2002. A French-Canadian native, he has conducted extensive field work throughout the Middle East prior to coming to Rhodes. Professor Romano's interests lie in nationalism, social movements, political Islam and Middle East politics. He recently published a book, *The Kurdish Nationalist Movement*, and his co-written a book chapter "The Palestinians: Finding no Freedom in Liberation" appeared in *The Iraq War: Causes and Consequences* (Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2006). In addition, his article "Conducting Research in the Middle East's Conflict Zones" has been published in *PS: Political Science & Politics* and his article "Women In Post-Saddam Iraq: One Step Forward Or Two Steps Back?" in forthcoming in the *National Women's Studies Association Journal*. This fall, Professor Romano initiated an I.S. Department weekly film series that screened a number of interesting and provocative films, including "Promises" (about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict from the perspective of Palestinian and Israeli children), "Lumumba" (a true-story drama set in the time of the Congo's independence from Belgium), "Thirteen Days" (a drama about the Cuban Missile Crisis), and "Dr Strangelove" (a classic tale about the scare of nuclear war). Outside of the classroom, Professor Romano has organized several paintball competitions pitting I.S. majors against students from Biology, Political Science and any other takers.

Brenda Somes, departmental assistant, does not have any peer reviewed articles to report, but she is currently working on her 17th year with the department. Brenda has kept quite busy during the fall semester by assisting the transition of several new departmental faculty members, orienting a host of new majors, guiding a capable crew of departmental work-student students and generally making sure that all departmental matters run smoothly. Brenda's daughter, Meghan, was married last July. The reception was held at the Rhodes Bryan Campus Life Center, so Rhodes played a big part in making the day memorable for Brenda and her family. The years of exposure to international studies majors and faculty members have finally rubbed off on Brenda as her new son-in-law, Herwig DeBeukelaer, was born in Belgium. Meghan and Herwig originally met at Millsaps College and now reside in Memphis. Brenda and her husband, Grant, graciously hosted the department's holiday party at their house this year and a good time was had by all.

PHOTO GALLERY



Professor Steve Ceccoli, department chair, offered a few opening remarks at the SIR induction ceremony. Professor David Romano and his wife, Lucy, are seated on the right.

SIR faculty advisor, Professor Shadrack Nason'g'o, recounted the history of the honor society and explained the meaning behind its Greek letters. Sigma stands for "synesis," meaning prudence, iota for "ideodoi," meaning ideals, and rho for "rhomi," meaning power. SIR President and Vice-President, Anna Cantrell and Caroline Owens, are on the right.



From the left, Professor Amy Risley, Professor Geoff Cockerham, and *Modus Vivendi* Co-Editor and Rhodes senior, Lori Dowell, listen to the speeches at the SIR induction ceremony.

The students from the fall semester's Model UN Class (IS 133) take time to pose for a photo following a spirited debate on the UN's Role in Reducing the Prevalence of Preventable and Neglected Diseases.



The newly inducted members of Sigma Iota Rho enjoy a finely prepared meal and listen intently to the program ceremonies that followed.

While on sabbatical leave, Professor Andrew Michta delivers a lecture at an event sponsored by the European Center for Security Studies.

