

International and Area Studies (IAS) is an interdisciplinary program primarily housed in the School of Arts and Sciences that includes six Area Studies programs. The Area Studies Programs address cultures of the following regions Africa, Middle East, East Asia, European Union, Slavic Europe and Latin America. The IAS student population has significantly grown during the past few years, while four faculty members who actively participated in the program — Norton Mezvinsky (Middle-East), Ronnie Fernandez (Caribbean/Puerto Rico), Charles Mate-Kole (Africa) and Tim Rickard (European/Geography) retired. This program serves seventy-six graduate and fifty undergraduate students. Of the seventy-six graduate students, fifty-four are part-time students. The majority of the fulltime students are undergraduates. Only six of the fifty undergraduates are enrolled as part-timers. The retirement of these professors adversely affects our course offerings especially for students interested in the Middle East. A few students transferred to other universities because we were unable to offer them certain Middle Eastern courses. Therefore, the program committee is rethinking the current curriculum in order to meet the needs of our students. Despite these challenges, International and Area Studies is dynamic and has significantly contributed to the intellectual life of Central Connecticut in its goal to internationalize the campus. This report discusses the contributions and challenges IAS confront as we seek to make International and Area Studies one of the strongest programs at Central Connecticut State.

Administratively, the International and Area Studies Program is housed in the School of Arts and Sciences, though it is a committee overseen by the Senate. Each Area Studies has a coordinator who is responsible for advising both graduate and undergraduate students, in addition to the program development related to their region of study. Area Studies Coordinators do not receive any release time for their roles. Ali Antar (Middle East), Mary Mahony (Latin America), Paloma Lapuerta (European Union), Matt Ciscel (Slavic Europe), Sheri Fafunwa and Warren Perry (Africana Studies and S. Tomada (East Asian) coordinate the Areas Studies programs. The director of International Studies coordinates all of the programs and graduate admission, advises students and oversees the development of the curriculum. In collaboration with other faculty members, the Director ensures that courses are offered to meet the needs of the students. The Director receives 3 credit hours each semester. On average, we receive a budget of \$6,000 inclusive of all Area Studies and International Studies. This year, the Arts and Sciences Dean supported a Graduate Assistant, Ryan Nicoletti to assist the IAS. Since the Director of International and Area Studies is a faculty member in the Anthropology Department, Ms. Melinda Baumgartner, the Secretary also assists with administrative needs.

Our Annual Lecture Series adds value to the International and Area Studies program. During the past two years, International and Area Studies annual Lecture Series received a grant from the Office of the Provost. "State Terrorism" was the focus during the 2008-2009 year. This year's theme was "Women and Children" in the International

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Community. The Provost's support helped to significantly raise the presence of International Studies in the community and among our students. Though this hypothesis has not been tested, we believe our public face has attracted a growing number of high caliber graduate and undergraduate students into the program.

This fall approximately 11 students will enter the Graduate Studies division of International Studies. We expect at least seven graduate students will graduate during the spring and summer, 2010.

An incomplete list of the activities promoted by International and Area Studies is highlighted below.

International Studies Lecture Series:

Vijay Prashad, Professor of Political Science, Trinity College, Hartford discussed "Politics, Natural Disasters, Reconstruction." March 17, 2010.

Cynthia Enloe, Professor Clark University, Worcester, MA discussed the "True Cost of the Iraq War for Women and Children." April 15, 2010.

Susan Abulhawa presented her research and activism: "Playground for Palestinian Children." April 20, 2010.

Cuban Filmmaker, Gloria Rolando screened her film "Breaking the Silence: Massacre of 1912." April 22, 2010.

East Asian Studies organized and hosted:

1. Asia Day (December 3, 2009) - including Student poster presentation, Student Panel "Cultural Connection to Asia", and Faculty Panel "Re-Imaging Asia).
2. Guest Lecture on February 3, 2010 - "Conflicts of Interest Between Mother and Child in Modern Korea" by Dr. Elise Prebin
3. Guest Lecture on April 22, 2010 - "The Politics of Anime, K-Pop and Jet Li: Does Soft Power Matter in Asia?" By David Leheny, Princeton University

Since Asia Day was so successful, the committee agreed to make it an annual event. Asia Day in the fall of 2011 is scheduled for November 4 at Alumni Hall.

Course Abroad Program

Shizuko Tomoda and Mark Jones took 21 students for the Course Abroad in Japan (Tokyo, Kanazawa, Kyoto, and Hiroshima) for 2 weeks in the summer of 2009 (May 25 to June 8).

Tomoda will take 13 students for the Course Abroad in Japan (Tokyo, Kyoto, Nagasaki and Hiroshima) again for 2 weeks from May 24 through June 7.

African Studies:

African Women in Film Series November 3, 2009

Binyavanga Wainaina, a Kenya writer, Bard Fellow and Director of The Chinua Achebe Center for African Literature and Languages spoke at [the](#) Annual African Studies Conference, “Ethics of Aid” November 2009.

His Excellency Peter Ogego, Ambassador of Kenya addressed Kenya - US Relations April 8, 2010.

Middle Eastern Studies:

Raymond Baker, Professor of International Politics, Trinity College, [Hartford](#), discussed Obama, Islam and the Muslim World October 29, 2009.

Debate between Norton Mezvinsky and Moises Salinas “Options for Resolution of Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.” Dec. 1, 2009.

Former Ambassador to Gabon, Warren Clark explored “A Just, Durable and Equitable Peace in Israel.” Dec. 8, 2009.

Professor Norton Mezvinsky lectured concerning “Talking with Hamas and Dealing with the Rebbe” April 29, 2010.

Latin American Studies

Dr. Mary Ann Mahony has actively worked with the Brazilian community as it has opened a Consulate in Hartford. (A more complete report will be submitted later.)

Student Development:

Ariela Papajani, an International Studies graduate student (Concentration European Union) began an internship at the United Nations January 2010.

Kevin Booker, an International Studies (African Studies Concentration) graduate student co-authored a paper with Prof. Evelyn Phillips concerning “Racialized Experiences among African Students in Schools in Central Connecticut and presented with Phillips at the Society for Applied Anthropology Meeting in Mérida, Mexico, March 23, 2010.

Ryan Nicoletti and Mirnes Mustafic met with Bosnian Representatives on Capitol Hill April 2019.

They also arranged a talk by Elmina Kulasic: The Impact of Ethnic-Cleansing and Genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina: The Perspective of a Survivor and Advocate. Torp Auditorium, May 4, 2010

Carol Brault, Latin American Studies Graduate Student organized a textile exhibit in the Burritt Library and a lecture by Dr. Marjorie Agosin, a Chilean scholar regarding "Textiles as Therapy" as part of her graduate applied research project. Ms. Brault graduates this semester with a Masters Degree.

Lisa Harlow, an International Studies graduate student presented her research on the Hague and International Adoption at the May 6, 2010 Graduate Research Day.

Nicole Kennedy, an undergraduate International Studies (African and Peace Studies Concentrations) began an internship at International Red Cross in Farmington. She will help reconnect refugees with their families. She is the second International Studies student to internship with the Red Cross in three years.

Courses Abroad:

Peter Kyem and Evelyn Phillips will lead a course abroad with 8 students to Ghana July 19 to August 3, 2010

Ghassan El Eid led 5 students to Dubai, January 2010.

Ghassan El Eid and Paloma Lapuerta led 21 students to Spain and Morocco during the March Spring Break 2010.

Ghassan El Eid will lead students to Messina, Italy June 3-13, 2010.

Challenges and the Future:

The Middle East program has been severely hampered by the retirement of Dr. Norton Mezvinsky. The History Department hired a one-year replacement scholar who will offer a course related to Ancient Persia. However, the curriculum requires students to acquire knowledge concerning [the](#) Contemporary Middle-East. With the retirement of Tim Rickard, [Geography 554](#), a core course is seldom offered. This summer the geography course is offered to students as an online course. A retreat has been planned for May 26, 2010 to address these and other curriculum issues. A major concern remains: International and Area Studies should be located in the School of Arts and Sciences and removed from the aegis of the Faculty Senate. The International and Area Studies Program has grown beyond its initial development when it became a committee of the Senate.

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Conclusion

Without the commitment of many faculty members on campus and the assistance of the Dean of Arts and Sciences and the Provost, many of the achievements of International Studies would not be possible. I would therefore like to extend my appreciation and gratitude to the IAS faculty, Dean Susan Pease and Provost Carl Lovitt for making the IAS Program a success this past year.

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