

International and Area Studies Senate Report

International and Area Studies (IAS) is an interdisciplinary program primarily housed in the School of Arts and Sciences. The six 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 continues to grow, while the retirement of four faculty members who actively participated in the program still adversely affects our curriculum. This program currently serves forty-nine graduate and fifty-three undergraduate students. The retirement of these professors, means limited courses for students, especially those interested in the Middle East. Therefore, the program committee is rethinking the current curriculum in order to meet the needs of our students. As of Fall 2011, in conjunction with Middle Eastern Studies, the History department secured a one – two year appointment with a Middle Eastern specialist. Despite these challenges, International and Area Studies Program is dynamic and significantly contributes to the intellectual life of Central Connecticut in its goal to internationalize the campus. This report focuses on administrative issues, trends in student enrollment from 2005 - 2010, degrees awarded since 2008, internship opportunities and student development, Lecture Series, and the study/course abroad opportunities available to both undergraduate and graduate students.

Administrative Issues

Administratively, International and Area Studies Program is housed in the School of Arts and Sciences, though it remains a committee of the Senate. Each Area Studies has a Coordinator who is responsible for advising both graduate and undergraduate students in addition to program development related to their region of study. Area Studies Coordinators do not receive any release time for their roles. Ghassan El-Eid (Middle East), Mary Mahony (Latin America), Paloma Lapuerta (European Union), Matt Ciscel (Slavic Europe), Sheri Fafunwa and Warren Perry (Africana Studies) and Shizuko Tomada (East Asia) coordinate the Area Studies programs. Evelyn Phillips, director of International Studies coordinates all of the programs, graduate admission, advises students, and oversees the development of the curriculum. In collaboration with the coordinators, Phillips works to ensure that courses offered meet the program's requirements as well as the needs of the students. The Director receives 3 credit hours each semester. Since the IS Director is a faculty member in the Anthropology Department, Ms. Melinda Baumgartner, the Secretary also assists with administrative needs. In the spring 2010 semester the Dean of Arts and Sciences supported a Graduate Assistant, Ryan Nicoletti to assist IS.

Trends in Student Enrollment

Both the undergraduate and graduate programs represent considerable growth in student enrollment between the Fall 2005 and Fall 2010 semesters. Undergraduate enrollment increased by twenty-eight students while the graduate program increased by thirteen students. We believe our public face attracts a growing number of high caliber graduate and undergraduate students into the program. This Fall 2011 semester, approximately 12 students will enter the Graduate Studies division of International Studies.

Undergraduate

In the Fall 2005 semester, the undergraduate program had sixteen students enrolled and increased to fifty-three declared majors as of the Fall 2010 semester. Data as of 2010 show the largest concentration of enrolled undergraduate students to be juniors and seniors, sixteen juniors (31%) and eighteen seniors (35%). Remaining undergraduate enrollment consists of eight first year students (15%) and ten sophomores (19%). Undergraduate class data from the Fall 2005 through Fall 2010 are listed below.

	Fall 2005	Fall 2006	Fall 2007	Fall 2008	Fall 2009	Fall 2010
First Year	5	4	8	7	3	8
Sophomore	1	3	6	12	14	10
Junior	5	6	6	13	16	16
Senior	5	10	12	8	11	18

Graduate

In the Fall 2005 semester, twenty-five students enrolled in the graduate program and increased the enrollment to thirty-seven students by the Fall 2010 semester. Data as of 2010 show an increase of twelve students since 2005. An additional twelve students were admitted for the Fall 2011 semester. The breakdown of incoming full-time and part-time graduate student status is listed below.

	Fall 2005	Fall 2006	Fall 2007	Fall 2008	Fall 2009	Fall 2010	Fall 2011 (Incoming)
Part-time	10	8	11	10	16	14	NA
Full-time	15	19	21	26	22	23	12

Degrees Awarded

Beginning with the Fall 2008 semester and ending with the Fall 2010 semester, the International & Area Studies program awarded a total of thirty-six degrees: seventeen Bachelors of Arts and nineteen Masters of Science.

The institutional outcomes of receiving a Bachelors of Arts or Masters of Science degree in International & Area Studies are: students have demonstrated an understanding of the diversity of cultural values, beliefs and worldviews, the ability to critically approach global social, political, and economic cultural issues, the capacity to collect and analyze data, and the ability to produce and defend a scholarly paper based on primary research. Both undergraduate and graduate students complete either a special project or thesis as their capstone experience.

Undergraduate

Between 2008-2011, the International & Area Studies Program awarded twenty-three Bachelors of Arts degrees. Eight students in the Fall 2008 semester, one in the Fall 2009, two in the Spring 2009, one in the Summer 2009, five in the Spring 2010, and six in the Spring 2011.

Graduate

Between the fall 2008- 2010 semesters, the International & Area Studies program awarded thirty-two Masters of Science degrees. Six students in the Spring 2008, one in the Summer 2008, four in the Spring 2009, three in the Summer 2009, one in the Fall 2009, four in the Spring 2010, and thirteen between May and August 2011 received their Masters.

Internship Opportunities and Student Development

International & Area Studies encourages students to pursue internship opportunities as a means to develop career contacts and assess the realities of a professional work environment. The International and Area Studies Program has ongoing relationships with a variety of local community organizations such as the Bristol Community Organization, the City of Bristol Planning Office, the Red Cross in Farmington, the West End Community Center in Hartford, the Spanish Speaking Center in New Britain, the Opportunity and Industrial Center in New Britain, the Hartford Boys and Girls Club, Mi Casa in New Britain, the ARC in Plainville, the Central CT Regional Planning Agency, and the Institute for Community Research in Hartford.

Nicole Kennedy, an undergraduate International Studies (African and Peace Studies Concentrations) interned at the International Red Cross in Farmington during the Summer of 2010. She helped reconnect refugees with their displaced families.

Karoline Karlman, undergraduate (European Union) received a State Department Internship in Lithuania that begins in Fall 2011.

The Connecticut Legislature honored Kara Coe, a graduating undergraduate who maintains a 3.90 GPA.

The International and Area Studies program honored (May 5, 2011) four graduating seniors (Kara Noe, Elliot Marks, Nicole Kennedy and Casey Casserino) for their high achievement and international focus. Each student achieved a GPA of 3.5 and above.

Jatna Nova-Tapia interned at the Peruvian Consulate in Hartford.

Ryan Nicoletti, graduate student (East European Studies) has been working with Bosnian war refugees in Hartford, Connecticut since May 2010. He will travel to eastern Bosnia this summer to participate in the annual pilgrimage to commemorate the 1995 Srebrenica massacre and to conduct the second phase of his thesis fieldwork.

International Studies Lecture Series:

During the past three years, International and Area Studies annual Lecture Series received a grant from the Office of the Provost. State Terror was the focus during the 2008-2009 year. "Women and Children" in the International Community was the theme for the 2009-2010 year. This year, the lecture series focused on Immigrant and Refugee communities. The Provost's support helped to significantly raise the presence of International Studies in the community and among our students.

The 2010-2011 Lecture Series consisted of fourteen events organized by the Area Studies Committees with support from the Provost's office. In an effort to assess the effectiveness of the Lecture Series estimated headcounts as well as CCSU Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) Event Evaluation Forms were used to record attendance, quality of events, reasons for attending, and future attendance. Although, IDS Evaluation Forms were only distributed at four events, headcounts were taken for all fourteen events. Total attendance for all events is 416, which yields a mean of 29.7 per event. The analysis that follows is based on an assessment of the IDS Evaluation Form distributed during a sample of four events.

The total attendance for the four events is 119. This number is figured using the mean attendance (29.7) multiplied by the four events where the IDS form was distributed. Of the 119 IDS forms distributed, 44 completed forms were returned. With a return rate of 37% we feel this information to be representative of the Lecture Series as a whole. The data sets below indicate 43% of people attended for personal reasons, 95% rated the events as either excellent or good, and 98% suggested they would be very likely or somewhat likely to attend a future event.

	Required	Extra-credit	Personal	Total
Reasons for attending	13	17	23	53

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
Quality of event	24	16	2	0	42

	Very Likely	Somewhat Likely	Somewhat Unlikely	Vey Unlikely	Total
Future attendance	20	27	1	0	48

A partial list of the activities promoted by International and Area Studies is highlighted below.

Fall 2010- Spring 2011 Lecture Series on Refugees and other Issues

Gabriel Bol Deng, one of the Lost Boys of Sudan, spoke on his film “Rebuilding Hope,” September 2010.

Omar Sierra, Counsel General of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in Boston, MA delivered a talk on Afro-indigenous social movements in Venezuela, November 2010.

Sara Roy, Ph.D. “Changing Conceptions of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and the Refugees of Gaza” on December 7, 2010.

Leila Kavar, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Political Science, Bates College, Maine. “Sans-Papiers on Strike: Undocumented Migrants and Social Movements in France since the 1970s,” February 24, 2011

Chris George, Executive Director of Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS), and Hussam, IRIS caseworker. “Refugee Resettlement—Our Nations Proudest Tradition and Best Kept Secret: The Joys and Challenges of Welcoming Refugees to Connecticut,” on March 10, 2011.

Gina Ulysse, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology and African-American Studies, Wesleyan University, Connecticut. “When the Body is a Country’s Archive: Some Women’s Stories of Trauma, Stories of Will,” March 31, 2011.

Katherine Stitham, Columbia Teachers College, "Iraqi Refugees in Jordan and Syria: Integration and Education," April 11, 2011.

Michael Williams, Ph.D., Current 5th District Connecticut Congressional Candidate, "The Good War: Liberal Intervention and the Promotion of Democracy," April 13, 2011.

Wenona Rymond-Richmond, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Sociology, UMASS Amherst, Massachusetts. "Racism and Dehumanization in the Darfur Genocide," April 21, 2011.

Cawo Abdi, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Minnesota, Minnesota, "The Newest African-American? Somali-Americans' Struggles of Belonging," May 5, 2011.

Asian Studies organized and hosted: (Formerly East Asian Studies)

Asia Day (December 2010) - including Student Poster Presentations, Student Panel "Cultural Connection to Asia", and Faculty Panel "Re-Imaging Asia). The second annual Asia Day took place on November 4, 2010 in Alumni Hall. Asia Day has become so successful, the International & Area Studies committee agreed to support this as an annual event.

Guest Speaker on March 29, 2011 – "Drawing Lines in South Asia: Refugees and the Making of Nation-States" by Vazira Zamindar, Ph.D.

Latin American Studies

Dr. Mary Ann Mahony works with the Brazilian community.

Dr. Mahony organized the annual "Brazil Through the Eyes of Berimbrown," which included panel discussion and conversations with the musicians as well as a concert. Four hundred students participated in the program.

Study/Courses Abroad

Shizuko Tomoda took 13 students for the Course Abroad in Japan (Tokyo, Kyoto, Nagasaki and Hiroshima) again for 2 weeks from May 24 through June 7, 2010

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

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

Ghassan El-Eid led 5 students to Al Ain and Dubai, United Arab Emirates, January 2011. Evelyn Phillips joined this study tour and met with University of Al Ain faculty.

Abigail Adams and Marisa Mealy led students to Santiago, Chile, March 17-28, 2011.

Richard Benfield and Tiffany Doan will lead students to Puerto Maldonado, Peru, May 24-June 10, 2011.

Ghassan El-Eid will lead students to Messina and Rome, Italy, June 10-19, 2011.

Abigail Adams and Marisa Mealy will lead students to Monteverde and Los Llanos, Costa Rica, July 26-August 17, 2011.

Challenges and the Future:

As mentioned earlier, retirements have affected our curriculum. The Middle East program has been severely hampered by the retirement of Dr. Norton Mezvinsky. The History Department has plans to hire an emergency appointment for the Fall 2011 semester. The professor will offer two courses on the Middle East. A graduate course will be offered for the first time that addresses Gender in the Middle East. With the retirement of Tim Rickard, World Geography, a core course, is seldom offered. This summer IS 501: Global Political Economy will be offered as a substitute course. Currently, two committees are evaluating the undergraduate and graduate curriculums, as well as the programs' outcomes. Without the commitment of faculty across campus, the assistance of the Dean of Arts and Sciences, and the Provost, many of the achievements of International Studies would not be possible.

Submitted: Evelyn Newman Phillips, Ph.D., International and Area Studies, Director

Department of Anthropology