Hello to all our International Studies majors, past and present, and to all faculty and friends of the INS program!

Though I am delighted to be back at the helm of International Studies, I would like to acknowledge the wonderful service of Professor Binita Mehta, who directed the INS Program these past 3 years with such dedication and style. Thank you, Professor Mehta!

There are some wonderful new developments to report on. First and best of all—we have a new full-time faculty member teaching courses for International Studies, as well as Asian Studies, Professor Nayma Qayum. Please see the “faculty spotlight” on page 3-4 to get to know a little more about her. I think you’ll quickly get turned on to take some of her courses—like this Spring’s INS 2040 Armed Conflicts since WWII and ASN/INS 2039 Contemporary South Asia.

This Fall we changed the organization of the INS Faculty Committee by forming a Steering Committee to help direct the program more efficiently. In the past a great many faculty were involved in guiding International Studies, and we are certainly grateful for that involvement, but getting a meeting together with 16 people and reaching quick consensus on issues, has been daunting. The new INS Steering Committee is composed of six faculty members that represent the various disciplines of International Studies: Professors Swedberg, Bryan, Sarver, Qayum and myself, plus at least one student - this semester, graduating senior Gabriela Marquez. Of course we will continue to count on the many other faculty who teach both core and elective courses for INS: Professors Adhia, Bowling, Mbadj, Whelan, Tyrrell, Gutman, Lujan, Mehta, Kelleher, Krute, Halloway and others. One of the things the INS Steering Committee is working on is the possibility of changing the INS Program to a department, putting it more in line with most of the other majors at the College. More on this as our deliberations progress!

I urge you to check out the many student contributions in this issue. Our senior INS student rep and program assistant, Gabriela Marquez ’16, completed interviews with Professor Qayum and with two featured INS majors: Sophomore Frances Cruz ’18 and Junior Charles Rusch ’17. There are also articles by two students, Alina Callo ’16 and Kristie Manzueta ’16, who went abroad and gained enormously from their experiences in Argentina and France respectively. Two students, Nury Charro Live ’16 and Gabriela Marquez ’16, describe the internships they recently completed and their impact on their personal and professional growth. Mary O’Neil ’17 contributes an article on the significance of the Pope’s visit to Congress. Clarissa Orellana ’16 writes up last Spring’s INS Forum lecture by Nicole Friederichs on her work as a lawyer for indigenous rights. There are updates on several alumni, and we are featuring one in particular, Marina Adese ’13. Marina writes about the wonderful job she landed after graduation with the International Rescue Committee. It is very gratifying to see how active and successful our majors continue to be!

Finally, please note that two important INS events are coming up. On November 10 at 6:30 in the East Library we will have our annual Fall INS Forum. Attendance at this event is mandatory for all majors (sign-up sheet!). Our guest speaker at the Forum will be Prof. Qayum. On Monday, Nov. 30 and Wednesday, Dec. 2, we will have our INS Senior Thesis Presentations. On page 7 we introduce you to this year’s seniors and the thesis topics they are diligently working on. Remember: this will be you within a few short semesters! I urge you to learn from these seniors, who will also be coming to the INS Forum to talk about their topics and what it has been like to research them. They have a lot to teach all of us!

I hope you enjoy this INS Newsletter!

Gabriele M. Wickert
Director, International Studies Program
International Studies Faculty Steering Committee

Gabriele Wickert (Director, INS, World Languages)
Christopher Sarver (Political Science/Legal Studies)
Gregory Swedberg (History/Latin American Studies)
Jim Bryan (Economics, Finance and Management)
Nayma Qayum (International Studies/Asian Studies)

Student Representative: Gabriela Márquez'16

INS Newsletter Contributors

Marina Adese '13: Valeria Ricciulli '15
Pablo Alvarez ‘16 Sofia Rocchio ‘15
Alina Callo ‘16 Charlie Rusch ‘17
Nury Charro ‘16 Mary Josephine O’Neil ‘17
Frances Cruz ‘18 Gabriela Marquez ‘16
Megan Angley ‘12 Adriana Prida ‘10

I would like to thank Gabriela Marquez for all her excellent work on this Newsletter. As INS Program Assistant she wrote several of the articles, conducted interviews and wrote them up, helped edit other submissions, and did most of the layout and graphics. Gaby, you have been a pleasure to work with - so caring, calm, creative and organized. The Newsletter and I owe you a great deal! We will miss you very much when you graduate in January! Gabriele Wickert
Faculty Spotlight: Nayma Qayum

Professor Qayum joined the Asian and International Studies Programs this Fall. She is currently teaching 3 sections of the required “Intro to Global Studies” class. She is also part of the INS Steering Committee and is the advisor for the Model UN Club. Next semester she will teach “Intro to Global Studies, plus “Armed Conflicts since WWII” and “Contemporary South Asia”.

An Interview with Professor Nayma Qayum

[conducted and transcribed by Gabriela Marquez ’16]

- **Tell us a little bit about yourself, your education, work and travel experience.**

My academic career was inspired by the few years I spent as researcher at the United Nations Development Program in New York. This was during the US occupation of Iraq in 2004 and I was supporting the team working on the political transition from an occupation to self-government. I realized that there was so much more I had to learn before I could do meaningful work. In graduate school, I discovered that my research interests converged on political behavior – why do people do what they do? Why do they vote? Under what circumstances do they pick up guns? I started working on Bangladesh, where I am from. I love being in the field. There is nothing more exciting than working with people on the ground. And when you end up with some solid research, you feel that you have created something from nothing.

- **How has your transition to Manhattanville been so far?**

I appreciate Manhattanville’s close-knit community. The faculty care deeply about their students, which is incredibly important to me. My colleagues have been so supportive. Also, I spent the last year teaching upstate at SUNY Geneseo and it is wonderful plugging back into intellectual life in the NYC area.

- **How did your passion for Asian and International Studies come about?**

From the people I meet on the ground, thriving in the context of unimaginable adversity – for example, teenage girls in Bangladeshi villages who engage with the community in their local clubs, women who run small businesses out of their households, fishermen who brave storms because they cannot miss a day’s catch. Their stories need to be told.

Continues on next page
An Interview with Professor Nayma Quayum (cont.)

- Do you have a favorite quote and why?

“There are all kinds of worlds in the real world. Most people don’t know that.” Because the moment you stop imagining is the moment you stop learning.

- What is the most valuable advice you would give to your students?

Be creative. Be imaginative. And never be afraid to speak your mind.

- Why would you recommend students from different departments to enroll in INS courses?

Because we need you! The world that we live in faces different threats than it did a generation ago — inequality, environmental calamities, and conflict. It needs students who care about community service, public responsibility, research, humanitarian work. Also, more and more companies are establishing offices overseas. Having an INS degree can better prepare you for careers, both inside and outside the United States.

- What in your opinion has been the most important development in society in the past 10 years?

We are undergoing a massive global transformation where technology is advancing at a speed that society cannot keep up with. That affects the nature of warfare, the way in which people mobilize, the way that we engage with politics. These are both challenging and exciting times. As a social scientist, I think a lot about how we should adapt to these changes as a society.
Student Spotlight: Frances Cruz ‘18

Our first student spotlight is on Frances Cruz, who is currently a sophomore majoring in International Studies and minoring in Political Science and German. Through my brief interview with her we find out more about her background, her interests and future plans.

Frances Cruz is from San Juan, Puerto Rico. She decided to major in International Studies concentrating in Global Justice because she has been always interested in human rights, and this passion grew after she attended a summer camp at Duke University in North Carolina. She considers that this concentration will create the perfect path to achieve her professional goals in the near future. Frances is also doing a double minor in German and Political Science. Although she finds the German language a challenge, she thinks it will be of great advantage. She chose this language because she has always been particularly attracted to German culture, and she plans to do a semester abroad in Germany during her junior year.

Her favorite course so far has been the Model UN course taught by Professor Keteku. She says that she has enjoyed learning about the UN, and is very excited to go to the Harvard National Model United Nations (HNMUN) next semester.

Frances is very interested in doing an internship at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City next year. However, she is also looking at summer internship programs in Washington, DC and in Berlin. For future plans, Frances is thinking of either applying to Law School or to get a job at the United Nations, so she can have a better insight on how global affairs work.

She thinks that the International Studies Program has done a great job so far, and she hopes they continue to add more interesting courses and events. Moreover, she wishes that some classes would be offered both semesters.

By Gabriela Márquez ‘16
Our next student spotlight is on Charles Rusch, who is a junior here at Manhattanville, majoring in International Studies and concentrating in both International Management and Political and Economic Relations. Charles is also Vice-president of Academic Affairs in the Student Government Association on campus. From the interview I did with him, we learn about his academic and professional experiences throughout his college career.

Charles (Charlie) Rusch is from New York, but his family is from Argentina. Charles is a junior majoring in International Studies. He has a double concentration in International Management and Political and Economic Relations, as he thought these two would complement each other nicely. Moreover, he believes it is important to be knowledgeable about both, since these sectors are strongly interconnected. He also has a Spanish minor.

He chose a major in International Studies since even at a very young age, he was interested in how the world is intertwined and connected.

His favorite course so far has been International Relations with Professor Mbodj. He found this class very interesting because the course focused on major global conflicts since 1945, but it also looked at the future and how these kinds of conflicts might be resolved. He also enjoyed the course World Cultures through Literature and Film with Professor Wickert, because using novels and films was a different way of learning, and it also gave him a different perspective and insight on world cultures.

Charles already has a summer internship lined up at the company Swiss Re. There he will be working in various departments dealing with international insurances. He told us that he would like to see more advertisement of the INS program because it is a very important major. He recommends students from other departments to also enroll in classes offered by the INS program as he considers that all INS courses are relevant to our current world system. The INS program offers diverse and broad learning, so it helps one to expand one’s knowledge. Charles would also like to encourage current INS students to stay up to date about global affairs, as this will help them a lot with understanding and participation in courses.

Charles’ dream career would be a job that allowed him to travel and also focus on international relations. He is sure that he wants to work for a non-profit international organization.

By Gabriela Márquez ‘16
The INS Senior Seminar

The International Studies Senior Seminar is the capstone course for the INS major. It is the vehicle for writing the senior thesis, which is of course different for each student, but it also involves meeting every week and sharing one’s own research with the others in the seminar. Along the way the big global issues inevitably come up. Students benefit from the various perspectives of their classmates – political, economic, cultural -- as they bring each other up-to-date on what is going on in the world. In Professor Swedberg’s seminar this Fall, students have discussed topics such as the Syrian war, the U.S. presidential elections and candidates, economic crises around the world, global warming, natural disasters, and more. As one senior in the class put it: “The INS Seminar is my favorite class this semester. I’m learning so much from everyone else!”

Here are our current seniors and their thesis topics:

- **Pablo Alvarez**: Ecuador and Venezuela’s 21st Century Socialism: Solution or Failure?
- **Amanda Armenteros**: Afro-Cubans’ better sense of self-identity than African-Americans
- **Ivana Bejaran**: How social media grew out of specific revolutionary events around the world
- **Alina Callo**: The influence of the global game, futbol
- **Caroline Castro**: The issue of human trafficking in Latin America
- **Nury Charro**: An examination of the different issues faced by Latina immigrants once they arrive to the United States
- **Angella Daluz**: The rise and fall of the African National Congress (ANC)
- **Courtney Desilva**: Communism in Southeast Asia, focusing on China, Vietnam and North Korea.
- **Jasmine Fox**: Political effects on countries that hosted the Olympics — on their native people, the athletes and the Olympics itself. Focusing on Mexico, China and Brazil.
- **Kristie Manzueta**: The efficacy of international humanitarian aid organizations in international development.
- **Gabriela Márquez**: The impact of the latest Dominican Migration Reform on the bilateral relationship between Haiti and the Dominican Republic
- **Clarissa Orellana**: The failure of the war on drugs
- **Susan Riera**: Spain’s economic crisis and austerity
- **Igor Silva**: Impacts of the economic policies undertaken by President Lula of Brazil between 2003-2010
My Study Abroad Experience:

Buenos Aires, Argentina

From the moment I began looking at colleges, I was looking at the quality of their study abroad programs. I always knew that I wanted to spend a semester abroad; I just didn't know where. I have been studying Spanish for years now, but I knew that if I really wanted to know the language, I needed to be immersed in it. I wanted to go somewhere different, which is why I chose Argentina. I am lucky to have friends all over the world, so choosing to travel over 5,000 miles seemed much less daunting with the reassurance of having so many friends waiting for me down there. I have a twin sister, and our time abroad was the longest we had ever spent apart; she went to Austria while I traveled south. Our experiences couldn’t have been more different, but all was for the best. We gained a sense of independence that would not have been possible had we not separated and studied abroad.

I really can’t speak highly enough about my time in Buenos Aires. Since I’m from Vermont, moving to a city of millions was certainly a change, to say the least. I had amazing luck to be placed with probably the best host family in the entire city. I arrived on January 29th after spending 10 days in Lima with a friend, so I was already accustomed to hearing the language and was ready to dive right in. I must admit I was slightly nervous, but mostly excited. Since my host family didn’t speak English, I knew that I was going to have to get over my shyness in speaking Spanish and just go for it. I opted to take the one month intensive language study course, and am so glad I did. Not only did I gain a better understanding of the language, but I was right away able to make some friends, as well as get an extra month in the amazing city that is Buenos Aires!

During the semester I took some great classes. I’d have to say my favorite was my Spanish course, not only because I had an amazing professor, but also because the class was full of students from all over the world - Italy, Germany, France and the US, and many of the members of that class became some of my closest friends. I ended up joining the futbol team, which was the best decision I made! It integrated me into the society and culture that much more, since almost all the girls on the team were from Argentina. My coach didn’t speak English and the girls on the team were always rambling in Spanish. Not only did I get to play the sport I love, but I got to practice so much Spanish, make a connection with the society unlike many others in my group, and form friendships that I value very much. My futbol coach was also the coach of the running team, so I decided to join that as well-- yet another social connection and something I never pictured myself doing, but I would have totally regretted it had I not.
I got to know the city very quickly and was using my Subte card to take some of the first public bus rides of my life and many rides on the Subte (subway). I was astonished how quickly I was able to navigate the city. I was able to fit right in, didn’t feel as though I was just studying there, but rather felt like a true Porteño, namely that I was living my life like a true Argentine. Because I have the pleasure of knowing so many people down there, I was able to have many experiences that are not offered by programs. I experienced the city like the natives do, I reconnected with people I hadn’t seen in years, as well as met and made new friends. I went to numerous asados (birthday parties), took day trips to parts outside of the city, and much more, all thanks to my wonderful friends. I didn’t get to travel much outside of Buenos Aires (that’s for my next adventure down there), but I did take advantage of many of the “must dos”: I drank a lot of wine, ate a lot of meat, many alfajores, experienced the best parts of the city, took advantage of the famous nights in Buenos Aires, and soaked up the culture. I was also able to head over to Uruguay for a day, a place I’d love to return to.

I could go on and on about my trip to Argentina. I truly fell in love with the country, the people, the food, and everyone I was able to meet along the way. Choosing somewhere out of the norm was the best decision I ever made. I also was able to become almost fluent while being there, which is not to say I’m not still missing a great deal in the complicated world of the Spanish language, but I was proud of what I was able to accomplish in just five short months. To anyone looking to study abroad, the decision to do so will change you for the better: it’s the opportunity of a lifetime. Being able to open your mind to the world around you, in a place where people aren’t speaking English, and to experience a culture much different from your own, is something that is truly amazing. My advice is: Take full advantage! You’ll learn so much about yourself, grow up a great deal, become an independent individual, and come back knowing that you’ve been able to experience something amazing.
My Study Abroad Experience:
Montpellier, France

There is no one playing the accordion on the street while I go shopping anymore, and I have no spontaneous trip planned to another country this weekend. As I settle into my routine here in the comfort of home, the realization that I am not in France anymore sets in. I could go on and on about all the things that I miss the most about my study abroad experience, but what I really miss are the challenges. The challenges that were the hardest for me were those that come with learning about and taking in another culture other than your own; the fears that come with being an outsider. It is from those very challenges that your sense of adventure and exploration emerge, which in turn shape your view of the world for the better.

Being the only student from Manhattanville studying abroad in Montpellier, France this semester, I was honestly really nervous about it. However, I right away met the other students in the exchange program from all over the United States - it was such a relief meeting amazing friends right off the bat. Together we were able to navigate some of the challenges of being at a new school. In between taking classes in French grammar, Mediterranean history and art history, I was able to get to know students from all over Europe.

For me, this was my first time living in a completely foreign place for an extended period of time. It impacted me in ways that I never expected. For the first time, I had trouble with everyday activities like buying groceries and finding addresses. For the first time, I experienced being a complete outsider. I learned to be more tolerant of others by just experiencing the patience that people showed me as I tried to communicate my way through daily life. Living in an international dorm where students on every floor share a kitchen, created a learning platform for me that I never expected. Before I knew it, I was getting to know other students from all over the world through food. Especially for an International Studies Major, it is always an incredible experience when food is involved.
Montpellier is not Paris. In Paris it is tempting to slide back into speaking English because it is such a metropolitan city. In Montpellier, it is hard to take the easy road. From the Place de la Comédie (town center), to the people, Montpellier is quintessentially French. It is a very young city full of college students, yet still able to maintain the slow pace of life that is the southern French culture. Some American students go abroad and spend every weekend travelling to other parts of Europe; which allows them to see more of the region, but it can also be exhausting and costly. Without even realizing it, I spent many weekends in Montpellier exploring the city that always seemed to be offering something new, a restaurant, or a shop I hadn’t noticed before.

Don’t get me wrong, I did my fair share of traveling around Europe as well. During the Winter break in February, my friends and I traveled to Prague and Brussels. During the Spring break in April we traveled through Spain and Portugal. We celebrated the end of finals in style, vacationing on the beaches of Nice and Monaco. However, my favorite city of all wasn’t far from Montpellier at all. Sète is very small and is comprised of a network of canals, with beautiful beaches along the Mediterranean. I can’t wait to find my way back there.

Living in another country forces you to move out of your comfort zone. Trying new things and experiences are what gave me a new perspective, and while it was hard to leave France, I was ready to come back to the States. Maybe it was the food or the pace of life there, but I feel like I am back with a whole new energy and sense of self. The ability to absorb a culture and solve problems as they arise are critical skills that I was really able to strengthen through this experience. Part of being a student of the world is to go out and live in it and I feel so fortunate to have had the incredible opportunity to do just that.

By Kristie Manzueta ‘16
The 2015 International Studies senior theses presentations took place last Spring on April 27th and 29th, 2015. The graduating class of 2015 had many students with international backgrounds. After four years of hard work all INS majors came up with fascinating thesis topics for their presentations. They were all well-articulated and fully embodied the essence of the INS program and Manhattanville College’s mission. Under the supervision and guidance of Professor Gregory Swedberg, who taught the INS Senior Seminar, the students developed their topics really well and explained their international significance in the current world order. This essay reflects on the group that presented on April 29th.

María Cerro, Mariatere Pérez, Karla Boza, Lucia Vidal de la Peña and Romina Mollo, presented their theses to faculty members, many students, family and friends. The event started with a warm welcome by Professor Gabriele Wickert, standing in for Director of the INS Program, Binita Mehta, and Professor Swedberg. The presentations started with Lucia Vidal de la Peña’s research on the impact of China on the growth of Brazil’s economy. Next, Karla Boza provided a detailed explanation about the effects and impacts that illegal drug trade of marijuana and cocaine from Latin American countries have had on the environment of the Americas. Following next was Mariatere Pérez, who presented the issue of conflict resolution in Colombia and explained the role of international relations in coming to peace agreements. Later, María Cerro discussed the impact of militarization on the development of Latin American countries, mostly focused on Costa Rican military policy. Finally, Romina Mollo lectured on the effects of Mexican drug trafficking in relation to the ties between the U.S and Mexico. These thesis presentations demonstrated the in-depth research and hard work of our graduating seniors. Each topic embodied relevant current international issues that society as a whole should be more aware of.

As we see our seniors departing to a new phase of their lives, their impressive work, as demonstrated in the presentations, leaves no doubt that they have a great career ahead of them and will make a positive impact wherever they end up. With final words from Professor Wickert and Professor Swedberg, we proudly said goodbye to these remarkable students.
The Pope Addresses the U.S. Congress

On September 24th, 2015, for the first time in the history of the United States, a Roman Catholic Pope addressed members of the U.S. Congress in what would be a moving speech. Americans and others from around the globe were able to stream Pope Francis’ speech online and Manhattanville College was able to show it live in the O’Byrne Chapel. Students were excited to hear the Pope speak and also to listen to faculty’s input on the topic.

Pope Francis has frequently been in the news since he was appointed in 2013. He is an advocate for the less fortunate and has spoken many times about the importance of showing compassion for others. Pope Francis was invited to Congress to speak about the violence and hatred that is present in our world and how our leaders can stop the cycle. He also spoke in favor of immigrants, stating “In recent centuries, millions of people came to this land to pursue their dream of building a future in freedom. We, the people of this continent, are not fearful of foreigners, because most of us were once foreigners.” Pope Francis is calling for an end to harsher immigration policies and for the U.S. to open up its borders to refugees coming from the Middle East. He also spoke in favor of environmental conservation: In ‘Laudato Si’ I call for a courageous and responsible effort to ‘redirect our steps’ and to avert the most serious effects of the environmental deterioration caused by human activity.” These are all issues that are at the forefront of our lives, not only as college students, but as human beings.

Pope Francis was not speaking only to Congress, but to all of us. We all need to be more compassionate towards our fellow humans, as well as to our environment. His message has the power to reach billions of humans and he uses his position in efforts to better our world and improve the lives of all. All in all, the Pope’s speech was very passionate and it was well received by fellow students. I personally felt that the speech was very well balanced in the sense that it appealed to my humanity and overall conscience, rather than just to Catholic ideologies.

By Mary O’Neil ‘17
A Reflection on Last Spring’s INS Forum: The Plight of Indigenous Peoples

Nicole Friederichs, human rights lawyer and Practitioner-in-Residence at the Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Clinic at Suffolk University Law School in Boston, MA, was the invited speaker at the Spring ’15 INS Forum. The departments of Sociology/Anthropology and Political Science / Legal Studies co-sponsored the event. Clarissa Orellana ’16 remembers the event.

On April 23, 2015, Manhattanville College had the honor of opening the Castle doors to Nicole Friederichs. Ms. Friederichs is an attorney specializing in federal Indian Law and is currently developing an Indian law and Indigenous peoples’ rights clinic at Suffolk University, where she is also a practitioner-in-residence. Her accomplishments range from working on creating a monitoring framework for the implementation of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to engaging herself in the ongoing struggle to protect the Western Shoshone Nation and the Mayan peoples of Belize’s indigenous lands and natural resources. Friederichs has dedicated part of her time to work on jurisdictional cases involving Native American tribes. She also helps young law students gain experience and practice by working on tribal cases around the area.

Friederichs spoke on the ongoing battle that indigenous people go through every day. Whether it be long, dragged-out peace talks or protesting to keep their land, native peoples around the world are fighting their homelands’ governments in order to keep their culture and history alive. Although her presentation was riveting, it was also disheartening to hear how modern day governments the world over continue to deny these humans their natural rights, whether it be freedom of expression or permission to practice their traditions with their younger generations. Guatemala’s indigenous people, which are roughly 95% Mayan, are still fighting to have their own radio programs using their native language. Something as simple as going on the air for short amounts of time is denied them because of funding issues.
In a world where money seems to dictate all, these poor natives have no way of expressing their culture or ideas. Their voices are silenced by the harsh reality of greed and corruption. The governments of Guatemala and its neighboring countries have made it nearly impossible for indigenous people to pass on their traditions, by creating laws such as the recently passed Telecommunications Law, which was signed by former president Otto Perez. This new law prohibits the use of abandoned or unoccupied radio frequencies without the authorization of the Telecommunications Superintendency. Laws such as this one make it nearly impossible for indigenous people to voice their opinions, whereas before this law was in place, the natives would broadcast their shows on radio frequencies that were not being used. This angered the Telecommunications Superintendency because they were not gaining any revenue. Another issue from the past that has not completely gone away involves a kind of “cultural genocide”, whereby children born to indigenous parents have been taken away from their homes and raised in a boarding school in order to detach them from their “uncivilized” roots. Although most areas no longer practice this, in the past many native children were stolen away, causing a subtle pause in the indigenous communities of passing down traditional knowledge and practices to the next generation. In many instances indigenous cultures were almost wiped out.

Despite past and continuing disregard for indigenous people around the world, Nicole Friederichs’ main message was to keep fighting for global human rights. Her speech taught us that there is always a chance to change the world in a positive manner - as long as there are informed people who care.

By Clarissa Orellana ‘17
This past summer I had the great opportunity to participate in an internship at ADOPEM, a credit and loans bank in my hometown, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. In 1982, ADOPEM started as a non-profit organization founded by a group of young professional women who were concerned with the deplorable socio-economic conditions of many Dominican women living in poverty. In 2005 ADOPEM became an official financial institution as a savings and loans bank to formally serve Dominican society, especially impoverished women and small-scale business owners. It was and still is proudly known as the “Dominican Women’s National Bank”. Moreover, it works closely with globally known-prestigious institutions such as Women’s World Banking (WWB), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC). ADOPEM continues to offer products, and hosts programs and projects with incredible socio-economic impact through field-work activities in vulnerable areas and sectors. Throughout the years ADOPEM has been able to grow and make a positive impact on the lives of many Dominicans who were not included in the formal financial system.

One of the things I enjoyed the most about this internship was that I was able to witness how economic development is achievable, and one of the reasons is because of institutions like ADOPEM, which are committed to service and development, targeting the most vulnerable ones by giving them an opportunity to thrive. Last Spring 2015 I interned at the Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, where I learned a lot about the theoretical explanations about socioeconomic development. However, it was not until I interned at ADOPEM that I was able to see with my own eyes and experience how hard it is to accomplish this. I had the opportunity to visit and work in highly impoverished and underdeveloped areas of Santo Domingo. Even though I had lived in the Dominican Republic for 18 years, I was not aware about the lack of, and most importantly, the need for financial education and inclusion of these sectors. I had not understood the huge impact of a short and simple presentation on “savings” on young children living in an underprivileged community until I participated in it. The hard task of incorporating more people into the economic and financial system has outstanding rewards for the overall economic development of a nation, which is why I am glad to have been part of this experience.

I feel tremendously grateful for having interned at these two institutions (ADOPEM and the United Nations) because I was able to connect and reflect on the mission of each. Honestly, I had never thought of working at a financial institution, but after this internship I believe it has been one of the most enriching and powerful decisions I have made during my college career. I believe that we should all take the risk to participate, or even create, organizations and institutions that indeed have a positive impact on our community. The privilege and opportunity we have in receiving an education should empower us all to become agents of change because there are lots of people, either near or far away, who need a little bit of what we have learned. Challenging ourselves to step out of our comfort zone will have repeatable positive outcomes. My main take-home message from these two internships was that there are innumerable things we can do to engage in contributing to the community and supporting development, and we must never underestimate the power of sharing our knowledge.

By Gabriela Márquez ‘16
Student Internship Spotlight

ArtsWestchester Internship

During the spring semester I interned for ArtsWestchester, a non-profit organization located in White Plains. ArtsWestchester is a company that promotes the arts in Westchester County by distributing grants to different art groups. It financially helps more than 150 cultural organizations, artists, schools and the community to organize and execute programs and projects related to the arts for different audiences. Furthermore, it offers technical assistance, rehearsal space, and marketing services to theater groups, orchestras, artists, dancers and other performers.

I interned for the Programs Department, which was in charge of selecting different artists and cultural organizations, after carefully reviewing hundreds of applications. Moreover, this department is in charge of sending grant letters and contracts to all the grant recipients and their sponsors if applicable. After grants are distributed, there is a follow-up process by Eric Siegel, who was my internship supervisor, to make sure the grants are being used correctly. Throughout the internship period I had the opportunity to work not only on different projects and a variety of activities within the Programs Department, but also with the Communications and Marketing departments. Within the Programs Department, my tasks ranged from filing contracts, grants, thank-you letters, pamphlets, and marketing materials to sending contracts and grant letters to all the recipients and their sponsors. I also worked in the Marketing Department, designing marketing packages for the upcoming events that were happening within Westchester County, especially those events organized by ArtsWestchester, such as its annual Gala.

For the Communication Department, I worked with Mailchimp, a program specialized in sending emails to all ArtsWestchester’s subscribers to keep them updated with the upcoming events and newsletters. This internship was a real hands-on experience. I got to attend a board meeting in which I learned a little bit more about how non-profit organizations work and how board members organize and make decisions based on their future events and projects.

Aside from being my first work-learning experience, this internship helped me get out of my comfort zone and discover new things that I never thought I would be able to do. Even though this was a communications internship, I found it to be relatable to my International Studies concentration in Global Cultures as well. Given the fact that world cultures is a broad and comprehensive concentration, there is always going to be a connection to other areas. That was also true in this instance, since ArtsWestchester serves more than 150 organizations that represent different cultures.

By Nury Charro ‘16
Alumnae Updates

Sofia Rocchio ‘15:
Sofia graduated this past May, 2015, with a concentration in European Studies and a minor in Italian. She is currently an account executive for DAC Group, a digital marketing agency based in Toronto, Canada, with offices in the United States, Canada and the UK. Although she did not major in Marketing, she appreciates that the employers hired her based on her International Studies background and her ability to speak a foreign language. Sofia identifies herself as a proud valiant!

Valeria Ricciulli ‘15:
Valeria graduated in 2015 and majored in Communication Studies with a minor in International Studies. She made a great impact during her college years by being actively involved in the UNICEF Campus Club @Mville, the only humanitarian club on campus. Valeria is currently a digital news full-time intern at a Hispanic local newspaper called El Diario NY.

Adriana Prida ‘10:
On the personal side, Adriana got engaged last April to her boyfriend Luis, who is a Dominican criminal defense lawyer.

On the professional side, Adriana capitalized on both her Communications and International Studies majors when she was hired at one of the top private banks in the Dominican Republic to lead a new Department called the Film Desk. After working independently in TV and film production for a year, she believes it is a great opportunity to combine very different yet important things and have an impact on both. Adriana is also researching MBA programs in order to further her education.

Megan Angley ‘12
Megan’s concentration within International Studies was Global Justice, with a particular interest in Global Health, and she has successfully parlayed these passions since graduation. In 2014 she received her Master’s in Public Health from NYU. Recently she was hired by the Helmsley Charitable Trust, where she serves as an Associate Program Officer in the Basic Medical Research Program. In this role, she supports the management and administration of current grants as well as the development of new grant initiatives focused on biomedical research.
Featured Alumna: Marina Adese ‘13

For over two years, beginning soon after my graduation from Manhattanville, I have worked at the International Rescue Committee—a humanitarian aid organization founded at the request of Albert Einstein that works with refugees and displaced people in over 40 countries around the world, including resettling refugees in 26 cities in the United States. For two years, I’ve learned about the world’s worst crises and the people whose lives are shattered because of them. For two years, as part of the IRC’s communications team, I’ve read, told and learned from stories of the incredible resilience human beings develop when faced with ultimate life-changing circumstances. It’s been an honor.

In the past two months, we have all seen refugees, particularly Syrian refugees, reaching front-page news. The IRC is at the heart of this crisis—we are one of the main organizations on the ground in Syria, the neighboring countries of Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey, and we’re also now supporting refugees in Greece on their journey to Europe. It’s been an extremely intense and insightful experience to see these issues reach the mainstream media and the public’s attention unlike ever before. While I deeply believe more crises (such as South Sudan or Central African Republic) need to be given more attention, I must say that, with over 4 million refugees and 13.5 million needing assistance inside the country, the Syria crisis can no longer be overlooked.

My focus at IRC is social media; on a daily basis, I manage 7 social media accounts for the IRC & president David Miliband, and am responsible for strategy, day-to-day content, and measurement. Last month, I had the privilege of travelling with the IRC to Ivory Coast as my first trip to the field. After reading about our work for over two years, I finally saw the IRC’s work at first-hand. I met people whose lives have truly been changed thanks to the IRC’s support—and little did they know that meeting them changed my own life.

As a double major in International Studies and Communication Studies, Manhattanville taught me the importance of being aware of the world and to think beyond the boundaries of our countries. Manhattanville, and especially the INS program, taught me to question, to think critically about the world, but to also focus on the solutions to its many problems. While I continue to learn each and every day at work, the lessons I learned at college—both in and out of the classroom—are incomparable.

By Marina Adese ‘13
Upcoming Events

*International Studies majors/minors should be attending all of these events!*

- **INS Fall Forum**
  - November 19th, 2015
  - 6:30pm-8:00pm
  - East Library

- **Human Rights Awareness Days**
  - November 20th, 2015—5:00pm-8:30pm
  - November 21st, 2015—1:00pm-5:00pm
  - Berman Center

- **Fall 2015 INS Senior Thesis Presentations**
  - November 30th, 2015—7:15pm-8:30pm
  - December 2nd, 2015—7:15pm-8:30pm
  - Berman Theatre
## INS ELECTIVE COURSES FOR SPRING 2016
### BY CONCENTRATION

### International Political/Economic Relations
- AFS 3098  Africa in World Politics
- ASN/INS 2039  Contemporary South Asia
- ECO 3016  Int’T Trade: Theory + Policy
- FIN 3017  Global Finance
- INS 2040 Armed Conflict since WWII
- MGT 2007  International Management
- PHL 2081  Social and Political Philosophy
- POS 1038  Int’l Politics II
- POS 2015  Comparative Politics II
- POS 2072  International Law
- POS 3012  Environmental Politics
- POS 3033  Politics in the Middle East
- SOC 3007  Globalization and Social Change

### African Studies
- AFS 2021  Intro to African Studies
- AFS/HIS 2085 History of Contemporary Africa
- AFS 3098  Africa in World Politics
- ANTH 3040  Cultures of East Africa
- ARH 2025  Survey of African Art
- HIS 3135  Slavery through History

### Latin American Studies
- HIS 1015  Survey of Modern LA
- HIS 1018  History of the Caribbean
- FRN 2011 Discussing Film (in French)
- SPN 2023  Speaking about Movies (in Spanish)
- SPN 3010  Latin American Novel + Film (in Spanish)

### European Studies
- DTH 3203  Survey of Dramatic Lit II
- FRN 3029  The Exotic Other (in French)
- HIS 3103  Topics in Modern Irish History
- HIS 3138  Atlantic Revolutions
- MUH 2012  Survey of Western Music II
- PHL 2029  Modern Philosophy
- PHL 3010  Philosophy in Film
- SPN 2023  Speaking about Movies (in Spanish)
- SPN 3056  Short Stories of Spain (in Spanish)
- WREL 1012  Roman Catholicism

### Global Justice
- ASN/INS 2039  Contemporary South Asia
- HIS 3135  Slavery through History
- HIS 3138  Atlantic Revolutions
- INS 2040 Armed Conflict since WWII
- PHL 3011  Genocide
- PHL 3042  Ethics and Social Responsibility
- POS 3012 Environmental Politics
- POS 2072  International Law
- POS 3033  Politics in the Middle East
- SOC 3007  Globalization and Social Change
- SOC 3186  Indigenous Peoples

### Global Cultural Studies
- ANTH 3024  Gender, Health + Cultures
- ANTH 3040  Cultures of East Africa
- ARH 2025  Survey of African Art
- ENF 2089  History of Cinema II
- BIO 2016  Global Environmentalism
- DTH 3203  Survey of Dramatic Lit II
- ENF 4030  Global/Transnational Film + Media
- FRN 2011 Discussing Film (in French)
- HIS 1034  World History I
- MUH 2012  Survey of Western Music II
- PHL 2030  Philosophy of Religion
- PHL 3010  Philosophy in Film
- POS 3012  Environmental Politics
- SOC 3186  Indigenous Peoples
- SPN 2023  Speaking about Movies (in Spanish)
- SPN 3010  LA Novel + Film (in Spanish)
- SPN 3056  Short Stories of Spain (in Spanish)
- WREL 1012  Roman Catholicism
- WREL 1018  The Bible
- WREL 2026  The World’s Religions in NYC
- WREL 3035  Judaism

### Asian Studies
- ASN 2022 History of Modern China
- ASN/INS 2039 Contemporary South Asia