Another semester and another newsletter put together this time by INS Junior Nendirmwa Parradang. Once more we see that INS majors are engaged in various curricular and extra-curricular activities. You will read about exciting internships and study abroad experiences, articles on events held at Manhattanville College, such as Human Rights Awareness Day and the International Film Festival. And, we have an interview with Professor Nimish Adhia, a member of the INS Faculty Committee.

On April 17, 2014, the INS Program welcomed Manhattanville College alumna Emily Frederick (‘12), who graduated with a double major in English and Dance and Theater, to speak to INS majors at the INS Forum. She shared her experiences teaching English in China with faculty and students from the INS Program.

The INS Program has been involved with several other events this semester. The International Film Festival (March 17-April 10) dealt with women’s lives from all over the world – from Brazil to China and India via Spain and Bosnia- Herzegovina. The festival attracted between 30-40 students at each screening and was followed by post-screening Q & A’s led by professors from different disciplines. Additionally, the INS Program, along with the Duchesne Center of Religion and Social Justice, and the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) has also collaborated on the screening of live webcasts of UN NGO-DPI briefings on Thursday mornings. Thanks to Christopher McGilvery, the Instructional Technologist at the CTL, we were able to watch live webcast of three events, the first, on March 21st, observing the “International Day of Happiness,” the second, on March 27th, in observance of the “International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade,” and the third on April 3rd, a panel discussion on “Education for Global Citizenship.” The last panel was part of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon’s “Global Education First Initiative,” whose aim is to increase awareness of global issues such as poverty, gender inequality, war, and human rights through education. We hope to continue screening these live webcasts from the UN next year, thus bringing the world to Manhattanville College.

- Binita Mehta, Director, INS Program
International Studies Program Faculty Committee

Nimish Adhia (Economics, Finance & Management)  
Lawson Bowling (History)  
Jim Bryan (Economics, Finance & Management)  
David Gutman (History)  
Nada Halloway (English)  
James Jones (African Studies/World Religions)  
Theresa Keller (Asian Studies/World Religions)  
George Keteku (INS/Political Science)  
Laurence Krute (Education)  
Maria Jose Lujan (Spanish/Latin American Studies)  
Mohammed Mbodj (History/African Studies)  
Binita Mehta (Director, INS/French)  
Sarah Murray (Political Science)  
Daniel Nanjira (INS/African Studies)  
Eric Slater (Sociology and Anthropology)  
Gregory Swedberg (History)  
Rev. Wil Tyrrell (World Religions/Duchesne Center)  
Irene Whelan (History/Irish Studies)  
Gabriele Wickert (INS/German)

Student Representatives: Meryl Roux ‘14 and Nendirmwa Parradang ‘15

[The INS Program Faculty Committee usually meets once a semester to review the Program and to address specific concerns. If you have any concerns you would like to bring to the attention of the Committee, please be sure to contact the Director of the Program, or one of the student representatives]

Remember: All majors must have an advisor from the International Studies Program Faculty Committee

Newsletter Contributors

Maria Carolina Cerro ‘15  
Karina Edouard ‘15  
Nury Charro Live ‘16  
Romina Mollo ‘15  
Nendirmwa Parradang ‘15  
Meryl Roux ‘14

The INS Program would like to than INS Program Assistant and Junior Nendirmwa Parradang for her creativity, initiative and hard work in designing, writing, and editing this Newsletter!
Faculty Spotlight: An Interview with Professor Nimish Adhia

Professor Adhia is a relatively new addition to the campus and the International Studies Program. He is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics, Finance & Management and also teaches the INS core course, Global Economy. In this faculty spotlight, he talks to INS major Nendirmwa Parradang ’15 about his love for Economics and how growing up in India awakened in him the idea that studying Economics could have potent, real-world applications.

Q: Could you tell us a little about yourself; education, work and travel experiences and interests?

A: I have a PhD in Economics, specializing in International Economics. I completed my PhD at the University of Illinois, Chicago. I went to a small liberal arts college as an undergraduate; Illinois Wesleyan University, majored in Economics. I was born and brought up in India. Growing up in India has really shaped what I study. I like reading, I read quite a bit related to history, economics, politics and culture. I haven’t traveled extensively, although I mean to, but I partly grew up in Saudi Arabia.

Q: You mentioned that growing up in India really shaped what you wanted to study, how so?

A: Well, it definitely sharpened my interest because when you grow up in a developing country, you see a lot of poverty, you know? And it really makes you think a lot about causes of poverty, and differences in standards of living. Economics definitely has some answers to those issues.

Q: You were just saying how you attended a small liberal arts college (similar to Manhattanville). What do you think is the importance of a liberal arts education?

A: I think it’s the fact that you get to sample various disciplines, and that you basically get to design your own education as long as you fulfill the requirements. You have so much freedom and sometimes, I find that students don’t use that freedom properly, and don’t realize it until they’ve graduated (laughs)

Q: When teaching, what would you say is the most important thing you would like for your students to learn?

A: I would like my students to know that there are so many resources available for them to learn things on their own, they don’t even really need anybody to teach them, especially now in the age of the internet. You have so much at your fingertips. I want them to be excited about it. I mean really, no other time in history have people had so much to educate themselves with so easily. We live in very exciting times, and I want to share that excitement with them.

Q: What is the most interesting class you teach and why?

A: I teach Economics of Developing Countries, which I like very much. It’s something that I’m really interested in. It’s more than just economics, there’s a lot of history and politics involved. It’s very inter-disciplinary, which I like.

Q: What advice would you give International Studies majors and students in general?

A: I would tell them to take as many economics classes as they can (laughs) because there is an economic basis to a lot of the international events and it is important to understand those economic forces that come to play. I think economics is not just something you pick up by reading the newspaper. It requires some amount of academic study, drawing some graphs, amongst other things. (laughs)
Student Spotlight: An Interview with INS Major Alexis Moore

Alexis Moore ’14 is an illustrious student whose impact on campus is difficult to ignore. In addition to being academically sound while juggling three majors, she is a member of the Residence Hall Association and President of the Animation Club. This is an insight into her academic career and what she intends to do after graduation.

Q: What do you plan on doing after graduation?
A: Right now, I am applying for the Peace Corps but I know even if I get in, I won’t leave until January or sometime in the fall. So, I’m also looking at NGO’s in the city. I don’t want to go home, so I’ll probably live with some friends while working in the city.

Q: Have you done any internships while in College?
A: I actually haven’t but I work as the youth representative to the United Nations for Manhattanville. It’s a lot of fun but I don’t go that often because of my schedule, and also because they haven’t had any meetings in a while.

Q: Why do you want to join the Peace Corps?
A: I want to serve abroad, and I think that would be a great educational opportunity and I’m not too sure where my career path will take me so, why not spend two years volunteering and trying to figure out my life? (laughs)

Q: What do you see for yourself in the long term?
A: Maybe working in the US Foreign Services or working for the United Nations.

Q: What are your majors and how do you feel like they’ve influenced your decisions for your future?
A: Well, my majors are History, Asian Studies and International Studies. I would say History, I took just for fun (laughs) but Asian Studies and International Studies have definitely influenced what I want to do; whether that’s non-governmental work, whether that’s Peace Corps or eventually the Foreign Service. All this stuff has to do with International Relations and changing the world even if it’s volunteer work, and I love Asia!

Q: As a senior, do you have any helpful tips for other International Studies Majors?
A: I would say, don’t get started on your concentration right away. Take a few classes because the Program allows you to take two that don’t meet your elective concentration so why not try a few of them? The most wildcard class I took and really enjoyed was "Culture and Change in South-East Asia."

Q: You must be exceptionally busy, what do you do in your downtime?
A: I actually really love the animation club, even though it is kind of related to my other major- Asian Studies. I guess you can’t get away from what you love! (laughs)

By: Nendirmwa Parradang ’15
For about a year now I have been involved with the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (VGIF) as a United Nations Representative. VGIF is a nonprofit organization which supports women-led grassroots projects in developing countries around the world by providing project grants. These projects are designed to help improve the lives of women and girls by advancing women’s rights and social justice.

VGIF has so far funded 475 projects in 89 different countries, focusing on education, health, economic development and human rights. VGIF has established a strong presence at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in order to bring voice to the voiceless. In 2004, our organization was granted a consultative status at the United Nations’ Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Because of its strong affiliation with the UN, VGIF is able to gather lots of information about what is happening in the world and what has been done about gender-related issues so far. All the information that comes out of UN events and High-Level Dialogues are filtered by UN representatives and then reported back to the office. It is crucial to report back some precious pieces of information, yet most of what comes out of these meetings is very effective and powerful. This information is later processed by the VGIF staff and helps further empower the local grantees.

Every year, in mid-March, the United Nations hosts the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). This is a critical week for our organization. The event goes on for about ten days and hosts thousands of women from all over the world, to discuss their status and women empowerment. The interns, get really excited because there is much going on; tons of meetings, people to meet, and networking to do! This year will be the 58th session of CSW, and it will be taking place at the headquarters. I will be attending CSW for about seven days this year; it will be a very exciting week.

Interns at VGIF also have the opportunity to write blog articles about a specific meeting that we found extraordinary. Our blog is getting larger and more people read about it, which makes us really hopeful.

I have to say that this journey with VGIF has been incredible. I have learned more than I ever thought I would. I have met lots of people who are determined to makes things go forward and who believe in justice. I have also learned a lot about the international community and the role of women in our society. VGIF’s work is great; everyone who is part of the organization is passionate about the work and strongly believes in justice and in ending gender inequality.

By: Meryl Roux ’14
A Seat at the United Nations

On Thursday, November 7th 2013, at the United Nations North Lawn Building, an entire conference room was filled with current delegates of the 193 member states discussing a pertinent matter: nuclear energy. As I took my seat, and the Summit began, I knew that this was about to be one of the greatest experiences of my life. Sitting at the United Nations for me was more than a dream; it was the fulfillment of one my main goals when I decided to come and study in the United States.

I was pleasantly surprised when I was able to accomplish my goal by my junior year at Manhattanville College, when I accepted the internship position at the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica at the United Nations. For my internship I attended the Disarmament and International Security Committee and the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, while representing Costa Rica at the United Nations.

I wrote press releases, reports, and managed UN Resolutions for the Foreign Ministry of Costa Rica while completing my internship. It was one of the best experiences I could have ever imagined. Not only was this a personal awakening, but a tremendous learning experience that I hope to develop into my senior topic for my INS major. I was able to meet so many influential and intelligent people who taught me so many new and interesting things.

Throughout my internship, I discovered my passion and interest for development, and its connection to disarmament. Through this realization, I came to the conclusion that there is indeed a path to zero poverty: investing more in social and economic development and less in war. During my internship I was also able to put in practice course material I had learned in classes like Introduction to Global Studies, Violence in Latin America, Introduction to Political Science, and International Security, among others. Manhattanville College and its International Studies Program did indeed help me complete a successful internship and achieve an important personal goal.

By: Maria Carolina Cerro ’15
My Semester in Barcelona, Spain

It’s hard to put into words, just how it feels to fall in love with a city, with the streets, the smells, the people, and some things that are just unexplainable to the rest of the world. Only those who have experienced something similar would understand. After all, can someone really fall in love with a place? Strangely, all these emotions flow through you, as you leave the city you called “home” for three and a half months. You begin your journey as one person, yet somehow, as the weeks pass by, a new person emerges. Barcelona is known as “the capital for study abroad.” There is this image that Barcelona is a party city, and so many arrive ready to let loose for a whole semester, no parents, no real school, and endless clubs.

However, as soon as you step out of El Prat International Airport, it’s undeniable that Barcelona has more to offer than just its nightclubs. The legacy that Catalan architect Antonio Gaudí left in his city is remarkable. The beautiful beaches perfect for its Mediterranean climate, the mountain ranges surrounding the city, the Catalan language heard on the streets, the passion for el fútbol, and the culture found in this beautiful city, make it difficult not to fall completely in love.

Barcelona was a city I knew I needed to visit at some point in my life, little did I know, I would have the opportunity to be able to live there, and call it my “home.” When I was accepted into the Fall Study Abroad Program, I could not wait to finally get to Spain, as the date of my departure began to get closer; I began to get extremely nervous. However, before I left, I’ll never forget what my Mom said to me, “Travel, see it, and live it all for yourself, because what you’re about to experience, no one will ever take away from you.” I took her words of wisdom throughout my whole experience abroad, from the moment I arrived in Barcelona, through every city I was able to visit in Europe, and until the day I left.

The region of Cataluña, in which Barcelona is located, wishes to become independent from Spain. The official language is Catalan, and although Spanish is also an official language, Catalan is preferred over Spanish. Protests are a weekly thing, with people proclaiming their wishes to be their independent nation, something I had never witnessed before. During my semester there, I was able to attend school at Pompeu Fabra Universidad, the first Catalan school in the country, which allowed me the opportunity to go to school with locals and to learn more about their goals for independence, which they are presenting to the Spanish Congress in 2015.

Barcelona is an metropolitan city, with tall buildings, and metro lines running throughout the city. The city also has one of the best economies in Spain. However, it also has beautiful beaches, with villas and stadiums from the 1992 Summer Olympics found throughout the beach areas. Barcelona was once a Roman City and I was able to see these ruins in the region of Tarragona. Mountain ranges surround the entire city, and I was able to go hiking in the city of Montserrat. Lastly, one cannot get enough of the beautiful architecture found throughout the streets. Antonio Gaudí, one of the best–known modern Catalan architects, is responsible for the design of Parc Guell and La Sagrada Familia, the church of the Sacred Heart, two of the most visited sites in the city. Although Gaudí died in 1926, La Sagrada Familia is still under construction and will not be completed until 2026, 100 years after his death. Both Parc Guell and La Sagrada Familia are jaw-droppingly beautiful. (Continued on page 8)
My Semester in Barcelona, Spain

Living in Barcelona for over three months allows you to experience so many things. Daily exchanges with locals allows you to fall in more in love with their culture, and soon saying adéu in Catalan instead of adiós in Spanish becomes habitual. I was able to attend my first FC Barcelona game, and see some of the best players in the world play. The classico Barcelona vs. Real Madrid game occurred in October, and I witnessed the city pause, everyone crowded in baras as they drank birras, slang for beers, and watched their team take on their biggest rival. When El Barca beat Real, everyone cheered, hugged, and even cried, then poured into the Plaza Cataluña, located in the city center, to celebrate the win.

Living in Barcelona allowed me to travel and to see even more of Europe. Every weekend I was on a plane to a different location. To be a “jet-setter” at least for a few months of my life is something I will never forget. I visited several countries while I was on study abroad. I was able to travel all over Spain and see more of that beautiful country. I was lucky enough to visit Italy more than once. I visited Munich, Prague, Paris, Lisbon, and saw a few regions of Ireland. People always ask me, “Which city was your favorite one?” Honestly, I can never answer that question, because each city I visited was so beautiful in its own way, and its people so welcoming.

Studying abroad was the best decision I have ever made. To call Barcelona my “home,” is an honor. The friendships I made are for life and my roommates became my family. There is not a day that goes by that I do not miss that city or its people. Studying abroad opened my eyes to whole different world. It changed me, and I will never forget the destinations to which I traveled, the places I saw, and what I lived for those three and half months. For the rest of my life I will encourage people to step outside their bubble and experience the beauty of traveling.

By: Romino Mollo ‘15

Romina Mollo with friends in Barcelona, Spain.
“Principles of Humanitarian Action:” Nick Lawson of Médecins sans frontières

Despite the overall success of this year’s Human Rights Awareness Day, that took place on November 16, 2013, one particular event drew immense interest and those who attended can testify to the fact that the talk by Nick Lawson of Médecins sans frontières (MSF) (Doctors without Borders) on the “Principles of Humanitarian Action” definitely lived up to its hype.

Nick Lawson, who hails from Australia, is the Director of Field Human Resources for MSF; he has worked for MSF for sixteen years. Impressed by the commitment that MSF shows to whichever region they are in, he decided to join the organization. He came to the realization that though “we are surrounded by information, yet we are far from action,” and the only way to combat this reality was to dive headfirst into humanitarian action. Before joining MSF, Mr. Lawson attended a liberal arts college where he studied French and Philosophy. He encouraged all students to learn a foreign language and to travel extensively whether or not they were interested in joining MSF.

Mr. Lawson went on to give a brief history about how MSF was founded in 1971 during the Biafra crisis by French doctors who left the Red Cross to create awareness about the humanitarian injustices that were occurring. However, the crux of Mr. Lawson’s speech was to explain the MSF policy of “neutrality, impartiality, independence, and ethics” and the difficulties that the MSF doctors often encounter trying to stay neutral in a volatile situation. He explained that in an attempt to stay neutral, 80% of MSF’s revenue comes from private sources, with the rest coming from governmental institutions and corporations. MSF’s impartiality is anchored by the fact that it bases its assistance solely on providing for medical needs. Neutrality, Mr. Lawson admitted is a challenge, as the doctors cannot take sides but administer help regardless of whether a victim or a perpetrator came to their clinic. He said that although this situation proved morally difficult, it was the most effective way of gaining the trust of the locals.

In order to establish MSF’s identity, no weapons or security guards were placed at their facilities to make those seeking help feel less intimidated. He made the important distinction that humanitarian action was not “the solution” but that it was only a critical help to the problem of violence started by humans. He ended by saying that the modest goal of humanitarianism was to “seek out the gravest danger, alleviate it, and help as many people as you can.”

After his lecture, Mr. Lawson fielded questions. Most of the questions focused on the difficulty of staying impartial in such high-tension situations. Mr. Lawson insightfully remarked that if the doctors took sides, it would cause more tension and increase the anarchy in such situations. The lecture was important in many ways but most of all, the lesson to be learned was that one’s personal feeling towards a situation should not prevent one from doing the right thing, which is helping whoever is in need.

By: Nendirmwa Parradang ‘15
Human Rights Awareness Day and SIDI

On November 16, 2013, Manhattanville College celebrated its seventh annual Human Rights Awareness Day. Like every year, this perennial daylong event is as much of an opportunity to learn about international human rights issues, as it is a time for students to showcase their academic and extracurricular achievements on the subject. In fact, this year’s program seemed to be an even more auspicious moment for Manhattanville students. Professor Elizabeth Cherry, faculty advisor to Human Rights Awareness Day, has said the development committee wanted this year’s event to place more emphasis on student work and involvement.

As the evening approached, both students and faculty reconvened in the Berman Student Center for the next program led by the Student Initiative on Diversity and Inclusion, commonly referred to as SIDI. A student-run campus organization, SIDI works on promoting awareness in a number of different social areas. In recent months, the organization has led discussions on gender inequality, environmental racism, violence against women, global economic disparity, and much more.

In an attempt to demonstrate the ostensible impact and nature of capitalism, SIDI led students and faculty through an interactive workshop. After a short introduction, each participant had a card taped to his or her back with the name of an occupation, social status, country, or corporation written on it. Each participant did not know who, or what, they represented. The point of the game was to figure out what was written on your card by asking other participants questions. At the end, based on the responses one received, participants then grouped themselves into categories. During the debriefing portion of the workshop, everyone was given a chance to share his or her experiences during the game. For many, it was an enlightening experience to hear how people responded to their questions, with answers ranging from representing a developing country like Angola, or a migrant worker.

This workshop allowed SIDI to demonstrate just how interconnected our world economy is and how it affects everyone, everywhere. Today, more than ever, capitalism is purported as the panacea of all panaceas—leaving a negligible amount of consideration for those negatively impacted by its effects, like a migrant worker or an Angolan copper miner. The problem with this economic system is that it cannot exist with inequality, the subjugation of another.

Students and faculty each had meaningful contributions to share with the group, and despite varying opinions everyone welcomed one another with much alacrity and respect. Similar to the goals of Human Rights Awareness Day, SIDI seeks to raise our level of consciousness of the social conundrums around us. Only through an acute sense of understanding of these issues, can change occur.

By: Karina Edouard ’15
INS Senior Theses Presentations

December 5, 2013 marked what was for many International Studies major students that last step in their departmental studies. The theses presentations are a time when seniors can showcase their research to family, friends, peers, and faculty. It is a time when their entire INS academic career is encapsulated and delivered. As always, this year’s departing seniors proved to be nothing less than an extraordinarily well-rounded and intellectually motivated cohort. Their research and presentations embodied the very essence of this dynamism.

Under the guidance of Professor Gregory Swedberg, seniors Valerie Hernández, Alexis Moore, Meryl Roux Vivian Valejo, and Nicolas A. Santa-Martinez presented their research on a wide range of topics. In the area of violence against women, Valerie presented her findings on femicide in Cuidad Juarez, Mexico. Next, Alexis spoke about the process and impending difficulties of a democratic transition in Myanmar. Encompassing a broader subject area was Meryl, who discussed the impact of agribusiness in the developing world and their contribution to world hunger. Vivian lectured on the disheartening reality of discrimination against the indigenous people of Mexico, and Nicolas spoke about the oppression and underdevelopment in Haiti. Each senior thesis, although unique in their own respect, was truly a demonstration of the amount of hard work and dedication that the seniors devoted to it.

Although the INS Program will be losing an inspiring group of individuals, the departure of this year’s seniors can hardly be considered a loss, as they show great potential to make an impact beyond the walls of Manhattanville. We bid them all a warm and sincere farewell as they embark on the next journey of each of their internationally inspired lives.

By: Karina Edouard ‘15
Alumni Updates

Laura G. Santucci (’03)

Laura G. Santucci ‘03, a former Manhattanville International Studies major and currently New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio’s Chief of Staff, is to be our 2014 Baccalaureate and Honors Convocation Speaker on May 16. Ms. Santucci will be awarded an Honorary Doctorate at Commencement the following day.

While at Manhattanville, Santucci worked as a student coordinator for the Connie Hogarth Center for Social Action, and was very involved in the Center’s anti-war and anti-racism programs. Her first job after graduation was with the 1119 SEIU, a healthcare workers union, which helped propel her career in politics and into her current position.

Prior to being appointed to Mayor de Blasio’s staff, Santucci worked as Executive Director of his Transition Team. She has also worked as acting executive director for the Democratic National Committee, a special assistant in the White House, and as Associate Director for Politics and Legislation for the 1119 SEIU (compiled from an article on the Manhattanville College website).

Ana Nadal (‘10)

I am currently in the graduate program of JP Morgan working in the Investment Banking Risk Department in London, England. After graduating from Manhattanville in 2010, I worked at the Inter American Development Bank (Washington, DC) for one year and then went on to do my Masters in International Economics at Johns Hopkins SAIS (class of 2013). Life is going well on my end: working a lot but also learning a lot. Enjoying Europe but very much missing my days at Manhattanville!

Ismarie Fernandez (‘12)

I am currently living in my native Puerto Rico and working as a Customer Service Representative answering calls for an American bank called BBVA Compass. I have applied to a Master’s Program in International Development Studies at Joseph Fourier University in Grenoble, France for fall 2014.
The Second Annual International Film Festival

This was the second consecutive year that the International Studies Program, in collaboration with several other departments and Programs invited the Manhattanville community to attend the International Film Festival. The theme of this year’s festival was “Women in a Global Context: Then and Now” in which seven films from around the world were screened presenting different social issues that have affected women lives such as education, war, military, dictatorships, motherhood, health, domestic violence, and patriarchy. Following the screenings, there were Q & A sessions led by faculty members from the different disciplines in which students were able to give their opinions and also ask questions. The films were screened in the Student Berman Center Theater in their original languages with English subtitles. Admission was free and students, faculty and staff sampled culinary specialties from the countries represented in the films.

Every film evoked a multitude of emotions among the viewers - love, sadness, accomplishment, justice, anger, and sympathy. Among the films that stood out were the Bollywood film English-Vinglish that showed the reality of the global dominance of the English language. Sashi, the main character, has to deal with the lack of respect she receives from her own husband and daughter in India because of her inability to speak English. Her decision to take English lessons during a visit to New York to attend a family wedding gives her the self-confidence she needs to stand up to her own family.

Another film that made a strong impact because of its controversial subject matter, female genital mutilation, was Moolaadé written and directed by the famous Senegalese director Sembène Ousmane. The film’s female protagonist fights the practice that is perpetuated by tradition and patriarchy. In the discussion that followed the screening, we learned that although the practice continues in many parts of Africa, it is also being contested by different groups within the continent.

On Wednesday, April 2nd, film studies students from the Communication & Media Department screened short films. The films included, A Clean, well-lighted place (2013), Ennui (2013), Sophia (2013), and Tyranowizardon (2013). The student filmmakers, actors, photographers, and members of the technical crew were present to answer questions from the audience and to discuss the filmmaking process as well as the challenges they faced while making the films.

By: Nury Charro Live ‘16
INS Forum: Teaching English in China

On April 17th, the International Studies Program invited Emily Frederick ('12) as the guest speaker to discuss her experiences teaching English in China. Emily shared her experiences teaching for a year in a primary school and at college level in the city of Harbin, Heilongjiang in Northeast China. Emily’s experiences were nothing short of exciting and captivated all those present.

Emily started off by saying her experiences were unique to her and should not be taken as a general overview of the area. She said she been bitten by the travelling bug after the study abroad opportunity she had at Manhattanville which was the “best decision” she had ever made. She encouraged all students to seize the opportunity to study abroad.

She listed the pre-departure process to Harbin, which included weeding out the scam from real agencies online. She settled for the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) about which she had heard positive things.

On arriving in China, Emily was given a one-week orientation course in Shanghai that included a crash course in the Chinese language. However this did not fully prepare Emily for the culture shock that was about to hit her. What Emily did not know was that the average temperature in Harbin is −30 °F and the government would only turn on the heat from the 20th of October to the 20th of March, regardless of the temperature. Despite the cold, Emily was awed by the beautiful Russian inspired architecture of Harbin, which was because of Harbin’s close proximity to the Russian border.

When the time finally came for Emily to teach, the word she used to describe it was “overwhelming”. She taught four first-grade classes with about 50 students in each. The children could not understand her because of her limited knowledge of Chinese. Furthermore, for weeks whenever Emily walked into the classroom, the children would cry ceaselessly because they had never seen an American and were scared of this foreigner, which according to Emily “did wonders for my self-esteem, to have little children cry whenever I walked in a room.” However, in time, the kids began to warm up to Emily and she soon felt like they were family.

While teaching, she took it upon herself to add her own style to the curriculum as she would bring games to class, which captured the children’s attention and helped them learn. Teaching at the college level was far easier for Emily as the students were in the same age bracket and their academic conversations would always easily sway to life problems that she herself had experienced in college.  

(Continued on page 15)
INS Forum: Teaching English In China

While the snow was a real challenge to her, it also gave rise to the Harbin Ice Festival in which the government would construct a city (about the size of three football fields) from the ice in the area, which was nothing short of enchanting. Ultimately, Emily learned that although she went there to teach, she became the student too, inspired by the kids’ eagerness to learn and their willingness to give her a chance.

Emily will be teaching English in Ghana for six weeks over the summer and has been accepted in the doctoral programs in English Literature at two schools - New York University and Durham University in the UK starting in fall 2014. She is still deciding on which program she will accept, but plans to do so soon. She mentioned that interviews she has had with members of the doctoral programs, and others, people are very impressed by her decision to have spent a year teaching English in China.

By: Nendirmwa Parradang, ‘15
Fall 2014 INS Courses

INS 1008 – Intro to Global Studies (2 sections) - Core Requirement
INS 2050 – Environmental Geography – Elective [Global Cultures/Global Justice]
INS 3056 – Politics/Art of German Cinema Elective [European Studies/Global Cultures]

Electives from Other Departments

The elective concentration to which the course applies is indicated in brackets. An asterisk (*) indicates a 1000 level!
Courses taken for INS elective credit cannot be DOUBLE-COUNTED for the student's minor, or vice-versa.

AFS.2019: Intro to African Studies I [African Studies]
AFS.2082: Ancient African History [African Studies] (Cross-listed with HIS 2082)
*ANTH.1050: Cultural Anthropology [Global Cultures]
ARH.2001: Contemporary Art [Global Cultures]
ARH.2020: Northern Renaissance Art [European Studies/Global Cultures]
ASN.2012: Religions of China [Asian Studies] (cross-listed with WREL 2012)
ASN.2015: History of Traditional Japan [Asian Studies] (Cross-listed with ASN 2015)
*BIO.1016: Endangered Earth [Global Justice]
BIO.2056: Environmental Ecology [Global Justice]
COMM.3046: Convergent Media/Divergent Voices [Global Cultures]
COMM.3070: Media Ethics [Global Justice]
COMM 3072: Social Media [Global Cultures]
COMM.3090: Sport Communication & Media [Global Cultures]
*CSCH.1030: Power of Prejudice [Global Justice/GLOBAL Cultures]
CSCH.3025: Genocide And Humanism [Global Justice]
DTH.3203: Survey of Dramatic Lit II [European Studies]
ECO.3017: Global Finance [Poli-Eco Relations]
ECO.3018: Eco of Developing Countries [Poli-Eco Relations]
ENF.2079: Women's Film [Global Cultures]
ENF.2088: Hist of Cinema I: Up To WWII [Global Cultures]
ENF.3107: Writing Africa:Col/Post-Col [African Studies/Global Cultures]
GER.3009: Politics/Art of German Cinema [European Studies] (Crosslisted with INS 3056)
HIS.2078: Orwell 20th Century [European Studies/Global Cultures]
*HIS.1018: Hist of Mod Mid East/ N Africa [African Studies/Global Cultures]
*HIS.1034: World History I: Before 1500 [European Studies/Global Cultures]
*HIS.1036: World History II: Since 1500 [European Studies/Global Cultures] INS Core Requirement
*HIS.1051: Modern Europe: 1648 to Present [European Studies/Global Cultures]
HIS.2044: French Rev & Napoleon [European Studies/Global Cultures]
HIS.2063: History of Traditional Japan [Asian Studies] (Cross-listed with ASN 2015)
HIS.2082: Ancient African History [African Studies] (Cross-listed with AFS 2082)
HIS.3040: Harlem Renaissance [African Studies]
HIS 3116: Topics in History of Business [Global Cultures]
HOLC.3036: The Holocaust In Film [Global Cultures/Global Justice]
HOLC.3037: The Holocaust And Culture [Global Cultures/Global Justice]
MGT.2006: International Marketing [Poli-Eco Relations]
MGT 2027: Management of Workplace Diversity [Poli-Eco Relations/Global Cultures]
MUH.2011: Survey of Western Music I [European Studies/Global Cultures]
MUH.3011: Music of the 20th Century [European Studies/Global Cultures]
*POS.1037: International Politics I [Poli-Eco Relations] (INS Core Requirement)
POS.2011: Comparative Politics I [Poli-Eco Relations]
POS.2042: Model U.N. [Poli-Eco Relations]
POS.3117: War & Human Rights [Poli-Eco Relations/Global Justice]
SOC.2000: Environmental Sociology [Global Cultures/Global Justice]
SOC2076: History of Social Action [Global Justice]
SOC.3000: Latin American Social Movements [LA Studies]
SOC.3050: Mass Media and Society [Global Cultures]
SPN.3012: Spanish Literature and Film (Taught In Spanish) [European Studies]
SPN.3031: Women's Writings in Latin America (Taught In Spanish) [LA Studies]
*WREL1014 Intro to World Religions [Global Cultures]
WREL.2012: Religions Of China [Asian Studies]
WREL.2039: Religion, Reason, And Ethics [Global Cultures/Global Justice]