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The Director’s Corner

With only a few more weeks to go, I want to wish all our INS majors and minors a great conclusion to their Spring ’16 semester. I’m very proud of our students and you’ll find the reasons right here in this Newsletter. A record number of students and alums have contributed to it and shared their ideas, experiences and advice. Please don’t miss out on any of it!

We have such gifted, independent and socially conscious students. I will single out two Juniors at this point, since they received special awards at the Undergraduate Award Ceremony in the O’Byrne Chapel on Wednesday, April 20th. Congratulations, Meghan Hughes and Elene Kalmikova for your general excellence in INS!

Our graduating Seniors also deserve a special citation: Ivana, Pablo, Kristie, Jasmine, Amanda, Angella, Alina, Nury, Gaby, Courtney, Caroline, Clarissa, Susan and Igor. The senior theses you presented last Fall were awesome, and you have contributed to Manhattanville in so many ways over these past four years, that we can’t quite imagine this college without you! At the Baccalaureate Ceremony on Friday, May 13th many of you will receive Honors in your INS major and two of you will receive special INS prizes, one for best senior thesis and one for exemplary engagement. I can’t wait till Baccalaureate when your names will be called out! And of course the actual Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 14th, when you will all graduate, when your families will be there and the entire faculty will applaud your achievements, well that’s enough to bring tears to anyone’s eyes, especially mine. Please keep in touch and let us know – each and every one of you – what you do in the years after graduation. This Newsletter wants to keep on featuring you and letting you inspire others.

Before closing I would like to extend a special note of thanks to Junior Elene Kalmikova for all her efforts on this Newsletter. Elene, who hails from Georgia and is completing a double major in INS and Communications, is also the INS student representative. (You will likely remember getting emails from her about various issues.) Elene did the layout, the interviews and several of the articles in this Newsletter. She combines fine writing with an aesthetic sensibility and excellent computer skills. And she’s also a really lovely human being, a pleasure to work with! I couldn’t have done it without her. Many thanks, Elene!

Gabriele Wickert
Director, International Studies

Elene Kalmikova ‘17
INS Faculty Spotlight: Professor Jim Bryan

By Elene Kalmikova ’17

“For undergraduate students, an exposure to different cultures, their literatures, their systems of governance, and their economic systems are really valuable.”

Jim Bryan is the Ryan/Bacardi Professor of Economics, and he has been teaching at Manhattanville since 1984. Since about that time, he has been representing the Economics and Management department on the INS committee. He is currently one of the 5 members of the INS Steering Committee. His curiosity for international studies began with an interest in the economics of developing countries, the particular problems they face, as well as possible solutions to those problems. Later, he developed a strong interest in the topic of income distribution in the US and across the world. He plans to go on a research sabbatical in Fall 2016 to examine this issue in the US context.

Throughout the years, Professor Bryan has observed changes within the INS program. He said: “Professor Wickert has been here the longest and has played a very important role in the development of the INS program. But it has changed over the years, partly because we have added faculty in ways that give INS a great deal of geographic and disciplinary breadth, at least relative to when I got here in the mid 80’s.” The INS program now includes faculty that specialize in Latin American history, African History, as well as Middle Eastern history. As of about a year ago, Manhattanville extended an offer to Professor Qayum to focus entirely on International Studies.

Professor Bryan did not himself attend a small college as an undergraduate, but he feels that “One strong benefit of Manhattanville being a small college is that the faculty who come here and the faculty who stay here do so because their primary interest is in teaching. They are also interested in research, but the primary dedication of their time is to teaching and advising students.” Professor Bryan believes that advising does not consist only of guiding students through the process of completing required courses, but that it should also help them come up with answers to big questions, such as, “what do you want to do in life? What motivates you? How have you conceived of your options until now? How else might you?” He said, “The give and take between faculty and students at Manhattanville is strong. Over the years, especially with INS and with Professor Swedberg teaching the Senior Seminar, the senior theses have been closely supervised by a faculty member, culminating in the presentation of their theses by all of the students. They inevitably wind up being impressive displays of student work. That is a very rich part of what goes on here.”

In addition to teaching various Economics courses and advising students, Professor Bryan says he has learned a lot from his students. “From advising students or just having ordinary conversations with them, I have learned one of the really important lessons of life, which is how little you can tell at first glance about somebody. We are all hardwired to jump to conclusions about people just at first sight, and what has been fascinating to me over time is how having long conversations with students reveals so much more about their depth as people than merely...”
having them in class or giving them an economics exam. People who are of different backgrounds have a lot to teach each other and shed light on things for each other, and I benefit from that every week.”

Professor Bryan recommends INS courses to all undergraduate students, highlighting the importance of having an awareness of international matters and trends before graduating into an increasingly global world. He believes that INS courses, along with relationships with a diverse range of students and the experience of study abroad, allow students to go beyond the narrowness of their upbringings. As Professor Bryan said, “For undergraduate students, an exposure to different cultures, their literatures, their systems of governance, their economic systems, and all those sorts of things, are really valuable.”

For the near future, Professor Bryan hopes that Manhattanville, along with the INS program, will take more advantage of the diversity of the student body, and in more co-curricular ways, so that students from various backgrounds can have organized outlets that allow them to share the richness of their backgrounds. “The International Bazaar that occurs every spring is a wonderful example of doing that”, Professor Bryan says. “But that is only one, a very important one, but only one outlet, and it would be nice if we could find others, and get into topics other than performances, costumes, and food.”

Thank you, Professor Bryan, for your insights and your many contributions to the INS Program. Manhattanville is very lucky to have you!

2015-2016 International Studies Steering Committee

Gabriele Wickert (Director, INS, Languages)
Christopher Sarver (Political Science/Legal Studies)
Gregory Swedberg (History/Latin American Studies)
Jim Bryan (Economics, Finance and Management)
Nayma Qayum (Asian Studies/International Studies)
Student Representative: Elene Kalmikova ‘17

The larger INS Faculty Committee also includes David Gutman, Mohamed Mbodj, Irene Whelan, Wil Tyrell, Binita Mehta, Nada Halloway, Lawson Bowling, Deborah Saleeby Mulligan, Beth Williford, Maria Jose Lujan, Nimish Adhia and David Lugowski.
INS Student Spotlight: Mackenze Gross ‘18

By Elene Kalmikova ‘17

Mackenze Gross is a sophomore in pursuit of a degree in International Studies with an unusual combination of interests: a concentration in Latin American Studies and a minor in Asian Studies. She is a Duchesne Scholar, a Model UN club member, and the events coordinator for the UNICEF club. She is from the rural town of Arlington, Vermont. Raised in a household of academics, she grew up on the Connecticut College campus.

During her high school years, Mackenze enjoyed studying government and foreign languages. Her interest in human rights came about when she visited China, saw the world from a more global perspective, and experienced culture shock. Having an autistic brother, Mackenze was accustomed to seeing people with disabilities. In China, she realized that out of the thousands of people she saw, none of them were disabled. She asked questions about the issue to her teacher, who revealed that people with disabilities were kept out of society in certain cultures.

After her trip to China, Mackenze advocated to get a student representative on her school’s board. She ended up being elected as the student representative, and the responsibilities that came along with that title sparked her interest in managing schools, working with children, as well as promoting education and other human rights.

Mackenze studied Spanish throughout high school, but at some point, she could not fit Spanish into her class schedule. Rather than miss out on a language, she opted to take Chinese. She said: “It was very difficult, but I just had an overall love and appreciation for the language. So, I continued to take it throughout high school, and then I wanted to continue in college.” She was glad to hear that she could pursue Chinese through cross-registration at Purchase College, where she is currently taking Intermediate Chinese. The process of cross-registration at Purchase has been a positive experience for her. She said, “Though taking the mass transit to get to Purchase is all very new, within one semester I have learned more Chinese than I did during four years of high school and by going to China.”

To improve her Spanish-speaking skills, she has decided to study abroad in Argentina next year. She said, “I would really like to be trilingual, so I thought it would be better to immerse myself in a Spanish-speaking country for a whole year. I looked at the countries that have programs, and Argentina was one of them, so that is where I decided to go.”

Mackenze has taken various INS courses at Manhattanville. She said, “The professors have been very lively and interested in what they teach.” She especially enjoyed the Global Studies course with Professor Qayum. She is looking forward to taking the INS Senior Seminar, and writing her thesis paper. “I love to write, and hopefully I will work some information from Argentina into my senior thesis,” she said. Mackenze has future aspirations to work in the foreign services. After graduating from Manhattanville Mackenze aims to attain a Master’s degree, and to join the Peace Corps in a Latin American country. She said, “I feel like I need a bigger perspective of the world in order to truly understand international studies.”
Empowerment: My INS Internship Experience
by Gabriela Márquez ‘16

“I believe INS gives us an opportunity to explore issues, languages and places that awakens what we deeply care about, from broken economic systems, to patterns that hurt the environment, to the importance of human rights.”

Since January 2016 I have been interning full-time at the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD) in NYC. GFDD is a private, non-profit, non-governmental organization created in 2002 by Dr. Leonel Fernández, former President of the Dominican Republic, which aims to create and implement programs and projects that contribute to the social, economic and democratic development of the Dominican Republic. I am currently the United Nations (UN) Programs Intern, which has given me the opportunity to be immersed in the international affairs system and to strengthen my interpersonal and professional skills.

For the last couple of months I have been responsible for writing three or more blogs per week on topics such as climate change, sustainable development, gender equality, public policies and more. Moreover, so far I have attended more than 20 meetings and side events at the UN that have covered topics and issues relevant to the Foundation’s mission, which allows us to learn about best practices and how to implement them, as well as to strengthen our network. It has been a tremendous opportunity to be able to engage in events and meetings organized by civil society organizations, because it shows the impact that these organizations can have around the world. I have learned so much about different kinds of work that in one way or another empower and provide opportunities for people who unfortunately have not had the same opportunities as many of us. I have also researched organizations that we could partner with to boost our impact, and about prospective accreditations with major bodies such as the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
Moreover, I have participated in two major commissions that are tremendously important for all stakeholders in the international community. One of these commissions is the 54th Session on the Commission for Social Development (CSocD54), whose aim is to rethink and strengthen social development, especially after the post-2015 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Another is the 60th session on the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60), which is the principal global intergovernmental body that dedicates itself exclusively to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. I have learned a great deal from these commissions about the social, economic and environmental challenges that the world faces, but also about the best practices and suggestions that could allow us to fix climate change and live in a world free of poverty, inequality and injustice.

“I am not only proud of representing my home country abroad through the Foundation, and at the very hub of social, political and economic development, the UN, but I also feel empowered to be an agent of positive change.”

I could go on and on about the countless things I am learning from my internship. However, I would like to conclude by encouraging INS students to take advantage of all of the opportunities and resources that are right in front of us. Professor Swedberg, who challenged and inspired me during my senior year, once said that INS students are “special”. I agree with him, I think choosing International Studies as a major or minor takes us to another level. It allows us to expand our knowledge beyond borders, stereotypes and systems. I believe it gives us an opportunity to explore issues, languages and places that awakens what we deeply care about, from broken economic systems, to patterns that hurt the environment, to the importance of human rights.

I am not only proud of representing my home country abroad through the Foundation, and at the very hub of social, political and economic development, the UN, but I also feel empowered to be an agent of positive change. Today, most of us have the easiest tool to be aware about the truly important events and issues around the world. Let us embrace this opportunity!

The International Studies Program extends a fond farewell to President Jon Strauss and First Lady Jean Strauss. Thank you for all you gave to Manhattanville!
My INS Internship with the Jewish Heritage Museum
By Frances M. Cruz Santos ‘18

During the Spring 2016 Semester I had the opportunity to intern for the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust in New York City. The Museum has exhibitions and offers various public programs about the Jewish community during the 20th and 21st century, including the Holocaust period, where around 6 million Jews were exterminated by the Nazi regime. Some of the exhibitions that the Museum has offered in the past include: The Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals; A Town Known As Auschwitz: The Life and Death of a Jewish Community; and Against the Odds: American Jews and the Rescue of Europe’s Refugees, among others.

Originally, I was hired to work with the Auschwitz Jewish Center, an affiliate of the Museum, to work with the Polish Pension Program. The Center serves as a proxy to assist Polish Holocaust survivors living outside of Poland to apply for a restitution for their losses and suffering during WWII, a restitution funded by the Polish government and the Office of War Veterans and Victims of Oppression. By working on this project, I have had the opportunity to reach out to these people, help them through the process and listen to their fascinating stories.

However, in addition to the Pension Program, I have also worked with other departments. I have had the opportunity to work with the Education Department, shadow tours and listen to testimonies from Holocaust survivors. I have been able to attend workshops designed for students regarding the on-going genocide in Darfur, as well as other educational activities that served not only to improve my knowledge but also allowed me to apply previous knowledge that I had acquired through classes taken at Manhattanville, such as "The Museum uses the Holocaust to create awareness about other genocides that are happening today and so it has taught me about the importance of continuing to spread their mission of educating and preventing future genocides.”
my German classes and a course on the Holocaust. It is a terrific way for me to relate my INS concentration in Global Justice to the real and ongoing injustices of the world.

Currently, I am working with the Development Department in the preparations for the 24th Annual Spring Women’s Luncheon to be celebrated at the Pierre Hotel on March 31st. This is an event that brings together members and sponsors of the Museum in an auction where the proceeds go directly to the Museum Community Fund. Holocaust survivor Hanna Wechsler will be a guest-speaker.

Working with the Museum has been a privilege. I never expected to learn so much from this experience. It has helped me establish strong communication skills, the Museum staff welcomed me with open arms and I have been able to step out of my comfort zone to adjust myself to a new work environment. Also, I appreciate being able to contribute something new every day to the Museum. A lot of people may think that World War II and all that it entailed constitutes a closed chapter in our history, but the truth is that veterans and survivors are all around us and I feel honored to help them in any way possible. The Museum uses the Holocaust to create awareness about other genocides that are happening today and so it has taught me about the importance of continuing to spread their mission of educating and preventing future genocides.

Frances has been accepted as a legal intern in the litigation department of Dorf & Nelson LLP in Rye for the summer. In August she also expects to study German in Berlin. Congratulations, Frances!

My Internship Experience: Pursue Your Dream Foundation
By Nury Charro ‘16

During the spring 2016 semester, I have been interning for PYD (Pursue Your Dream) which is a non-for-profit organization located in New York City. PYD aims to bridge the gap between international students and American culture by providing students an opportunity to use English in a professional setting. It has helped hundreds of international students since the organization was established in 2007. Furthermore, the organization offers different courses related to business communication that aim to give students the necessary tools to succeed in the professional world. Some of the courses are business etiquette, communication and negotiation, formal business presentation, and resume and interview. The organization truly believes that students can pursue their dreams with determination, self-dedication.
I am interning for the Communications Department which is in charge of the organization’s social media accounts and web page. Even though I am a communications intern, I have been working with the IT and Marketing Departments because PYD is a small organization where interns do really have hands-on experience on how to work in a non-for-profit organization. Among other responsibilities, I have to create a social media copy, which means I have to create a calendar of the posts that will be shared on different social media platforms, such as Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.

I am also in charge of creating content in English as well as in Spanish. PYD decided to recreate the English and original website, into different languages such as Korean, Chinese and Spanish in order to target international students around the world. This project was recently launched and I was responsible for translating the whole website into Spanish, which is my native language. During this experience, I have had the opportunity to learn more about interviewing people, which was one of my projects with other interns. I have also learned from my advisor how to use my communication skills in a professional environment. I really like the fact that PYD is a small organization because there are many advantages, such as closer relationships with other people within the organization, easy communication between coworkers, real hands on experience and many more characteristics which make this an ideal internship.

Aside from being my second work learning experience, this internship allowed me to go out of my comfort zone and discover new things 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 world cultures is a broad and comprehensive concentration, there is always going to be a connection among other areas.

Interested in an INS Internship? — Talk to your Advisor, Director G. Wickert, and make an appointment with CCD! Every INS major should try to schedule an internship, usually in the Junior or Senior year. Some INS concentrations, like Global Justice and International Management, require an internship.
Alumna Spotlight: An Interview with Megan Angley ‘12

By Elene Kalmikova ‘17

- Tell us a little bit about yourself, your background, your interests, and how your passion for International Studies came about.

I graduated from Manhattanville in 2012 with a major in International Studies and double minors in French and Biology. When I came to Manhattanville, I knew I wanted to someday work in a health-related field, but I wasn't 100% sure in what capacity. I started out freshman year taking Pre-Med classes and thought I wanted to attend Medical School. During sophomore year however, after taking the Intro to Global Studies class and volunteering abroad, I realized my passion for International Studies, and I decided that would be the best major for me. As an International Studies major, I was able to incorporate my interests in health by minoring in Biology, and I used knowledge from both disciplines to write my Senior Thesis on Women's Health in Sub-Saharan Africa.

- What was your experience of being a student at Manhattanville like?

I had a wonderful experience as a student at Manhattanville. I participated in many clubs and volunteer trips abroad.

- Did you do any internships as a student at Manhattanville? If so, where, and what did you learn from the experience(s)?

I did not do any internships while at Manhattanville (although I regret it!), but I did volunteer abroad during my winter breaks. The trip that had the greatest impact in shaping my future career trajectory was a trip to Cambutal, Panama in 2010. I volunteered with a public health organization, and it was during that experience that I really started to look into public health opportunities after college.
• What have you been doing since graduation?

After graduating from Manhattanville, I immediately began graduate school at NYU's Global Institute of Public Health. While at NYU, I focused my studies on Community and International Health. After graduating with my Master of Public Health (MPH), I started interviewing for different health-related jobs and was hired at Helmsley in early 2015.

• What is your jobs like at the Helmsley Charitable Trust? How did you land this jobs?

I am the Associate Program Officer for our Basic Medical Research program. My program gives about $27 million annually to fund medical research, and my duties include overseeing the progress of our current grants, while also helping with the development of new grant initiatives.

• What is the Helmsley Charitable Trust? In retrospect, what did you do at Manhattanville that was most helpful in your career search?

The Helmsley Charitable Trust supports nonprofits and other mission-aligned organizations in the U.S. and around the world in health, place-based initiatives, and education and human services. Since its inception in 2008, the Trust has committed over $1.5 billion in grants. In retrospect, I think my experiences volunteering with the Duchesne Center helped a lot with my career search. I mentioned that I regretted not doing an internship, and the reason why is because most jobs (even so-called "entry-level" positions), require some real-life work experience. Even though I didn't have much relevant work experience after I graduated, I was able to use my volunteer experience to leverage my qualifications for certain positions. Additionally, I would like to note that I still find myself almost every day using the knowledge and skills I developed from being an International Studies major. One example I can give is we are currently funding a project for the development of plant-derived vaccines that cost only a few cents to produce, do not require refrigeration and can be administered orally. As a former International Studies major, I look at this project and can really appreciate how invaluable this could be for the people in the developing world who die every day from preventable diseases due to a lack of access to vaccines.

• If you have travelled for work before, tell us about those experiences.

I just got back from a Grants Management conference in New Orleans, LA. While I am not a member of our Grants Management team, I attended the conference because I wanted to learn more about the due diligence and compliance aspects that go into responsible grant-making. Aside from attending conferences, I also travel to visit our grantees for site visits. During site visits, we get to see first-hand the outcomes of our grants and meet the people on the ground making the grant projects happen.
Living the Mission in Togo: Patience Ameyaw ‘06

By Gabriele Wickert

Patience Ameyaw graduated from Manhattanville in 2006 and after receiving a Master’s in Public Health from New York Medical College, she briefly worked for a health education NGO before joining the Peace Corps. She is currently in her second year in the PC, volunteering in the Community Health and Malaria Prevention sector in French-speaking Togo (neighbor to Ghana and Benin). Patience now speaks fluent French, as well as the local language of her village.

Patience wears many hats. She works with pregnant women and infants at a clinic, counseling the mothers on nutrition and maternal care, monitoring the growth, weight and health of infants, and doing home visits to check on and counsel patients, or just to stop by and chat.

Patience also works with primary and secondary school children, mentoring them and helping them make healthy life choices. She started a club for girls called “Club Amis de Confiance”, and one for boys called “Club Amis de Chance”, with the objective of helping these children build their self-esteem and make positive decisions about their lives. The clubs focus on reproductive and sexual health, including the possible consequences of sexual relations (HIV/AIDS, STDs, teen pregnancy, early/unwanted marriages), as well as on gender equity. As Patience says: “Gender equity is a major issue here in Togo and Africa generally. Boys are valued over girls – it’s the reality. But things are changing, slowly but surely.”

Another significant project on which Patience has been working involves a collaborative initiative between First Lady Michelle Obama and the Peace Corps meant to expand access to education for girls around the world. The initiative is called “Let Girls Learn”. Patience’s project, ‘The 138 Textbook Project’, is part of that larger initiative. Its purpose is to raise funds to buy textbooks for the secondary school with which she works. The project grant has been approved by Peace Corps headquarters and can be viewed by going to www.peacecorps.gov/donate. Though March 24th was the fundraising deadline, a donation has already been made to Patience’s project by the Manhattanville International Studies Program. In Patience’s words: “The ‘138 Textbook Project’ is dedicated to the 138 inspiring girls – my girls, from my secondary school – to help them remember that they matter and so does the future.”

Congratulations, Patience. You are a wonderful example of an International Studies major who is living the mission of the College!
Featured Alumna: Ebi Spahiu ‘09

By Elene Kalmikova ‘17

Ebi Spahiu graduated from Manhattanville in 2009. She received a Master’s degree from the Milano School of Management, International Affairs and Urban Policy at The New School, in Nonprofit Management and Human Rights. She completed her thesis on Tradition, Culture and Conflicts with Universal Human Rights, looking particularly at bride kidnapping in Kyrgyzstan. She also worked as a researcher at The Center for New York City Affairs, looking into education policies in public schools and how they affect recent immigrant students and families in low-income areas of New York City.

A few months after graduating from The New School, she received an offer to work at the Eurasia Foundation office in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan as a Monitoring Officer for the Equal Before the Law program, which provided free access to legal assistance to vulnerable groups in Kyrgyzstan and other Central Asian countries. Her work was particularly focused on female victims of domestic violence and bride kidnapping, a ritual widely practiced in many parts of Central Asia. She also taught English and writing to law students and professors in two law universities in Bishkek.

After working for a year at the Eurasia Foundation, she began working as an external consultant for UNICEF, UN Women projects on women's rights and advocacy against bride kidnapping, as well as EU projects on prison torture.

She spent much time in the field as a researcher while also monitoring the continuation of projects already being implemented. During this time, she came across issues of religious radicalism, recruitment of foreign fighters to join the war in Syria and other influences affecting the social structures of Central Asia. She began writing for several think tanks based in the US on issues such as human rights, the rise of radical religious influences, historical ties and increasing political influences of Russia and China.

Ebi returned to her home country of Albania, and started working as a consultant for the OSCE (Organization for Security Cooperation in Europe) on projects around government corruption, and also continued her work in countering violent extremism (CVE) and conducting research of Balkan foreign fighters that have joined groups like ISIS. Currently, she is an analyst for the Jamestown Foundation in DC, and a consultant for the Institute for Democracy and Mediation based in Tirana. She is involved in research projects focusing on right-wing nationalism and religious radicalism in the region.

Congratulations, Ebi, for your success in advocating for positive change in the world and living the mission of the College!
Alumna Update: Karina Edouard ‘15

By Karina Edouard ‘15

After graduating Manhattanville in December 2014, I spent the next several months traveling around the United States and Canada. Interspersed between my travels, I worked a series of odd jobs, practiced photography, and studied for the GRE. By August 2015, I began my service as an AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer with African Communities Together (ACT), an advocacy organization which fights for civil rights, opportunity, and a better life for African immigrant families here in the U.S. and back in Africa. As an AmeriCorps volunteer, I develop capacity-building systems that connect African immigrants in NYC to immigration legal services, language access, and economic opportunity.

Since joining ACT, I've spent much of my free time learning Hausa and Bambara, as well as eating various West African dishes like acheke, fried fish, and foutou! In the fall, I will begin my Master's in Public Affairs at Princeton University.

Karina has been accepted for a Master’s in Public Affairs at Princeton University! Congratulations, Karina, on your wonderful path towards a unique life of supporting the causes you care about and exploring different areas of the world!
HERE’S WHAT WE THINK! -- Students React to INS Core Courses

INTRO TO GLOBAL STUDIES (Prof. Qayum)
By Markus Schwarz ‘19

The Intro to Global Studies Course I took during my first semester at Manhattanville was an amazing experience and has convinced me to change plans and major in International Studies. The world has become a very complex place and this course has provided me with tools that enable me to reflect on political, economic, sociological, psychological as well as cultural developments. We managed to cover a wide range of exciting topics such as Kant’s theorems, Neo-Marxism, Colonialism, the causes of poverty, and the current refugee crisis in Europe to name a few. Professor Qayum encouraged us to discuss sensitive topics, make connections between the past and the present, and defend our viewpoints. Classes were so varied that I did not want to miss any of them. Furthermore, occasionally working in groups helped me understand the importance of teamwork and improve my leadership skills. I also want to thank the professor for requiring us to write an academic essay and for assisting us in conducting library research. Studying the history as well as the present situation of Iraq and writing an essay about it was a task I found enjoyable rather than arduous. I believe that this course allows students to engage in the responsibilities of world citizens, to become aware of the fact that no action is without consequences and that many of today’s problems could have been avoided if people had known better in the past. Having someone like professor Qayum teach us is a real privilege since she herself is not a mere theorist, but she effectively uses her knowledge from her job at the United Nations to tackle the problems of our century. I highly recommend this course to any student here at Manhattanville College!

WORLD HISTORY: SINCE 1500 (Prof. Gutman)
By Ama Sakho ‘18

World History: Since 1500 was a very interesting course. It gave me a good grasp of the general history of different parts of the world, although the coverage of time periods was a bit superficial. Along with providing an understanding of the rise of the modern world, the course influenced me to think about the diversity of the world and to take on the task of historical comparison of different regions. I personally learned certain things I did not know about the continent I am from. The course material included weekly reading and analysis of primary sources and articles that reflected their context. The exams and map quizzes were also formatted so that students would have a higher chance to display knowledge of the content reviewed in class.
GLOBAL ECONOMY (Prof. Adhia)
By Asma Alirahi, ‘19

The International Studies program offers a wide variety of classes that involve all types of subjects, students, and interests. Global Economy is a class in which we study how the economies of different countries interact. The course gives a general overview of both microeconomics and macroeconomics and how to do basic supply and demand graphs, conduct welfare analysis, formulas to calculate important outputs of the economy, and the gross domestic production of various situations, and markets. Professor Adhia requires the students to read and write a report on the book, “Borderless Economics” written by Robert Guest. It is one of the most interesting books I have read and it shines a new light on economics that I had not seen before taking the class. Global Economy is a great class to have as part of the International Studies program because it shows students how different countries are dependent on one another and work together to provide the goods and services we use on a daily basis. Students who have no prior experience with economics have nothing to fear, for Professor Adhia is one of the most helpful professors I have had. He is always ready to help a student succeed and often posts and emails helpful links and presentations. I would highly recommend this course to anyone and everyone!

WORLD CULTURES THROUGH LITERATURE & FILM (Prof. Wickert)
By Berenice Velasquez ‘17

In my sophomore year I took Professor Wickert’s course entitled “Contemporary Conflicts Through Literature and Film”, which exposed me to historical conflicts that have influenced my perspective on modern-day humanitarian issues. On a quest to learn more about the cultures that have shaped the groups of people involved in these conflicts, my next step was to take my 2nd second class with her, “World Cultures Through Literature and Film.” Professor Wickert beautifully combines thought-provoking foreign films and novels that encourage students to not only think outside of their traditional Western perspectives, but also to embrace a global mindset. This class requires students to sharpen their critical thinking and reasoning skills in order to form thoughtful and educated opinions on cultural-based societal issues such as post-colonial Africa, Islamic migration into Europe, and the rise of Islamic Fundamentalism. Though the work load for the course involves a substantial amount of reading, every excerpt and novel is worth the read. Professor Wickert makes the four-hour class feel like a fun weekend book club full of diverse opinions and perspectives! I highly recommend this class to anyone who is still deciding on a major or is interested in understanding what international studies is all about!
SENIOR SEMINAR IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
(Prof. Swedberg)
By Igor Silva ‘16

The International Studies Senior Seminar, led by Professor Swedberg, consists of two main facets. The first is that this is where all INS majors work towards creating their senior theses. Early on in the semester each student chooses a subject matter that they would like to explore. As the semester progresses, the INS class focuses on narrowing and refining these topics into a presentable thesis. Students talk about their work in front of their fellow classmates and Professor Swedberg. This might seem frightening to some, but everyone works together to form a conducive learning environment. I personally appreciated the feedback from my fellow peers. In addition, Professor Swedberg requests that each student bring in a news article, to each class in order to discuss that particular issue. As INS majors, we are taught to keep our minds open to the numerous issues that currently plague the globe. Throughout the semester we frequently discussed matters related to the environment, foreign policy, the economy, and various social issues. This portion of the class is vital because here we are able to take our years of learning and apply them to real life problems. Despite the pressures associated with creating a thesis I can safely say this has been one of my favorite courses here at Manhattanville.

INTERNATIONAL POLITICS I + II
(PROF. SARVER)
By Nina Oniani ‘18

The International Studies (INS) Program at Manhattanville offers a number of remarkable professors full of dynamic enthusiasm and willingness to share their expertise with the students. The faculty consists of scholars who hold meticulous global and comparative perspectives on the contemporary worldwide system. Dr. Sarver is one of the outstanding and memorable professors I have had in this department so far. He is open-minded, receptive, competent, and particularly knowledgeable in his field. After taking International Politics I and International Politics II with him, I have developed a sophisticated understanding of political processes and an ability to think critically and independently. Dr. Sarver’s lectures are engaging and fun due to his great sense of humor, in addition to having first-hand experience with the Peace Corps. I recommend his classes to anyone who is interested in world politics and engaging, enjoyable lectures/discussions.
Most college students have heard one simple phrase over and over again, and are probably just as sick of hearing it as they are of being asked what they’re majoring in: “College is the best time to travel.” We’ve all heard it, and we’ve all probably silently thought: Ok, Aunt Kathy, do you even know how much college costs these days??

But, actually, Aunt Kathy is right. College really is the best time to travel. Your college years are the last ones of your life with relatively free summers and long holiday breaks. The entire college experience is about testing your boundaries, breaking out of your comfort zone, and having wild adventures you’ll be able to tell for the rest of your life. There is no better way to learn and grow than through travelling while you’re young. The best way to get that experience? Travel like a local, not a tourist!

It can often be daunting, but making travel plans that safely get you off the beaten track and don’t break the bank is possible. Here are some of the tried and true tips I’ve learned in my time gallivanting around South America and the Caribbean, and some of the best ways I’ve found to really experience another life and culture.

1) Safety Tips!

**Use the buddy system** – Solo travel can be rewarding and invigorating, but is much more dangerous than traveling with a trusted and well-known companion or group.

**Don’t take risks** – Don’t walk alone at night, take unregistered taxis, or take drinks from people you don’t know. Be smart about who you connect with. We all dream of international romance, but that just screams disaster.

**Know the area** – Bring printouts of maps of important locations like your hotel, the airport, or places you plan to visit. Have a list of phone numbers and addresses, too. Worst comes to worst, you will be able to show someone exactly where you need to go.

**Use the hotel concierge** – Even if staying in a small, inexpensive hotel, someone there will be able to help you. They can help you navigate and give you insights you never would have known otherwise.

**Be careful with water** – Be aware that in many countries, especially in the popular tourist areas of South America and the Caribbean, tap water is not safe to drink. But it’s not just about how you hydrate yourself – use only bottled water for cooking, brushing your teeth, and washing dishes. Bringing oregano oil pills and pepto bismol can help avoid a disaster, but should intestinal havoc ensue, seek medical attention.

2) Avoid tour groups!

At every vacation spot, there are a myriad of groups that will take you on excursions for a hefty price. But the surprising thing is, you can do almost all of those things on your own without a tour group.

Often these groups only transport you to locations that themselves offer guides and passage at a much lower rate, with the added bonus of not waiting in long lines or dealing with crowds.

On one of my trips to the Dominican Republic, my companions and I wanted to go waterfall jumping at a popular eco-adventure site. The tour group that offered the excursion wanted $120 per person to pick us up at the hotel, take us to the waterfalls, and guide us up the mountain, where we would only be able to jump the first seven falls. After talking with staff at our hotel, we were able to take public transportation and buy our own tickets once at the site and paid $10...
per person to do the exact same adventure, but with 27 waterfalls instead of with 27 waterfalls instead of 7/

3) Get out of the resort!

Most people opt to spend big bucks on posh resorts that offer everything you’d need. And sure, that’s a great option for some people, but they often end up spending their entire vacation never leaving the resort and miss out on huge cultural experiences. If you’re looking for a little bit more, try not to even stay at a resort. Many locations offer hotels or hostels in the same area that provide the same opportunities for a much lower price and encourage guests to get out and explore. Looking into these options is absolutely a great way to travel without being labelled a lazy tourist, and is my favorite way to travel. Opt for a room that has a kitchen – cooking for yourself will help cut down costs of your trip, allowing you to do more fun things. But safety first – look for a gated location that offers 24 hour security and thoroughly check online reviews before booking.

4) Don’t be flashy!

Nowadays everyone has an expensive camera and selfies are king. But carrying around a giant D-SLR or stopping every 20 seconds to capture your next Instagram masterpiece with your selfie stick is not only dangerous because it increases your chances of being robbed, it completely labels you as “TOURIST”. We all want great photos of our experiences, so maybe bring that selfie stick to the beach or your Nikon on a nature tour, but leave them behind more than you bring them. Buy a cheap $50 digital camera for every-day use and learn to value experience more than the pictures.

5) Don’t limit yourself!

It’s tempting to pick a location that speaks a language you know or to stick to places where everyone else goes. Sure, they’re popular for a reason, but putting these kinds of restrictions on your travel could cause you to overlook a wonderful experience. Cancun may be a popular destination for college students, but that doesn’t mean it’s perfect for you. Try someplace you’ve never been or somewhere no one you know has been to. This gives you room to grow and learn, and you’ll be surprised how much you enjoy it.

So there you have it, five of my favorite tips for travelling like a local and getting the most out of your travel experience. Blending in is the best way to immerse yourself, and these tips will help you do just that.

Our hearts go out to our INS majors and minors from ECUADOR — Pablo Alvarez, Gui Avalos, Nury Charro Live and Paloma Encinas Ullauri. We hope your families are OK and we are with you in spirit as you mourn the loss of life and property in your beautiful country through the devastating earthquake. For all who want to donate to the relief fund for Ecuador, please go to:

https://www.gofundme.com/gezpkfck
Traveling abroad can be a life-changing experience. Whether you are studying, volunteering, working, or purely exploring; spending time in a different country is extraordinary. Many catch the travel bug and are hooked for life; I myself am one of those people. I have been fortunate enough to travel to 13 countries throughout Central America, South America, and Europe. I know that my list will grow throughout my life, but the question that is always racking my brain is: How? How do you make traveling an option and what are the best ways to do it? I have utilized a variety of ways to travel — I have studied abroad, been an au pair, done a cultural/service trip, have been on some incredible family vacations, and traveled to stay with many friends across the globe. These options may not be the best for everyone, but luckily there are many other ways to travel and a multitude of organizations out there to help you.

Explore your options! If you still have the time to study abroad, then take full advantage of that once-in-a-lifetime experience. But maybe you don’t have the time and can only spend a summer, or like me you’re a graduating senior heading out into the “real world” and you have to find new ways to travel. You must decide what it is you’re looking for and for how long. Personally, I find it absurd how much many organizations charge would-be volunteers! Sometimes there is no choice, but I believe that if you would like to travel with the purpose of volunteering, then do your research, because there are many ways to volunteer abroad that are quite economical. Here is a list of some great organizations and how they work.

**WWOOF** - “WWOOF is an exchange. In return for volunteer help, WWOOF hosts offer food, accommodation and opportunities to learn about organic lifestyles. WWOOFING is a program where you can spend 1 week or 1 year working for organic farms all over the world! A huge network is set up and finding a host is easy. Ever wanted to travel across Europe? Why not WWOOF it instead?!”

**Workaway** - “As a traveller or language learner (or in many cases both!) volunteering with a family or for a small organization is an ideal way to get to know the real inside of a foreign country or to immerse yourself completely in a foreign language. You know that you will have the security of a place to stay with welcoming people.” Like WWOOF, Workaway allows you to connect with people all over the globe and stay with them in exchange for work. This program is slightly different and there are a large variety of jobs offered, not just organic farming.

**Anywork Anywhere** - Did you know that countries like New Zealand, Australia and Ireland (to name just a few), offer travel visas for up to one year. In that time you can not only travel the country, but you can also work! This website provides a wide variety of job listings all over the world.
Teach English - Teaching English has been a popular option for decades. In recent years there have been incentives in countries throughout Asia to become English teachers. They offer salaries that are much higher than the normal expat English language teacher would get in other parts of the world.

Group Leader - A great option for those who enjoy traveling and working with kids is becoming a group leader for trips overseas. Putney Travel School is just one example of a program where they hire qualified energetic staff to lead groups of middle and high schoolers all over the world. Finding programs such as this one can be the best of both worlds, since you get to travel, your expenses are paid for by the program, and you can help open the eyes of young people to the amazing world around them.

NGOs - There are thousands of NGOs around the world, and you can go just about anywhere to volunteer with them. Volunteer is the key word, because it can be quite difficult to get a decent salary with an NGO. Some will pay a very small salary, such as the organization called Heart for Change. It is based out of Colombia, and its mission is to bring the English language to all Colombians. In general NGOs are fantastic, but if you’re looking to find a career, then you will have to do a lot of searching in order to find one that pays a reasonable wage.

Pure Travel - Now if all you desire is just to travel and are very adventurous, then Couchsurfing may be a great option for you. Couchsurfing.com is a website that provides thousands of profiles of people willing to open their homes to travelers – for free! In some cases you will exchange the free room for a meal you cook for the host, but in many cases the hosts are just kind people who support travelers. Always make sure that you feel comfortable with the living arrangements and remember that they are meant to be short term, but can be an amazing way to travel on a budget.

I hope this has inspired or aided those who desire to travel abroad. Adventures await!
Over the past few years, the worth of the US dollar has grown, gaining a powerful value against other global currencies. As the dollar’s value continues to rise, international students whose family income and assets unexpectedly equate to fewer dollars are facing a complex problem.

While paying for a US education, tuition fees can only be accepted in dollars. But due to devalued currencies, students from countries such as Colombia, Russia, Georgia, and Vietnam end up having to pay up to double the amount expected at their initial enrollment. Unfortunately the Financial Aid Office is not taking these circumstances into account by changing financial aid packages accordingly.

“Some talk to me about the currency changes, and I tell them there is a limit to what the college can give,” said L.A. Adams, Director of the Office of International Students and Scholars at Manhattanville. “There are people who have had to leave. That is the reality.”

Manhattanville ranked 12th in The Newsweek/Daily Beast list of best colleges for international students, and they contribute significantly to Manhattanville’s student body. “They add diversity to this school and make it more festive,” said L.A. Adams.

Economics Professor Nimish Adhia said, “One of the lessons of economics is that it is not possible to predict with any degree of certainty the value of financial assets such as the US dollar. If prediction was possible to a high degree of certainty, I would have made a killing in the currency markets and retired. But alas, I have not retired.”

While such predictions are risky, a Goldman Sachs Report foresees that the euro’s value will drop from 90 to 80 cents by the end of 2017. At the beginning of 2015, the euro’s worth was $1.34. The euro is now at its lowest value since 2003. But the Eurozone is much better off economically than many other areas of the world. The Georgian lari, for instance, has devalued from 1.6 GEL equating to 1 USD to 2.46GEL equating to 1 USD between 2015 and 2016.

Mariam Kopadze ‘16 is an international student from Georgia. “The main reason why I came to Manhattanville was the financial aid package I was offered,” Mariam said. “However, after the drastic change in the exchange rate, education is overwhelmingly expensive and I am trying to graduate early.” Mariam works on campus as a Supplemental Instructor/Tutor for math, computer graphics, and psychology courses. She has appealed to the Financial Aid Office, but her aid award remains unchanged.

“Having been an international student myself, I understand how stressful such a situation can be,” said Nimish Adhia. “The college could play a role in facilitating student access to outside sources of financing, such as loans, grants or employment. Maybe the college could make it easier for international students to graduate early.”

Rodrigo Castiglioni ‘17 came to Manhattanville from Paraguay. During Rodrigo’s time as a college student, the dollar value increased from just over 4000 Paraguayan guarani to 5744 PYG. This has considerably increased the cost of his education. Rodrigo said, “I rarely go home during breaks. I miss my home, but I would rather stay in New York to work, and be more productive.”

Rodrigo has received an opportunity that makes the payment process for his education easier. He said, “I became an RA this year. As a resident assistant my room and housing fees have been waived.” However, every year, there is a large pool of applicants, both internationals and Americans, for a limited number of RA positions. So, not all students with similar financial adversities are able to overcome them.
These electives are listed by concentration. They include some 1000 level courses, but with the exception of the International Management concentration (which has specific elective requirements), only one INS elective may be at the 1000 level. An asterisk * indicates the course has prerequisites or needs faculty approval. Students may not double count courses between their minor and their INS electives.

### Political-Economic Relations

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<tr>
<td>*ECO 3018</td>
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<tr>
<td>INS 2021</td>
<td>Ballots, Bullets + Barricades</td>
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<tr>
<td>POL 1037</td>
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### International Management

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<td>*MGT 2006</td>
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### Cultural Studies

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<td>Art + Politics of German Cinema</td>
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<td>HIS 1051</td>
<td>Modern Europe: 1648 to the Present</td>
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<td>HIS 3118</td>
<td>Women, State + Politics in Africa</td>
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<td>POS 2068</td>
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<td>*SPN 3012</td>
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<td>SPRT 3608</td>
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### African Studies

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<td>HIS 1018</td>
<td>History of Modern Middle East + North Africa</td>
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<td>*ECO 3018</td>
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<td>Intro to Postcolonial Literature</td>
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<td>FRN 3122</td>
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<td>GER/INS 3009</td>
<td>Art + Politics of German Cinema</td>
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<td>HIS 1051</td>
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<tr>
<td>*SPN 3018</td>
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Congratulations, graduating INS Majors!!

Ivana Bejaran
Pablo Alvarez
Kristie Manzueta
Jasmine Fox
Amanda Armenteros
Angella Daluz
Alina Callo
Nury Charro Live
Gabriela Marquez-Gonzalez
Courtney DeSilva
Caroline Castro
Clarissa Orellano
Susan Riero
Igor Silva

Stay in touch! We will miss you!!