

Manhattan College
International Studies Newsletter
Vol. 5 No. 1 September 2005

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1. Welcome Back

Greetings International Studies majors, graduates and other readers! The 2005-06 school year is now officially underway and I'm sure many of you are trying to figure out why the summer seemed to pass so quickly. I know I am.

Welcome back upper classmen and women. We have a lot of great activities planned for this year and I hope that you will continue to find this newsletter to be a great way of passing information along to you and helping you with your course selections, internship and job searches and upcoming events.

Welcome freshmen and newly declared majors! This newsletter comes out once a month to inform you about your major and provide you with other helpful hints to navigate around Manhattan College. This is a monthly electronic newsletter that informs all International Studies majors about things of interest, especially events on campus. I also hope that we may be able to form a closer community of International Studies majors.

Welcome International Studies alumni. You will continue to get this newsletter to help you keep in touch with your alma mater. If you ever wish to come back to campus and talk about your post-graduate experiences, let me know. Please keep me posted on your accomplishments so I can spread the good news.

Welcome back faculty members. If you teach any courses that count towards the International Studies major you have been added to this distribution list. Hopefully, this will enable you to be more informed and involved with the International Studies major.

If you have any announcements of meetings or events or job/internship opportunities that you want to post, please send me an e-mail at pamela.chasek@manhattan.edu. If you had a great

internship or study abroad experience that you would like to write about for this newsletter, let me know. Likewise, if you ever have any questions about the major, graduate schools, jobs, internships, study abroad, or anything else, feel free to e-mail me or stop by my office (Miguel 414).

Pam Chasek
Director, International Studies Program
Manhattan College

2. News about the Major

Here is a reminder about what you need to graduate as an International Studies major.

All students shall:

- complete fifteen credits of a core curriculum, comprised of the Global Issues introductory seminar (INTL 201), International Economics (ECON 334), a government course (either International Politics (GOVT 351), International Organizations (GOVT 352) or US Foreign Policy (GOVT 357), a diplomatic history course (Diplomatic History of Europe (HIST 326), the Cold War and the World (HIST 327) or American Foreign Relations (HIST 362), and a final capstone seminar in International Studies (INTL 405).
- complete fifteen credits in the chosen area of concentration. Areas of concentration are Europe, Asia, Caribbean and Latin America, Africa and Middle East and Global Issues. This last category focuses on transregional issues such as the environment, technology, ethnicity, and international organizations.
- acquire a satisfactory reading and speaking ability in at least one foreign language. This means that you should go beyond the six required credits in Modern Foreign Languages and have at least six credits at the 200-level or higher. Languages not offered at Manhattan College can be taken off campus.

All International Studies majors are strongly encouraged to spend one or two semesters of their junior year abroad.

A minimum grade of C is required in all courses used to fulfill the requirements for a major or minor in International Studies and for all courses taken abroad.

Outstanding students, both majors and minors, are inducted into the Manhattan College chapter of Sigma Iota Rho, the national honor society for international studies.

3. Alumni News

Here is some news reported by International Studies alumni since last May. I apologize if any of this is now outdated.

Kelly Andrade [kandrade919@yahoo.com] (2003) started a job with FEGS Health and Human Services (www.fegs.org) in June. "I'm working with the Senior VP on WeCare, a welfare to work project with NYC's HRA. I'm a project/planning assistant, helping to administer the project. FEGS is responsible for welfare recipients in Manhattan, the Bronx & Staten Island. I haven't done much yet, but in time I should be pretty active in coordinating the project and assisting in the writing of a policy/procedure manual."

Nicole Pollio [nicolette.pollo@gmail.com] (2005) writes: "I got a job teaching English in Italy and I'm leaving September 1 for a six-month contract with a school outside of Padova. It should be a very different experience from the last time I lived in Italy, as I will be living in a very small town with mostly Italian and Japanese students going primarily to learn foreign languages. The pay is terrible at only 200 Euro a month but I'm not going for the money. There are, however, many perks. The school is providing me with free housing in a shared apartment and all the language lessons I want in any language offered."

Blair Lampe [meblair@gmail.com] (2005) writes "As most of you know (though this may be the first some have heard of it) I've decided to celebrate earning my college degree by taking a journey 'round the world where no one will care about aforementioned degree." You can contact her by e-mail or check out her travel blog at <http://blogs.bootsnall.com/Blair/>.

Alumni: Send in your news via e-mail to pamela.chasek@manhattan.edu. I would like to put together a panel of International Studies alumni to talk about life after Manhattan College. If you are in the area and want to participate, let me know. More details will be coming.

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4. Report from Paris

Senior Amy DiTommaso studied in Paris during the spring semester. Here is a bit about her experience:

I went to Paris with the hope of learning more French and living in a new culture. Now, I wish I could say that my French improved ten fold, but that wouldn't be true. However as I look back I realize that that aspect of my trip is not of great importance, what was instead, was all that I learned about the country and my own country, once I got to look from the outside, in.

There were not too many differences between the cultures that I had difficulty dealing with, but what was hardest was dealing with the thought of leaving the new society that I had adapted to. I learned so much about myself in that environment and met so many interesting people, that when it was time to leave I had a harder time saying goodbye to my "new home" then it was saying goodbye to the family and friends I left behind in the states.

It was definitely an opportunity never to be missed. Even just being in one foreign country, I was able to learn so much more about the world at large that without that experience I do not think my major of International Studies would mean as much. I would say that no matter what your major is, everyone should try and make the time to go abroad because the lessons you learn there are none of those you could ever learn in a classroom.

While in Paris I worked as a babysitter/tutor for an 8 year old boy named Nicky. His dad was American and his mom French, so he had a very good grasp on the English language, so my job was to make it better. One day we were working on compound words in his work book and he was having a hard time figuring out exactly what compound words were, so I gave him examples like sandbox, toy chest, etc. I told him they were words that were made up of two smaller words. At this point the puzzled look disappeared and he looked very pleased with himself. I figured this meant he finally understood and when I asked him if he did he gave me his huge Nicky smile and nodded endlessly. I was excited that I was able to help him figure it out so I asked him to give me an example to see if he really understood and to my question he replied, "Some." I had to hold back the laughter and frustration because from his response it was clear that he had not fully understood. I told him that was not correct and he began to get very upset and said to me, "Why not? You said a compound word is two small words that make a bigger word, and So and Me are two small words that make up some!" At that moment I realized that this wonderful little boy had found a small loophole in the English language and I loved that he showed me that my language was just as tough as the one I was there to learn.

5. Report from Japan

Senior Byron Nagy spent the 2004-05 year in Japan. Here is a bit about his experience.

Over the last year I had one of the most valuable and memorable adventures of my life. I spent my Junior year studying at Waseda University in Tokyo and living in Japan for about a whole year. After being back in the United States for about two weeks now, the reverse culture shock is severely setting in and I find my self uncomfortable in situations and environments that were perfectly acceptable before I spent my time in Japan. (For example feeling uncomfortable not taking my shoes off when I come in my house, not eating with chopsticks, bathing standing up instead of sitting down on a little stool...etc)

I spent my whole year living with a 23 year old Japanese couple who I made friends with upon my first trip to Japan. We became friends after meeting randomly in one of the busy nightlife sections of Tokyo. When it was decided that I would studying Japan for a year they proposed the idea of the three of us renting an apartment together. Commuting everyday via bicycle and the Tokyo subway system to one of the largest and most famous private universities in Japan was an experience in itself. But being part of a Japanese college community gave me an inside look at the life of Japanese college students my age. In addition to the language classes which I took every morning the afternoons were filled with cultural, business and international relation based classes which had about an equal proportion of Japanese students to foreign students. This

unique environment provided the opportunity to make close friends with many Japanese students my age a few of which are planning to come visit me in New York over their break. Another point of interest in Japanese Universities are the school associated clubs or saakuru (circle) as they are called in Japanese. These clubs seem to play a much more active role in the student community than those in American schools and a lot of the club members free time on weekends is spent socializing or partying with other group members. I joined a Ski circle and went on a number of ski trips all over Japan with my group during winter break. We traveled to the Japanese alps of Nagano (where the Olympics were a few years ago) and also to the Northern island of Hokkaido on ski trips. Traveling in Japan can actually be done quite cheaply if you're a foreigner because there are numerous train passes which only foreigners or tourists can use. I had the time over my two month long spring break to backpack across Japan with one of my Japanese friends and visited almost every city of interest all across the country.

The Japanese college experience in itself was amazing but I also had the opportunity of being selected to participate in an internship program over winter break. I stayed with a Japanese host family near Nagano for about three weeks and was an assistant English teacher at a Japanese middle school. The students were all really cute and into learning English and speaking with me in Japanese in their free time and my host family couldn't of been nicer. The internship was a wonderful education experience which additionally helped me realize and define some of my goals for the future. A few years ago, my plan for post graduation was to return to Japan as an English teacher. Its not that I don't enjoy children or teaching but I realized after doing this internship that I would never want to become an English teacher in Japan. Some of my good friends are working as JETs in Japan right now and I know the Jet program provides a wonderful opportunity for college graduates to experience Japan and discover more about themselves. However after studying Japanese so diligently for years and participating in this internship I felt as if my acquisition of the Japanese language would go to waste if I worked as an English teacher in a job where Japanese language ability is of no use. My new goal after graduation is to find a job in Japan where I can make use in my work place daily the Japanese and valuable cultural knowledge I acquired over my year abroad as an undergraduate.

After arriving in Japan, as the months passed, every day began to feel less and less like a year long study abroad experience and more like a new way of life or existence. I became so used to certain aspects of Japanese culture and society and began to stop comparing them to the norms of American society and rather just accept them for what they were. I defined my career goals, made life long friends, improved my Japanese language ability by leaps and bounds and I believe became and more mature, independent and responsible adult. This experience was everything I expected and more. The memories I made over the last year are irreplaceable to me. I will carry the memories and wisdom that I gained over the last year into my future human relationships as well as my future career in the US or abroad.

6. Upcoming Events

Off-Campus Study Informational Meeting

If you are interested in studying abroad for a semester or a year, come to an informational meeting about these programs. Learn what options you have, how and when to apply and ask additional questions. This meeting will take place at 4:00 pm on Wednesday, 7 September in Miguel 311 (Rodriguez Room). For more information, contact Nancy Cave nancy.cave@manhattan.edu or Prof. Nonie Wanger nonie.wanger@manhattan.edu

Model United Nations

There will be an introductory meeting for students interested in the Model UN program on Thursday, 8 September at 4:30 pm in Miguel 201. We will be discussing participation in the fall Invitational Model UN conference in Washington, DC (17-20 November) and the spring National Model United Nations conference. We will be picking our country choices for the spring at this meeting. If you want to learn more about the program and the course, come join us. You are not obligated to participate if you come to this meeting. If you are interested and cannot come to this meeting, contact Pam Chasek pamela.chasek@manhattan.edu

History and Stories: Rewriting the Past

On Wednesday, 14 September there will be a lecture by Sondra Perl on “History and Stories: Rewriting the Past.” This lecture, sponsored by the History Department, the Center for Teaching and the Dean of Arts, will run from 3:35 – 5:00 pm in the Rodriguez Room (Miguel 311). For more information, contact Dr. Jeff Horn jeff.horn@manhattan.edu

7. Internship, Job and Scholarship Announcements

A Message from the Center for Career Development

The Center for Career Development is planning many activities for you this fall. Our growing Mentor Program matches you up with a professional in your desired career field. This is a great way to get career information and make contacts.

To polish your presentation skills and develop professionalism we have two different programs:

- 1 - Communicating for Success Seminar Series, Sept. 28 and Oct. 26.
- 2 - Etiquette Dinner, Nov. 2.

The best hands on way to learn about the world of work is to do an internship. You can work for an NGO, a non-profit or law related organization and get credit too.

Please visit us on the 5th floor of Miguel to get further information.

Council on Foreign Relations

The NY-based Council on Foreign Relations has a number of internships and full-time jobs currently available. For more information, go to

<http://idealist.org/if/idealist/en/SiteIndex/AssetViewer/view?asset=Org&asset-id=14512-301&keywords=council&keywords=foreign&keywords=relations&sid=32648424-194-pePjF>

For more information about the Council on Foreign Relations, you can check out their www site at <http://www.cfr.org>

Human Rights First Jobs and Internships

Since 1978, Human Rights First has worked in the U.S. and abroad to create a secure and humane world by advancing justice, human dignity and respect for the rule of law. We support human rights activists who fight for basic freedoms and peaceful change at the local level; protect refugees in flight from persecution and repression; promote fair economic practices by creating safeguards for workers' rights; and help build a strong international system of justice and accountability for the worst human rights crimes.

Human Rights First welcomes a limited number of interns throughout the year. Positions are available in Program as well as Development, Communications, Administration and Finance. During the academic year, interns commit to 10 – 12 hours a week. During the summer most interns work full time. For more information about applying for Spring Semester internships (Deadline is 15 November) or to see what full-time jobs are available, go to

http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/about_us/jobs/interns.htm

United Nations Association of the United States Internships

The United Nations Association of the United States (UNA-USA) awards a variety of part-time and full-time internships to highly motivated students. Interns must possess a strong interest in international affairs, good writing and research skills, and formidable knowledge of the United Nations and other multilateral institutions. Applications for **Spring** internships must be received no later than **November 1**. For more information and an application form, go to

<http://www.unausa.org/site/pp.asp?c=fvKRI8MPJpF&b=640679>

YMCA Go Global

The YMCA Go Global Program sends young adults from various parts of the United States to overseas YMCAs and other educational and human service organizations where they work in a wide variety of cultural and community service programs. The YMCA Go Global has placements all over the world and the work our volunteers perform consists of, but is not limited to, environmental and health education, camping, teen leadership, childcare, swimming instruction, English lessons and computer training. For more information, go to

<http://www.ymcaglobal.org/index.shtml>