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State of the Major

This annual report for 2011-2012 marks the first year of an independently administered undergraduate International Relations Program (IRP). Seizing the opportunities created by the consolidation of Maxwell’s professional masters programs, IRP staff moved vigorously to enhance advising support and student services while creating new administrative efficiencies and benchmarks. We also made important curriculum advances, including the formal approval of a new minor in Global Security Studies, as we set the stage for further programmatic initiatives and faculty involvement.

Highlights of this year’s accomplishments are:

• One-hundred twenty three (123) students graduated with a major in International Relations in August 2011, December 2011 or May 2012.
• Seventy-two percent (72%) of seniors majoring in IR studied off campus, either abroad or at Maxwell-in-Washington. Many of the remaining students are international students studying in the U.S.
• Only twenty-six percent (26%) of seniors majoring in IR focused their study on Europe. Almost equal shares concentrated on Asia (25%) and Latin America and the Caribbean (24%).
• International Security and Development (ISD) remained the most common specialization among this year’s seniors, with thirty-four percent (34%) choosing this topic concentration. International Political Economy remained a close second, with thirty percent (30%) of seniors choosing this topic concentration.
• This year’s graduating class garnered impressive accolades for academic excellence and service, including the induction of a record number of students into Sigma Iota Rho, the national honor society for undergraduate international studies.
• Our Model United Nations seminar received formal approval from the Syracuse University Senate.
• The SU Senate formally approved our new IR minor in Global Security Studies as well as revisions strengthening the Global Political Economy minor.
• IRP staff met over 1700 individual advising appointments, offering very high quality student-centered advising.
• IRP advising moved to an internet based scheduling system, improving student services and program management.
• Program staff developed new ACCESS database systems to enhance student records management.
• Program staff introduced a number of technological innovations designed to improve communication with and among our students.
• The College of Arts and Sciences and the Maxwell School provided stronger support for the Model UN team. This year’s team, representing Gabon, was named an Outstanding Delegation at the Model UN Conference in April.
• The IR faculty and staff developed new venues for student engagement in the academic life of the Maxwell School, including the International Relations Club, a Model UN Club, and a new series, Conversations in International Relations.
• IRP office processes and procedures were significantly reorganized and formalized.
• A full-time academic advisor and an office coordinator were added to the staff, both of whom bring a wide array of new skills to the program.

Degrees Conferred and Programs of Study

IR Majors
Throughout the year, about 350 students were under advisement by the International Relations Program. One hundred and twenty three (123) students graduated over the past twelve months with a major in International Relations (August 2011, December 2011 and May 2012, combined).

The table below compares the number of degrees conferred and the size of the senior class in 2011-2012 to those of the previous five years. Data on degrees conferred were drawn from MySlice for August, December, and May of the given academic year. Senior class size was derived from the same cohort of students and it includes students that, for whatever reason, did not complete their degree requirements in time to graduate with their class.
As the chart below shows, this year’s graduating class is the largest and the total senior class is the second largest ever. Currently, there are 370 students under advisement by IRP staff, so we expect to have at least as many degrees conferred next year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Year</th>
<th>Degrees Conferred</th>
<th>Total Senior Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006-2007</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-2008</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>130</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Completing a degree in International Relations requires both a topic concentration and a geographic concentration. As seen in the next figure, International Security and Development remained the most common specialization among this year’s seniors, with thirty-four percent (34%) choosing ISD as their topic concentration. International Political Economy remained a close second, with thirty percent (30%) of seniors choosing it for their topic concentration. A quarter of students concentrated in Intercultural Communications and about a tenth in International Law and Diplomacy.
After a decade of effort by IRP advisors and with rising awareness among students that there is great demand for less common languages and regional expertise, Europe was chosen as the geographic concentration for only twenty-six percent (26%) of the IRP senior class. Almost equal shares concentrated on Asia (25%) and Latin America and the Caribbean (24%). These shares remind us of the need to ensure an adequate supply of stimulating courses and capstones for students with non-Europe concentrations.

International Relations students study a wide array of languages. As the chart below shows, the most common language of study is Spanish, followed by French. Reflecting the rising role of China on the world stage, Chinese is now the third most popular language studied by IR majors. Arabic, another non-traditional language, is the fourth most popular, followed by German. We expect the proportion of students studying Chinese and Arabic to rise somewhat over the near term and we have communicated this to the Department of Languages, Literature and Linguistics as well as to SU Abroad.
A surprising number of IR majors study more than one language. Indeed, as seen in the chart below, 34 members of the senior class studied more than one language. These students account for 27% of the senior class. In short, one quarter of our students study multiple foreign languages.

![Multiple Languages Studied](chart)

Studying away from the Syracuse campus is an important part of preparing for a career in international relations. Seventy-two percent (72%) of seniors majoring in IR studied off campus, either abroad or at Maxwell-in-Washington. Many of the students who choose not to study off-campus are international students studying in the United States. As seen in the chart below, 31 members of the senior class studied with one of Syracuse University’s World Partners. This fact is quite interesting since students must independently identify a program of study with our World Partners, in contrast to the perhaps more familiar setting of programs administered directly by SU. IR students actively seek study abroad experiences that suit their programs of study and are willing to reach outside the easier channels to make this happen. Also noteworthy is that among those students who studied at an SU Abroad Center, as many students studied in China as studied in Chile.

![Number of Seniors by Study Abroad Destinations](chart)
Lastly, we note that a significant proportion of IR majors study at more than one off-campus location. A common pattern is for a student to spend a semester with Maxwell-in-Washington, D.C. and then spend another semester abroad. Of the 91 members of the senior class who studied off-campus, thirty-seven percent (37%) chose more than one destination, as seen in the chart below.

![Number of Seniors by Destination Count](chart.png)

**IR Minors**

The International Relations Program now has two minors: one in Global Political Economy (GPE) which has been in existence since 2006, and a new minor as of spring 2012 in Global Security Studies (GSS). These minors reflect two main subfields of the discipline of international relations.

The Global Security Studies minor, like GPE, is an interdisciplinary social sciences program designed to help students explore the global, international, national, and human dimensions of security, conflict, and conflict resolution in contemporary international relations using the analytic tools provided in different social science disciplines. Students take six courses to complete the minor, including two lower division and 4 upper division classes. To maintain a balanced focus on the different dimensions of security, these upper division courses include two courses that focus on traditional issues of state security, and two courses that focus on human and environmental securities. We anticipate that this minor will be attractive not only to social science students, but also students from Newhouse who must complete a minor outside of the Newhouse School. Five students declared the new major in the spring semester and several others came in for advising with the intention of declaring once they become eligible.
The GPE minor continues to attract new students. This is an interdisciplinary program in the social sciences designed to help students explore the economic, political, and cultural dimensions and implications of globalization in contemporary international relations. The GPE minor consists of six courses, two drawn from the lower division curriculum and four from the upper division. Among their upper division courses, students must take one in Economics, one in Geography, and one in Political Science. The fourth course can be taken in any social science discipline. Since the GPE minor was first offered in 2006, a total of 79 students have declared. In the spring 2012 semester there were 25 active GPE minors. The total number of students who have graduated with the minor is 47, with another 19 anticipated in May 2012.

**Academic Honors**
The undergraduate major in International Relations (UGIR) challenges students to high levels of academic achievement. Students must complete a gateway course with a grade of B or better to be admitted to the major. In addition to advanced foreign language study, IR majors must complete a topic concentration and a regional concentration, as well as a capstone that combines these two foci.

International Relations students were recognized by national programs. Jonathan C. Nwosu won a Pickering Scholarship; Leah Kelsch Moushey won a National Security Education Program (NSEP) Boren Graduate Fellowship to study Portuguese and African tribal languages in Mozambique. Six (6) students won Fulbright Awards. Seven (7) students were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, and Rachel E. LeQuire gave the student keynote address at the induction ceremony; Rachel has been accepted to serve in the US Peace Corps.

Three (3) of the twelve (12) students selected as Syracuse University Scholars – the top undergraduate academic award at the university -- and four (4) of the thirty-five (35) students selected to serve as Remembrance Scholars for 2011-2012 are International Relations majors. Fifteen (15) members of the graduating class successfully completed the Renée Crown University Honors program, and Catherine DiVita won the prize for the top Honors project in the social sciences.

Eighty-six (86) students majoring in International Relations met the eligibility criteria for Sigma Iota Rho (ΣIP), the national academic honor society for undergraduate international studies, which include, inter alia, a cumulative grade point average of 3.400 of 4.000 and a grade point average of courses for the UGIR major of 3.500 of 4.000. Of those eligible, fifty-eight (58) chose to pay dues to be inducted into ΣIP on 18 April 2012 and were listed in the College of Arts & Sciences Convocation Program; please see the list of inductees at [http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/SIGMA.aspx](http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/SIGMA.aspx) This large group of inductees set a national record for most students inducted in a single year, according to national ΣIP President Frank Plantan of the University of Pennsylvania. It is noteworthy that our campus chapter has adopted higher grade point average criteria than the national chapter requires, so this truly is an exceptional group of students.
For the first time since the Syracuse University chapter of ΣIP was established by Ambassador and Professor-of-Practice Goodwin Cooke in March 1996, students with junior as well as senior class standing were reviewed for eligibility and inducted into the honor society. This enabled forward-planning through the election of officers for AY 2012-2013: Ivan Bakin, President; Jennifer-Lee Nieves Alvarez, Vice President, and Juliann Merryman, Secretary/Treasurer. ΣIP members met twice each semester and helped to organize panels on graduate degree programs and careers in international affairs.

Also for the first time, our ΣIP induction ceremony this year included a formal dinner supported by co-curricular funds and chapter membership dues. The dinner featured remarks by Ambassador and Professor Emeritus Goodwin Cooke and Steve Cooper, Class of 2005, as our Alumni Speaker. Steve, who served in the Peace Corps in Bolivia from 2006–2008, is currently enrolled in the MPA program in the Department of Public Administration and International Affairs (PAIA).

At the Sigma Iota Rho induction ceremony, four (4) senior majors received awards for outstanding academic performance and special contributions to the UGIR program:

a. The International Relations “Scholar of the Year” Award is presented annually to a graduating senior for academic excellence in International Relations and in the difficulty of the curriculum chosen. The award honors Professor G. Matthew Bonham, who served as Director of the International Relations Program from 1992 to 2008. This year’s recipient is Robert D. Solonick, who combined his major in International Relations with majors in Spanish Language, Literature, and Culture as well as History. His geographic area of concentration is Latin America and the Caribbean, and his topic concentration is International Security and Diplomacy. He studied abroad through our SU center at the Universidad de Santiago, Chile, and at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. Rob contributed to our campus community as a member of student finance board, a treasurer for the Syracuse University Volunteer Organization, and a representative and cabinet member in our student government association. He was an undergraduate research assistant for Professor Gladys McCormick in the History Department and for Dr. Corinne Zoli in SU’s Institute for National Security & Counter-Terrorism. His own research project for the Renée Crown University Honors program is a comparative study of the political violence of “dirty war” in Chile, Argentina, and Chechnya. He was accepted to several master’s degree programs, including Cambridge University, and has decided to attend the Maxwell School’s MPA/MAIR program in fall 2012.
b. The Julian R. Friedman Award for Internationalism is given annually to a graduating senior for outstanding academic achievement, community involvement, and a commitment to the spirit of internationalism. Professor Friedman taught in the Political Science Department at the Maxwell School and was active with human rights organizations, including the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). This year’s recipient is Jonathan C. Nwosu, who has combined a major in International Relations with a minor in Geography. He has a topic concentration in International Security and Diplomacy and a geographic area of concentration in the Middle East. He studied beginning Italian and Turkish and intermediate Arabic, and he studied abroad at both the SU Center in Florence, Italy, and at Bahcesehir University in Istanbul, Turkey, where he interned at the Turkish Coalition of America. He was an active member of the SU community, participating in the African Student Union, serving as treasurer of the Phi Sigma Pi honors fraternity, and volunteering at the Hillside Center and with the “Say ‘Yes’ to Education program. He is a Ronald McNair Scholar, a Winston-Fisher Seminar Scholar, and a Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellow. His research project for the Renée Crown University Honors program examines Turkey’s emergence as a regional power and a US strategic partner. He has won a Fulbright fellowship to Korea and was recently honored with a Chancellor’s Citation for Public Engagement and Scholarship.

c. The Harlan Cleveland Award for Excellence in International Policy Issues is given annually to a graduating senior for academic achievement and enthusiastic involvement in international policy issues, in honor of Dr. Harlan Cleveland, former Dean of the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, US Assistant Secretary of State, and US Ambassador to NATO. This year’s recipient is Leah Kelsch Moushey, who combined her major in International Relations with a major in Spanish Language, Literature, and Culture as well as a major in Communication and Rhetorical Studies from the College of Visual and Performing Arts. Her geographic region concentration is Latin America & the Caribbean, and her topic concentration is International Security and Diplomacy. She was a member of our 2011 delegation to the National Model United Nations conference portraying the Republic of Kazakhstan, where she served as a representative of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and was voted Best Delegate in that committee. As a member of our 2012 delegation portraying the Republic of Gabon, she served as co-head delegate and helped lead the team to be designated as an “Outstanding Delegation,” the top honor the conference awards. She studied abroad in Cuenca, Ecuador, and at our SU Center in Santiago, Chile, and she was an engaged participant in our Maxwell-in-Washington International Relations semester, where she interned at the Downey McGrath Group. Our Washington, DC, Center Director, Ryan Williams, writes that she “is fabulous and most engaged and passionate about making a difference in the world. Really in a league of her own.” Leah has also won a National Security Education Program (NSEP) Boren Graduate Fellowship to study Portuguese and African tribal languages in Mozambique.
The Goodwin Cooke Award for Leadership in International Relations is given annually to a graduating senior who has exhibited leadership in the activities of the International Relations Program. The award honors the many dedicated years of leadership exhibited by Ambassador and Professor-of-Practice Goodwin Cooke, who served as Director of Undergraduate Studies in International Relations at Syracuse University from 1991-2004, following a distinguished career as a US Foreign Service Officer. This year’s recipient is Yiwei Wu, who combined her major in International Relations here in the Maxwell School with a major in Advertising in the Newhouse School of Communications. Her topic concentration in International Relations is International Political Economy, and her geographic region concentration is Asia. She was a member of our 2011 delegation to the National Model United Nations conference portraying the Republic of Kazakhstan, where she served as a representative on GA2nd Committee. This year she served as a representative to the Economic and Social Council as well as co-head delegate of the Syracuse University-Maxwell School delegation portraying the Republic of Gabon. She volunteered with the Say Yes to Education program, worked as a Resident Advisor, and served as an advertising representative for The Daily Orange. She received the SU 44 Stars of Excellence Award for Public Advocacy for her work as managing editor of The Out Crowd magazine.

Stephen A. Barton was one of three students selected as Class Marshal for the College of Arts & Sciences for Convocation 2012. Stephen was also one of the twelve graduating seniors named as 2012 Syracuse University Scholars, the highest academic honor the University bestows. Marc J. Mason and Robert D. Solonick were also named as 2012 Syracuse University Scholars.

Rachel E. LeQuire, Jonathan C. Nwosu, and Robert D. Solonick each received a Chancellor’s Award for Public Engagement and Scholarship.

Marc J. Mason and David T. Pittman have both won SU Engagement Fellowships to allow them to undertake graduate study at Syracuse University while continuing to contribute their energy and expertise to the local community in two not-for-profit venues, viz., the Near East Foundation and La Casita Cultural, respectively.

At the “44 Stars of Excellence Gala & Celebration” on Tuesday, April 17th, Binta Sidi Jammeh won the Student Activities Award for Creativity and Ingenuity; The Outcrowd Magazine, represented by Managing Editor Yiwei Wu won the Associate Vice President’s Award for Positive Advocacy for its work on LGBT issues, and David Pittman won the Lillian & Emanuel Slutzker Center for International Services Award for Cultural Diversity for his work at La Casita Cultural.

Stephen A. Barton, Catherine M. DiVita, Yonathan Eyob, and Jordan T. LaPlante were Remembrance Scholars for 2010-2011.
Phi Beta Kappa honor society inductees include these UGIR majors: Stephen A. Barton, Catherine M. DiVita, Rachel E. LeQuire, Meng Meng, Wesley Milillo, Onur Can Ozer, Joseph M. Turck, Elin M. Wiklund, and Fan Wu.


According to the 2012 Convocation program for the College of Arts & Sciences, twenty-six (26) UGIR majors will have their degrees conferred cum laude, eighteen (18) will be conferred magna cum laude, and eighteen (18) summa cum laude. In comparison, for 2011, there were sixteen (16) UGIR majors with degrees conferred cum laude, twenty-three (23) conferred magna cum laude, and thirteen (13) summa cum laude. (Please note that these numbers do not include students whose home college is other than Arts and Sciences.)

Stephen A. Barton, Wesley M. Milillo, Jonathan C. Nwosu, Teresa Soldner, Robert D. Solonick, and Rachel E. Young won Fulbright Awards to teach English in Russia, Malaysia, Korea, Jordan, China, and Korea, respectively.

**Student Advisement and Services**

**Academic Advisement**

The International Relations curriculum is multi-disciplinary, yet highly structured. This complexity means that students need careful advising to choose appropriate coursework, to develop well-suited off-campus study plans, and to discern meaningful internship opportunities. Because so many of our majors are high achieving students, they also request assistance in learning about career opportunities, graduate studies, and available honors and awards.

In response to these needs, the Program strives for excellence in student advisement. Significant staff resources are devoted to direct student advising, but also to the behind-the-scenes work of developing and updating student records, interfacing with off-campus study offices, and providing students with current information on academic and career opportunities.
During 2011-12, we introduced significant innovations and improvements to our advising services. These technological improvements are aimed at streamlining advising processes, increasing efficiency, improving student services, producing new conduits of communication to current students and alumni, and increasing record-keeping capacity.

Many of these new processes were made possible by additional staff support, especially Kristine Clay, who became a full-time staff member and academic advisor in July 2011. They have also been enhanced by the hiring of a new office coordinator, Angela Allen, in February 2012.

One major innovation caught students’ attention immediately – IRP’s adoption of an online advising appointment system. Through this scheduling system, known as Acuity, students make their own advising appointments using the internet. They can see available advising times and schedule an appointment directly with the advisor assigned to their class or program. For each appointment, the student receives a confirmation email reminding them of the time/date/location of their appointment. This system has streamlined our advising workflow and raised both staff productivity and student satisfaction by:

1) Eliminating the need for students to call or visit the office to make an appointment;
2) Helping “funnel” students to the appropriate advisor;
3) Reducing “no show” appointments;
4) Tracking advising load to spot trends, strengths, weaknesses.

Our use of Acuity has evolved as we received student feedback and continually evaluated our advising needs. As such, the “types” of appointments we offer has changed since its launch.

Given that this system is new for 2011-2012, this inaugural year provides baseline data for tracking demand for advising by IRP students. Amazingly, this academic year, IRP staff delivered a total of 1674 advising appointments -- 743 in the fall and 931 in the spring. Among our three academic advisors, Francine D’Amico specializes in the Senior Class and Renee Crown Honors students, Kristine Clay specializes in admission to the major, study abroad advising, and the sophomore and junior classes, and Terrell Northrup advises IRP minors and also provides extra advising hours for majors during registration.
A second important and powerful innovation in our advisement systems is the development of Access databases that allow IRP advisors to track students from declaration of a major or minor through their program and on to certification for graduation. This system has (a) improved staff productivity by reducing the amount of time needed to create, access, and update student records; (b) improved the accuracy of our review of student progress; (c) reduced the time needed to generate reports used for inviting students to join Sigma Iota Rho while also increasing their accuracy (the data warehouse often missing students studying abroad, something IRP students generally do); (d) reduced somewhat the staff time needed to certify students for completion of an IRP major or minor.

A third innovation in academic advisement is the creation of new Major Declaration forms, which outline program elements and create a contract between the Program and the student regarding requirements for completion of an IRP degree. These forms are also used to auto-generated Progress Reports, outlining each student’s required and completed coursework. This new system replaced old paper planning forms and it has improved our communication with students on their academic progress.

**Career Guidance**

To provide career information to both current and prospective International Relations majors, the UGIR academic advisors prepare, publish, and distribute a semester newsletter on careers in international affairs and maintain a webpage offering students information about internship and employment opportunities and future options, such as advanced study in international affairs or international law. The page includes links to electronic “job boards” that focus on opportunities for those with academic training in international affairs, such as the Foreign Policy Association; see [http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/IR_Careers/](http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/IR_Careers/). Print resources on careers in international affairs are available for students in the resource room in the UGIR office. We review these materials annually and update them as necessary.

The International Relations Program also sponsors programs that introduce students to careers, career services on campus, alumni, or other resources. This year, we hosted a panel on “Careers in International Affairs,” featuring Michael Cahill, Director of the SU Career Services; Norma Shannon, Maxwell Director of Alumni Relations; and Jennifer O’Shea, Maxwell Assistant Director of Career Development. We also sponsored a panel on “Getting into Grad School,” featuring Chris Omolino, Director, and Nell Bartkowiak, Associate Director, Department of Public Administration & International Affairs as well as MPA/MAIR candidates Thomas Dannan, Matthew Berit, and Joe Ralbovsky, who are all SU undergraduate alumni.
Enhanced Communication with Students through Technology Adoption
The International Relations Program staff also made important advances in moving our communication with students onto modern platforms and in forms that students recognize and use.

• Email listservs: To help channel communication to appropriate groups of students, we worked with Syracuse University’s ITS department to create individual listservs for current majors, IRP alumni, Global Political Economy minors, Global Security Studies minors, International Relations Learning Community members, Sigma Iota Rho Honor Society members, and Model United Nations Club members.

• Email newsletter: Students are unlikely to click through PDF files to access newsletters. Seeking to embed content directly into the body of an email, IRP staff utilized a built-in but previously unused newsletter template feature of the listserv software to create and distribute a semi-annual newsletter highlighting student activities and pertinent academic information. Previously, the only newsletter that had been sent from the International Relations Program was focused on internship deadlines and global programs created in Microsoft Publisher and sent as an email attachment.

• Online Senior Survey: Using an online survey tool called Checkbox, IRP staff designed a new senior survey to replace the current paper version.

• Online Model United Nations Application: Also created in Checkbox, this application form replaced a previous paper version.

• Website templates for IRP approved courses: IRP staff designed a course roster template in Microsoft Expression for integration into the IR website. Previously, graduate assistants posted the course roster in a basic table that was time-intensive, difficult to read, and not compatible with other Office products for easy export.

• An IRP Facebook page is currently being Beta tested by Marc Mason, class of 2012, for launch in summer 2012.

Speaker Series, Conferences, and Student Activities
This year we enhanced our support for the Model UN team and its national conference activities. We also added a Model UN Club, for students preparing for the team or whose commitment to the national conference was not sufficient to enroll in the Model UN Seminar but who, nevertheless, wanted to learn about the United Nations and its activities. We also introduced significant new opportunities for students to engage with international studies at the Maxwell School. These new activities include Conversations in International Relations, Sigma Iota Rho Club, and the International Relations Club.
Model United Nations Team and Conference Participation

This year our National Model United Nations Team represented the Republic of Gabon in the conference simulation in New York. Students met bi-weekly from January-April in preparatory workshop sessions supervised by the Undergraduate Director. One workshop featured guest speaker Professor John Mathiason on UN resolution and report-writing. The day prior to the conference opening, we participated in a two-hour mission briefing with representatives from the Gabonese Mission to the United Nations, including Deputy Ambassador Alfred Moungara Moutsosi, public relations officer Sanaa Makanga, and assistant Myriam Kourakou. The conference was held April 3 – 7, 2012, with opening and closing sessions at UN headquarters and concurrent panel sessions at the Marriott Marquis hotel. The keynote speaker was H. E. Mr. Abdallah Al-Moullimi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations. The conference is sponsored by the United Nations Association of the United States of America and the National Collegiate Conference Association.

Through funding provided by the Maxwell Dean’s office, the Arts & Sciences Dean’s office co-curricular fund, and the ILearn Program, twenty (20) student delegates participated in the conference, which drew 5,000 students from over 100 countries to New York. Our head delegates this year were Leah Moushey ‘12 and Yiwei Wu ‘12. Participating delegates included: Gifty Agyapong ‘13, Ivan Bakin ‘13, Michele Cantos ‘12, Team Chen ‘12, Flavia Colangelo ‘12, Yue Gong ‘13, Nicholas Iaquinto ‘14, Zachary Jutcovich ‘13, Jonathan Leung ‘12, Carla Lopez ‘13, Juliann Merryman ‘13, Sean Moore ‘12, Kyra Murphy ‘14, Aryn Rapp ‘13, Margaret Ruiz ‘12, Eduardo Sanin ‘12, Meghan Schneider ‘14, Jamie Wand ‘14, Charles Western ‘13, and John L. Williams ‘12. Additional funding this year permitted the students to enjoy a team-building dinner together in New York.

The delegation received several accolades at the conference. Ivan Bakin and Kyra Murphy were named Best Delegation in their committee, the Security Council; Nicholas Iaquinto and Zachary Jutcovich won Best Position Paper in the Arms Trade Treaty negotiation simulation; and the Syracuse University-Maxwell School Team was named an OUTSTANDING DELEGATION, which is the top honor bestowed by the conference. Upon our return to campus, team members selected several of their peers for conference participation awards: Most Improved Delegate: Queenie Yue Gong; Most Diplomatic Delegate: Michele Cantos; Most Enthusiastic Delegate: Carla Lopez; and Best Team Player: John Williams. Team Chen and Aryn Rapp were commended for their collegiality in the Commission on Sustainable Development. For more information on MUN 2012, please see http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/Model_United_Nations/ and http://www.nmun.org/nmun_ny.html
Conversations in International Relations

*Conversations in International Relations* was created as a venue for programs that connect IR students with the vibrant academic life of the Maxwell School. The series includes faculty discussing their research program in an accessible way, student-to-student conversations about IR-related opportunities, and informal sessions with scholars and practitioners visiting Maxwell for other events. This series is new and attendance has built slowly. Attendance at some events was standing room only while others had only a handful of students. Given the importance of linking the IR Program to the Maxwell community, we will continue to offer programs in 2012-13, watching to see what programs and time work best for our students.

Programs we hosted this year in *Conversations in International Relations*:

- Team Chen, Studying in Beijing, China
- Dean Jim Steinberg, Q&A with the Dean on international affairs
- Jorgen Johansen, SU Abroad, A Life in Peace Activism
- Student Panel on Study Abroad Options
- Daniel Lederman, the World Bank, Choosing the Next WB President
- Keli Perrin, How Research Improves Homeland Security

Model United Nations Club

In September 2011, the Model United Nations Club was initiated, opened to all Syracuse University students. It drew over eighty student participants over the course of the academic year. The purpose of MUN Club is for students to learn more about international affairs and the United Nations as well as debate techniques and conference procedures. The bi-monthly sessions supervised by faculty advisor Francine D’Amico included a review of UN programs, a discussion of current events and career opportunities at the United Nations, and a simulation of the UN General Assembly debate over the application of the Palestinian territories for full UN membership, an upgrade from Permanent Observer status. Several MUN Club participants applied and were selected for the Maxwell MUN Team, which participates in a national conference in competition with student delegations from other colleges and universities.

International Relations Club

This year the IR Program sponsored a new International Relations Club, the purpose of which is to give all students interested in international affairs the opportunity to form a community and develop activities related to IR topics and careers.

Fourteen students attended the first meeting, and since then many more students from across campus have joined. The Club’s Executive Board met every week and the full IR Club met every other week. Fall 2011 events included a Kenyan Heroes Holiday Pot Luck with Kadiah Oya Kamar, president of the African Student Association, as a guest speaker; an evening with former Ambassador Goodwin Cooke; an “International Jeopardy” trivia evening; and an international holiday party to close out the semester.
In the spring the Club co-sponsored three of the “Conversations in IR” events: the Dean of Maxwell who spoke about his career in international relations; Jorgen Johansen who is an advisor at the Transnational Foundation for Peace and Future Studies; and a panel of IR majors who talked about their study abroad experiences. The Club also held a game evening featuring “Taboo.” Later in the spring semester Professor Glyn Morgan spoke on ethics in international affairs.

The IR Club Executive Board completed the application process to become a University Recognized Student Organization and this application was approved in March. It is unusual for a new student organization to meet the requirements for recognition by SAG in its first year. A new Executive Board was elected in the spring, and that group will serve during the 2012-2013 academic year.

The Club plans to hold future events on careers, international business, IR internships; cultural days and celebrations of international holidays; international movie nights; guest speakers; and community service.

Professor Terrie Northrup serves as faculty advisor, and Deanna Phillips, IR Program Senior Administrator, is the administrative advisor.

**International Relations Learning Community**

Dr. Francine D’Amico and Kristine Clay also design and lead academic events for the International Relations Learning Community, which is linked to a section of PSC 124 taught by Dr. D’Amico. This past year the IRLC, comprised of fifty (50) first year students who live and learn together in a themed residence hall, continued our tradition of a field seminar in Fall semester to allow students to explore the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Students also had a briefing by US embassy staff on US-Canadian relations while in Ottawa. Additional fall semester programming included a “Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF” which raised $500 for child soldier rehabilitation.
For our spring semester field seminar, IRP staff organized and chaperoned a tour of the United Nations in New York City, followed by luncheon with Maxwell School alumni Yuichi Takamatsu, UN Human Resources Policy Service, and Camila Campisi, UN Representative for the NGO Quaker UN office.

Participation in the core PSC 124 class has been enthusiastic, and ten (10) of this year’s IRLC members declared the major in International Relations before the end of their first year of study. Approximately one-third of the students who have participated in the IRLC in previous academic years have formally declared International Relations as their major. In the spring semester, one section of MAX 132 Global Community is reserved for IRLC students, with Dr. Terrie Northrup as section instructor.

The IRLC Peer Mentor for AY 2011-2012 was IRLC alumnus and UGIR major Nicholas Iaquinto, who also helped prepare for and participate in one class discussion session each week. In addition, the residential advisory staff for AY 2011-2012 included two IRLC alumnae, Patricia D’Amore and Miranda Salva. These IRLC staff members were selected by the Learning Communities Office and the Housing Office in consultation with the Undergraduate Director in International Relations. For more information on the IRLC, please see http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/IRLC.aspx

Global Programs: Maxwell-in-Washington International Relations Semester
The semester in Washington, DC, exposes students to some of the most important institutions, processes, and policy makers in the world, and allows them to experience first-hand how their study of foreign policy is applied in our nation’s capital. The program includes three rigorous seminars and a professional internship in an organization of interest to the student. This introduction to Washington, DC, and the exposure to professional contacts, including alumni mentors, helps to ease students’ transition from academia to the workforce. Many participants in this program choose to work in DC and use their internship experience to find a job upon graduation. The students for AY 2011-2012 and their internships are listed below; students with an asterisk (*) are International Relations majors.

Spring 2012 IR Washington Program Team:
- Katie Behrens - Smithsonian's Office of Policy and Analysis
- *Scott Cassidy - National Defense University: Center for Technology & National Security Policy
- Samantha Costello - AEI: Russia Program
- Julien Defer - Wilson Center: Scholar William Milam
- *Kelly Dimmen - US Chamber for Commerce: International Policy
- *Karin Dolinsek - Dershowitz Group
- Seth Elder - Freedom House
- Vincent Fang - Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies
- *Sonja Forgo - Social Impact
- *Fotini Gan - Center for Security and International Studies: Korea Chair
- Samuel Gass - Global Giving
• *Megan Lucas - CARECEN (Central American Resource Center)
• *Nira Pandya - Patton & Boggs
• *John Rockwell - National Endowment for Democracy - World Movement for Democracy
• *Araba Sapara-Grant - Atlantic Council: Ansari Africa Center
• *Robert Solonick - National Defense University: College of International Security Affairs
• *Kexin Zheng - Foreign Policy Magazine

Fall 2011 IR Washington Program Team:
• Isaac Aseltine - Department of Homeland Security: Office of Policy
• *Ronald Chang - Council on Foreign Relations: Director of Studies
• *Qian Chen - China Xinhua News Agency
• *Amanda Claypool - American Task Force on Palestine
• *Simon Kurash - Cato Institute
• Yale Leber - Patton Boggs LLP: Public Policy and Lobbying
• *Jonathan Leung - Congresswoman Ann Marie Buerkle
• Vicky Mei - U.S. Department of the Treasury: Office of Economic Policy
• *Julianne Merryman - Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
• *Leah Moushey - Downey McGrath Group, Inc.: Lobbying and Client Relations
• *Paul Paliga - Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars: Middle East Program
• *Stefanie Rodriguez - The Council of State Governments: Policy and Research
• *Megan Walling - World Wildlife Fund: Government Relations
• *Youyou Wang - International Organization for Migration: Assistance to Trafficking Victims
• Jordan Whitaker - Department of Homeland Security: Office of Policy
• *Fan Wu - Asia Society: Policy Program
• Erica Zimmerman - Lake Research Partners

For more information on our undergraduate Maxwell-in-Washington Program, please see [http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/IR_Maxwell_in_DC/](http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/IR_Maxwell_in_DC/).

**USMA Conference on US Affairs (SCUSA)**

Each year the International Relations Program selects one outstanding senior UGIR major to represent Syracuse University at the United States Military Academy’s annual Student Conference on US Affairs (SCUSA) held at West Point, New York, in November. The topic of SCUSA 63 was “Thinking beyond Boundaries: Contemporary Challenges to U.S. Foreign Policy.” Students met in round table discussions on issues and regions of interest. This year’s participant was Fotini Gan ’12. For more information on SCUSA, please see [http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/conf.aspx](http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/conf.aspx) and [http://scusa.usma.edu/](http://scusa.usma.edu/).