Season’s Greetings from International Relations to you and yours! We have come to the end of another semester, which marks my tenth year at Bucknell and my first semester as chair. I am looking forward to working with the faculty, students, and alumni to continue to make International Relations one of the strong majors on campus. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Ucarer for her service as chair. As you know, IR has gone through significant change the past several years and Professor Ucarer was seminal in shepherding the department through the movement to department status, turnover in faculty, and managing the day-to-day activities of a major with sixty students. Without her service, we would not be where we are today.

This past semester our newest faculty have gotten settled into the department. Professors Lentz and Smith offered a number of courses that contributed to the redesigned major. Professor Lentz taught the new major requirement IREL 350 Globalization and in the spring she will teach two brand new courses, International Inequality and Poverty and International Development Controversies. Professor Smith offered Middle East Conflict and Revolution and taught a foundation seminar titled Empire and Colony. In the spring, he will teach Globalization, Theories of IR, and a new senior seminar Social Movements and Society. We are excited about these offerings and the new courses that they will be adding in the future. We also welcomed this semester David Rojas who was filling in for Professor Roncallo who was on leave this semester in Argentina. Professor Rojas taught three courses for the semester, Technologies of Global Governance, Political Economy of Global Resources, and Global Governance of Climate Change.

During the semester, the department held a couple of events that we hope to repeat in the spring. First, as you will read about below, the department organized a panel discussion on the Middle East in the wake of the Arabic Spring comprised of Bucknell faculty from four departments, Arabic Studies, History, International Relations, and History. The event, which was well attended, began with brief comments from the panelists and was followed by an engaging conversation among the panelists and the audience. Numerous faculty and students commented how much they enjoyed hearing Bucknell faculty engage issues of the day. Given the success with this format, the department is planning to hold two similar events in the spring, one that will be on food security and another yet to be determined. In the spring, we will also be hosting Lisa Wedeen, an ethnographer from the University of Chicago, whose work has focused on Syria and Yemen. Please be on the lookout for specific dates for all of these events.

IR, in partnership with Career Development Center and Sigma Iota Rho, our honor society, also sponsored an event involving two IR alumni, Kate Palmer and Susan Curtis Tonking. Both shared with students their career trajectories since leaving Bucknell and how the IR major has contributed to their development. This event was also well attended and was a wonderful opportunity for students to think about their degree and begin the process of planning for life after Bucknell. If there are other alumni who would like to share what they have done and impart some wisdom to current students (either here in the newsletter or on campus), please do not hesitate to contact us.

On behalf of the Department of International Relations, happy holidays and a wonderful start to the New Year!

Best regards,

David Mitchell
Chair, International Relations
IR Welcomes Two New Faculty Members

We have the great privilege of introducing two new faculty members who joined IR’s ranks in August. Erin Lentz and Ron Smith bring additional disciplinary breadth to IR’s faculty and curriculum and are offering a wealth of new courses that have added richness to our offerings. Professor Lentz comes to us from Cornell University where she earned her PhD in Sociology. Professor Smith, who recently completed his doctorate in Geography at the University of Washington, most recently taught at West Chester University. We are delighted to have them at Bucknell and hope that the following short profiles will give you a sense of their teaching and research interests. Welcome Professors Lentz and Smith!

Professor Erin Lentz

The 2004 Southeast Asian tsunami devastated the coast of Sri Lanka and elsewhere but often left inland agriculture mostly unharmed. An outpouring of private, cash-based donations meant that many traditional disaster relief agencies had, for the first time, a choice: Should they provide food aid, brought from the outside, or should they provide cash to purchase locally available food?

"The focus used to be on availability of food, but now people recognize that availability isn't enough if the people who need it can't access or utilize it."

Erin Lentz, Assistant Professor
of International Relations
PhD, Cornell University

Many aid workers recognized an opportunity to buy rice from inland Sri Lankan communities, which was a faster and cheaper method of getting much-needed food to the coast than external food aid. Professor Erin Lentz, international relations, says the tsunami case is an excellent example of the world’s changing approach to food security transfers.

Lentz uses the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization definition of food security, which includes three pillars: adequate food is available, people can access it and people can utilize it. She thinks that this is the most useful definition among many. "The focus used to be on availability of food, but now people recognize that availability isn't enough if the people who need it can't access or utilize it," she says.

After the tsunami, Lentz began researching in which situations non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should provide cash versus food. She and her colleagues developed a set of tools for organizations to assess crisis situations and gauge appropriate responses. She worked with the relief agency CARE to try to figure out how to incorporate this type of assessment into their efforts. At the time, the U.S. government only provided food aid, but the emerging examples of how cash could be a better option moved policymakers. In 2008, a pilot project began that allowed U.S. NGOs to purchase and distribute food locally through a process called local procurement.

Lentz and her collaborators have collected data that compares traditional approaches to food aid and various options for local procurement, and they have found that choice makes all the difference in providing the most effective aid at the best cost with the highest benefit to the people who need it. The team’s data has been used by the Obama administration in a proposed Farm Bill.

Recently, Professor Lentz has expanded her focus to include how inequality relates to happiness. She says that many scholars are comparing happiness among low-income countries, but not many are looking at what makes people feel happy within their specific societal context. "I'm interested in unpacking whether or not inequality has an impact on peoples’ feelings about their lives, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa where there is a lot less research on happiness in general and also such a variety of environments in which people are living," she says. She's excited to find out what this new project will uncover.
Ron Smith's interest in world affairs started early. "I was born into it," he says. His father, an Alabama native, and his mother, from Israel, made politics a frequent household discussion. That back and forth at the dinner table influenced the international relations professor's career trajectory, inspiring him to become a scholar of human geography, a field that examines the ways people transform around them.

Smith began to look at world issues in depth as an undergraduate student in Washington State, where he produced documentaries including one that covered the Seattle World Trade Organization demonstrations in 1999. From his filmmaking, he developed the broad scholarly questions he now pursues: How do people react to large-scale political processes in their everyday lives? And, how do people work to counter these processes through trade unions, community organizations and international solidarity? "It's these sorts of questions that lead me to think about conflict and power throughout the world," he says.

Smith brings his global experience and research to his courses, which include Empire and the Colony and Middle East Conflict and Revolution. He has worked throughout Latin America, as well as with veterans in the U.S. and with communities in Palestine – the West Bank and Gaza – who have been affected by Israeli occupation. Currently, he is examining the practices of siege and how sanctions and isolation regimes impact people.

What Now, What Next? The Middle East Since the Arab Spring

On October 10, 2013, the Department of International Relations offered a roundtable entitled "What Now, What Next? The Middle East Since the Arab Spring." Our roundtable brought a contemporary perspective to the drama that unfolded, and in some cases continues to unfold in the Middle East. Four professors from four different departments took part in the event and discussed various aspects of the aftermath of the Arab Spring. Professor Massoud from the Political Science Department talked about the outcomes of the Arab Spring and discussed the role of the military and outside intervention in explaining the immediate outcome in each case.

"So many societies are in a constant state of struggle. These struggles often revolve around idealistic visions, but they are in struggle with established forces. They are going through upheaval, and they are redefining democracy. We can learn a great deal from these struggles."
He also examined the prospects for democracy in several countries as a result of the Arab Spring. Professor Dosemeci from the Department of History raised the issue of the continuous occupation of public space as the defining feature of the Arab Uprisings. He argued that this new form of protest, since mimicked by the Indignatos of Southern Europe and Occupy in the US, allowed for new and radical forms of democratic subjectivities and practices that have long been suppressed by authoritarian and so called 'liberal democratic' regimes alike. (For a more detailed look at these occupations and their potential see: http://roarmag.org/2013/11/occupy-revolution-mehmet-dosemeci/.)

Professor Martin Isleem from the Arabic Studies Program of the Department of Languages, Cultures, and Linguistics spoke about the role of the Arabic mass media in covering the Arab Spring, particularly the Al-Jazeera network. He argued that Al-Jazeera's performance coincides with Qatar's foreign policy and that the outlet is far from acting as a "watchdog" over governmental activities, corruption, and minority rights. Finally, Professor Ron Smith of the Department of International Relations related the events, or seeming lack of thereof, in Palestine to the Arab Spring. He suggested that it could be argued that Palestine has had a number of Arab Springs, from the PLO resistance of the 1970's, to the first Intifada from 1987 to 1993, and to more contemporary expressions of social resistance, as in the non-violent demonstrations against the wall in the West Bank, and farmers' organizations in the Gaza Strip attempting to tend to their land in the Israeli-established no-go zone. The fact that these phenomena are ignored in the US media is a condemnation of the kind of coverage we have come to expect from major media outlets, he concluded.

"I have always taken an interest in airlines and aviation. Last semester I searched for a summer internship because I knew that it was something I wanted to pursue. As I was going through the Career Center section of Bucknell's website, I discovered an alumna who is working in the aviation department at Port Authority. I reached out to her and she helped me get an interview, and then I ended up landing an internship in airport planning for the summer. It was phenomenal.

"When I got to Bucknell, my goal was to step outside my comfort zone in terms of academics. It took a lot at first to get myself to take advantage of all the resources here. I had to take initiative and be OK with being honest about what I'm struggling with. My professors have always been there for me no matter what and have pushed me to exceed my limits."

"My professors have always been there for me no matter what and have pushed me to exceed my limits."

**Student Profile:**

**Michel Ajjan ‘14**

"When I was making my final decision on where I wanted to go to school, Bucknell for me was the right one. It was just a gut feeling. All of the pieces fit together. I remember walking through campus on the first day and being like 'You are going to be here for the next four years.' And I've loved it."
Alumnae Return to Campus for a Career Spotlight

During Homecoming Weekend, Friday October 25th, the International Relations Department, cosponsored by Sigma Iota Rho, welcomed back two graduates of International Relations, Susan Tonking and Kate Palmer. Susan graduated from Bucknell in 1989 with a double major in International Relations and French and earned her Master of Arts degree in Organizational Psychology from Columbia University (Teachers College) in 2002. She now serves as the Assistant Director of Professional Development in the New York Office of Debevoise & Plimpton LLP. Kate graduated from Bucknell in 2011 with a double major in International Relations and Philosophy and a minor in Spanish. She is currently working as an Associate in KPMG's Advisory practice in New York, specializing in Forensic Investigations.

Kate stressed the importance of “getting comfortable with being uncomfortable” and described how in many cases students will not be able to prepare for their first job or the work they will do on a daily basis, requiring an ability to “think on your feet.” Both Kate and Susan discussed how it is expected to be terrified of your first job, as they both were when they began their careers, but encouraged students to be confident in the skills they have gained and the global perspective they have nurtured through their study of International Relations. It was an insightful conversation for all in attendance, encouraging students to embrace and get the most out of a liberal arts education, and value the major in International Relations as great preparation for their future in the workplace.

IR is grateful to have so many loyal alumni who give generously of their time and talent. Thank you for bringing your perspectives to our students who we hope will do the same in the future.

IR Faculty News

This semester, Professor Cons has been working on two main projects. First, he has been working on completing the manuscript for his book on enclaves along the India-Bangladesh border. In particular, he has been working on developing a history of that border that shows how nationalist,
import, pride, and fear. Second, he has been working on a new collaboration with researchers at Cornell and with Nijera Kori, Bangladesh’s landless movement, on the devastating social impacts of export-oriented shrimp aquaculture along Bangladesh’s southern coast. He has presented papers from his borders project at the American Anthropological Association’s annual meeting in Chicago, and papers from the aquaculture work at Yale’s Agrarian Studies Conference, “Food Sovereignty: A Critical Dialogue,” and at “Bangladesh: Contested Pasts, Competing Futures,” a workshop on Bangladesh’s history, culture, and politics at University of Texas, Austin. A paper from the aquaculture work, co-authored with Kasia Paprocki (Cornell University) was invited to be part of a special issue on Food Sovereignty in The Journal of Peasant Studies.

**Professor Uçarer** offered a new course on nonstate actors in international relations this semester, focusing on the various roles these actors play in global governance. Her article “Tempering the EU? NGO Advocacy in the Area of Freedom, Security, and Justice” has been accepted for publication and will appear shortly in the Cambridge Review of International Affairs. She served as the program chair for the International Education Section of the International Studies Association and constructed a number of panels and roundtables for ISA’s 2014 conference in Toronto. She served as the chair of the Deborah Gerner Innovative Teaching Award which selected this year’s recipient who will receive the award in Toronto.

**Professor Waller** is currently writing an on-line bibliography for Oxford University Press on crime and the law in colonial Africa. He has fairly recently been appointed Reviews co-Editor for the African Studies Review, the multidisciplinary journal of the African Studies Association.

**Professor Zhiqun Zhu** organized two panels and chaired a third one at the 2013 American Political Science Association annual conference in Chicago in August. All panels were related to East Asian international relations and Chinese politics. The second edition of his book, China’s New Diplomacy: Rationale, Strategies, and Significance(http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781409452928), was published by Ashgate in October 2013. The book has been adopted by professors at such fine schools as Yale, London School of Economics, American University, China Foreign Affairs University, Seoul National University, and National Chengchi University in Taiwan. Professor Zhu was invited to speak to a group of American and Chinese CEOs on how the world’s two largest economies can improve their relations at the Global CEO Forum organized by Yale University in Beijing in late October 2013. His article, “China’s Foreign Policy,” has been accepted for publication in the new, peer-reviewed Oxford Bibliographies in International Relations, Oxford University Press.

### Alumni News

In this section, we highlight news from our alumni. Let us know what you are doing by sending us an email to international-relations@bucknell.edu. We would also welcome short submissions on projects or perspectives.

We did not get any updates for this newsletter, but are looking forward to hearing from you for the next one.

### Of Note: Campus News and Events

**Top 13 of 2013.** From the launch of a nationwide tour supporting the half-a-billion-dollar WE DO Campaign to the first Bucknellian ever selected in the NBA Draft, it's been an eventful year at Bucknell University. A new class moved in and another moved on to bright futures. We broke ground on several new buildings and opened our biggest academic addition in a decade. These are the most read campus news stories of 2013.

**WE DO Tour makes Manhattan stop.** The WE DO Tour event in New York City drew nearly 700 Bucknellians from across the region.
'China's western province'. The Bucknell Institute for Lifelong Learning's Lunch & Learn program hosted the presentation, "Traveling Xinjiang, China's Western Province" with Wolfgang Gunter on Nov. 19 at noon at Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village at The Village Common, located at 6 Tressler Blvd. in Lewisburg.

**Bucknell a key partner in new river initiative**
Envision the Susquehanna seeks to help conserve the Susquehanna watershed's natural, cultural and historic resources.

**Bucknell Brigade wins True Hero competition.**
The Bucknell Brigade in Nicaragua, a service learning organization at Bucknell University, has won second place in the 2012-13 True Hero service project competition.

**Bucknell participates in National China Town Hall Oct. 28.** Members of the Bucknell University community will participate in the national CHINA Town Hall event "Local Connections, National Reflections," Oct. 28 in the Elaine Langone Center Forum. The event features a live webcast presentation by former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright at 7 p.m.

'Hindus and Muslims in India.' Parvis Ghassem-Fachandi, assistant professor of anthropology at Rutgers University, presented the talk, "On Possession: Hindus and Muslims in India" on Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. in the Gallery Theatre of the Elaine Langone Center at Bucknell.

**Warfare expert P.W. Singer** discussed 21st century war and foreign policy as part of the Bucknell Forum series "tech/no" On Sept. 27.

**An evening of classical Indian dance.** Acclaimed Bharatanatyam dancer and choreographer Aparna Ramaswamy presented "Sannidhi (Sacred Space)" on Thursday, Sept. 19, at 7:30 p.m. in the Weis Center for the Performing Arts at Bucknell University.

**Pedal for Purpose.** Five Bucknellians completed their summer-long, 3,000-mile bike journey across the U.S. for Bicycles Against Poverty.

**Republic of Ghana education minister speaks at Bucknell.** Naana Opoku-Agyemang, the Minister of Education of the Republic of Ghana, visited Bucknell University Sept. 3-6 in conjunction with the Bucknell in Ghana program.

**Academic West opens its doors.** Students and faculty dream new possibilities for Bucknell's newest academic facility.