Majors, Alumni, and Friends,

Greetings to one and all! Once again we say good-bye to another graduating class and, on behalf of the faculty; I wish all of you the best. Before you embark on your next great adventure, be sure to take some time to reflect on all that you have accomplished and achieved. You have earned it! I would also hope that as you move on to start careers and build families that you will continue to do something that you have begun while at Bucknell, which is live the life of the mind. The hustle and bustle of day-to-day life does not have to come at the expense of thinking deeply and broadly. There should always be a part of you that is forever a student, always looking for something new to learn, and always seeking to ask new questions. If you can do this, I believe, you will be able to constantly enrich your life and the lives of those around you.

IR was busy this semester and our main focus was on hiring two new members of the faculty. Professor Emma Gaallaas Mullaney was hired as visiting instructor for the 2015-2016 academic year, but after a very competitive national search to fill our tenure-track position in international political economy, the department decided that Professor Mullaney abilities best advanced the interests of the department and major. Professor Mullaney has a dual degree PhD in Geography and Women's Studies from Pennsylvania State University and she will teach Globalization, Global Feminisms, Political Economy of Global Resources, Global Natures, and Sex, Lies, and Capitalism. We'll introduce her more formally in the next newsletter.

We also hired Professor Christine Smith who will be with us next year while Professor Ron Smith is on leave. Professor Smith has a PhD from Ohio State University in Geography and her area of research is the Middle East where she is interested in issues of securitization and violence. Among the courses she will be teaching are Theories of IR, International Relations of the Middle East, and a course targeted for first-year students on globalization.

The Department is excited about these new additions and we are certain they will make an immediate impact on the Department, students, and the campus community. In the next addition of the newsletter we will have all of these individuals introduce themselves to you, as well as discuss their research and teaching interests in their own words.

IR also sponsored a number of events this semester. We welcomed Brian Eyler ‘00 back to campus. Brian gave a fascinating and well attended talk on the economic, political, ecological, and cultural consequences of building hydroelectric dams in China. Sigma Iota Rho, our honors society, also hosted a likewise well attended roundtable on how gender plays out in various international contexts. We hosted professionalization events for our students and supported other programming on campus with international themes.

Last, I would like to thank all of you that have given designated donations to the International Relations department this year and in the past. Additionally, International Relations ranked 9th in the College of Arts and Sciences and 2nd in the Social Sciences division in the latest one-day challenge in April! We are humbled by your support. As a mid-sized department that does not have the same size budget as larger departments, the funds that you provide are important resources that go directly to support programming and events for the students. The on-going support from former and current students ensures the success of our major.

As we head into the summer, all of us at Bucknell wish you and yours the best. Please stay in touch.

Best regards,

David Mitchell
Chair, Department of International Relations
Among the new additions to the IR Department's course roster this semester was a course on feminist political economy taught by Professor Emma Gaalaas Mullaney and entitled "Sex, Lies, and Capitalism."

She explains the premise and conduct of the course...

Students in this class practice using feminist analytical tools to engage the myths, or socially-useful lies, that are essential to the functioning of global capitalism. We took a critical look at levels of violence that are widely considered a normal and acceptable part of economic activity in today's world, and worked together to rethink our habitual definitions of gender, race, sexuality, class, and humanity. In their culminating research projects for the semester, students went beyond course readings to investigate the myths that shape our own everyday lives. Each group employed a method in feminist political economy called countertopography: First, they selected a place that we think of as dramatically different from our own. They then traced one of the key myths of global capitalism – Gender, Race, Sexuality or Nature – that connects Bucknell campus to this seemingly disparate other place, thereby illuminating unexpected and intimate connections.

Several groups presented their final project at the student research symposium hosted by Bucknell's Field, Research, and Teaching Lab (FRTL). Lauren Repke, Ellie McLaughlin and Izzy Roser presented a rich and complex Countertopography of Education in Pakistan and the US, which illustrated the deep structural inequalities that persist in both countries, as well as creative ongoing struggles for gender, racial and class equality that may inspire our own Bucknell community. Zoe Leshinsky, Maren Burling, Jenna Codignotto and Jess Quindlen presented a Commodity Chain of the S'well Bottle, a hot new reusable water bottle on many college campuses. S'well markets its bottles as the simultaneous embodiment of high fashion and sustainable consumption for those in the Global North, and part of the solution to water insecurity in the Global South. The group's presentation identified the white savior complex undergirding these claims, and reveal some of the contradictions of this proposed capitalist solution to the social and environmental violence of capitalism. And, finally, Lexi Quick, Audrey Walsh, Callie DeWitt and Jamie DeWitt delivered a powerful countertopographic analysis of gender inequality and Title IX across student athletics at Bucknell and Penn State University. Through thought-provoking video interviews with student athletes about their experience of gender segregation on women's and men's intercollegiate sports teams, this group made a compelling case that severe gendered inequalities persist, though sometimes in new and surprising forms, through the implementation of Title IX.

Overall, each group helped the audience, which included students and faculty from across the social sciences, rethink the "Us versus Them" assumptions we have about the places at stake in their countertopography. They also challenged us to rethink the stories we tell about how the economy works and why, which have direct consequences for human lives and the environment, in which we are all implicated.

Professor Emma Gaalaas Mullaney

Photos courtesy of Professor Mullaney
On January 25, 2016, IR had the pleasure of welcoming Brian Eyler IR ’00 back to campus. Brian gave a fascinating talk entitled “Dam It! How Hydropower Projects are Destroying Local Cultures in China and Southeast Asia,” a talk that was sponsored by Sigma Iota Rho, the IR honor society and the IR Department.

Brian Eyler is the Deputy Director of Stimson Center’s Southeast Asia Program and is an expert of transboundary issues in the Mekong region. He specializes in China’s economic cooperation with Southeast Asia. He has spent more than 15 years living and working in China and over the last ten years has conducted extensive research with stakeholders in the Mekong region, leading numerous study tours through China and mainland Southeast Asia. Before joining the Stimson Center, he served as the Deputy Director of the IES Kunming Center at Yunnan University and as a consultant to the UNDP Lancang-Mekong Economic Cooperation Program in Kunming, Yunnan province. After completing his studies in International Relations and East Asian Studies at Bucknell, Brian earned an MA from the University of California, San Diego. He is the co-founder of the influential website EastbySoutheast.com. His first book, The Last Days of the Mighty Mekong will be published by Zed Books in 2017. We look forward to his next visit.

He explained to the audience that, in China’s Southwest, dams and other infrastructure development projects are forcing the relocation of 9 million people, most of them ethnic and living in upland areas. This pattern, he argued, is also playing out in culturally diverse areas of Southeast Asia as economic growth demands more power. In all cases, needs of those relocated are never met because the state actors dominating the process consistently view the situation through the wrong lens and misread how the livelihood process of upland people are inherently linked to their local ecologies. As a result, a huge swath of human culture, millennia in the making, is being destroyed in the blink of an eye.
Every year, roughly 70-80% of IR majors study abroad. They report, as many generations of majors before them, that their time abroad broadens their horizons, oftentimes takes them out of their comfort zone, and allows them to see the world (and world affairs) from new vantage points. Two of our students, Lauren Dolinsky ’17, and Sami Goldberg ’16 reflect on their experiences below.

**Interning in Geneva**

During Spring 2016, I was fortunate enough to spend the semester studying and working in Geneva, Switzerland. My odd academic credentials of being both pre-med and an International Relations major often leads to raised eyebrows, but at a small school like Bucknell this combination was my best chance at studying global health, my true passion. In my IR classes at Bucknell, I try to incorporate public health into my studies as often as I can, often choosing paper topics like the Chinese healthcare system in Professor Zhu’s Chinese Politics or the South African HIV/AIDS epidemic in Professor Rojas’ Human Security. Geneva, however, was my first chance to truly focus in on my area of interest.

Besides taking fascinating classes in Geneva, I was also required to have an internship for half of my time there. With the help of my program I was placed at PATH, an INGO focused on bringing technological advances in the health industry to the Global South, particularly Africa and Asia. While reading up on PATH before my first interview, I immediately felt a connection to the organization and their mission. PATH examines the circumstances which lead to certain diseases being practically extinct in Western countries and asks how these methods can be adapted to be locally appropriate to their target areas while generating the same results. Perhaps I connected with these methods because they resonated with my biology background—PATH sees an outcome they wish to recreate and adjusts the methods to deal with different variables.

My internship experience as a whole was wonderful. It was my first time working a true 9-5 desk job, which came with its own challenges, but the work was interesting. My focus revolved around malaria elimination in Senegal, Zambia, and Ethiopia and I mostly conducted literature reviews to help with my supervisor’s current projects. Luckily I had some experience with this type of work because Professor Mitchell assigned a literature review to my Theories of International Relations class, accurately telling us it would be our first assignment at any internship. While the information I was researching was fascinating and I developed strong connections with my co-workers and superiors, I did eventually come to the conclusion that offices like PATH weren’t the place for me. My biggest takeaway from the experience is that global health, like most sectors, takes a huge variety of different people to attack problems from many angles. While I find the work that PATH does to be invaluable, it’s not the angle I want to work from. The experience reinforced my desire to go to medical school so I can be the doctor in-country using the methods PATH has developed to deliver vaccines to rural areas and use innovative diagnostics for efficient treatment delivery. The chain of knowledge needed to address global health issues varies from WHO guidelines to PATH techniques to National Malaria Programs to Community Health Workers. My internship helped me better understand where I fit in the process of creating a healthier world.

Lauren Dolinsky ‘17

**Off to Spain**

I have always wanted to become bilingual. I craved languages in the sense that I wanted to learn as many languages as possible as quickly as possible. Upon arriving at Bucknell, I began as a Neuroscience major. Although my love for science was strong, my desire to escape from the rock I had lived under for so many years drove me to make a change. Now, as a graduating senior, I am a double major in International Relations and Spanish, and I couldn’t be happier. This change allowed me to focus my views on current issues in International Relations, in addition to providing me with the confidence to speak up about my opinions and make impactful changes in the world.

Lauren Dolinsky ’17
Off to Spain, Cont’d

I had the amazing opportunity to study abroad in Granada, Spain, a trip that changed my life forever. I lived with a Spanish family who spoke absolutely no English in the south of Spain for six months, allowing me to fully immerse myself into the culture and lifestyle of those around me. As my Spanish improved, I became able to make friends and create long lasting relationships without the fear that I wouldn’t be able to understand them. Although I was technically learning Spanish in school, it no longer felt like it was a “task”, instead it was a lifestyle. I was able to combine the concepts I have learned from both International Relations and Spanish classes, which allowed me to assimilate quickly and thrive in this community. Major political changes were occurring while I was there in the Andalusian region and I was able to participate in discussions on why particular things were happening. My IR knowledge allowed me to have exciting and productive debates with my host parents about what types of policies and forms of government work and what doesn’t. My mind opened up and absorbed the history of Spain, making me feel like it will forever be a second home.

While I was in Spain, I used the opportunity to travel across Europe. Crossing borders within the Schengen Zone and outside, in Istanbul and North Africa. Having learned about and discussed immigration issues in great depth, I found the experience very informative because it put everything I had learned into the classroom in use. Not only did I witness refugees and attempts of border crossing, I got to see multiple different sides of why these countries feel the way they do. Living in the south of Spain I was able to see the mixture between frustration and acceptance, as more and more Moroccans and North Africans filled the streets of Granada. In Gibraltar, I got to walk across a heavily trafficked and secured border, leading out of North Africa and into Spain. Having a US passport with a Spanish visa I was able to pass through these borders without any issues. It was so clear how much of an impact these boundaries have had on freedom of mobility. These experiences motivated me to learn more and try to find methods to help fix these people stuck in the peripheral communities of border towns, in addition to those stuck in territories of poverty.

Because of my abroad experience, I spent the better part of my senior year researching a concept called Impact Investing. This concept is still a new and developing idea. Impact Investing is defined as a type of investment that seeks to impact social and/or environmental effects, while at the same time receiving financial gain. I had previously learned about concepts relating to philanthropy and aid, but actually visiting undeveloped, impoverished areas drove me to study this method and become involved in research and hopefully one day, an Impact Investing foundation that supports social entrepreneurship and local changes. All in all, I believe that I have dug my way out from under that rock that once kept me sheltered from the world and I am eternally grateful for the experiences that helped shape me into the person I am today.

“Although I was technically learning Spanish in school, it no longer felt like it was a “task”, instead it was a lifestyle.”

Sami Goldman ’16

Sigma Iota Rho Hosts Faculty Panel

On April 6, 2016, Sigma Iota Rho hosted a faculty panel on “Gender in the International Community.” Four faculty members, Emma Gaalaas Mullaney (International Relations), Alexis Henshaw (Political Science), Erica Delsandro (Women’s and Gender Studies), and Coralynn Davis (Women’s and Gender Studies) contributed to the panel by speaking to the intersections of their research with gender. Professor Mullaney spoke to what is gained by looking at events from the lens of feminism, an approach that she developed by taking courses on feminism while studying biology. Professor Henshaw shared her research on if and how women participate in violent conflict and how this can manifest in gendered ways. Professor Delsandro, who is trained in literary analysis, spoke to the value of reading literature, especially books written by women. Last but not least, Professor Davis spoke to the production and selling of a particular kind of artwork made by women in Nepal and neighboring India and how this process is influenced by class and gender which determines to whom and at what price a particular artifact will be targeted, often resulting in significant differences and divergence in income as well as stature for the artists involved.
Induction Day for Sigma Iota Rho

SIR spearheaded a number of initiatives this year. During the Fall semester, it organized a welcome back luncheon for majors and members, sponsored a talk by Prof. Mullaney on the use of drones in agriculture, and arranged for a talk by alumnus Tom O’Toole ’00 of the Cornell Institute of Public Affairs on graduate school options outside of law school. During the Spring semester, it sponsored a talk by alumnus Brian Eyler ’00 on the cultural, economic, and environmental consequences of hydroelectric dams in China, and a faculty panel on gender. These events were open to the entire campus and were all very well attended. We look forward to a similar year next year when we can put our thinking caps on and program similarly interesting events next year.

To cap a successful year, and to celebrate the induction of 15 students into the national organization from our Bucknell chapter, we held a member dinner on April 20. We used that opportunity to thank the student leadership for AY 2015-2016 and had a chance to visit with inductees, members, and faculty members.

Congratulations inductees!

- Anne Catherine Austin ’16
- Fallon E. Burke ’16
- William Alan Christner ’16
- Emily Marie Collins ’16
- Mary Elizabeth Colton ’16
- William J. Eichhorn ’16
- Brandon GiVon Holden ’16
- Morgan Hannah Houchins ’16
- Stephanie A. Houser ’16
- Angie Isaza Loaiza ’16
- Sarah J. Jones
- Kerong C. Kelly
- Max N. Kohn
- Kolbe C. McKee
- Charles M. Mueller
- Bwalya A. Mwaba
- Sophia N. Nnadi
- Kathryn F. Oram
- Samuel J. Pope
- William L. Rappaport
- Matthew B. Rubin
- Jennifer D. Silvestri
- Lauren M. Wessan
- Kirsten A. Wessel
- Katherine V. Wright

Thank you!

Presenting International Relations Class of 2016

Commencement will be held on May 22, 2016, marking the end of the 2015-2016 academic year. This year 33 majors and five minors join the ranks of our alumni:

IR ’16 Majors

- Ann C. Austin
- Fallon E. Burke
- William A. Christner
- Emily M. Collins
- Mary Elizabeth Colton
- Jonathan H. Davis
- Brandon P. Dellafave
- Emma C. Dyson
- William J. Eichhorn
- Kai W. Fiske
- Samuel R. Flagler
- Eleanor C. Franko
- Alexandra L. Furbay
- Samantha E. Goldman
- Brandon G. Holden
- Morgan H. Houchins
- Stephanie A. Houser
- Angie K. Isaza Loaiza
- Sarah J. Jones
- Kerong C. Kelly
- Max N. Kohn
- Kolbe C. McKee
- Charles M. Mueller
- Bwalya A. Mwaba
- Sophia N. Nnadi
- Kathryn F. Oram
- Samuel J. Pope
- William L. Rappaport
- Matthew B. Rubin
- Jennifer D. Silvestri
- Lauren M. Wessan
- Kirsten A. Wessel
- Katherine V. Wright

IR ’16 Minors

- Devon C. Bruzzone
- Amanda K. Fazio
- Zachary L. Kraft
- Hannah C. Marsing
- Rebecca E. Moore

Congratulations graduates!
Oh, the Posse-ilities!

This year, IR is graduating two students who were Posse Scholars during their four years at Bucknell. Posse is “one of the most comprehensive and renowned college access and youth leadership development programs in the United States.” (www.possefoundation.org/about-posse). Deborah Bial, the education strategist who is the founder of the Posse Foundation in 1989, was the recipient of a MacArthur (“genius”) grant in 2007 in recognition of the work she has done with her foundation in addressing “the challenges of college access for underrepresented populations by identifying and fostering talent and opening opportunities for higher education” (https://www.macfound.org/fellows/816/).

The Posse Foundation identifies candidates by using rigorous assessment processes to gauge talent and potential in leadership, teamwork, communication skills, and motivation, selecting the most promising students to join a “posse,” a small group of students who train as a group for eight months during their senior year in high school, building team skills and social support mechanisms to ensure success in highly selective liberal arts colleges and universities such as Bucknell. IR has been fortunate to draw a number of Posse Scholars to our major over the years. One of the earliest Posse Scholars in IR was Cristina Sacco ‘10, DC Posse 2 (now an attorney with Westermann, Sheehy, Keenan, Samaan, and Aydelott in New York City) who came to Bucknell in the second year of Bucknell’s work with the Posse Foundation. Below, our newest Posse Scholar graduates, Brandon Holden ‘16 and Angie Isaza Loaiza ‘16 answer some questions about their experience as Posse Scholars and International Relations majors.

Q: Who are Angie and Brandon?

Brandon Holden is from Washington, DC and is a part of the Bucknell DC Posse 8! At Bucknell, he studies International Relations with much focus on global governance, conflict resolution, and human rights issues. He decided to study abroad for a year in Copenhagen, Denmark and Tours, France. During his time in Europe, Brandon was able to take courses in issues of international humanitarian law, terrorism, and European history.

Angie Isaza-Loaiza is a Boston Posse 6 scholar! She is an International Relations major who went abroad to Granada, Spain and did a semester in Washington, DC. She chose International Relations as her major because it’s an interdisciplinary field. She wanted to learn about the world through a different lens and IR

“Students are carefully selected and placed into supportive, multicultural teams—Posse—of 10 students. The Posse partner colleges provided four-year, full tuition scholarships.”

Angie Isaza Loaiza ’16 and Brandon Holden ’16

To learn more about the Posse Foundation, please visit their website.
The university has supported Posse Scholars for over 8 years now. Every year, Posse Scholars attend Bucknell University from Washington, DC, Los Angeles, and Boston. While many scholars pursue a diverse range of majors and disciplines, we decided to pursue IR.

**Q: How has Posse helped you excel in the IR department?**

**A:** As Posse scholars, we have been trained in many areas necessary to complete the IR major. From public speaking and presentation to research and analysis, the transferable skills developed with Posse have enabled us to succeed in IR. While we both accepted Posse with recognizable skills needed to excel at Bucknell, our training sessions on, among others, diversity, race and economics, society and power helped us to better navigate and understand in-class discussions on developments related to these issues. Additionally, the financial support of Bucknell made studying abroad more feasible and accessible. So, as IR majors who are encouraged to study abroad, the decision to do so was easier because of the financial support.

**Q: What recommendations do you have for incoming Posse students interested in IR?**

Well, the IR department has a reputation on campus as offering a challenging major due to its requirements and rigorous curriculum. Please do not let this dissuade you from taking on the major: trust your abilities as a posse scholar! If you’ve made it through the Posses process, you’re more than capable of succeeding in the major. Connecting with your professors will also be an important step in excelling in the major as many of the professors have been working in their disciplines for many years. They will be important allies on your path to completing the major. Additionally, we both would highly recommend studying abroad for at least one semester. It really does help you apply everything you will learn in the classroom to real circumstances. If for some reason that is not feasible, apply to the Bucknell Brigade or BACES service trips, or even a three week summer program abroad. The key is making the most of the vast opportunities and resources a Bucknell education offers. Make the most of these Posse-ibilities!

---

**IR Faculty News**

**Professor Catherine Cymone Fourshey** and rising senior Maho Fujita will travel to Tanzania June 2016 to conduct research projects. Fourshey will be looking at the history of a group of new citizens referred to in development literature as “Bantu Somali”. After living in refugee camps in Kenya for 24 years, a small group of about 5,000 Bantu Somali were granted citizenship in Tanzania while about 12,000 came to the US as refugees through a process that started in 2001. Fujita applied for the Emerging Scholar research grant, awarded by the Bucknell Institute for Public Policy (BiPP). Through the funding she is able to conduct field work. She will be investigating Tanzania-China relationships through partnerships in development projects the two nations undertake in Tanzania. Look for pictures from these research projects in the next newsletter!

**Professor Ron Smith** taught his IREL 229 - Middle East Conflict and Revolution course during Fall 2015. This course has traditionally been the entry for many students into study of the International Relations of the contemporary Middle East. In a break from previous years, students in IREL 229 made short documentary videos about the Gaza Strip, using Skype to communicate with Gazans, college age and above. Students developed their videos on the themes of water, food, electricity, music, and health care. While doing so, they were also introduced to the politics of the Middle East. When Professor Smith returned to Gaza in December to conduct fieldwork for his ongoing research there, he brought videos and gifts from students to the Gazans who helped in the course projects. The students and workers in Gaza who watched the videos were deeply impressed, and shared the videos with their peers across the Gaza Strip. This project helped to solidify a connection between students in the fall class, and Gazans, some of whom had the opportunity to travel to the US in years past. The video projects were an immense success, and future versions of the course will work on the same framework of collaborative filmmaking, ideally in various locations across the Middle East.

**Professor Emek Uçar** attended the annual conference of the International Studies Association (ISA) in Atlanta in March 2016, where she presented a paper entitled “Mare Nostrum? European Union’s Responses to the Unfolding Refugee Crisis.” She was also a participant on a roundtable entitled “Teaching and Learning Internationally.” She is currently serving as the chair of the International Education Section of ISA. On campus, she participated on a panel entitled “Negotiating the Post-Tenure Obstacle Course: A Panel Discussion for Mid-Career Faculty.”
IR Faculty News, Cont’d

She will be departing with 17 students to Nicaragua right after graduation as the co-director of the Bucknell in Nicaragua program and looks forward to the experience. When she returns, she will be working on a book chapter entitled “NGOs and the Area of Freedom Security and Justice” which will be included in the Routledge Handbook of Justice and Home Affairs Research.

Professor Zhiqun Zhu presented two papers, “East Asian Integration: Challenges and Prospects” and “Power Transition and Japan-China Relations”, at the International Studies Association annual conference in Atlanta in March 2016. He became a member of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations earlier this year. The international media that interviewed or quoted him this spring on East Asian affairs include The Washington Times, Navy Times, Deutsche Welle, Japan Times, CCTV-America, South China Morning Post, etc.

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.

Daniela Spevak ’12. I was glad to read the two articles on the refugee crisis (in the fall issue of IR Matters!), particularly because I have personally been involved in the work with refugees. I have been working with refugees in Serbia and Croatia since the beginning of September 2015 and spent 2 1/2 months in the camps in Croatia. Liberia is my next stop.

Of Note: Campus News and Events

Bucknell University to Confer Nearly 900 Degrees at Commencement.
Bucknell's 166th Commencement will be the first held on the newly renamed Malesardi Quadrangle.