



Partager

Winter 2013/2014

[French]To share or divide



Attendees at the IRSA-ISSA event 'A Night of Global Connections'

The Second Year: Growth

I am pleased to present you with the second edition of the International Relations Student Association's Alumni Newsletter, *Partager*. As a writer for the first issue, I have had the chance to watch the publication grow from small project to a seasonal publication. In its second season, this year has assuredly been marked by the growth of *Partager*.

In the latest development, we at IRSA are now able to offer our alumni publications in online format. By visiting our website, you can access all the articles found in this publication and more from the comfort of your own home. In working with the staff at the IR department and Alumni Relations office we were able to successfully make progress on delivering *Partager* at your convenience.

2013 has also been a year of growth with IRSA on campus. We have initiated a number of new events such as *A Night of Global Connections*, a speaking event held downtown in collaboration with SFU. We have also reached record highs in terms of campus approval, and achieved a longstanding goal of one thousand likes on our Facebook page. I have had the privilege of watching the IR department develop over the past year and can report that this academic year has been extremely successful. Please enjoy the latest edition

Sarah Manshreck
Editor-in-Chief

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The International Relations Students Association proudly presents: A Message from the President

I am extremely honoured and excited to be a part of the second UBC International Relations alumni newsletter. This project began in the summer of 2012, with students, faculty and alumni of the UBC IR program establishing a partnership that aims to foster greater connections within the community of IR graduates and current IR students.

This newsletter also comes at an exciting time for the UBC International Relations Students Association (IRSA), as this year we celebrate our 30th Birthday. Since our founding in 1983, IRSA has always been recognized as one of the most highly regarded student organizations, both on the UBC campus and across the country. What IRSA provides is not only a forum for international discourse but also a profound focal point for networking, which we as students are learning is extremely important in the steps we take to finish off our university degrees and become IR alumni ourselves. IRSA considers the UBC IR alumni to be an extremely important part of our community. Your continued contribution to our forums enhances the IR program at UBC, and continued alumni/student networking greatly assists IRSA in our considerable efforts to link students to careers in the field of international affairs. Staying connected, whether you are working here or abroad as a student or alumni, as well as staying current and a part of our community is what this newsletter is all about.



I would like to give an enormous thanks to Sarah Manshreck and her team of editors as well as the many other people who have helped to give this project a fantastically successful second year.

Happy reading!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelsey Brooks".

Kelsey Brooks
IRSA President

The Global Lounge and the Liu Institute, an interview with Andrea Reynolds

By Julia Buczek



Andrea Reynolds, International Relations Program Manager and Advisor

The International Relations Department notably keeps a tight relationship with the Liu Institute and Global Lounge. One of our writers sat down with Andrea Reynolds, the International Relations Program Manager and Advisor, and discussed the symbiotic relationship.

What are the Liu Institute and the Global Lounge? What purposes do they serve? What are the goals of each facility?

The Liu Institute is an institute that promotes the discussion of global issues so it's basically focused on sustainability, social justice, and a number of other issues. We often have lecturers come in and give topics about global issues, and we host the Liu scholars program, which provides a home base for students who are doing interdisciplinary research focused on global issues. We also provide a home for research networks based on global issues, so we have a development network, a migration network, and a vast list of research networks available at the Liu institute. The Global Lounge basically provides more of a student-based, student-focused place for different clubs that have an international focus, to have a space to have events and for promoting global issues.

The IR program and these establishments seem to work together quite often. What is the relationship like between the IR program and these facilities? How do they function together/complement each other?

The Liu Institute is basically the physical home for the IR program. Because the IR program is interdisciplinary it takes a lot of courses from different programs, which was difficult for students to build a sense of community. There was an external review that happened for the IR program, and it was decided that the Liu Institute is well-aligned with what the IR students are focusing on in terms of global issues. Since February, we've been holding a lot of events at the Liu institute; we're also trying to get more undergraduate students involved in attending events at the Liu, so it's not just focused on graduate students but more encompassing the broader UBC community. In terms of the Global Lounge, the International Relations Students Association (IRSA) is part of the Global Lounge network, so they host their events there.. We also have some Liu scholars who hold their events at the Global Lounge; it's just a really great way for the three units to promote the awareness of global issues and get the discussion going and have students interacting with each other. It's more to promote dialogue and to have a supportive institute that's advocating those issues.

Why are these establishments important to UBC students, both IR and of other programs?

I think they're really important institutions for providing dialogue on current issues as we really need to be having those discussions. It gives them a forum to come and participate in those opportunities and not just leave it to the graduates or to class time, so I think that's the main thing – to bring up awareness and having an opportunity for dialogue.

Did You Know? The Liu institute was named after Dr. Jieh Jow Liu and was founded by Dr. Ivan Head in 1998



The Liu Institute

Term One with IRSA

Diplomacy 101

By Jacey Saulog

The International Relations Students Association, together with the Canadian International Council hosted the fourth annual Diplomacy 101 panel event at the Liu Institute for Global Issues on October 2, 2013. The event, hosted by the VP External of IRSA Terralynn Forsyth, was successful and attended by many members of the club. This year, the event focused on the growing trend of the digital diplomacy revolution that is presently changing the sphere of international relations and the various aspects of social media that has especially affected the way activists, political figures, and the public and private sectors interact. The event highlighted personal experiences from the three speakers, followed by a question and answer period, and a networking reception.



Attendance was excellent at this year's Diplomacy 101

The panelists represented experts in the field of diplomacy, who each had very diverse international experiences. Hugh Stephens was a former Assistant Deputy Minister for Policy and Communications at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and has had five postings to Canadian missions in Asia. He joined Time Warner in 2001, and overall has more than thirty-five years of government and business experience in the Asia-Pacific. Panelist Chris Thomson served as a Canadian ambassador to the United Arab Emirates and is currently a member of the Canadian International Council, Vancouver branch. Lastly, speaker Gordon Longmuir has served in various countries in his career, namely Vietnam, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, India, and Cambodia. After his 'retirement' in 1999, Mr. Longmuir has been a Diplomat in Residence at the Institute of Asian Research at UBC and is an Executive Member of CIC Vancouver. We look forward to next year's installment of the consistently successful event, Diplomacy 101. A big thanks to Terralynn Forsyth for organizing a terrific night!

Koerner Discourse: A new event

By Lincoln Lam

On November 5th, IRSA had the privilege of inviting visiting scholar professor Ron Deibert for a relaxed, casual evening at Koerner's Pub on UBC campus. Professor Deibert, an expert in cyberspace security and human rights, is the co-founder of the OpenNet Initiative and specializes in investigating internet filtering and surveillance of states around the world. UBC's very own professor of Political Science Arjun Chowdhury joined the students, and the evening was filled with thought-provoking debates on a range of topics, primarily relating to recent revelations of NSA surveillance, as well as internet censorship in China. Students from International Relations, computer science and engineering programs were represented, contributing a varied range of perspectives on the topic.

Feedback on the evening was hugely positive and IRSA has plans to continue this new tradition by inviting notable scholars to spend casual evenings with students.



Professor Ronald Diebert of UofT

*If you are interested in being a guest at 'Koerner Discourse', please email
Irsa.commliaison@gmail.com*

Philosophy of Sens: An interview with an IR Professor

By Sarah Manshreck

When you first meet Allen Sens, one thing is undeniable. He has presence. This is a necessary quality for a man who not only commands political science lectures of over 150 students but who has also chaired and been the face of the international relations department for the last ten years. His contributions to UBC have been paramount, including co-coordinating the Terry Project and Global Speaker Series and chairing the Arts Curriculum Committee. Sens is an asset to the university in his resume as he holds a B.A and M.A. from UBC and a Ph.D. from Queens University in Political Science. However, behind his titles, Sens' legacy and imprint on UBC stem from the impression he leaves on the university community..

As a teacher, Professor Sens is among the top at UBC. His UBC Killam Teaching Prize from 2004 is his official recognition of teaching excellence, as nominated by students, colleagues and alumni. Unofficially, ratemyprof.com describes him as 'tough', 'charismatic', and most notably, 'a comedian'. When sitting down with Sens, he was first to acknowledge that ratemyprof was not a reliable base of consensus. However, he spoke of using comedy as a hook to engage students, especially in dark topics. "If you can make someone laugh about something, they'll remember." Sens also goes outside traditional realms of teaching by integrating technology into his lectures, through his YouTube channel which visually dictates his points on a whiteboard. Inspired by his cartoonist father, Sens seeks to incorporate audio-visual learners as well as create a new learning space through social media. It was clear through discussion that to inspire the next generation is a serious passion.

*If you can
make someone
laugh about
something,
they'll
remember'*

Sens is additionally inspiring when he talks about his love for UBC. He has his roots here as well; not only did he attend UBC as a student but also took POLI 260 as an undergraduate (a course he now teaches). Most prominently he talked of UBC as a place of desire, and spoke of the privilege of having 'diverse students from diverse backgrounds, who have the choice of any institution.' Besides the setting, the hometown advantage and the unique students and faculty, Sens asks us 'can you think of anywhere else you'd rather be? If your answer is no, that says a lot.'

To recent alumni of the IR program, Sens shared advice both practical and philosophical. He sees the application of the IR degree to entrepreneurialism as under pursued, chalking it to the 'fairly powerful stream of anti-corporatism in the students today....It's a bad time to be big.' He notes that an IR degree could be used to apply social responsibility and fair trade to the corporate world, and implores graduates to explore that option. On life, Sens advises alumni to pursue what they love, and not a job that is a means to an end. He sees a degree as a 'launching pad', and in his personal philosophy one gets the impression that anything is possible post-university.

If you take one thing away from the philosophy of Sens, he stresses self-reflection. "If you don't know, time to go to the beach." Professor Allen Sens stepped down as Chair of the International Relations Program last year. However, he stayed on as a lecturer and continues to revolutionize the university, one Sens-ism at a time.



Professor Allen Sens

A Night of Global Connections: Hosted in Collaboration with ISSA

By Sarah Manshreck

IRSA and ISSA proudly presented its first collaborative event, A Night of Global Connections, which took place on Wednesday, November 20th. The event took place in the SFU harbour center in the heart of downtown, and featured 10 speakers working in the international relations field. The event was hosted by IRSA President Kelsey Brooks and ISSA President Ali Wagner, and had over 80 attendees from both institutions. The night also featured a vocal performance by UBC student, Karli Soriano.

The purpose of the event was to showcase a variety of careers through young professionals working in the field. Based on Pecha Kucha and public salon formatting, each speech was condensed to roughly 10 minutes long to allow for a higher volume of condensed presentations. The night exposed students to expertise in a high volume of fields. Professionals working in the Red Cross, with organizations working against human trafficking such as ACT Alberta, and freelancers in international development were all in attendance at this event. In addition, two of the speakers were student and NGO creators, who spoke of their international work in Pakistan. The night was extremely insightful in exposing the variety of applications to a degree in international relations.

After the event was over, students and speakers moved to the Elephant and Castle bar for a networking after-social. Aside from the perk of complimentary nachos, this was a chance for attendees to mingle with speakers and have more personal conversations. The after social was very well attended, and the atmosphere was cheerful as students had the opportunity to connect with professionals working within the international relations field.

The event was a huge success, and we at IRSA are excited to further collaborate with ISSA on further events.



Speaker and UBC alumni Jorge Madraza



Speaker and UBC alumni Scott Andrews



Hosts for the evening Ali Wagner, ISSA president (left) and Kelsey Brooks, IRSA president (right)

Check out this article online!
www.ir.arts.ubc.ca

A special thank-you to Josh Morgan
 for being the official photographer at
 A Night of Global Connections

Updates from Alumni



Looking to Reconnect with IRSA?

IRSA is hosting its eleventh annual gala on January 8th 2014 at Granville Island Performance Works. This year, the gala will be in support of the Canadian Harambee Education Society (CHES) which empowers girls in Kenya and Tanzania through education. Speaking at the event is Ibenzi George, a Kenyan foreign policy analyst as well as Lorrie Murkirazi, a CHES scholar recipient. The night will also feature performances from UBC Acapella, Africa Awareness and VTech String Orchestra. We at IRSA hope to see many alumni in attendance and the night is sure to be one with great food and entertainment for a great cause.

Buy Tickets to the Gala Online!

<http://irsagala2014.rezgo.com/details/59021/empowering-girls-inspiring-futures-irsas-winter-benefit-gala>

Julia Palmiano (2010)

After serving a term as the president of IRSA (2009-2010), Julia is now completing a Masters degree at The Graduate Institute of International and Developmental studies in Geneva, which credits to its name prestigious alumni such as Kofi Annan. While writing her thesis on international conflict mediation of internal armed conflict, Julia is also interning at the United Nations.

John Pyrik (1989)

John moved to Ottawa after graduating to join CSIS. He now manages the Intelligence Analyst Learning Program for the Privy Council Office. While at UBC he took a 4th year seminar course in "War and Diplomacy". He remembers eight excruciating months studying the events of August 1914. He credits AIESEC for giving him the international experience that led to his career in government.

Claire Smith (2009)

Graduating UBC with an IR major and History Minor, Claire is now a program manager for the NGO DreamCatcher Mentoring which works to address decreasing rates of high school graduation in Canada's North. Claire's life post-graduation has been fast paced, including muskrat hunting and ice fishing. She would like to encourage current students to experiment with field study and cannot stress enough the excitement of working in the North. Clare lives in Yellowknife

Danielle Bicknell (2008)

Danielle has recently been accepted to both Stanford and UPenn for a Masters in International Development and Education, and is eager to share her experience with current international students of UBC. Danielle works as a consultant at the Forgotten International, specifically in education and the South America projects department. Danielle has seven years of experience working with NGOs and startups and is eager to pass on her knowledge to UBC students

Want to be featured? Send your updates to

irsa.commliaison@gmail.com

THANK YOU! We would like to extend a warm thank you to the following people who without their help this publication would not be possible. For consenting to be interviewed, Kelsey Brooks, Andrea Reynolds and Professor Allen Sens. In helping to make the publication accessible, thank you to Simon Cheng, Bonita Perko and again Andrea Reynolds. Finally, thank you to all students, faculty and alumni whose support makes *Partager* a reality.

Staff and Contributors



Editor-In-Chief – Sarah Manshreck

Sarah is a third year International Relations Student and is ecstatic to bring the IR community closer together as the Community Liaison on the IRSA executive. Other than managing the IR Alumni Newsletter, Sarah is a Kappa Alpha Theta member as well as a lifeguard and swim instructor. After finishing her B.A, Sarah plans to continue graduate studies internationally and develop her French. Sarah hopes to use her knowledge in foreign relations to someday pursue a career as a correspondent in the field of journalism. In her spare time, she enjoys running, reading fiction and eating anything she can get her hands on.

Senior Writer – Julia Buckzek

Julia Buczek is currently in her fourth year completing UBC's competitive International Relations program, primarily focusing on modern European diplomacy. In addition, Julia also has a keen interest in graphic design and illustration, and is hoping to incorporate the arts with her interest in diplomacy. Aside from her studies, Julia is also President of the UBC Polish Students' Society, and is also currently the Chair of Quo Vadis Vancouver 2014, an annual international conference for university students and professionals of Polish descent. Julia finds joy in travelling, learning languages, snowboarding, skateboarding, modern art, interior design, and anything to do with the outdoors.



Writer – Lincoln Lam

Lincoln Lam is a 4th year student who has been very involved in IRSA this year. Born in Hong Kong Lincoln graduated from an international school in Beijing and is now completing his undergraduate degree in International Relations with an Economics minor. His interests include contemporary China, international political economy, and globalization. He is also an avid fan of alternative rock, and enjoys British bands in particular.

Senior Writer – Jacey Saulog

Jacey is a second-year Arts student, hoping to pursue a degree in International Relations and a minor in Law. She has been an IRSA member for the past two years, and is interested in human rights issues in East Asia as well as international law.



Production and Layout Consultant – Tudor Lapuste

Tudor is a 3rd year Microbiology and Computer Science Combined Major. Although he does not study international relations, he closely follows political news and is excited to work with IRSA for the first time. In his free time, Tudor enjoys staying in shape and you can often find him in the BirdCoop or dining in Kitsilano restaurants.