College of Public and International Affairs
College of Public and International Affairs Magazine

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Alona Gaiek
Editor

Eun Jin Hong
Art Director

Alona Gaiek
GMCS, First Year

Beltina Gjeloshi
GLDP, First Year

Bryn Hagley
IPED, Junior

Contributing Writers

In This Issue
Swim for Syrian Children
Model UN
Current Students’ Achievements
Alumni Success Stories
Fulbright Experience
Advertising and PR project
If a Tree Falls...

We are all familiar with the quandary, “If a tree falls in the forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?” I suppose that no one will know. A few months back, Mr. Mark Wilterding, Chair of the CPIA Advisory shared about the importance of getting our story out both to our friends and those who are just getting to know us.

We strive to inform people through our Facebook page, our UN News website, through Youtube and through periodic updates of the official CPIA website. This is another modality of informing interested parties about the work of our College.

Members of our faculty have authored books and articles that have drawn critical attention in international affairs. They include Fulbright and Freeman scholars (as well as the Chair of next year’s human rights section in the International Studies Association’s annual conference). We are especially proud of CPIA students who have been the recipients of Fulbright, Gilman, Critical Language and William J. Clinton scholarships and have gone on to graduate study at Harvard, Yale, Cornell, Columbia, Oxford, London, Wisconsin, Georgetown, Johns Hopkins, Kennesaw State and other top institutions. Our students have also presented at the Northeast Political Science Association, the Midwest Political Science Association, the Eastern Sociological Society, the University of Notre Dame’s Kroc Institute and at the United Nations. Our alumni now work for the United Nations, the Council of Europe and for the governments of the United States, China, Turkey, Morocco, Mongolia, Colombia, as well as for Google, AOL, Price Waterhouse Coopers, and Save the Children. This publication is meant to update you on recent developments in the College.

I would like to congratulate Alona Gaiek, a second year students in Global Media and Communication Studies, for compiling this pioneer issue and thank her for her central role in this process. I hope that our readers will be encouraged and benefit from the information provided.

Please enjoy this update as well as Summer 2014!

Thomas J. Ward
Dean
Global Affairs Society raised 1100$ in the “Swim for Syrian children” event

Members of the University of Bridgeport’s Global Affairs Society held its “Swim for Syrian Children” fundraiser on April 11 at the University of Bridgeport Wheeler Rec Center, 126 Park Avenue.

The event included a swimming relay featuring teams with four participants per team. Participants included the University of Bridgeport’s swimming team, basketball team, soccer team, as well as anyone else wishing to join the relay. Three winning teams were awarded with gift cards. Afterwards, guests had the opportunity to participate in a “Doing Something Good” auction, where they could bid on different services provided by University of Bridgeport students.

With the help of participating students, faculty and guests, the Global Affairs Society raised 1100$. The money raised was donated to the Westport-based Save the Children relief efforts for child refugees affected by the ongoing conflict in the Syria.
UB Graduate Students Interface with UN Officials in Briefings

by Beltina Gjeloshi (1st year student, MA in Global Development & Peace)

The group was accompanied by Dr. Robert J. Riggs, Assistant Professor of World Religions and Assistant Professor of Global Development and Peace, and Dr. Dave Benjamin, Associate Professor of Global Development.

The briefings were made possible by the United Nations Department of Public Information. University of Bridgeport has DPI-NGO status at the United Nations, and is a member of the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI).

On April 11, 2014 CPIA graduate students were treated to an afternoon of briefings at the Department of Public Information at United Nations headquarters in New York City. Mr. Dan Shepard, from the Sustainability Division in the Department of Public Information, spoke on responsibility in the context of the reality of climate change. He spoke of the need to respond to the challenges of skeptics and of addressing the myriad consequences of climate change, especially in the Global South. A second briefing was given by Mr. Sean Cruse from the UN Global Compact, who addressed the principles and values of the UN Global Compact and the interface that involves the UN, multinational enterprises, and civil society as stakeholders in the Compact. Both briefings inspired discussion, addressing the need to reach broad, multilateral climate change consensus, in negotiating key challenges and targets in reaching out to non-state sectors through the Compact.

East Asian and Pacific Rim Room. Jassey Collection Opening
Model UN outstanding performance in New York

By Bryn Hagley (Senior, BA in International Political Economy and Diplomacy)

The University of Bridgeport’s Model United Nations Club is having one outstanding performance after another. In April the Club attended the National Model United Nations (NMUN) conference in New York City. The New York delegation was made up of mostly newcomers. For seven of the eleven members, this was their first Model UN conference. The inexperience did not prevent the club from bringing home the most awards ever won by a UB MUN team. Representing the Republic of Mali in 9 committees, the team brought home two Outstanding Position Paper awards, one on the United Nations Human Settlements Program and the other on United Nations Industrial Development Organization. Congratulations to Ruwan Rujouleh/Roudabeh Jamshi and Ibraheem Khan who worked on those papers respectively. In addition to the Position Paper awards, UB MUN brought home Honorable Mention Delegation. This is the equivalent of third place at NMUN conferences. This is due in part to the leadership of President Bryn Hagley, Vice-President Simon Arias, Secretary Khrystian Pereira, and Treasurer Samuel Park. The full UB MUN team can be found below along with their majors and position in the team.

Bryn Hagley (IPED) President
Igor Vulesevic (IPED) Member
Simon Aris (IPED) Vice-President
Somaieya Khurram (IPED) Member
Khrystian Pereira (IPED) Secretary
Samuel Park (IPED) Treasurer
Fernando Gonzalez (IPED) Member
Deborah Marcelus (IPED) Member
Samantha Gerber (IPED) Member
Ibrahim Khan (GDLP) Member
Ruwan Rujouleh (GDLP) Member
Roudabeh Jamshi (GDLP) Member

The UB MUN Club has been a major force at the University since 2005. Students have attended conferences all over the world, including the Czech Republic in 2010, and the Galapagos Islands in 2013. Since the Fall of the 2011 the club has attended 6 conferences and returned with five outstanding position paper awards, three Honorable mentions (3rd place), and one Distinguished Delegation (2nd place).
Current Students’ Achievements

The Spring 2014 semester was an eventful one for CPIA students. One of the Global Development and Peace graduate students, Ibraheem Khan, promoted education as a tool to bring harmony in his presentation at UN headquarters during the January 2014 Committee on Teaching about the United Nations (CTAUN). Not only did Ibraheem present a poster, he was also interviewed for the UN radio on his poster topic “Crafting Peace through Education as an Alternative to Drones”.

Furthermore, GLDP current student, Kristine LeBlanc won special recognition at the annual Faculty Research Day held on March 28 at the Arnold Bernhard Arts and Humanities Center. Kristine took part in a poster session based on her paper “Maritime Security: Risk Mitigation Strategies in West Africa” and won the second prize award among students’ posters from all departments.

Alona Gaiek, a student from the new but rapidly growing Global media and Communication Studies graduate program, presented at the 72nd annual Midwest Political Science Association conference in Chicago. She was invited to participate in two poster sessions based on her paper on “Mobilizing the Public during the Orange Revolution (Ukraine): Effects of Domestic and International Media”.

Clockwise: Ibraheem Khan (GLDP, First Year), Alona Gaeik (GMCS, First Year), Kristine LeBlanc (GLDP, First Year)
**GLDP Alumna and International Civil Servant**

CPIA alumna Veronica DeLeon interned twice at the Council of Europe. One of her internships took place shortly before joining the GLDP program. She performed so well enough that she was invited to return and also did the required graduate internship with the Council. That second internship opened the way for her to join the Council of Europe as a permanent employee and International Civil Servant.

Veronica successfully passed the Council of Europe’s International Civil Servant exam. She was assigned to the Data Protection and Cybercrime division, where she spent one year and a half. While in this role, she assisted in “promoting, assessing and monitoring the implementation of the Budapest Convention on cybercrime and Convention 108 on data protection.” Veronica was also invited to work on the Council of Europe’s Internet Governance Unit. Currently she is also working on a project related to a Council of Europe initiative aimed at improving education in developing countries that partner with the Council.

**First CPIA student to intern with the International Criminal Court**

Laura Guzman Mealla, a graduate of the MBA program and currently completing her graduate degree in the Global Development and Peace program has been chosen to serve as an intern at the International Criminal Court (ICC) at the Hague in the Netherlands.

The ICC focuses on the investigation and prosecution of those accused of Crimes against Humanity including the commission of atrocities and genocide. Laura is the first College of Public and International Affairs student to intern with the ICC. CPIA Dean Thomas Ward spoke about Laura: “Laura is deserving of this. It comes as a culmination to all of her hard work. Laura will both learn a lot and prove to be an asset to the ICC during her internship. She is thoughtful, de-liberate and systematic in her approach to problems. She also possesses excellent people skills as well exceptional listening, analytical and writing skills. It is a win-win for her and those whom she will learn from and work with at the ICC.”
Advertising and PR students’ project in collaboration with Discovery Museum

Semester after semester Prof. Susan Katz has a tradition of having her students dive into the experience of Advertising and PR through working with a local not-for-profit as a “client” and developing an entire palette of publication relations material for it. This semester the client was Bridgeport’s Discovery Museum. Mass Communication majors from the University worked in collaboration with the Discovery Museum’s leadership team to discover what was needed and how the UB students could help to address those needs. The project allows UB students both to render meaningful public service to the community and also help them to develop materials for their portfolios when the time comes for job-hunting. At different points in the term and especially at the final presentation where the not-for-profit staff is present, students introduce their work and also receive feedback on their accomplished work.

From the perspective of an outside observer, one could easily detect the professionalism and hard-working attitude of students at the final presentation. Students had been divided into departments, each responsible for specific parts of the final product. Along with the press releases and a video, advertising campaign for Museum included bumper stickers, bus signs and even street arts designed by the students. New media such as Facebook page, Pinterest page, Twitter and brand new cellphone apps were also brought to life through the work of the students.

The creative force of students even then was not fully satisfied. They added to the final product through accessories such as pins, shopping bags and tablet cases, all designed to promote the Museum.
Fulbright Experience
for UB students and faculty

In April during the annual International Festival Week, University of Bridgeport’s Office of Internationalization sponsored a meeting where a number of the University’s faculty and student Fulbright scholars shared their experiences. UB is proud to have not only international students enrolled as a Fulbright scholars, but also to have a number of faculty members who are recipients of Fulbrights. During this session, participants hear from Master Degree candidates Basak Guner (Global Peace and Development), Simon Voigt Nesbo and Sami Omar (both Electrical Engineering) about how they learned of Fulbright and were eventually selected for study in the United States.

Moreover, students hear from CPIA faculty who have won Fulbrights. These included Dr. Yanmin Yu (Professor, Chair for Mass Communication and Global Media and Communication Studies), Dr. Wei (Associate Professor, East Asian and Pacific Rim Studies Chair, International Political Economy and Diplomacy) and Dean of College of Public and International Affairs Dr. Thomas J. Ward who are all Fulbrighters. CPIA faculty member Dr. Mohammed Al-Azdee (Assistant Professor of Mass Communications) is also a Fulbrighter.

They described the application process and answered questions based on their experience of applying from the United States. Students were encouraged to contact the CPIA office if they are interested in pursuing a Fulbright opportunity.
Companies UB CPIA Alumni work at:

Ministry of Social Affairs in Mongolia
Ministry of Justice in Colombia
United Nations Secretariat
United Nations Development Program
Council of Europe
Ministry of Trade in Turkey
MAXIMUS
CBS Television Distribution
Bank of Hubei
Teach for America
CLNS Radio
Parliament of Morocco
Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Serbia
Braincast
Verde Energy USA
Winkelvos
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Internal Revenue Service
US Department of State
Ministry of Child Services
Turkish American Chamber of Commerce & Industries
US Passport Agency
Machro Tech LLC
Dateline Media
New York Women in Film & TV
ESPN
Dentsu
TD Banks
UnitedHealthcare
The Princeton review
Sony Music Entertainment
Phoenix Business Marketing Assoc.
Software Group BG Ltd
Colangelo Synergy Marketing
Ehrenkranz Partners LP
Hamilton Connections, INC.
Frontier Communications
Davenport Image
NBA
Cengage Learning
NBC Universal
Bank of Brazil
Shanghai English Language Television
IICONN
Price Waterhouse Coopers
Solar Panel
CampusBeast
VCA
Sikorsky Aircraft
ISA
Indus Valley School of Learning
Survey Sampling Int'l
Graduate Programs Where UB CPIA Alumni Have Been Accepted Into

American University
Columbia University
Cornell University
Drexel Medical School
Georgetown University
Harvard University
Johns Hopkins University
Kennesaw State University
London School of Economics
Sacred Heart University
Sofia University, Bulgaria
Sophia University, Japan
The New School
University of Kentucky
University of Amsterdam
University of California, Hastings
University of Connecticut
University of London SOAS
University of New Haven
University of Oxford
University of Pittsburgh