

Thought for the week: "Great truth wants to be criticized, not idolized."
-- Friedrich Nietzsche

The department wishes everyone good luck on their final exams as well as a happy and safe holiday season.

Articles & Achievements

Shareen Hertel's book, tentatively titled *Bridging the Human Rights Divide*, has been accepted for publication by Cornell University Press, which wants to publish it next fall. The book explores the dynamics of negotiation in transnational advocacy, focusing on the under-explored role of activists on the "receiving-end" of cross-border campaigns and their role in re-interpreting basic human rights norms. It identifies two new mechanisms – "blocking" and "backdoor moves" – that enable "receiving-end" activists to challenge dominant interpretations of human rights. Empirically, the book develops two qualitative, comparative case studies (i.e., one of a campaign to prevent child labor in Bangladesh; the other, of campaigns to prevent discrimination against pregnant workers in Mexico) which draw on original field research as well as in-depth archival and secondary source materials.

Natalie Florea Hudson's article "En-Gendering UN Peace-keeping Operations," appeared in the Summer 2005 issue of *International Journal*, published by the Canadian Institute of International Affairs.

Jennifer Sterling-Folker



Professor Shareen Hertel

served as discussant for the ISA-NE Scholars Circle, which focused on the book manuscript *Seductions of Empire* by Anna Agathangelou and Lily Ling at the recent International Studies Association-Northeast Annual Conference held in Philadelphia. Also, Jennifer was Chair and discussant for a panel titled "Constructing Ethics in IR Theory."

Jeff Lefebvre served as chair and discussant for panel titled "Turkey and the EU" at the ISA-Northeast conference in Philadelphia. Jeff also presented a paper titled "Turkey, Syria and Iran: From Adversaries to Allies."

Andy Pieper presented a paper in Philadelphia titled "Holier Than Thou: Religion, Intellectuals, and the American Left."

Lin Li presented a paper "Foreign Policy, Identity, and National Interest: Explaining China's Determined Stance on the Taiwan Issue" at the ISA-Northeast Conference.

Scott Creamer presented a paper titled "Explaining Slow

Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa: An Aggregate Study" in Philadelphia.

Ivo Kotzev presented a paper titled "Engineering Electoral Laws at the Roundtable Talks in Eastern Europe: Elite Bargaining Games with Imperfect Information" at the ISA-Northeast.

Josh Stapel presented a paper titled "Constraining Structures: Germany, European Monetary Union, and Social Constructivism" in Philadelphia.

Laura Janik presented a paper at the ISA-Northeast titled "Wishful Thinking or Real Success? The Effects of Democratization Upon Societal Health."

Announcements Tuesday, December 6

The PSGSA Professional Development series is sponsoring a talk by Jennifer Sterling-Folker at noon in Monteith.

Friday, December 9

Graduate students are asked to meet with Professors Clifford and Reiter at noon in HRM 119 to discuss the graduate program.

Thursday, December 15

The department is holding its annual holiday party from 3 - 5 PM in Husky Heritage Sports Museum in the Alumni House. Please RSVP via email to Jennifer Fontanella at jennifer.fontanella@uconn.edu.

Undergrads Represent Dept at Conference on US Affairs

Every year the Department selects two student representatives to attend the Student Conference on US Affairs (SCUSA) held at the US Military Academy at West Point in November. SCUSA brings together more than 250 outstanding students from around the world to discuss major issues and formulate proposals for American foreign policy. Delegates serve on regional and theme roundtables, discuss and evaluate foreign policy options and strategies, and produce a policy proposal report that is posted online. The selection of student representatives is based on records of outstanding academic achievement and demonstrated interest in and commitment to international relations. This year's student representatives were **Suzanne Roosen** and **Jennifer Callahan**.

Suzanne is an honors student who intends to pursue her combined interest in IR and public administration in graduate school.



Undergraduates Suzanne Roosen (left) and Jennifer Callahan (right) recently attended the SCUSA Conference.

She speaks four foreign languages (German, French, Spanish and Polish) and is also comptroller of the Undergraduate Student Government. Jennifer is an honors student with a Spanish minor. She is writing an honors thesis on genocide in Africa and intends to focus on international law in law school.

Both said that the conference was an amazing experience and involved a mix of professional policy-makers, students, and academics.

Suzanne served on the "Central and Eastern Europe" roundtable, and observed that "staying in the barracks really helped you appreciate the sacrifices cadets make." Jennifer served on the "Africa in Crisis" roundtable and noted that four students came from Africa in order to attend. The conference gave them the opportunity to make meet students from other universities and to explore the complexities of American foreign making.

Upcoming Events for Graduate Students

On Tuesday, **December 6** at noon, the PSGSA is sponsoring the second in a series of Professional Development Colloquia. The topic will be Conference Presentations, where the focus will be on strategies of writing, preparing, and presenting material. Jennifer

Sterling-Folker will address the grad students. Lunch will be provided. The event is open to all graduate students and will last approximately one hour.

In addition, on Friday, **December 9**, there will be a meeting of graduate students with

Professors Reiter and Clifford at 12:00 PM in HRM 119. A catered lunch will be served. The meeting will be without a specific agenda. It is an opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions about how to improve the graduate program.

2005-2006 Political Science Colloquia Calendar

Day/Date	Time	Location	Speaker (affiliation), Title [Outside Event Sponsor, if applicable]
TBA	TBA	TBA	Charles Epp (University of Kansas), TBA
TBA	TBA	TBA	Scott de Marchi (Duke University), TBA
TBA	TBA	TBA	Louis Masicotte, (University of Montreal), TBA