



# INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

## Survey Feedback from students and alumni

We continue to do an annual survey of both students and alums (please join our conversation - link below!) and we always find interesting views and new ideas.

By way of brief summary, study abroad remains the most mentioned 'most valuable' experience, though it's good to see that both the new Capstone and Career workshop were also seen as valuable. In terms of concepts students believed they learned, globalization and an interdisciplinary approach were commonly discussed.

One question to seniors is what advice they would offer new students. In the past, these have felt a bit gloomy as they exhorted their colleagues to not get 'too depressed' by the state of the world but this year, the tone was more practical. The thought of one student is particularly apt: 'Don't look at each class as isolated. Remember what you learn and carry it with you as you progress because the major will help you see that everything is connected.'



issue #3

Survey Summary

IS and Career Development

Program Update

HSU's new Strategy

Alumni Corner

## International Studies Helps Lead Campus Effort on Career Development Coursework

***Last year, we reported that we have been developing a Career Workshop specifically for International Studies majors. We are now helping lead our College in a wider effort.***

Approximately three years ago, International Studies identified a need amongst majors for advice and guidance in terms of how to begin their international career search. In response, IS partnered with Sociology and the Career Center to pilot a one unit, 7-week, career workshop.

The next step was an IS-specific workshop where students create not only a basic portfolio of a resume/cover letter, but explore options, learn about the job search and brainstorm networking strategies. We also conduct mock interviews that enable students to practice what they have learned. Essentially, a chance for students connect their time at HSU with a plan for life beyond.

While successful in terms of the students who took the class, it did highlight the fact that the senior year was often too late for the types of jobs and careers of interest to International Studies students.

This realization led to the creation of career assignments for both the Introduction to International Studies and, as the new INTL Capstone came on line, for seniors who hadn't taken the Career Workshop.

As International Studies continued to partner with the Career Center and to build its own curriculum, Dean Ayoob and the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences also began to look at this area and IS was asked to join that effort.

The seven person committee is now working on creating modules appropriate to different academic levels. These are then put on a website hosted by the Career Center so faculty across the College and the university can access and use them as relevant to their classes as well as add their own ideas.

The hope is that all students will have the benefit of this collective effort and the opportunity to think about how their major connects to their aspirations earlier in their academic careers. Don't forget, as alums, you can also continue to access career help! <http://www2.humboldt.edu/acac/>

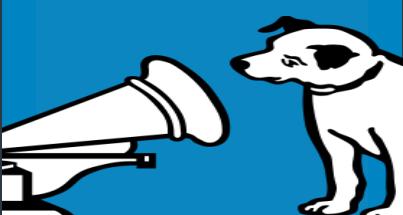
# New President New Strategy

As the main focus of her first year, President Lisa Rossbacher has been working on a herculean task of creating a new strategy for the university's second century. The process was led by three task forces: 1) increasing student success and academic excellence; 2) ensuring resources to fulfill HSU's mission; and, 3) supporting an inclusive & diverse community.

Drawn from across campus, these groups were overseen by the Strategy Steering Committee led by President Rossbacher and Prof Noah Zerbe, President of the Academic Senate.

The Task Forces consulted both on campus and widely in the community, while faculty and staff were invited to 'World cafes' consultation events, meetings and individual sessions with task force members. The process was rewarded with a unanimous vote at the Senate's final meeting of the year - just in time delivery!

If you would like to read the full document go to:  
[humboldt.edu/strategicplan/](http://humboldt.edu/strategicplan/)



**We're listening!  
Use link below.**

## Program Leader's Update for 2014/2015

There are four things to report in terms of the Program over this past year.

First, we have held fairly steady in terms of the size at around 110 majors (this places us in roughly the same territory as the traditional majors of History and Politics, and a bit larger than Environmental Studies, a new Program at HSU that is similarly interdisciplinary).

Second, we have continued to work to ensure that IS will no longer be a single Option under Interdisciplinary Studies, but a free-standing major.

To date, this has been approved on campus and is now sitting in the office of the Chancellor, but we are hopeful this will be done early next year.

Third, we have decided to create an International Studies Critical Thinking class to satisfy the General Education requirement. However, unlike many of the current critical thinking classes, this class will focus on practical (critical) skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening rather than formal logic. We are also basing it on the globalization and the three 'drivers' of our Program: economics, politics and culture. We are hoping that this class will not only make a useful contribution to the offerings in this area for the campus as a whole, but will also be a way to recruit majors earlier in their



career at HSU so they have more time to organize their study abroad.

Fourth, and as indicated on the flip side, International Studies has been working on our career curriculum and moved the career workshop from a pilot course to one with a permanent number so we could include it as an elective in all of our Concentrations and count it towards the major.

As part of that work, we have started to talk with other, similarly small, majors such as Religious Studies and Native American Studies in the hope we can work together and offer this kind of content to Programs that might not be able to support this type of course on their own.

In the coming year we have two main goals. The first is to simplify and settle the 2013 changes made to the curriculum by adding more elective options in some of the Concentrations and the second is to work on communication with students and alums through Facebook and LinkedIn (please join us on those platforms!).

As usual, we are doing a survey so please follow the link below or visit our website. Alternatively, you are always welcome to send your thoughts directly to me:  
[alison.holmes@humboldt.edu](mailto:alison.holmes@humboldt.edu)

### Alumni Corner

**Jared Birnbaum (2014)** has completed his first year at Fresno State and will finish with a Master's Communication and Linguistics as well as a TEFL certification.

**Owen Jacob Krebs-Grimsich (2013)** is now in Mozambique with the Peace Corps working on HIV Education/Prevention.

**Brooke Rane (2012)** will begin the University of Oregon's Master's Program in German with a teaching fellowship this coming Fall.

**Gabriela Girona (2010)** is attending law school at Syracuse University and, now that the state has legalized equal marriage, is engaged. Her educational goal is a Juris Doctor combined with a Master's in international relations.

**Benjamin Ebert (2003)** is now married, a father of two, and runs a local investment and tax firm, Ebert Capital Management, in Arcata.

Thank you for these updates and please add more via our webpage:  
[humboldt.edu/internationalstudies/](http://humboldt.edu/internationalstudies/)