



INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Tenure Track Post for International Studies

As part of HSU's commitment to the International Studies (IS) Program, a tenure track position was created last year. It was Dean Ken Ayoob's view that, as the Program grew, it increasingly needed a faculty anchor and he gave his full support to the request.

The search received hundreds of applications, 3 candidates were brought to campus, and the post awarded in March.

Dr. Alison Holmes, the current Program Leader, will become the first Assistant Professor for International Studies with a joint appointment in Politics this Fall. This also means that the 'home' of the IS Program will follow the post to Politics. Feel free to email at any time:

Alison.Holmes@humboldt.edu



issue #2

Program Update

New Tenure Track Post

Career Workshop for IS Majors

Alumni Corner & Survey Results

International Studies Continues to Develop: Next Step - Freestanding Major

At the end of the first year of the consolidated program, the Program has applied for, and received approval to proceed towards a separate major - rather than remaining an option within Interdisciplinary Studies.

Humboldt State University's centennial year was also the first year of the International Studies Program under the consolidated requirements (announced in last year's newsletter). For students, this has meant an expanded core, a minimum grade of C- in their major classes, a new requirement to return to HSU campus after study abroad and a new senior Capstone class.

Perhaps the biggest change was a reduction in the number of Concentrations from 9 to 5. The Program faculty felt that Concentrations should enable students to pursue either a regional interest or an issue and thus take advantage of campus expertise or pursue a specific topic. Some previously popular areas were discontinued, but the consensus was that, by expanding the core, we had covered the 'drivers' of globalization, namely politics, economics and culture.

The current list of Concentrations covers 3 regions/locations and 2 issues: China, Latin America, and Europe, plus Global Culture and Third World Development.

The Program will be tracking these changes carefully in terms of their popularity and in terms of student success and progress towards graduation. So far, the indications are that the major continues to be attractive both to incoming Freshmen and to transfer students and that the study abroad and language components are particularly important to our students.

In terms of next steps, the Program is now working on creating a separate major given that, currently, International Studies is an Option within Interdisciplinary Studies. We are hoping that, by going through the process of getting onto both the Academic Master Plan for the CSU and the HSU Master Plan, we will soon be able to graduate students entirely under the International Studies banner. It will be another step in the development of our Program and a tribute to the enthusiasm of our students.

Student & Alumni Survey Results

The IS Program has now done 2 surveys of students and 1 of alumni. In the student surveys we have focused on issues that might impede students and asked what we can do to make their HSU experience easier.

The alumni survey did not have a particularly strong response - but thanks to those who did; we hope more of you will have time to use the link below! Further, the student response rate fell, but the responders came from a wider base and answered more questions, with the result that the outcome was very similar.

Our 'take away' from both is the consistent support and concern for study abroad. Students are drawn to IS by a desire to study elsewhere, but limited by their finances. Alums are convinced of its value, but worried about future access.

Please see the alumni letter for more information about our plans to respond to this issue.



You out there?

Please use link below for our alumni survey!

International Studies & Career Planning

Most students in the International Studies Program would agree that the question of what kind of job to pursue after college is one of the biggest issues they face. Armed with that feedback, the IS Program has been working across the curriculum, with other departments and the Career Center, and with our students to create a number of ways to explore their options after HSU.

For example, in our introductory class for International Studies, students are asked to create a 'RIP' file and basic portfolio. While the idea behind this may be old-fashioned (it's named for the way we used to 'rip' job ads from publications) students rarely anticipate how daunting an internet job search can be, nor have they done research on the best portals and sites for the jobs they are looking for.

We try to help students create internet search strategies and a basic resume - both for their job search while they are here, but also with a view to creating a 'resume narrative' that will make them more attractive after college.

We have partnered with Politics to create an in-depth workshop, building on these basic skills, while adding interviewing, follow up and networking.



Finally, with the Sociology Department and Career Center, IS has created a 1 unit course where students redraft/revise basic portfolio materials as well as create a networking tracker and do mock interviews. These are also filmed so they can watch themselves over and over (if they can bear it).

The new Capstone course is also designed to do some of these career activities, but according to both the student survey and those who took the pilot workshop, the senior year was far too late. We are working to ensure that the career workshop will continue to be offered.

One further initiative that has also proved to be popular is an annual employer panel with local (and some not so local) speakers, willing to be candid with students on questions such as how the panelists got their job, what they look for in applicants as employers, and what advice they would give to graduating students.

We have been very fortunate in that various HSU alums are willing to participate - though we would be thrilled if we could have more IS folks! Please email us if you would be willing to serve on one of these panels: internationalstudies@humboldt.edu

Alumni Corner

Erika Bruno graduated from HSU in 2013 with a Concentration in Latin America. She did her study abroad with the HSU Quito Ecuador program and, since October 2013, has been using her degree to work in a bilingual elementary school in Valverde del Camino, Spain with a population of about 13,000.



She expects to continue to do this - at least for a while - but also plans to take the 'DELE exam' which grants a Diploma in Spanish as a Foreign Language.

After that, she is not sure what she wants to do, but feels sure any job is likely to be overseas for the foreseeable future.