Each year, Brown University undergraduates in the international relations (IR) and development studies (DS) concentrations conduct research into the global issues defining our times. From the struggles of undocumented immigrants in Rhode Island to the influence of Sesame Street in Egypt – from underdevelopment and insecurity to the policies needed for a more equitable and peaceful world – a wide range of subjects come under students’ scrutiny as they write honors theses, do field work on international fellowships, and act as research assistants to Institute faculty members.

The IR program in fact represents one of the largest academic concentrations at Brown, graduating 120 to 160 seniors each year. Another 30 graduate in development studies (see page 21). Both programs are located within the Watson Institute and draw on its faculty and visiting scholars from around the world.

The IR concentration is a rigorous and comprehensive program that maximizes student choice with cross-disciplinary training and strong international skills. The objective is to foster creative thinking about pressing global problems and equip students with the analytic tools, language expertise, and cross-cultural understanding to guide them in that process.

The concentration draws on numerous departments including anthropology, political science, economics, and others, as it also incorporates courses from the humanities and requires three years of language training. The IR concentration is organized around a multidisciplinary core and the subthemes of global security, economy, and culture and identity. In its honors program, students undertake graduate-level thesis research on an international topic.

This year’s IR honors program produced research in such areas as US-Russia relations, human trafficking, and Palestinian statehood (see page 18). In the DS concentration, which is one of the few on campus to require a thesis of every student, issues analyzed ranged from foreign aid policies to land management.

As testament to its training, the IR honors program this year produced its fourth Fulbright fellow in just three years (see page 19). Jonathan E. Hillman ’09 summarized his IR honors experience, saying: “It’s a great opportunity for people who want to do research, who want to work closely with professors.”

Recent graduates have also published articles in peer-reviewed academic journals this year. Among them: “Environment as ‘High Politics’? Explaining Divergence in US and EU Hazardous Waste Export Policies,” co-authored by Kelly Dreher ’08 and her advisor, Institute Assistant Professor Simone Pulver, in Review of European Community and International Environmental Law, and
Continued from preceding page

“So These Folks are Aggressive”: an Orientalist Reading of “Afghan Warlords,”” by Keith Stanski ’04, in Security Dialogue.

IR and DS students are often scholar-activists, their work supported by various Institute-managed internships (see page 20) and Brown fellowships. For instance, under Brown’s new International Scholars Program, including international field work, IR concentrator Lisa Gomi ’10 will research the privatization of Japanese prisons; DS concentrator Patrick Martin-Tuite ’10 will study the debate over male circumcision as a public health tool to prevent HIV contraction in South Africa; and DS concentrator Kona Shen ’10 will design and pilot a Haitian-Dominican reconciliation project to help resolve current tensions on the island of Hispaniola.

This past year, under a Brown Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award (UTRA), Institute Associate Professor Keith Brown has been working with students both in the field and on campus on the impact of civil society programs in Macedonia, with DS concentrator Alison Fairbrother ’09 editing a video of his findings. Some 50 undergrads have been working at Watson over the course of the year as research assistants, translators, editors, and in other capacities.

Some of the students have also garnered high-profile awards outside of academia for their international efforts. This academic year, DS concentrator Emma Clippinger ’09 shared the grand prize in the Youth Social Entrepreneur competition, co-founded by Ashoka and the Staples Foundation for Learning, for co-founding Gardens for Health International for HIV/AIDS-positive people in Rwanda.

The IR concentration is directed by Institute Associate Professor Peter Andreas.

Research at All Levels

Beyond the undergraduate level, the Institute fosters research as follows:

- By providing multidisciplinary training, the Graduate Program in Development aims to create a new generation of scholars with the intellectual breadth and necessary range of research skills. Doctoral students in the program come from various Brown departments for training and field experience. Thirteen fellows have received support for fieldwork this summer.

- A summer institute on “Law, Social Thought, and Global Governance” and another on “Development and Inequality in the Global South” will be hosted at Watson, under the Brown International Advanced Research Institutes program, sponsored by Banco Santander. The institutes bring young scholars from around the world to Brown.

- This fall, the Watson International Scholars of the Environment program will bring eight African academics and practitioners for mid-career environmental training.

See pages 18-21 for ’09 student honors, internships, and more.
Barack Obama has added a new word to the American dictionary: “dialogue,” agreed Ricardo Lagos and Romano Prodi at a panel hosted by the Institute in April. In addition to sharing perspectives on the new US president, the former president of Chile and former prime minister of Italy reevaluated the role of the US in today’s context of global interdependence.

Obama’s emphasis on dialogue will be crucial to solving the global economic crisis, said the statesmen, both of whom are Brown professors at large. While many used to believe the US alone could solve the world’s problems, “That philosophy is over,” Lagos said. “The US can’t do it alone.”

“Getting out of the crisis... depends on the growing demand of developing countries,” Prodi agreed. Locating the root of the crisis in American overconsumption, he suggested that China and other “new players” will spur recovery.

During the semester, the two world leaders lectured together and separately, with Prodi addressing Europe’s role in the world on one occasion and Italy’s priorities, politics, and prospects on another – and with Lagos speaking on climate change and on Latin America’s fate in the global economic crisis. Prodi held smaller sessions with students on such subjects as the euro and peacekeeping in Africa, as Lagos has done during previous semesters.

Prodi and Lagos also spoke in the community, with Lagos, for example, addressing the Providence Committee on Foreign Relations on Latin American politics. They will be back in residence in the fall.

**Austrian Chancellor on Campus**

“If the US and Europe are not ready to share power, then why should other countries in the world contribute to solutions of problems that the US and Europe created?” Such is the perspective former Austrian Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer has brought to campus as a new professor at the Institute.

One of his introductory lectures at Watson, on the emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICSA conference, see page 22), proposed the rethinking of development strategies as promoted by the West, in addressing the global economic crisis. These countries will reject “a new, ‘Washington II Consensus,’” he said. “Their coordination in the solution of the crisis will be a prerequisite.”

Gusenbauer also engaged with students this semester, in a study group on trans-Atlantic and EU-Russia relations and in a talk with the International Relations Departmental Undergraduate Group on immigration policy, among other activities. He is in residence during most months of the year.
Virtual JFK Wins Golden Palm

The Mexico International Film Festival is bestowing a Golden Palm award for documentary filmmaking this month to Virtual JFK: Vietnam If Kennedy Had Lived.

At the heart of documentary lies the fundamental question: Does it matter who is president on issues of war and peace? It is directed by Visiting Fellow Koji Masutani ’05 and produced by Institute Professor James G. Blight, Adjunct Professor Janet M. Lang, Waterloo University’s David A. Welch, and Peter O. Almond.

In the year since the film premiered at Toronto’s Hot Docs festival in 2008, where it was a finalist for special jury prize and best international feature documentary, Virtual JFK has been officially selected at the Bergen and Fort Lauderdale International Film Festivals and the London International Documentary Festival.

The film has been released theatrically in over 30 cities across North America and in Prague. Reviewers have included film critics in the New York Magazine, Los Angeles Times, Toronto Star, Huffington Post, and Hollywood Reporter, which called it “a compelling history lesson that offers an insightful primer on the Kennedy presidency even while proving sadly germane to our current times.”

Virtual JFK’s DVD release will take place in the coming months.

Kim Koo Library Dedicated

Han Duk-soo, Korea’s new ambassador to the United States, figured among the dignitaries on hand to celebrate the recent dedication of the Institute’s library to Kim Koo (1876-1949), who was premier of the Korean Provisional Government in exile, which led the Korean independence movement of 1910 to 1945. A much revered national figure to this day, Kim also devoted himself to the cause of the peaceful unification of South and North Korea.

The Kim Koo Library was named through a gift from the Kim Koo Foundation. The event, at which a bust of Kim Koo was unveiled, recognized the generosity of Dr. and Mrs. Ho Youn Kim P’08 and the Kim Koo Foundation.

Han praised the foundation’s sponsorship of educational and cultural activities supporting students and researchers interested in Korea and in Kim Koo, whom he called a national leader in modern Korean history. Han also spoke of the importance of normalizing relations between North and South Korea, “in the spirit of Kim Koo’s vision.”
Chicago Ward Pilots Participatory Budgeting

On April 29, Institute Associate Professor Gianpaolo Baiocchi traveled to Chicago to kick-start an experiment in democracy. Chicago’s 49th Ward is vying to become the first community in the US to use participatory budgeting to allocate its municipal resources. Alderman Joe Moore of the 49th Ward asked Baiocchi and his colleagues to train the community in participatory budgeting, a process in which residents design and implement a democratic system to allocate the ward’s budget.

It is estimated that over 200 municipalities and public institutions in Latin America, Asia, Africa, North America, and Europe have initiated participatory budgeting. The municipality of Porto Alegre, Brazil, developed the best-known participatory budgeting process, beginning in 1989. Baiocchi’s book, Militants and Citizens: The Politics of Participatory Democracy in Porto Alegre (Stanford University Press, 2005), captures the lessons learned from the Brazilian municipality.

These were the lessons that formed the basis of discussion as Baiocchi and his team addressed residents of Chicago’s 49th Ward. Joined by Josh Lerner, from Fordham University, and Karen Dolan, of the Institute for Policy Studies, Baiocchi spoke about the potential for participatory budgeting, explaining that the process could create reflective, relevant local governance that is directly managed and prioritized by community residents. This is a particularly relevant experiment, the team said, as federal, state, and local officials battle nationwide over federal stimulus allocations.

The first of several workshops included 40 representatives of community organizations providing education, healthcare, and other essential services. These representatives are part of a steering committee that will be tasked with creating outlets for the community-at-large to participate in the process.

Over the next year, residents will work on designing a community-specific model that apportions the ward’s FY2010 budget, which is estimated to be $1.3 million. The community will receive support from the alderman and his staff, as well as Baiocchi’s participatory budgeting team, which will monitor and coordinate each step of the process.

By Watson Institute Student Rapporteur Alison Fairbrother ’09

Inside Democracy

Associate Professor Keith Brown continues to assess the process of democratization in two reports recently published by the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research.

In “Do We Know How Yet? Insider Perspectives in International Democracy Promotion in the Western Balkans,” Brown gives a nod to the 1973 book, We Don’t Know How, which challenged alleged successes in US foreign aid. He proposes an alternative to the quantitative metrics of success that US agencies apply to democracy building: “taking the time to recognize the underexamined politics of evaluation, the overlooked perspectives of insiders, and the misunderstood keywords of local life.”

In “Evaluating US Democracy Promotion in the Balkans: Ironies, Inconsistencies, and Unexamined Influences,” Brown follows up with an examination of the methodologies and contents of USAID-funded evaluations of civil society, finding them “flawed by organizational interests and a lack of both resources and long-term perspectives.”
The Watson Institute has been redoubling its research along a defining line of inquiry – into the threat of nuclear weapons. Thomas J. Watson Jr. ’37 first gathered policymakers and scholars at Brown to look into the matter in the early 1980s. As past ambassador to the Soviet Union, he saw a clear threat of nuclear war. The modern nuclear threat has many more dimensions now under study at the Institute, within such projects as Nuclear Dilemmas in the 21st Century.

DARE Meetings: ‘Getting to Zero’

After a decade in which national security policy has been dominated by the threat of terrorism, the goal of nuclear disarmament is once again seeing renewed interest.

At the beginning of 2009, the Dialogue among Americans, Russians and Europeans (DARE) project held a small meeting of experts on the issue in Milan and co-led a 100-participant “winter school” at the International School on Disarmament and Research on Conflicts (ISODARCO) in Andalo, Italy.

Organized by Institute Visiting Fellow Catherine Kelleher and Cornell University Professor Judith Reppy, the events together drew participants from all nuclear weapons states – declared and undeclared – into a discussion of the new momentum toward “getting to zero” nuclear weapons. “Throughout, Americans, Europeans, and Russians debated intensively with substantial disagreement regarding the feasibility of the policy, but were able to cooperate in the conceptual exercises about its policy implications,” the organizers reported.

Issues emerging from the meetings included:

- US nuclear policy’s backseat to other pressing domestic and foreign policy issues;
- Russia’s continuing mistrust toward America;
- A split among European countries over the way forward, with former Soviet Bloc members, in particular, arguing that nuclear weapons provide better international stability;
- The important but immense challenge of including non-declared nuclear states in the denuclearization dialogue – especially Iran, India, Pakistan, and Israel;
- The worry that nuclear material or weapons may fall into the hands of terrorist groups; and
- The enormous complication of verification measures.

Proposed next steps included negotiations between Russia and the United States; renewing or replacing the START Treaty, which expires this year; an international summit on the abolition of nuclear weapons; a moratorium on the production of nuclear weapons; and mobilization of public awareness of the danger and immorality of the possession of nuclear weapons.

Debating Nukes on Campus

The Nuclear Dilemmas in the 21st Century lecture and film series this year explored various facets of the nuclear debate. Engagement, monitoring, and other policy options for dealing with Iran’s growing nuclear capacity were weighed in a talk by Mark Fitzpatrick, a senior fellow for nonproliferation at the International Institute for Strategic Studies. A panel concluded that the world is headed toward an arms race in space and called for an international “code of conduct” to begin reversing the trend. Such films as The Atomic Café were analyzed for implications then and now. More information about the project is available in the Research section of the Institute’s website.
Nuclear Taboo Wins Lepgold Prize

Georgetown University has awarded Watson Institute Associate Professor Nina Tannenwald its prestigious Lepgold Book Prize for her work, The Nuclear Taboo: The United States and the Non-Use of Nuclear Weapons since 1945 (Cambridge University Press, December 2007). The prize honors exceptional contributions to the study of international relations.

In awarding the prize, Andrew Bennett, professor of government at Georgetown, described Tannenwald’s book as having an “A+ question, A+ methods, and an A+ answer.”

In The Nuclear Taboo, Tannenwald delivers new research explaining how use of the military’s “ultimate weapons” has been averted for over 60 years.

She argues that a nuclear taboo has played a critical role in inducing restraint when US leaders decided against using such weapons in the Korean War, Vietnam War, and Gulf War of 1991. This widespread inhibition among policymakers toward nuclear weapons has been cultivated over time by antinuclear activism, public opinion, and moral leadership. It has reinforced and sometimes eclipsed the often cited rationale of deterrence due to fear of retaliation.

During the award ceremony last month, Tannenwald urged policymakers to “reduce the role of nuclear weapons in security policies, minimize the value of possessing them, and avoid developments that blur the line between nuclear and conventional weapons, such as so-called mini-nukes.” A declared “no-first-use” policy and US ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty would be important steps in this direction.

Tannenwald also argued that “nuclear restraint cannot be based solely on the wise judgment of political leaders but has to be built into institutions themselves.” She urged “the creation of government bureaucracies mandated with an institutional interest in arms restraint.” She also called for democratizing domestic policymaking on nuclear weapons, both in the United States and elsewhere, “an issue relevant to internalizing the taboo.” This would include support for civilian nuclear analysts, arms control groups, and other groups in civil society, as well as public education on nuclear weapons.

“The non-use of nuclear weapons since 1945 remains the single most important phenomenon of the nuclear age,” Tannenwald says in her book. “Yet this global restraint could erode in light of new technologies, threats, and arguments that would re-legitimize nuclear attacks.”

The award is given in memory of Joseph S. Lepgold, a Georgetown University professor who died in a fire in December 2001. Past winners have included such leading international relations theorists as Harvard University’s Samantha Power and Chicago University’s John Mearsheimer.

Choices Brings Nuclear Issues to High Schools

Twenty teachers from across the country will participate in the Choices Program’s summer institute in July on “Living in a Nuclear Age: Facing the Challenges.” They will hear from leading scholars in the fields of foreign policy and national security on topics including nonproliferation, nuclear terrorism, policies toward states at risk, and US nuclear policy and its global implications. The institute is designed around Choices’ curriculum unit on The Challenge of Nuclear Weapons and such online resources as its lesson plan on “The US and Iran: Confronting Policy Alternatives.”

Choices works with secondary school teachers to bring university-level research and innovative learning tools into classrooms across the country, as it helps empower young people to be engaged citizens capable of addressing international issues.
**Cultural Warriors**

**Surveys Human Terrain**

*Cultural Warriors*, a film now in production at the Institute, will be screened as one of the forums taking place during this year’s commencement weekend.

*Cultural Warriors* began as an investigation into controversial new programs to enlist American social scientists in the war efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq. It ended up a different story after Michael Bhatia ’99, a former visiting fellow and collaborator on the film, was killed in Afghanistan in May 2008, the first casualty of the US Army’s Human Terrain System.

After hi-tech, low-casualty interventions in Kosovo and Bosnia, quick victories were predicted in Afghanistan and Iraq. But after winning initial battles, the US began to lose a much bloodier war against militia, insurgents, and jihadists. Cultural awareness programs, including the Human Terrain System, were launched as part of an innovative counterinsurgency strategy. Anthropologists, political scientists, historians, and other academics were brought in to help produce “culturally sensitive” soldiers and Marines who might win over the hearts and minds of Iraqis and Afghans.

*Cultural Warriors* presents all sides of the controversy that ensued. Embedding with Marines in the Mojave Desert as they engage in cultural awareness exercises in mock Iraqi towns, gaining rare access to training exercises at Quantico, Virginia, and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and interviewing the top architects as well as the leading critics of the Human Terrain System, filmmakers Professor James Der Derian, David Udris ’90, and Michael Udris ’91 track how efforts to transform modern warfare produce tragic and often unintended effects within the armed services, across the university, and on the battlefield. When a roadside bomb kills Michael Bhatia, the war comes home, and friends, family, and colleagues seek to find meaning in his death.

The film is being screened on Saturday, May 23, at 9:30 am in the Salomon Center on campus.

**AAA Panel Examines Conflict**

A special commission of the American Anthropological Association (AAA) met at the Watson Institute in February as part of its ongoing analysis of the implications of social scientists’ work with the military.

A public panel on the subject, part of the two-day gathering, aired opinions on various sides of the debate. The *Chronicle of Higher Education* summarized the discussion by quoting Institute Professor Catherine Lutz and Interim Director David Kennedy ’76.

“We’re not simply helping the state when we take military funding. We are in fact restructuring and reshaping our discipline as an accessory to various kinds of state projects,” said Lutz. Kennedy, however, urged scholars not to categorically reject collaborations with the Pentagon, noting the roles played by military personnel themselves in exposing abuses at the Abu Ghraib prison and in other recent scandals.
Observing Real and Virtual War

A recent panel paired what Open Source internet radio host Christopher Lydon called “two fresh angles on the USA as military colossus. … One is about our military real estate: 900-plus US military bases around the world. The other is about the cultural process of war: the technology, media, narrative story line, TV, and computer graphics of military power in the 21st century.”

Lydon, a visiting fellow, moderated the panel featuring Professor Catherine Lutz, author of The Bases of Empire: The Global Struggle against US Military Posts (read an excerpt on page 14), and Professor James Der Derian, author of Virtuous War: Mapping the Military-Industrial-Media-Entertainment Network (read an excerpt on page 12).

Bases of Empire, Lutz said, “describes the base system and some of the cultural ideas that the base system depends on: ideas about the world being a dangerous place in which these bases serve to contain or control – the belief that the United States is out in this forward position around the world in a version of a ‘gift’ economy, giving security gifts to the countries in which the bases are located. To some degree that interpretation has some validity but in another whole series of ways, in fact, just the opposite might be the case.”

To illustrate, she said, “The joke on Guam all through the Cold War was: ‘Nobody really knows where Guam is except nuclear targeters in the Kremlin.’ That would be one example of a kind of insecurity that’s generated by the US military presence.”

In Virtuous War, Der Derian said, “I am clearly cribbing from the farewell address of past President Eisenhower who warned about a ‘military-industrial complex,’ and I see a new amalgamation where media and entertainment become very powerful actors in why we go to war, how we represent war, and how we fight wars.”

The term “virtuous war,” he said, is “a felicitous oxymoron: the tension between the idea of war which is bloody and dirty, and the whole idea in the virtuous that you can do good through something so blunt as warfare. Part of it comes out of the humanitarian intervention systems. … You see it coming together, the virtual and the virtuous, both in doctrine and technology. The idea that what we can do should determine what we should do is part of the notion of ‘virtuous.’”

He added: “At one time the words ‘virtual’ and ‘virtuous’ were synonymous. … They always contained this idea of producing an effect at a distance, which technology can do; but it was about producing a good effect.”

A podcast of the panel is available at www.radioopensource.org.
Critical Practices in International Theory: Selected Essays (Routledge, 2009), by Professor James Der Derian

“… I have sought, by pairing practice with theory, to move beyond the scholastic debates and intra-disciplinary squabbles that seem to have a life of their own in International Relations. … At some point – probably the same one that Foucault identifies, where each new form of resistance produces a new form of power – I decided to leave the theory wars behind, so as to shift my focus to what I considered the critical issues of global politics.

In my most recent writings I turn to new threats and vulnerabilities that defy mainstream theoretical approaches as well as traditional modes of governance. With the fixities of boundaries and identities threatened by increased flows of information and capital, pollutants and drugs, viruses and weapons, after a ‘global war on terrorism’ becomes the primary security issue of the most powerful state in the international order, and when global media is not simply a conveyor or catalyst of change but a powerful actor, a central modality, and the main battlefield of global politics, I think it is time for International Relations to retool.

Post-Cold War, post-9/11, we have witnessed the emergence of competing sources and mediations of power: what I call the new global heteropolarity, in which different actors are able to produce profound global effects through interconnectivity. Varying in identity, interests, and strength, ranging from fundamentalist terrorists to peace activists, new global actors gain advantage through the broad bandwidth of information technology rather than through the narrow stovepipe of territorially based sovereign governments. Enhanced by global media, non-state actors have become super-empowered players in international politics.

If we are ever to get beyond terror and begin to adequately address other neglected, no less pressing global issues – the fear of pandemic, the apprehension of famine, the resentments of resource conflicts, the slow anxiety of global warming – we need to undertake a critical inquiry into the relationship of global media, global security, and global governance. The product of that investigation will more likely be streamed to your iPhone than published in a book, So please do enjoy this artifact of knowledge while you can. …”
The Rights of Spring: A Memoir of Innocence Abroad (Princeton University Press, 2009), by Interim Director David Kennedy ’76

“... For a time, the language of human rights was everywhere, while the limits of what it could accomplish and the damage a human rights initiative could sometimes cause were less apparent. American law students yearned to become human rights professionals. Many still do. But in some way the flower has withered; the luster is faded. Though many soldier on, professionals with a cause, the innocence of international human rights has passed.

On the one hand, the human rights idea, vocabulary, and movement have become institutionalized, have joined hands with governments, corporations, and all manner of international bureaucracies, foundations, and advocacy groups to legitimate and delegitimate, to spend money, to allocate resources – in short to exercise power on the global stage. On the other, the heyday of human rights as a common global rhetoric for justice seems to be behind us.

It is hard to say why, or how this came about. The two facts seem related – at once more powerful and less innocent, urgent, compelling. Perhaps the movement bit off more than it could chew. There were certainly many disappointments. So many interventions did not work out as we had planned. The vernacular was misused. As an absolute language of righteousness and moral aspiration came to be used strategically, it became less persuasive, easy to interpret as nothing but strategy, cover for political objectives, particular interests clothing themselves in the idiom of the universal. And the politics of the global scene shifted. ...

A Companion to Russian History (Blackwell/Wiley, 2009), by Adjunct Professor Abbott Gleason

“These essays are being written and published at a significant moment in Russia’s long and difficult history: almost 20 years after the end of the Soviet Union, at the end of the successive presidential terms of the man who has sometimes been called ‘Tsar Putin.’

This not very clever moniker nevertheless forms part of the thematic of this period: Russia’s attempted recovery of its connection to the imperial past. Another aspect of this historical moment is the Russian leadership’s aspiration to recover some portion of the geopolitical (if not ideological) power and influence achieved by the Soviet Union, as we see in the adventure involving Russia and Georgia now (autumn 2008) unfolding in the Caucasus. ...

It seems clear that Russia has probably suffered the worst of the inevitable pangs stemming from loss of empire, not to speak of the difficult transition between the decadence of communism and its replacement by an authoritarian and rather predatory capitalism. Inequality has increased dramatically, but economic productivity is beginning to do the same. Much, but not all, of the old elite managed to hang on to some power during the transition to the new system through a kind of Russian-style insider trading.

Remarkably enough, the extremely difficult, indeed chaotic transition was accomplished with an absolute minimum of bloodshed. ... But, Russia today remains – despite the defeat of communism – very much under the spell of its own deep past. ...”
Vietnam If Kennedy Had Lived: Virtual JFK (Rowman & Littlefield, 2009), by James G. Blight, Janet M. Lang, and Waterloo University’s David A. Welch

“... Toward the conclusion of the Errol Morris documentary The Fog of War, the film’s subject, Robert McNamara, addresses the question of whether the 21st century need be as violent and bloody as the 20th. He says, pessimistically, “You’re not going to change human nature any time soon.”...

[He and others] are undeniably correct to describe the 20th century, their century, as darkly as they do. But must their description of the 20th century also be our prediction for the 21st century? We’re not so sure.

Maybe we can’t change human nature in ways that make disastrous wars of choice, fueled by hawkish biases, less likely. But [findings] suggest that if we are aware of some of the biases that contribute to our human nature – as leaders or as ordinary citizens – we may be less likely to short-circuit our rational faculties and more likely to resist our hardwired biases toward war.

Can we identify, elect, and encourage leaders, especially presidents, who are also aware of these biases and who are able to act on their awareness? A close look at ‘virtual JFK,’ we believe, shows us that this is not a utopian dream. It actually happened, not in some fantastic Camelot, but in the White House occupied by John F. Kennedy.

Might it again be possible? If it is, how do we proceed? These seem to us to be among the most pressing problems we face in trying to prevent this twenty-first century from becoming even bloodier than the twentieth.”

Virtuous War: Mapping the Military-Industrial-Media-Entertainment Network (second edition, Routledge, 2009), by Professor James Der Derian

“... On its own, virtualization does not embody a revolution in diplomatic or military, let alone human, affairs. However, deployed with the new ethical and economic imperatives for global democratic reform and neoliberal markets, it could well be. In spite and perhaps because of efforts to spread a democratic peace through globalization and humanitarian intervention, war is ascending to an even ‘higher’ plane, from the virtual to the virtuous.

At one time, the two words – and the two worlds they represent – were barely distinguishable. Both originated in the medieval notion of a power inherent in the supernatural, of a divine being endowed with natural virtue. And both carried a moral weight, from the Greek and Roman sense of virtue, of proper-ties and qualities of right conduct.

But their meanings diverged in modern usage, with ‘virtual’ taking a morally neutral, more technical tone, while ‘virtuous’ lost its sense of exerting influence by means of inherent qualities. Now they seem ready to be rejoined by current efforts to effect ethical change through technological and martial means. ...”
“… Why, well aware of his impending release, would Xu, a high profile political prisoner and celebrated proponent of democratic reform in China, choose this critical moment to write a series of five letters to his daughter and wife containing sociopolitical commentary of a nature that, if discovered, would certainly jeopardize his prospects for freedom? … The thought that these thoughts and ideas would die in him, with him, never to be shared with his wife, with his daughter, with the world, was unbearable. …

Xu was only allowed to send two letters a month. One of these was to be a family letter, in which he could express personal feelings to his wife and daughter. … The second letter was to inform his wife of the appointed time she could come to the prison for a monthly visit.

Over the years, however, Xu came to believe that, by the nth time his jailers read his words asking his wife about her swimming lessons or exhorting his daughter to keep abreast of developments in the Chinese art scene, they naturally had become a bit lax and no longer scrutinized with such meticulous attention the letters he sent and received. … Reading these five letters closely, it is clear that with each passing letter his confidence grew. By the final letter, he discusses in some detail ‘taboo’ topics like democracy, rule by law, and rule of law. …” – translator's introduction

“… In the case of North America, it is safe to predict that border control will remain high on the policy agenda and have an especially powerful influence on US relations with its immediate neighbors. …

The most likely scenario [is] neither a ‘fortress America’ nor a full-scale, institutionalized ‘fortress North America,’ but rather a series of incremental, piecemeal initiatives, involving a mixture of enhanced cross-border policing cooperation, partial and uneven policy convergence, and innovative inspection methods and technologies that increasingly extend beyond ports of entry.

Although some of the initiatives to build a more technologically advanced border control system were already in place before September 11, both the pace and the ambition of the construction project have increased. This may eventually turn into a less formal, less bureaucratized, quasicontinental security perimeter that selectively borrows from the European model. …"
The Bases of Empire: The Global Struggle against US Military Posts (New York University Press, 2009), edited by Professor Catherine Lutz

"Much about our current world is unparalleled: holes in the ozone layer, the commercial patenting of life forms, degrading poverty on a massive scale, and, more hopefully, the rise of concepts of global citizenship and universal human rights. Less visible but just as unprecedented is the global omnipresence and unparalleled lethality of the US military, and the ambition with which it is being deployed around the world.

These bases bristle with an inventory of weapons whose worth is measured in the trillions and whose killing power could wipe out all life on earth several times over. Their presence is meant to signal, and sometimes demonstrate, that the United States is able and willing to attempt to control events in other regions militarily. …

Deployed from battle zones in Afghanistan and Iraq to the quiet corners of Curaçao, Korea, and Britain, the US military domain consists of sprawling army bases, small listening posts, missile and artillery testing ranges, and berthed aircraft carriers.

While the bases are literally barracks and weapons depots and staging areas for war-making and ship repair facilities and golf courses and basketball courts, they are also political claims, spoils of war, arms sales showrooms, toxic industrial sites, laboratories for cultural (mis)communication, and collections of customers for local bars, shops, and prostitution. …"

Islam and Education: Conflict and Conformity in Pakistan’s Madrassahs (Oxford University Press, 2009), by Adjunct Associate Professor Saleem H. Ali

“… The proliferation of madrassahs or Islamic schools in much of the Muslim World has been noted with particular consternation following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The perceived linkage between radical Islamic education and militant behavior against Western interests has led development agencies and governments to focus their resources on educational reform.

However, there is scant empirical research grounded in rigorous social science on the socio-environmental roots of this phenomenon and its consequences. While the topic has received widespread media coverage and has been discussed within the broader context of radical Islamization, the research has generally been predicated on observational accounts and anecdotes that range from strongly positive to vehemently negative. …

We thus got firsthand information from the schools themselves about enrollment, funding sources, and connections with sectarian activity. …"
SCID Analyzes Capitalism, Media

Global capitalism and media are among the subjects analyzed in the newest issue of Studies in Comparative International Development (SCID), published at the Institute. Following the fall of the socialist system, postcommunist countries have moved into the world capitalist economy – but not as equal partners of the core states, writes David Lane, a principal investigator in the University of Cambridge Faculty of Social and Political Sciences. Even China has only a small number of transnational companies.

Another article, by University of Oxford postdoctoral fellow Matthew Loveless, refutes the long-standing assumption that individuals in transitional states develop stronger attachments to Western political and economic values when exposed to Western media.

Based at Watson, the journal is edited by Barbara Stallings, the Institute’s William R. Rhodes Research Professor. It is published quarterly by Springer Science + Media.

BJWA Focuses on Philanthropy

The Spring/Summer 2009 issue of the Brown Journal of World Affairs (BJWA) addresses such themes as global philanthropy with contributors and interviewees including top Clinton Foundation executive Ira Magaziner ‘69 P’06,’07,’10.

Magaziner reports progress on a number of the foundation’s fronts. One is HIV/AIDS, where “a lot of the countries we’ve been most intensively working with are getting treatment for most of the people who need it, and that, combined with other preventive activities, is slowing down the rate of new infections.”

Asked about philanthropy in tough economic times, he predicted the foundation would grow at a slower rate, adding that “this is in the midst of many NGOs having to institute layoffs or drastic cutbacks, so we’re fortunate that we’re still able to sustain ourselves, but it’s really tough out there.”

Also in this issue: Hoover Institution Senior Fellow Larry Diamond on “Trends in Democratization,” former Chilean President Ricardo Lagos on “Facing Global Challenges,” and more.

Run by undergraduates, the BJWA attracts contributions from leading scholars and policymakers in its mission to publish at the intersection of news and academic theory.

Tushar Khadloya ’10 and Sol Eppel ’10 are its outgoing editors; Anagha Prasad ‘10 and Harvey Stephenson ’11 are the editors for the next academic year.

Choices Teaching Guide Tackles Global Economy

As global economic problems have been ratcheting up pressure on trade policy, the Choices Program produced a new secondary school curriculum unit earlier this year on International Trade: Competition and Cooperation in a Globalized World.

International Trade helps students consider the role of trade in this era of globalization. Armed with an understanding of core economic principles, students explore the expansion of international trade and economic globalization after World War II, and the affects that these changes have had on people in the United States and around the world. Readings and activities draw students into the debate about US trade policy and the role of the United States in the world. Supplemental materials are also provided online.

International Trade is the latest in the Choices Program’s library of over 30 curriculum units, which bring university-level research and innovative learning tools into secondary school classrooms across the country.

It was developed in collaboration with Brown Economics Professor Louis Putterman and Institute Adjunct Professor Dietrich Rueschemeyer.
Matthew Gutmann has assumed the directorship of Brown’s Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, housed at the Watson Institute. Gutmann is a University professor of anthropology, ethnic studies, and Latin American studies, with affiliations in gender and sexuality studies and development studies.

Gutmann is also a Watson faculty associate who is collaborating on Institute research including a project on War Epiphanies: When Iraq Veterans Break Ranks. He is a visiting researcher at the Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social Pacífico Sur in Oaxaca, Mexico.

He has a PhD and an MA in cultural anthropology, as well an MPH, from the University of California, Berkeley.


The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies is a US Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center sponsoring interdisciplinary research and teaching.

Richard Holbrooke ‘62 LLD’97, a Brown professor at large based at Watson, was named special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan in January. The former UN ambassador, who is widely credited as the chief architect of the 1995 Dayton peace agreement ending the war in Bosnia, has since been working for peace and stability in the troubled region. “This is truly an international challenge of the highest order,” President Barack Obama said, calling Holbrooke “one of the most talented diplomats of his generation.”

In a 2007 interview on Open Source internet radio, Holbrooke predicted that “The next president of the United States is going to inherit the worst opening-day hand in foreign policy in American history.”

Despite his assessment of the grim state of affairs, he urged students to “get involved” in the world around them. “You’ve got to get engaged and you mustn’t despair. It’s your opportunity to participate and I urge you to do so… I do not despair for the country. I believe the people are much better than the government,” he said in a talk.

Holbrooke Tackling Afghan Challenge

Gutmann Named CLACS Director
Visitors Add Perspective

New visiting scholars at the Watson Institute during the spring semester have shared perspectives from various countries, academic disciplines, and practical pursuits. Former Austrian Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer was among the new visitors (see page 3), as was Dennis Martin Davis, a South African judge at the High Court and judge president of the Competition Appeal Court of Cape Town, and noted Indian legal scholar and author Bhupinder Singh Chimni, professor of international law and chairperson at the Centre for International Legal Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi.

With a total of over 40 current visiting scholars engaged in research and teaching at Brown, the Institute this spring welcomed the following:

- Paula Chakravartty, associate professor with the Department of Communications at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.
- Ignacio de la Rasilla del Moral, a doctoral candidate specializing in international law at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva.
- Tanya Montforte, an assistant professor in the Law Department at the American University in Cairo.
- Kerry Rittich, an associate professor at the Faculty of Law and the Women and Gender Studies Institute, University of Toronto.
- Boimahmad Soliev, assistant to the political science chair at the Tajik State National University in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
- Leopold Specht, a principal of the law firm Specht Rechtsanwalt GmbH in Vienna.
- Robert Sze-Kwok Wai, associate professor and associate dean at Osgoode Hall Law School, York University in Toronto.
- Roberto Vilchez Yamoto, an Office of International Program fellow at Brown and a PhD candidate and lecturer at the Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro's Institute of International Relations.

Berman to Join Institute

Nathaniel Berman has been named Rahel Varnhagen Professor of International Affairs, Law, and Modern Culture (Research) and will join the Watson Institute in July.

Berman has been a professor at Brooklyn Law School and Northeastern University School of Law and is author, most recently, of Passions et ambivalences: le colonialisme, le nationalisme et le droit international (Editions Pedonne, 2008). He has a law degree from Harvard and philosophy degree from Yale.

“Nathaniel will be an invaluable asset. He has a very wide international following as a scholar of international law – particularly in the developing world, through his work on the colonial legacy in international affairs,” said Watson Institute Interim Director David Kennedy ’76, in announcing the appointment.

Berman’s work situates international legal structures and ideas in relation to broader cultural and intellectual history. It has focused on moments of innovation in global governance, particularly the rich period after World War I in which many of the modern tools for international legal management of global social and security problems were invented.

Overseer Barker to Receive LHd

At this year’s commencement, Brown University is conferring an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters (LHd) on Richard C. Barker ’57 P’03’05, a member of the Institute’s board of trustees.

Barker, a former Navy aviation officer, is a noted captain of industry and civic volunteer. In 2005, he retired from the Capital Group, where he had served as vice chairman of Capital Group International Inc. and chairman of both Capital International Ltd. and Capital Guardian Trust Company. While there, Barker helped coordinate and manage Capital’s $300 billion global institutional portfolio management business. Barker remains involved in finance, serving on the advisory board of two venture capital funds: Champion Ventures and Pharos Capital Partners.

At Brown, in addition to being a Watson overseer, he is a University trustee emeritus and leads the University’s campaign for financial aid, an initiative within the Campaign for Academic Enrichment.
2009 IR Grads Present Honors Theses

Nine students graduated from the International Relations Honors Program this year. To do so, each of them researched, wrote, and presented a graduate-level thesis, in addition to completing with distinction the usual IR requirements of 11 courses and three years of a foreign language.

IR Assistant Director Claudia Elliott PhD ’99 designed the current program, now in its eighth year, and worked with IR Program Director Peter Andreas, among others, advising the students.

The honors thesis differs greatly from a term paper, not just in length, but also in depth and complexity. The thesis is most students’ first real attempt at scholarly research and writing. Each senior takes two thesis courses to prepare, works with two faculty advisors, and gives a public presentation in May. This year’s honors recipients are:

- Rebecca Binder: “The Impact of Regional Blocs on Domestic Conflict: Re-Framing Catalonia’s ‘Autonomy Dialogue’”;
- Hannah Brennan: “Patently Dependent: Pharmaceutical Patents, Pricing, and Industrialization in Brazil and Mexico”;
- Alicia Bliss Gilbert: “Mixed Messages from the West: Turkey’s Contrasting Relations with NATO and the EU”;
- Camilla Hawthorne: “Controlling the Border with Humanitarianism: Using Human Trafficking Policies and their Implementation to Regulate Migration in Italy”;
- Noor Najeeb: “In Search of Palestinian Statehood: How Shifting Meanings of Sovereignty Contribute to the Failed Establishment of a Palestinian State”;
- Claudia Schwartz: “Warlords and Businessmen: Reconsidering Explanations for the Success and Failure of Violent Entrepreneurs in Liberia and Somalia”;

IR Prizes Awarded

- Mariya Petkova is this year’s recipient of the Anthony Riccio Prize in International Relations. The prize is awarded “to that graduating senior who, in the grand spirit of the way that Tony Riccio lived his life, has demonstrated an unquenchable curiosity about another part of the world, a commitment to the rigorous learning of a foreign language, an intrepid pursuit of study abroad, and a pride in his university and country.” The prize is in memory of Anthony Brian Riccio '96, who lost his life in Moscow in 1994.

- Jonathan Hillman has been awarded the Mark and Betty Garrison Prize for best thesis in international relations, foreign policy analysis, or diplomatic history, for his thesis:
“US Intentions, Russian Perceptions: NATO Enlargement and the Deterioration of US-Russian Security Relations since the Cold War.” The prize commemorates the Garrisons’ work to create the Center for Foreign Policy Development at Brown in 1981.

- Eliza Sweren-Becker has received the Samuel C. Lamport Prize for the best thesis on international understanding with an emphasis on cooperation and tolerance, for her thesis: “Socializing Human Rights Norms: How an International Organization Improved Human Rights in Argentina.”

- The Eva A. Mooar Prize and Lydia Carpenter Premium, both of which recognize academic excellence in international relations, have gone to: Hannah Brennan, Nina Frost, Hillary Harnett, Camilla Hawthorne, Jonathan Hillman, Xingkai Loy, and Bonnie Wong.

**IR Honors Students Receive Fulbrights**

Four Brown graduates of the International Relations Honors Program have received Fulbright fellowships this year: Hannah Brennan ’09, Jonathan Hillman ’09, Mia Psorn ’07, and Phoebe Sloane ’08. A fifth IR honors student, Amy Chang ’08, received a Fulbright fellowship last year. Each honors program student must write a graduate-level thesis, among other requirements.

- Mia Psorn (class of 2007; Fulbright for 2009-2010) 
  *Honors Program Thesis:* “Closing the Gender Gap? International Humanitarian Law and Sexual Violence in Bosnia-Herzegovina”;
  *Fulbright Grant:* to monitor domestic trials for war crimes committed in Croatia in the 1990s in order to examine what progress Croatia has made in addressing earlier judicial shortcomings and why some trials are being conducted according to internationally accepted standards while others are not.

- Amy Chang (class of 2008, Fulbright for 2008-2009) 
  *Honors Program Thesis:* “Know Thy Enemy, Know Thyself: An Argument for the Importance of Regime Type in Counterterrorism”;
  *Fulbright Grant:* currently studying the culture of skin whitening at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

- Phoebe Sloane (class of 2008, Fulbright for 2009-2010) 
  *Honors Program Thesis:* “Balancing the Global and the Local: Sesame Street and Foreign Aid in Egypt”;
  *Fulbright Grant:* studying Arabic in Jordan and conducting research on Jordanian Sesame Street.

- Hannah Brennan (class of 2009, Fulbright for 2009-2010) 
  *Honors Program Thesis:* “Patently Dependent: Pharmaceutical Patents, Pricing, and Industrialization in Brazil and Mexico”;
  *Fulbright Grant:* a comprehensive study of the status of female domestic workers in Peru, where young and largely indigenous women migrate to larger cities from rural areas to find employment in the homes of wealthier Peruvians.

- Jonathan Hillman (class of 2009, Fulbright for 2009-2010) 
  *Honors Program Thesis:* “US Intentions, Russian Perceptions: NATO Enlargement and the Deterioration of US-Russian Security Relations since the Cold War”;
  *Fulbright Grant:* to spend a year in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, studying political Islam in the country – with a particular emphasis on the interaction among Chinese, Russian, and US security policies in Central Asia.
2009 Summer Internships Awarded

Watson has awarded summer internships to eight Brown students for 2009. The Institute administers the summer fellowship competitions as part of its mission to undergraduates who are pursuing degrees, research projects, and careers in international relations.

- Megan Whelan ’09.5, a concentrator in environmental science and Latin American studies, with the Paraná Biodiversity Project in Brazil; and
- Pablo Rojas ’11, political science and Latin American studies, with the City of Medellin mayor’s office in Colombia.

The Richard Smoke Fellowships, named in memory of a prominent Watson Institute scholar who died in 1995, go to Brown undergraduates who are pursuing internships abroad involving research, advocacy, or service on contemporary global problems. This year’s recipients are:

- Megan Brattain ’10.5, a public policy concentrator, with Hotline for Migrant Workers in Israel;
- Megan Whelan ’09.5, a concentrator in environmental science and Latin American studies, with the Paraná Biodiversity Project in Brazil; and
- Pablo Rojas ’11, political science and Latin American studies, with the City of Medellin mayor’s office in Colombia.

The McKinney Family Fellowship is awarded to a student in the Smoke Fellowship applicant pool who exemplifies excellence in international studies, as strongly encouraged and supported by Watson Institute Board of Overseers Vice-Chair and Brown Corporation Member David E. McKinney and his family. The 2009 awardee is:

- Alexander Wamboldt ’10, anthropology and religious studies, with the Arab West Foundation in Egypt.

The Jack Ringer ’52 Summer Fellowship in Southeast Asia is made possible by this Brown alumnus, who served in Burma after graduating. The award provides Brown students and faculty with unique opportunities for research or internships in Southeast Asia. The recipients are:

- Cherilyn Tran ’11, a biology concentrator, with the Hoi An Foundation in Vietnam;
- Isaac Jabola-Carolus ’11, development studies, with Action and Solidarity for the Empowerment of Teachers in the Philippines; and
- Thirii Myo Kyaw Myint ’11, international relations and literary arts, with the Child Aid Foundation in Myanmar.

The Marla Ruzicka International Public Service Fellowship, named after a dedicated human rights activist who died in April 2005, supports a Brown undergraduate who displays the characteristics of compassion, determination, and selflessness in the pursuit of international human rights, post-conflict rehabilitation, or international public service in its most noble spirit, and whose summer plans reflect those traits. This fellowship is supported by Lucinda B. Watson, a member of the Watson Institute Board of Overseers. This year’s awardee is:

- Tessa Lee ’10, international relations, with NGO Fractal in Kosovo.

Students on the Beat

Each academic year, a handful of students assume the role of journalist to attend and report on lectures, conferences, and other events at the Institute – taking photos and writing articles for Watson’s website and other outlets.

This year’s rapporteurs were: Brenna Carmody ’09, Alison Fairbrother ’09, Juliana Friend ’11, Christina Ma ’09, Renata Sago ’10, and Paul Wozniak ’09. The subjects they have covered run the gamut, from human rights activism, to the Middle East peace process, European foreign policy, nuclear proliferation, global inequality, and more.
Development Studies Theses Recognized

Thirty students are graduating this year with degrees in development studies (DS). Directed by Brown University Associate Professor Gianpaolo Baiocchi, the DS Program provides Brown undergraduate students an interdisciplinary concentration centered in the social sciences.

The program has been designed to provide a comparative perspective on the long-term social, political, and economic changes that have accompanied industrialization and the growth of the modern state. Among other topics, the DS concentration focuses on understanding how processes of change affect the distribution of wealth and opportunity among nations. Institute Visiting Fellow Cornel Ban assists Baiocchi as thesis advisor.

Development studies is one of the few concentrations at Brown in which every student must write a senior thesis. This year’s DS prize winners for excellence in thesis writing are:

- Alison Fairbrother, for “The Band-Aid, the Fruit Shop, and the Holy Water: Artifacts from the Soft Frontiers of Ethnography in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia”;
- Lindsay Gaydos, for “Strategies for Survival: Undocumented Guatemalan Immigrants in Providence, RI”;
- Caroline Mailloux, for “Home Abroad: The Causal Role of Ideas in the Foreign Aid Policy of Sweden and the United States”;
- Laura Millay, for “Transnational Labor Advocacy Networks: Worker Organizing in Thailand’s Export-Oriented Garment Industry”;
- Thane Richard, for “Development at the Grassroots Level: An Examination of Land Management, Land Health, and Grazing”;
- Leona Rosenblum, for “The Melodramatic Edutainment: A Discourse Analysis of Soul City and Puntos de Encuentro and their Entertainment-Education Television Programming”;
- Hye Gi Shim, for “The Lost Boomerang: Transnational Advocacy Networks and Their Limits”;
- Jonathan Sidhu, for “A Career of Communal: Colonialism, Nationalism, Separatism, and the Anti–Sikh Riots.”

Caroline Mailloux and Thane Richard also received awards for excellence in service to the Development Studies Program.

Area Studies Seniors Graduate with Honors

Two students are graduating with honors from area studies concentrations based at the Institute. They are:

- Anjana Joshi, Middle East Studies;
- Hilary Fischer-Groban, South Asia Studies.

CLACS Thesis Gets Award

Adam Siegel ’09 has received honors from the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies for his thesis: “Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Presidents: The Politics of Alejandro Toledo and Evo Morales.”
EVENTS

Sorting Out a New World Order

In the runup to the economic crisis meeting of the Group of 20 nations in April, a major international conference at the Institute looked into global governance issues hindering the search for solutions, as well as ways in which a fundamental restructuring of the world system may in fact occur.

The event, “Regional Powers, New Developmental States, and Global Governance: BRICSA in the New World Order,” was co-sponsored by the University of Wisconsin Law School. It focused on the role of the newly emergent regional and continental powers of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa in this time of economic crisis, highlighting the risks and opportunities they face.

In addition to global governance reform, themes emerging from the two-day meeting also included a move toward redistribution of wealth – with a new emphasis in such countries as China and India on solving internal inequalities while refocusing on domestic growth.

On governance, Nehru University Professor Bhupinder Chimni, a visiting professor at the Institute, said: “The way forward is for countries like India, in alliance with the BRICSA countries, to frame and articulate an alternative discourse on the future of global governance relying on its own experiences – precolonial, colonial, and post colonial. It should not simply react to Western proposals.”

On the redistribution of wealth, Former Austrian Chancellor and Institute Visiting Professor Alfred Gusenbauer said: “If you want to have a recovery of the world economy, it only can work if there is a redistribution of wealth.”

Obama amid ‘Global Anarchy’

“The whole notion of a superpower is an absurd concept; it’s impossible to have one,” said Slate commentator Fred Kaplan, who spoke this semester on “Obama and the World: US Foreign Policy in an Age of Global Anarchy.”

“The world didn’t change after September 11, but it did change after November 1991, when the Soviet Union fell apart,” he said. “You don’t even have a multipolar world, you have what could be called a poly-polar world, where some countries are dominant in one realm but not another, other countries are dominant in a different realm, but there’s no system tying it together.”

This semester, the Innovating Global Security Lecture Series also featured Guy Ben-Porat, senior lecturer at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, on “Farewell to the New Middle East: Business Dreams and Political Realities”; William Connolly, professor at Johns Hopkins University, on “Capital Flows, Sovereign Practices, and Global Resonance Machines”; Patrick Thaddeus Jackson, director of general education at American University, on “How to Think About Civilizations in World Politics”; and Watson Adjunct Assistant Professor Annick T.R. Wibben, on “The Politics of Feminist Security Studies.”

Freedom of Expression: Noted author Paul Auster, vice president of the PEN American Center, and Burmese author Ma Thida, Brown’s 2008-2009 International Writers Project fellow, spoke about censorship and oppression at the recent Freedom to Write Literary Festival.
**What is Citizen’s Role in Stimulus?**

As federal, state, and local officials nationwide battle over federal stimulus allocations, Institute Associate Professor Gianpaolo Baiocchi points out the lack of citizen input, in an op-ed in the Providence Journal. “America today suffers not only from economic deficits, but from a troubling participatory deficit in its government,” Baiocchi writes. “Average citizens are having next to no say in a massive allocation of funds that will change the contours and futures of their states, cities, and municipalities.” Baiocchi, a sociologist, leads the Participatory Democracy Research Project at the Institute.

**Taking a Worthwhile Risk**

Guantánamo has been far more important as a symbol of American abuse of power than as a detention center, according to Watson Institute Interim Director David Kennedy ’76, and President Obama has sent a strong signal to the world by setting a firm date to close Guantánamo and end its military tribunals. However, closing Guantánamo comes with a very high risk that a released prisoner could attempt a terrorist act, he wrote recently on CNN’s AC360 blog. “Americans must learn to accept the danger,” he said.

**On Military Bases and Inequality**

Greater economic inequality is one of the several potential downsides cited by Institute Professor Catherine Lutz in a recent lecture at the University of Guam, as she discussed her research into US military bases on the island. “There are many reasons why that narrative of ‘everyone benefits from military spending’ does not hold up under research scrutiny,” Lutz is quoted as saying in the Pacific Daily News. “The story is not as simple and not as positive, by any means, as is generally told.”


**Gaza Siege Questioned**

In January, Institute Associate Professor Peter Andreas compared recent events in Gaza with other sieges throughout history – underscoring the futility of siege warfare – in a co-authored op-ed in the Ottawa Citizen. Andreas, a political scientist, is author of *Blue Helmets and Black Markets: The Business of Survival in the Siege of Sarajevo* (Cornell University Press, 2008).

**Seeing a Threat to US 2-Party System**

Former US Sen. Lincoln Chafee ’75 warned of “the demise of the Republican Party as a viable national party” after Arlen Specter, a Republican senator from Pennsylvania, switched parties in April. In a *Washington Post* op-ed, he warned that where there is no alternative to the Democratic Party, “everybody agrees that that is not good for a healthy democracy.” In the Senate, he pointed out, Republicans now hold only 40 seats. Chafee, a visiting fellow at the Institute, is a former Republican and current independent.

**Revisiting Michael Bhatia on the Human Terrain**

*Boston Magazine* and AP recently published extensive feature articles about the extraordinary life and work of scholar-humanitarian Michael Bhatia ’99, a 2006-2007 Watson visiting fellow – and about the controversial Human Terrain System he was working on when he was killed last May in Afghanistan. As *Boston Magazine* described it, “The program embeds civilian academics (like Bhatia) and former military personnel with combat units in Iraq and Afghanistan, the idea being that scholars might help soldiers resolve conflicts in ways not involving large-caliber projectiles.” But, as AP reported, many academics said the program raised ‘troubling and urgent ethical issues.” Bhatia saw the program’s potential to save Afghan and American lives. He died when his vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb.
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