MARYLAND INTERNATIONAL is the newsletter of the Office of International Programs and the two organizations under its auspices, the Institute for Global Chinese Affairs and International Education Services. It is published twice during the spring semester and twice during the fall semester, with an additional issue in the summer. For submissions or suggestions for future issues, please contact the editor, Christine Moritz, by e-mail at cm227@umail.umd.edu or by telephone at 301.405.4771.
## Contents

Contributing writers are listed in italics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>IGCA Holds Forum Analyzing Outcomes of Taiwanese Election</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>IGCA Holds Conference on Transforming Institutions in Global China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>South African Ambassador Speaks on Democratic Reform and Other Issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Summer Study Abroad Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Director of Center for Study of Post-Communist Societies Speaks on Romania at Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Natural Resource Sciences and Landscape Architecture Chair Teaches Class in Russia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 15   | CIDCM and Department of Government and Politics Launch New Minor Program  
*Andrew Blum, Center for International Development and Conflict Management* |

## Photo Credits/Notes (by Page)

**Front**

- Amelia M. Arria, Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR), UM
- Duy-Khuong Van, OIP
- Courtesy of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
- Saúl Sosnowski, OIP

**Front**

- Arch at the Natural History Museum in London, England

**Opposite**

- Sundial on McKeldin Mall

**Back**

- Scene in Israel
On April 7, the Institute for Global Chinese Affairs held the forum “The Taiwan Election: Reactions, Thoughts, and Observations.” This event examined the controversial election held in Taiwan the previous month.

Speakers were Dr. Deborah Cai (Department of Communication); Norman Fu (Bureau Chief and Editor of the China Times); Dr. James Gao (Department of History), Kenneth Hunter (IGCA), and Dr. Scott Kastner (Department of Government and Politics). Hunter also chaired the panel. The four University of Maryland speakers had participated in the election as official observers, while Fu covered the election as a journalist.

Hunter noted that several hundred observers from around the world, including about 20 from the U.S., monitored the election. In this capacity, he and the other UM panelists met with representatives from both political parties, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy. They had expected to observe pre-election rallies, but these were cancelled because of the March 19 assassination attempt that left President Chen Shui-bian and Vice-President Annette Lu with minor injuries. Otherwise, the election proceeded as scheduled; 11,000 voting stations were set up to accommodate the 16.5 million eligible voters, and turnout exceeded 80%.

The election involved two parts. One element was the presidential election, in which incumbent President Chen of the Democratic Progressive Party ran against challenger Lien Chan of the Nationalist Party (Kuomintang or KMT), which had dominated Taiwanese politics for the second half of the 20th century. In the 2004 elections, the DPP had formed an alliance with a smaller party, creating a group known as the “green” camp, while the “blue” coalition included the Kuomintang and the People First Party.

The other element of this year’s elections was a vote on ballot initiatives, including one asking whether Taiwan should obtain advanced anti-missile systems if China refused to withdraw its Taiwan-targeting missiles, and whether the Taiwanese government should negotiate with the mainland to establish a “peace and stability” framework. Voters had the option to vote for president but decline to vote on the referendum, which had a provision that its results would be valid only if at least 50% of eligible voters participated.

The referendum was controversial not only because of the precedent it set—mainland China feared it could pave the way for a Taiwanese referendum on independence—but also because it was initiated by the president rather than by the legislature, a departure from the constitution. Chen called the referendum under a new law that allows him to call such a vote only when Taiwan’s sovereignty faces an imminent threat. The Taiwanese opposition maintained that there was no such threat and that the referendum was therefore illegal.

Hunter described the election process as “very open and visible.” Teachers and local government administrators staffed the polls, with volunteer police providing security. Polls closed at 4 p.m.; votes were counted immediately in the same location, with votes being read by two people and then reviewed by a third. Votes were scored in the open on a large tally sheet.

Chen won re-election with a vote of 50.11% to 49.89%—a difference of 30,000 votes out of a total of 13 million votes cast. (The referendum did not receive the required 50% of eligible votes, and was therefore null.) The opposition party contested the election, questioning the number of ballots deemed ineligible and also alleging that the assassination
attempt on the president and vice-president was actually staged in order to gain a sympathy vote. Taiwan’s Supreme Court ordered the ballot boxes re-sealed and placed under the jurisdiction of local courts.

James Gao began his presentation by discussing the controversy surrounding the assassination attempt. He recalled how DPP supporters saw the episode as a boon, thinking that it would make Chen a hero and reduce the advantage of the opposition party, which had earlier been leading by 7%. He said that the incident detracted from the focus on actual issues, such as the president’s performance while in office and relations with China. Gao also recounted how those who questioned the legitimacy of the assassination attempt were denounced by the president’s supporters as “not human beings.”

Gao expressed his perception that Chen now believes he has a mandate to pursue Taiwanese independence despite the risk of war with China. He said that the Taiwanese political landscape has been polarized; a Taiwanese identity had been developing, but the presidential election destroyed that nascent consensus. Chen has also been encouraged by tacit U.S. approval, even though the U.S. had earlier objected to his bringing forward a referendum and continues to object to any unilateral change in the China-Taiwan status quo. Since the American priority is “peace and stability in the Taiwan strait,” Gao said that the U.S. might serve as an external check to constrain Chen’s movement for Taiwanese independence.

Scott Kastner discussed the U.S.’s dilemma of wanting Taiwan to maintain political autonomy and thereby advance democracy, but at the same time being concerned that its support of Taiwanese defense will prompt Taiwanese leaders to pursue formal independence.

Kastner noted that originally the Taiwanese government maintained that it was the legitimate government representing all of China. Taiwanese leader Lee Teng-hui, who began a process of political democratization in the 1990s, moved from
this original Kuomintang stance to the “two-state thesis” he advanced in 1999. Democratic reforms in Taiwan and the 1996 elections increased U.S. interest, but at the same time democratization unleashed previously constrained pro-independence sentiments.

Deborah Cai discussed her observations of open engagement and dialogue in Taiwan at the time of the elections, and how they contrasted with the atmosphere in mainland China. She spoke of the desire of the Taiwanese people for Taiwan to be viewed as a mature democracy and to attain international recognition, even if it is barred from such international bodies as the World Trade Organization and World Health Organization. She also remarked on their keen interest in foreigners’ opinions of their election, in contrast to Americans’ lack of interest in global perceptions of U.S. domestic politics.

Cai found an “overwhelming” feeling among members of the opposition party that the assassination attempt was rigged and that the election was unfair. Addressing whether the events of the election should be defined as a crisis, she stated, “Democracy is inherently a process rather than an immediate outcome.”

Journalist Norman Fu covered the election while in the U.S. He said that the Kuomintang had chosen poorly in running Lien Chan and vice-presidential candidate James Soong, as both were perceived as losers on account of defeats in the 2000 elections. He also noted that many Taiwanese are unhappy about the current polarization of Taiwan, and that the efforts of the Kuomintang to “re-Chinafy” Taiwan after decades of Japanese colonial rule had created friction.

Fu said that Chen Shui-bian was now out of U.S. control, and that U.S. influence over Taiwan had dwindled. He argued that in order to contain the situation, the U.S. should improve relations with mainland China.

After their presentations, the panelists took questions from the audience on the election’s implications for the opposition alliance, the effect of China–Hong Kong relations on China–Taiwan relations, the assassination attempt and allegations that it was rigged, the mechanics and defeat of the referendum, the history of the Democratic Progressive Party, and China’s reasons for wanting Taiwan to return to the fold.

For more information on the Institute for Global Chinese Affairs, see the IGCA website at www.igca.umd.edu

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**IGCA Holds Conference on Transforming Institutions in Global China**

In late spring 2004, the Institute for Global Chinese Affairs held a two-day conference on “Transforming Institutions in Global China: Past Lessons, Future Challenges.” The conference began with remarks from University of Maryland President C.D. Mote, Jr., and featured a keynote speech by Jerome Alan Cohen, Professor at New York University Law School.

The co-author of such works as *Contract Law of the People’s Republic of China* (1988) and *People’s China and International Law* (1974), Cohen is an expert on East Asian law. His keynote address, “Law and Legal Institutions as Transforming Instruments,” provided an overview of the history of China’s legal system and recent progress in legal education and reform. Cohen stressed the importance of viable laws for China’s development, governance, international credibility, and human rights.

A total of six panel discussions took place. “China’s Diplomatic and Foreign Services Re-Institutionalization” was chaired by Dr. George H. Quester, Professor of Government and Politics. Dr. James Z. Gao, Associate Professor of History, spoke on “Ideologies of Development and the Turn to Institution: China’s Foreign Affairs in the 21st Century,” and Dr. Jianwei Wang, Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, presented “Managing Crisis in Peacetime: Institutional Challenges to China’s Diplomatic Apparatus.”

Dr. Scott Kastner, Assistant Professor of Government and Politics, served as discussant.

The panel “Regulatory Changes and Institutionalization” was chaired by Dr. Margaret Pearson, Professor of Government and Politics. Three speakers presented papers: Dr. Eric Thun, Assistant Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University, with “Industrial Policy, Chinese-Style? Foreign Direct Investment, Regulation, and Dreams of National Champions”; Dr. Scott Kennedy, Assistant Professor of Political Science and East Asian Studies at Indiana University, with “Business Lobbying in China: Aid and Obstacle to Effective Industry Regulation”; and Dr. Shaoguang Wang,
Professor of Government and Public Administration at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, with “Regulating Death: Coal Mine Safety in China.” Walter Hutchens, Assistant Professor in the Smith School of Business, was the discussant for this panel.

The third panel, “China’s Congressional and Legislative Changes,” was chaired by Dr. Zheng Yuan, Research Fellow at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences’ Institute of American Studies and Visiting Scholar in the Department of Government and Politics. Dr. Michael W. Dowdle, Associate Professor of Government and Public Administration at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, spoke on “Parliamentary Development and the Limits of Regulatory Analyses: Preparing for a Resumption of History.” Dr. Suisheng Zhao, Professor of Government and Executive Director of the Center for China-U.S. Cooperation at the University of Denver’s Graduate School of International Studies, addressed “Political Reform in China: Institutionalization, Accountability, and Constitutional Activism.” Dr. Douglas Grob, Assistant Professor of Government and Politics, served as discussant.

Dr. I.M. (Mac) Destler, Professor at the School of Public Affairs, chaired the fourth panel, “China’s System in Upgrading Emergency and Disaster Management.” Dr. Da-Lin Zhang, Professor of Meteorology, addressed “Information Systems for Emergency Management in China.” Kenneth W. Hunter, IGCA’s Director of Professional Programs, spoke on “The Challenges of Developing the Emergency and Risk Management Workforce and Professions in China.” Serving as discussant was Charles Cadwell, Director of the Center for Institutional Reform and the Informal Sector (IRIS).

Former Ambassador Julia Chang Bloch, now affiliated with the U.S.-China Education Trust, chaired the panel “Educational Reforms in China.” Dr. Ruth Hayhoe, Associate Dean of the College of Education at the University of Toronto and former president of the Hong Kong Institute of Education, spoke on “Becoming World Class: Chinese Universities Facing Globalization and Internationalization.” Dr. Jinghuan Shi, Senior Research Fellow and Head of Research at the Institute for Higher Education at Tsinghua University in Beijing, presented “Institutional Innovations in Post-Graduate Engineering Education: The Tsinghua Experience.” Dr. Jing Lin, Associate Professor of Education Policy and Leadership, addressed “Trust, Ownership, and Autonomy: Challenges in Private Higher Education in China.” Serving as discussant was Dr. Kathryn Mohrman, Executive Director of the Washington office of the Hopkins-Nanjing Center for Chinese and American Studies.

The sixth panel, “Institutional Development in China’s Science and Technology,” was chaired by Dr. Robert T. Yuan, Professor of Cell Biology and Molecular Genetics. Xiaoming Jin, Minister Counselor for Science and Technology at the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China to the U.S., spoke on “Science and Technology Reforms in China.” Dr. Jingsong Xie, an Assistant Research Scientist at the Computer Aided Life Cycle Engineering (CALCE) Electronic Products and Systems Center, gave a presentation (jointly prepared with CALCE Director Dr. Michael Pecht) on “China’s Science and Technology in Electronics, Microelectronics, and Nanotechnologies.” Dr. William A. Blanpied, a Visiting Senior Research Scholar in the Science and Trade Policy Program at George Mason University, spoke on “U.S.-China Science and Science Policy Agenda.” Dr. Charles F. Larson, president of the consulting firm Innovation Research International and president emeritus of Industrial Research Institute, was the panel’s discussant.

The conference concluded with an informal roundtable discussion, on “Future Research Collaboration,” where suggestions and option for joint projects were enthusiastically proposed.

For more information on the Institute for Global Chinese Affairs, see the IGCA website at www.igca.umd.edu.
South African Ambassador Speaks on Democratic Reform and Other Issues
As part of the Office of International Programs’ Ambassadorial Lecture Series, Her Excellency Barbara Masekela, Ambassador of South Africa to the United States, spoke in April on “Key Issues in Contemporary South Africa.”

President Mote introduced the ambassador, saying that the Ambassadorial Lecture Series “highlights our interconnectedness as a world.” Reiterating how important international programs are to the University of Maryland, he noted that more than 10% of UM students are international students and that the university is strategically located near Washington, D.C. and its wealth of diplomats and scholars.

Ambassador Masekela came to the South African government after a career as an academic in the U.S. Following education in South Africa and Zambia, she received her bachelor’s degree from the University of Ohio in 1971. She eventually became an assistant professor of English literature, first at Staten Island Community College in New York and then at Rutgers University in New Jersey. Ambassador Masekela left U.S. academia to found the African National Congress’s Office of Arts and Culture and served as its secretary for seven years. After the release of Nelson Mandela in 1990, she joined his office as Chief of Staff, a position she held until 1994. During that time she was elected to the ANC’s National Executive Committee and National Working Committee.

After serving as ambassador to France and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) from 1995 to 1999, Masekela returned to South Africa and joined the corporate world. In 2003, President Thabo Mbeki appointed her as ambassador to the U.S.

Masekela noted that this year South Africa is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its first democratic elections, and that it had recently held the third such elections. She expressed confidence on the issue of building national unity, saying that after ending 350 years of colonialism and apartheid, the country is working on “entrenching non-racialism and national reconciliation.” She said that lasting peace is something toward which all sectors of society must work, and that changes to improve democracy must come from within.

Describing aspects of women’s emancipation in South Africa, Masekela noted progress, saying that almost 30% of all management positions in the country are occupied by women and that the government works to incorporate the needs of women into policy at all levels. She also praised the South African government for having “dramatically extended” the social safety net in areas such as housing and education, and said that it was “very important” for the government to continue its HIV/AIDS public awareness program in a country where 5 million out of 45 million people are HIV-positive.

Following her speech, Ambassador Masekela took a number of questions from the audience. Topics included the controversial land redistribution effort in Zimbabwe, South Africa’s colonial legacy and monuments from the past, affirmative action in South African university admissions, the need for foreign direct investment to spur economic growth, relations with Nigeria, the extent of South African political leverage in the United States, and the reasons for the government’s desire to move its economy away from mining.

Launched in 2001, the Ambassadorial Lecture Series has brought to campus the ambassadors of China, Bangladesh, Brazil, Argentina, Denmark, Afghanistan, Israel, Egypt, Turkey, France, and South Africa. For more information on the series, see www.intprog.umd.edu/amb.html.
Australia: Life Science Scholars Program

(Biological Sciences 288)

Dr. William J. Higgins, Department of Biology

Now in its third year, this program takes students to Kakadu National Park, where they observe a variety of animals and visit aboriginal cultural sites; the tropical environment of the Daintree River and Cape Tribulation, one of the few areas in Australia where rainforest and coast meet; and Lizard Island on the outer Great Barrier Reef.

Brazil (Belém): Dos Primeiro, An Indigenous People Protects Its Own Lands

(Anthropology 468Z / Latin American Studies 448Z / Anthropology 688Z)

Dr. Janet M. Chernela, Department of Anthropology / Latin American Studies Center

This program begins in the city of Belém and progresses to the Kayapó indigenous people’s reserve, where students receive an introduction to the Amazon, its landscapes, and its peoples. The course can be taken at the undergraduate level as Special Topics in Cultural Anthropology: Native Peoples and Landscapes, or at the graduate level as New Models in Indigenous Peoples and Forest Preservation.

Ecuador: The Natural History of the Galápagos Islands

(Geology 388)

Dr. Thomas Holtz and Dr. John Merck, Department of Geology (Director and Assistant Director respectively of the College Park Scholars “Earth, Life, and Time” program), joined by an expert naturalist from the Ecuadorian National Park Service

The course begins with two weeks of introductory classes in College Park, focusing on zoology, botany, geology, ecology, evolutionary biology, and human issues. Students then travel to the Galápagos Islands, gaining valuable field experience by exploring this ecological reserve through hiking and snorkeling. During two days in the Ecuadorian capital of Quito, they tour the city’s Spanish colonial architecture and the nearby Cotopaxi National Park.
England: Survey of British History, Culture and Literature
(Honors 318)

Dr. Michael Olmert, Department of English

This course is an intense three-week study of British culture in London and other sites in England, examining history, literature, drama, architecture, art, and archaeology. For their research projects, students focus on three of these six fields.

Oxford, England: Honors Program in British Law, Politics and Society

Sponsored by the Department of Government and Politics and taught by Oxford University faculty

In this program, students take the Law and Society course that compares and contrasts U.S. law with British law to illustrate key concepts, and choose one of four other courses: The Fall of the British Empire, 1945-1997; Europe During the Cold War, 1945-1989; Contemporary British Society; and Modern British Politics and European Union Membership.

German Language Study in Tübingen, Germany

Taught by faculty of the University of Tübingen

Intensive courses are offered at varying levels of language instruction based on student ability. The program also offers a variety of activities throughout the state of Baden-Württemberg in order for students to obtain vivid impressions of German history, culture, and contemporary issues.
Greece: The Living Legacy
(Classics 100/499)

Dr. Mary Pittas-Herschbach, Department of Classics

This program examines Greek mythology and religion and their relation to the city of Athens, and Greek history, particularly the Greco-Persian Wars. Students are based in Athens and take a number of day trips to such destinations as Marathon and Eleusis.

Urbanism and Architecture in Rome, Italy
(Architecture 445/678V and 478T/678T)

Professor Matthew J. Bell, Professor and Associate Dean Stephen F. Sachs, Professor Brian Kelly, and Professor Thomas Schumacher, School of Architecture

After participating in a preparatory course during the spring 2004 semester, students go to Italy, where they spend the majority of their time in Rome (with field trips in the neighboring area and to Florence) and take a one-week trip to northern Italy, including Como and Vicenza. In addition to a history/theory seminar, the program includes a visual analysis portion that focuses on the relationship between the building and the site, addressing examples of gardens, urban buildings, and large building complexes.

Salamanca and Barcelona, Spain: Intensive Spanish Program
(Spanish 326 and Spanish 311/312 or Spanish 408X)

Dr. Eyda Merediz and Dr. Manel Lacorte, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, in conjunction with faculty in Salamanca and Barcelona

The program seeks to develop students’ Spanish language proficiency and to introduce the culture and life of Spain through active participation in academic courses (a class on recent Spanish cultural history and either a grammar/conversation or literature class), interaction with Spanish students, housing placements with Spanish families living in Salamanca and Barcelona, and excursions throughout the cities and the surrounding countryside.
Cultural and Linguistic Immersion for Second and Foreign Language Teachers in Taxco, Mexico

( Curriculum and Instruction 798)

Dr. Debra Suarez, Department of Special Education, College of Education, and faculty from the Universidad Autónoma de México

This unique immersion program for teachers and prospective teachers of English as a Foreign Language gives participants the opportunity to attend Spanish lessons, assist as EFL teachers, discuss second language pedagogy with local EFL teachers, participate in a graduate seminar covering cross-cultural and pedagogical topics, and take part in cultural tours.

Spanish Language and Conversation in Taxco, Mexico

Taught by faculty of the Universidad Autónoma de México

Held in the colonial silver town of Taxco, this intensive program is open to university students and to teachers of Spanish. Participants have the opportunity to improve their Spanish and to delve firsthand into the culture of Mexico, visiting museums and archaeological sites of significant historical and artistic interest.

Community Planning in Cape Town, South Africa

(Urban Studies and Planning 708)

Professor Sidney Brower, Urban Studies and Planning Program, School of Architecture

During four weeks in Cape Town, students explore issues of urban planning and preservation through fieldwork in the Cape Peninsula and Western Cape of South Africa. Afterward, they return to the University of Maryland and produce a report based on these field studies.

For more information, please contact Dr. Michael Ulrich, IES Study Abroad Coordinator: 301.314.7747 or mjuilrich@umd.edu
In April 2004, Dr. Vladimir Tismaneanu, Professor of Government and Politics and Director of the University of Maryland’s Center for the Study of Post-Communist Societies, spoke at a seminar held by the National Endowment for Democracy’s International Forum for Democratic Studies.

In his presentation “Democracy Romanian Style: Assessing Fifteen Years of Postcommunist Transition,” Tismaneanu assessed Romania’s main achievements and setbacks on its path toward democratic consolidation. He also examined Romania’s current political situation as it prepares for parliamentary and presidential elections later this year. For the lecture, Tismaneanu drew on interviews with major political figures, including Romanian president Ion Iliescu, with whom he coauthored a book of dialogues that was recently published in Bucharest. He concluded by exploring the political implications of Romania’s entry into NATO and the country’s candidacy for membership in the European Union.

Tismaneanu is the author of numerous books on East European history and politics, including last year’s *Stalinism for All Seasons*. From 1998 to 2003, he was the editor of *East European Politics and Societies*, a leading quarterly journal in the field; he currently serves as the chair of the journal’s educational committee. His articles and interviews have appeared in major American and European publications, including the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Times Literary Supplement*. 
Natural Resource Sciences and Landscape Architecture Chair Teaches Class in Russia

In Moscow this past spring, Dr. Richard A. Weismiller, Professor and Chair of Natural Resource Sciences and Landscape Architecture, gave an intensive four-week course at Moscow State Agro-Engineering University (MSAU). Eight students from the U.S. and nine students from MSAU participated in the class, “Remote Sensing: Agriculture and Natural Resources.”

The University of Maryland is part of a six-member consortium of U.S. universities that participate with MSAU in a cooperative program in international agricultural education. Each spring semester, up to 10 consortium students and 10 MSAU students take classes together in Moscow. During this time, three faculty members from the participating U.S. universities also each teach at MSAU a four-week course related to their field and international agriculture. Typically, these courses meet twice a week for six hours of classroom time per day. The U.S. students in the program study Russian, but the courses are conducted in English.

CIDCM and Department of Government and Politics Launch New Minor Program

Weismiller describes the intensive program as one of his “most rewarding” teaching experiences. It posed the challenge of communicating effectively with a mixed group of students from different cultural and language backgrounds; moreover, the Russian students were accustomed to a very different style of instruction. Bridging these gaps, said Weismiller, was demanding and was certainly was a learning experience for him.

During his stay in Moscow, Weismiller accompanied officials from the University of Maryland’s College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR) on visits to three Moscow institutions to discuss cooperative opportunities. Dr. Raymond Miller, Director of International Programs in Agricultural and Natural Resources, Dr. Leon Slaughter, AGNR Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and Weismiller spoke with the rectors and vice-rectors of MSAU, Timiryazev Agricultural Academy, and Moscow State University of Environmental Engineering.

Weismiller also visited Kursk Agricultural Academy in the western Russian city of Kursk. There, he met with the Rector and the Vice-Rector for International Programs, and spoke with students in the academy’s international economics program.

The giving way of violent conflict to the long process of rebuilding is now at the center of world politics. In recognition of this, the Department of Government and Politics in collaboration with its Center for International Development and Conflict Management (CIDCM) will launch a new minor program in fall 2004 for students aspiring to a profession in the fields of conflict resolution, international development, and humanitarian relief. The Minor in International Development and Conflict Management will combine existing courses at the University of Maryland with an intensive summer capstone session and opportunities for internships and other practical experience. Students will also be able to interact with and learn from the development and conflict management practitioners at CIDCM.

The intellectual justification of the program rests on the idea that two of the greatest challenges of world politics are war (conflict) and inequality (underdevelopment). The academic goal of the minor is for students to understand the sources of conflict and underdevelopment, how they are intertwined, and how and why actors in the modern global system are confronting these two fundamental problems.

From a career perspective, the field of international development is growing and is becoming more professionalized. There are more jobs in this field in Washington, D.C., than in any other city in the world. Conflict management is a valuable specialty for those entering the field; the U.S. Agency for International Development recently noted that two-thirds of the countries in which it works are conflict-affected. The minor will provide students a much-needed means of demonstrating to potential employers that they have expertise in, as well as commitment to, the field of international development.

Students from all majors are eligible for the program. For more information or for application materials, please contact Andrew Blum by e-mail at ablum@cidcm.umd.edu or by phone at 301.405.4511.