

DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD

With this journal, the editors of *Discourse* have created an eclectic framework for a spirited exchange of ideas and a forum for publishing student research, faculty reflections, and significant campus presentations. In *Discourse*, they fulfilled the aspirations of Tufts students who for years approached the Institute for Global Leadership for support in creating a non-partisan, interdisciplinary student publication.

In *Discourse*, Tufts' wonderful intellectual community of young scholars and thinkers, its photographers, its artists, its engineers, its creative writers, its scientists, will have a forum to help fulfill the potential of how disciplines can enhance one another. It is my personal hope that publishing a journal will prove to be an ideal crucible for reflection and intelligent deliberation, and that it will stimulate thinking and ways for our students to escape what noted political scientist James Rosenau, an IGL mentor, has described as "the traps of our conceptual jails."

The community of the Institute's Synaptic Scholars program, designed to enable students interested in intellectual exploration across diverse disciplines to realize their potential and to enrich the University's intellectual life and programming, has proven to be an ideal incubating aegis for *Discourse*. Padden Murphy, a Synaptic Scholar now studying in China, assumed the role of founding editor of *Discourse*, and we acknowledge him for his vision and tenacity. He has the wonderful support of his peers, and it has been a privilege to witness the collaboration.

It is intriguing to me that Padden chose Robert F. Kennedy as his muse. The year of 1968 — with Kennedy's assassination; the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the ensuing urban riots; the Orangeburg massacre and the Poor People's March of the Civil Rights movement; the Tet offensive in Vietnam and LBJ's decision not to run; the chaos and repression of the Chicago Democratic Convention — marked a highly turbulent year for this country. In 2008, we face another contentious Presidential electoral year, hopefully a far less traumatic one. Padden and *Discourse's* editors and contributors have created this journal to help promote a campus-wide climate that will honor a search for intelligent common ground rather than yield to the temptation to engage in the polarizing vortex of mimetic partisan exchanges — *discourse*, not reductionist debate.

While much of this initial volume's content has its origins in Synaptic research and Institute programming, *Discourse* is intentionally designed as an independent forum, understood as a "public good" of the University, and enacted by an independent student editorial board.

One of *Discourse's* emphases will always be on exhibiting the significant scholarly achievements of Tufts students. Case in point, the cover story — Sam James' essay and photographic work on urban dystopia — is derived from the inaugural Synaptic research trip to Lagos, Nigeria and marks the beginning of his four-year plan of study on *megacities*.

We are indebted to IGL Board member, Oby Ezekwesili, then Nigerian Federal Minister of Education, now the senior Vice President of the Africa region of the World Bank, for enabling that trip.

Maya Karwande's research on justice in Bosnia was enhanced by long time Institute contacts with International Criminal Court judges and prosecutors. We are indebted to Dr. Svetlana Broz, Tito's granddaughter, who hosted Maya in Bosnia. Dr. Broz, an Institute adviser and the author of *Good People in an Evil Time: Portraits of Complicity and Resistance in the Bosnian War*, left the sanctuary of Belgrade during the horrific civil war in the former Yugoslavia to provide emergency medical care in Sarajevo throughout the siege.

The war in Iraq is rendered here by a range of treatments, from Rana Abdul-Aziz's poignant essay of personal loss to Kyle Hiatt's critique of counterinsurgency, written for a Tufts' Peace and Justice Studies seminar. Future issues will feature an ongoing dialogue on the war and other security issues between Institute ALLIES members from Tufts and the students at the U.S. military academies, the USMA at West Point, the USNA at Annapolis, and the USAFA in Colorado.

Discourse's initial literary editor, Synaptic Mie Inouye, studying abroad in Chile, has penned a sensitive reflection on neighborhoods and identity. Padden's interview with ETHOS Water's Jon Greenblatt signals a regular feature, presenting distinguished Tufts alumni. Photographic essays, such as Sam's on Lagos and Padden's on Montana's Blackfeet and Cree Reservations, will also be regular features.

"The Sovereignty Exchange" is the yield of interviews extending over four years with leading thinkers and influential global leaders, from Noam Chomsky to Mary Robinson, conducted by IGL's Education for Public Inquiry and International Citizenship (EPIIC) students, who have continued their collaboration and close friendship after graduation. We are indebted to Tim Phillips, a former Institute Scholar and Practitioner in Residence (INSPIRE) Fellow and the co-founder of the Project on Justice in Times of Transition (PJTT), for introducing our students to many of these leaders. (The PJTT, a long time Institute strategic ally, now has its offices at the Institute.)

Matan Chorev, who spent many extraordinary years with the IGL while at Tufts and Fletcher, perhaps most notably as the co-founder of the New Initiative for Middle East Peace (NIMEP), expands our insight into sovereignty with his reflection on the phenomenon of *semistates*. Matan, a Conservatory student and performance cellist, might as easily have written here on music, as Sam James, a Museum School student, could easily contribute on photography, and one day I hope they both will.

Discourse will also feature contributions by world-renowned thinkers and practitioners. This issue includes the lecture given by Dr. Mukesh Kapila, who was awarded the Institute's Dr. Jean Mayer Global Citizenship Award for exposing the atrocities of Darfur; and an exchange on nuclear proliferation between another Mayer Award awardee Senator Sam Nunn and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government Professor Graham Allison

(presented before national high school student leaders at the annual simulation on global issues of the Institute's Inquiry program).

This journal will provide a vigorous environment for feedback and criticism. It will benefit from both a Tufts faculty and an external professional Advisory Board. It has already benefited from wonderful editors and advisers: David Taffel, Ph.D., author of *Nietzsche Unbound: the Struggle for Spirit in the Age of Science* and recipient of the Hans Jonas Memorial Prize for Philosophy from the New School for Social Research; Benjamin Pogrund, a 2007 INSPIRE Fellow, the former deputy editor of the *Rand Daily Mail* in Johannesburg, and the former chief foreign sub-editor of *The Independent*, London; and Douglas Glandon, MPH, a former International Relations Borghesani Scholar, and the Institute's Program Coordinator. I would like to extend my special thanks to them for their sensitive editing exchanges with our students, acknowledging them as students, accepting their wonderful imperfections, and demanding the best of them.

We are pleased to acknowledge our collaboration with Columbia University's Helvidius Group, which initially published the Tufts IGL "Sovereignty Exchange" in its *Columbia University Journal of Politics and Society* (Spring 2007). Columbia's editors understood this project "as a model for the academic dialogue and synthesis that the Journal (CUJPS) hopes to foster amongst undergraduate scholars." The original full interviews of the "Sovereignty Exchange" can be found on the Institute's web site www.tuftsgloballeadership.org.

Aesthetics is a critical aspect of *Discourse*. The very talented designer and humanist, Giorgio Baravalle, founder of de.MO (www.de-mo.org), deserves special mention. Since his deep involvement with the Institute's photojournalism and human rights program, EXPOSURE, he has been an extraordinary friend to the IGL and a mentor to our students. Our deep thanks to Megan Hall for caring so much about this publication.

In time, *Discourse's* printed version will be augmented by an electronic "University Commons." Synaptic Laura Fong, now abroad at Oxford, began to develop this concept during her summer internship at the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard. *Discourse* will benefit from other Institute promoted University consortia, including an international collaboration with students from Peking University (BEIDA) in Beijing and the cadets and midshipmen of the United States Military Academies.

We are very pleased to have the support of the Office of the President, the Office of the Provost, and the collaboration of The Center for the Humanities and the International Relations Program.

A very special thank you is due to members of our Institute's External Advisory Board for their generous support, especially The Merrin Family, Mr. Ed DeMore and Mr. Glenn Bergenfield.

Sherman Teichman
Director, Institute for Global Leadership, Tufts University

/ END