



“The International Relations Fellows program seeks to instill in its participants the desire and skills necessary to make the world a more peaceful and just place.”

COVER STORY

Syrian Refugee Crisis

By Lawrence Bernert ('19) Daniel Moscoso ('19), Hannah Wheaton ('16), Nico Moscoso ('17), Brammy Rajakumar ('19), and Chase Yager ('18)

If you have listened in on the news at any point in the past year, odds are you have probably heard one thing or another about the Syrian refugee crisis. *Millions* of refugees are fleeing Syria for other countries in the Middle East and Western Europe. The root cause of this crisis, the **Syrian civil war**, is a mess of multiple sides, including: ISIS, in control of some territory in the North; Assad, the horrible dictator supported by the Russians; and the Syrian rebels, whom many Western powers are arming to fight Assad. However, there is not one side that the US and its allies are positive they want to support, turning this war into a bloody stalemate. Therefore, Syrian civilians, seeking peace away from war-torn Syria, are forced to flee. Some find themselves in refugee camps along the border; others go to neighboring countries, such as

Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey, and soon find themselves smuggled dangerously on boats across the Mediterranean and crossing Europe illegally as they try to find a new, welcoming home. Neighboring countries are stretched thin, with refugees adding weight on already-unstable road, health, and housing systems. The refugees are being divided unequally in Europe as well: Sweden and Germany are taking most of them, and the EU is struggling to unite.



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Inside International Relations

May 2016

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Election Highlights

Candidates who campaigned or continue to campaign for the presidency are summarized, looking at their actual positions and their statistics -- with a touch of humor.

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DIME Seminar

This special will describe the second annual IR Fellow DIME Seminar, a huge event where students act as members of the National Security Council -- basically, government officials advising a "President".

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Want to know more about what is going on in the world? Look for **Summaries of Events Around the World** throughout the newsletter.

Words from the wise: Dr. Rezelman Speaks



As Director of the International Relations Fellows (IRF) program, it is an honor to welcome you to the first edition of our Middle School newsletter! I first want to thank Brammy Rajakumar for the great initiative she has shown in pioneering the creation of this newsletter. It is exactly these sorts of student-driven ideas that are at the heart of all of the programs based within the Center for Civic and Global Leadership (CCGL). I've been a "history nerd" my whole life, with modern diplomatic and military history being my special passion. Teaching and directing the IRF program is my dream job: I get *paid* to spend my days talking about American history and world politics! Other than my own personal enjoyment, the purpose of the IRF program is to create a

new generation of international leaders. During the summers IR Fellows travel to Washington, D.C., and then travel the world, in order to learn more about international politics. During the school year we study contemporary world issues in a variety of ways (most of which are student-led). All Fellows within the CCGL also study leadership during their four years within the program (grades 9-12). We hope that, by reading the articles in this newsletter (all written by IR Fellows), you will get a better idea of what it is that we do and become more knowledgeable about the world we live in. If what you find

in these pages interests you, there are ample opportunities for you to learn more about world politics in your remaining years at Norfolk Academy. I teach an elective International Relations course in the Upper School and I advise the student-run International Relations Club (through which students participate in activities such as model United Nations). If you are in the seventh grade or younger, perhaps you might even consider one day applying to become an International Relations Fellow yourself!

--Dr. David Rezelman

SUMMARIES OF WORLD

EVENTS BY SOPHIE KIDD ('16) AND PABLO VASQUEZ ('16); IMAGES BY TAI JEFFERS ('18) AND MILA COLIZZA ('18)



Germany:

Lutz Bachmann, leader of anti-immigrant movement Pegida, was found guilty of provoking racial hatred. Bachmann has made numerous offensive Facebook posts and speeches and will be fined \$11,000.

Finland:

This February, a very bright 10-year-old Finnish boy named Jani found a software bug on Instagram. After proving his findings through a test account (Jani isn't old enough to have an Instagram yet!) Facebook gave him a reward of \$10,000!



The **horrible nature** of the crisis has called upon many nations not only to take refugees into Syria, but also provide humanitarian aid assistance through a framework of **SHARP** (Syrian Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan) mostly funded by the United States and the European Union and created by the **United Nations** under a General Assembly resolution. Humanitarian aid comes in many forms, but many internally displaced Syrians are struggling to find basic human needs. Another facet of the issue is the danger posed to those administering and distributing the aid. Many convoys are just now reaching besieged cities.

Syrian Refugee Crisis (from front pg.)

EU countries are struggling to handle the sudden influx of people by using quota systems and taking them in. As of now, the country with the highest number of accepted migrants is Germany, which claims that more than a million have been counted; Hungary comes in at second, taking on the most people in proportion to their population, roughly 1,800 migrants per 100,000 citizens. The EU has recently passed a vote to relocate 160,000 refugees across the EU. For now, this will only apply to the refugees in **Italy** and **Greece**. **Hungary** rejected a plan to remove immigrants from it and instead said that they would receive more refugees as a part of the relocation plan. The **UK** is not a member of the quota system but does plan to accept 20,000 refugees over the next five years. Additionally, the EU, led by Germany, has struck a deal with **Turkey** in order to stem the flow of refugees to Europe. This deal greatly strengthens the prospects of Turkish admittance into the EU, once viewed as a long shot.

REFUGEES BY THE NUMBERS

9 Million Refugees since March 2011

6.5 Million Displaced Within Syria

3 Million in Syria's Neighbors: Turkey, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan

150,000 Declared Asylum in EU



SUMMARIES OF WORLD

EVENTS BY SOPHIE KIDD ('16) AND PABLO VASQUEZ ('16); IMAGES BY TAI JEFFERS ('18) AND MILA COLIZZA ('18)

Turkey:

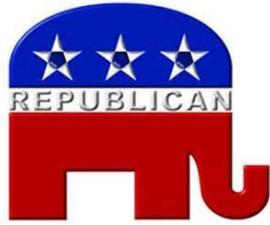
The European Union will back a deal which will allow Turkish citizens to travel within the Schengen Area (26 different European countries) in exchange for reclaiming migrants who traveled to Greece (*mentioned above*).



An F-16
Fighter Jet

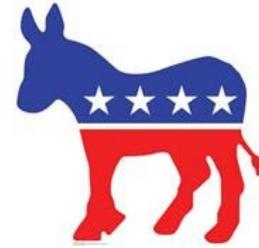
Pakistan:

U.S. members of Congress raised concern over the Obama administration's decision to sell eight F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan. The congressmen are concerned over Pakistan's capabilities to fight India rather than combat terrorism.



ELECTION HIGHLIGHTS

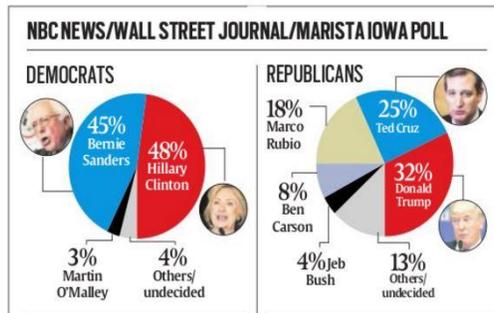
By Hallie Griffiths ('17), Alexander Burkett ('19), and Luke Cromwell ('17); edited by Brammy Rajakumar ('19)



Businessman Donald Trump is now **the last man standing** in the Republican Party. He has consistently beaten his Republican rivals, Senator Ted Cruz and Governor John Kasich, in most of the Republican primary elections this year. When this was written, he had secured 845 delegates. He continues to run on a platform that includes building a protective wall on our southern border with Mexico, reforming health care, protecting veterans, and strengthening our border and immigration forces to combat illegal immigration. He hopes to gain the 1,237 delegates needed for an uncontested Republican convention in July.



Former Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton** continues to garner overwhelming support from Democratic voters, politicians, and the media, despite the many controversies surrounding her (i.e. Whitewater, Travelgate, Benghazi, etc.) and an ongoing FBI investigation about her use of private email. Secretary Clinton currently holds claim to 2,239 delegates. Just 144 delegates away from the Democratic nomination, Hillary Clinton is within reach of possibly becoming the first female president of the United States.



Texas Senator Ted Cruz, though now out of the race, had been running a conservative presidential race in an effort to restore traditional American values. The pragmatic constitutionalist had won the first batch of major delegates at the Iowa Caucus in February, beating a stunned Donald Trump. But he only held 560 total delegates. Senator Cruz had recently teamed up with Governor Kasich to attempt to block Trump.

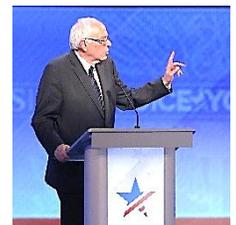
"The beauty of me is that I'm rich"
~Trump

"It did take a Clinton to clean up after the first Bush, and I think it might take another one to clean up after the second Bush."
~Clinton

"God's blessing has been on America from the very beginning of this nation, and I believe God isn't done with America yet."
~Ted Cruz

"This grotesque level of income and wealth inequality is immoral."
-Sanders

Senator Sanders is running with a platform of Nordic capitalism -- a system in which a democratic nation has a free market economy with a government that focuses on protection of the basic rights of all citizens. Sanders's specific brand of Nordic capitalism is social democracy, which has the fundamental goal of helping all citizens be self-reliant, with the government acting as a safety net, rather than a crutch. Sanders currently has 1,399 pledged delegates, which leaves 984 delegates needed to win. In order for Sanders to pull through, he will need the support of the super delegates, of which he currently has only 39 to Clinton's 520.



DIME Seminar

by Hallie Griffiths ('17) and Nico Moscoso ('17); Images provided by Sophia Burke ('18); contribution from Dr. Rezelman and Brammy Rajakumar ('19)

The International Relations Fellows participated in a two-day event this February to put their skills and knowledge to the test. This event, put together by Lt. Col. Beattie, was called the DIME seminar. DIME stands for the four aspects of world power: **Diplomacy, Intelligence, Military, and Economics**. The IR Fellows were helped during the seminar by five **Subject Matter Experts** from each of these fields. The SMEs were Tom Baltazar, retired U.S. Army Civil Affairs officer with extensive experience within the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID); Bryan Kurtz, expert on international development and economics; Dave Maxwell, retired U.S. Army Green Beret now teaching at Georgetown University; Lindsay Moran, former clandestine officer of the Central Intelligence Agency; and Susan Zelle, retired senior diplomat.

The focus of the DIME simulation was to explore all variables of and develop a multi-faceted solution for a mock crisis in the **Korean Peninsula**. The crisis: Kim Jong Un, dictator of North Korea, was missing and assumed to be ill or dead. The first day, we broke up into our respective departments and researched, and that afternoon were treated to panel presentations by each of the SME pertaining to the crisis and their respective fields. We also heard from a dinner speaker, Howard H. Hoege III, founder of 3H3 Leadership and a lecturer at University of Virginia's Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, who shared his

thoughts on leadership with us. On Saturday, with the help of the SMEs, we worked as a team in order to develop solutions which we then presented to a mock POTUS.

DIME Quotations

“What surprises me about [the IR Fellows] . . . is how they're not cynical. . . . You know, these kids are growing up in an era when there are so many what seem like insurmountable problems, from climate change to extremism, and yet I don't see a hint of cynicism in any of them . . . It's really heartening to see how **optimistic** they are, and how **committed they are to trying to find solutions** and it seems like they won't let any obstacles get in their way.” ~ Lindsay Moran, former CIA clandestine officer

“The level of debate and thoughtfulness was mind-blowing.” ~ Bryan Kurtz, international economics expert

“It's kind of fun, actually, to be left to our own devices . . . We've had to learn a lot about ourselves and how we solve problems.” ~ Brammy Rajakumar, IRF '19

“It's been pretty eye-opening. It's great experience because I'm able to discuss ideas with other people. It creates a lot of comradery between us.” ~Alexander Burkett, IRF '19

PICTURES



IRFs discuss possible solutions during the second DIME day at the Seal Heritage Center at Little Creek Amphibious Base.



Two students speak with an SME for advice about the crisis and their departments' responses.



To culminate the seminar, IRFs present their final plans to the mock POTUS, seated at far right in above picture.



Each SME presents to the IRFs about their respective departments on the first DIME day.

From the Editor's Pen



So you might have been wondering, why was this IR Fellows newsletter created? What is the point of these overflowing pages of information that has now cost you thirty minutes of your life to read?

As this year has passed, I have come to realize how much I have learned after reading page after page of *Economist* and *Foreign Affairs* articles about world events and how they affect all of us. The littlest actions, troubles, and fears can grow into huge disagreements that can affect a multitude of countries already filled with struggles themselves.

Education and awareness about these events in the world is the first step to solving its problems, so it is necessary to share all the experiences and knowledge that the IR Fellows have gathered with all students, who are the future leaders and citizens. Therefore, everyone can be fully informed about their world, beyond local events and what today's media focuses on. The world really is a place of vastness and variety, filled with many cultures, ethnic groups, religions, countries, and divides, and understanding these allows you to understand the delicate balance between countries and how problems arise.

On the other hand, these divides also can allow you to appreciate the world's diversity and learn more about others' views.

Additionally, this is the first issue of this newsletter, "Inside International Relations," and I would like to know what you think about it. Please email me back if you have any feedback so that we can keep on improving it for next year and the years to come!

~Brammy Rajakumar ('19)
(brajakumar19@norfolkacademy.org)

Quotes of the Day by Chris Kazakis ('17), Mila Colizza ('18), and Tai Jeffers ('18)

Entertaining (Current) Quote: "I'm a little hurt he's not here tonight, and it is surprising. You got a room full of reporters, celebrities, cameras. And he says no? Is this dinner too tacky for the Donald? What could he possibly be doing instead? Is he at home eating a Trump steak? Tweeting out insults to Angela Merkel? What's he doing?" -Obama on Trump's absence at the correspondents' dinner

Quote from History: "Criticism may not be agreeable, but it is necessary. It fulfils the same function as pain in the human body; it calls attention to the development of an unhealthy state of things. If it is heeded in time, danger may be averted; if it is suppressed, a fatal distemper may develop." -Winston Churchill

Current Events Quote to Think On: "In their desperation to seal their borders, EU leaders have willfully ignored the simplest of facts: Turkey is not a safe country for Syrian refugees and is getting less safe by the day." -John Dalhuisen, Amnesty International's director for Europe and Central Asia on the Syrian refugee crisis (CNN)

Discussion Question of the Day

Which is more important:
JUSTICE or PEACE? Why?

SUMMARIES OF WORLD**EVENTS** BY SOPHIE KIDD ('16) AND PABLO VASQUEZ ('16); IMAGES BY TAI JEFFERS ('18) AND MILA COLIZZA ('18)**Iraq:**

A car bomb killed 14 people and wounded at least 30. Violent demonstrations have spread in Iraq's capital city, Baghdad, after Shia cleric and former militia leader Muqtada al-Sadr called for "an end to corruption" in Parliament.



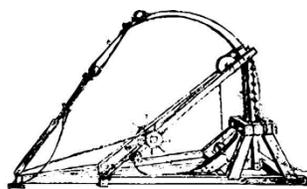
Car bomb

**Vietnam:**

The communist country faced widespread demonstrations on Sunday as angry people blamed the government and Taiwan's Formosa steel company for millions of dead fish stretching out over 124 miles of central Vietnamese beaches.

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