Alex Badas

In 2010 Alex Badas earned dual degrees from the University of Toledo in Political Science and Law and Social Thought. In 2012 he completed a MA in Political Science at Wayne State University. Alex’s research interests fall in the Law and the Courts subfield. In his master’s essay he sought to determine to what degree elected and appointed state superior court judges differed in their willingness to docket civil liberties claims. Currently he is researching an array of questions related to gender and judicial behavior. Alex plans to major in American Politics, while minoring in research methods.

Andre Remy Berberich

André is a German graduate student from the Free University Berlin and will join us as an exchange student for 2012-13. Beforehand, he earned a Bachelor's degree in Public Management & Governance, majoring in Political Science/Public Administration and minoring in Economics. His undergraduate thesis analyzed the democratic quality of transnational institutions at sub-state regional level. His research interests lie in European integration, democracy theories, and public finances, evolving around the question of how to design sustainable public finances and reducing public debts in a democratic way at the supranational and national level. After finishing MA in late 2013, he will seek a PhD.
Alison Carden

Alison Carden has a BA in Political Science and a BA in German from Middle Tennessee State University and an MA in Germanic Studies from the University of Texas – Austin. Her research interests include political violence, issues of human rights, and the roles of NGOs in peacekeeping efforts and humanitarian aid.

Chung-Yuan Chiu

Chung-Yuan’s academic interest is primarily to understand how formal/ informal institutions, by which people overcome the cooperation dilemma, can further result in diverse political consequences and policy outcomes. Topics of interest include social movement, regime transition, resource management, environmental politics, to local politics and governance. Parts of Chung-Yuan’s research results have been published in *Comparative Politics* and other Taiwanese journals. Chung-Yuan earned both a BA and MA at the National Chung Cheng University in the Republic of China.
Chris Colley

Chris has been living in China for the past 10 years. In 2008 he earned a MA from Renmin University in Beijing where he focused on China's emerging blue water navy. Since 2008 he has been teaching Chinese and American undergraduates Chinese foreign policy with courses centered on China's relations with the USA, India, and Africa. He taught at Renmin University's IR school and the Alliance for Global Education. While in Beijing, he also spent time at Reuters and China Development Brief. Chris plans on researching Sino/Indian relations with an emphasis on the security situation between the two and how Indian domestic politics influences their relationship. His hobbies include trekking, reading anything on China, and marathon running.

Ryan Dawe

Ryan Dawe comes from central Massachusetts. He attended Lafayette College in Easton, PA where he earned undergraduate degrees in Mathematics and Political Science. His main areas of interest are voter decision making and political behavior, using psychological concepts of perception. He is a big fan of strategy games and has also been an athlete and choral singer, having the honor of singing at such notable locations as Carnival in Venice and Carnegie Hall in New York City.
**Sean Fedorko**

Sean Fedorko is a first-year PhD student in the Department of Political Science. Prior to his studies at IU, Sean worked for the Mercyhurst Center for Applied Politics (http://polisci.mercyhurst.edu/mcap) where he developed training programs for undergraduate research associates and contributed to survey design and analysis. Sean is interested in the policy process and in existential and environmental philosophies. Specifically, he is interested in how the power disparity of actors contributes to environmental policy and in the obstacles to effective policy solutions to environmental issues. Sean earned BAs in both Political Science and Philosophy from Mercyhurst University.

**Rachel Gears**

Rachel is the oldest of four children. She spent most of her life in upstate New York, living in various suburbs around Rochester and always wishing she was somewhere else. One highlight was spending a few weeks in Sicily with her grandparents and Italian cousins. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Vermont in Burlington with majors in political science
and history. Her research interests center around political economy, specifically development. When not focusing on school (and working herself into a nervous frenzy), she is addicted to reality TV and sports. Rachel is a pessimistic yet dedicated fan of two teams that love to disappoint—Everton F.C. and the Buffalo Bills. Mondays are not typically good days. When she gets disgusted with herself for spending too much time staring at the computer, she relocates outdoors. Rachel enjoys hiking, running, camping—anything that lets her breathe in fresh air and appreciate beautiful scenery.

**Cathryn Johnson**

Prior to beginning her studies at IU, Cathryn worked for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs where she supported programs to strengthen political participation and democratic institutions in West Africa. Cathryn’s research interests are rooted in the democratization process. Specifically, she is interested in how institutions influence citizen engagement in democratic processes and shape the outcomes of policies to improve citizen welfare. Cathryn earned an MSc in Development Studies from the University of London School of Oriental and African Studies and a BA in International Studies and French from Whitworth University.
**Wynand Kastart**

Wynand is no Aristotle, but not for lack of trying. Before coming to IU, he spent ten years studying Political Science and Classics at Leiden University and the Ohio State University, and, since leaving academia in 2010, has been employed as a high school tutor in the Netherlands (perhaps not fully realizing that he might have been mentoring the next Alexander the Great). Wynand is interested in (ancient and modern) political history, authoritarian legacies, political regimes, public opinion, (dissident and non-dissident) mass political behavior, and individual rights violations in Europe and Latin America, his two regions of interest.

**Chisda Magid**

Chisda Magid was born in Jerusalem and grew up in the Boston, Massachusetts area, and he has traveled in Europe, Turkey, Egypt, and Israel. He received his BA from Indiana University (Bloomington) in 2008. He completed two undergraduate theses, "A Theo-Democratic Iran: Democratic Institutions in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Prospects for the Consolidation of Democracy," and “Breaking the Cycle of Failed Peace Process and Violence: Spoilers and the Informational Model in Asymmetric Protracted Conflicts.” After completing his undergraduate
work Chisda pursued a culinary career in Bloomington, Washington, D.C., and New York City, cooking in gourmet restaurants that focused on locally sourced sustainable food. In 2011, he interned at J Street, a political advocacy organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. Chisda has published numerous articles online in the progressive Jewish magazine Tikkun. Chisda's primary areas of interest include the relationship between national protest movements and multinational governing institutions, identity politics in popular movements, and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

**Yehuda Magid**

Yehuda Magid was born in Israel and moved with his family to Boston in 1989. In June 2006, after completing his B.A. in Political Science at Indiana University, where he focused on middle east conflict and co-founded a local student chapter of Brit Tzedeck – an organization that advocates a fair and just solution the Israeli-Palestinian conflict - Yehuda served as a combat soldier in the Special Forces Battalion of the Nahal Brigade of the Israeli Defense Forces, completing his service at the rank of first sergeant. Following his honorable discharge from the Israeli military, Yehuda worked on a youth party’s political campaign for the Israeli parliament in the 2009 national elections, as well as in the Israeli high tech sector. In 2010 Yehuda completed his Masters Degree in the Diplomacy and Conflict Studies program at the Inter-Disciplinary Center in Herzliya, Israel. His thesis was titled “American Attitudes Towards the Israeli Settlement Enterprise: Trends in American Government Policy and Public Opinion, 1967 to Present.” His primary professional interests include political violence, fundamentalist extremism, and Middle East conflict.

**Fathima Musthaq**

Fathima’s research interests are primarily focused on economic reform in democracies in South Asia. She is interested in studying how political incentives, in part shaped by and channeled through political institutions, guide economic reform. Fathima graduated from Williams College, MA with a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science (Comparative Politics) and a concentration in Environmental Studies. After graduation, she worked in Maldives at an anticorruption NGO for a year before moving to Sri Lanka to work as a political and economic analyst for the Maldives at the U.S. Embassy.
Dan Schloss

Dan Schloss graduated from DePauw University with a focus in political science and a passion for political theory. His interests lie primarily in the arguments and identities of the early American colonies and the transition period from the English Civil War to the end of the American Founding moment. He believes that these events span the foundations of modern political thought, giving us a vision of the origins of human organization and a hope that we may catch a glimpse of where we are heading. Dan is a native Hoosier, and you can catch him at any of the myriad of ethnic restaurants that dot the Bloomington landscape.

Volker Schmitz

Volker first studied Political Science, Modern and Contemporary History, and Psychology at the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, dedicating most of his graduate phase to Political Theory. In 2008, he completed his M.A. degree with a thesis on the treatment of political violence by Albert Camus. After two years of living and working in Tel Aviv and Berlin, he joined the M.A. program in North American Studies at Freie Universität Berlin, focusing particularly on the American Labor Movement and 20th century intellectual history. His interests lie in political theory and American politics.
Justin Schon

In addition to studying abroad in South Africa as an undergraduate, Justin has worked with NGOs in Kenya, conducted research in Malawi, and travelled extensively in Morocco, Egypt, Zambia, and Swaziland. These experiences have fuelled his research interests in political violence, displaced groups, and the ways in which the concerns of development and conflict intersect. Currently, his primary interest is in the causes of refugee and IDP militarization. He intends to use a variety of quantitative and qualitative methods to pursue these interests. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan.

Alissa Strunk

Alissa is a first year PhD candidate studying comparative politics with a focus on North African politics and democratic transition. Over the course of her academic career, Alissa has studied and worked in both Tunisia and Morocco. Most recently, Alissa spent the year following Tunisia’s revolution while running an American cultural center, holding and organizing programming on topics such as constitution-writing and civil society promotion. In addition to her experience abroad, Alissa served as an intern on Middle East Progress, a special project for the Center for American Progress. Alissa’s research interests include examining the past, present and future roles of Islamist parties in North Africa, and their impact on restructuring in the region, as they possibly alter their countries’ stances on key foreign policy issues. Alissa did her undergraduate work at the University of Oregon.