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Knight Inst. Not Considering Undergrad FWS Instructors

By SUN STAFF

In response to an article published in The Sun, The Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines announced yesterday that there is no discussion taking place about the possibility of undergraduates teaching Freshman Writing Seminars. Prof. Paul Sawyer, English and Knight Institute director, confirmed that graduate students and faculty will continue to teach all FWS courses into the foreseeable future, regardless of budget cuts.

Prof. Katherine Gottschalk, English and director of first-year writing seminars, emphasized that the Knight Institute — and all of Cornell — highly values its graduate student and faculty seminar instructors, whom she called

the “fundamental source of the program’s strength.” She also expressed her strong support for the intellectual stimulation of the required discussion-style classes.

“Undergraduates never have been, are not being and will not be considered by the Knight Institute to teach First-Year Writing Seminars. The Knight Institute greatly respects the work of the graduate student instructors and of the faculty who teach First-Year Writing Seminars,” Gottschalk said in a statement. “It would never consider having undergraduates take over the teaching of these very pedagogically and intellectually demanding courses. Faculty and graduate student instructors put intensive work into the preparation and teaching of seminars and do outstanding work, the work of graduate stu-

dent instructors often being so excellent that it serves as models for faculty, as well as the other way around. That undergraduates could teach First-Year Writing Seminars is out of the realm of reasonable possibility.”

Gottschalk explained that current rules that govern the College of Arts and Sciences prohibit undergraduates from being “instructors of record,” which precludes the idea that undergraduate students could serve as instructors for writing seminars.

However, she wrote that the Knight Institute is considering hiring undergraduate teaching assistants to serve as tutors for its larger intensive writing courses as part of a possible Writing Fellows Program. Prof. Joe Martin, English and director of writing workshops at the Knight Institute, said

“The Knight Institute greatly respects the work of the graduate student instructors and of the faculty who teach First-Year Writing Seminars.”

Prof. Katherine Gottschalk

that the proposed initiative, which is merely in the discussion phase, would be adapted from other colleges and universities to fulfill the “changing needs of the undergraduate population.”

Undergraduate tutors would be assigned to specific courses, where they would keep up with the reading and assignments, so they would be the best trained to help the students taking the course. This would be a “more intense” version of the walk-in writing services currently available, since the tutors would have deeper knowledge of the subject matter the students are writing about, Martin said.

“We think there needs to be more writing

See **FWS** page 4

Hanging out



CHLOE LINCOLN / SUN CONTRIBUTOR

Hallie Seegal '10 and Zach Winters '10 hang in a tree on the Arts Quad on a sunny afternoon yesterday.

CIT Anticipates Microsoft E-mail Option by Spring

By BRYNN LEOPOLD
Sun Contributor

Only five months after the University smoothly converted over 15,000 users to Cmail, a Google-based e-mailing system, Cornell Information Technologies is looking to provide a Microsoft-based equivalent, Umail, in the coming months, adding another option for Cornell community members to access their e-mails.

Problematic negotiations have stalled Cornell’s adoption of Umail, but CIT expects the issues to be resolved by February and available for all students by the end of spring, according to Chuck Boheim, CIT’s

assistant director of systems services.

“Microsoft was late with a few features,” Boheim said, so until Microsoft meets their promise to correct the problems, CIT will not offer the new program.

Google’s Apps Education — the software responsible for Cmail — respects the routing domain of Cornell University; Microsoft’s Outlook-style Umail, on the other hand, does not effectively deliver to Cmail, delivering all emails only to a student’s Umail. Thus, if a student prefers Cmail, they would be likely to miss important messages.

Many students were already avoid-

See **E-MAIL** page 4

Cornell Profs Debate U.S. Foreign Policy Towards Iran



CHELSEA CHON / SUN CONTRIBUTOR

Consider the following | Prof. Ziad Fahmy (right), Near Eastern studies, speaks about Iran’s past elections at the panel discussion yesterday in Warren Hall.

By SAMANTHA WILLNER
Sun Contributor

With the first United Nations General Assembly Meeting in New York City just three days away, the Cornell International Affairs Affairs Review held a panel discussion yesterday focusing on the political issues surrounding this upcoming meeting, especially the controversy surrounding Iran’s recent presidential elections.

CIAR’s first panel of the seminar, “Tehran Divided: Iran’s Presidential Election and Implications for U.S. Foreign Policy,” sought to address issues such as the controversial 2009 presidential elections in Iran, the

history and future of Iran as a political power and the implications of these issues on the General Assembly meeting, where both President Barack Obama and President Mohamoud Ahmadinejad of Iran will be present.

The discussion was led by some of Cornell’s leading scholars in Iranian and Middle Eastern politics, including Prof. Ziad Fahmy, near eastern studies; Prof. Iago Gocheleishvili, near eastern studies; and Prof. David

Patel, near eastern studies.

“The issues our panelists will delve into today are tangible and they are real,” said Mitchell Alva ’10, president of the CIAR and a

“The center of gravity in the Middle East has shifted in the last decade. The U.S. doesn’t have the capabilities to prevent Iran from developing [nuclear weapons].”

Prof. David Patel

member of The Sun’s editorial writing board. “Current events on the ground in Iran raise important

See **IRAN** page 6

NEWS: Serious Illness

The Spanish flu of 1918 was much worse than the swine flu pandemic of today. | 3

OPINION: Here You Go!

Columnist Florencia Moa '11 gripes about the uselessness of students quarter-carding. | 9



ARTS: Red Art

The Johnson Museum’s exhibit of Chinese art during its Cultural Revolution highlights Chairman Mao. | 10

WEATHER:

HIGH: 70°
LOW: 61°

