Spring 2013 International Studies Poster Session Information

When is the Spring 2013 International Studies poster session?
The Spring 2013 Honors International Studies poster session will be held Friday, May 17, 2013, from 3:00 – 4:30 pm, in 2520D University Capitol Centre (on the second floor of the Old Capitol Mall). The International Studies program will provide an easel for you to hang your poster on. You must arrive by 2:30 PM to check in with International Studies staff and to set up your poster with your provided easel. This event will also serve as the ISBA Graduation Reception and you are welcome to invite your friends, family and faculty mentor to the event. Light refreshments will be served.

What is the International Studies poster session?
The International Studies poster session is an event during which students who are completing the Honors ISBA curriculum present their ISBA Honors Thesis research. It allows students to reflect on what they have learned and accomplished in completing an Honors Thesis, share their work with others and gain presentation experience. Students are expected to construct a poster that highlights the most important aspects of their Honors Thesis and prepare to discuss questions about their research and findings. Students are not expected to prepare a formal presentation. Presenting students will not be graded or critiqued. Students should only expect that faculty, community members and fellow students may ask them questions or want to know more about their research. The International Studies poster session is required for all students who are completing the Honors ISBA curriculum. International Studies majors who are not completing the Honors ISBA curriculum are welcome to attend the poster session, but are not required to present.

How do I create a poster?
A poster should guide its audience through the basics of the study. A poster should have enough information so that if the presenter is absent, audience members can still understand the research question, methods and conclusions. Minute details should be excluded, and instead reserved for those audience members who ask additional questions. Most text should be readable from 10 feet away. All text should be readable from 6 feet away. Vivid colors, charts & graphics are all extremely useful in this medium. Remember to use non-technical language, so that anyone who reads your poster can leave with a basic understanding of your project. Be sure to identify yourself, your faculty mentor and the title of your Honors Thesis.

To actually construct a poster, your options are largely contingent upon how durable you want your poster to be (Will you present your research again down the road? Are you especially proud of your research?), and how much you wish to spend. If you would like to have your poster professionally printed (laminated, with high-quality colors & clearly readable text), UI Printing offers many affordable options, found at
http://www.uiowa.edu/~prntmail/prices/print/colorposter.shtml. This page also provides a link to place an order for your poster.

Many local businesses also offer printing services, but in almost every scenario, you will find that the prices are much, much higher than those available at UI Printing. **Be sure to contact UI Printing well enough in advance that your poster will be ready before the International Studies poster session.** UI Printing’s office is in no way affiliated with the International Studies program, and they cater to the entire University’s printing needs. If finances are a significant obstacle for you, you can also construct a poster of your own. Simply purchase some poster board or cardboard (~$5), and you can print, cut and paste power point slides of your research onto the board. Do be aware, however, that Honors ISBA students and other students participating in poster sessions on campus (such as the Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates Festival), generally produce very impressive posters, so that will be the context in which you are presenting your poster.

**IMPORTANT SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ISBA POSTER SESSION:**

- The International Studies Program will provide an easel for your poster.
- You must bring your poster to the poster session (most students with printed posters carry them rolled up in a poster tube).
- If your poster is rolled up in a poster tube then you must also bring poster board to which you will attach your poster so that it can be displayed on the poster easel.
- Your poster should not exceed 32 x 40 inches (that is a standard size of poster board which can then be displayed on the poster easel).
- Please refer to the spring 2012 ISBA poster session power point for examples of the way that you will need to display your poster (correct examples are Holly Richard, Xuyang Han, and Matthew Wolf):
  http://clas.uiowa.edu/international-studies/honors-international-studies-poster-session

**Where can I find helpful resources for creating my poster?**

You may find the following online resources helpful in this process:

- A Recipe for Creating Professional Posters Using Publisher
- Writing Strategies for Poster Sessions
- Career Development - Providing Good Poster Sessions

See the International Studies website under “Poster Session” for examples of ISBA Honors posters from previous semesters.