

gpia.info progress report

09 Dec 2008

usage

Google statistics: 1683 pages. At least 9,000 visits and over 45,000 page views. The typical time on the site is 5 mins. 1st result when you google 'gpia' and 2nd entry if you google 'New School International Affairs'.

Posts per day: An average of 5 new posts or pages created each day by 3.5 different users.

Number of users: 299 registered for gpia.info accounts (only necessary to add content).

Groups: 37 (11 courses, 26 non-course discussion groups)

Events posted: 400

Announcements: 26 (16 this semester).

major features

Courses are easily added to a database and automatically linked to faculty and concentrations.

Events are announced on the front page and shown in a [calendar](#). Event coordinators can create a page for events with photos and information, and use a sign up option to gauge interest level and send automatic email reminders.

Groups provide a forum where classes can discuss and post readings.

Profile pages for faculty automatically lists the courses they are currently teaching and a personal page. Profiles for inactive members are stored in a database.

Announcements are used on the homepage to inform the GPIA community about events, registration deadlines, student government notes, awards, etc.

Concentrations have their own pages, which are updated by concentration heads and coordinators

new developments this year

IFP has done extensive work in its area of the site. The [photo competition](#) was held on IFP pages this semester, as was the IFP photo project [Another Look](#). Each IFP will have a group for 2009.

[Student Government](#) uses the site to announce meetings and [post minutes](#). We are also holding the elections for next year's government on the site.

[Contexts](#) editors have a group for discussing the upcoming issue and the journal's [full version](#) is posted on the site.

PIA has extensive information about the practicum track including final projects from the past and info for [potential client organizations](#).

Internships are now listed in a new page that includes a [directory](#) and instructions on how to register for credit.

Concentrations have actively used the site:

- The [Cities and Urbanization Concentration](#) uses theirs for the [Newark Greenwalk Project](#).
- The [Development Concentration](#) has spear-headed a [Student Working Paper](#) series hosted on [gpia.info](#).

plans for next semester

Create an online community with user profiles of current students and alumni (similar to linked or facebook)

Design a new personal webpage template for faculty that has an individual look and feel separate from that of the site.

Write a how to manual and training to ensure better transition to next administrator.

Conduct a [gpia.info](#) user survey to asses use and needs.

Work with a consultant to:

- **Modify** the theme so that the pages (especially the front page) looks more dynamic with more font options
- **Create** a searchable database of student and faculty working papers
- **Create** better looking and more user friendly navigation pages
- **Develop** more templates for page creation

successes

Up to date information: The official site does not have the most recent courses, events, IFPs or faculty profiles. [Gpia.info](#) is updated every day by a number of users and has up to the minute information on all aspects of the program that are relevant to students and faculty. It is now the most important online source of information about the program.

A community of users: The DRUPAL platform allowed us to create a massively interactive site that can be updated constantly by a community of users. It has proved much more reliable and flexible than other tools such as blackboard.

challenges

Maintaining consistency and quality on a site with so many different users.

Ensuring that administrative functions can be passed on.

