From the Director

One of the great joys of teaching is witnessing the metamorphosis of students from young pursuers of truth to cultivated, critical, balanced, mature thinkers who appreciate intellectual achievement, diversity, openness, reflection, and nuance. Teaching is even more delightful for me as the Director of International Studies at Texas State University because I see daily the richness and beauty of minds and persons who are emerging as leaders in our interdependent world. Students in International Studies are optimists and problem-solvers.

They are citizens of the world and they engage in and thrive on cosmopolitanism and cultural pluralism. They are also intelligent and skilled. In fall 2016 our students organized faculty presentations on the Russian Role in the Syrian Civil War, Kurdistan and Its Future, and the Refugee Crisis in the Middle East and Europe. They also participated in hosting SightsUnseen (an NGO headed by Kelly Broome, one of our graduates, which provides eyeglasses for free to people in the developing world), Hibiscus Alternative Travel (a travel/tour/internship company in Costa Rica that was founded by graduate Lauren Markey), the Peace Corps (dozens of our graduates have served with the Peace Corps), and The Basketball Embassy (a NGO headed by graduate Chris Dial that serves to utilize sports and the idea of sports diplomacy in an effort to promote peace and cooperation among countries).

Fall 2016 was also a busy time for our IS coordinator, Jeremy Peña, who recruited graduate students across Texas, our associate director Paul Hart, who had his biography of Zapata placed with Oxford University Press, and myself, who published two books—one on comparative political values (Palgrave Macmillan) and the other on the Catholic Church in Soviet Russia, 1917-1939 (Routledge). We look forward to a very busy and productive 2017. Please visit us at the Center for International Studies in Derrick 101 when you are on campus!
Center News and Events

Texas State recognizes Center Director, Dr. Dennis Dunn as Regents’ Professor

Dr. Dennis Dunn has been with Texas State for over 40 years. As a professor in History and Director of the Center for International Studies, he has continued to maintain excellence in teaching and scholarly work. He teaches courses on Russia, East Europe, world affairs, world history, Western civilization, and international relations. He has been a visiting research scholar at the Vatican, Oxford University, Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies, Pacific Cultural Foundation, London School of Economics and Political Science, and Centre d’études sur l’U.R.S.S. et l’Europe Orientales. The Ford Foundation, U.S. Department of Education, Texas Educational Foundation, American Bar Association, West Foundation, and the Canadian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Trade have supported his research and teaching. The Center for International Studies is proud to have Dr. Dunn be recognized as a University Regents’ Professor!

Associate Director, Dr. Paul Hart visits Texas Southmost College

Dr. Paul Hart was invited to give a lecture at Texas Southmost College. The lecture, *Emiliano Zapata: Myth, Memory, and Meaning* addressed the life and legacy of the Mexican revolutionary Emiliano Zapata in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. His talk discussed Zapata’s vision for a more equitable and democratic Mexico, how the Mexican government has attempted to manipulate Zapata’s memory, and how people on both sides of the border see Zapata as a symbol of resistance to contemporary injustices of all kinds.
The Center congratulates Dr. Dennis Dunn on his recent publications!

*A History of Orthodox, Islamic, and Western Christian Political Values* 1st ed. 2016 Edition by Dennis J. Dunn reveals the nexus between religion and politics today and shows that we live in an interdependent world where one global civilization is emerging and where the world’s peoples are continuing to coalesce around a series of values that contain potent Western overtones. Both Putin’s Orthodox Russia and regions under the control of such Islamist groups like ISIS and Al Qaeda resent and attempt, in a largely languishing effort, to frustrate this series of values. The book explains the current tension between the West and Russia and parts of the Muslim world and sheds light on the causes of such crises as the Syrian Civil War, Russia’s aggression against Ukraine, and acts of terrorism such as 9/11 and the ISIS-inspired massacres in Paris. It shows that religion continues to affect global order and that knowledge of its effect on political identity and global governance should guide both government policy and scholarly analysis of contemporary history.

*The Catholic Church and Soviet Russia, 1917-39* by Dennis J. Dunn takes extensive research including in the Russian and Vatican archives, and charts the development of relations between the Catholic Church and the Soviet Union from the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 to the death of Pope Pius XI in 1939. It provides background information on the animosity between the Orthodox and Catholic churches and moves towards reconciliation between them, discusses Soviet initiatives to eradicate religion in the Soviet Union and spread atheist international communism throughout the world, and explores the Catholic Church’s attempts to survive in the face of persecution within the Soviet Union and extend itself. Throughout the book reveals much new detail on the complex interaction between these two opposing bodies and their respective ideologies.
Academic Coordinator, Jeremy Peña participates in Texas recruitment effort

Jeremy Peña, Academic Coordinator for the Center, traveled around the state of Texas in an effort to recruit top quality students for the Graduate Program in International Studies. He visited St. Edwards University, Huston-Tillotson University, Our Lady of the Lake University, Texas Lutheran University, Schreiner University, University of Texas at San Antonio, St. Mary’s University and Texas A&M International.

Comparative Messianism - Dr. Kurt Richardson

The Center in collaboration with The Department of History and the Department of Philosophy hosted Professor Kurt Richardson. Dr. Richardson received his doctorate at the University of Basel, Switzerland and is a member of the faculties of theology of McMaster and Toronto Universities as well as professor of Abrahamic Studies at Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics in Dallas. He is a co-founder of two research groups in the American Academy of Religion: Society for Scriptural Reasoning and Comparative Theology.

The State of Kurdistan - Dr. Don Inbody - Department of Political Science, Texas State University

Dr. Don Inbody led a discussion with the International Studies Club regarding the state of Kurdistan. Donald S. Inbody is a Lecturer in the Department of Political Science. He specializes in American civil-military relations and Public Opinion. He teaches American Government and International Relations courses.
Student Spotlight

International Studies Club - Student Leaders in Action

The International Studies Club maintains an active calendar each and every semester. The club is open to all students at Texas State University that have interests in global affairs. Led by club President, Sara Moya, the club allows for students to lead presentations on international topics of their choice and also conduct open dialogue sessions with Texas State faculty. Here are some of the events recently organized by The International Studies Club.

Professor Gordon Jones led the International Studies Club in the playing of Gamelan. Gamelan is the traditional ensemble music of Bali in Indonesia and made up of predominantly percussive instruments. Professor Gordon is the current Musical Director of Gamelan Lipi Awan - Texas State University’s Balinese gamelan ensemble.

Club member, Nasser Bakri discusses the relationship between Iran and Saudi Arabia.
Alumni Spotlight

Jonathan Tomlinson - BAIS, Class of 2016

“I want to say thank you to the Center for International Studies at Texas State University and to the Program Coordinator Jeremy Peña. With their help, I had the great opportunity to study abroad in Florianópolis, Brazil, and complete an internship in Lisbon, Portugal, both of which counted towards credit for my International Studies, International Business degree. Working and studying abroad was the best thing I could have done for my education and future.

Of all the time that I have spent studying, I feel that these real-world experiences abroad were the most beneficial for equipping me with the skills and abilities to pursue a career in international business. I’ve become proficient in speaking Portuguese, I’ve learned about the Brazilian culture first-hand living with a host family, I’ve made connections with Brazilian business professors and business owners, entrepreneurial and alumni organizations at the Brazilian university UNISUL, Portuguese employers in Lisbon and Spain, and I’ve met people from all over the world who are interested in working together in the future, including people from France, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Germany, Croatia, Australia, Chile, Mexico, Kazakhstan, and others.

I’ve learned the ins and outs of the international tourism and hospitality business as a guest in Brazil and as an intern and employee in Portugal, from running the property management software to doing accounting, cleaning rooms, and serving guests. These opportunities have without a doubt set me up for a successful future, and I want to again give thanks and show my gratitude for the Center and Jeremy Peña. I would not be where I am today without their support.”

Jameson C. Hall - BAIS, Class of 2012

I currently work at Meridian International Center in Washington, DC. My role is in supporting the International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP) that is funded by the State Department. Meridian is one of seven national programming agencies in DC that help in logistics to bring international visitors who are rising leaders in their professions in their countries to meet their counterparts in the US. Prior to moving to DC, I worked for the World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth. It’s a local nonprofit that strive to bring the global to North Texas. They work in education, have a speaker series, and assist in programming in conjunction with a programming agency like Meridian. I am truly blessed to be able to use my degree in both organizations, believe in our mission, and enjoy the work we do day in and day out.

My experience at Texas State not only helped shape my work ethic and refine certain skills but being exposed to international topics in my classes really helped give me a global mindset. I was privileged to be able to study aboard in Buenos Aries, Argentina for a semester too. Through studying aboard, I was able to engage on and learn so much more about culture and having an international perspective. Moreover, the International Studies Club and Sigma Iota Rho gave me more opportunities to stay engaged in the world but bring in down to earth to how certain decision affect us all.
Billie Lorraine Lopez - BAIS, Class of 2001

Billie Lorraine Lopez graduated from TXST in 2001 with a BA in International Studies. After graduation Billie has had a very diverse and professional career. Billie has worked in the construction, finance, grocery retail sectors and now she currently owns her own jewelry company, Billie Lorraine.com. International Studies gave her a global perspective of how international commerce and trade works. During Billie’s professional journey she realized the job responsibilities that require an International business acumen was not for everyone she worked with. Having an appreciation for wanting to understand the different cultures, work ethics, and especially navigating the different laws to conduct business helped in making Billie an important asset for most of the companies she worked with.

In the last 10 years international business was and continues to be, very much part of her day to day work. Billie was a National Buyer for Whole Foods Market in Austin Texas. Her job responsibilities consisted of sourcing proteins from New Zealand, Iceland, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom. As well in working with WFM’s stores in Canada and the UK. After 15 years in corporate America Billie followed her creative heart and branched out to become a jewelry designer. Billie works with small family businesses (craftsman) and midsize companies from all over the world to help create her designs. Billie went back to school for jewelry fabrication and silversmithing, which helped her understand the creation process of these craftsman from other countries. It also gave her an appreciation for the heirloom quality jewelry that she has found. Many handcrafted techniques are now considered a dying trade. Most handmade work used to be passed down from one generation to the next. Some of these crafts are rooted in their country’s history and date back centuries. The future of business is going to include more high tech, laser, and robotic applications. Part of Billie’s core values that shape her company’s mission, is to support the small family owned businesses, by giving them opportunities to continue in making their craft and sharing the beauty of true handmade jewelry.

International Studies, business and culture makes up part of Billie’s identity. Studying this field created the structure for her to navigate and build a future around it.

“Instead of being a tourist in this world, learn how to be the resident. You will develop a far more appreciation of each country’s uniqueness.”
Graduate Announcements

Congratulations BAIS Class of Fall 2016

Banieh, Nari Acheampong
Blizinski, Meghan Grace
Boales, Tanner Lee
Caradec, Elisabeth Genevieve
Caviedes, Manuela Maria
Delacruz, Dylan Elijah
Dobyns, Jessica Lynn
Fox, Rebecca Nicole
Fritscher, Kristin N.
Garza, Gabriela
Gibbons, Kathlyn Rose
Glynyanyy, Viktor
Gray, Valerie C.
Gutierrez, Alexia Bonita
Herring, Kristen Collette
Hicks, Shelby Colleen
Hinojosa, Joshua T.
Kadous, Victoria E.
Kittlitz, Karyn Autumn
Lowrance, McKinsey Drew
MacGregor, Mia Katsumi
Maupin, Jason C.
McIntire, Rachel Helen
McLean, Zachary Calder
Morales, Jorge Alejandro
Myer, Peter Saxe Robert
Pace, Stephen J.
Paul, Samantha T.
Pfeiffer, Mason H.
Rios, Yesenia
Russo, Elizabeth
Salomon, Vianey
Sanchez, Jose Hector
Tomlinson, Jonathan Austin
Van Dyke, Savanna E.
Villamar, Jennifer
Villarreal, Andrew
Weddle, Kayla M.
Williams, Molly Reagan

Congratulations MA Class of Fall 2016

Flores, Juan A.
Roese, Hunter J.
Ruiz Caballero, Maria De La Luz
Spencer, Nickolas Anthony

The Center for International Studies is proud of your accomplishment and wish you well in your professional journey. We are confident that as new graduates, you will utilize the knowledge and skills cultivated in the International Studies program and develop into global citizens in an effort to become leaders in an interdependent world!
If you would like to make a difference for current students at Texas State, please consider supporting the Center for International Studies. Your contribution will aid students in the form of academic and travel scholarships, research awards, presentation opportunities, public programming and academic resources.

You can view the various scholarships that benefit current International Studies students HERE and decide which fund you are interested in supporting.

The Center for International Studies thanks you for your generosity.

Dr. Dennis Dunn
Center for International Studies
Texas State University
San Marcos, Texas 78666

If you are interested in making a major gift, or for immediate assistance, please call our Center at 512-245-2339

If you would like to give via the online donation form please see the instructions below:

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