From the Director

The Center for International Studies is pleased to publish this first edition of its newsletter. In 2014 the Center celebrated its 30th anniversary as the premier international studies program in Texas. The Center’s graduates have landed great jobs in business, government, and academia. In 2015 we marked a number of major milestones. We moved to newly renovated space in Derrick Hall where we now have both a seminar room and a state-of-the-art teleconferencing center. We hosted the U.S. State Department’s “diplomat-in-residence” for student workshops. We placed seven graduate students in Cambodia working or interning as Wilson Fellows. We worked closely with the Texas International Education Consortium to produce a grant application to the Asian Development Bank to help train teachers and prepare curriculum in upper-level secondary schools in Cambodia. We hosted a conference on Southeast Asia in April and were pleased to welcome to campus speakers, faculty, and students from around Texas and the United States. In May the Provost named ten new Honorary Professors of International Studies. In the fall we are planning a joint conference with the University of Houston on Africa. Looking forward to seeing you around the Quad.

-D. J. Dunn

The Center For International Studies welcomes Dr. Paul Hart as new Associate Director:

It has been an active year at the Center, and the rest of 2015 and 2016 promises to be even more so. We moved into a great new space in Derrick Hall at the top of the Quad, the new Dunn Family Scholarship created by the founder and Director of the Center, Dennis Dunn, and his wife Margaret, allowed us to grant our first awards for outstanding MA theses to Dylan Donovan, and to present the runner-up award to Maksat Abramov, we were pleased to recognize the contributions of Dr. Ken Grasso, Chair of Political Science as Outstanding Administrator in International Studies, and Dr. Thomas Doyle II, as Outstanding Faculty in International Studies, and we are happy to be launching this first edition of the Center for International Studies Newsletter. This Fall the Center is honored to have Dr. Manuel Gonzalez Oropez as our Distinguished Speaker. Dr. Gonzalez is a Judge of Mexico’s Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judicial Branch, which oversees Mexican elections, and an acting member of the Venice Commission, which works to promote democracy through the rule of law, primarily in Eastern Europe. Judge Gonzalez has taught law at UCLA, UT Austin, and the University of Houston, and will speak on the recent election cycle in Mexico and the transitions to democracy there. We are also pleased to have Dr. Ellen Tillman, of the Department of History at Texas State, speak to us about U.S. involvement in Central America. Dr. Tillman is the author of Dollar Diplomacy by Force: U.S. Military Experimentation and Occupation in the Dominican Republic, 1900-1924, UNC Press, forthcoming 2015, and the winner of the “Edward M. Coffman First Manuscript Prize in Military History.” The Center will also host a reception for new and returning graduate students and for undergraduate majors. Please visit the webpage for more information and hope to see you there.

-Paul Hart
The Center for International Studies hosted “Globalization in Southeast Asia: An Interdisciplinary Discussion on Opportunity, Understanding and Experiences.” The conference served as a forum to inform, educate, and explore different perspectives and issues affecting Southeast Asia. Conference events included research presentations, panel discussions, and the screening of “The End/Beginning: Cambodia,” an award-winning documentary written by Sophal Ear, Associate Professor of Diplomacy & World Affairs at Occidental College, Los Angeles. The conference highlighted the Center for International Studies’ commitment to the region through the Kenneth and Verena Wilson Fellowship, faculty and student exchanges with the Royal University of Phnom Penh, and Texas State University’s goal of increased internationalization.

Special Guests:
The Center for International Studies welcomed Dr. Tracy Harachi, Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Washington, Seattle, and Dr. Sophal Ear, Associate Professor of Diplomacy & World Affair, Los Angeles, as the keynote speakers for the inaugural conference on Southeast Asia.

Keynote speakers

Dr. Tracy Harachi, is Associate Professor of Social Work, Adjunct in the Department of Global Health, and affiliate with the SE Asia Center at the University of Washington. Her research focuses on reducing risks and enhancing protective factors with immigrant and refugee children and families, issues related to cultural adaptation, development of culturally appropriate measurement tools, and examination of the effectiveness of family- and school-based interventions across culturally diverse groups. She is presently the Director of a Partnership between the University of Washington’s School of Social Work, and the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP), which established the first social work degree program in Cambodia. The Partnership has gained valuable insight into the world of development, issues of ownership, reconstructing an educational system, and growing an understanding of the social work profession to support social change. Dr. Harachi’s presentation at Texas State shared these lessons learned and suggested future steps to further effective and equitable international collaborations.

“From Refugee to Professor: A Cambodian-American Story.” Sophal Ear, Ph.D., is Associate Professor of Diplomacy & World Affairs at Occidental College in Los Angeles. Previously, he taught political economy and how to rebuild countries after wars at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, and international development policy at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University. Dr. Ear has consulted for the World Bank, was Assistant Resident Representative for the United Nations Development Programme in East Timor, and Advisor to Cambodia’s first private equity fund Leopard Capital. A TED Fellow, Fulbright Specialist, Delphi Fellow of BigThink, Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations, Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum, and Fellow of Salzburg Global Seminar, Dr Ear advises the Faculty of Development Studies at the Royal University of Phnom Penh, and is a Councilor for the Cambodian Center for Human Rights. He is the author of Aid Dependence in Cambodia: How Foreign Assistance Undermines Democracy, and co-author of The Hungry Dragon: How China’s Resources Quest is Reshaping the World. Dr. Ear’s presentation at Texas State related his inspiring journey from Cambodian refugee to accomplished academic, providing life lessons on resilience, perseverance, and appreciation. His talk explored the theme that sovereignty is not a right, but that states must protect their populations from mass atrocity crimes (namely genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and ethnic cleansing).
Honor Society Corner

Sigma Iota Rho; Honor Society for International Studies

“Sigma Iota Rho, with its high admission requirements, represents some of the best students in International Studies at Texas State. Therefore, it was my personal goal as president to focus on continued academic and professional success for the members of SIR. By utilizing the pedagogy of many of the best professors of Texas State, including peer led discussions, panel paper presentations, and debates over current events, we were able to achieve this goal. We are looking to carry this momentum into the next academic year with a new group of International Studies students.”

– Club President Rick Schneider

Pi Gamma Mu; Honor Society for the Social Sciences

Pi Gamma Mu (PGM) is Texas State University’s Honor Society for the Social Sciences. We strive to provide a forum to learn more and further discuss topics involving the social, political, and environmental issues of today’s world. We bring these topics to the student body of Texas State University through panel and dialogue events, and volunteerism. Each year has a central theme that is the driving force for the passion and action of its members. Last year, PGM was centered on something central to Texas State students and San Marcos residents; the San Marcos River. Every initiative and action taken last year was to give back to the community and to the river that provides for the community. In addition to its volunteer work, PGM hosted a dialogue about the current state of the San Marcos River with the help of Dr. Vicente Lopes from the Aquatic Biology Department. Pi Gamma Mu also participated alongside R.I.N.S.E. in the first ever campus-wide initiative to demarcate storm drains in order to bring awareness of the sensitivity of the San Marcos River to the University community. Pi Gamma Mu will continue to advocate for positive change and work to be a force for good.

-Club President, John Patrick Blackard

Undergraduate Spotlight


“While studying International Studies at Texas State University, I participated in an internship in Panama City, Panama at the Panama Canal Authority Administration Building in the Corporate Communications office during the entity’s centennial year. The opportunity provided me with the knowledge and confidence that a future outside of the U.S. after college would be ideal and indispensable to making myself marketable in the work force. While many begin working full-time after their Undergraduate career, my internship experience has lead me to pursue a Master’s of International Affairs from Florida State University in Panama City, Panama. My educational background combined with my internship has given me a unique perspective on what it means to be a global citizen. I learned from my internship that as long as you work hard and have an open mind, you can fit in anywhere. My Bachelor’s in International Studies showed me that much of history has yet to be made and that we as students, as well as all others who hold a stake in this world, must take action to ensure that we all have a bright and prospering future.”

-John Patrick Blackard
Jesse Troublefield – Bachelor of Arts in International Studies with a concentration in International Business, Spring 2015

My internship with the KUTOA Health Company began during my final semester at Texas State in the Spring of 2015, following some much needed self–reflecting. I had begun my college career knowing I want to be involved in some form of humanitarian work, and KUTOA gave me the opportunity to pursue my passion.

KUTOA is a one-for-one mission based food company, focused on empowering change by spreading the most fundamental needs for happiness and prosperity - health. Through its efforts and one-for-one model, KUTOA has currently committed to donating over 500,000 meals towards fighting child malnutrition, and will soon also take on the call of providing vaccinations to children in developing countries as well.

As I began searching for an internship near Austin that could offer me an introduction to building towards humanitarian work, I came across an old posting on an intern matching website that seemed promising. Even though the post looked old, and likely to be filled, I reached out regardless. I wound up reaching out directly to the founder and CEO of KUTOA, who reacted to my determination and offered me a position as KUTOA's intern (a position that no longer existed). Which goes to show, had I not had the confidence and initiative to put myself out there, I would not be where I currently am.

Once the internship and college career were over, I was offered a full-time position in San Francisco, CA with KUTOA as their Logistics and Partnerships Manager. I was ecstatic to accept the position in California and now, among many things, I manage all of KUTOA's supply chain for it's products as well as coordinate KUTOA's donations of meals to malnourished children.

In reflection of my time spent in the International Studies program and studying abroad, some things become clear:
- One is to never take for granted the time and opportunities that lay available. I consider my self to have done well out of college, but can only imagine how much further I’d be had I taken even half of the opportunities that came my way, of which there were many.
- Second, I would recommend not only that everyone in college study abroad, but that it be done with a sense of purpose. Studying abroad aloud me greater self-confidence, and cemented my passion for travel, culture, and challenging new experiences. However in my opinion, too many people study abroad under the sense of it being vacation. Have fun, and enjoy your time, but also never lose sight of why you’re there and the opportunity that it is.
- Lastly, and perhaps greatest of all, is be vocal. I am tremendously introverted, and being vocal continues to be a daily struggle, however I immediately saw the impacts that speaking up has. As soon as I spoke out, others were not only able to get to know me and who I was, but also what my passions were. It allowed for networking without any effort of going out of your way to do it. It allowed me greater confidence as well as a greater ability to know what I wanted and who to say what I wanted.

Graduate Spotlight


“My time in the International Studies Master’s Program with Texas State University prepared me for my current career path as an International Visitor Advisor with the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. As an International Visitor Advisor, I have helped advise students, researchers, medical doctors, scientists and more on adjustment issues, cross cultural matters, and compliance on immigration regulations in conjunction with the Department of State, United States Citizenship and Immigrations Services, and Department of Homeland Security. None of this would have been possible without the support of the professors and international studies program staff that helped foster my passion for immigration policy through research, cultural exposure, and professional development. What first started with the Masters of International Studies program is now the beginning to a lifelong career pursuit within immigration policy and Mexico-U.S. relations.”
The Kenneth and Verena Wilson Fellowship: Making an Impact Abroad

During their travels in Southeast Asia, Texas State University alumnus Kenneth J. Wilson and his wife, Verena, were struck by the people’s need for clean water, educational opportunities, modern healthcare, and urban planning services. They retired to Austin, determined to find a way to encourage positive change for the people of Southeast Asia, while also supporting Texas State.

The Kenneth and Verena Wilson Fellowship Program was established in 2007 in order to promote faculty and student exchanges between Texas State University and universities, research centers, media outlets and non-profit agencies in Southeast Asia. This summer the Center, thanks to the generosity of the Wilson’s, sent 7 Texas State students to Cambodia.

Suwebat Olayinka Ajagun – Children for Change – Non-profit organization in Phnom Penh, Cambodia that provides educational services and social support to young students at risk for sex trafficking.

“I was awarded the Wilson Scholarship to intern at Children for Change NGO located in Phnom Penh, Cambodia for the summer of 2015. Arriving in Phnom Penh, I had mixed feelings. On the one hand, I was excited to fit into a new environment. And on the other hand, I was nervous about the kind of reception that I would get from the locals. I soon realized that they are very nice and accommodating to strangers even though the first few days were a bit challenging as I could not speak Khmer and the locals couldn’t communicate in English. However, with the help of staff and fellow interns at the NGO, I was able to get an apartment where I met a few people who could communicate in English and in no time, developed skills of communicating with the ordinary people and the tuk-tuk drivers that drove me around the city.

My duties at Children for Change include: teaching English classes to students from ages 12 to 18; organizing and conducting life skills programs on a weekly basis - critical thinking skills; and a research project which involves identifying the history of issues and challenges being faced by families that are beneficiaries of the NGO, analyzing the trends that have accompanied these issues, and reviewing the development of the communities being served by the NGO.


Within the International Studies Master’s program I was able to explore my academic interests in international history, politics, and cultural studies. I took diverse classes from International Relations Theories to Population Geography, to Medieval English Literature. The program brought me to the far corners of Southeast Asia, where I was a participant in the Wilson Fellowship in Cambodia. I taught English to university students in Phnom Penh for a summer, an experience that changed my life and which I will always look fondly upon.

My Master’s thesis was an exploration of Post-Soviet Russian immigration studies, in which I did survey and interview research with Russian-speakers in The Netherlands and Cambodia. My thesis allowed me to gain an in-depth understanding of immigration, a field that has become a part of my post-grad-school career focus. Today I work at Foster LLP, an immigration law firm with offices in Austin and Houston. I get to interact with international migrants coming to the United States, and gain a deeper knowledge of navigating the U.S. immigration legal system. The International Studies program has allowed me to gain a greater understanding of how the world works, and has paved the way for me for an internationally focused career.

Continued from Page 4...
Continued from Page 5...

The most challenging of these duties is the English class because the level of my students’ understanding of English is very low. I have no interpreter in my English classes so I use videos and pictures in explaining some terms. The students’ responses are sometimes hindered by lack of English words to convey their thoughts. The critical thinking classes are where I get to hear a lot of what they have to say because I usually have a Khmer teacher with me who understands English and serves as the interpreter. For the research project, we conduct home visits to the families in all the communities that are benefitting from the NGO and I must say that I am inspired by the determination and zeal the students have for a better future even though they come from communities where sex work and drug abuse is a norm and the acceptable way of life. Finally, I would say that the students have impacted me positively as much as I have them. I have hope that a good number of them will do very well should they have the opportunity to pursue their careers at the university level, as I have seen that they have a clear vision of what they aspire to be and they study very hard.”

Dayton Tondre

“My summer internship in Cambodia was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. During my time in Cambodia I helped out at the Pannasastra University of Cambodia Faculty of Education, where I taught classes on pronunciation, reading, and writing. The students were eager and fast learners and I still keep in touch with several of them. Overall, I hope that I have helped the people of Cambodia and hope to raise awareness of the struggles they have gone through in the past and are going through today.”

John Couch – American Chamber of Commerce Cambodia

“Cambodia is a country eager to move on from its dark past. A new stability has developed Cambodia as an emerging market attractive to foreign investment. This new economy required the formation of the American Chamber of Commerce in Phnom Penh that assists the needs of American businesses recently established in Cambodia. The Chamber hosts networking events, luncheons, and visits to the US Embassy to promote American business. It also has several committees acting as a liaison between US companies and the Cambodian government. The American Chamber also plays an active role with the US Embassy in bringing American businesses to Cambodia. The American Chamber’s commitment to American business and the people of Cambodia will continue to bring investment to the region.”

Marianne Lauridsen Ross

As a recipient of the Wilson Fellowship in 2015, I had two roles in Cambodia. First, I had the privilege of spending 6 weeks co-lecturing undergraduate students in Marketing Principles at PUC, a private English speaking university established in 1997. Cambodian students tend to be shy and embarrassed when having to speak English, but they have a hunger to learn. They understand the importance of a good education in rebuilding their country. In addition to lecturing, I offered them my experiences from a business perspective, along with explanations on American culture and general industry practices. Being a part of their classroom was an experience I will never forget. I became immersed in their culture and developed a better understanding of the past the country endured and the future they fight for in terms of freedoms and opportunities.

I also had the opportunity to be part of the Austin based company, Krama Wheel. It's goal is to offer an education to Cambodian children, one scarf at a time. For every scarf purchased, not only is a school uniform provided, but both a seamstress and weaver are fairly compensated. My focus was to help in the production process along with improving transportation rates. Cambodia was not on my bucket list but yet it has become a country I will revisit. I cannot emphasize enough how amazing this opportunity was and what an incredible experience I received. It is a trip that will never be forgotten.
Brown Bag Lecture Series

This past year the Center for International Studies continued its Brown Bag Lecture Series. Texas State faculty presented their research and engaged in dialogue with both colleagues and students in an intimate and informal setting. Here is a recap of the year’s lectures:

Empire’s End and Rise of Scottish Nationalism – Dr. Bryan S. Glass, Department of History.

In this lecture, Dr. Glass investigated how the Scots reacted to the end of the British Empire; specifically why decolonization coincided with the rise of Scottish nationalism. Decolonization had a major impact on Scottish political consciousness and the implications continuing to unfold today.

Dr. Bryan S. Glass is a Senior Lecturer in Modern British and British Imperial History at Texas State University. His first book, The Scottish Nation at Empire’s End, was published by Palgrave Macmillan in June 2014. He has spoken widely on the topic of Scottish independence, participating in an Intelligence Squared debate with Sir Simon Jenkins, Sir Ming Campbell, and Michael Gove at the Chalke Valley History Festival, in lectures at King’s College London, the University of Edinburgh, Newcastle University, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and on Huffington Post Live. Dr. Glass has also written articles for The Conversation, which were picked up by The Scotsman, the New Statesman, and the Imperial and Global Forum.

Iraq’s Cold War Coup-volution – Dr. Elizabeth Bishop, Department of History

During July 2013, Egypt experienced what observers called a “coup-volution;” military officers seized the democratically-elected President Mohammed Morsy and carried out a coup, at the same time as crowds of citizens in the country’s largest cities carried out a popular revolution. This was not the first time such events were seen in the Arab world; in Iraq, July 1958 witnessed a similar “coup-volution” which removed the country from its Baghdad Pact alliances. Dr. Bishop’s presentation addressed the last days of that country’s Hashemite monarchy, the officers of the Iraqi Army, and their civilian allies.

Dr. Bishop is co-editor of the book, Imperialism on Trial: League of Nations Mandate States in Historical Perspective (Rowman and Littlefield, 2006), with Ray Douglas and Michael Callahan. She is currently working with Rula Quawas (University of Jordan) and Nadia Yaqub (University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill) on a project titled Bad Girls of the Arab World; in an interdisciplinary volume informed by transnational feminist scholarship, that explores the “bad girl” as an analytical category, seeking to understand how she is envisaged, portrayed, delineated, constructed and/or deconstructed in the Arab world.

Thanks to Board Members and supporters and friends of the Center with list of Board Members.

International Studies Board of Advisors

Mrs. Janet Acord
Ms. Wilda Campbell
Mr. Geoffrey Connor
Dr. Dennis J. Dunn
Dr. Ann Marie Ellis

Dr. Carol Fredericks
Dr. Michael J. Hennessy
Dr. Ronald A. Johnson
Mr. W. Ross King
Dr. Robert Krueger

Javier Mere Prado
Mr. Jim Spencer
Dr. Alfred Sullivan
Mr. John Wade
Dr. Kenneth Wilson
Congratulations BAIS Class of Spring 2015!

Shelly Denise Alfaro
Brandon R. Alvarez
Martha L. Bitar
John-Patrick Allen Blackard
Denise A. Bonaparte
Selena R. Casanova
Miriam Charnichart Robledo
Jessica R. Edwards
Anna Rose M. Elkins

Allison Mary Gouskos
Zena Christian Haddad
Lisa Marie Hanna
Katrina Joy Ihrer
John-Taylor Malone Karshis
Kane Alexander Knauer
Aubrey Moncure
Erica Mosquera
Venancio Nunez

Kassandra Dulce Ocura
Daniel Alejandro Rivas
Tatiana L. Roman
Gabriela G. Schindler
Fatou M. Sow
Jesse H. Troublefield
Landon Cord Williams

Congratulations BAIS Class of Summer 2015!

Jihad Khalil Abdullah
Anthony John Bergamasco
Haley Brister
Jeanette Castro

Brittney J. Guerra
Ailyn M. Havens
Anastasia Nicole Hoogland
Joshua Lahr

Adam Conte O’Sullivan
Kaylie Christine Peterman
Luis Ricardo Quintanar
David Vinhais

Congratulations IS MA Class of Spring 2015!

Maksat Abamov - Flower in the Desert: Turkeminstan’s Journey to Independence

James S. Elphick - Illegitimate Extractive Institutions and the Loss of Legitimacy and Security: The Causes and Consequences of State Failure


Troy Douglas Campbell
Walter K. Couser
Grace Diane Isabelle Katele-Kone
Sophara Pen
Jennibeth M. Rodriguez

Congratulations IS MA Class of Summer 2015:

Michelle Kiyoe Martin
Lisa Renee Ness – Flooding, Drought, and Migration: The Environmental and Socio-economic Nexus in Cambodia
Cesar Soto-Ramos
Jessica Hoai Thuong Steinman

Looking Ahead

The Center for International Studies is excited for the Fall 2015 semester! Here are just a preview of events already scheduled!

September 10th 2015, Location: Taylor-Murphy 104 - The Center for International Studies welcomes Dr. Manuel Gonzáles Oropeza. Dr. Gonzáles is the Judge of the Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judicial Branch in Mexico. He is also an acting member of the Venice Commission, which seeks to promote democracy through the rule of law. Dr. Gonzales will be speaking about the recent election cycle in Mexico, and democratization.

October 15th, 2015, Location: Center for International Studies Conference Room Derrick Hall 108 - Dr. Ellen Tillman, Assistant Professor of History at Texas State and author of Dollar Diplomacy by Force: U.S. Military Experimentation and Occupation in the Dominican Republic, 1900-1924, will speaking about her recent work on U.S. involvement in Central America, and war and society in Latin America.
November, Date TBA, Location: Center for International Studies Conference Room, Derrick Hall 108 - As part of International Education Week, The Center for International Studies will host a panel of students who participated in the Kenneth and Verena Wilson Fellowship program. This program sends students to Cambodia to intern in various areas such as education, journalism, non-profit, and scientific research.

Follow us on Facebook for updates on these events and more!

Support The Center for International Studies at Texas State

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.

Instructions

Click on the [DONATE](#) button which will immediately take you to the donation form. To give to The Center for International Studies, follow these steps:

1. Select the amount you would like to donate
2. Under the Designation Tab select “Search for designation not listed”
3. You will be taken to the Giving Search page. Select “College of Liberal Arts” for division and “International Studies” for Department.
4. Click on the “Fund” box to which you would like to donate.
5. Click “Continue” and you will be directed to enter your payment information.

If you have difficulty completing the donation, please contact The Center for International Studies at 512-245-2339.