From the Director

The Center for International Studies had a very busy semester in fall 2015. We hosted a presentation for majors on the Thomas Pickering Fellowships, which are offered by the U.S. Department of State to students who wish to pursue a career in the Foreign Service. We also organized three lectures, including a fascinating discussion on “Recent Elections and Democracy in Mexico,” which was led by Dr. Manuel González Oropeza, judge of the Federal Electoral Tribunal of Mexico; a provocative presentation on the “Military and Society in the Making of Panama,” which was offered by Dr. Ellen Tillman, assistant professor in the Department of History at Texas State; and a review and wide-ranging Q & A on the role of diplomacy in resolving international crises, which was provided by Dr. Jeremi Suri, professor in the Department of History and the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin. We also awarded Wilson Fellowships to five of our graduate students who will spend summer 2016 in Cambodia interning at the Royal University of Phnom Penh, various NGOs, or the Cambodian Daily. We are particularly pleased that Jeremy Pena, our International Studies Coordinator, won Texas State’s Employee of the Month in December. Furthermore, our Assistant Director Dr. Paul Hart gave an impressive lecture titled “Selective Memory and Managed Meaning: Emiliano Zapata and the Making of Modern Mexico,” at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, which is the largest university in Latin America.

Our enrollments continue to grow and we now have a record number of IS undergraduate majors and new graduate students. The Center’s Board of Advisors also increased the Board’s Scholarship Fund, so we are anticipating awarding new scholarships in spring 2016. Best wishes for the New Year!

Dr. Dennis Dunn
Director, The Center for International Studies
EVENTS

Special Guest Lecture: Dr. Jeremi Suri
The Center for International Studies welcomed Dr. Jeremi Suri on November 5th to discuss his new book, Foreign Policy Breakthroughs. Dr. Suri holds the Mack Brown Distinguished Chair for Leadership in Global Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin. He is a professor in the University's Department of History and the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs. Professor Suri is the author of six books on contemporary politics and foreign policy.

International Studies Student Mixer
The Center for International Studies hosted a Student Mixer on October 27. Students were able to meet and network with one another, and some great international discussions ensued! This was an opportunity to celebrate the semester and allow students to meet and interact with more of their peers.

Dr. Ellen Tillman: “Military and Society in the Making of Panama”
The Center for International Studies happily welcomed Dr. Ellen Tillman on October 15th, 2015. Dr. Tillman spoke on the U.S. Navy’s repeated interventions in Panama. Dr. Tillman provided an impressive lecture followed by an informative Q & A session. Dr. Tillman’s research has focused on 20th-century U.S. interventions in the Caribbean and how they have shaped the use of U.S. naval power, U.S. foreign policy and Latin American development.

Special Guest Lecture: Dr. Manuel González Oropeza
The Center for International Studies was proud to welcome Dr. Manuel González Oropeza for an excellent speech and Q&A session on Thursday, September 10th. Dr. Oropeza, a judge of the Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judicial Branch in Mexico, in a lecture titled “The Recent Elections and Democratization in Mexico,” discussed the current political challenges facing his country. As an acting member of the Venice Commission, which seeks to promote democracy through the rule of law, he was able to give Texas State students and faculty poignant insight into democratic institutions and the democratic transition in Mexico.
Honor Society Corner

Pi Gamma Mu: Honor Society for the Social Sciences

Kelli Kennedy—President, Pi Gamma Mu Honors Society

“This semester Pi Gamma Mu is focused on benefitting the non-profit organization Caritas. Caritas is very active in Austin providing assistance to incoming refugees, struggling veterans, individuals facing food or housing insecurity, and job search assistance. We chose Caritas because of the wide array of services they provide to the community and the immense opportunities that they provide for all of our members. Caritas benefits from the diversity of our disciplines, from International Studies to Social Work. We are hoping to continue our relationship with Caritas not only through financial donations but awareness, volunteer hours, and potential projects.”

Congratulations BAIS Class of Fall 2015!

Iman Ahamd Nordin
Brittany Alvarez
Shane Matthew Ax
Cailey Cassanova
Daniel Degollado
Ivan Encinas
Garrett Harrison
William Jette
Rachelle Johnson

Reese Jones
Kelli Kennedy
Jessica Rae Laing
Lucas Lovelace
Desiree Madrid
Adam Odomore
Megan Priebel
Hunter Roese
Gabriela Sanchez

Valeriy Semyonov
Tyler Smith
Marisa Vickers
Jace Waechter
Sarah Warmbier
Stewart Wheeler
Dale Wilson

Congratulations IS MA Class of Fall 2015!

Suwebat Olayinka Ajagun
Mackenzie Cox
Mariam Erkin
Alma Ibarra

Marianne Lauridsen Ross
Ana Martinez
Candice McElhaney
Cameron Rhoads

Irina Rholes
Michele Van Hal
Graduate Spotlight

Ricky Schneider, President—Sigma Iota Rho, Zeta Chapter

Ricky Schneider is a graduate student in the International Studies program and is specifically interested in U.S. foreign policy as it pertains to human rights and humanitarian aid. Mr. Schneider argues that due to the dominance of exceptionalism, ethnocentrism, and containment in the formulation of foreign policy, the United States has failed to deliver on its messages of self-determination and the respect for human rights which the country claims to stand for. Furthermore, a reorientation of U.S. foreign policy towards human rights can have important impacts at home and abroad, and is more representative of the positive aspects of U.S. exceptionalism.

Alumni Spotlight

Lauren Markey

“My International Business Studies major from Texas State gave me the courage and faith in myself to begin my own organization in Costa Rica, Hibiscus Alternative Travels, which now also operates in Nicaragua. Just three months after graduating, my first volunteer arrived to the year-round volunteer program and the month following Hibiscus’ first group volunteer trip arrived with a total of 18 Texas State students volunteering at the marine center, orphanage, and other local organizations. Since then, Hibiscus has arranged over 750 volunteer experiences and numerous group trips. I’m so thankful for having chosen this career path because I am doing what I love by managing our year-round volunteer program and organizing group volunteer trips. Go bobcats! Pura vida!"

Undergraduate Spotlight

Sara Moya, President—International Studies Club

“As President of the International Studies Club I have gained, more than anything else, leadership and communication experience. As a leader I am tasked with organizing and leading club meetings on a weekly basis as well as setting goals and coordinating the club’s agenda and objectives. Dr. Brian Cooper is one of the favorite faculty members of the International Studies Club, and we have invited him to lead discussions on various geography-related topics, and he is always happy to participate and promote the organization.

The Interdisciplinary structure of the International Studies major is one of my favorite aspects of the program. I am interested in many different subjects, from geography to history, politics, earth sciences, and global cultures. International Studies has allowed me to pursue all of these interests within my major, yet it has also enabled me to discern which subjects I am most proficient in. The Center is equipped with a knowledgeable and approachable staff who are eager to help students achieve their full potential and be well informed on all international-related activities, events, and opportunities.”
Study Abroad Highlights

“As an International Studies student I was given the opportunity to experience an internship in Shanghai, China. The program, CRCC Asia, is affiliated with Texas State University. CRCC Asia placed me in the city of my choice as well as the sector I wanted to focus on. The process to be accepted was quick and the CRCC agents are extremely helpful. The program also assisted me with living arrangements. I stayed in an apartment-style hotel with a roommate from Hong Kong. The diversity in one building was incredible and everyone was eager to meet one another. The company also provided me with Chinese business manner classes and a metro card. The internships offered are different and have great supervisors willing to help you during your stay. I definitely had a culture shock being over there; not just the people or the food but the way business was conducted. This experience was incredible and I definitely recommend this program, because the memories I made will last a lifetime.”

Michelle Arreguin

Looking Ahead

The Center for International Studies is excited for the Spring 2016 semester! Here is a preview of events already scheduled!

Las Olas Travel Informational Session: Wednesday, February 3rd

International Refugee Crisis Panel: February 24th, Derrick Hall 227
Dr. Elizabeth Bishop, Department of History, Texas State University
Dr. Robert Gorman, Department of Political Science, Texas State University
Dr. Brian Cooper, Department of Geography, Texas State University

International Dialogue Series: Dr. Thomas Doyle, “The Iran Nuclear Deal: Broad Regional and Politics Dynamics,” Wednesday, March 9th

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

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Ms. Wilda Campbell  Dr. Michael J. Hennessy  Mr. Jim Spencer
Mr. Geoffrey Connor  Dr. Ronald A. Johnson  Dr. Alfred Sullivan
Dr. Dennis J. Dunn  Mr. W. Ross King  Mr. John Wade
Dr. Ann Marie Ellis  Dr. Robert Krueger  Dr. Kenneth Wilson
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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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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.
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