From the Director

With the start of the 2016-17 academic year, we have exciting news to report. SightsUnseen, a non-profit NGO that provides eyeglasses at no cost to peoples in the developing world, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Texas State University and its Center for International Studies to provide internships for IS majors to help in the screening and distribution of eyeglasses in Africa, Central America, and eventually around the world. The interns will have most of their expenses covered and be immersed in the challenging and emerging field of international development. The co-founder of Sights Unseen is Kelly Broome, an alumnus of IS class of 1990. SightsUnseen partners with IEDA Relief (International Emergency and Development Aid) under contract with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to provide eyeglasses to refugees in camps around the world and with the Centre for Vision in the Developing World in London, which supplies eyeglasses to SightsUnseen.

Dr. Ken and Verena Wilson quasi-endowment will change its focus from Southeast Asia to Latin America, which will open up opportunities for Texas State students and faculty for research, internships, faculty/student exchanges, and study abroad throughout Latin America. The Center and the Office of International Programs have agreements with universities and internship agencies and companies in Ecuador, Mexico, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua. Hibiscus Alternative /Travel, founded by our alumna, Ms. Lauren Markey (class of 2012), specializes in service internships in Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

Our students have been busy in Southeast Asia. Four graduate students interned in Cambodia in summer 2016. Their work produced spectacular results. Charles Winson prepared a small business plan for a non-profit NGO called Wetlands Work! that designs and builds constructed wetland systems to treat water from a variety of contaminated sources. Marissa Vickers uncovered the formula that makes a non-profit work, showing how KramaWheel empowers local business development in Siem Reap by providing livable wages for women in the textile industry. Ricky Schneider and Maria de la Luz Ruiz Caballero made a huge difference in the lives of students at the Royal University of Phnom Penh by using through their innovative teaching approaches and personal commitment in their ESL courses.

Our undergraduate majors have increased as has graduate enrollment. The Center will host a conference on the Obama Legacy on Feb. 2-3, that will examine both foreign and domestic policies of the Obama Administration and their impact on the globe. The Center is pleased to announce new Board of Advisors member, Kelly Broome. We look forward to another exciting year and to seeing you around campus!
Texas State recognizes Center Director, Dr. Dennis Dunn as a University Distinguished 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. The Center for International Studies is proud to have Dr. Dunn be recognized as a University Distinguished Professor!

Associate Director, Dr. Paul Hart delivers lecture at Immigration symposium

Dr. Paul visited Midwestern State University and the Wichita Falls Museum of Art to give a lecture entitled, “Empire and Immigration: Mexican Immigration to the United States in Comparative Perspective.”

Javier Mere Prado Scholarship in International Studies

The Center would like to thank class of 2006 and 2007 alumnus Javier Mere Prado for his commitment to the Center and its students through the Javier Mere Prado Scholarship in International Studies. The scholarship will be awarded high-achieving undergraduate and graduate students pursuing degrees in International Studies.

International Studies Professor of the Year - Dr. Bob Gorman

The Center would like to congratulate Dr. Robert Gorman from the Department of Political Science as the International Studies Professor of the Year! Dr. Gorman’s areas of interests include International Relations, International Law/Organization, International Humanitarian and Refugee Affairs, and History of Ethics. Thank you Dr. Gorman for your continued support of International Studies students!

International Studies Administrator of the Year - Dr. Denise Smart

The Center would also like to congratulate Dr. Denise Smart as the International Studies Administrator of the Year! Dr. Smart is the Dean of the McCoy College of Business Administration. McCoy College serves approximately 4,200 undergraduate, 400 graduate students, and 2,800 minors. The Center works with Dr. Smart and her office to ensure course options for our International Studies majors. Thank you Dr. Smart for your continued support of International Studies students!
In the final year focusing on Southeast Asia, the Kenneth and Verena Wilson Fellowship sent 4 International Studies students to Cambodia. Ricky Schneider, Charles Winson, Marisa Vickers, and Maria de la Luz Ruiz Caballero all had life changing experiences and expressed their thanks and gratitude to the Wilsons upon their return.

Charles Winson - M.A. International Studies

“I am very grateful to the Wilson Fellowship and Texas State for giving me the opportunity to work in Cambodia this summer. I did my internship at a local NGO call Wetlands Work!.

Wetlands Work! is a social enterprise based in Cambodia. They design smart wastewater treatment solutions to reduce the disease burden and environmental pollution in Cambodia’s most challenging environments.

At Wetlands Work!, they collaborate with local leaders to tackle recalcitrant sanitation issues in underserved communities, including floating villages and flood-prone areas. Together, they aim to produce integrative solutions that not only improve human health but also create jobs by stimulating sustainable supply chains and local demand for sanitation products.

It was a great pleasure meeting and learning from the Wetlands Work! team in Cambodia. The goal of my work was to provide insight from an unbiased perspective to be a catalyst for positive enhancements. I conducted interviews, did academic research and did field research in preparing my action plan. The organization has a lot of positive energy and I must congratulate the entire team for creating such an exciting social enterprise. I trust the proposal that I created will provide a strategic plan forward for exponential growth and success.”

Marisa Vickers - M.A. International Studies

“I truly enjoyed my experience in Siem Reap, Cambodia. As part of my internship with Krama Wheel, I worked with their partner NGO, Build Your Future Today Center (BFT). Everyday we would visit the villages and I would research the uniform program by interviewing children, seamstresses, and teachers. I also assisted with community activities, social work, and implemented various health programs for the children. When we returned from the villages, I would teach English to the students in the evenings.

Before visiting Cambodia, I would have never guessed how deep of an impact the country would make upon me. However, after successfully completing two months with BFT, I honestly feel as though I am connected forever to the people that live there. Words cannot express how thankful I am to have had the opportunity to be apart of something so wonderful.”
Ricky Schneider - M.A. International Studies (class of 2016)

“Cambodia is such a vibrant, jarring, challenging, and powerful place. My experiences, from teaching, to visiting historic temples, to navigating the formidable Phnom Penh traffic, are some of the best moments in my life. I made lifelong friends on my trip and learned what it was like to live as a Khmer person for a month. I also learned on my journey that we often go somewhere to view the place; the historic monuments, buildings, and natural phenomenons. However, it is the people that live in those places that truly capture our hearts. I know the Khmer people certainly captured mine.”

Maria De La Luz Ruiz Caballero - M.A. International Studies (2016)

“Undoubtedly, I consider myself blessed for having the opportunity to meet all the wonderful people during my stay in Cambodia, as well as for having the chance to get to know their incredible culture. Also, this experience made me discover that teaching is one of my biggest passions. All of these experiences would not have been possible if it was not for Dr. Wilson who trusted me and continues to support the sectors of need in Cambodia.”
Molly Williams - BAIS with a concentration in European Studies, BA in Spanish and French (2016)

“I am a senior and a triple major in French, Spanish and International Studies. I’ve had the opportunity to travel through Europe and was also able to spend a summer studying abroad in Spain with Texas State. This summer, I decided to do an internship for my International Studies concentration. From May to August, I worked for the City of San Antonio’s International Relations Office and got to see firsthand what diplomacy at the municipal level looks like. I helped prepare for delegations of politicians and business people alike. It was a great experience and opened my eyes to another of the numerous career pathways made possible through my International Studies degree.”

Whitney Pyle - BAIS with a concentration in International Business (2017)

“This past summer I had the opportunity to study abroad in Heredia, Costa Rica through the SOL Education Abroad program. I stayed with a wonderful host family for six weeks and took Spanish 1420 and 2310. My Spanish was very limited at first, but by the end of the trip it had improved significantly and I was excited to get to school and practice with my professors and new friends in the program. The natural beauty of the country was outstanding. I was able to go on multiple excursions such as upside down zip lining over a rainforest, touring volcanoes like Volcan Poas and Arenal, and fruit tasting at the market in Heredia. I learned to cook and dance like a local and even got to volunteer at a local elementary school. It is hard to choose my favorite part of the trip. The bonds I made with the people I met in Costa Rica are definitely at the top of my list, closely followed by me being able to hold a toucan and see a baby monkey up close. It was without a doubt the best summer of my life and I now encourage everyone I meet to make an effort to study abroad.”
Javier Mere Prado - BAIS with a concentration in International Business Studies (class of 2006), MA in International Studies (Class of 2007)

“My job allows me to see firsthand how the fields of economics, international business, public policy, and taxation intersect with each other, all of which are subjects I learned about in one or more classes at Texas State. I also learned how to condense a lot of information and summarize it in a few sentences - that’s what clients want.”

All of Javier’s clients are multinational, so having the ability to communicate in Spanish and French has proven to be a great interpersonal asset.

Javier Mere Prado graduated in December 2006 with his Bachelor’s in International Studies with a focus in International Business, a minor in Economics, and earned his Masters in International Studies in 2007. Javier is currently a Manager with PwC, the largest multinational professional services firm in the world. Javier is based in Chicago and works in the field of Transfer Pricing, where he assists multinational companies’ compliance with the rules and regulations that govern their intercompany transactions. His interest in international studies comes from his curiosity and desire to see the world. Javier has lived in 5 countries in 3 different continents. Mr. Mere Prado is also a member of the Center for International Studies Board of Advisors at Texas State University.

Kelly Broome - BAIS with a concentration in International Business Studies (Class of 1990)

Kelly Broome is the CEO and Executive Director of SightsUnseen. SightsUnseen’s mission is to put glasses on the faces of those in need. Through innovative technology in self-adjustable glasses, SightsUnseen provides eyewear to communities in developing countries all over the world.

Kelly R. Broome has over 28 years of service with the U.S. Army as both an enlisted soldier and as a commissioned officer. His military service included positions as an Infantry Platoon Leader, Detachment Commander in Special Operations units at the detachment through battalion levels and at staff positions at all levels from small tactical units through Combatant Command and ambassadorial levels. Kelly has supported Humanitarian and Disaster Relief efforts in the Balkans, Afghanistan, across Central Asia, Iraq and the Middle East, as well as Haiti and the Horn of Africa.
Center Events Recap

Special Guest Lecture: Dr. Joseph Massad, *Islam in Liberalism*

The Center for International Studies hosted Dr. Joseph Massad for a special guest lecture on his new book, *Islam in Liberalism*. Dr. Massad raised many important issues, including orientalism, western definitions of "Islam," and the failures of liberalism. The talk was one of the most interesting of the semester, with a packed house and many questions after the lecture.

Panel: Perspectives on the International Refugee Crisis

The Center invited Dr. Elizabeth Bishop (Department of History), Dr. Robert Gorman (Department of Political Science), and Dr. Brian Cooper (Department of Geography) to serve as panelists for this event, bringing a multidisciplinary perspective to the topic. The panel focused primarily on root causes of the crisis and the responses in the European Union and the United States.

Special Guest Lecture: Doing Business in Today’s European Union

Mr. Robert P. Braubach brought his unique experiences in business and government to his presentation on doing business in the European Union (EU). Mr. Braubach previously worked in the Competition Directorate of the European Commission of the EU, and practiced at two prominent U.S. international law firms. He currently represents the Government of Belgium as Honorary Consul for South Texas, the Republic of Namibia as Honorary Consul, and is an economic advisor to the Embassy of the Czech Republic.

Upcoming Events

September 29th, Derrick Hall 108, 5:00pm.-7:00pm. International Studies Fall Student Welcome reception.

October 25th, LBJ Student Center Ballroom, 12:00pm.-4:00pm. Community and Global Impact Career Fair.

February 2nd & 3rd, LBJ Student Center, 9:00am.-5:00pm. The Obama Legacy: Preliminary Perspectives
Congratulations BAIS Class of Spring 2016

Alano Eduardo Alvarez
Michelle Arreguin
Chelsea Brittney Ayers
Patti B. Blanchard
Shaylee C. Burns
Jessica Lanae Calvin
Alexa Kimberly Case

Callie Michelle Day
Tara Elizbeth Dees
Chelsea M. Garcia
Brandon Robert Illig
Rhiannon Charlotte Krasnowski
Abdualrahman Muhialdin
Justine M. Osina

Angel Eduardo Perez-Cortes
Jose Antonio Sanchez-Hernandez
Shane Allen Sullivan
Kim S. Wan
Evan Christian Williams

Congratulations MA Class of Spring 2016

John David Couch
Ryan Glenn Griffin
Dayton Ray Tondre
Kayla Marie Wagner

Congratulations BAIS Class of Summer 2016

Courtney Elizabeth Adams
Nathan Carl Anderson
Jose Antonio Cobarruvia
Escarlett Cubas
Matthew Glenn Depue
Jennifer Lynn Dixon

Emily T. Feist
James Chase Fender
Joseph Henry Fix
Conner K. Gonzales
Katherine E. Hicks
Kristopher Landin

Andres Mitre
Preston Hardy Paul
Cheryl Mathis Silvey
Storm Inez Tyler
Jasmine Saji Varghese

Congratulations MA Class of Summer 2016

Ricardo De Jesus Garza
Jamie Stephanie Henriquez
Ricky Andrew Schneider
Michelle Monique Sotolongo
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:

Click [DONATE] 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.
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5. Click “Continue” and you will be directed to enter your payment information.

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