From the Director

Fall 2018 was an eventful one. The Center co-sponsored several events on campus, including the first Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Student Research Symposium, a panel on the “Right to Peace and Bread,” in recognition of the United Nations “Day of Peace,” and a lecture by Dr. Abdel Razzaq Takriti, Arab-American Educational Foundation Chair in Modern Arab History at the University of Houston, who presented: “The deal of the Century? Palestine and the Trump Administration.”

I initiated the Center’s first faculty-led study abroad program which took twenty students to Punta Arenas, Costa Rica over the summer of 2018, where they studied Latin American History, took the International Studies Senior Seminar, and pursued internships and service-learning opportunities in the local community. Twelve of the participating students received funding from the Wilson Endowment. The Center thanks Ken and Verena Wilson for helping make these international opportunities available to our students. Next year I plan to lead a program that will take students to the Amazon, Andes, and central highlands of Ecuador.

Meanwhile, eight Honorary Professors of International Studies from various departments across campus received Center funding to pursue research across the globe, and four professors received support from the Wilson Endowment to pursue research, teaching, and scholarship on Latin American. The Center again thanks Ken and Verena Wilson for their continued support of both students and faculty.

Most importantly, International Studies students continue to do remarkable things. Graduate student Pablo Gomez interned for the Bogota, Colombia based foundation, Fundacion Compartir, which focuses on improving learning outcomes for rural communities in Colombia. Graduate Student, Fartun Camilla Jamal received a grant from the P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) and its Program for Continuing Education (P.E.C.) which is designed by women to assist women in achieving their academic goals. Undergraduate Kathryn McDaniel attended the National Collegiate Honors council in Boston, where she worked with Texas State professors researching the impact of writing instruction on Honors College undergraduates.

Additionally, several outstanding undergraduate and graduate students received scholarships to further their studies, and the Center gratefully recognizes the generosity of Ronald and Collette Johnson, Javier Mere Prado, Dennis and Margaret Dunn, and Kim Gunnarson for their continued support of IS students.

Our next newsletter will be out in the Fall, when we will fill you in on Center activities since January. If you are an alumnus and want to share your career experiences since graduating, we would love to hear from you. Until then, enjoy the summer.

Paul Hart
Dr. Abdel Razzaq Takriti: The Deal of the Century? Palestine and the Trump Administration

Dr. Takriti, Associate Professor and Arab-American Educational Foundation Chair in Modern Arab History at the University of Houston presented *The Deal of the Century? Palestine and the Trump Administration*. Dr. Takriti received his Ph.D. from St Antony’s College and is the author of the award-winning *Monsoon Revolution: Republicans, Sultans, and Empires in Oman* (Oxford University Press, 2013). He is also the co-author and co-editor, with Professor Karma Nabulsi, of The Palestinian Revolution digital humanities project: learnpalestine.politics.ox.ac.uk (Oxford DPIP, 2016). Dr. Takriti’s opinion pieces on Arab and Palestinian affairs have appeared in a variety of English and Arabic media outlets including The Guardian, Aljazeera English, Al-Ahram Weekly, Politics in Spires, Jadaliyya and al-Quds al-Arabi.

In Remembrance of Kristallnacht

The Center for International Studies participated in the remembrance of Kristallnacht, which occurred on November 9th, 1938 when Nazi German authorities arrested Jewish citizens, resulting in tens of thousands of people being sent to concentration camps. Kristallnacht, or the Night of Broken Glass, marked the beginning of a violent escalation of anti-Semitic policies instituted in 1933, but were part of a long history of discrimination against Jewish people.
10th Annual International Research Conference

The Graduate College celebrated ten years of innovative research with its Annual Research Conference for Graduate Students. Graduate students in various programs both on and off the Texas State campus presented their original research findings in poster sessions and concurrent panels. Center Director Paul Hart moderated a panel where two International Studies graduate students presented their research. Justin Allemang discussed Neorealism and U.S. Foreign Policy and the rethinking of perceptions of power, and Andrew Villarreal discussed the news coverage of the Singapore Summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean Leader Kim Jong-un.

Shaping Germany - Campus Weeks at Texas State 2018

The Center co-sponsored Shaping Germany Culture Weeks at Texas State. Today’s Germany is a frontrunner in Europe, but when looking at the various forces that are shaping it, we must also remember the role the past has played. The term “remembrance culture” mostly refers to remembering the Holocaust, but it includes other post-WWII events, too. 2018 was the 70th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift, and the 50th anniversary of the protests in 1968.

The exhibit Voll der Osten/Totally East remembered everyday life in East Germany. Photographs by Harald Hauswald, a founding member of the renowned OSTKREUZ photography agency, offered unique insight into life on the eastern side of the Berlin Wall. The exhibit ran through December 2018 in Lampasas.

Two invited lectures anchored “Shaping Germany” week:
Dr. Mary Beth Stein (George Washington University) presented “Romeos and Other Spies for East Germany’s Foreign Intelligence Service”.

Dr. Evan Torner (University of Cincinnati) presented “Race, Socialism, and the East German Science Fiction Film”. A screening of Der schweigende Stern (Kurt Maetzig, 1960) followed Dr. Torner’s talk.
Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Research Symposium

The Center for International Studies co-sponsored the first Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Student Research Symposium. Undergraduate and graduate students presented research papers on history, religion, anthropology, the environment and politics in China, India, Japan, Taiwan, and Tibetan populated areas of China.

Concrete Connections: Migrant Construction Workers and the Transformation of Architecture in Mexico

The Center for International Studies co-sponsored a lecture by Dr. Sarah Lynn Lopez, professor of architecture and migration studies at the University of Texas at Austin and affiliate of the Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice, the Lonzano Long Institute of Latin American Studies, and the American Studies Department. Dr. Lopez discussed the ways Mexican migrant workers have been transforming the landscapes of their rural Mexican towns and U.S. cities over the past 40 years. The lecture traced the ways migrants’ sense of domestic space has impacted lived space and how 20 billion dollars in remittances financed a building boom across small towns in Mexico.

Dr. Lopez argued that architectural history should include migration contexts and that scholars should follow migrant paths to understand the spatial and built environment histories of discrete places simultaneously. Her work focuses on the transformations Mexican migrants wrought in their hometowns in Mexico and the U.S. and she is currently working on the century long railroad-linked architectural spaces forged by workers between Monterrey, Mexico and Austin, as well as on the carceral landscapes of U.S. detention.
International Studies Panel and Welcome Reception

In September, The Center hosted a welcome reception for International Studies students. The Center sponsored a panel on “Pursuing the Right to Peace and Bread” in acknowledgment of the UN Day of Peace and the theme “Pursuing the Right to Peace.”
The panel featured Dr. Russell Moses from the Department of Philosophy, Dr. Leah Renold from the Department of History, and Center Director, Paul Hart.

Journey of a Coverdell Fellow: From South Africa to San Marcos

Also in September, The Center for International Studies welcomed Coverdell Fellow Mohamed Hassan-Issa. The Coverdell Fellowship supports returning Peace Corps Volunteers to continue their education in graduate programs. Mohamed is pursuing a graduate degree in International Studies. He discussed his Peace Corps experience in South Africa, and his journey to Texas State.
Peace Corps - Around the World in 90 Minutes

The Center hosted a Returning Peace Corps volunteer browse session. Peace Corps Volunteers shared photos, clothing, art, music, and more from their service around the globe. Students also had the opportunity to ask questions answered and talk with a Peace Corps recruiter Brendan Cavanagh about the application process.
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Pablo Gomez - International Studies Graduate Student

International Studies Graduate Student Pablo Gomez Borrero completed an internship in his native country of Colombia. Pablo summarizes his experience:

“When I decided to join the International Studies program at Texas State, I had one thing in mind: give back to Colombia, my home country. So, when the time came to choose a place to do my graduate internship, I decided to focus all my efforts on going back to Colombia for it.

“To my luck, I was able to find a position at the Fundacion Compartir, a foundation based in Bogota, the capital city, that focuses on improving the quality of education and bridging the gap between the rural communities and the urban centers. Nevertheless, this is not an easy task and requires domestic and international help, which is what brought me to Compartir.

“Utilizing the skills and mindset developed throughout my International Studies coursework, I have been able to help the foundation on finding and developing strategic partnerships that can help the organization to implement and advance the different programs planned, keeping a local focus with a global mentality. Also, my experience at Texas State has helped me to develop a more open minded perspective, something that I lacked entering the program, that has allowed me to understand my current work environment, with its diverse values and standards, with a non-judgemental and proactive attitude.”

Fartun Camilla Jamal - International Studies Graduate Student

Congratulations to international studies master’s student Fartun “Camilla” Jamal, who was awarded a grant from the P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education for Spring 2019. This program, established in 1973, provides one-time financial assistance to women whose education has been interrupted and who find it necessary to return to school to complete a degree or certification that improves their marketable skills for employment to support themselves and/or their families.
Kathryn McDaniel - International Studies Undergraduate Student

International Studies Undergraduate Student, Kathryn McDaniel received funding to attend the National Collegiate Honors Council in Boston. She assisted Dr. Ron Haas and Dr. Peter Tschirhart with preliminary research on the writing practices and attitudes of students in the Honors College at Texas State. Kathryn summarizes her work:

“Receiving the funding from the Center for International Studies was the support I needed to see hard work come to fruition. Since May, I have worked with Dr. Tschirhart, Dr. Haas, and fellow student Ron Clark on our project. Our preliminary research assessed the impact of the Honors College writing instruction on its students. Working with this team encouraged me to seriously consider continuing my education after completing my bachelor’s degree at Texas State. Working side by side with experienced researchers in the humanities, I was introduced into research outside of the classroom. I was able to see the broader applications of academic research beyond a grade for a class; the implications of our study can impact students in our Honors College.

“It was amazing to see our hard work culminated in the presentation our team brought to the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC). I felt very nervous leading up to the presentation, but the excitement for our research gave me the energy in the end to do a good job. I am glad that I experienced this challenge. It was worth the nerves to get to present and then have conversations about our study with attendees. Knowing I had the support of the Student Government with the STAR grant, the Honors College, and the Center for International Studies gave me the confidence I needed to present well.

“In sum, I am grateful to have had the opportunity to participate in academic research and then present our work at a conference. I am proud to represent an institution that encourages its students to pursue academic involvement and original research projects.”
Troy Campbell- MAIS, Class of 2015

Troy reflects on his time at Texas State below:

“It was while teaching in Cambodia in 2013 that I first heard about the International Studies program at Texas State. I was fresh out of the Army, and caught the Asia bug while stationed in South Korea. I was able to tailor my time at Texas State towards Asia and the humanities, and since receiving my MAIS I have returned to Cambodia, have taught English in Vietnam and South Korea and will be teaching at Guangxi University in Nanning, China in the Fall.

“The ads for teaching English abroad touting “see the world” and “pay off your student loan” are true. It is a fantastic way to experience the customs, local colors and cuisine of another culture. It is also a great way to hone some teaching skills. While studying Chinese and Korean history (thanks, Dr. Yick!) broadened my perspective considerably, history has come alive for me here in Asia, allowing me to engage in dialogue, build cultural bridges, and create some pretty amazing experiences and memories. The International Studies program at Texas State is worth bragging about. Cheers from Jeonju, South Korea!”
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Shelly Alfaro - BAIS, Class of 2015

Here, Shelly shares the impact International Studies have had on her career path:

“I am very thankful that my International Studies major required me to complete a global academic experience before graduation because having the opportunity to study abroad in Paris, France significantly changed the course of my professional career. When I returned to the States, I became a student ambassador for ISA, the same program I had studied abroad through and eventually went on to work for them as a Regional Director in their University Partnerships department.

“I travel to different universities throughout the midwest, working with their programs to help students go abroad and earn academic credit. With an International Studies major, global competence is a skill you’ll acquire throughout your studies and one that is enhanced through travel. I can’t stress enough to the students I talk to on a daily basis that this skill set can be transferable to any job opportunity and applicable to all sectors of the job market as more organizations and companies become global and more diverse.

“For me personally, the fact that our major was interdisciplinary has helped tremendously as I talk to faculty and students from different departments and studies. It has also challenged me to think critically of the field, how I approach students, and of certain systematic barriers that exist in higher education and at different institutions. I have found a passion for diversity and inclusion within international education and ensuring that programs are representative of and accessible to their diverse student bodies. I’ve had the opportunity to present on this topic several times at various workshops and conferences and hope to dive more into advocacy work related to international education.”
Tyler Watson (Mahan) - BAIS, Class of 2013

Tyler discusses how his International Studies degree and internship experiences have impacted his career:

“I currently work as an intelligence analyst with the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), assigned to North American Aerospace Defense Command and US Northern Command (NORAD & USNORTHCOM), headquartered in Colorado Springs, CO. My work involves creating multiple intelligence reports on a weekly basis that directly inform other analysts and decision makers on threats facing North America. On a daily basis I collaborate with a variety of government agencies and our allies, specifically the Canadian Armed Forces. For the past two years I’ve worked at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, AK with Alaska NORAD Region.

“I began working for DIA as a student intern during my final year at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver where I was pursuing my Masters degree in International Security. The internship experience was not only key to achieving full time employment with DIA, but also let me put to practice what I learned at Texas State and was learning in grad school.

“My time at Texas State was critical for building a strong knowledge base in international studies that empowered me to be successful in grad school and the workplace. I think being able to take a wide variety of courses across disciplines is a key component of the Center for International Studies curriculum. Also having access to wonderful faculty who really care about your academic and career success was invaluable. I’m extremely thankful for all the opportunities my education at Texas State has afforded me!”
GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations MA Class of Fall 2018
Mohammad Al-Rousan
Mary Arnold
Logan Concienne
Cielo De La Cerda
Patrick Grainger
Alissa Guerrero
Matthew Harwell
Judith Kheir
Cairo Larkins
Tyler Lightell
Alize Mack
Samantha Maldonado
Jeramine Mendez
Jonathan Parker
Chandler Prejean
Monica Prieto
Isela Sorto Blanco
Victor Tapia
Molly Tidwell
Kaid Walters
Nicole Williamson

Congratulations BAIS Class of Fall 2018

International Studies Board of Advisors
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Dr. Geoffrey Connor
Dr. Dennis J. Dunn
Dr. Ann Marie Ellis
Dr. Mary Brennan
Dr. Ronald A. Johnson
Mr. Javier Mere Prado
Dr. Alfred Sullivan
Mrs. Lana Holder
Mr. Kelly Broome
Dr. Michelle Van Hal

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. Paul Hart
Center for International Studies
Texas State University
San Marcos, Texas 78666

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