From the Director

This Fall, 2018 marks my first year as Director of the Center and I am pleased to share what we have been doing last summer and this semester. We were happy to welcome our first Coverdell Fellow, Mohammed Hassan-Issa, who served the Peace Corp in South Africa. The Center thanks the Graduate College and the Wilson Endowment for supporting Coverdell students at the Center, where Peace Corp returnees have the opportunity to pursue graduate work in International Studies. In addition to receiving students with International backgrounds, the Center continues its outreach, with several International Studies students on scholarship or pursuing internships abroad: Wil Slade worked with an organization called the “Light and Leadership Initiative in Peru,” Alfredo Ramirez completed a Boren Fellowship in Brazil and studied Portuguese at the University of Chicago in summer 2017, and at the Universidad Federal de Santa Catarina in Florianópolis, Brazil, in fall 2017 and spring 2018, while Nakia Edmond was Texas State’s first graduate student recipient of a Critical Language Scholarship and pursued her studies in China, and Pablo Gomez worked for “Fundacion Compartir,” which focuses on bridging the gap in rural education in Colombia. The Center is very proud of all them.

Meanwhile, in its ongoing efforts to further cross-campus collaboration among the faculty, the Center was pleased to recognize a record fifteen Honorary Professors of International Studies from ten different departments and five Colleges. Honorary Professors at the Center must be Full Professors and pursue research and teaching that furthers the internationalization of research and curriculum.

It is our students, however, who continue to be a driving force of the Center. The International Studies Club and the Honor Society, Pi Gamma Mu, have been holding joint meetings every week, enjoying record attendance, and hosting guest speakers on topics such as United States-Latin American relations; and the role of immigration in international relations, among other topics. They have also hosted student speakers and gained insight from their international peers on topics such as the history and culture of Persia. As a testament to how active and involved our students have been, the Center is glad to announce that the Texas State International Studies Club was recently recognized by the National Chapter of Pi Gamma Mu for increasing membership by over twenty percent.

The Center has also been involved in hosting top academics and professionals on international topics of immediate relevance. Last Spring the Center, in conjunction with the Center for the Study of the Southwest and the Development Office at Texas State invited several prominent Mexican and US scholars for a “U.S.-Mexico Summit” to explore the implications of the recent Presidential elections in Mexico.

In November the Center hosted Dr. Abdel Razzaq Takriti, Arab-American Educational Foundation Chair in Modern Arab History at the University of Houston, who delivered a talk entitled: “The Deal of the Century? Palestine and the Trump Administration,” to an engaged audience.

Many thanks to our generous benefactors and donors, including everyone from alumni to friends and Board members of the Center. Thank you for your continued interest and support, and stay in touch. – Paul Hart
The Center honors Dr. Dunn for 48 years of service

Dr. Dennis Dunn, longtime Center Director was honored for his 48 years of service at Texas State. Dr. Dunn was Regents’ and University Distinguished Professor of History. He taught courses on Russia, East Europe, world affairs, world history, Western civilization, and international relations. During his long and distinguished career he served as a visiting research scholar at the Vatican, Oxford University, Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies, the Pacific Cultural Foundation, the London School of Economics and Political Science, and and the 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 all supported his research and teaching over the years.

Dennis leaves a legacy and The Center for International Studies will miss his spirit, scholarship, student-centered approach, and leadership. We wish you the best in your retirement!
2017-2018 International Studies Administrator of the Year

The Center for International Studies recognized Dr. Lucy Harney as the Administrator of the year. Dr. Harney is the Chair of the Department of Modern Languages. Thank you Dr. Harney for your commitment to student excellence and work to further a global perspective.

Pictured:
Left - Dr. Lucy Harney
Right - Dr. Dennis Dunn

2017-2018 International Studies Professor of the Year

Congratulations to Dr. Ronald Angelo Johnson who students voted as the Center for International Studies Faculty member of the year! Thank you Dr. Johnson for your dedication to student development and scholarship!

Pictured:
Left - Dr. Paul Hart
Center - Dr. Ronald Johnson
Right - Dr. Paul Hart
The Center for International Studies, in partnership with the Center for the Study of the Southwest and University Advancement hosted the “U.S.-Mexico Summit” on April 5, 2018. The invited panelists discussed the 2018 Mexican National Elections and the Future of U.S.-Mexico Relations. Texas State President Denise Trauth opened the proceedings, and Manuel Gonzalez Oropeza, Professor of Law at The National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and former Magistrate for the Federal Election Commission of Mexico provided the keynote address.

The summit also featured:

**Ana Paula Ordorica** - Journalist and editor of El Universal and host of the radio program *Frente al País.*

**Gustavo Vega Canovas** - Provost, Colegio de Mexico.

**Guillermo Trejo** - Associate Professor Notre Dame University.

**Dr. Reynaldo Ortega** - Professor, Center for International Studies, Colegio de Mexico.

**Dr. César Martínez** - Senior Fellow, Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law.

**Raul Rodríguez Barocio** - Associate Vice President for International Affairs, Technologico de Monterrey.

Conference Organizers were:

**Dr. Cesar Martinez** - Vice President of Vianovo. Vianovo is a strategic advisory firm for high-stakes brand, policy and crisis issues with offices in Austin, Dallas, Washington, and Mexico City.

**Dr. Paul Hart** - Professor of History and Director for the Center for International Studies.

**Dr. John McKiernan-Gonzalez** - Associate Professor of History and Director of the Center for the Study of the Southwest.
CENTER NEWS AND EVENTS

Dr. Paul Hart

Dr. John McKiernan-Gonzalez

Dr. Cesar Martinez

Dr. Reynaldo Ortega

Gustavo Vega Canovas

Guillermo Trejo
Center Director, Dr. Paul Hart

Was invited to discuss his new book, “Emiliano Zapata: Mexico’s Social Revolutionary”, at the Casa de la Cultura Jurídica in Cuernavaca, Morelos and at the American University of Acapulco.
TEXAS STATE COVERDELL FELLOW MOHAMED HASAN-ISSA

The Center for International Studies awarded Texas State’s first Coverdell Fellowship to Mohamed Hassan-Issa. The Paul D. Coverdell Fellowship program offers financial assistance to returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCV) pursuing graduate degrees. Below Mohamed discusses his time in the Peace Corps and his journey to Texas State:

During my service in the Peace Corps, where I was posted as an English Teacher and educational specialist to South Africa, have learned to overcome serious language and cultural barriers to integrate myself into the rural community which I inhabited, and established professional relations with my co-teachers, community elders and School Management Teams. A beautifully diverse country, with no shortage of acute developmental challenges, my experience living and working in South Africa provided a period of serious personal growth via my fieldwork experience. My work experience didn’t only extend to teaching but to the greater Peace Corps South Africa community. During my service I was elected as a member and chairperson of the Peace Corps Volunteer Advisory Committee (VAC). The role of VAC is to advocate for policy and procedure reforms, inform and advise staff about volunteer issues and inform volunteers about policy decisions and staff perspectives. As the chairperson of VAC, I served as the principal liaison for the country director. My duties included facilitating communication and understanding between volunteers, staff, and host country nationals.

My experience made me realize, more than ever, that despite the dip in international perceptions of our great nation that our foundations are as strong as they have ever been, and we remain to the vast majority of the world’s inhabitants that shining city on the hill. Seeing my beautiful, frustrating home nation after a period abroad- a luxury too few in the United States get to experience for themselves- has only strengthened my conviction that it would be a privilege to be part of the American world narrative- as well as to, in even a small way, shape that narrative at a time when it is being contested at home and abroad.

Texas State University’s International Studies graduate program is a strong fit for me because of the unique interdisciplinary structure of the major. As a graduate of Franklin and Marshall College, I had the opportunity during my four years of undergraduate study to create my own course of study as a Special Studies major- permitting me to combine courses in Arabic, History and Government so I could chart my journey through the relevant and exciting intersections of these critical bodies of knowledge. I hope to pursue a career in diplomacy one day.
Geoff Sloan - International Relations

I’m studying abroad in Oslo, Norway. I’m completing my International Studies coursework and coming back to graduate in 2019. This isn’t my first time abroad or even in Norway but it’s my first time living outside Texas. The opportunity to live with family-friends that I’ve known my entire life is what brought me to Oslo for my study abroad adventures. These folks have hosted previous members of my family and now it’s my turn to live, work and study in Scandinavia.

Not only am I wrapping up my coursework in International Studies at the University of Oslo, but I’m also working with Oslo Business Region, a subsidiary of the city of Oslo focused on promoting businesses in Oslo and hosting Oslo Innovation Week.

For more information on my time abroad, stay up to date at the University Star [http://star.txstate.edu/category/news/norway/](http://star.txstate.edu/category/news/norway/)

Wil Slade - M.A. International Studies, Class of 2018

International Studies graduate student Wil Slade spent the summer teaching in Peru with The Light and Leadership Initiative (LLI). LLI began as a collaborative effort between Huaycán locals and U.S. citizens. LLI’s first educational programs were offered to kids afterschool and on the weekends. Wil taught English, art and physical education classes. As of today, LLI has offered over 16,000 classes to women, children and teens.
Congratulations BAIS Class of Spring 2018
Blaine Anderson
Raquel Ankilewitz
Katherine Bansemer
LeeAnn Cardwell
Benson Chao
Heather Couture
Haylea Eliff
Megan Euceda
Yermaine Garza
Noemi Gonzales
Kindra Idunba
Jordan Janer
Michael Jaroszewski
Abby Kosmin
Musela Lecane
Megan Miller
Demi Mora
Baleigh Morgan
Sara Moya
N’Deye Ndiaye
Richard Pastore
Maritza Ramirez Alvarez
Karina Rivera
Bianca Schmerber
Stephanie Smith
Katherine Super
Meredith Theriot
Mary Meghan Thomas
Laura Wilhelm
Alicia Zepeda-Ugarte

Congratulations MA Class of Spring 2018
Courtney Graham
Guillermo Lopez Sanchez
Maximillian Petri

Congratulations BAIS Class of Summer 2018
Gabriela Alvarez
Jennifer Bollweg
Chaundra Brown
Rodrigo Contreras
Blake Denton
Kelly Dunn
Victoria Elizondo
Vanessa Gonzalez Hernandez
Carolina Guzman
Linzy Kates
Abigail McNeely
Sergio Perez
Tomas Quiroz Octaviano
Camila Rivera-Vasquez
Leah Stout
Merna Wahba
Etzel Wolff

Congratulations MA Class of Spring 2018
Naina Adhikari
Latifou Amoussa
Viktor Glynyanyy
Kelsi Kotulan
Wil Slade

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

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.
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.

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