A Letter From the ISP Director’s Desk

Dear Friends:

International Studies at BGSU has experienced many wonderful successes during the 2016-2017 academic year. Our INST majors continue to garner acclaim and prestigious scholarships to allow them to study abroad. Senior Emily Matthews used her Hoskins Scholarship to travel to India to study different yoga and ayurvedic practices in her quest to make alternative medicine accessible to more patients in the U.S.

Jennifer Wohlgamuth used her Hoskins Global Scholarship to combine her interest in German and tourism studies to investigate “off-the-beaten-track” destinations in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia.

And in January, Michaela Schrum returned from her study-abroad venture to Meknès, Morocco, where she had pursued her interest in Middle Eastern Studies….and then slipped off to Palestine to teach English to young children living in a refugee camp near Bethlehem.

This year, two of our students earned substantial scholarships to study abroad: Hannah Finnerty won a coveted Givens scholarship to pursue her studies in Egypt and Greece this summer; and McKayla Raines became the recipient of a Hoskins Global Scholarship as well as the Givens Scholarship. She will be working in a refugee camp in Palestine this summer before studying in Montpellier, France in the fall and Salzburg, Austria in the spring. During the winter break, she will use her Hoskins Scholarship to work with refugees in Berlin.

Other highlights this year include the visit of Global Bridges e.V. from Berlin shortly before the national elections in November. Professors Neal Jesse and Melissa Miller (political science) along with Professor Ben Greene (history) engaged in dialogue with journalists and business people from Germany and beyond about the role of Vladimir Putin and the rise of populism. Read on to discover the highlights of the year as well as information about the International Studies Program.

Let me end by congratulating this year’s INST seniors whose international and interdisciplinary research will be appearing in our online International ResearchScape Journal.

We encourage our recent and longer-term INST Falcon Alums to stay in touch with us, so that we can include information about you in our newsletter.

With best wishes for continued success on the BGSU campus and beyond,
Beatrice Guenther

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES PROGRAM PHOTO CONTEST 2017

FIRST PLACE WINNER: ANYA KAISER, KAPADOKYA, TURKEY

(See second and third place winners on page 3.)
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES PROGRAM ALUMNI

Alumni Return to BGSU to speak to current students about careers

Toni Shoola
We were fortunate to have Toni Shoola speak at our 2017 International Studies Career Night. Shoola graduated BGSU first with her B.A. in International Studies in 2013, and again with her Master’s of Public Administration and Social Justice in 2017 while also fulfilling the position of being a graduate assistant for the Center for Community and Civic Engagement.

While at BGSU, Shoola learned French as a second language. She is currently the associate director for the Center for Nonprofit Resources in Toledo, while also managing to make time to volunteer for Women at Risk, International. No doubt she is an impressive alumna of the Bowling Green State University International Studies Program and it was an honor to have her speak at our International Studies Career Night in February.

Del-Vaunté Scott
Del-Vaunté Scott is an alumus of BGSU who honored us by speaking at our 2017 International Studies Career Night. Scott graduated from BGSU in 2014 with a double major, obtaining a B.A. in both Arts & Human Sciences and International Studies. During his time at BGSU he also found time to receive a certificate from Canterbury TELF Consulting Spain, which allows him to teach English as a second language internationally. As an undergraduate student at BGSU he also volunteered at the International Montessori School in Durham, North Carolina where he taught children who were native and non-native speakers of French and Spanish. Since graduating, Scott has become an ESL Intervention Specialist at Toledo SMART Bilingual Elementary School. He is an outstanding graduate of the International Studies Program and an informative speaker to have at our International Studies Career Night hosted in February.

Sameen Dadfar graduated from BGSU in 2010 with a B.A. in French as well as International Studies focusing in Communications. During her time as an undergraduate student at BGSU, Dadfar studied for a year at L’institut de Touraine in France. While attending BGSU she also found time to take on several commitments. She volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, screened films at the DC Shorts, and worked as Marketing Director for Columbus International Affairs Opportunities. Since graduating, Dadfar has held several positions at the International Center for Journalists, and is currently the Export Assistance Program Manager at Ohio Development Services Agency. Dadfar is another exceptional graduate of the International Studies Program and was a great role model to have speak at our International Studies Career Night in February.

Charles Polinko
Charles Polinko is an alumus of BGSU who came to speak at our International Studies Career Night in 2016. Polinko graduated from BGSU in 2013 with a double major in International Studies and Political Science with a minor in German and a focus area in Human Rights. During his time at BGSU he spent a year studying abroad in Salzburg, Austria. After receiving his M.A. in Global Interactions and International Relations & Affairs from Cleveland State University, Polinko joined the Cleveland Council on World Affairs in May 2015 as the Program Coordinator for CCWA’s Model United Nations program. He was promoted to Program Manager for Model UN and Academic WorldQuest in 2016. He has also supported the Council’s youth exchange leadership programs. We feel so fortunate that Polinko made time to share his experiences with current INST majors and minors.

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES PROGRAM SPRING INTERN

Kaylee R. Davis, Senior

MAJOR: PUBLIC RELATIONS, MINOR: MARKETING

I have always aspired to travel or even move internationally in my future line of work, so this internship, which blended International Studies with my experience in Public Relations was the perfect niche for me. I learned so much during my time with the International Studies program, got to work alongside some wonderful people, and enjoy the international culture that Shatzel Hall provides daily. I am so grateful to have had this opportunity.

Say “Hello” to Tracy Susko

Have you noticed a new face in the Shatzel office? You could have spotted our very own Senior Secretary Tracy Susko, who has been at BGSU for about a year. Susko continues to be a wonderful team player, efficient and dynamic—and not just for the Program of International Studies. She also serves as senior secretary for the Africana and Asian Studies Programs. Drop by to say hello and enjoy her sense of humor (or drop off a donation for the Materials Drive for US Together, on behalf of refugees resettling in the Toledo area)!
Our 2016 International Career Night brought many professionals to campus to provide guidance to our majors on ways to mobilize the international/global knowledge and skills made possible through the interdisciplinary Program of International Studies. At our first International Career Night, Malavika Melkote described her experiences in Hyderabad, India before arriving in the United States. Her own international trajectory continued through her work with Marathon Oil in Findlay and, currently, with Owens Corning where she has worked since 2005; she is Leader of Information Systems, Supply Chain and Technology Solutions. Malavika Melkote earned an M.S. in Computer Science from BGSU and currently leads the Global Center of Excellence for Business Intelligence and Analytics. Graduate College Dean Peggy Booth also spoke to students about her experiences in the Peace Corps in Kenya. Thanks to Dean Booth, BGSU hosts several programs that belong to the Paul D. Coverdell Fellowship Program; the Coverdell provides financial assistance to returning Peace Corps volunteers when they embark on graduate study.

The 2017 International Studies Career Night took place on the evening of February 15th in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union. This event was free for students studying International Relations, German, Russian and East Asian Languages, and Romance & Classical Studies. The event began with an alumni panel discussion, followed by refreshments and networking. Students who attended the event were given the opportunity to meet successful alumni, discuss career ideas and sign up for workshops with the BGSU Career Center such as resume writing and mock interviews.

The event this year featured three alumni guest speakers, Toni Shoola, Del-Vaunté Scott, and Sameen Dadfar, as well as doctoral candidate in the BGSU Leadership Program Col. Sue Ann Sandusky and Heather Golden from the Career Center.

**Colonel Sue Ann Sandusky**
Colonel Sue Ann Sandusky is the former Director of the Defense Foreign Language Institute in Monterey, California & U.S. Career Army Professional and Foreign Area Officer in West Africa (Burkina-Faso, Liberia, etc.). Colonel Sandusky’s advice to students: Have a general idea about your plans but take advantage of opportunities! Develop skills such as a second language, international experience, writing skills, knowledge of logistics and program review (e.g. USAID). Some other helpful online resources Colonel Sandusky recommends to students are: Defense Foreign Language Institute, USAJobs, UNJobs (a Swiss Company) and United Nations Volunteers. Colonel Sandusky’s presentation was both inspiring and practical.

**Heather Golden**
Heather Golden provided wonderful resources to our BGSU students in the Career Center as the Assistant Director. Golden helped students become more aware of the services available when she spoke at Career Night. Among the services she shared were resume & cover letter writing workshops, mock interviews, Goin-Global (a site for students to be able to look for jobs in a specific country) and the Big Interview training site. Ms. Golden has since left BGSU to pursue other opportunities. Please contact Jeff Jackson, jacksjl@bgsu.edu with questions. The Career Center is now located on the second floor of the Bowen-Thompson Student Union. For more information visit [http://www.bgsu.edu/career-center/](http://www.bgsu.edu/career-center/).
McKayla Raines, a 21-year-old sophomore at Bowling Green State University (BGSU) with a Junior standing, was one of the winners of the BGSU Hoskins award this year. Raines found a passion for traveling early in life.

“My first time that I left for a long period of time was right out of high school,” Raines said. “I went to France for six months and stayed with a host family and went to a French high school.”

When Raines returned she took her time in finding the right school for her, but BGSU ended up being an easy option.

“Before I came to BG I did a gap year in Europe,” she said. “BG was the only school I visited senior year because I had teachers who were falcon flames and they brought me here. When I got here I had no idea of what I wanted to do, I just knew I wanted to travel so I got into International Studies. I minor in Political Science and German, and I am still working on my specialization in the major.”

With a passion for French culture and her minor in German, Raines returned to Europe and decided it would not be her last time.

“After that I moved to Germany for a few months and kind of just lived with a family there and I didn’t do school there, but I did learn German,” Raines said. “Hence why I am going back to a German speaking place, Austria, and why my Hoskins is in Germany.”

In addition to her experience abroad, Raines credits her Hoskins to one of her favorite professors.

“I just really want to give a shout out to Dr. Foell for being my mentor,” she said. “Without her I wouldn’t have produced such a great proposal.”

Raines has had plenty of traveling experience out of the country and has even learned German and French along the way, but with her passion for helping refugees she is nowhere near finished with what she wants to learn and accomplish with traveling.

“I’m going to Palestine this summer before my study abroad as a teacher of English program,” Raines said. “I am also going to learn Arabic.”

Raines encouraged students who would like to create experiences like her own, no matter what drives them to go and do so.

“I really encourage people to take their passions outside of the continent and the United States,” she said. “There are probably a lot of people that are passionate about refugees, but even if you just have a passion to travel abroad you should follow your passion and go abroad.”

PILOT COURSE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES:

Introduction to International Service Learning

This spring, a team of engaged BGSU students took on a “glocal” form of service-learning here in Northwest Ohio. The long-term goal is to prepare INST majors and minors to find a community partner while they are studying abroad; such community-based learning allows students to explore how individuals in another culture live and work together.

In order to be ready for such community-based learning, the students of INST 3800 developed multiple projects in order to explore the many dimensions of service-learning: a weekly commitment to provide tutoring and mentoring to the Latinx community of young children through La Conexión de Wood County. The creation of reference booklets on social services for low-income families in Wood County as well as booklets on higher education and employment for US Together (Toledo), a resettlement agency for refugees, in particular from Syria. The students also held a fundraiser for US Together, made possible through student Zu Forshee’s role as a manager at McDonald’s.

More information can be found in the BG News: http://www.bgfalconmedia.com/campus/course-preps-students-for-culture-shock/article_2f99ed52-1378-11e7-88c7-f3545ee0524d.html.

The students received the Kurt E. Hofmeister Outstanding Student Group Award from the Center for Community and Civic Engagement (CCCE) for their successful initiatives. The CCCE is a hub for supporting faculty and students in their community-based learning.
International Studies Important Information

- Have you found the **Major Map** that provides tips on how to make use of your studies @ BGSU? Visit [https://www.bgsu.edu/content/dam/BGSU/admissions/documents/AcademicSalesSheets/MajorsMapInt.Studies.pdf](https://www.bgsu.edu/content/dam/BGSU/admissions/documents/AcademicSalesSheets/MajorsMapInt.Studies.pdf)

- Wonder what you will do once you have your B.A.? Google “BGSU What can I do with this major?”

- Are you wondering what second (or third) language to study? BGSU’s two language departments are merging this fall. Look for the new **World Languages & Cultures department (WRLD)**.

- Do you know about the many study-abroad programs available through BGSU? Google “BGSU Education Abroad” to launch your progress toward a higher global I.Q. The most recent addition is the semester or academic year abroad program in Montpellier, France. Not ready to leave for a semester? Check out summer abroad options in the south of France or head to the Alps around Salzburg, Austria!

- Have you studied abroad recently? Submit a proposal to present your research or experiential learning at the annual **Embracing Global Engagement conference** that takes place in early October. The BGSU Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship (CURS) has up-to-date information about submission guidelines.

- Are you a senior and ready to share your research with a larger audience? Consider submitting your article (maximum: 20 pages) to our undergrad online **International ResearchScape Journal** and track how many readers around the world access your work. Volume 4 will be ready coming this summer.

- Are you a graduate of the International Studies Program at BGSU and have not received an invitation to join our new **“Alumni Mentoring Network”**? Please contact Dr. Beatrice Guenther at bguenth@bgsu.edu. You may choose to what extent to be involved in mentoring current INST students.

- Our International Studies majors and minors are encouraged to explore the many faculty on campus who do research on international topics in disciplines as varied as Communication and Media Studies to International Business and Art History or Social Work and Environmental Science. Check out the many faculty affiliated with the program: [http://www.bgsu.edu/arts-and-sciences/international-studies/community.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/arts-and-sciences/international-studies/community.html)

- We encourage prospective students to look into **The Hoskins Global Scholars Program** that provides $5,000 for up to 5 students per year to participate in a semester-long study abroad experience to a country that is not native to the student. The scholarship covers transportation costs to and from the study abroad destination, any additional housing/board/tuition costs above that which would be paid if they were staying at BGSU, and financial support to allow the scholar to participate in an additional immersive academic experience. This enrichment experience could be an international internship, research project, service project or creative activity. The student will name a professor as mentor for the project, who will receive an additional $500 honorarium.

- Other scholarship opportunities - like the coveted **Givens Scholarship** or the **Wurzberger French House scholarship** - can be found through the University Scholarship search at bgsu.edu/scholarships.
This spring, in late March, International Studies majors and students of French were treated with an informative and inspiring evening. Kim Thúy shared her unique journey from Vietnam as a homeless refugee and described how she became an inspiring storyteller by including many of her life experiences in her novels.

Born in Saigon in 1968 during the Tet Offensive, Montreal writer Kim Thúy left Vietnam with the boat people at the age of 10 and settled in Quebec, Canada as a refugee of war in 1979. A graduate in translation and law, when she settled in Quebec she worked many jobs as a seamstress, interpreter, lawyer, and restaurateur. Then came her first novel, Ru, a bestseller in Quebec and France and translated into over 25 languages; she gathered numerous literary awards, including the prestigious 2010 Governor General’s Literary Award (Canada) and the 2010 Grand Prix RTL-Lire at the Salon du livre de Paris (France). The English edition of Ru won the battle of the books organized by Canada Reads and was declared “the” book to read in Canada in 2015. Author of Ru (2009), À Toi (2011), Mãn (2013), and Vi (2006), Thúy continues to portray her many unique and powerful life experiences and memories of cross-cultural migration through her many different novels. The talk, followed by a reception, brought together members from the campus and the local communities.

The late professor emerita of French, Dr. Janis Pallister, left a generous bequest to fund the visit to the BGSU campus of a French-speaking writer or film maker from Canada. Once a year, the fund makes it possible for BGSU students to talk face-to-face with an author or film director from Quebec, and in spring 2018 we will be inviting a film-maker. Stay tuned for details. The series is open to all—French and English speakers.

Want more ISP news?

Can’t get enough of the International Studies Program? Sign up to receive our mailchimp newsletter, INSTDelivered! Simply send your email address to bguenth@bgsu.edu to be added to our subscriber list. Subscribers will receive a bi-weekly email during the fall and spring semesters containing the BGSU International Studies Delivered Newsletter including updates and events taking place within the International Studies Program.

Have an event or meeting coming up that you would like to get the word out about? Send an email with your organization and event information and a photo if you prefer to tsusko@bgsu.edu and it will go in the following newsletter.

Thanks to everyone for being patient as we are getting this going. It will take participation from everyone to help make the newsletter the hub for publicity concerning international events, meetings, and opportunities across departments and programs at BGSU.

In the meantime, follow our social media accounts to stay updated on events and news from the BGSU International Studies Program.