A Letter from the International Studies Director

Dear friends:

It has been an eventful and productive academic year again. Our International Studies (INST) students continue to stand out in the BGSU community, including Hoskins Global Scholarship winners Michaela Schrum and McKayla Raines, who both made the most of their scholarship experiences. You can read more about Raines, who also received a Givens Memorial Scholarship. Other student accomplishments in the newsletter this year include the Dr. Dante Thurairatnam Scholarships, Phi Beta Kappa Society, the Undergraduate Research Conference and Embracing Global Engagement Conference, and the International ResearchScape Journal.

You also can read about our involvement in the “Understanding Immigration” program, which showcased the themes of “Exile and Migration” through a summer institute, conferences and an International Film Festival.

Throughout each year, we work closely with the Office of Education Abroad to help our students discover the many options for studying abroad. We are very excited about a new agreement with l’Université Paul-Valéry in the south of France—not just for the summer, also for one semester or the academic year. Graduating high-school seniors who will have turned 18 when studying abroad in the summer before college, are welcome to join the “Falcons Take Flight” study abroad programs at BGSU. Contact Mary Kate Traficano mtrafic@bgsu.edu for more information.

Best wishes,
Dr. Beatrice Guenther

HONOR ROLL

INST STUDENTS JOIN PHI BETA KAPPA SOCIETY

The following INST students were inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Society: Eve Cervenka, Hannah Lanfear, Savannah Campbell and Melanie Moore.

Phi Beta Kappa celebrates and advocates excellence in the liberal arts and sciences. At BGSU and college and university campuses across the country, the most outstanding arts and sciences students are invited into the society.

Since the society’s founding in 1776, there have been 17 U.S. Presidents, 40 U.S. Supreme Court Justices, and more than 130 Nobel Laureates inducted as members—as well as countless authors, diplomats, athletes, researchers, actors, and business leaders. At the time of induction into The Phi Beta Kappa Society, one joins the nation’s most prestigious honor society for life. Phi Beta Kappa membership shows commitment to the liberal arts and sciences, and to freedom of inquiry and expression—and it provides a competitive edge in the marketplace.

GRADUATING INST MAJORS 2018

Manette Asta, focus on “Global Representations in Media,” studied in Cannes, France

Samantha Crist (graduated December 2017), focus on “U.S. Foreign Policy,” studied in Latvia and Lithuania

Garrett Frye, focus on “International Pop Culture and Film,” studied in Xi’an, China

Courtney Keeney, focus on “Sustainable Development,” studied in Alcalá de Henares, Spain

Jairo Muñoz Pincay, focus on “International Relations,” international student from Ecuador

Mia Richardson, focus on “Religion in Eastern Asia,” studied in Korea

Michaela Schrum (graduated December 2017), focus on “Globalization and Women,” studied in Meknès, Morocco and in Palestine

Alyssa Sooy, focus on “TESOL: Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages,” studied in Spain

Tyler Way, focus on “International Conflict Resolution,” studied in Xi’an, China

Renée Wott, focus on “Intercultural Communication/International Service-Learning,” studied in Alcalá de Henares, Spain

Rachel Zarick, focus on “Peace and Conflict Studies,” studied in St. Petersburg, Russia
**Musician activist raises funds for Haitian families**

On Feb. 8, 2018, the International Studies community was fortunate to host Mona Augustin, musician and activist from Haiti, thanks to BGSU alumnus Josh Wang. After the severe 2010 earthquake devastated much of the country, especially the capital, Port-au-Prince, Augustin discovered a group of newly homeless families struggling to make their way forward together. Through his music and activism, along with his wife Candace Schneider, Augustin has been attempting to create a more stable environment for the many families making up the makeshift Camp Mozayik.

The small community was again displaced from Port-au-Prince—this time by land speculators—and were then run off another plot of land near the infamous wasteland and burial ground of Titanyen. At present, the families have settled in Hinche, central Haiti, and are slowly rebuilding, one house at a time, the Village Mozayik—in part, thanks to donations from the U.S.

The two fund-raising events in early February were orchestrated by Josh Wang, a College of Musical Arts alumnus. The concerts were at the Bowling Green First Presbyterian Church and on the BGSU campus, the latter sponsored by the International Studies program. The efforts continue to raise funds for the construction of the small houses, of which there are two at present, and to build awareness of the struggles facing our neighbors to the south. More information can be found at https://mozayik.village.org

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**PROGRAM HOSTED INTERNATIONAL CAREER NIGHT**

The International Studies department hosted the International Career Night, bringing in employers from the area. Students heard presentations on resources such as GoinGlobal, which provides access to 16 million internship and job postings locally and in 190 locations around the world.

Students also heard Dr. Martha Houle of the International Medical Corps in Washington, D.C. speak about opportunities in humanitarian careers ranging from law and justice to education, medical and agricultural sectors.

Representatives from Sauder Woodworking, a local company with international outreach, and A-Gas International, located in Bowling Green, talked about their internationally focused careers. Students asked questions and spoke with representatives after the formal presentations.

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**INTERNATIONAL STUDIES PHOTO CONTEST**

Winner of the 2017-18 International Studies photo contest is Jacob Hauter, whose photo was taken in Spain. The second-place photo was taken by Allison Rudolph in Antigua. The 2018-19 contest opens Nov. 5-9, with winners announced Nov. 16.

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**PEACE CORPS PREP, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO BE OFFERED**

This is an exciting time to be studying the world, globalization, and intercultural networks. We congratulate the students who are embarking on life after college and invite incoming and continuing students to explore your opportunities with us in 2018-19.

The Program for International Studies emphasizes both international and interdisciplinary learning. Through a network of faculty from across the College of Arts and Sciences directly involved with INST, students discover a wide range of disciplines ranging from Architecture and Art History, Geography, Political Science to the different World Languages & Cultures taught on the BGSU campus, to name but a few.

This fall, students in the program can enroll in the newly approved Peace Corps Prep Program to prepare themselves for a career in the Peace Corps or other international non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Other professional development opportunities lined up this fall: career talks with Ambassador-in-Residence Dale Giovengo and a USAID representative who will talk about careers in the Foreign Service or State Department; the BGSU Career Center will have information about www.GoinGlobal for international job openings or local companies with international branches. Students also can look into internship possibilities in D.C. or Chicago with the Délégation du Québec, or community outreach with input from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees office, Washington, D.C. We will continue to collaborate with US Together, a refugee resettlement agency in Toledo.
International Film Festival focuses on Exile and Migration

Several films were screened in the Gish Film Theater in Hanna Hall throughout the spring semester on Thursday and Friday evenings under the theme of Exile and Migration. Among the many great films was Montréal la Blanche (Montreal, White City), a 2016 French-Canadian film directed by Bachir Bensaddek.

The International Film Festival was made possible through the National Endowment (NEH) Grant bestowed upon Dr. Vibha Bhalla (Ethnic Studies) and Dr. Christina Guenther (World Languages & Cultures/German). Dr. C. Guenther was the point person for organizing the International Film Festival this year.

Students and staff had the opportunity to discuss the film with Bensaddek the following day. The film is about a former Algerian pop-star who fled to Canada to escape the Algerian Civil War (late 1990s) and who finds herself in a taxi cab one Christmas Eve in Montreal with an Algerian cab driver. During their discussions, both are forced to confront personal questions of assimilation and identity. The screening was funded by the Pallister French-Canadian Lecture Series.

Among the other films included in the International Film Festival were a documentary on Chiune Sugihara, a Japanese diplomat who helped to save Lithuanian Jews from the Holocaust; a Fassbinder film on 1970s Germany and its “guest worker” program; Deepa Mehta’s Earth about the 1947 partition of India and Pakistan; Dear Pjongyang, which highlighted the return of North Koreans, settled in Japan, to visit the North Korean capital; and La Progque (The Dugout) about Senegalese migrants attempting the perilous voyage to Spain. Goin’ to Chicago explored a different form of migration—an internal one: African-Americans leaving the South to resettle in Chicago during the “second Great Migration” from 1940 to 1970. Each of the films was introduced by a BGSU faculty member and was followed up by a brief discussion. Keep an eye out for the International Film Festival 2019!

DR. DANTE THURAIRATNAM SCHOLARSHIPS PRESENTED

Congratulations to the three winners of the Dr. Dante Thurairatnam Scholarship:
https://www.bgsu.edu/arts-and-sciences/international-studies/scholarships-and-awards.html

Olive Bartholomew, Melanie Moore and Daniel Rodriguez.

Dante Thurairatnam arrived at Bowling Green State University from Sri Lanka in 1969, earning his Master of Education degree. He returned to BGSU in 1974 where he received his Ph.D. in Educational Administration and Supervision. He was the associate dean for Continuing Education.

The Dr. Dante Thurairatnam Memorial Scholarship is a fitting tribute to a distinguished career and lasting legacy to the students he served so well. The scholarship provides an annual award to a full-time undergraduate BGSU student with financial need who is majoring in the International Studies Program. Scholarship recipients are expected to be an active and involved member of the community or campus organizations with a strong academic record and an overall graduate point average of 3.0 or better.
McKayla Raines shares Palestinian experience

McKayla Raines, recipient of both the Hoskins Global Scholarship and the Stuart R. Givens Memorial Scholarship, spent last summer in Palestine, last fall at the Université Paul-Valéry in Montpellier, winter break in Berlin working with refugees, and is finished spring semester at the Universität Salzburg. Here are a few of her impressions:

I chose a political science minor to focus my International Studies major. With this minor I have learned about the politics of different regions such as the Middle East, Latin America and Western Europe.

I spent two months in Palestine teaching English, where I worked with children as young as seven years, and students who had families of their own. Initially I was looking for a chance to do something outside of what I had already done and I wanted to practice my Arabic at the same time as making a difference.

When I started learning Arabic five years ago I learned about the conflict in Palestine and knew that I wanted to go to Palestine. Although this project was not centered on refugees, I did visit two refugee camps. At camp al-Fawar, with 10,000 people in the camp, I saw it was very difficult to establish a way of life. When I asked why they don’t try to integrate the people in the camps into the cities, they say that they keep faith that one day they will have the right to return.

Many people hold the original keys to their homes that were once located in what is now considered to be Israel. I held one of these keys while visiting a woman in the camp. She has lived in the camp since 1965 and told us that she has “no hard feelings toward Jews because they are cousins of Muslims.” She told us how the people just want their kids to have a good life and the only way out of the camp is through a good education.

In France, I didn’t have the chance to work with an organization, however I did meet quite a few Kurdish people. One story that stood out to me the most was a Kurdish man, Mustafa, from Syria who told me that he came over on a tiny boat across the Mediterranean to France. In Syria, Kurdish people are denied citizenship and passports. Without a passport it is difficult to do important tasks such as open a bank account, buy a house, and more importantly, leave the country. So Mustafa, among a number of other Kurds, fled Syria. He explained that his journey across the sea was a difficult one where he barely ate nor slept. When he arrived in France, he told me [former French President Nicolas] Sarkozy didn’t want to let them in. Since 2010, Mustafa has established a life in France and soon expects to have French citizenship.

In Berlin, there were also a large variety of asylum-seekers. On my first day I was informed that the majority of people actually came from Eritrea. I met others from Mali, New Guinea, Iraq, Russia and Afghanistan. There were also several Kurds, some from Turkey, Iran and Iraq. I was surprised to arrive in Berlin to find that there were almost no Syrians in the camp. What I learned is that the migration and refugee dynamic in Europe is changing drastically.

I cannot go a single day without thinking about Palestine and what the people there go through on a daily basis just trying to live their lives.

MODEL UN OFFERS EDUCATIONAL, NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Four International Studies students had the opportunity to attend Model UN in New York City in April 2018. Participants included Rachel Zarick, Tyler Way, Renee Wott, and Courtney Keeney.

Senior Renee Wott, International Studies, said, “It was a learning experience both educationally and for networking. I got to network with students across the globe while working on a resolution of the effect of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights. We got to go to the actual UN and vote on resolutions we made. I’m pretty sure everyone’s resolutions that BG was involved in were passed; I know mine did for sure. It was a life-changing experience. The delegation of Latvia (all from BGSU) won an “Honorable Mention Delegation Award” which was pretty cool because not many were given and with only 14 students, the BGSU team wasn’t as big as some schools’ teams.”

Tyler Way, also a senior International Studies major, said, “We all worked together with other members of our committees to work on resolutions focusing on issues from all areas of interest to the United Nations. I worked on counter terrorism efforts in the general assembly first committee on the threats to peace and security. Others worked on issues surrounding the environment, education, urbanization, chemical weapons and finances.”

The Model EU delegation was part of a course taught by political scientist, Dr. Stefan Frölich; the Model UN delegation was enrolled in a course taught by Dr. Marc Simon, interim chair of Political Science.
Senior seminar students present at Undergraduate Research Conference

BGSU’s Center for Undergraduate Research & Scholarship (CURS), directed by Dr. Cordula Mora, annually brings together BGSU undergraduates from a wide array of disciplines. This year, the students in the Senior Seminar for International Studies participated in full force.

Poster sessions were set up in Olscamp Hall. Courtney Keeney presented her research on the effects of humanitarian aid and the need for a better approach to logistics.

Tyler Way explored the intersection of human rights and the space gap, and Nicole Ravotti tackled an unusual approach to human rights: the rights of the dead following the Spanish Civil War. Garett Frye presented on the necessity of the U.N. and proposed to defund the organization.

Based on his study abroad experience, Declan Wicks presented about the issue of human rights discourse in the Netherlands, focusing on the controversial politician Geert Wilders. Hannah Stanich explored the history of migration associated with Soviet Jews and their attempt to resettle in the U.S. or Israel.

Two students opted to consider the impact of the unexpected move to revoke TPS (Temporary Protective Status) from Salvadorans. Jairo Muñoz considered the impact of the decision on Salvadorans currently living in the United States—their limited choices, and Alyssa Sooy investigated how the government of El Salvador was attempting to cope with the influx of nearly 200,000 repatriated Salvadorans.

Unable to attend the CURS conference, Alyssa Sooy presented her research to a group of International Studies Network (ISN) officers.

Additional presenters were Khyrsten Acadimia on “Human Trafficking in Japan through the use of Schoolgirls,” Isabel Alvarado on “Zainichi Koreans: The Struggle for Acceptance,” Sarah Riley on “Analysis of China’s Human Rights Abuses Against North Korean Defectors,” and Elizabeth Stark on “The Foreign Policy of Eritrea and the Effects on the Refugee Communities in Sudan and Ethiopia.”

Two of the INST majors chose to participate in the CURS Undergraduate Research Conference by presenting their research in a panel discussion. Renee Wott presented her study demonstrating how media representations helped to exacerbate social tensions between refugees and Spanish citizens, whereas Rachel Zarick focused on the rights of LGBTQ citizens in Russia and the difficulty of enforcing specific human rights protected under the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

Congratulations to our INST majors for their research and presentations.

ABOUT INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
INTERN SARAH SCHALLER

Sarah Schaller has finished her junior year as an International Studies major with a minor in communication and Spanish. She enjoys being involved on campus and was the vice president of the International Studies Network and a member of the Cross-Cultural Conversation Connection, as well as the Sidney A. Ribeau President’s Leadership Academy, Pi Beta Phi and Order of Omega. She has a passion for traveling and meeting new people, especially those from different cultures and returned from studying abroad in Amsterdam in the fall 2017 semester. She looks forward to interning with the Toledo International Film Festival http://www.toledo.com/events/film-movies/2018/11/16/2018-toledo-international-film-festival/ this summer and returning to BGSU in the fall to intern with the Institute for the Study of Culture & Society. https://www.bgsu.edu/arts-and-sciences/institute-for-the-study-of-culture-and-society.html

ISN: INTERNATIONAL STUDIES NETWORK

The International Studies Network is a group that regularly meets for movie nights, culture nights, game nights and professional networking opportunities such as the international career expo in Shatzel Hall. The goal of the group is to create a network of International Studies majors and minors, but welcomes students from any area of study, who are interested in different cultures, study abroad as well as careers in the international field. ISN allows students to stay connected and learn about opportunities within the International Studies Program at BGSU and in the community. ISN also offers the opportunity to work with refugees this past semester. Keep a look out for the first event of the Fall 2018 semester, a Welcome Picnic and Get-Together for International Studies students and international students on campus next year; the event will be located on the front steps of Shatzel Hall.

Current officers of ISN are: Kristen Jones, president; Sarah Schaller, vice president; Eve Cervenka, secretary; and Andréa Lockett, treasurer.

For more information about joining ISN, visit the ISN OrgSync page. https://orgsync.com/10597/chapter
International Studies AT A GLANCE

- 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/MajorsMapsInt.Studies.pdf

- Wonder what you will do once you have your B.A.? Contact INST to request an electronic copy of “BGSU What can I do with this major? Global/International Studies”

- Are you wondering what second (or third) language to study? Take a look at the World Languages & Cultures department (WRLD) offerings.

- 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! BGSU offers programs in China, Italy, Japan, Russia, Spain, and more!

- 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 or plan to present at the spring CURS Undergraduate Research Conference. The BGSU Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship (CURS) has up-to-date information about submission guidelines . . . not to mention grant opportunities.

- 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 5 will be ready 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

- 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.

- Other scholarship opportunities—like the Givens Scholarship or the Wurzberger French House scholarship—can be found through the University Scholarship search at bgsu.edu/scholarships (BGSU Academic Works).

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE 2017-2018 INTERNATIONAL STUDIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE!

Dr. Abiye Alamina (Economics)
Dr. Catherine Cassara (Journalism)
Dr. Stefan Fritsch (Political Science)
Dr. Ben Greene (History)
Dr. Valeria Grinberg Pla (World Languages & Cultures/Spanish)
Dr. Christina Guenther (World Languages & Cultures/German)
Dr. Akiko Kawano Jones-sensei (World Languages & Cultures/Japanese & the Program of Asian Studies, director)
Dr. Marc Simon (Political Science and Peace & Conflict Studies, Director)
Dr. Yu Zhou (Geography)

The Program for International Studies is especially grateful to Dr. Kristie Foell, Dr. Stefan Fritsch, and Dr. Marc Simon for their participation in the two-year Program Review process.

Want more ISP news?

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.