

## A Letter from the International Studies Director

We are proud to see many of our International Studies Falcons graduate this year with three of our majors accepted into the Peace Corps: Zu Forshee, McKayla Raines, and Sam Panter. Zu has chosen an academic path instead, but McKayla will be leaving for Morocco, and Sam will be setting off to join the Peace Corps in January.

This year has been a bit of a watershed. Together with Dr. V Rosser, director of BGSU's Center for Community and Civic Engagement, and Coverdell Fellow & Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Molly Kosnak, we have launched BGSU's Peace Corps Prep Program for undergraduates. Our teamwork across units on campus has ensured that students in the program are able to connect their academic studies with practical fieldwork in an intentional, meaningful way. We look forward to expanding the program—not least, because we will be heading to Washington D.C. in September to participate in the Peace Corps conference (more details below).

Other new initiatives include the creation of the Graduate Certificate in International Studies for “post-traditional” students with a B.A./B.S. who would like to follow the guidelines for preparing to be a Peace Corps volunteer. Students can work on the graduate certificate while enrolling in an M.A. program in German, Spanish... or in the new interdisciplinary European Studies Master's Program.

Students should also set up their profile in BGSU Connect and sign into our International Studies (INST) Group. BGSU Connect allows alumni to interact directly with current students. BGSU students sign in using their campus user ID, and BGSU alumni can use LinkedIn to become part of the program. What better way to find a mentor in a career that interests you or perhaps even locate an internship through the BGSU alumni network?

Read more about the different events that have occurred through the International Studies program, including the International Film Festival, “Undoing the Single Story,” that connected with this year's international Austrian Studies Association conference and the Pallister French-Canadian Lecture series. The International Studies Network (ISN), our student association, has been very active this year, and we are proud to have launched our INST Ambassador program.

We wish everyone an enjoyable and productive summer and look forward to welcoming you back to campus in the fall! May all of you who will be graduating find the transition a smooth one...and please stay in touch with us!

Warm regards,  
Dr. Beatrice Guenther

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

### The International Studies Program:

- Fosters liberal education through lifelong learning, the development of critical thinking skills, and research;
- Encourages students to cross disciplinary boundaries and enhances the ability to solve problems creatively and with perseverance;
- Guides students to become global citizens by helping them to develop cultural and linguistic proficiency, to recognize and value diverse perspectives, and to accept and adapt new practices as the means to solve problems creatively;
- Provides BGSU students with opportunities to contribute to the good of the community by fostering in them social and professional responsibility and growth through their coursework and through education abroad, community-based learning, internships, and participation in the student association, ISN (International Studies Network).



International Studies provides an interdisciplinary approach to international and global connections. The major acquaints students with approaches from the humanities and natural sciences. The student's individual program may focus on a world region, a particular issue or discipline, or a future career goal.

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## PROGRAM CREATES UPDATED MISSION STATEMENT

Following the lead of the University's new Focus on the Future Learning Outcomes, the International Studies Program has updated its own Mission Statement:

*The International Studies Program (INST) is an interdisciplinary undergraduate program that sets as its goal to provide students with the intellectual tools needed to succeed in an increasingly globalized society. These include critical thinking that applies different cultural and disciplinary perspectives, experiential learning abroad, and second-language acquisition.*



Each fall, the International Studies program and the ISN host a welcome picnic on the porch of Shatzel Hall that is free and open to all students. Free pizza, drinks and desserts were provided.

# Seniors share memories

**Hannah Stanich** finds that having learned Russian was the most interesting facet of the major. She had picked INST because of her interest in working for a government intelligence agency. Her favorite place: Dublin, Ireland!

**Sarah Schaller**, President of ISN, said: Before college I wanted to go out and see the world and get as far away from northwest Ohio as possible. I have lived my entire life in Perrysburg which is 20 minutes from BG. When I accepted a scholarship and knew I was coming to BG, I was undecided at first and came into BG with my focus set on studying abroad. [...] It may have been a bit of a rash decision when I first declared it as a major but through the years I found my place in the program and declared a minor in communication and another in Spanish. International Studies is broad enough that you can choose what you want to focus on and make it your own. Now, I hope to be an auxiliary English teacher in Spain as my first job after graduation.

I think the most interesting and relevant thing that International Studies has taught me is just how easy we have it as American college students. You spend so much time researching and learning about topics such as the refugee and migration crisis and other parts of the world in general that you quickly become aware of the life or death situations that large groups of people go through every day. It definitely has given me a different perspective on life and how I live, as well as a global awareness that I don't think you get with many other or any other majors.

I studied abroad in Alcalá de Henares, Spain in summer 2016 and Amsterdam, The Netherlands during the fall semester of 2017. I started my first Spanish class my freshman year at BG so studying in Spain really let me get a jump start on my Spanish minor. I also was an exchange student in Amsterdam and I completed my focus area at

Vrije Universiteit while abroad. I chose Amsterdam because I could take classes at a large university with classes in English and most people in the area were fluent in English.

It is hard to choose my best memory while abroad because they are countless (I am a huge advocate for studying abroad!). I would say the most rewarding experience overall was flying into Amsterdam completely alone not knowing one person. By the end of the program I had met many international friends from all over the world and even traveled with a few of them to different countries. This was the best way to learn about different cultures and because we were all attending VU in English I was able to have friendships with people that a language barrier would usually not allow. I also lived with international students in a "flat," so we would have dinners where everyone made a dish from their country. Just in our little hall we had roommates from China, Australia, Italy, England, Canada, South Korea, Spain, Portugal, Poland and Slovakia and we all became very close and would have flat parties where I met even more international friends. Needless to say, I cannot wait to go abroad again.



**Sarah Schaller**



Attending the May reception to celebrate the graduating seniors were (from left) McKayla Raines, Analiese Piccillio, Zu Forshee, Julie Haber, Sarah Schaller, Justin Mascarin, and Sam Panter

## HONORS

**Justin Mascarin**, an International Studies and Asian Studies major in the Honors College, is a new inductee into **Phi Beta Kappa**. Known as the oldest and most widely known academic honor society, Phi Beta Kappa celebrates and advocates excellence in the liberal arts and sciences. The most outstanding arts and sciences students at America's leading colleges and universities are invited for induction. The society sponsors activities to advance these studies in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences in higher education and in society at large.

The organization was founded in 1776 by five students at the College of William and Mary during the American Revolution. For more than two and a quarter centuries, the society has embraced the principles of freedom of inquiry and liberty of thought and expression. Laptops have replaced quill pens, but these ideas still lay the foundations of personal freedom, scientific inquiry, liberty of conscience and creative endeavor.

Three students – **Aislinn Bill**, Spanish; **Eve Cervenka**, Chinese, and **Remington Schneider**, Spanish – were recipients of the **Dr. Dante Thurairatnam Memorial Scholarship** this year. The scholarship acknowledges the distinguished career and lasting legacy to the students of Dr. Thurairatnam. The scholarship provides an annual award to a full-time undergraduate BGSU student with financial need who is majoring in the International Studies Program. The scholarship recipients are expected to be active and involved in the community or campus organizations with a strong academic record (overall GPA of 3.0 or better). More information is available through the online scholarship program at [bgsu.edu/scholarships](http://bgsu.edu/scholarships).



Dr. Beatrice Guenther's INST 2000 preview class was visited by Diplomat in Residence Dale Giovengo, who led a diplomatic simulation with students in August.

# International Studies advocate retires

Most students in International Studies are familiar with Dr. Catherine Cassara, who has taught the introductory course (INST 2000) since 2010 and has been an active advocate in promoting special study-abroad options. A long-time member of the INST Advisory Committee, her own research in global journalism led her to collaborate with Dr. Lara Lengel (Communication) on projects with Media and Environmental specialists in Tunisia and Algeria. That collaboration also led to Tunisian students and Fulbright scholars coming to the BGSU campus. Of particular note as well: her spring breakaway course, which typically included a short stay in Paris, brought students in contact with international journalists for face-to-face discussions in that global city.

Dr. Cassara's favorite memory is teaching international Studies 2000. It was interesting because of the variety of majors that were there—from football players to environmental majors to International Studies majors; they all cared about what was being talked about.

Her advice to current students: Take advantage of all the opportunities to learn other languages and take on the study-abroad opportunities. International connections are important. Read about other accounts of experiences taking place abroad.

She will be missed but promises to return to teach INST 2000 from time to time. She plans to engage in grant-writing and research but will first be heading to Palestine in late fall for the olive harvest. The group that she is traveling with will also be talking about environmental justice and the harvest while they are there. Bon voyage!



The International Studies Network (ISN) hosted a fun Bollywood night; the campus community was invited to a night of Bollywood dancing, food and fun.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDIES NETWORK [ISN]

ISN has been quite active during the academic year 2018-2019. The team of officers in the fall were Kristen Jones, president; Sarah Schaller, vice president; Eve Cervenka, secretary, and Andrea Lockett. Since Kristen headed to South Africa in the spring to study marine life and Eve and Andrea left for Chengdu to immerse themselves in the Chinese language and culture, ISN created a new team in the spring with Sarah Schaller taking the lead as president. Two ambassadors stepped forward: Zu Forshee as vice president and Sam Panter as treasurer. Despite the changing of the guard, ISN did not skip a beat. Here are some of the highlights of the past year.

**Fall Events:** Annual International Picnic (mixer for international students, INST majors and minors, and any students interested in global issues); excursion to the annual International Festival at the Greater Toledo Islamic Center; "Coffee Talk" at Grounds for Thought; Screening of *Bride and Prejudice* followed by a dance lesson in Bollywood dance by Tarishi Verma, president of BGSU's Indian Student Association.

## HONOR ROLL

We are proud of our 2019 INST graduates. They are listed along with their focus area and study-abroad location.

**Khyrsten Acadimia:** *International Business in East Asia*; Study Abroad in Nagoya, Japan

**Zu Forshee:** *Cultural Studies & International Minority Groups*; Salzburg, Austria & Mannheim, Germany

**Chelsea Nowakowski:** *Global Sustainable Development in Contemporary Africa*; St. Petersburg, Russia, Beijing, China, Spring Breakaway in Rabat, Morocco

**Madelyn Pine:** *Government & Culture*; Montpellier, France

**McKayla Raines:** *Peace and Conflict in Developing Countries*; Palestine, Montpellier, France, Salzburg, Austria, Berlin, Germany; heading to Morocco as a Peace Corps Volunteer

**Nicole Ravotti:** *Classical Civilization*; Salamanca, Spain

**Daniel Rodriguez:** *Intra-Cultural Civilization (Ethnicity and Social Movements)*; Nagoya, Japan

**Tatiana Rodzos:** *Environmental Justice and Policy*; Montpellier, France

**Sarah Schaller:** *Intercultural Perspectives (English, Ethnic Studies, Philosophy)*; Alcalá de Henares, Spain & Amsterdam, Netherlands

**Kiera Smith:** *International Health, Women and Globalization*; Montpellier, France

**Hannah Stanich:** *International Governmental Issues*; Amsterdam, Netherlands

**Spring Events:** Festival to explore New Year's traditions around the world, International Potluck, the student-run International Career Night, excursion to the Toledo Art Museum and YaYa's Kitchen...and late-night fund-raising at Ziggy Zumba's.

**Mary Lautar,** intern from the event planning program at BGSU, helped enhance ISN's outreach efforts.

# International Studies enacts successful ambassador program

This past year, five students were welcomed into a new Student Ambassador program designed to forge links between multi-lingual, interdisciplinary majors and minors. Read about this year's ambassadors:

**Zu Forshee** studied abroad in Salzburg, Austria (fall 2017) and then continued his education abroad in Mannheim, Germany in spring 2018. His commitment to using his German skills and business acumen did not stop him from taking the time to reach out to students following in his footsteps. He will be starting graduate work in the College of Business in the fall.

"I am the Vice-President of the International Studies Network. Last semester, I was an ambassador for the program. I heard about the International Studies major when I was in high school. . . . I chose it because I want to work abroad one day. I really enjoy interacting with people of different cultures and languages. The program allowed me to become a group leader for the Cross-Cultural-Conversation Connection organization during the 2016-2017 academic year. The most interesting thing that I have learned in this program is the role that culture plays in society. I studied abroad in Salzburg, Austria fall 2017 and in Mannheim, Germany spring 2018. One of the best experiences that I had abroad was walking through the vivacious city of Brussels, Belgium and hearing French, German, Dutch, and English spoken. It was an example of what we can do if we properly harness the powers of globalization."

**Julie Haber** is a double major in French and International Studies who studied abroad last summer in Cannes. Her interest in international business led her to choose to pilot one of the internships in Portugal this summer. She will be continuing as an ambassador in 2019-2020.

"I wanted to get involved with my major early in my college career. I saw this as a great opportunity to meet other members and further my experience at BGSU. I also wanted to make my mark on the International Studies community and help it grow. One great addition is that International Studies has set up service opportunities with the Wood County Humane Society. I have volunteered there with others."

**Rachel Harris** is also a veteran of the Salzburg program in Austria. Her strong interest in foreign affairs made her a regular at the "Academic Conference Calls," organized by the Council in Foreign Relations in New York.

"I became an ambassador to share my passion of traveling and human rights!"

**Justin Mascarin**, a double major in Asian and International Studies, brought his multiple passions to enrich the group's planning sessions. Already an ambassador of the Honors College and leader in the BGSU Swing group, Justin is a great advocate of the Chinese language and culture and is considering a minor in German and a study-abroad experience in Salzburg. He will return to work with the other ambassadors in 2019-2020.

"I enjoy representing something that I believe is important and giving people information about a major/minor that many people have not heard of or understand. I also believe that being an ambassador shows my dedication to the major and the community."

**Sam Panter** studies Spanish and International Studies. In addition to his course work, his study-abroad experience in Alcalá de Henares near Madrid (Spain) led him to explore an internship in teaching English to young Spanish students. Sam plans to graduate in December and to then join the Peace Corps but will resume his responsibilities as ambassador until graduation.

"I believe the program is important to this university and its students. International Studies gives students an opportunity to explore international cultures and politics in the classroom and during the required study abroad experience. I think the study abroad requirement is the most important part of this program and should be taken advantage of by all students."

The monthly meetings with the ambassadors have been fun and have also allowed the group to network with the International Studies Network officers to consider after-hours events each semester. In mid-September, the group rented a bus and headed to the annual International Festival at the Greater Toledo Islamic Center; the treats from Lebanon, India, Indonesia and elsewhere were incredibly tasty, and the atmosphere was festive.

Another key role of the ambassadors has been to speak with prospective Falcons about the program and their own experiences. The first-hand accounts by INST Ambassadors help to inspire them to consider stepping outside of their comfort zone.

We are excited to welcome next year's ambassadors. Three are returning: Julie Haber, Justin Mascarin and Sam Panter, and four are joining the team: Aislinn Bill, Alexandria Crawford, Yuka Matsufuji and Claire Oglesbee. Keep an eye out for the ambassadors' office hours in **Shatzel Hall, Room 127**. Students are welcome to drop in and ask for advice or make suggestions.



First Place – Rachel Renou, Interlaken, Switzerland

## INTERNATIONAL STUDIES PHOTO CONTEST

This year's winners of the International Studies Photo Contest are:



Second Place – Jamal Husien, Cape Verde



Third Place – Hannah Shank, Moscow, Russia

# New Initiatives in International Studies



**Margaret Booth, V. Rosser, Beatrice Guenther and Molly Kosnak discuss the new Peace Corps Prep program.**

**Andrew Harper**, major in International Studies, minor in Peace and Conflict Studies, Education, Environment or Youth in Development PC Prep Sector

**McKenzie Moss**, double major in biology and Spanish, Health or Education PC Prep Sector

**Analiese Piccillo**, major International Studies, minor in Spanish, Youth in Development or Community Economic Development PC Prep Sector

**Julie Quade**, double major in tourism & hospitality and event planning, Environment PC Prep Sector

**Remington Schneider**, double major in International Studies and Environmental Policy & Analysis, Environment or Agriculture PC Prep Sector

## PEACE CORPS PREP PROGRAM

**What is it?** The Peace Corps has accepted BGSU as one of the universities in the nation that may offer the Peace Corps Prep program to its undergraduate students. The core value is to consider how one can prepare effectively to serve in a community abroad. Key requirements are:

- 2 courses in a second language (at least Intermediate—2000—level);
- 2 courses in intercultural proficiency (e.g. INST 2100, Communicating in Global Contexts or a World Languages and Cultures course);
- a study-abroad experience;
- the choice of one of six sectors: *Agriculture; Community Economic Development; Education; Environment; Health; or Youth in Development* (5 courses) + 50 hours of fieldwork in that sector.

Dr. V. Rosser, director of the Center for Community and Civic Engagement, and Dr. B. Guenther, director of International Studies, co-direct the Peace Corps Prep program. Students should contact Dr. Guenther for advice on the selection of courses; Dr. Rosser provides guidance on the fieldwork that fits the sector chosen by the candidate.

**Will this program add a semester or year to my studies?** No, since candidates receive a Certificate from the Peace Corps; it is not part of the BGSU transcript. This means that courses used for the major, minor or Multidisciplinary Component can be counted in this instance—especially when students decide early on that they would like to add the PC Prep Certificate to their studies. Students majoring or minoring in International Studies can easily adapt their Focus Area to include courses counting toward the sector.

## PILOT PEACE CORPS PREP CANDIDATES

Congratulations to **Elizabeth Klear**, majoring in social work and minoring in Spanish, who has successfully completed the requirements for the Peace Corps Prep Program: the first Falcon to succeed! She chose the Education PC Prep Sector.

Other students in the program include:

**Erin Baldosser**, social work major and human development and family services minor, Youth in Development PC Prep Sector

**Olive Bartholomew**, double major in International Studies and Spanish, and double minor in environmental policy & analysis and mathematics, Environment PC Prep Sector

**Meghan Dobbins**, double major in psychology and sociology, Health PC Prep Sector

**The Graduate Certificate in International Studies** was approved by the Graduate Council in May 2019. Now students who have already earned a B.A. or B.S. also have the option to prepare themselves professionally for the Peace Corps or for another international NGO (non-governmental organization). Please note: The Peace Corps Prep Certificate or Grad Certificate in International Studies provides a good preparation for the Peace Corps, but it is not a guarantee that one will be invited to serve. That process continues to be managed directly by the Peace Corps.

## NEW OPTIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES MAJORS & MINORS—W/ OR W/O A BA

### Master's in European Studies

BGSU has recently launched a new interdisciplinary Master's program in European Studies.

### Advance your career

The M.A. in European Studies is an interdisciplinary program that allows students to develop an expertise in Europe as a whole, together with a specialization in a given region. It includes a study abroad experience and internship opportunities. The M.A. in European Studies will help prepare students for international careers in business, government, journalism, education, research, or the non-profit sector (e.g. NGOs). The program helps meet a high demand for candidates prepared to work for international companies and organizations with specific interests in Europe.

The M.A. in European Studies curriculum requires a total of 30 graduate-level credit hours of coursework. Students may specialize in European Arts & Letters, European Political Economy, Regional Focus (France, Germany & Austria, Russia or Spain) and other European Languages (Italian, Russian, Slovenia) in combination with an arts and science or political-economic specialization. There are 9 hours of required courses, a minimum of 12 elective courses, 6 hours (2 courses) of European languages at the 3rd year or above level, and a 3-hour (minimum) capstone experience of a thesis or comprehensive reading.

### Interested in knowing more?

Visit <https://www.bgsu.edu/academics/european-studies.html>

BGSU also offers M.A. programs in German and Spanish. Contact Dr. Edgar Landgraf (Graduate Coordinator for European Studies, German) or Dr. Amy Robinson (Graduate Coordinator for Spanish)

Contact Beatrice Guenther for information about the graduate certificate in French or International Studies.

# International Film Festival

One of the most powerful ways to learn about other cultures is through stories. This year, the International Studies Program coordinated the International Film Festival by joining forces with the Departments of Theatre and Film, World Languages and Cultures, the School of Cultural and Critical Studies and the Africana Studies program. The theme for this year's festival was "Undoing the Single Story," a reference to Nigerian writer Chimamanda Ngoze Achidie's well-known TED talk about the "danger of a single story."

Achidie describes the effects of growing up with one dominant style of writing. As a Nigerian girl far from Great Britain, she began to craft stories about snow, apples, and ginger beer without ever having experienced any of these. Only later does she discover stories about people who resemble her and whose experiences seem more familiar. Achidie is particularly skillful at describing the negative effects of a single story:

*"So that is how to create a single story—show a people as one thing, as only one thing, over and over again, and that is what they become. ... The Palestinian poet Mourid Barghouti writes that if you want to dispossess a people, the simplest way to do it is to tell their story, and to start with, 'secondly'"*

— Chimamanda Achidie, "The Danger of the Single Story," TED Talk (July 2009).



*Diego Star* was one of the featured international films

## INTERNSHIPS PLANNED IN MONTPELLIER

Students who are planning a study-abroad experience in **Montpellier, France** will soon have the option to add an internship experience through l'Institut Méditerranéen de Langues et de Services. L'IMLS places students in a wide variety of organizations, e.g., A Coeur Ouvert (for those in need of a hot meal), Fédération française pour l'UNESCO, Institut Saint-Pierre (a non-profit hospital for children), la Croix Rouge française, and many more. Contact Dr. B. Guenther who advises students for study-abroad opportunities in France.

Also, the International Studies program will be introducing the opportunity to develop **grant-writing skills** in a workshop to be held this November. In addition, INST works closely with **US Together**, a refugee resettlement agency in Toledo and will be collaborating with them to file for grants to support their community outreach. The workshop is part of the program's commitment to prepare students to make a difference in their communities once they have completed their bachelor's degree.

Frédéric Pelletier presented the Pallister Lecture as part of the International Film Festival.

This year's International Film Festival included stories from Mali (*Timbuktu*); Québec (*Diego Star*), Austria (*Unten & Der Bauer zu Nathal*); Turkey/Germany (*The Edge of Heaven*); and a collaboration between a Palestinian and Israeli director/editor (*Five Broken Cameras*). Two film directors visited campus to discuss their films: Djordje Cenic, an Austrian film director with roots in Serbia, was a guest speaker of the **Austrian Studies Association Conference**, organized by Christina Guenther, and spoke about his own experiences growing up between cultures. Frédéric Pelletier was the guest lecturer of the **Pallister French-**



**Canadian lecture series** and spoke to us about the stresses in a community located near Québec City. His film brought together two marginalized characters: a single mother and a stranded sailor from the Ivory Coast. *Diego Star* explores the possibility of two such characters to develop solidarity in the face of the difficulties they face. We invite you to watch the film to discover his conclusion.

## FACULTY COLLABORATORS HAVE ACTIVE YEAR

International Studies is an interdisciplinary program that relies on the engagement of faculty members collaborating across the BGSU campus. Each month the faculty meet in order to deliberate about the curriculum and potential areas of growth. The committee was quite active again this past year in order to ensure that students would receive a solid foundation in the core disciplines making up the major: communication and journalism, economics, geography, history; political science; world languages and literature. The committee also included representatives from English, art and architecture.

Members this year included Catherine Cassara, journalism and public relations; Kristie Foell, world languages and cultures; Douglas Forsyth, history; Stefan Fritsch, political science; Beatrice Guenther, International Studies; Akiko Jones, Asian Studies; Lara Martin Lengel, School of Media and Communication; Golnaz Baradaran Motie, economics; Katerina Rüedi Ray, School of Art; Marc Simon, political science; Irina Stakhanova, world languages and cultures; Rachel Walsh, English; Yu Zhou, School of Earth, Environment and Society. Special thanks to Dr. Cassara, Sensei Jones and Dr. Ray for their service as they prepare to retire.

# Speakers highlight International Career Night



**Dale Giovengo**



**Heather Bloom**



**Grant Mierzejewski**



**Anna Sankovich**

Students participated in two separate International Career Nights during 2018-2019 academic year. In the fall, **Diplomat-in-Residence Dale Giovengo** returned to campus to provide information about pursuing a career in the U.S. Foreign Service. **Heather Bloom**, Coverdell Fellow, provided insight into her experiences in Paraguay as a Peace Corps volunteer. **Grant Mierzejewski**, coordinator of International Student Services in BGSU's Office of Education Abroad, shared his experiences as an alumnus of the International Studies Program, and **Anna Sankovich**, coordinator of BGSU's Alumni and Annual Giving, introduced the new BGSU Connect program, which allows students to contact BGSU alumni for advice and mentorship.

**ISN officers** organized the second International Career Night, which took place in the spring. Part of their event included "best advice" from several INST Alumni:

**Martina Hanulova**, Givens Scholarship Recipient (2007) & Centennial Alumni Award (2010):

- I would advise students to get as many international experiences as possible before they get into the real world/job market.
- Gain Volunteer Experience abroad (Peace Corps; I was in Burkina-Faso for 2 months; later 4 months in Ghana (through the Givens) & 6 months in Sierra Leone (while doing my MA in Development at the American University, DC)
- Study languages, particularly those spoken in the countries where you want to go. Foreign languages are crucial.
- Network with those working within the international arena. Use your summer breaks to try an internship with international businesses or organizations in the US... as in Washington, D.C.

## INST ALUMNI: JOIN BGSU CONNECT

Consider joining BGSU Connect, the alumni mentorship network through the BGSU Career Center. The platform connects students with alumni, faculty, staff and employer partners within their field of interest. Alumni can expand their mentoring network, establish short-term or long-term mentoring relationships and provide relevant career-related guidance. Students can expand their professional network, connect with mentors in their city or industry of interest, and access educational and career-related resources and discussions led by industry leaders. To access the service, create an account at [bgsuconnect.bgsu.edu](https://bgsuconnect.bgsu.edu)

Alumni may also email the program directly at [bguenth@bgsu.edu](mailto:bguenth@bgsu.edu) or [tsusko@bgsu.edu](mailto:tsusko@bgsu.edu) to share your experiences and/or best advice for current students.

**Bryan Ramsey**, Arizona National Forest

- Maintain a healthy and happy lifestyle.
- Build relationships and budget time/money to establish a favorable foundation.
- Get to know yourself! Be kind to yourself; you are valuable.
- This world needs your unique you.

**David Bruhowzki**, Director/Client Advisor, Alex Brown, New York, New York

• "My INST degree from BGSU has helped my career tremendously. I have worked in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, and in each of my roles an understanding of different cultures and the global stage has proved to be extremely important. I use much of the knowledge that I learned during my International Studies to understand how my prior and current roles within the job market fit into a larger and broader view of how I can be more impactful in decisions I make and the leadership of others. In addition, as business, commerce, and cultures become more global, I firmly believe a knowledge of other people, cultures, and global perspective is paramount to being a positive and effectual leader."

**Laura McLary**, Professor of German, Associate Dean, University of Portland, Oregon

- Critical to learn a second language and study abroad!
- Pursue an immersive language abroad experience.
- Be of service abroad, e.g., Fulbright ETA programs, volunteer programs.
- There are so many opportunities to go abroad and do meaningful work these days.

**Amy Yejo**, Sales Manager, Caribbean, AJC International, Inc.

- I highly suggest: Venture out of your comfort zone and do a study abroad program for at least one semester if not two.
- My experience in Tours, France: I experienced different cultures in a foreign language; I also learned critical thinking and problem solving.
- You get to know yourself and you find creative ways to "survive."

## Spotlight on BGSU/INST Alumna: Jennica Betsch

In fall 2019, Jennica Betsch will leave her work with Cross-Cultural Solutions in Guatemala (temporarily) in order to continue her education at the University of Chicago's International Development and Policy program with a substantial scholarship in hand. Jennica's own words about her plans are inspiring:

*I want to work for local communities to help identify and elevate the pre-existing capacity of their members to achieve their goals towards gender equitable education. I view sustainable growth in two parts- before you can improve public policy and get governments invested, you first have to intimately understand the complex issues that local communities face. ...*

*I plan to return to my beloved community in Burkina Faso to start a non-profit aimed at increasing access to gender equitable education through peer-to-peer teaching. The Peace Corps program in Burkina has recently shut down, and I know many local ex-staff members who are dedicated to supporting their country through development. I want to implement systems of peer-to-peer tutoring and give students the opportunity to travel to the capitol and meet with university students. ...*

*I want to study policy because I want to expand educational opportunities for under-resourced students and support their communities on a macro scale, both in the United States and abroad. I have had the honor of intimately learning about my village in Burkina Faso by living, learning, and speaking with members from all walks of life to piece together the community as a complex whole. This very personal type of research is the most important task for those of us who want to effect policy because it helps ensure that we are effecting positive, long-lasting change that takes both obvious and nonobvious factors into consideration.*



**We would love to spotlight other INST grads! Let us know what you are up to!**

## PROFESSIONAL PATHWAYS: FINDING YOUR VOICE

Embracing Global Engagement Majors and minors in International Studies as well as in the Department of World Languages and Cultures have the opportunity to learn by sharing their own experiences. Each year, BGSU hosts the **Embracing Global Engagement conference**—an event run by and for students. Any student who has studied abroad is invited to submit a proposal for a 10-minute presentation, poster or video presentation to reflect on the academic and/or experiential research that became possible by studying abroad. That was the case last year when Olive Bartholomew shared what she learned by becoming a WWOOFer in Spain.

Often it is by writing about your experiences that the different pieces of what you saw and learn come together. The audience is made up of students who also plan to study abroad and who can learn from the different facets of your study-abroad experience—even the mistakes—how to make the most of their own education abroad. This year's conference will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 16. The event is set up in sessions, so that students can drop in between classes.

For students interested in submitting a proposal to present, there will be an abstract workshop on Sept. 26 in 103 Shatzel to learn about preparing a one-paragraph description of the presentation or poster.

Don't miss the annual **Immigrant Ohio conference**, this fall scheduled for Nov. 14, organized by Dr. Vibha Bhalla (Ethnic Studies) or the **Symposium on Diversity**, organized by the Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship (CURS), which will take place Nov. 20.

Dust off your research on an international topic from spring 2019 or fall 2018 and consider submitting it to BGSU's online **International ResearchScape Journal**. You can find guidelines on how to edit your paper and how to submit it directly through the website: <https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/irj/>. The deadline for submissions to our next volume will be in early September. If you have questions, please contact Dr. Beatrice Guenther ([bguenth@bgsu.edu](mailto:bguenth@bgsu.edu)) or Dr. Rachel Walsh ([walshr@bgsu.edu](mailto:walshr@bgsu.edu)).

## Want more ISP news?

Follow our social media accounts to stay updated on events and news from the BGSU 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 to [tsusko@bgsu.edu](mailto:tsusko@bgsu.edu).



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