Dear IR Students:

The United States Military Academy at West Point will be hosting SCUSA (Student Conference on U.S. Affairs) this fall (1-4 November, 2017). SCUSA is the oldest and largest conference of its type. Each year, student delegates who attend SCUSA discuss and debate the impact of current and past events on the national strategy of the United States and work to formulate sound policy recommendations for the U.S. government.

The organizing theme this year is “The Politics of the Forgotten and the Aggrieved: Remaking the World Order?” Given today’s significant and diverse challenges to the post-World War II liberal international order, the conference invites participants to grapple with the pressing foreign policy issues that now face our country. The delegates will be asked to assess and debate issues such as the impact of populism on U.S. and European domestic and foreign policy, the future of American alliances throughout the world, U.S. responses to climate change amid rising nationalism, and U.S. policies to address ethnoreligious conflict and mass displacement. Overall, SCUSA wants to engage both the politics of grievance (often based on a narrative of having been left behind or forgotten) as well as the continued marginalization of various groups throughout the world.

In order to apply please submit the following materials to Gina Hakim (ghakim@usc.edu) by September 20th at 5pm. You can email a copy or deliver a hard copy to VKC 330.

Application must include:
- Cover Letter
- Resume
- List of all courses in progress
- STARS Report

Selections will be made as quickly as possible thereafter so the representative can register on the SCUSA website and prepare the required materials. No late applications will be accepted.

Talk with your fall 2017 professors and ask if they will allow you to miss class should you be selected. Student representatives must have faculty permission to attend SCUSA and student must agree with terms set by each professor to make up any work or assignments missed. If any faculty does not agree, the application will not be considered.

The School of International Relations will pay for student RT air travel through our USC approved vendor. The School will reimburse the SCUSA representatives for the conference registration fee of $180 which includes conference meals and transportation to and from West Point. SCUSA will provide vans to pick up participants from the airport and to and from the West Point barracks.

The travel support for this SCUSA activity come from generous support of the Berkes family and alumni who support the School in memory of the School’s first and longest serving School Director Dr. Ross Berkes. The School of International Relations has been sponsoring representatives to SCUSA since the first Conference 69 years ago. We are happy to continue this tradition with the help of the Berkes family. We would like the SCUSA ’68 representatives to agree to write a report of their experiences that we can share with our alumni and publish in our annual Alumni Newsletter or on our website. Reports will be due immediately upon return to campus while the experiences are very fresh in thought.

If you have questions on this SCUSA opportunity or competition guidelines, please let me hear from you (ghakim@usc.edu).