USC Dornsife
School of International Relations
ALUMNI NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2016
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SIR Alumni Newsletter

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear SIR Alumni and Friends,

My first “From the Director” gives me a chance to introduce myself and to bring you up to date on some highlights from the past year at the School of International Relations. I am finishing my first year as Director of SIR and I am delighted to say that I am more impressed than ever with our dedicated faculty and staff, our outstanding students, and our extraordinary alumni family. We in SIR understand that the world’s most pressing problems – war, poverty, hunger, inequality, environmental degradation, massive refugee flows, pandemics – are not just technical in nature. That is, they are not going to be solved with scientific and engineering breakthroughs alone. World hunger, for example, will not be ended by developing new seed varieties or applying high-tech irrigation systems. Technical advances will have to go hand in hand with changes in the social and political systems that prevent food from reaching those who do not have access to it. The world’s major challenges are at least as much social and political as they are technical. Our SIR faculty, students, and alumni work to improve our understanding of global political, economic, and social systems.

Nearly every field of endeavor now has an international dimension, from business to education, culture, entertainment, law, government, and public health. That is probably why the School of International Relations attracts so many of USC’s brightest students. We prepare them for the world they are going to live and work in. As a result, we consistently have one of the largest majors in the Dornsife College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences. The International Relations, IR and Global Business, and IR and the Global Economy majors totaled more than 800 this year. We also offer students a variety of unique opportunities that are featured throughout this newsletter, including summer courses across the world, scholarships for summer internships, and more. Many of these extraordinary opportunities for undergraduates are funded by our own generous alumni. Thank you for continuing to build the School of International Relations and the next generations of SIR graduates!

Finally, the School’s faculty has grown this year. We welcome:

- **Professor Erin Baggott-Carter** completed her PhD in international relations at the Harvard University Department of Government. Previously, she completed a MSc in Modern Chinese Studies at the University of Oxford and a BA in Government & Economics at Harvard College. Dr. Baggott studies Chinese foreign policy using techniques from computational social science and machine learning.

- **Professor Pablo Barberá**, who just completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the New York University Center for Data Science. His research interests include quantitative methods in the social sciences, automated text analysis, and social network analysis. His current research agenda focuses on the role of social media platforms in the growth of social protests, the effects of online communication strategies on leader survival in autocracies, and how exposure to political violence and governments’ counter-messages on social media affects ideological extremism.

- **Professor Brett Carter**, who received a Ph.D. in Political Science from Harvard University. He was a Fulbright scholar in Senegal, taught at the University of Malawi, worked for a humanitarian NGO in northern Ethiopia, and has consulted for many global organizations. Dr. Carter employs a range of research methods – formal, qualitative, quantitative, and computational – to analyze Africa’s post-Cold War autocracies and how their leaders maintain their grip on power.

- **Professor Jonathan Markowitz**, who obtained his PhD at the University of California, San Diego. His primary work is on power projection, the political implications of climate change and resource competition. He was a pre-doctoral fellow at the Geopolitics of Energy Project at Harvard University’s Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs and a post-doctoral fellow at the Dickey Center for International Understanding at Dartmouth College. His research has been supported by the National Science Foundation.

We also welcome two visiting professors. **Professor Mahmood Sariolghalam** is a specialist and scholar in Middle East politics, and Iranian foreign policy and political culture who joins us for the 2016-2017 academic year from Shahid Beheshti University in Tehran, Iran. **Professor Mehmet Sinan Birdal**, of Istanbul’s Isik University who is a scholar on contemporary politics of the Middle East, diplomatic history, political theory, and international political economy. Professor Birdal joined us for the 2016-2017 academic year and will remain with us through to Spring 2018.

The world is never short of crises, but the past year has seen an extraordinary set of events that leave both publics and policy-makers searching for solutions: the ongoing civil war and the fight against ISIS in Syria, the refugee crisis in Southern Europe and the Mediterranean, brutal terrorist insurgencies in several parts of Africa, the Zika virus, the “Brexit” vote in the United Kingdom, assertive moves by Russia in Europe and China in the South China Sea, North Korean missile tests. These challenges underline the crucial role of the School of International Relations in preparing our students not just to live with these challenges but to find ways of addressing them. Thanks to all of you for being part of the SIR family.

With warm regards,

Wayne Sandholtz

John A. McConne Professor of International Relations
Director, School of International Relations
POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (POIR)

The Department of Political Science and SIR jointly offer the Ph.D. program in political science and international relations (POIR). POIR combines rigorous training in the core literatures of both political science and international relations, with flexible, student-centered training in research on the frontiers of both disciplines. Dr. Christian Grose is the current director of the program.

Capping off another successful year, the POIR program saw a total of 10 students graduating in the 2015-2016 Academic Year. Three students will be graduating in the upcoming Fall 2016 term.

POIR was also proud to host a series of events for students and members of the University of Southern California community, bringing together faculty from both Political Science and International Relations, one of which is the launching of a Women’s Mentoring Dinner Series. One dinner was hosted by Professors Jane Junn and Saori Katada and the other one was hosted by Professors Carol Wise and Ann Crigler. The dinners took place at both Professor Junn’s home and Carol Wise’s home in South Pasadena. They plan to continue the series throughout this academic year and also incorporate POIR Mentoring Breakfaests for each of the standing fields (comparative Politics, American Politics, International Political Economy, and International Security and Foreign Policy Analysis).

2016-2017 Graduates: Rod Albuyeh, Tyler Curley, Mark Paradis, Simon Radford, Gloria Koo, Sean Wong, Peter Knaack, Cyrus Mohammadian, Kym MacNeal, Nicolas Dezamaroczy, Eunice Kang, Jiuin Bang, Matthew Gratias

Jennifer Rogla has been awarded a Fulbright-Hays Research Grant for the 2017-2018 school year. Jennifer will use the grant to study in Costa Rica starting next year. She will be doing fieldwork on the role of local Costa Ricans in foreign aid implementation processes with an eye toward improving current measures of aid effectiveness.

Adam Feldman has accepted a postdoctoral position at the Corporate Law and Policy Program in Columbia University’s Law School. Adam will officially start this two year Post Doc as soon as he completes his dissertation in political science and international relations this fall. His dissertation advisor is Dr. Wayne Sandholtz.

Victoria Chonn Ching has received the USC Rolph Fellowship. This fellowship provides funds for promising graduate students in the USC College of Letters, Arts & Sciences, specifically for students in the School of International Relations and the department of East Asian languages and cultures.

Recent POIR graduate Jiuin Bang has accepted a postdoctoral position at the University of Michigan in the Nam Center for Korean Studies. Jiuin completed her Ph.D. in political science and international relations in spring 2016. Her dissertation was "The Business of Nationalism: How the Nationalist Industrial Complex Sustains Bilateral Tensions."
CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

SIR is proud to offer a variety of financial resources that celebrate exceptional students and facilitate internships and research opportunities.

- **The Ross and Marjorie Berkes Award**: Established by family and friends of the former director of SIR, Dr. Ross N. Berkes, this fund provides scholarships to deserving students majoring in International Relations.

- **The Amy Friedheim Fund**: This fund brings in practitioners to lecture on international issues and meet with students to discuss career options and pathways.

- **The Robert Friedheim Fund**: This award makes possible the publication of the International Relations Undergraduate Association's Southern California Review, a bi-annual interdisciplinary journal founded in 2011.

- **The Michael Sullivan and Louise Meyers Endowed Scholarship**: In honor of Michael Sullivan and Louis Meyers, this award helps recent SIR graduates who, saddled with undergraduate tuition debt, would not be able to attend graduate or professional school.

- **School of International Relations Alumni Fund**: This is an annual scholarship competition for IR majors who have been offered an unpaid summer internship.

- **The John M. Cluff Scholarship on Energy and International Relations**: The scholarship provides awards which may be used to assist students in completing research projects, or accepting summer internship positions. Eligible topics are defined broadly, and could range from environmental issues to traditional foreign policy debates focused on Eurasia.

- **The Madam Hui Shek-Chun Discover China Scholarship**: An award for summer internship program in China with no prior China experience, nor East-Asian specialization or language, required. The goal of this award is to provide students the opportunity to work in a Chinese business. Also to help students not specializing in China or East Asia to discover firsthand the country and region most critical to world politics in the 21st century.

- **The Witney W. Schneidman Family Africa Award**: This award funds an unpaid student internship of guided research opportunity in Africa, in honor of alumnus Dr. Witney Schneidman.

- **The Michael Young Undergraduate Scholarship**: This award, launching in 2017, will provide funding for undergraduate students seeking unpaid internships in honor of alumnus Michael Young.

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**My Summer in Hong Kong**

Prior to my summer departure, I was comforted by others who assured me not to worry. “Everyone in Hong Kong speaks English,” they said. However, what I found when I arrived there was a completely different story. The culture shock hit me as soon as I exited the airport and was met by a solid wall of humidity. In my neighborhood of Mong Kok, my eyes bounced off the vibrant and overwhelming Cantonese signage. As someone with no Chinese language skills, this was intimidating at first, but that intimidation did not last long. Thanks to the support of the USC community in Hong Kong, that initial fear of not knowing anyone or anything in an unfamiliar place evolved into feelings of appreciation and admiration for an exciting, global city and its welcoming inhabitants.

My first day at work as a Summer Analyst in the USC Hong Kong International Office was an immersive one. Not only did I learn about the details and responsibilities of the office, but I was introduced to many local aspects of Hong Kong. While my duties ranged from community outreach to newsletter writing, my biggest and most enjoyable task was connecting with the USC Alumni and current USC students in Hong Kong.

There is no doubt that the Trojan Family is a powerful force, however it was not until I lived in Hong Kong that I truly experienced it. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to assist with the coordination of events that brought both alumni and current students together. My experience in Hong Kong quickly taught me how easy it can be to build valuable networks and relationships. Maintaining those relationships was the next challenge, but in Hong Kong (a city that rivals New York as one that doesn’t sleep), it was much more convenient to do so. I soon found myself bonding with my USC family over hot pot, boat trips and dim sum — all very local experiences.

As an outsider to the East Asian realm, I can proudly say that my summer expectations were exceeded. To be immersed in an entirely new culture and still feel as if I was embraced by it, is both empowering and exciting. I aspire to one day return to Hong Kong and am motivated more than ever to learn Chinese. I am so grateful for the opportunity that the Discover China Scholarship awarded me, for without it, I may have never discovered a community and culture that I now adore so much.

*By Alyssa Garcia*
Cuba Está de Moda

Cuba is “in”. For the past couple of years, friends, classmates, and family members have continuously reached out to me asking for advice and touristic recommendations as they plan their next adventure back to the 1950s, to the unknown, the exotic, and the “communist”. I gladly assist them every time, excited that yet another person can see the reality of a unique and fast-changing nation. During my lifetime alone, Cuba has experienced its greatest economic shock; slowdowns in every possible sector of the economy the “normalizing” of relations with its antagonist neighbor, the United States; the periodic liberalization and opening of its trade, production and tourism sectors; and a change in its main leader for the first time in half a century. To say that Cuba is finally changing after fifty years of virtual isolation is an understatement. In reality, Revolutionary Cuba has been an active state with well-defined foreign policy goals that have ranged from exporting its revolution, to representing a middle-man between developing countries and the Soviet Union, to supporting socialist transitions in Latin America, to projecting symbolic power through Castro’s proletariat internationalism. Cuba has never been completely isolated, but the economic and social reforms in the past decade have forced it into traversing a path of economic integration with no reverse gear. This is a summary of my most recent experience in yet another one of the places I call home.

Cuba’s current economic and social transition
Last March, an American President visited Cuba for the first time since 1928, following the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States in December 2014. Americans and Cubans, along with the international community, watched Barack Obama and Raul Castro shake hands, joke, and present their plan for cooperation and cultural, economic, and educational exchange. As both publics visualized the beginning of a new era of mutual cooperation and understanding, the pressures of Congress, Cuban-Americans, anti-Yankee Cubans in the island, and an intricate network of illegal businesses, was overseen. That was the apogee of a recent and optimistic bilateral discourse on solidarity and change. In the months to follow, both American and Cuban embassies would open, flights to and from the United States would be announced, a new foreign investment law would pass, and an ongoing debate on specific reforms to alleviate the US embargo on Cuba would be sparked. With the support of the SIR Alumni fund, I spent this past summer in Havana, as an intern and researcher, in the midst of its political and economic flux.

My experience in Cuba
I had visited Cuba at least once every year since I was born, spending one or two months at my grandparents’ house. Cuba was always bright, warm, fun, and slow. Only as I grew older, did I realize the transformations that had undertaken during the time I was gone. Most recently, those changes were becoming overwhelming as private businesses emerged, more people traveled for leisure, and my family in Cuba watched me appear on a reality TV show before I had even watched myself in the US. Globalization, the internet, and a million alternatives for media streaming, social media outlets, publications, and cable TV made the Cuba I knew all my childhood look more like my life outside of it.

In the summer after my freshman year of college, I went back to Cuba and sat down with my grandfather to ask what the Revolution had meant to him and the direction he saw his country facing after having dedicated his life to combatting social injustice. Similarly, I talked to his Revolutionary friends, to my friends, university students and professors, journalists, and anyone who was willing to share their story with me. My goal was to find answers to important and understudied social, political, and economic questions to better understand the past and future of Cuba-U.S. relations by taking into account the voices of citizens with no access to mass-spread information technologies. My conclusion was that the general population still shared a feeling of trust in and gratitude for the Castro regime, its past contributions, and the future of their country, hoping to stay in Cuba and support the current administration, if the embargo was lifted. I left Cuba that summer with more questions than before, and planned to come back to attempt to answer one of them thoroughly.
My internship experience
During my internship at the General Consulate of Mexico in Los Angeles last semester, I was able to connect with a renowned Mexican Ambassador in Cuba, Luis Cabrera, who works as the Counselor for Bilateral Trade. As an intern at ProMexico’s Commercial Counseling office in Havana, I assisted Mexican businessmen interested in entering the Cuban market. Every day, the Ambassador and I talked to businessmen and government officials from both countries, gauging interest and individual goals. I simultaneously represented my country of birth and my second home and learned to apply classroom and research lessons to my day-to-day work and interactions.

My Research Experience
Last Spring, I designed a Senior Thesis project to evaluate the effects of the Special Period on Cuban leaders’ ideology, planning to collect data during my internship stay in Cuba this summer. I collected secondary and primary data by visiting institutions and interviewing old elites who had been in office before and after the fall of the Soviet Union. Throughout the summer, I carried out private and delicate exchanges, in which individuals painted, through personal experiences, the process of government formation after the Cuban Revolution. Those who had been in office during the shortages of the Special Period, provided me with incomparable insight into the pressure and obstacles they faced to create alternative food production strategies during times of extreme scarcity, hunger, and need.

This summer, I was able to live in Havana, three hours away from my family, immersing myself in a routine of a double-currency, limited access to internet, old-style bibliographies and document classification, and a joyful and welcoming culture. I was able to thrive in an environment I had always considered my own, while developing both my professional and research skills as I dove deeply into a topic which has been thoroughly studied externally while its analysis lacks testimonies from within as well as a domestic perspective. I was able to contribute to this gap while expanding my own knowledge about my family’s past and present, embodying a truly bilateral face of international relations.

By Johanna Reyes Ortega

The Cluff Award: U.S. Embassy in Warsaw
This past summer, I was honored to be a recipient of the Cluff Fund on Challenges to Eurasian Security award. I used this award to help fund my summer internship with the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw, Poland in the Public Affairs Section. The work of the Public Affairs Section focuses on promoting American culture and presence in Poland, and encouraging people to study, work, and travel in the U.S. My work included presenting information about scholarships and study abroad options to local students, as well as briefing students leaving for programs on U.S. college life. On a day-to-day basis, I edited and compiled news briefings to be sent back to Washington on current events in Poland, helped write and edit speeches for the officers, and aided the embassy’s social media team in planning fun and informative outreach campaigns.

Summer 2016 was an especially exciting time to be in Warsaw, as the 2016 NATO Summit was held there in early July. I was able to aid the public affairs officers in researching and writing reports to be distributed to the White House team before their arrival, and assisted the White House press team on-site at the Summit. My fellow interns and I helped the White House team at the Summit by getting tapes from press conferences back to the pressroom and by working with members of the press team to ensure they had space to set up during the conferences. I was able to see President Obama speak in person twice, which was a truly amazing experience!

Overall, my time at the embassy in Poland cemented my desire to become a Foreign Service Officer in the future. I plan to take the Foreign Service Officer Test next spring in hopes of launching an international career with the State Department. This experience wouldn’t have been possible without the award from Cluff Fund, and I’m so grateful for the opportunities it provided me.

By Claire Bond
**SCHOLARSHIPS**

**AWARD RECIPIENTS 2015-2016**

**SIR David Andrus Award:** Evan Sawyer  
Dr. David J Andrus became a member of the SIR family in 197 when he received his Masters and PhD. He taught a variety of courses here and directed our Peace and Conflict Studies program from 1994-2004, when he sadly passed away. Dave was best known, and will always be remembered, for his desire to help people explore their interests. This award honors his memory by recognizing a student or students whose time among us best embodied the values he lived by, especially personal efforts to promote justice and peace in the world.

**Evan Sawyer** has dedicated his time at USC to service, volunteering and interning for organizations focusing on education and human rights. Evan has used his fluency in Spanish and Portuguese to help students at various academic levels navigate the American education system. He was recently selected for the Teach for America National Corps, committed to teach in Detroit.

**SIR Director’s Award:** Yvette Chau and Aaron Rifkind  
The SIR Director’s Award is designed to recognize IR students who have distinguished themselves with their academic achievement and also a major contribution through service to the SIR and USC communities.

**Yvette Chau** has played a pivotal role in invigorating the International Relations Undergraduate Association and worked to increase membership and programming offered by the group. As president Yvette created a more comprehensive executive board to help increase the reach IRUA had. She spearheaded and organized the 20 professional panel discussion and networking events to assist students in exploring internships and career opportunities in International Relations. Yvette also helped to launch the mentor-mentee program to connect IR underclassman and upperclassmen who can offer and advice and support. Additionally as the Public Relations chair Yvette, streamlined communications from the association in order to better advertise and organize events.

**Aaron Rifkind** has dedicated a significant amount of time to the Southern California International Review, working to develop and create a strong editing board that holds the highest standards for the review. Aaron served as both Editor and Chief and Senior Editor of SCIR. He helped contributors to develop their articles in order to create a strong and cohesive journal. Aaron has dedicated over 3 years to help promote SCIR and make it premiere journal that solicits submissions from all over. The Review publishes up to six exceptional full-length articles in every issue. SCIR has published pieces from university students around the world, including Duke, Georgetown, and Australia National University.

**SIR Exceptional Student Award:** Scott Huhn  
The Exceptional Student Award recognizes exceptional academic achievement through a student’s college years. The award goes to the IR senior with the highest cumulative GPA earned in all College work.

**SIR Alumni Fund Scholars:**  
**Min Haeng Cho:** intern at the International Rescue Committee in New York  
**Eun Gyo Jung:** intern at United Nations office of Legal Affairs  
**Lauren Brackmann:** intern at Department of State intern  
**Max Hill:** intern at the National Defense University  
**Cara Burgan:** intern at Center for Nonproliferation Studies  
**Eva Grant:** intern at Vital Voices under the president  
**Ricardo Galvez:** intern at Mentorverse in Shanghai  
**Johanna Reyes Ortega:** intern at the Mexican Embassy in Cuba

**John M. Cluff Scholarship on Energy and International Relations Recipients:**  
**Andrew Thvedt:** intern at the Center for International Studies Europe Program  
**Aziza Kasumov:** intern at Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Germany  
**Amy Smerdel:** intern at US Embassy in Paris  
**Caroline Chen:** intern at UNHCR in Armenia  
**Claire Bond:** intern at US Embassy in Warsaw

**The Madam Hui Shek-Chun Discover China Scholarship Recipients:**  
**Alyssa Garcia:** intern at the USC Hong Kong Office  
**Brandon Lim:** intern at Mentorverse in Shanghai

**The Ross and Marjorie Berkes Travel Award to attend SCUSA (West Point Military Academy Student Conference):**  
**Pleres Choi**  
**Elise Pietro**

**Fulbright Scholars:** Robin Liu, Helen Anne Kennedy, Hai Vu Phan, and Meredith Shaw  
Fulbright is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government, designed to increase mutual understanding between Americans and the peoples of other countries. Fulbright scholars are chosen for their academic merit and leadership.

**Boren Scholarship Recipients:** Sooji Nam, Samantha Archie, and Alex Melnik  
Boren Scholarships provide up to $20,000 to U.S. undergraduate students to study in areas of the world that are critical to U.S. interests yet underrepresented in study abroad programs in exchange for their commitment to seek work in the federal government.

**Global Scholar Prize Winners:** Aubrey Rugo & Kirstin Louie  
The Global Scholars program is intended to recognize and celebrate USC undergraduate students who have excelled academically while becoming world-citizens. Each year, an exemplary group of ten Global Scholar designees is selected to receive $10,000 prizes toward their graduate studies.

**Dornsife Scholar Winners:** Yaseem Serhan, Rebecca Homan, Ziajie Wang  
Dornsife Scholars are students whose academic achievements underscore the relationship between excellence in the core disciplines of letters, arts, and sciences (either in the humanities, social sciences or sciences) and the aspiration to have a positive impact on the world. Dornsife Scholars are expected to demonstrate a comparable commitment to educational excellence and the advances that allow for improving the lives of people and addressing pressing global challenges.
THE JOHN S. ODELL SERIES OF HONOR THESSES

The Honors Program is designed to provide an opportunity for a structured, year long, in depth study of a topic chosen by the student. Under the supervision of multiple professors, Honors candidates will develop a research design, conduct a literature review, apply theories and research methods relevant to their study and author a thesis that makes an original contribution of some kind. Graduates of the IR Honors Program have found the experience invaluable in enhancing their writing, research and reasoning skills and preparing them for graduate work.

Noah Zucker’s thesis looks at how Inuit factor into the process of developing Canadian Arctic policy, which ranges from regulations on oil and gas development to military exercises meant to assert Canadian sovereignty. Specifically, he looks at how the frequency and type of consultations with Inuit, the number of interest groups involved in a particular policymaking process, and the prominence of a policy in the general Canadian public affect Inuit preference attainment (the degree to which Inuit preferences are reflected in policy outcomes). Noah found that consultation frequency and type is a strong determinant of preference attainment. He also concluded that an increased number of interest groups involved in a process and increased policy prominence corresponds to decreased Inuit preference attainment. Noah is now pursuing his Ph.D. in Political Science at Columbia University.

Gwendolyn Holst’s thesis focuses on the development of biotechnology industries in developing countries through the lens of the regulatory regime of current intellectual property rights. She statistically analyzed patents, biotech IPO counts and an index developed by Ginarte & Park. She then process traced four countries of medium activity with focus on their governmental, legal, educational, and commercial institutions. Gwendolyn is pursuing her J.D. at UCLA School of Law.

Robin Liu’s thesis describes the process by which green innovation within the automotive industry is diffused. The green revolution led by Japanese automakers in 1960s is used to explain how modern German and American automakers spread innovative, sustainable technology. An analysis of the automotive paint process at Volkswagen and General Motors reveals that the competitive pressures to become the industry leader pushes firms to quickly adopt green innovation. The main contribution of this work is to link the comparative study of diffusion pathways to that of the sustainability practices at German and American multinational corporations. Robin won a Fulbright Grant and is conducting research on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership in Germany.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA INTERNATIONAL REVIEW (SCIR)

SCIR is a global undergraduate international studies journal published biannually and funded by the School of International Relations at USC. Article topics published in the journal range from economic and political issues to cultural and social themes. Founded in 2011, the journal seeks to foster and enhance discussion between theoretical and policy-oriented research regarding significant global issues. As of Spring 2016, SCIR has published 11 issues that can be found as far abroad as Pyongyang University of Science and Technology in North Korea. Recent SCIR editors have become Fulbright scholars, served with the Peace Corps in Africa, travelled the globe with top firms under the pretense of “consulting” and earned graduate degrees from prestigious institutions around the world. Over the years, the journal has grown to a current staff of seven members working with over 50 submissions per semester to find and publish the best of the best. Over the last two semesters, SCIR has published articles originating from USC, Georgetown University, the University of Toronto, the University of British Columbia, New York University and other top schools that seek to foster undergraduate research and original thought. With each new issue, SCIR seeks to continues its mission of providing a platform for undergraduate scholars of international affairs to provide their work to a larger, global audience.

By Reid Thom
**USC MODEL UNITED NATIONS**

The Model United Nations of Southern California has been beyond excited to see itself grow into one of USC’s most successful student organizations over the course of the past year. We began our fall semester under President Andrew Schmidt with a committed team of over 40 members, a group that helped to organize our third annual collegiate conference, TrojanMUN.

Under the leadership of Secretary-General Karan Agarwal, TrojanMUN 2015 was successfully held from October 29th- November 1st at the DoubleTree in Downtown LA, with over 250 attendees from colleges across the country. Our travel and training teams competed in two conferences in the fall: a team of 5 attended Columbia’s MUN conference in October, bringing home one Outstanding Delegate award, and a team of 14 attended UC Santa Barbara’s conference bringing home the following awards: 4 Best Delegates, 3 Outstanding Delegates, and 2 Distinguished Delegates, in addition to the top team award at the conference, Best Delegation.

In the spring semester, under President Lily Harty, our training team began by sending 8 delegates to UC Davis’ conference, bringing home two Honorable Mentions, then our travel team of 12 went on to compete at UC Berkeley’s conference, bringing home one Best Delegate award, one Outstanding Delegate, 3 Honorable Mentions, 3 Verbal Commendations, and the award for Best California Delegation. In April, we sent a team of 16, sponsored by SIR, to UCLA’s Conference, where our delegates were given one Best Delegate award, 3 Outstanding Delegates, 2 Honorable Mentions, and 4 Verbal Commendations, in addition to the award for Best Small Delegation (a delegation of 16 members or under).

Our members spent the last few weeks of the semester gearing up for SCMUN, our high school conference run by Secretary-General Alex Melnik, with its largest attendance yet of 350 high school students.

We have been ecstatic to watch our organization grow in attendance, recognition, and reputation. We have high hopes for the future, and plan to continue this upward momentum by fundraising and practicing intently to bring prestige to not only our organization but also to the School of IR.

*By Lily Harty*

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**GLIMPSE FROM THE GLOBE**

At Glimpse, our writers are only given a few guidelines. Pick a topic that excites you, check your sources, never argue in the passive voice, no spliced commas, and, like Vonnegut said, “Use the time of a total stranger in such a way that he or she will not feel the time was wasted.” USC’s online foreign affairs publication, Glimpse from the Globe prides itself on its bite. Our writers, twenty strong, are a mess of scholars, future business leaders, wannabe policy wonks, armchair intellectuals, anthropologists and wanderlusting backpackers. Some of them attend USC, some go to other US universities, others live abroad. Our content reflects that diversity, with in-depth analysis covering all regions of the world (not excepting Antarctica or Tuvalu), and a platter of topics: governance, economics, defense, tech. All the essentials to cultivate an informed readership of students here in the US and, increasingly, elsewhere around the globe.

We had a great 2016, winning USC’s “Tommy Award” for Political Organization of the Year and hosting a number of lively panels with USC professors on the state of American foreign policy and the future of international trade. We also started our premier podcast series, “Geopolitik,” a weekly discussion on geopolitics hosted by USC Senior Luke Phillips and Washington and Lee alumni Jack Anderson. Every week Luke and Jack focus on a different region of the globe, and invite Glimpse correspondents who specialize in the region to discuss the history and geography that inform the its current politics. The podcast tries to mix philosophy and analysis, engaging with geopolitical thought from Mahan’s The Influence of Sea Power on History to Alexandros Petersen’s The World Island to better understand today’s distribution of power and world order.

Some of our popular articles included “Cracking the Politics of Language,” a look at how improvements in translation technology are beginning to affect cross-language diplomacy, and “Charting a Course for Chinese Economic Integration,” a comprehensive analysis of what China needs to do (financially, politically) to finalize its acceptance into the international economic system. There was also “Westeros as the West,” a piece comparing the political maneuvers of Game of Thrones to real world international relations, and “Kissinger’s Putin”, an article on how relevant the Kissingerian philosophy of history is to modern US-Russia relations. This year Glimpsers also committed themselves to leaving their desks to do some first-hand reporting, conducting interviews with scholars in Los Angeles and DC, including journalist and writer Robert D. Kaplan, and form CIA official and Ambassador at Large Cofer Black.

Next year, Glimpse from the Globe is looking forward to more great writing, and, as current Editor-in-Chief Andre Gray and President Kshitij Kumar graduate, ushering in the next generation of editors and correspondents. In the works is a research trip to Cuba with several correspondents hoping to explore Cuban economic reforms and avenues for growth in the Trump era, the introduction of video content to the site, and an interview series with local scholars on post-Cold War US strategy.

*By Andre Gray*

To read the latest articles and learn more about Glimpse from the Globe, refer to their website: [http://www.glimpsefromtheglobe.com/](http://www.glimpsefromtheglobe.com/)
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATION (IRUA)

The International Relations Undergraduate Association (IRUA) seeks to advocate for IR undergraduate students, create a sense of community, and assist students in exploring internships and career opportunities. IRUA is led by an executive board, comprised of the following undergraduate students from the 2015-2016 academic year: Kshitij Kumar, Yvetta Chua, Shanelle Sua, Lauren Brackmann, Jackie Kim, Kenneth Lee, E.J. Levin, Sandhya Reddy, Fyn Foo, and Fiza Khan.

IRUA started the year with a Peer Advisory for International Relations (PAIR) event, that brings together upperclassmen from SIR with underclassmen. This is an opportunity for underclassmen to gain academic and career advice, better understand the field of IR within and outside of USC, and develop a network of resources on campus as they embark on their undergraduate career. By providing mentors for students who may be new to USC and SIR, IRUA is essential for facilitating the sharing of institutional knowledge and the development of SIR students.

Soon thereafter, in what proved to be a busy and exciting year for IRUA, Ambassador David Huebner visited the University of Southern California, in an event co-sponsored by IRUA and the Residential Student Government (RSG). Ambassador Huebner was the U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa and is the first openly LGBT Ambassador confirmed by the US Senate. Before becoming ambassador, Huebner practiced law in Los Angeles and started his own firm in China, as well as founded the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

In addition to hosting micro-seminars with SIR faculty, IRUA presented their own series of student panel discussions. In February 2016, they presented The Minority Experience Abroad. Three students spoke about their experience abroad, in France, China, and Russia/Czech Republic respectively, and discussed how ethnicity and race shapes the experiences of minorities while travelling in those regions. For their brilliant efforts, IRUA were awarded the 2016 Academic Organization Award at The Tommy’s Student Organization and Leadership Awards. This awards honors an organization that has successfully promoted a strong academic culture and intellectual curiosity at USC.

Finally, SIR was proud to co-host our very first Los Angeles Alumni Student Mixer with IRUA on Thursday, April 21st 2016. Held on the University of Southern California campus, this celebration brought together faculty, alumni, students and parents to discuss their experience being a part of the SIR family and continue to build connections and networks. Lauren Brackmann, Vice-President of IRUA, greeted the guests and introduced SIR Director Dr. Wayne Sandholtz, who shared news of the developments and innovation happening at SIR. We encourage all our alumni and their families to remain in contact with us.

In the upcoming academic year, we plan to hold a variety of events that we hope to engage alumni, those who live in Los Angeles as well as those who have moved onto other cities across the world. These will range from academic conferences and lectures held on the USC campus, to our annual Washington DC alumni event, as well as a continuation of the Los Angles mixer and other parties and events across the country where our SIR alumni work and live.

Please check in regularly to our website and our social media pages (https://www.facebook.com/uscsir/ & https://twitter.com/USC_SIR) for the latest SIR News, and contact SIR Program Assistant Gina Hakim at ghakim@usc.edu to be added to our listserv. We encourage you to contact us with your news of your accomplishments and achievements, and invite any interested alumni to take part in our alumni panel discussions and take on mentorship roles with our students.
Did you know SIR plays a major role in USC community outreach? Our Teaching International Relations Program (TIRP) has a force of roughly 200 undergrads each year that team-teach in local high schools. Whether or not you had the chance to be a TIRPer, you can be fiercely proud of SIR commitment to public education in international relations.

TIRP is the centerpiece of an integrated outreach program run by the Center for Active Learning in International Studies (CALIS). In order to place IR students in classrooms and support them with engaging IR materials, CALIS seeks partnerships on many levels whether with school districts, school sites or directly with teachers. We have permission from National Public Radio and Marketplace to develop their broadcasts as “case-customized transcripts” for our Case Teaching Initiative. Among 100 university outreach programs in international studies, CALIS was ranked second in the nation and honored for “excellence in innovative direct support to schools and effective use of analytical tools in the social sciences.” Partner teachers present our materials and strategies at state and national conferences. The CALIS Activities Database assists teachers and their students—locally, nationally, and globally. This is all part of USC strategic initiatives in socially relevant scholarship and public service.

The CALIS mission is to create a new balance of power, one where students are the force behind unpacking complex issues. Student-driven analysis is the key to independent critical thinking. CALIS adapts IR analytical frames and tools for secondary students and develops case lessons. Using this model, TIRP volunteers can teach tools that organize, connect, and layer information. As an army of undergrads teaching rigorous skills, IR students are helping wage the battle to empower high school students. Whatever topic a teacher selects — globalization, security, development, human rights, ethics, climate change, equality and identity — students have the tools they need to dive in.

The history behind our success story? Once upon a time (in 1981), a young professor was recruited by SIR to start a quest. For the past 35 years, Steven Lamy has been a champion for outreach that enriches teaching and learning in international studies. In 2000, he supported SIR partnership with the California International Studies Project to establish CALIS as a state resource center. When state funding collapsed, SIR held its ground and CALIS regrouped with new partners and more projects.

It takes great people to sustain great programs. Thanks to the unending enthusiasm of SIR students and faculty, TIRP continues to thrive with upwards of 100 volunteers every semester. As part of service-learning, each IR student can both gain and give an important enrichment experience. In the larger picture, each volunteer throws a pebble in the pond to extend TIRP impact. The interaction among professors, undergrads, teachers, and students creates, in effect, a critical laboratory for CALIS to advance teaching excellence in IR.

SIR leadership in outreach offers our undergrads a powerful role in the USC tradition of community engagement. IR volunteers make a meaningful difference both on a personal level mentoring local youth and on a social level advancing global education. SIR Faculty salutes and thanks IR students, past and present, for being part of this wonderful tradition. Be proud. Fight on!

If you would like to support SIR outreach, visit our web site to Make a Gift at https://dornsife.usc.edu/calis/support-calis/. Support is much needed & greatly appreciated!

By Teresa Hudock, calis@usc.edu
THE SECURITY AND POLITICAL ECONOMY (SPEC) LAB

The SPEC Lab conducts interdisciplinary, policy-relevant research on issues at the intersection of climate change, security, and economic development. These research projects provide opportunities for undergraduate students to develop data science and other research skills and apply them directly to the policy challenges facing national governments and international institutions.

The interdisciplinary nature of the SPEC Lab draws students from a wide range of fields including International Relations, Economics, Computer Science, Political Science, Environmental Studies, and Mathematics. They focus in particular on recruiting and serving female, minority, and first generation students.

The SPEC Lab is one of only a handful of undergraduate social science research labs in the country. Its members conduct research on issues at the intersection of climate change, security, and economic development. These research projects provide opportunities for students to develop data science and other research skills and apply them directly to the policy challenges facing national governments and international institutions.

The SPEC Lab is directed by Professors Jonathan Markowitz and Benjamin Graham, both from the School of International Relations. Current lab members span a range of majors and fields including International Relations, Economics, Computer Science, Political Science, Environmental Studies, and Mathematics. In particular, SPEC focuses on recruiting and serving female, minority, and first generation students. In a close-knit, supportive research community, SPEC contributes to the USC tradition of inclusivity as it builds the next generation of social science researchers.

The SPEC lab focuses on two core areas of research. First, students examine the political implications of climate change in the Arctic, looking specifically at issues related to naval power projection and resource competition. Second, the lab studies the role of foreign investment in promoting sustainable growth in developing countries, with a focus on the role of migrants as transnational brokers that help foreign firms navigate challenging political conditions in emerging markets.

SPEC Lab membership is an exercise in experiential learning. Junior lab members receive, and senior lab members help provide, formal training, but from day one lab members are working alongside faculty and doctoral students on novel research projects, every one of which is aimed toward producing actionable research findings. It is through these partnerships that students learn the nuts and bolts of how knowledge is created. Participating first-hand in producing knowledge, rather than just consuming it, gives students a better understanding of the intensive process of research so that they are better prepared for life beyond USC.

As the lab moves into its second year, Professors Graham and Markowitz say are hoping to expand the number of undergraduate students receiving funding for their work, and to continue pushing their research findings beyond academic papers and into the public realm. A series of short videos presenting research findings is in its early stages. Please check out the SPEC Lab website for details on the research and links to publications, including a pair of recent articles in the Washington Post! https://dornsife.usc.edu/spec

By Miranda Bidwell
THE NEAR CRISIS PROJECT

This story is written in the voices of multiple participants in the Near Crisis Project (NCP): Patrick James, the founding and continuing director of the NCP; Miruna Barnoschi, a former team leader; Noah Zucker, a former team member; and Alma Velasquez, a current team leader.

Patrick James: The NCP dates back to 2008. The basic idea is to collect data on a comparison class of events for comparison to international crises. We know a lot already about why some crises escalate to war, but not where such events come from in the first place. The NCP is collecting, throughout the 20th century and beyond, exactly the kind of data that is needed to improve the scientific understanding of escalation processes. Since its inception, the NCP has involved more than one hundred undergraduate students at USC. Those who comment below are outstanding examples of USC students who are going on to great success in life and value their experience as undergraduate research assistants along the way.

Miruna Barnoschi: When I began my international relations major at the University of Southern California in the Fall of 2009, I knew that I wanted to study the field of IR not just as a student, passively learning and assessing the empirical and theoretical scholarship of world politics in all its forms, but as a researcher who could actively contribute new and important insights for the field. An undergraduate research team majoring in International Relations, under the supervision of Prof. James, conducts the study of Near Crises. The team’s mission is to identify Near Crises in the history of global politics and international affairs. A Near Crisis is defined as an incident in which there was nearly a crisis, but the situation lacks the potential to escalate into military conflict. The project builds upon Prof. James’s larger research project, which seeks to obtain a greater understanding of why some international conflicts escalate to the level of full-fledged crises and even wars while others do not. The project aims to provide policy makers and academics with extensive information about processes of escalation, management and resolution of conflict. Every week, team members are assigned certain months and years (e.g., August 1999) to research for candidate cases, usually two months per team member. Additionally, team members exchange research findings and perform phase two data mining on potential cases, putting each case through a four-week cycle of analysis.

The value of this project extends beyond the value-added of this dataset in the field of international relations. During my near-three year tenure in the NCP, I was able to become a more seasoned researcher and analytic thinker by being an active member and leader of this elite undergraduate team; more importantly, I was able to create a valuable and collegial relationship with Prof. James, who became a mentor during my undergraduate days at USC. After finishing my undergraduate degree, I went on to finish an MA in Philosophy at the University of Virginia and am now pursuing a PhD in Political Science at Northwestern University, with international relations as my primary field and methods and political theory as my secondary fields. The opportunity of being a part of the NCP during my undergraduate career was critical for this graduate career path and, of course, for my wanting to be a part of the scholarly community that works on international relations and political science.

Noah Zucker: Beyond serving as a chance to learn about the intricacies of recent international history, my two years as a researcher on the Near Crisis Project offered a remarkable opportunity to familiarize myself with the rigor of good political science research and prepare myself for my own work in the field. When I first began work on the project, I had little notion of what constitutes a sensible case-collection process or how to go about analyzing data in any sort of systematic way. By the end of my time on the project, I had applied lessons from it to build a comprehensive research design and perform data analysis for my own independent research. More generally, the process of gathering and analyzing new data for the project affirmed my interest in academic research and allowed me to better structure my thinking about political science questions. Today I am pursuing a PhD in political science at Columbia University, an opportunity I owe in no small part to the NCP.

Alma Velasquez: Working with the NCP engages undergraduates in important scholarly research in international politics, and introduces them to the world of social science. During my first year on the team it was interesting to track the timeline of potential cases, to understand how challenges unfolded for all the parties involved as it went through the project’s rounds of research. What was particularly exhilarating, however, was measuring and nuancing NCP’s own coding criteria, and how different cases appeared to fit them according to different members of the team.

For this reason, not only are skills like coding and exposure to primary sources formative elements for academic development, but even for students who aren’t interested in research for the sake of researching, the project fosters constructive discussion on the nature and dynamics of international politics. Working on the team has taught me aspects of international relations that I could not have gotten in a classroom—like how the human mind perceives threat differently. My role this year as a team leader has allowed me to see these meaningful differences more clearly, and has allowed me to guide other members toward consensus in the interest of contributing consistent entries to the dataset.

The tangible product will be a comprehensive dataset that will facilitate many future studies on escalation and avoiding crises. In this sense, I am proud to be involved in such an important tool that advances the study of international relations. But I believe a bulk of the project’s value is also retained by its participants, who accumulate a wealth of historical knowledge and experience in identifying not only the convoluted makings of international conflict, but also the successful diplomacy and negotiation skills of leaders and officials.

Patrick James: The NCP is a great experience for me at the intersection of research and teaching. I am very grateful to all of the students who have worked on this project as research assistants. I encourage other faculty to take a serious look, if they have not done so already, at involving undergraduate students in their research.
Research Innovation in Mexico City

As an international relations major at the University of Southern California, I was required to complete one regional elective. Upon going through the list of course offerings, one in particular caught my attention: *Mexico and Its Relations with the United States*. I had read articles that described American manufacturers of all sizes looking south to Mexico as a plausible option to counteract the rapid rise in labor costs in China. Little did I know that what initially began as a course to fulfill a requirement would come to impact the remainder of my experience at USC.

Professor Starr, the Director of the US-Mexico Network at USC, a former advisor of high-ranking US officials on all things Mexico, and a senior analyst of a leading global political risk advisory firm, made me fall in love with the country. Her ability to clearly describe how the country’s historical inheritances from its colonial period have affected and continue to affect facets of economic, political and social life was fascinating. Following the course’s completion, I wanted to continue learning more about our southern neighbor, and I had found the perfect professor to guide me through the process.

As I looked around to find topics that would combine my interest in business and international relations, I recognized an astonishing change occurring in Mexico. The country is in the midst of an entrepreneurial and venture capital revolution. The landscape has grown from two funds with accumulated capital of $166 million in 2002 to thirty seven funds with accumulated capital of $1.08 billion in 2014, an astonishing 27.51% compound annual growth rate. Given that a recent study by the National Venture Capital Association and HIS Global Insight estimated that in 2010, venture capital backed companies employed 11% of the U.S. private sector workforce, I believed that a growth in venture capital in Mexico had the ability to completely change the country’s economic make-up and profile.

Thanks to the USC Provost’s Undergraduate Research Fellowship, I was able to determine the core drivers of this change in greater detail through a two-month internship and research project in Mexico City. Through the help of USC’s regional office in Mexico City led by Angela McCracken, I was able to secure an internship with Angel Ventures Mexico (AVM), a leading early-stage venture capital firm in the country. The internship allowed me to work closely with both entrepreneurs and investors, as I mentored first-time company founders through AVM’s incubator program and worked with the fund’s managing directors to determine growth strategies. Beyond the internship, I had the incredible opportunity to interview leading figures in both the public and private space when Professor Starr joined me for a week in Mexico City. On the public policy side, I heard the perspective of officials ranging from the U.S. Embassy to Mexico’s National Institute of Entrepreneurship (INADEM). On the investor side, I spoke with the managing directors of venture capital firms such as Alta Venture Mexico, Agave Labs, and Latin idea Ventures. I also had the opportunity to hear the accounts of company founders and mentors from Endeavor Mexico.

My two months in Mexico, combined with my follow-up research funded through USC’s Undergraduate Research Associates Program, has allowed me to understand the core drivers behind this incredible growth and potential future obstacles. Two factors have been the primary drivers of this growth: a change in attitude towards entrepreneurship and greater government promotion of start-ups.

Given Mexico’s historically risk averse nature, entrepreneurship has never been seen as an attractive post-graduate track. Pursuing life as a start-up founder rather than entering a more traditional career path was considered a failure. Additionally, Mexican universities have historically sought to prepare their graduates to enter fields such as engineering and medicine. While engineers are an instrumental part of an entrepreneurial ecosystem, the education system failed to produce enough individuals who were willing to take a risk and create their own ventures. However, universities have begun to undertake tremendous curriculum changes that have placed a newfound focus on entrepreneurship courses. Beyond curriculum changes, universities are also creating incubators to support the development of student ideas outside of the classroom and are hosting start-up competitions similar to those across campuses in the United States. Moreover, attention-grabbing headlines of multi-billion dollar valuations have resulted in some sort of “Silicon Valley Effect,” in which individuals feel that they have the capacity to create that next start-up. All these factors have combined to increase the number of entrepreneurs in the ecosystem.

Beyond an increase in the number of start-ups, there has been a parallel increase in the amount of financing available. INADEM, a government agency created in 2012, has been instrumental in legitimizing and popularizing entrepreneurship. The agency has involved itself in every aspect of the cycle, from idea generation to business development to financing. INADEM has increased venture capital availability by investing directly into venture capital funds. INADEM is willing to invest up to 50 million pesos in a single fund (about $3 million) only if the fund is able to raise the same amount from private investors. In other words, this government institution is matching the capital that a fund receives up to a certain point. Although this may seem like a positive solution to attracting additional investor capital, it has resulted in a multitude of additional problems.

As evidenced by quantitative data and qualitative interviews, Mexico has made great strides in the entrepreneurial and venture capital ecosystem in a relatively short amount of time. However, a great number of issues, ranging from patent and bankruptcy law reforms to changes in the tax regime and stock market structure, remain to be solved. My research ahead will focus on what changes need to be implemented to achieve greater efficiency and how public and private actors can make those changes.

By Jordan Elist
INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC CRISIS NEGOTIATION EXERCISE

USC School of International Relations hosted its very first ISCNE (International Strategic Crisis Negotiation Exercise) conference from September 16-17, 2016. Participants included undergraduates, professional graduate students at USC, and members of the military.

ISCNE is a strategic game exercise run by the U.S. Army War College. It spans two days, and participants simulate decision-making over an international territorial dispute. There are seven delegations representing various nations around the world, each with a delegation mentor who guides participants through the process.

The ISCNE at USC involved the territory of Jammu and Kashmir. This state in northern India has long been at the heart of a territorial dispute between India and Pakistan. USC participants negotiated over this territory, connecting it to other issues areas like water, nuclear weapons, and humanitarian aid in the region.

Though the delegations were unable to directly resolve the conflict, they agreed to meet again to keep negotiating (a very realistic outcome). Through issue linkages, the delegations were able to reach an agreement on nuclear weapons between India and Pakistan, which will mean greater strategic stability in the region.

Following the simulation exercise, Trojans who participated had very positive reviews of their experiences. 94% of the USC participants said they were ‘very likely’ to recommend ISCNE to a fellow student. 91% of USC participants believed they “absolutely” walked away from the simulation having learned important skills and information that could not have been picked up through regular coursework. Finally, 9/10 USC participants replied “Definitely Yes” when asked if USC should host another ISCNE in the future.

Below is a short list of quotations about the conference:

“This was the best and most fun exercise I have had in my 5+ years in college as an undergraduate and graduate student.”
-USC Masters in Diplomacy Student

“At the end of the conference, we took some pictures with the China Team. To immortalize some memories of the ISCNE conference. When I sent them to my parents, their first reaction was ‘Wow. What makes you so happy?’ I remember the joy of learning. Discovering information about major tensions which I had little knowledge of... It just excited me so much. I remember the dynamic of brainstorming. Words spat so fast, everyone being overwhelmed and inspired by what the other had just said. Strategies aligned when you put some link between them, and in a few minutes we needed to meet with three countries to convince them of our ideas. On Friday night, I literally dreamt of new meetings, new arguments... ISCNE was exhausting, but it is probably one of the most enriching, informative and rewarding experiences I ever had.”
-USC Exchange Student, SIR

“I had an amazing experience with the ISCNE exercise... I found myself completely immersed and excited throughout.”
-USC Senior, SIR

United States Army War College
Colonel Kelly Ivanoff
Major Dennis Davis
Mr. Ritchie Dion

U.S. State Department
Ambassador James Ellickson-Brown

Delegation Mentors
Dr. Douglas Becker – India
Dr. Sinan Birdal – Russia
Dr. Daniel Lynch – PDP
Dr. Erin Baggott – China
Dr. Brett Carter – Pakistan

First Lieutenant Tyler Tyburski (First Special Forces Command) – United States
Brent Giannotta (Counterterrorism Analyst, Middle East) – United Kingdom

University of Southern California
School of International Relations
Dr. Sparsha Saha

University of Southern California
School of Communication and Journalism
Hasnik Piliposyan

By Dr. Sparsha Saha
GLOBAL THREATS ROUNDTABLE WITH GENERAL PETRAEUS

On Thursday, November 5th, General David Petraeus (ret.) spoke alongside Dr. Robert English, Dr. Fayez Hammad, and Dr. David Kang. The speakers identified what they saw as the primary threats in their areas of expertise.

General Petraeus talked more broadly about threats to peace and stability all over the world. He sees the erosion of peacekeeping methods of international organizations and the rise of the power if China in these international organizations as a threat, especially because of China’s aggression in the South China Sea. He also discussed how Iran’s threat to regional hegemony could destabilize the region and threaten neighboring countries, creating a security crisis in the area. General Petraeus also mentioned how he views the partisanship and lack of compromise in DC as a threat to global security, because the US is not able to efficiently and effectively enact security policies.

Dr. Kang talked about the TPP as how it can be a cornerstone of the US pivot to Asia and cement our relationship with Asian countries. He sees the biggest threats coming from China as their desire for global primacy, not from their economic slowdown. China buys into the capitalist market in practice if not in name, so the biggest challenge is how and if the US will fight them for the role of the primary global superpower. China wants to push the US out of the South China sea, and how that situation plays out could be telling for our future relations with China. Dr. Hammad presented how he views the rise of anti-Americanism and radicalism in the region as a threat to stability. He focused especially on two countries, Iran and Saudi Arabia, which he feels present unique challenges to the region. The pillar of US-Saudi Arabia relations is oil, which causes the US to look over the corruption and sectarianism present in the country. Iran has sought allies with Syria, and because of this, Hezbollah offers strategic services to Iran. He also discussed the need to closely monitor the effects of the Iran Nuclear Deal.

Dr. English spoke about how the US should not misinterpret or overreact to the actions of Russia, because then it can blind us to areas of cooperation. We need to understand Russia’s motivation and long-term strategy. They are very nervous about terrorism and instability in areas like Syria spilling over, which is why they fear as regime change. A possible way to help ease the tension would be to convince Syrians, especially Alawites, of their post-conflict security.

By Claire Bond

AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR KIM BEAZLEY VISITS IR 303

Seeing abstract classroom concepts translate into real-life figures or events has always been an awe-inspiring experience. The visit of Kim Beazley, the Ambassador of Australia to the United States, to our Diplomacy and Leadership class was no exception.

In his one-hour talk, Ambassador Beazley gave a broad overview of Australia’s foreign policy strategies from the end of WWII, a period of wholehearted support for UN collective security, to the Cold War, when Australia’s preoccupation shifted to its alignment with the west for survival, and finally to the present. Beazley elaborated on Australia’s growing importance to the US due to increasing geopolitical significance of Southeast Asia, its leadership in multilateral regional organizations, and its role as a “channel of communication” between the US and the rest of the US allies in Asia. On the other hand, Beazley emphasized that Australia’s dependency on the US was far greater now than ever. According to him, Australia was only able to surpass its neighbors, in a more and more trouble-filled region, with access to American technological, economic and security support.

Beazley dedicated the final and most revealing part of his talk to describing his job as the Ambassador. He generously shared inside stories of how he played a role in negotiating with the Congress to pass the Defense Trade Cooperation Treaty and more recently, the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement. Moreover, he contributed to such debates that we had in class as “political appointments v. career ambassadors”, as one of the only three political appointees of Australian Foreign Service. Also, he spent time detailing his handling of diplomatic cables, complementing our previous class discussions on George Kennan’s Long Telegram and assignments that analyzed cables sent by the US Embassy in Kenya.

By Yining Bei
J. ANN TICKNER BOOK PRIZE

The J. Ann Tickner Book Prize honors outstanding new work in the tradition of Tickner’s pioneering scholarship. Professor Emerita J. Ann Tickner is an eminent scholar of International Relations and a distinguished member of the SIR faculty from 1995 – 2011 (and now Distinguished Scholar in Residence at American University).

The Tickner Prize was established in recognition of Professor Tickner’s path-breaking scholarship on gender and feminist International Relations and her tireless commitment to engagement across disciplinary paradigms. The prize seeks to recognize the author of a book that critically engages IR theory, that questions disciplinary assumptions, and that helps build practical knowledge to address pressing issues and contribute to a more just and peaceful world.

On October 25, 2016 and October 26, 2016, the School of International Relations hosted the Ann Tickner Book Prize Roundtable with book prize recipient Dr. Laura Sjoberg. 2016 recipient, Laura Sjoberg (BA, University of Chicago; Ph.D., University of Southern California School of International Relations; J.D. Boston College Law School) is Associate Professor of Political Science. Her book Gendering Global Conflict: Toward a Feminist Theory of War, positions gender and gender subordination as key factors in the making and fighting of global conflict. Through the lens of gender, she examines the meaning, causes, practices, and experiences of war, building a more inclusive approach to the analysis of violent conflict between states.

Considering war at the international, state, substate, and individual levels, Sjoberg’s feminist perspective elevates a number of causal variables in war decision-making. These include structural gender inequality, cycles of gendered violence, state masculine posturing, the often overlooked role of emotion in political interactions, gendered understandings of power, and states’ mistaken perception of their own autonomy and unitary nature. Gendering Global Conflict also calls attention to understudied spaces that can be sites of war, such as the workplace, the household, and even the bedroom. Her findings show gender to be a linchpin of even the most tedious and seemingly bland tactical and logistical decisions in violent conflict. Armed with that information, Sjoberg undertakes the task of redefining and reintroducing critical readings of war’s political, economic, and humanitarian dimensions, developing the beginnings of a feminist theory of war.

The series of events began with a roundtable discussion, featuring Sjoberg as well as the previous Book Prize Recipient, Dr. Fiona Robinson. Dr. Robinson, who won the inaugural book prize last year for The Ethics of Care: A Feminist Approach to Human Security and is currently Professor of Political Science at Carleton University, joined the panel by video. Dr. Peet led the panel through six main questions ranging from how Dr. Tickner’s work influenced the two prize-winning books and how the books may be in dialogue with one another, to a discussion on the relationship between care and violence. The lively discussion celebrated USC’s history of feminist IR scholarship, especially celebratory on this occasion because Ann Tickner, Laura Sjoberg, and Jessica Peet are represent three generations of mentorship at the school.

That evening, SIR hosted a reception and a key note address celebrating Sjoberg. Also in attendance were members of the SIR faculty, including Dr. Jacques Hymans, Dr. Patrick James, Dr. Saori Katada, Dr. Daniel Lynch, and SIR Director Dr. Wayne Sandholtz. Sjoberg shared with a group of faculty and staff insights regarding her career trajectory and what drew her to feminist IR, including current academic interests and insights from her other publications. The final event marking the Book Prize took place the following day in the form of a book discussion dedicated more specifically to Sjoberg’s book.

The students and faculty of SIR would like to extend our sincere thanks once again to Dr. Ann Tickner, Dr. Jessica Peet, and Dr. Laura Sjoberg for two days of exciting conversations and illuminating insights into issues such as wartime atrocities, sexism in the current U.S. election, and broader discussions regarding the state of the field. We look forward to the next series of Tickner Book Prize events.

By Eva Grant and Gina Hakim
AFRICA & THE WORLD TODAY: THE CONTINENT’S PRESSING ISSUES

On October 18th, USC SIR hosted the “Africa and the World Today: The Continent’s Pressing Issues” panel featuring Dr. Witney Schneiderman (Ph.D. ’87) and Dr. Jerry Bender (SIR Professor Emeritus). The two-hour panel, moderated by Dr. Brett Carter, Assistant Professor at the School of International Relations, opened with each panelist highlighting their in-depth research and travel across the various regions of Africa, and their thoughts and impressions on the future of the continent.

Dr. Schneiderman’s career in Sub-Saharan Africa is highlighted by his time spent serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs under the Clinton Administration. Within this role, he oversaw the resolve of various economic and commercial issues impacting the public and private sector across Sub-Saharan Africa. During his time as a doctoral student at the School of International Relations, Dr. Schneiderman conducted research under Professor Emeritus Dr. Jerry Bender, who specializes in U.S. Foreign Policy with a regional emphasis towards Africa. Dr. Bender, who conducts research on the perceptions and misperceptions of United States Foreign Policy on Africa, discussed his time spent working on foreign policy at the cusp of the public and private sector. An interesting point of discussion arose when he elaborated upon the time he faced pressure from the Angolan government on human rights concerns and economic interests in Africa. At the time, the private sector was in noncompliance with human rights violations, at the precedent of economic prosperity. Therefore, Dr. Bender made the decision, as a foreign policy leader, to act to resolve the human rights issues, while mitigating any concerns with regards to deprecative economic performance with successful outcomes.

The panel concluded with a Q&A for students to pose questions they had with regards to specific interests on the current and future state of African foreign affairs. Amongst the topics covered during the Q&A included the direction of US Foreign Policy in Africa, the future of democracy in Africa, with regards to autocratic states, and US multinational companies that manage and operate offshore entities in Africa. The discussion concluded with career advice from both Dr. Schneiderman and Dr. Bender for USC students pursuing careers in Foreign Policy.

The “African and the World Today” panel was a great experience overall for those in attendance. With the future of the African continent encompassing so much with regards to foreign policy, political stability, as well as economic development and human rights, more similar events in the future would serve beneficial to the USC community as students explore their interests with regards to US-African Foreign Affairs and the African continent as a conglomerate.

By Kagi Kananga

CENTRAL EUROPEAN CRISIS CONFERENCE

On Friday, April 9, speakers from across Europe gathered at USC to discuss the crises in central Europe. Co-hosted by the USC School of International Relations and the USC Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, the half day symposium pondered questions such as the future of Russia’s involvement in central Europe, rising nationalism, and the European response to the Syrian refugee crisis.

After the opening remarks by Thomas Seifried, Chair of Slavic Languages and Literatures and co-Director of Central European Studies, conference discussion began on Russia and Eastern Central Europe following Crimea’s annexation led by Joachim Diec from Jagiellonian University in Karkow and SIR alum Andrei Tsygankov, now at San Francisco State University.

In the second session, Andrea Mammone from the University of London and USC’s own Evis Mezini talked about refugees, nationalism, and EU solidarity. They explained the complex networks and methods used by refugees to enter Europe. Following a journey across the sea or Turkey, immigrants often first enter Europe through Greece before traveling north to central and western European countries. The journey is perilous, as ships carrying refugees have frequently crashed, killing many of those onboard. The human side of the refugee crisis, so rarely seen in the politicized media coverage, was also shared through the speakers’ firsthand experience with Syrian children.

Following a lunch break, the last session, focusing on the energy and security politics of Germany, Russia and the EU, began with Ina Ruck, the Washington DC correspondent for ARD, the largest German television broadcaster. The final speaker, Dr. Robert English, spoke about energy relations between the US, Russia, and the Ukraine. Professor English began with a review of Russia and Ukraine’s economies in the wake of sanctions from the Ukraine crisis. Ukraine’s economy, in fact, is struggling more than Russia’s by most metrics. The focus then shifted to the importance of Russian oil and natural gas, not only for their own economy but also throughout Europe. Though the US has a surplus of natural gas, the current infrastructure remains entirely incapable of transporting this excess across the ocean and reducing Europe’s dependency on Russian gas and pipelines.

By Andrew Thvedt
The School of International Relations is proud to host a variety of overseas programs, placing students in internships and classrooms across the globe. We believe that these experiences abroad are crucial to developing students’ global awareness and intellectual curiosity. In Summer 2016, SIR hosted five summer programs, taking students to cities such as Brussels, Paris, Reykjavik, Valencia, and Washington D.C.

**Research Program in Paris, France**
This program aims to provide students with a thorough understanding of European policy modeling and contemporary challenges to the European Union. The course is taken at The American University of Paris and focuses on weekly topics such as: The Confederalization of Europe: Governance through Law, Politics & Economics; EU Citizenship: Refugees, Migrants & Belonging; Going Green European Style; Doing Business in Europe, Green as Business. Students participate in a research policy task force focusing on real world problems in business, the environment, and immigration.

**Internship Program in Brussels, Belgium**
Students explore how the European Union is adapting to its new role as a security provider beyond its borders in places such as the former Soviet Union, the Balkans, Sub-Saharan Africa, China, and Afghanistan. Students will be assigned an internship in an IR-related organization (ex. Royal Institute for International Relations, Institute for European Studies, EU-Russia Centre) to compliment their coursework.

**Ecological Security and Global Politics in Iceland, Norway and Finland**
This course focuses on the issues surrounding climate change & its impact on the Arctic. Students explore these issues with diplomatic, energy, environmental and other experts in six settings (Reykjavik, Akureyri, Oslo, Tromsø, Inari, & Rovaniemi) as prelude to drafting a coherent set of policy recommendations.

This course on nuclear security & preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is an chance for students to explore national security issues of today with the experts and officials who formulate, manage, and implement policies and programs. Each summer, USC students travel to Washington DC to meet with professionals inside & outside the government. Students visit a variety of non profit organizations, think tanks, contractors, federal agencies, and Congressional offices.

*Photo courtesy of Lauren Brackmann*
INTRODUCING “CITIZENSHIP AND MIGRATION IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS” IN VALENCIA, SPAIN

This past summer, SIR launched a brand new course in Valencia, Spain. Students studied immigration issues in the center of the current European refugee crisis, exploring the city and its reaction to the refugee crisis through visits to immigration centers and non-profit organizations.

The class has been my greatest academic experience so far.

Through our visits to the NGOs (non governmental organizations), we were able to have an insider’s view on immigration, which helped us further develop our papers. The first NGO we visited was CEA(R), which in English means Spanish Commission for Refugee Aid. We learned about the process to protect refugees, the paperwork, and how hard it is to assist every person that comes through their door. Another NGO we visited was Cáritas Diocesana de Valencia. This NGO is similar to CEA(R), except it’s run through the church. The immigrants and refugees that come to this NGO don’t need to be religious in any way, but along with the services offered, they have the option for immigrants and refugees to take advantage of the church. The last NGO visit was at the Islamic Center. This is based through the Islamic faith and those that go to this NGO are encouraged to be open to faith along with the services offered there. The NGOs were an unforgettable experience that brought the literature from class into life. We were able to see the difficult process refugees and immigrants have to endure, even after all they’ve been through to even get to Valencia.

Along with the class and the NGO visits, we had two weekend excursions to Toledo and Seville. The first weekend we went to Toledo. The first night, we stayed in a hostel (which is said to be haunted by the ghost of the Knight’s Templar). We saw the remnants of gates that used to separate the different religious quarters in the city. Museo del Greco was a short walk from our hotel. At the museum, we were able to see La Vista de Toledo, and it was incredible to see how Greco portrayed the city. The rich Spanish food never disappoints and we ate paella, a traditional rice dish either with chicken or seafood, until our stomachs were stuffed. Walking through the streets of Toledo, we came upon a gold and silver shop where you could buy swords, daggers, and jewelry. It’s unlike anything I’ve seen before!

For the second weekend, we went to Seville. Typically called Sevilla in Spanish, this southern Spanish town is known for its architecture. There is a large influence of Muslim, Jewish, and Christian architecture all meshed together in the buildings. The third largest Catholic cathedral is in Sevilla, and it has influences of Muslim architecture, as the church was built over and through a mosque that used to be there in order to show the church gaining power at that point in history. Later that weekend, we saw the University of Seville. This university is built into what used to be a tobacco factory. It has a grand entrance and gorgeous architecture. The last day in Seville, we saw La Iglesia del Salvador. This church is so tall that trapped birds chirped and flew around the ceiling. The last site was Alcazar. We were not allowed to take pictures there, but we had an acting tour (a portable play where the characters are your guide and you see the actors portray historical events inside the palace). This is one of my favorite memories, as I felt like I was a part of history as well.

The class in Valencia is an experience that opened my eyes academically and culturally. I have never been so involved and enveloped in a course. I was able to see the lessons in real life through the NGOs. But I also expanded my horizons by learning about Spanish culture, making global friends in the dorm, and travelling with the class on our weekend excursions. I wish I could turn back time and relive it all again.

By Brooke Aprea

Photographs courtesy of Marianna Chodorowka-Plich
DR. STEVEN LAMY’S FINAL IR 210 LECTURE

As the 2015-2016 academic year came to a close, the International Relations department faced the end of an era. Acclaimed scholar and lecturer Dornsife Vice Dean Steve Lamy concluded his twenty-five-year professorship of IR 210: Introductory Theory and Analysis in International Relations, which is one of the department’s most notable classes, on April 29th 2016.

The course itself is Lamy’s own brainchild, in which he created the curricula to reflect both the application and importance of IR theory, using interactive case studies, individual participation, and a plethora of provoking quotes to engage generations of students. At his final lecture, Lamy’s former and current students listened to his words of wisdom, speaking about both the importance of the course and its impact upon his students’ future.

For many alumni IR 210 was a formative course in their education; despite being an introductory seminar, the course posed intellectual challenges and a connectedness with the professor that classes in other departments often lacked. Professor Lamy would be able to identify each student by name in a 200-person class; he encouraged the constant vocalization of opinion and presentation of analysis. Through a marriage of course content and his teaching prowess, Steve Lamy was able to capture the “hearts and minds” of thousands of students over the years and give them real-life skills that many still use to this day. In total, Lamy has taught approximately 8,000 students in IR 210 alone.

Lamy self-describes the course as a step in one’s education to try to “make the world a better place.” During his last presentation, he outlined how the learning objectives were key to the course, and would further the development of analytical skills—“bring[ing] your ideas together to illustrate points”—and of worldview. He encouraged his students to think critically through questioning, and called upon the main objective of IR 210: “to be critical thinkers and to think of where you got that idea from.” Alumnus Reid Lidow, a Gates Cambridge Scholarship awardee, reflects on Professor Lamy’s invaluable impact on his life, both professional and personally:

“Taken as a whole, Lamy has provided the guidance necessary for me to realize my college successes. He has inspired me to do more – to never settle – and to always reach higher. For he is the living embodiment of such ideals. He’s a multidimensional mentor and leader, one that always salutes the picture. In turn, Lamy has taught me that academics (both the discipline and the people) can be a force for good – touchstones by which we all can make a difference in the world.

As I’m writing this, I’m reminded of a line in Nassim Taleb’s The Black Swan which succinctly lays out the thesis of the book: “It is easy to see that life is the cumulative effect of a handful of significant shocks.” According to Taleb, these shocks – whether positive or negative – are unexpected, recursive, and improbable. Professor Lamy is one of those rare positive shocks for all those who are lucky enough to encounter him as a mentor.

SIR professors David Kang and Brian Rathbun are currently teaching IR 210 and enjoying every minute; Professor Lamy is continuing to offer IR 341: Foreign Policy Analysis, an intensive case study class and has introduced a new course, IR 319: Human Security and Humanitarian Intervention in Spring 2017. This brand new course examines human security threats and actions to protect people through humanitarian intervention. On behalf of the students who took IR 210 with Professor Lamy, we would like to thank you for your guidance and mentorship.

By Sheriden Smith

More Alumni Reflections

Samuel Bazzi (BA 2005): “I married Angela Robertson (BA 2004) and we now live in Boston where we are both professors at Boston University. Angela and I were reconnected by Steve Lamy in our senior and junior years, respectively. To this day, we remain thankful for his unintentional matchmaking.”

Emmanuel Nwobodo (BA 1995): “IR 210 with Prof Steve Lamy was very unique on the whole IR degree pursuit. Cannot forget the first day of class – Prof Lamy defined diplomacy ‘As an act of saying nice doggy while carrying a big stick.’ That’ll always stick with me.”

David Brenneman (BA 1995): “I had Professor Steven Lamy for several courses during my time at USC and he was excellent.”

Linda Hou (BA 2004): “I chose to major in IR BECAUSE of the faculty. Dr. Lamy’s IR 210 course was a MUST TAKE.”

Ian Butterriss (MA 1995): “I worked as TA for Prof. Lamy and the experiences gained in that position have been critical in my success in almost all positions held since USC, even though my work is now largely technical in nature.”

Robert Weiner (BA 2004): “Dr. Lamy was a huge influence on my USC education. As a student athlete (I played water polo 2000-2004) he was a major proponent of student athletes and made the juggle between academics and athletics easier by acknowledging the challenges and creating pathways for success.”

Some comments were edited for grammar and clarity.
SIR FACULTY NEWS

JOSHUA AIZENMAN is Robert R. and Katheryn A. Dockson Chair in Economics and International Relations and Professor of International Relations and Economics. Dr. Aizenman serves as Chair of the Economics Department. In Fall 2016, he introduced a new course, IR 431: Commercial and Financial Globalization-Trends, Challenges, focusing on economic globalization & the Global Financial Crisis.

DOUGLAS BECKER is Assistant Professor (Teaching) of International Relations. In Summer 2016, Dr. Becker taught a course on international relations, war, global terrorism & conflict resolution at USC. It was profiled in the Los Angeles Times article, “As terrorists kill with guns, knives, bombs and trucks, high school students at USC learn conflict resolution.”

JOSEPH ORTOLANO is Associate Professor of International Relations. His research interests include international political economy with special attention to trade negotiations, international strategic alliances and international telecommunications. His most recent publication is The Information and Communication Revolution and International Relations.

Megan Becker is a Lecturer. Dr. Becker is a Co-PI for the Security and Political Economy Lab. She teaches courses on UN Peacekeeping, civil war and other security-related issues. Her research considers the military politics of developing countries, particularly regarding coups, outside military intervention, and the decision to hire private military companies.

LAURIE BRAND is Robert Grandford Wright Professor and U. S. Center of International Relations and Middle East Studies. She is Director of the Middle East Studies Program. Dr. Brand was named a member of the Founding Board of Trustees of a new university, The Doha Institute, in Doha, Qatar. Her most recent book, Official Stories: Politics and National Narratives in Egypt and Algeria, was named a Choice Outstanding Academic Title for 2016.

BRETT CARTER is Assistant Professor of International Relations. His most recent article, “Why the Democratic Recession Will Be Brief: The View from Africa” was published in Journal of Democracy. Dr. Carter introduced two new courses—IR 377: The Political Economy of Africa and IR 455: Political Economy of Autocracy. He was a participant in SIR event, “Africa & the World Today: The Continent’s Pressing Issues” along with Dr. Gerald Bender and alum, Dr. Witney Schneidman.

ERICA BAGGOTT-CARTER is Assistant Professor of International Relations. Dr. Baggott-Carter’s article, “China’s state-run media favors Clinton over Trump” was recently published by the Washington Post. Additionally, she has launched two new courses for the Spring 2017 semester—IR 340: The Political Economy of China and IR 407: Chinese Foreign Policy.

ANDREW COE is Assistant Professor of International Relations. His work is devoted to understanding the causes and consequences of violent conflict in human civilization through the development and analysis of game-theoretic models of various aspects of conflict. His publications include “Collusion and the Nuclear Nonproliferation Regime” and “Arms Diffusion and War.” In the Spring 2017 semester, he will be advising students taking part in the SIR Honors Program.

PABLO BARBERÁ is Assistant Professor of International Relations. Dr. Barberá won the 2016 Franklin L. Burdette/Pi Sigma Alpha Award for best paper presented at APSA. He introduced a new course, Introduction to Data Analysis, in Fall 2016, as well as the redesigned IR 468: European Integration. Dr. Barberá was also a panelist on our Crises in European Politics Roundtable.

IVA BOZOVIĆ is a Lecturer. In Fall 2015, she worked as a consultant for the development NGO, Global Communities. She produced an index to measure social capital as part of their program evaluation, currently being implemented in South Sudan. Additionally, she has a paper coming out with Dr. Gillian Hadfield from USC Gould School of Law on the topic of formal contract law.
ROBERT ENGLISH is Associate Professor of International Relations, Slavic Languages & Literature, and Environment Studies. Dr. English studies Russia, the former USSR, and Eastern Europe. He is presently working on a book-length study entitled Our Serbian Brethren: History, Myth, and the Politics of Russian National Identity. His article, “Bernie Sanders, the Foreign-Policy Realist of 2016” was published in The Nation Magazine.

JEFFREY FIELDS is Assistant Professor of the Practice of International Relations and Director of the Dornsife D.C. Program. Dr. Fields was awarded a $500,000 grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York and a $300,000 grant from the MacArthur Foundation to support his research. His current book is State Behavior and the Nuclear Nonproliferation Regime.

SHANNON GIBSON is Assistant Professor (Teaching) of International Relations. Her research focuses on the role of civil and “uncivil” society participation in transnational politics. Dr. Gibson teaches courses on environmental politics, global order and disorder, and global public health. She participated in the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change Conference of Participants in Paris, France.

BENJAMIN GRAHAM is Assistant Professor of International Relations. Dr. Graham was awarded the Undergraduate Research Mentoring Award by USC Dornsife. Dr. Graham “was selected in recognition of an outstanding job encouraging undergraduate research.” Dr. Graham is also co-founder of the Security and Political Economy Lab.

JACQUES HYMANS is Associate Professor of International Relations. His research focuses on international security and on national identity in various world regions. Hymans has also published articles on nuclear and other issues in many publications including Foreign Affairs, International Security, and European Journal of International Relations.

PATRICK JAMES is Professor of International Relations. He specializes in comparative and international politics. His interests include the causes, processes and consequences of conflict, crisis and war. He was selected as the President-Elect of the Peace Science Society and received the Ole R. Holsti Distinguished Scholar Award from the International Studies Association (ISA) West.

DAVID KANG is Professor of International Relations and Business, Director of USC Korean Studies Initiative, and Director of USC Center for International Studies. Dr. Kang has two forthcoming books: Arms Races, American Grand Strategy, and Enduring East Asian Stability in the 21st century and After Unification: Planning for the Long Term in Korea (co-authored with Leif-Eric Easley and Victor Cha).

SAORI KATADA is Associate Professor of International Relations. She is the author Banking on Stability: Japan and the Cross-Pacific Dynamics of International Financial Crisis Management. In Spring 2017, Dr. Katada will once again lead a group of students on her popular four-week Maymester course set to take place in Singapore, titled IR 440: America’s Pacific Century: Dialogues between the United States and Asia.

STEVEN LAMY is Professor of International Relations and USC Dornsife’s Vice Dean for Academic Programs. This summer, Dr. Lamy will teach IR 422: Ecological Security and Global Politics in Iceland, Norway and Finland. He also introduced a new course for Spring 2017, IR 219: Human Security and Humanitarian Intervention, looking at causes of human security threats and policies of humanitarian intervention.

DANIEL LYNCH is Associate Professor of International Relations. His article, “The End of China’s Rise: Still Powerful but Less Potent?” was published in Foreign Affairs, in which he explores China’s development and economic stagnation. He also took part in a panel discussion for the USC US-China Institute, titled “China’s Growing Pains” as part of the panel “Economics: A Bumpy Road to a New Normal?”

JONATHAN MARKOWITZ is Assistant Professor of International Relations. His research focuses on power projection and grand strategy, as well as the geopolitical implications of climate change and resource competition. In addition to his work for the Security and Political Economy Lab, Dr. Markowitz will be teaching a Maymester course on Ecological Security: Climate Change, Environment Resources, and Conflict.

EVIS MEZINI is a Lecturer. Dr. Mezini participated in the Central European Studies Conference at USC. In Spring 2017, she is introducing a new course—IR 346: Communism and Post-Communism: Eastern Europe and the Balkans—which will analyze issues of economic transitions, nationalism, and NATO and EU enlargement.

GERARDO MUNCK is Professor of International Relations. Dr. Munck’s research focuses on political regimes and democracy, methodology, and Latin America. His books include Measuring Democracy: A Bridge Between Scholarship and Politics; Regimes and Democracy in Latin America; Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics.

JESSICA PEET is a Lecturer. Her research interests include feminist theory, gender, security studies, and human trafficking. She teaches classes on many topics, including development, international security, global society, and gender and global politics.

BRIAN RATHBUN is Associate Professor of International Relations. He has written three solo-authored books, on humanitarian intervention, multilateral institution building, and diplomacy, including his most recent book Diplomacy’s Value: Creating Security in 1920s Europe and the Contemporary Middle East.

NINA RATHBUN is Associate Professor (Teaching) of International Relations. In addition to teaching courses on U.S. foreign policy and globalization, she serves as faculty research and fellowship advisor for SIR undergraduates. Her research interests include nuclear nonproliferation and European Union expansion.

SPARSHA SAHA is a Lecturer. She studies identity related causes of conflict as well as Middle East politics, security, and international gender studies. She has two books in progress: Dressing for Sex: What do Clothes Reveal? And Social Movements in the Middle East: Before, During and After the Arab Spring.

WAYNE SANDHOLTZ is John A. Mccone Chair in International Relations and Professor of International Relations and Law, as well as Director of SIR. His work focuses on international law, human rights. His books include International Norms and Cycles of Change in Plundering Plunder: How Norms Change.

MARY SAROTTE is Dean’s Professor of History and Professor of International Relations. Her newest book, The Collapse: The Accidental Opening of the Berlin Wall, was selected as a book of the year by BBC History Magazine, The Economist, and the Financial Times.

PAMELA STARR is Associate Professor of International Relations and Director of the U.S.-Mexico Network. Her research focuses on the politics, economic policy, and foreign affairs of Mexico. Earlier this year, he participated on a panel hosted by the Center on Public Diplomacy and USC Annenberg on the U.S.-Mexico relationship.

CAROL WISE is Associate Professor of International Relations. Her research interests include international political economy, financial politics, Latin America, China, and emerging markets. Her book The Political Economy of China-Latin American Relations in the New Millennium: Brave New World.
CLASS NOTES

Shoko Oda (BA, 2015) is now a reporter for Bloomberg News at their Tokyo Bureau. She writes, “Honors thesis was the highlight of my time at SIR. Cannot thank all the professors/ advisors (Prof. Nina Rathbun, English, and Katada) enough, as well as my other classmates who completed the honors thesis seminar in 2015.”

Meghan Moore (BA, 1996) received her MA in African Studies from UCLA. She is a U.S. Foreign Service Officer for the U.S. Department of State and her most recent assignment was to Budapest, Hungary.

Neil Glick (BA, 1994) in 2014 was awarded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria the Golden Laurel Branch. Two past recipients of the Golden Laurel Branch were Madeline Albright and Hillary Rodham Clinton. It was for his naming the intersection of their DC Embassy for a Bulgarian national hero, Dimitar Peshev.

Eva Gross (MA, 1999) received her PhD from the London School of Economics and is a Political Advisor and Head of the Political Section of the EU Delegation in Kabul, Afghanistan.

James Lacy (BA, 1974) received his JD from Pepperdine Law School. He writes, “I was able to work in the field of my major in IR in the Reagan Administration as Director of the Office of Export Trading Company Affairs, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1984-87.” He was a delegate from California to the 1976 Republican National Convention. Lacy worked for Reagan's election again in 1980 and after Reagan's victory, joined the Administration in Washington, D.C., where he served all eight years, including as a senior executive at the Commerce Department and as General Counsel to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Lacy and his wife Janice, a former Deputy Chief Counsel of the Republican National Committee, are partners in their law firm and a political communications company. He is a frequent guest on the Fox Business News program, “Varney & Company.”

Henrietta Levin (BA, 2012) is a Presidential Management Fellow at the Office of the Secretary of Defense. She is currently the Service Chair of the USC Alumni Club of Washington DC.

Eric Onstad (BA, 1983) received his MA from the University of Nairobi. He is a Specialist Correspondent for Thomson Reuters, based in London. He is married with two children and writes, he “was active in IRUA, worked on newsletter with Carole Showers and Khaldoun Salha, worked as research assistant for Gunnar Neilsson.”

Mat Morgan (BA, 2007) wrote the first marketing plan for the World Health Organization during the Ebola response. Previously, he ran an ad platform promoting relevant nonprofit links below online news articles, for which he was featured as a Forbes “30 Under 30” in Law and Policy.

Michael Siler (PhD, 1992) is Professor of International Relations and Public Administration at CSULA. He writes, “I would like to give love to Linda Cole, James Rosenau, Coit Blacker, John Odell, Alex Hybel and all the other professors and staff who supported my progress and graduation from SIR.”

Gillian Miller (BA, 2014) is Assistant to the Vice President for National Programs and Outreach at the Council on Foreign Relations in NY, NY.

Robert Weiner (BA, 2004) is CEO of Star-Box, Inc. He received his MBA from USC in 2014. He writes, “During MBA started the student-led business school field research program with a trip to Colombia in the winter of 2014. This was the first official visit by the USC business school to Colombia. With one other student we led 40 MBA students around Colombia talking with business leaders and government officials about what it takes to be successful working in Colombia and also doing business with Colombia. The trip was a huge success and the tradition continues today. Dr. Lamy was a huge influence on my USC education. As a student athlete (I played water polo 2000-2004) he was a major proponent of student athletes and made the juggle between academics and athletics easier by acknowledging the challenges and creating pathways for success.”

Vivien Lou Chen (BA, 1992) is a reporter for Bloomberg News based in San Francisco, CA. She writes, “I loved my time in the IR department during 1990-1992!”

Neil Vora (BA, 2004) received his MD from the University of California San Francisco following his graduation. Neil is a Medical Officer for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. He is the recipient of the CDC’s prestigious Mackel and Langmuir awards.

Thaddeus “Ted” Trzyna (BA, 1961) received his PhD in Government from Claremont Graduate University and is President of InterEnvironment Institute, an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan public policy center focused on the natural environment.

SPOTLIGHT ON:

Matthew Prusak (BA, 2015) was a USC Presidential Scholar and served as editor-in-chief of both the Southern California International Review and the Social Justice Review. His senior year, Matthew was selected for the Queens’ College Cambridge – USC Exchange program, an opportunity for only one undergraduate student each year. Matthew returned to USC to earn the Global Scholar distinction his final semester which blended his reflections from his time abroad in China, Indonesia and the UK, with his research on the need for economic engagement with North Korea. Matthew currently works as a management consultant with Bain & Company’s Southeast Asia office, where he focuses on social impact and technology projects.

In 2016, Matthew was awarded the Schwarzman Scholarship to study for a one-year Master’s Degree at Tsinghua University in Beijing. Matthew hopes to gain an in-depth appreciation of the trilateral relationship between the U.S., China, and the rest of the world in regard to trade policy in the 21st century. Following the Schwarzman Scholarship, Matthew plans to complete an MBA at Stanford’s Graduate School of Business before pursuing a career in international trade negotiation.
David Troutman (BA, 1968) received his MPA from USC in 1974. He retired from the US Navy in 2006 and from Michelin North America, Inc. in 2001. David writes, “Married Judith Berkes (no relation to Ross Berkes) in 1973 until her death in 2014. Daughter Michele and son Damien. My wife’s family was from Budapest and she spoke fluent, elegant Hungarian. We visited Hungary in 2004 so she could find her roots. My son just returned from Japan where he met his girlfriend’s parents and visited where she grew up. I have Asian Indian nieces, and cousins from Egypt, Finland, Spain, Mexico, Japan, Cuba, and, of course, Hungary. I made a wise choice in a major!”

Deedy May Ogden (BA, 1965) is retired but remains President of Oddlot Investments, and currently attends both Aspen Institute and Brookings lecture events in Washington DC. She is also a construction site photography. She writes, “I was married for 32 years to Chris Ogden, journalist with Time magazine. We lived in Thailand, London, Moscow, Los Angeles, Chicago, and mainly Washington DC. We have two children, son Michael graduated from USC Film School in 1993 and now lives in London with his wife and son. Margaret is a graduate in Music from Northwestern University. I am still happily connected to friends I met as a freshman living in EVK dormitory. My former husband wrote a book about Walter Annenberg and his family published in 1999, called ‘Legacy.’ We spent time with them at Sunnylands and accompanied Lee and Walter to the USC graduation in 1997.”

Jillian Chou (BA, 2010) received her JD at USC Gould School of Law and works at the United States District Court for the Central District of California, as Law Clerk to the Hon. Ronald S.W. Lew. Jillian writes, “My last semester of law school culminated in a dream that began as a freshman in the SIR when I took Prof. Becker’s class on human rights. As a 3L at USC Law, I was given the opportunity to intern in the Appeals Chamber at the International Criminal Court, where grave human rights abuses are being prosecuted as war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity. My interest in pursuing this opportunity began with the SIR, and I am really grateful that I had the opportunity to major in IR at USC.”

Madjid-Sadjadi Zagros (PhD, 1996) is Professor of Economics at Winston-Salem State University. He was formerly the Chief Economist for the City and County of San Francisco.

Pasquale Costantini (BA, 1960) is retired after working for thirty six years with the Palos Verdes Unified School District. He was citizen of the year in Palos Verdes in 1970 and is married to Kathleen McGlone (USC ’63) and has a son, Michael Andrew Costantini (USC ’99). Pasquale writes, “I had the privilege to study under Dr. Norman Fetting and Dr. Ross Berkes.”

Christian Orr (BA, 1997) is currently employed by Sallyport Global (A Michael Baker International Company) as a Watchkeeper Supervisor for the Base Defense Operations Center (BDOC). He was the Incident Commander for the key U.S. government-sponsored security training exercise that got the Iraqi Air Force certified to host their new F-16 program. He writes, “IR 341 - Foreign Policy Analysis, with Dr. Steven Lamy, was a rewarding and memorable experience. Dr. David Andrus (R.I.P.) was a war, and wonderful human being whom I still sorely miss after all these years. Dr. Laurie Brand was a great source of insight on the Middle East. IRUA was an excellent club that I recommend to all USC SIR undergrads.. I took IR 100 with Dr. Jerry Bender during my first semester at USC, Fall 1993. I took such an instant liking to it that a week-and-a-half into that freshman year I changed my major from Business to IR, and ended up graduating magna cum laude with no regrets about the decision. Dr. Bender and I got along wonderfully despite being polar opposites on the political spectrum, and although I didn’t take any additional courses with him, I enjoyed speaking with him throughout the remainder of my 4 years at USC SIR.”

WASHINGTON, D.C. ALUMNI EVENT

On Wednesday, March 30th 2016, the USC School of International Relations hosted an alumni event in Washington, DC for alumni living the greater DC area. Around 50 alumni came together to reconnect with former classmates, chat with fellow members of the School of International Relations Trojan family, and get to know current International Relations students enrolled in the DC Dornsife program.

Also in attendance were Dr. Wayne Sandholtz and Dr. Jeffrey Fields. Dr. Sandholtz, the current SIR Director, shared information regarding the exciting programs at SIR, including overseas programs for students in Valencia, Spain; Santa Barbara, CA; and Singapore as well as the scholarships and funding opportunities. Dr. Jeffrey Fields, the Director of the DC Dornsife program, kept alumni informed regarding the program. Alan O’Donnell, President of the USC Alumni Club in DC and SIR grad, told attendees on how they can stay connected to the USC community in DC.

We would like to thank all of our alumni, students and friends who were able to attend the event and hope you’ll all be joining us at future celebrations, in DC and all around the world!

Please contact Gina Hakim (ghakim@usc.edu) to be added to our alumni listserv to stay updated on future events.

Top photo: Alumna Kelly Gelonec with Dr. Jeffrey Fields. Bottom photo: Alumni Alan O’Donnell and Steven Christopher.