Letter from Chair

When they fly by in a flash, three years can be a very short time. Spring 2012 I was asked to head the International Studies Program and see it through the transition that made it the Department of International Studies (DIS) in the new School of Global and International Studies (SGIS). These were exciting times, marked by the momentous Board of Trustees meeting at which the School was approved, the groundbreaking ceremonies and construction of the new SGIS building, the hiring of the School’s first dean, the development of new undergraduate and graduate curricula in DIS, and the recruitment of faculty from within and outside of the university. We are currently completing our second year as a department and our third year of hiring faculty. A complete list of faculty can be found here [link], but I would like to highlight the addition of Keera Allendorf, Amali Ibrahim, Elizabeth Dunn, and Jessica Steinberg to our ranks and to the university, and the imminent addition of five new faculty members to begin in the fall. Like those IU professors who have transferred part of their teaching and service commitment to department, our new hires over the past three years have all become fabulous departmental citizens, fully committed to their intellectual calling and to educating students about the world, that is, about the people and peoples who inhabit this planet, who navigate their mortal lives in common and uncommon ways, and who themselves have much to teach us. It was the mission of the program and remains the mission of the department to train students in useful skills – proficiency in multiple languages, acquaintanceship with disciplinary research methodologies, the understanding of business and political practices, and knowledge of global governmental and non-governmental institutions. But also and primarily the university is the place where faculty and students can exercise their intellectual curiosity and their increasing need to understand the world from the perspective of a second home, a linguistic, cultural, and territorial region in the world that quite simply opens the mind to the previously unimaginable.

To be chair of a department is to be part bureaucrat, part cheerleader, part lightning rod, part advocate, part mea culpa machine, and, at times, part gang leader and street fighter. It is always exhausting and does not always feel rewarding. To be chair of this department is to be forever grateful to Olga Kalentzidou and Barbara Breitung, the true institutional motors and memory of DIS. Above all, it has been a privilege to serve the institution that one calls one’s professional home and a duty to serve and protect the slice of the university – the department and its members – that one represents. As I pass the baton on to Padraic Kenney, the new chair of DIS, I hope I can honestly say I did my best to represent and promote International Studies over the past, if fast, three years.

William Rasch
Welcome New Faculty

The Department of International Studies welcomed three new Assistant Professors, Keera Allendorf, Amali Ibrahim, and Jessica Steinberg, and one Associate Professor, Elizabeth Dunn. They bring diverse backgrounds as well as unique research interests to IU. Their research and teaching have already contributed to the strength of the department. We look forward to their bright future.

Keera Allendorf (Assistant Professor of Sociology and International Studies) is a sociologist and demographer who received her PhD from the University of Wisconsin in 2009. She was also a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Population Studies Center at the University of Michigan and worked previously at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She has also consulted for the World Bank and worked at the International Center for Research on Women (ICRWF) in Washington DC.

Dr. Allendorf’s research focuses on family behaviors, gender, and health. She investigates how and why family behaviors vary and change over time and how family behaviors shape health. In current projects she examines how beliefs and values influence when and how young people marry and the influence of extended family structures on maternal and child health. Geographically, Dr. Allendorf’s research focuses on India and Nepal and her methods include the analysis of large scale surveys, as well as ethnographic fieldwork. Her work has appeared in Demography, the Journal of Marriage and Family, and the American Journal of Sociology.

Amali Ibrahim (Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and International Studies) is an anthropologist of Islam who specializes on Indonesia. He is broadly interested in theories and debates concerning the acquisition of cultural practices, the formation of religious subjectivity, and the politics of defining religious orthodoxy. His current project examines how university students in contemporary Indonesia, traditionally a powerful political body in the nation, become socialized into Muslims with divergent interpretations of their religion. His work also concentrates on the relationship between religion and media, the importance of social movements and theories of pedagogy and socialization.

Jessica Steinberg (Assistant Professor of International Studies) received her Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Michigan. After completing a fellowship at UT Austin’s Strauss Center on Law and Diplomacy, she joined the faculty in international studies in the fall of 2014, teaching courses on global development and natural resource extraction. Her research interests include the politics of natural resources, economic development, conflict, regions of limited state presence, and forms of governance that emerge in these spaces. Her current book project explores the local politics of natural resource extraction to understand strategic interactions that result in non-state goods provision, resistance, and repression near mining sites in Africa. This summer she is returning to Zambia and DRC to carry out additional field work. In addition to the book project, she has several other works in progress. In one, she is developing and testing a theory of reporting bias in the Naxalite conflict in India in order to evaluate how a dominant conflict narrative emerges. She also has a project in which she evaluates FDI regulatory compliance in the forestry sector in central Africa.

Nur Amali Ibrahim (Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and International Studies) is an anthropologist of Islam who specializes on Indonesia. He is broadly interested in theories and debates concerning the acquisition of cultural practices, the formation of religious subjectivity, and the politics of defining religious orthodoxy. His current project examines how university students in contemporary Indonesia, traditionally a powerful political body in the nation, become socialized into Muslims with divergent interpretations of their religion. His work also concentrates on the relationship between religion and media, the importance of social movements and theories of pedagogy and socialization.

Elizabeth Dunn (Associate Professor of Geography and International Studies) received her Ph.D. in 1998 from John Hopkins University. He work focuses on the effects of large bureaucratic systems during periods of cataclysmic social change. Looking at industrialized humanitarianism, business management, and the government regulation of agriculture, she asks how people both use, modify and circumvent rationalized managerial systems as they rebuild their lives after disaster or large-scale social transformation. Her current project focuses on humanitarianism and displacement. Using a theoretical lens derived from Alain Badiou and Jean-Paul Sartre, she looks at the effects of international aid among internally displaced people (IDPs), victims of ethnic cleansing who have been forced to become refugees in their own countries. In 2009-2012, she conducted 16 months of fieldwork in IDP settlements in the Republic of Georgia, where nearly 30,000 people were ethnically cleansed during a 2008 war with Russia. A forthcoming book, Unsettled: Humanitarianism and Displacement in the Republic of Georgia, has emerged from this work, as well as articles in Humanity, Slavic Review, American Ethnologist, and Antipode. She has also conducted research among the family and friends of the Boston Marathon Bombers, who were part of a community of Chechens displaced to Kyrgyzstan. Articles from that project are forthcoming in Ab Imperio and American Ethnologist.

Alumni Updates

Maria Aiello is an International Project Manager for Intercall Inc., a conference and collaborations service provider.

Joe Barnes currently works as a District Manager for Anheuser-Busch InBev.

Tristan Bennet is a Research Assistant at the Institute of International Education in New York.

Natalie Brown is a Project Manager for KWEST at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

Carolyn Commons is a Marketing Manager/Investment Officer, Development Innovation Ventures (DIV) at USAID.

Amy Cosgrove is a Director of Placement and Career Services at International Business College & Vet Tech in Indianapolis.

Robert Ellis is a Project Administrator for Cornerstone Research.

Mark Gromski is completing a Gastroenterology fellowship at the IU School of Medicine hospitals.

Christy Holding-Lauser is pursuing a Global MGMT M.B.A degree in Florida.

Jeff Lightfoot is a Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security at Atlantic Council and employee in Jones Group International.

Emily Lines is completing a Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Berlin in Germany.

Kevin Malone is a Watch Commander and Global Risk Analyst for the World Bank Group at IJET International.

Sarah Neely is a Program Assistant for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) (Young African Leaders Initiative).

Aileen Ottenweller is a Marketing associate at Flywheel Sports in Seattle.

Erika Piquero is pursuing a Masters in International Affairs at Columbia University.

Carolyn Pryor is a Program Officer for Europe, Asia, Pacific, and Latin America at the Millennium Challenge Corporation, a U.S. federal foreign aid agency based in Washington DC.

Alexandra Rice is pursuing an MA in International Business at the University of Leeds in England.

Lila Raouf is a Peace Corps Volunteer in Jordan.

Alexa Schutz is employed as an International Graduate Admissions Counselor at Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago.

Kim Stoltz is a Research Manager and Engagement Analyst at Sherpa Analytics, in Washington, DC.

Eric Tatman is attending Suffolk Law School.

Jon Underdahl-Peirce currently works for the U.S. Department of Labor’s International Bureau of Labor Affairs.

Jacqui Wagner lives in LA and works as a Programs Coordinator at UCLA’s International Center.

Hannah Wishart is a Peace Corps Volunteer in the town of Chiatura in Georgia.
Faculty Updates


Purnima Bose received the New Frontiers in Arts and Humanities grant for her project, “Intervention Narratives: Afghanistan, the United States, and the War on Terror.” She has also co-edited, with Laura E. Lyons, a recent special issue of the journal Biography on Corporate Personhood, Vol. 37, No. 1, (October 2014), which includes their introduction, “Life Writing and Corporate Personhood.” They also contributed an entry, “Corporate Personhood: Legal Fictions and Culture Jamming,” to the ACLA Ideas of the Decade: Report on the State of the Discipline of Comparative Literature (March 2015). Their article, “America’s Educating Mission: Soft Power & the Case of Iraq,” appears in the May/June 2015 issue of Against the Current.


Olga Kalentzidou participated in a Roundtable Discussion about “Greece, the Political Left, and the Future of the European Union” on March 25th, 2015. She has also received a 2015-2016 Service Learning Faculty Fellowship from the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, Indiana University.

Margaret Graves published “The Monumental Miniature: Liquid Architecture in the Kilgas of Cairo” in Art History 38 no. 2 (April 2015); “Islam and Visual Art”, a chapter in the Oxford Handbook of Religion and the Arts, ed. Frank Burch Brown (2014); and “Kashan Ware” in the Encyclopaedia Iranica (published online 2014). Additionally, in 2015-16 she will be a member of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, where she will be working on my book, “Small Worlds: Architecture, Ornament and the Medieval Islamic Art of the Object”. Other ongoing projects include an investigation into the artistic production of the nineteenth-century Islamic world, and research on the collection of medieval Islamic ceramics in the Indiana University Art Museum.

Stephanie Kane gave two invited lectures in Croatia, “The Ethnography of Flood Control in Winnipeg, Canada” (Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, May 13th), and “Infrastructure Culture in the Floodplains: First Impressions of the Sava River” (annual meetings of the Croatian Ethnological Society, May 25th, Zagreb).


Nicole Kousaleos published “Red, Black, & Blue: The Political Economy of Domestic Violence” (Emerging Markets Journal, Fall 2014)

Peter Nemes received a 2015-2016 Active Learning Grant from the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, Indiana University.

SGIS Building Update
We are delighted to share with you some information about the upcoming move to the Global and International Studies Building. Construction is proceeding and is expected to be completed by the end of July. Immediately following completion of the construction phase, furniture and technology will be installed throughout the building.

The Global and International Studies building has two wings, joined by a glass atrium which will serve both as a connector between the two wings and as a gathering space for special events, meetings, and lectures. The three-story west wing, which curves along the arbor, has entrances at both ends of the building as well as through the atrium. The Department of International Studies will be located on the first floor of the building.

Experiential learning in International Studies
Civic responsibility and a global mindset have always been distinguishing marks for International Studies majors. Through an emphasis on community volunteering and active involvement students have worked with the Bloomington Human Rights Commission to address and support the Fair Labor Initiative among the town’s numerous restaurants in Dr. Korytova’s Global Human Trafficking course; have tackled the issue of local and global food security through service-learning in local food pantries in Dr. Kalentzidou’s Food and Nationalism course; addressed health and environment-human-animal interactions in Dr. Muehlenbein’s One Health course; and routinely engaged in purposeful internships with organizations at home and abroad. The department hopes to continue offering experiential learning courses to engage students in active learning and to prepare them for their future as global citizens.
Congratulations to our new graduates! Many of them have already secured employment in Teach for America, the Peace Corps, the Atlantic Council and corporations with ties abroad. Others have been awarded research and teaching Fulbright Scholarships in Japan and Germany, respectively. Several will be heading to post-graduate studies at Indiana University's Maurer School of Law, the University of Michigan Law School, Georgetown University, and the University of Geneva in Switzerland and Scotland. We wish them luck in their future careers!

Graduating seniors were given a send-off by the department of International Studies on April 30 at Lennie’s. They and their families also celebrated their graduation at a reception provided by the School of Global and International Studies on May 9.

Undergraduate Student News, Awards, and Honors

**2015 Sigma Iota Rho Inductees**

International Studies majors finished strong in May 2015: 22 graduated with distinction, 75 were represented in the Dean’s List (fall 2014), and numerous received prestigious awards and honors (see below). The class of 2015 was also instrumental for establishing the Indiana Chapter of the Sigma Iota Rho International Studies Honorary Society and actively collaborating with School of Global and International Studies leadership and Career Services to organize an Alumni Networking Event. Congratulations to all for their accomplishments!

**Grace Burris** received the David E. Albright Memorial Scholarship.

**Aldar Escamilla Mijes** was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to conduct research in Japan.

**Shelby Gullion, Patrick Hernandez, Catherine Krege, Anu Kumar, Savannah Meslin, and Elizabeth Nixon** were among the recipients of the 2015 Kate Hevner Mueller Outstanding Senior Awards.

**Victoria Hicks** and **Molly Zweig** received the 2015 Elvis J. Stahr Distinguished Senior Award.

Phi Beta Kappa inductees for fall 2014 included **Ashton Dehahn, Brittany Doyle, Kelsey Lechner, and Emily Metallic**!

Spring 2015 included **Alex Buettner, Aldar Mijes Escamilla, Catherine Krege, Hannah Millner, Grace Ryan, Alejandra Alfaro Salmeron, Molly Zweig, and Hannah Wagner**.

Sigma Iota Rho: The Zeta Gamma chapter at Indiana University was founded in 2014 and inducted its first members in spring 2014. Recent inductees include: **Taylor Allen, Gabriel Ancil, Victoria Barnard, Juan del ValleCoello, Dorothy English, Patrick Hernandez, Olivia Houston, Katherine Knapp, Elizabeth Lindermann, Kaleb McCain, Kayla Moody-Grant, Elizabeth Nixon, Mathew Rust, Emily Tallo, Katelyn Testerman, Dana Vanderburgh, and Claire Waggoner**.

**Caroline Elise Stokes** was awarded a U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship.

**Dana Vanderburgh** received a Hutton International Experiences Program Scholarship to participate in dance workshops in Ghana during summer 2015.

Spring 2015 marked the seventh anniversary of the Undergraduate Capstone Symposium. Over 16 International Studies seniors presented topics that addressed global governance issues, identity and labor politics, global media policies, and intercultural education. Ambassador Feisal Istrabadi delivered the keynote address titled “Diplomacy and Its Discontents.” A Poster Session and Reception was held at the Frangipani Room in the Indiana Memorial Union attended by faculty, students, and the general public.