Thank you to Dr. Susan McCready!

Dr. Susan McCready, Professor of French, directed the International Studies program for six years, and we would like to thank her for the many hours she spent helping students down their paths to graduation and coordinating the program! She stepped down as Director in order to devote more time to her research interests. Her book "Staging France: Performance, Politics and the Transformation of the Theatrical Canon Between the World Wars" will come out next year. On campus, Dr. McCready is active in the Center for the Study of War and Memory, of which she is Associate Director. The Center is an interdisciplinary team of scholars advancing the study of war and remembrance in all its forms.

Dr. Christine Rinne Eaton is the current director of the International Studies program. She is Associate Professor of German, and has been at the University of South Alabama since 2008. Her current research project considers newspapers written by German POWs held in the US from 1943-1946. She received her Bachelor of Arts in International Studies and German, and looks forward to working with students as they explore their futures!

Exciting Plans for New Students, Fall 2016

We are working in conjunction with Academic Success, Housing, and faculty members from several departments in the College of Arts and Sciences to develop a living learning community for incoming first-year students, 2016-2017. Approximately 25 students, who are interested in becoming engaged global citizens and learning more about how events around the world impact us, will live together in a dorm with related programming, and take several courses together, including IS 100: Global Issues in the fall. We have talked about this possibility for years and are excited to see it coming together for fall 2016! If you know of any incoming students who might be interested in this amazing opportunity, please have them contact Dr. Eaton.
Cynthia Anderson, a double major in International Studies and Foreign Languages and Literatures with a Russian concentration, won the Caldwell Scholarship last year. She used it to help pay for studying abroad on a faculty-led program with Dr. Gossett to Russia summer 2015.

Cynthia will graduate December 2016, and is looking to extend her educational experience by completing her graduate degree at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow. Cynthia chose her collegiate route due to her interest in battling human trafficking, and she chose International Studies as her pathway that would prepare her for a job that could do just that. She says that traveling abroad solidified her decided educational and career path. After her experience abroad, Cynthia learned two very important things: the confidence that learning Russian is what she is suppose to do, and she was humbled in that it was a healthy and necessary experience. A joking, but very true statement from Cynthia, “you appreciate home a lot more, and things that you might not have thought about before like Charmin toilet paper.”

Cynthia is also very active on the campus of South Alabama. She tutors our students in Russian, and in the past she was a part of the USA volleyball team as a student manager and now partakes in athletics on campus by playing Volleyball with the intramural league. In addition, she was a member of Silver Wings; a community service organization that helps spread military awareness on campus.

Over the course of completing her master’s degree, Cynthia looks to perfect her Russian Language skills while living abroad. One avenue Cynthia mentioned taking to enhance her language skills will be to teach English to Russian speakers while obtaining her degree abroad. Cynthia ultimately looks to be employed by the FBI or a similar agency.

Mr. Michael Thurston, Diplomat in Residence with the State Department, spoke to students about job opportunities with the agency on December 2nd. He emphasized the need for learning foreign languages, staying abreast of current events around the world, and well-developed communication skills. The Department of State is not looking for students with a particular major, and welcomes applicants from all areas. In addition to foreign service officers, who spent much of their career abroad, the agency also hires civil service personnel. More information about job and internship opportunities (including e-internships which are done online) is available at: careers.state.gov.
Graduating Senior, Ethan Hamilton

Ethan Hamilton, an International Studies major, has experienced quite a colorful array of activities in his time at The University of South Alabama. He will be graduating this semester with a degree in International Studies and a minor in Geography. Ethan states that he chose this educational path because of his love for learning and understanding other countries and cultures. Pairing Geography with International Studies, Ethan feels, will lead him to have a solid foot through the door of his future career path, which is quite an invigorating one.

Post graduation, Ethan plans to attend the Army Basic Officer Leader’s Course as well as begin a Masters Certification program at the University of Alabama in Geographic Information Systems. Ambitiously, Ethan will then move on to complete a Masters Degree in Homeland Security with a Geospatial Intelligence concentration. His areas of interest for thesis topics are either the Tuscaloosa tornado of 2011 or contrasting Hurricane Katrina of 2005 with Hurricane Camille of 1969.

Studying abroad, Ethan states, has contributed to the most impactful and eye opening experience that he has encountered thus far. He had the opportunity to study in Cuba this past summer, 2015. His disposition on culture and life in general has grown immensely from his studies abroad. Learning the culture in true life time is priceless, eye opening, and Ethan strongly encourages other students to do so. According to Ethan, “it opens up your mind in ways you would never think possible”. Ethan has an equally ambitious life outside of his direct academic studies. He is a member of the Geography Club, the South East Division of American Association of Geographers, and a brother of the Kappa Alpha Order. In the next five years Ethan sees himself working either for the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA) or the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a geospatial engineer, both of these paths require a degree in International Relations.

UNICEF Fellow, Ms. Gould’s Visit

On December 2nd, we also had the pleasure of hearing from Ms. Hannah Gould, who is an End Trafficking Fellow with the United States Fund for UNICEF (the United Nations Children’s Fund). She spoke about the End Trafficking Project, which brought her to our campus, as well as about UNICEF’s Global Citizenships Fellows Program for recent graduates. This is a paid 13-month internship, and fellows chose one of several projects, and life across the country. For more information about the End Trafficking project, go to: https://www.unicefusa.org/mission/protect/trafficking/end. For more information about UNICEF internships, go to: https://www.unicefusa.org/about/people/unicef-jobs-and-careers/unicef-internships.
Mobile International Festival

The International Studies Program and the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures were at the Mobile International Festival, November 19-21. On Thursday we taught middle school and elementary school students phrases in foreign languages, and they could have their name written in Korean, thanks to Jennifer Haynes. On Friday, Chuck Barrow wrote names in Russian, and we talked to high school students about their future plans. Saturday was open to the public, and we enjoyed talking to current as well as past and perspective students and faculty. Anda Pirvu and Eric Thomas, both IS majors, interned for the MIF. We will be there again next year, still in the Civic Center, and hope to see you there!

Meet Dr. Hosain, Communication

Dr. Delwar Hossain joined the Communication Department this fall, and is a wonderful addition to the International Studies program, especially for those interested in Asian Studies or the use of social media. Dr. Hossain is from Bangladesh where he received his B.A. and M.A. at the University of Dhaka in Mass Communication and Journalism. Dr. Hossain taught communications and journalism for six years at the University of Chittagong, and then traveled to the U.S. to complete a second M.A. in Media Theory and Research from the University of Carbondale, where he also completed his Ph.D.

Upon the finalization of his dissertation, “In the Web We Connect: Uses of Social Media among the South Asian Diaspora in the U.S.” he worked briefly as a lecturer at the University of Wisconsin.

Dr. Hossain developed a study abroad trip to Dhaka, Bangladesh in the summer of 2016 that will last for two weeks and is open to all fields of academic study. The program focuses on the role of communication and women empowerment in social-economic development in Bangladesh. The participants will gain an in-depth understanding of Bangladesh, which is trying to eradicate poverty by empowering women. The students will also have the opportunity to meet Dr. Mohammad Yunnis who is the founder of the Grameen Banking System, a group micro-loan system that focuses on elevating the level of female economic production as well as independence.

For more information on this amazing opportunity, go to the Study Abroad office in Meisler Hall or read more online at: [http://www.southalabama.edu/departments/international/studyabroad/](http://www.southalabama.edu/departments/international/studyabroad/)
Meet Dr. Liebertz, Political Science & Criminal Justice

Dr. Scott Liebertz joined the faculty of the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice this fall. Dr. Liebertz’s research focuses on a comparative approach to Latin American politics, as well as crime and political attitudes in Latin America.

Studying abroad could not be a more important part of learning, Dr. Liebertz asserts. From a comparative standpoint he states, “One cannot understand your own country without knowing others,” and how better to attain this knowledge but than to study abroad? His steadfast belief is that studying abroad and attaining global experience is essential to one’s character building and intellectual awareness.

Dr. Liebertz began his own growth in international experience when he spent a semester in London studying abroad while earning his Bachelors degree from Notre Dame in History and English. Before beginning his Ph.D., Dr. Liebertz taught high school, in various locations including Venezuela and America Samoa, for 13-14 years before deciding to continue his own education.

Dr. Liebertz also briefly shared his thought provoking knowledge about some of the pressing and paramount issues that particularly infant and non-consolidated democracies in Latin America are experiencing. The stability of governments in Latin America are of considerable concern as well as the maintenance of the support they need to receive from their citizens, which is quickly becoming precarious. As Dr. Liebertz suggests, it is difficult to sustain support for a government that cannot uphold the number one duty of governing, which is to protect their citizens. Where will the support of their citizens lean if they are not able to provide this? To find the answer to this compelling question go straight to PAWS and sign up for a class taught by Dr. Liebertz!

Sigma Iota Rho Induction & Graduation Celebration

On Thursday, April 14th, at 3:30p.m. a new class of International Studies majors will be inducted into Sigma Iota Rho, the national IS honor society. We will have the pleasure of hearing from Dr. Susan McCready, Professor of French and former director of the International Studies Program.

We will also take this opportunity to celebrate our many graduating seniors, and have time to talk with current students and affiliated faculty. The induction and graduation celebration will take place in the Student Center Terrace, and refreshments will be provided.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend!
Many thanks to Ms. Seanna Mongan, current International Studies Ambassador and soon-to-be IS graduate, who conducted the interviews and wrote several of the articles in this newsletter. She and Ms. Jennifer Haynes have been a great asset throughout this semester to the International Studies Program. Mr. David DaCosta helped with the final editing and proofing.

Thank you to the many students, staff, and faculty who attended the Welcome (Back) Reception in August! We hope to make it an annual event.

Please plan to attend the Sigma Iota Rho Induction and Graduation Celebration on April 14th, at 3:30 p.m., in the Student Center Terrace.

Many University scholarship applications are due in March, including for the Caldwell and Nowlin-Caldwell, which are for students studying abroad. Go to Jag$POT now to start the application process: https://southalabama.academicworks.com/users/sign_in.

If you are a USA graduate, let us know what you are doing with your International Studies degree! Or, if you are a soon-to-be graduate, please stay in touch.

If you have an announcement you would like to share, please let us know and we can add it to the next newsletter and the website.