

Global Connections



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Office of the Provost
International Affairs™

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Dear Red Raiders, Colleagues, and Friends:

We are proud to welcome you to our new magazine for International Affairs: *Global Connections*.

As we enter Texas Tech University's second century, we are excited to share with you this new biannual publication highlighting the accomplishments, stories, and experiences of our diverse body of students, faculty, and staff along with our signature events.

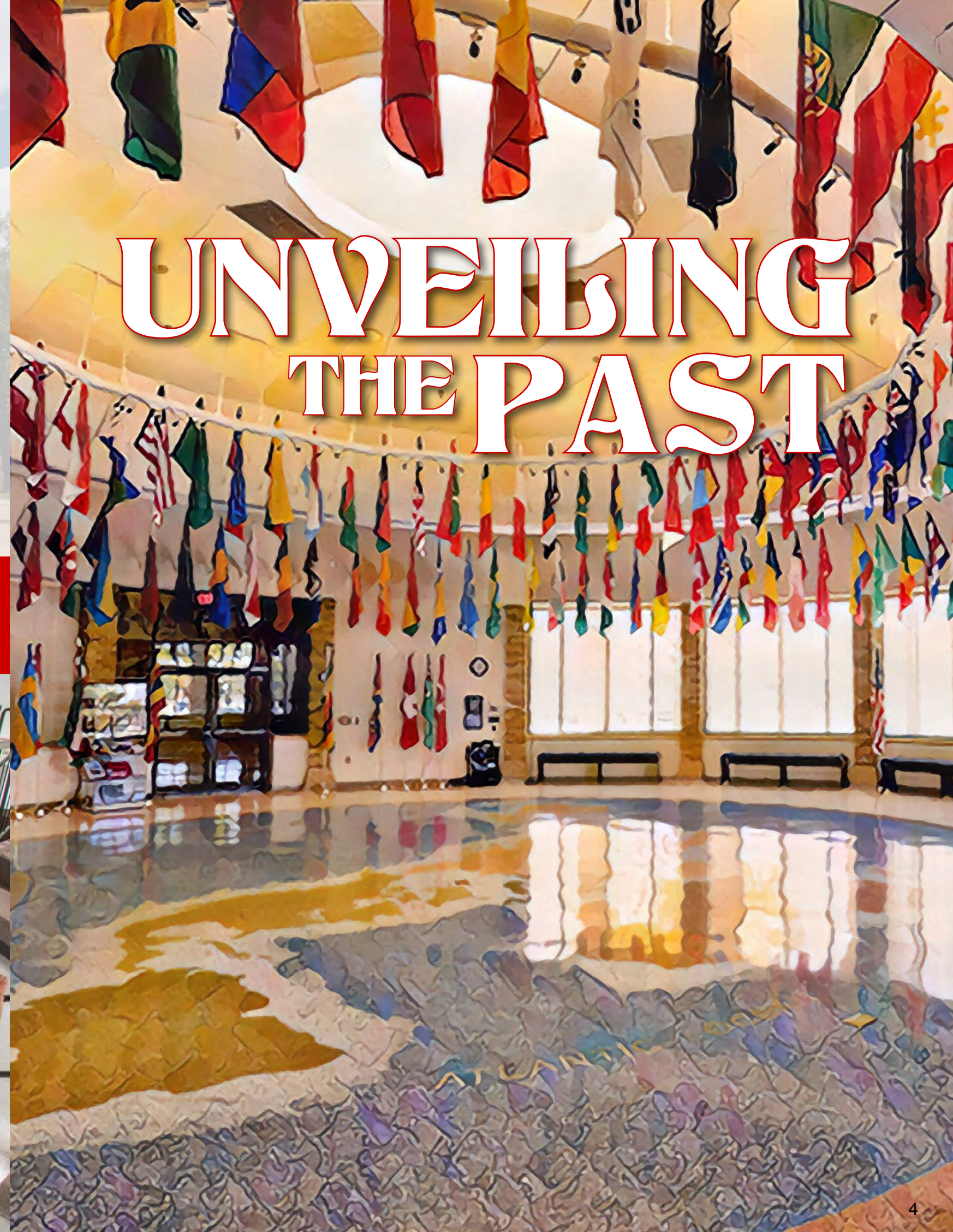
The service excellence and collective dedication of our IA staff members are the pillars that support our mission to promoting international leadership, education, scholarship, outreach, and awareness for the University and the broader community.

We look forward to staying connected with you!



Dr. Elizabeth Trejos-Castillo
Vice Provost for International Affairs

From here, it's possible.™



History of International Affairs & The International Cultural Center

Jan Stogner

Intercultural thinker, Dr. Idris R. Traylor, and architect Joe D. McKay, will forever be linked through their efforts to build the International Cultural Center of Texas Tech University. Traylor, who became the first executive director of the Office of International Affairs, directed, raised funds, and helped design the facility. McKay, who was named the official architect in 1993, brought the building to fruition. Pillars of the Lubbock community, both men worked tirelessly to fulfill the vision of various educators, administrators, and citizens to have a designated international center to be used by Texas Tech University and the Lubbock community. **The stated goal of the center was to promote international understanding through educational exchange.** Traylor and McKay embody the motto of Texas Tech . . .



Dr. Idris R. Traylor (Executive Director of the Office of International Affairs), and Joe McKay (Architecture).

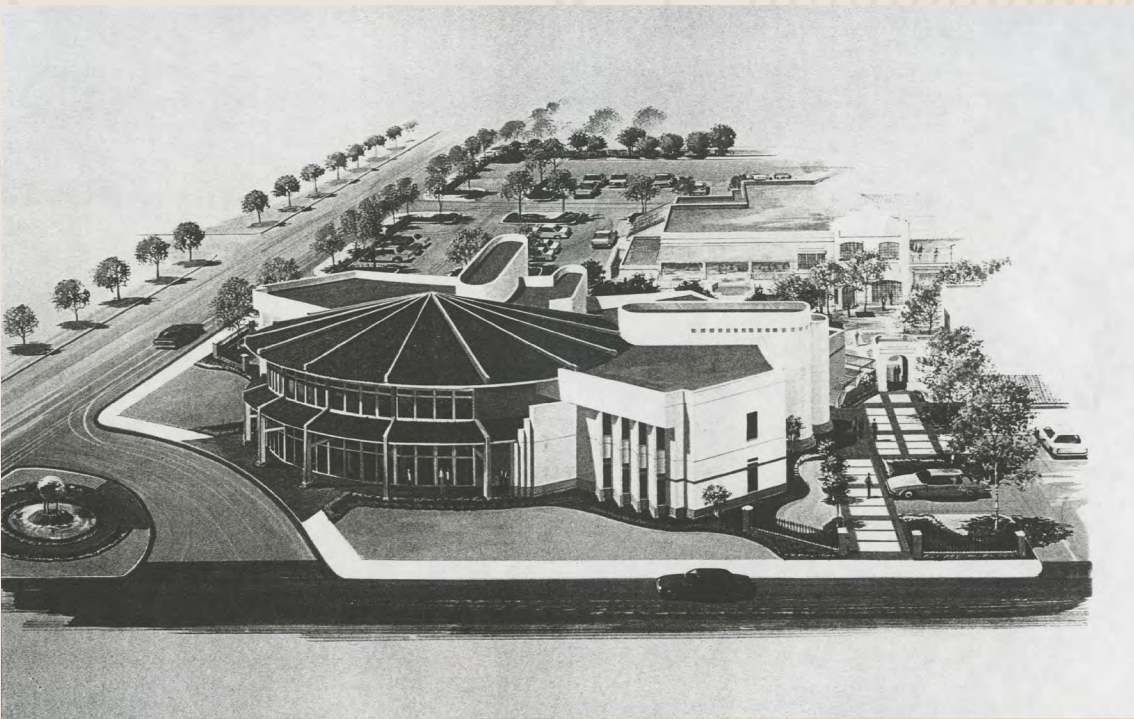
“From Here, It’s Possible.”



On December 4, 1984, Jacque Behrens, Director of the Office of International Programs at Texas Tech University, and Jay Harris, Editor of the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*, met by chance on a flight and hatched the idea of an “international house” for the city of Lubbock. They pursued the concept over the next two years. On April 30, 1986, they met with members of the Lubbock community to form the International Cultural Foundation (later known as Lubbock International Cultural Center, Inc.).

They reviewed the international center concept and the possibility of integrating with the Overton Park Redevelopment Plan, a proposal to revitalize the Overton area. The foundation continued to develop the international house concept, determining the design and function of the building pursuant to an agreement with the Lubbock Independent School District to use the property of the old Carol Thompson Junior High School as the site for the center.

At the time, the Texas Tech Office of International Programs (OIP) was charged with providing services and programs for international students and scholars, but the foundation noted that *“today there is no facility in Lubbock in which to combine international student services and related international programs for the students and the Lubbock community.”*



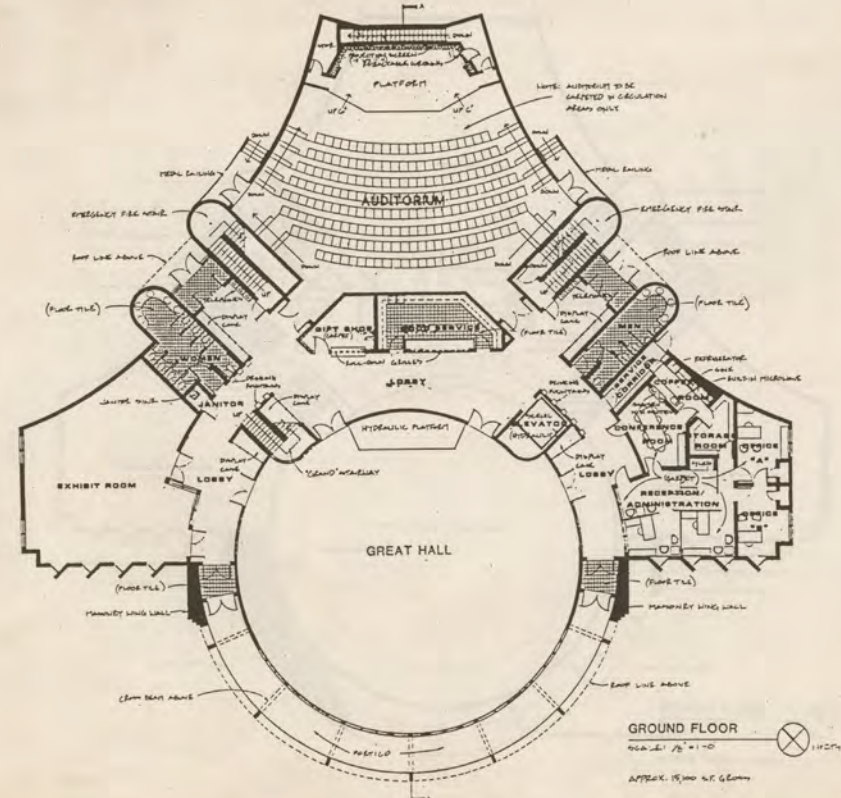
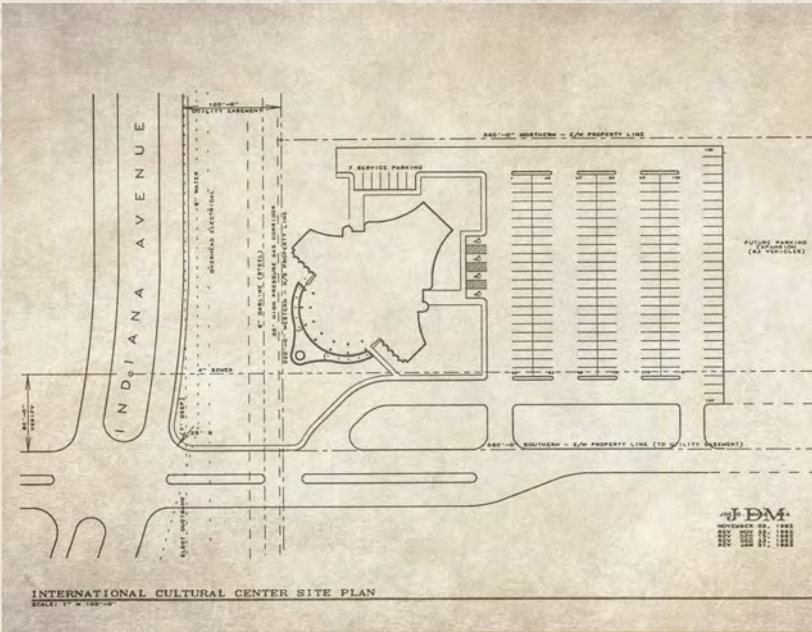
According to “Proposed Design and Function of the Lubbock International Cultural Center, Inc.,” published in February of 1988, the goal for the Center was to *“provide a location wherein the University and the community may jointly expand existing programs and develop new programs which contribute to international education and understanding. It will be a symbol of Lubbock and Texas Tech’s commitment to international education and a model for other universities and communities of the world.”*

1984

1990

Dr. Idris Traylor joined the board of LICC, in the late 1980s. As the concept and architectural design of the Center developed, Traylor noted, “it soon became evident that there would never be enough money raised to build the building, staff it, maintain it, and provide for the programs.” Consequently, as LICC President, Traylor sent an official request to the Texas Tech President to locate the International Cultural Center on campus. With the help of Senator John T. Montford (who later became Texas Tech Chancellor), the 72nd Texas Legislature appropriated funding for the “establishment, support, and operation of educational programs at the Texas Tech International Cultural Center.”

In October 1991, the Texas Tech Board of Regents approved a site on campus for the International Cultural Center on Indiana Avenue between 4th and 9th streets. In January 1992, the LICC, Inc. board authorized architect Joe D. McKay to “proceed with the development of schematic plans for the ICC structure based on the original LICC concept.”



In June 1993, Traylor, then the Executive Director of the Office of International Affairs, assumed responsibility for the ICC facility and oversaw its programs. In October, the Texas Tech Board of Regents approved the construction at 6th and Indiana, officially naming McKay as architect.

Groundbreaking to be held for cultural center

Groundbreaking ceremonies are scheduled for 11:30 a.m. today to mark the start of work on the International Cultural Center at Seventh Street and Indiana Avenue.

The two-story, 40,000-square-foot building is designed to help students learn about other nations and cultures. It will include a 250-300 seat auditorium, two classrooms and a multimedia library.

In addition, there will be a 5,000-square-foot

multipurpose area for international educational programs, special events and guest speakers. Texas Tech University's office for international affairs department and the International Center for Arid and Semi-arid Land Studies will be housed there.

Supporters have been pushing for the program since 1988 and have secured about \$5.7 million to build the center from private donations and the Legislature.



Groundbreaking Ceremony



Dr. Idris Traylor

McKay began revising the original plans, but it soon “got to the point that our plans, with what everyone wanted, were exceeding the budget that the legislature had set up.” McKay recalled in the originally proposed building design there was a second floor and an idea to provide living space for international students when the Texas Tech residence halls were closed for the holidays. “We had to redraw the plans twice to reduce the scale of everything to get us closer to the budget,” he said.

According to McKay, the Texas Tech Board of Regents was establishing the criteria that all buildings on campus should adhere to the Spanish Renaissance-revival style with authentic clay roofing tile. “To save money, we had planned to use concrete roof tile – clay tile would cost three times more. The board had to rethink this requirement with the roofing materials already approved and the building construction underway. The ICC was the last building on campus without authentic clay tiles.”

1994



In 1996, Texas Tech proudly opened the beautifully designed International Cultural Center, showing the university's lasting commitment to promoting international understanding through educational exchange. Today, annually, Texas Tech International Affairs continues the original mission of internationalization by servicing more than 3,200 international students pursuing degrees, providing opportunities to study abroad for approximately 1,200 students yearly, and offering international cultural programs for over 27,000 K-12 students.

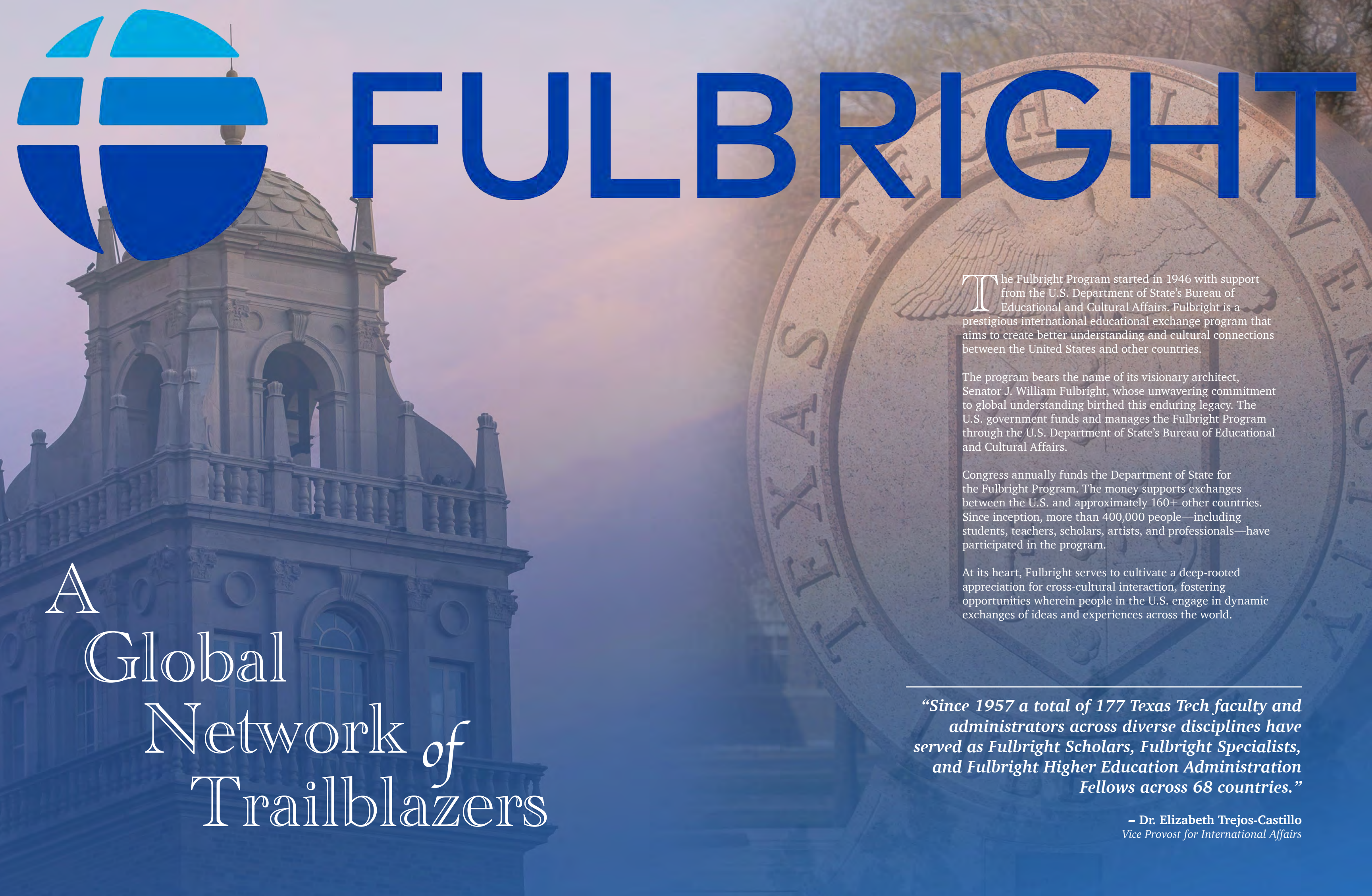


International Affairs also hosts international events for the community, such as Culture Fest, an outdoor international festival, the Día de los Muertos Celebración, and Weihnachtsfest, featuring German Christmas traditions in conjunction with the National Ranching Heritage Center's Candlelight at the Ranch. Holidays and cultural values our community holds are shared and celebrated. International art exhibits are displayed throughout the year in the building's three galleries. Events and film screenings to promote cultural understanding are provided.

The International Cultural Center currently houses many programs, including International Students and Scholar Services, Study Abroad, International Grants and Partnerships, International Relations, K-12 Global Education Outreach, International Center for Arid and Semi-Arid Land Studies, the Center for Global Communication, and the Passport Office.

In 1997, Joe McKay received the Award of Merit from the American Institute of Architects for the design of the building.





FULBRIGHT

A Global Network of Trailblazers

The Fulbright Program started in 1946 with support from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Fulbright is a prestigious international educational exchange program that aims to create better understanding and cultural connections between the United States and other countries.

The program bears the name of its visionary architect, Senator J. William Fulbright, whose unwavering commitment to global understanding birthed this enduring legacy. The U.S. government funds and manages the Fulbright Program through the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Congress annually funds the Department of State for the Fulbright Program. The money supports exchanges between the U.S. and approximately 160+ other countries. Since inception, more than 400,000 people—including students, teachers, scholars, artists, and professionals—have participated in the program.

At its heart, Fulbright serves to cultivate a deep-rooted appreciation for cross-cultural interaction, fostering opportunities wherein people in the U.S. engage in dynamic exchanges of ideas and experiences across the world.

“Since 1957 a total of 177 Texas Tech faculty and administrators across diverse disciplines have served as Fulbright Scholars, Fulbright Specialists, and Fulbright Higher Education Administration Fellows across 68 countries.”

– Dr. Elizabeth Trejos-Castillo
Vice Provost for International Affairs

FULBRIGHT

HSI Leader 2021



FULBRIGHT

HSI Leader 2022



FULBRIGHT

HSI Leader 2023



Texas Tech University Named Fulbright HSI Leader by U.S. Department of State

Texas Tech University is proud to be named a Fulbright Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) Leader for 2023. The university is one of only 25 doctorate-granting universities to earn this designation.

Fulbright-HSI Leaders demonstrate noteworthy support for exchange participants and the promotion of programmatic opportunities on campus. The initiative encourages administrators, faculty, and students in our HSI program to strengthen connections for international students and scholars locally and globally.

Texas Tech's distinguished status as a top producer is a testament to its investment in responsibly generating emerging conflict resolution strategies to better understand similarities and differences through empathetic communication and the creation of new and sustained international collaborations. The achievement elevates the university's standing and the promise of positive impact on local and global communities.



"To be recognized as a Fulbright HSI is a tremendous honor. It's thanks to the work of those faculty, administrators, and students who participate in the Fulbright program that we are in this position. Their work brings valuable knowledge and experience to Texas Tech."

– Dr. Ron Hendrick
Provost and Senior Vice President



Texas Tech Annual Fulbright Alumni Reception (2023)

Texas Tech University Makes Historic Strides: Our Inaugural Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Program



Dr. Mario Solís | Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence
Professor of Philosophy, University of Costa Rica

For the first time ever, the Texas Tech University's Office of International Affairs (IA) and Honors College have been selected to host a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence (S-I-R) Program awardee. Selected by the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, Dr. Mario Solís, a Professor of Philosophy from the University of Costa Rica, is the recipient for the 2023-24 academic year.

The focal point for the program is to bring visiting scholars from abroad to U.S. colleges and universities, adding more international culture to curricula, campuses, and surrounding communities.

Scholars work across departments and curricula in various ways to significantly enhance or expand an existing international program, to develop new world area studies programs, to add international dimensions to existing coursework, and/or to provide opportunities for U.S. students to learn about a particular world region or country. Dr. Solís is one of 45 Fulbright Scholars-in-Residence nationwide, and among 1,000 foreign faculty and professionals who will teach and pursue research in the United States.



Photo by Misty Do | Museum of Texas Tech University
Journey Through Cocos Island

In a special talk at the Museum of Texas Tech University, Dr. Mario Solís delved into the natural wonders of La Isla del Coco, examining them through the fascinating lens of animal agency, ecological sustainability, and ethics.

The idea of animal agency emphasizes that animals play an active role in shaping their environments, frequently exhibiting behaviors that wield substantial impacts on ecosystems and fellow organisms. The perspective calls for a shift in common understanding, recognizing animals not as passive entities but as dynamic participants crucial to the delicate balance of their ecosystems.

Nurturing Interdisciplinary Ventures: Isla del Coco and the Complex World of Animal Agency

--Dr. Hyojung Cho



Dr. Hyojung Cho | Museum of Texas Tech University
Fulbright Alumni
Heritage Management and Museum Sciences

Global scholarship is an aspiration I constantly reaffirm to myself, reflecting on what I want to achieve and the path I need to follow. While academic scholars primarily focus on formal education, research, and student support, the need to share knowledge beyond the classroom has grown increasingly evident throughout academic history.

The exhibit aimed to foster true collaboration between the Museum of the University of Costa Rica, the Museum of Texas Tech University, and the Natural Science Research Laboratory. Our goal is to make our audience aware of the extensive conservation efforts and the rich resources Texas Tech possesses.

The public talk by Dr. Solís, our inaugural Scholar-in-Residence Fulbright from the University of Costa Rica, added a beautiful layer to this collaboration. We have come to realize that conservation should be viewed from truly various perspectives, transcending political boundaries.

The International Affairs Office reached out to Dr. Lawrence Schovanec, President of Texas Tech University, and Dr. Gustavo Gutiérrez-Espeleta, Rector of the University of Costa Rica, seeking their perspectives on the impact of the Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Program across our respective institutions.

Our Centennial has caused us to reflect on programs and events that have been an important part of our history and the increasing focus of Texas Tech in promoting the global competency of our students and the internationalization of our university.

Hosting a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Program awardee is one aspect of our commitment to the advancement of intercultural relations and exceptional research and scholarship. The Fulbright program is part of the comprehensive internationalization on our campus at both a personal and an institutional level.

Beyond the individual benefit that Fulbright students and faculty gain, our Fulbrighters carry the Texas Tech brand around the world, serving as exceptional ambassadors for the university as well as the U.S. We could not be prouder of their accomplishments.

Historically, we have been more focused on establishing research collaborations with countries such as China, India, and, to some degree, Europe. We also need to cultivate greater relationships with universities in the Western Hemisphere, and in Central and South America. Having Mario here as part of this program is a perfect example of how we can develop relationships with institutions in that region, and the Texas Tech community benefits from increased international presence in areas important to our state and nation.

It's important Texas Tech engages with public institutions in Costa Rica, such as the University of Costa Rica, because we share the common mission of being a public institution with an emphasis on access and opportunity. We are fortunate to have this partnership in a country that has always placed a high emphasis on education and enjoys political and economic stability.

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs has recognized Texas Tech as one of the nation's top Fulbright-producing institutions as well as a Fulbright Hispanic-Serving Institution Leader. We have also earned the NAFSA Senator Paul Simon Spotlight Award for our K-12 Global Education Outreach program and the Senator Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization.



Dr. Lawrence Schovanec
President of Texas Tech University

Additionally, Texas Tech has been fortunate to be one of a select number of American universities to host Mandela Fellows. The program brings two dozen young leaders from Africa to our institution, where they engage with the university and our community to develop professional skills relevant to their own careers and needs of their countries. Through the program we promote several projects at Texas Tech, including the International Center for Food Industry Excellence and the Thomas Jay Harris Institute for Hispanic and International Communication.

Texas Tech remains committed to graduating students who will thrive in an increasingly globally-connected world by supporting international collaborations with our faculty. –

My professional and academic career, without a doubt, was strengthened by the Fulbright Program. Besides facilitating my entry to Arizona State University doctoral program, the scholarship helped increase my knowledge of molecular genetics. During that period time, academic colleagues and classmates treated me with distinction and even with certain privileges that made me feel proud and honored.

The experience increased my capacity as an instructor and in research, but also to establish links with international academic communities through scientific cooperation, which has been valuable to support development in Costa Rica. The scholarship was also an achievement to the Costa Rican University, which continuously supports our personal and professional advancement.

The Costa Rican University values cooperation with U.S. institutions like Texas Tech to promote academic and scientific efforts by considering excellent standards of those institutions and the capacities of researcher teams, which permits the creation of science and intervention actions oriented to respond to world problems, working to solve local needs and concerns, and igniting regional and global change. For example, other opportunities stem from such efforts, for instance a National Institute of Health (NIH) project.

Our joint effort with the U.S. is also a window of opportunity. It helps to foster cultural exchange by promoting and supporting university and Costa Rican communities in their interactions, dialogues, and knowledge-making. The U.S. is one of five top countries students from my university study abroad in, including doctoral work. In fact, 32 scholars from my university are planning to research at U.S. institutions in 2024.



Dr. Gustavo Gutiérrez-Espeleta
Rector of the University of Costa Rica

Currently, the University of Costa Rica has an agreement with Texas Tech that supports musical studies programs, and we hope to include new areas of cooperation soon. Our relationship with Texas Tech allows us to visualize new horizons in teaching, innovation, and engineering, facilitating exchanges as a bridge between our scientific communities.

“Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence at Texas Tech represents an extraordinary opportunity to foster knowledge sharing and cultural exchange across both institutions and countries.”

– Dr. Elizabeth Trejos-Castillo
Vice Provost for International Affairs



Costica Bradatan, Ph.D.
Professor of Humanities
Honors College

Project Summary: Dissent is fundamental for the health of a community's democratic life. It is vital in politics, but equally important for our intellectual, ethical, and spiritual well-being. If democracy is not to become an empty word, a vigorous practice of dissent is necessary, and it should be encouraged and cultivated. Rooted in the history of Western philosophy, and taking Diogenes the Cynic as a model, this interdisciplinary project seeks to spell out the rules of one of the most difficult and demanding of arts: that of swimming against the current. The project will pay particular attention to cases of philosophical dissent as a form of political resistance in Eastern Europe (Arthur Koestler, Václav Havel, Herta Muller, Adam Michnik).

Host Country: Romania, 2023-2024

Project Summary: Crisis, Credibility, and the Press: Media Performance and Democratic Resilience. This scholarly project explores the implications of media crises in the US and UK, from the 2011 News of the World phone hacking scandal in the UK to the Dominion Voting Systems lawsuit against FOX News following the 2020 presidential election in the US. Unlike political scandals, which have received sustained scholarly examination, the subject of press misconduct has flown largely under the radar of academic analysis outside of articles and tracts about the tabloid press – this despite significant harms to privacy and costs to information integrity. This project aims to rectify this deficit in the scholarly literature while introducing a model of press-priming that explains how audiences, in the wake of media scandal, evaluate the press critically and process news about media performance. During his year in the UK, Bucy will be affiliated with the Department of Communication and Media at Loughborough University, where he will take part in research activities at the Centre for Research in Communication and Culture, guest speak in classes, give public talks, and engage with the University's Institute of Advanced Studies.

Host Country: United Kingdom, Loughborough University,
Fall 2023-2024



Erik Bucy, Ph.D.
Marshall and Sharleen Formby Regents
Professor of Strategic Communication
College of Media & Communication



Reagan Ribordy, M.P.A.
Assistant Vice Provost for International Affairs & Director of IGAP
Office of the Provost International Affairs

Project Summary: The Fulbright International Education Administrators program is a fully-funded opportunity for U.S. higher education administrators to participate in an intensive two-week seminar to learn about other countries' higher education systems. By participating in a Fulbright IEA seminar, you can build your institution's capacity for international education, gain a cross-cultural perspective, and open doors to collaboration with colleagues and students throughout the world. Activities will include campus visits to a wide range of universities and briefings from faculty and administrators at public and private higher education institutions as well as from leading education experts and government officials.

Host Country: France, October 2023

Project Summary: The project's goal is threefold. First, it aims to identify the significant variables affecting firms' performance and business environment in Morocco using Enterprise Survey data from World Bank. Second, the project will explore whether there are differences in firms' performance and business environment across the eight Moroccan regions considered in the survey and across the manufacturing and services sectors. Finally, the project will compare Moroccan firms' performance and business environment with countries from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and the European countries on the north side of the Mediterranean Sea.

Host Country: Morocco, Spring & Summer 2024



Benaissa Chidmi, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Agricultural and Applied Economics
Davis College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources



Yvonne Racz Key, M.F.A.
Artistic Director, Ballet Lubbock
Instructor of Dance, J.T. & Margaret Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts

Project Summary: Adapting Classical and Cultural Dance Knowledge to Advance Inclusive Teaching and Anatomy Awareness in Hungary and U.S.A. Teaching and learning anatomical and cultural awareness within the disciplined aesthetic is an accessible path to creating an inclusive dance class. I follow a pedagogical approach that utilizes functional anatomy awareness in a Balanchine-inspired class combined with folk dancing as an art form that crosses over to understand and respect other cultures and traditions. For this project, I propose to teach anatomical awareness infused with ballet technique and traditional folk dance for young dancers in two institutions in Budapest, Hungary. This project aims to provide a deeper understanding of global human anatomy to address implicit bias and exclusivity while supporting appreciation for world dances that can break language barriers, build relationships, and maintain cultural relevance.

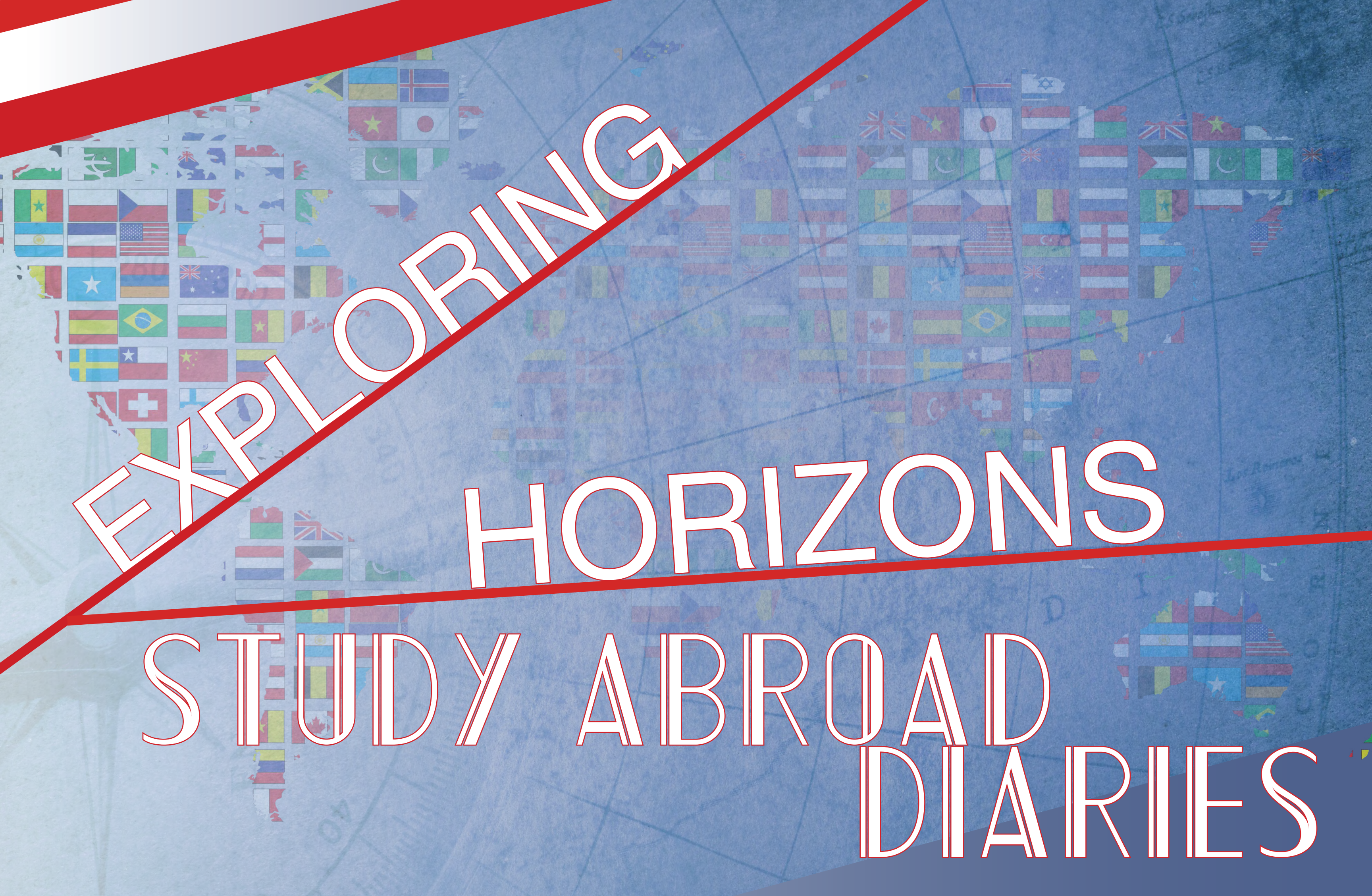
Host Country: Hungary, Spring 2024 (January-April)

Project Summary: Dr. Chansky will spend spring of 2024 at the University of Łódź in Poland in the Department of North American Literature and Culture, where she will teach two courses about the work of African American women playwrights. Most American drama offerings in Poland's universities deal with texts by canonical male writers and treat these as literature. Dr. Chansky's classes will bring work from the margins to the center and will consider production and performance (embodiment and reception) as well as textuality. Drama cannot be divorced from culture, and questions of context are crucial, in order to avoid ahistorical readings and to think about revivals of plays. Additionally, Dr. Chansky will begin early research on a potential book project (her sixth), this one about reading. Conversations with Polish students and colleagues about learning to read in a second or third or fourth language will help with an anticipated chapter on that topic. She will also attend, in her capacity as a practicing theatre critic, as much theatre as she can in Warsaw, Cracow, Bucharest, Berlin, and Munich to build understanding of how politically driven productions in parts of Europe differ artistically from many in North America.

Host Country: Poland, University of Łódź, Spring 2024



Dorothy Chansky, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Theatre
J.T. & Margaret Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts



EXPLORING HORIZONS STUDY ABROAD DIARIES

ANIMAL BEHAVIOR AND VETERINARY MEDICINE IN SOUTH AFRICA

Faculty Lead Study Abroad
Dr. Anastasia Stellato
Assistant Professor: Companion Animal Science
Davis College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources

Leading the study abroad program in South Africa was an incredibly rewarding experience that filled me with immense pride. It was truly gratifying to witness my students, who came from diverse backgrounds and initially had little knowledge of animal welfare assessment, grasp concepts related to measuring behavior and understanding human-animal conflict. Their growth and independent understanding of these crucial aspects were awe-inspiring.

What made the journey even more exceptional was the active contribution of each student. Their genuine curiosity, collaborative spirit, and appreciation for the shared experience throughout the trip enriched the overall experience. Their eagerness to participate and respectful nature toward embracing a different culture was noteworthy.



I sought to develop this study abroad course to immerse students in an interdisciplinary field where they could apply learned behavior and welfare principles to wild animals and gain a deeper understanding of human-animal interactions within other cultures and their environments. Drawing inspiration from my own transformative experience in Bela Bela, South Africa, where I spent two enriching weeks as a student volunteer at The Ann van Dyk Cheetah Centre, I realized the profound impact such hands-on encounters could have on one's understanding of animal behavior and welfare. Since that pivotal journey, I have devoted myself to graduate research in animal welfare, cultivating a specialized expertise in behavior and welfare. As an Assistant Professor in Companion Animal Science within the esteemed Department of Animal and Food Sciences, I aspired to extend the boundaries of student learning beyond traditional classroom settings.

Specifically, I am working to provide students with a unique platform to explore the intricacies of animal behavior and welfare while fostering a broader appreciation for animal care and training. I intend for them to engage actively in wildlife conservation efforts and play a hands-on role in the cooperative care of animals.

Our students can be active contributors to resolving human-animal conflicts within local communities, instigating positive change and sustainable practices at the intersection of culture and wildlife preservation. I anticipate each participant will emerge as a scholar and advocate for the delicate balance between human and animal interests.



Dr. Anastasia Stellato

Photos courtesy of:
Dr. Anastasia Stellato

Country South Africa
Province Limpopo
Municipality Bela-Bela





Kaevyn Maple

Location: Seoul, South Korea

Major: Global Studies

"I am a first generation, Black female with a high financial need. I would advise others like me to never give up, even if the circumstances seem impossible. I had no idea how I would fund my trip or what it would even look like once I got there, but I did it and it is the best thing that's ever happened to me."

“The opportunity to step outside of my comfort zone and live in a culture different than my own has changed who I am.”

Nick Dietrich

Location: Texas Tech Center in Sevilla, Spain

Major: Sports Management

Janessa P Gonzalez

Location: Costa Rica

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Costa Rica. The name had a certain ring to it, a whisper of adventure, a promise of uncharted territory. Why did I choose it? Well, the truth is, I wasn't entirely sure. It was one of those whimsical decisions that life sometimes throws our way, an impulse guided by tales of its natural beauty and safety. Yet, as I ventured into this Central American paradise, I soon discovered that there was so much more to Costa Rica than met the eye.

The people of Costa Rica, warm and welcoming, made me feel at home in a foreign land. The language barrier? Not a problem. With the help of a trusty translation app on my phone, I could communicate and connect with locals who were incredibly patient and understanding.

Donald Sullivan

Location: Prague, Czech Republic

Major: Business Administration

"Apply for as many scholarships as you can, as soon as you can. Having funds to pay for school and boarding will allow you to have more money for fun and travel."



Photo credits pg. 50





Ángel Martínez García-Posada
Faculty of Architecture | Texas Tech Center in Sevilla

Seville's architecture program offers a transformative semester-long journey that opens a world of possibilities for aspiring architects. For these students, it's not just about tourism or designing buildings; it's about understanding the world through diverse settings, scales, and contexts. Immersed in this historic city's rich history and vibrant culture, the experience often becomes a pivotal chapter in their education.

As a professor, witnessing the awe in students' eyes as they encounter architectural marvels for the first time is immensely gratifying. The Mosque of Cordoba, the Alhambra in Granada, the German Pavilion in Barcelona, the Alcazar, and the Cathedral of Seville are just a few iconic sites that leave an indelible mark. Some students, especially those who have never ventured beyond the U.S., routinely express a profound transformation.

I emphasize to my students that their architectural prowess is directly proportional to their exposure to the world. The broader their perspective, the richer their cultural references, and the deeper their experiences, the more finely-tuned architects they become. Architects shape places, and the more they intimately know places, the better equipped they are to design them in the future.

Living abroad offers personal cultural value opportunities, and instills confidence to navigate unfamiliar situations, forge new connections, and absorb new stories. These experiences become valuable assets throughout our interconnected world and throughout their professional journeys. In a competitive field, international exposure can be a distinct advantage when seeking job opportunities. Knowledge gained in Seville and other places explored offers invaluable references for their design work.

With its warm hospitality and vibrant atmosphere, Seville becomes a second home for these students. They bond with their classmates and form lasting relationships with their host families, leaving doors open for future connections. Beyond the classrooms, they savor the city's charms – its culinary delights, festivities, mild climate, and bustling social and artistic life on its streets. It's no wonder Seville is a top choice for European students participating in the Erasmus program; it's renowned for its captivating and joyful spirit.

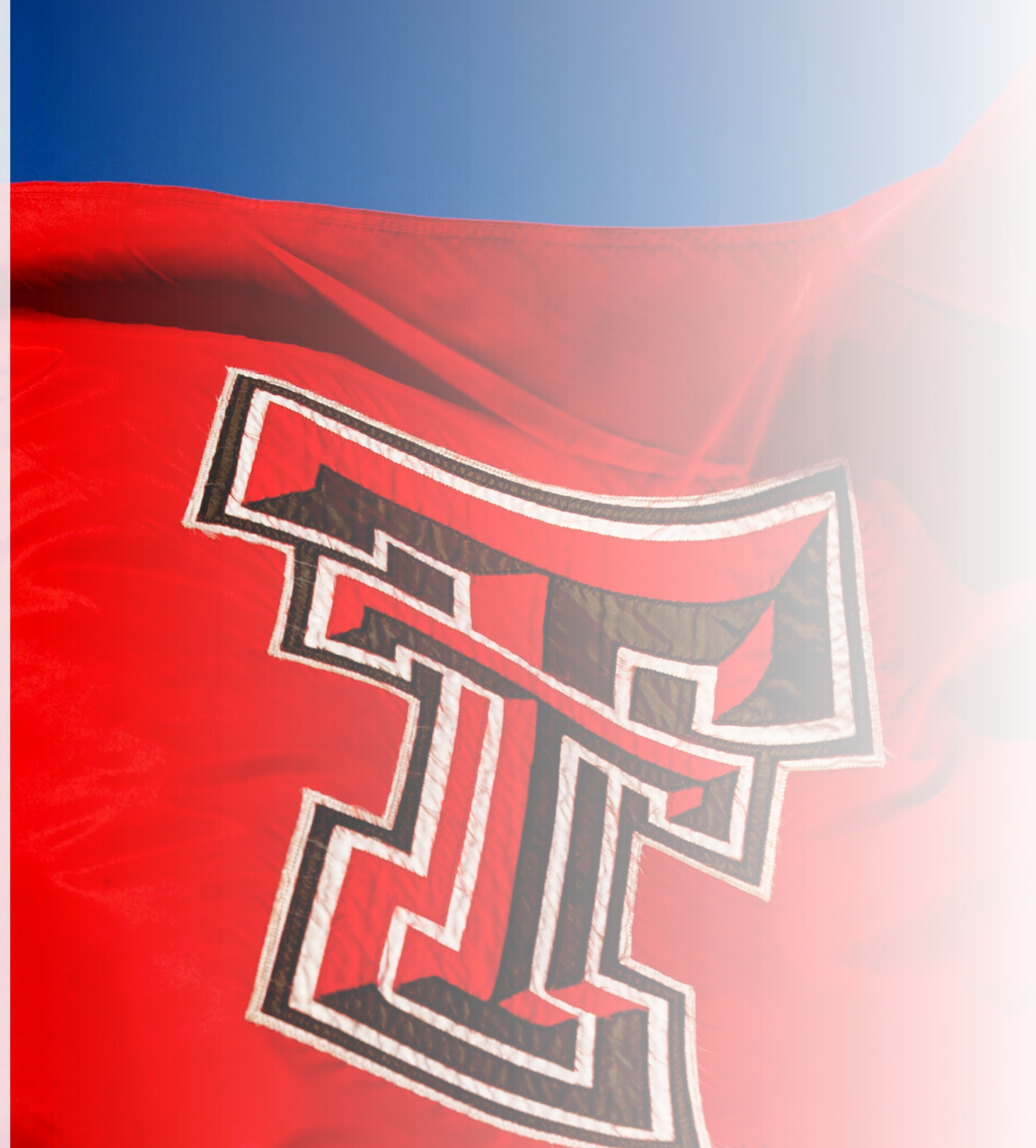


TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY®
Center in Sevilla, Spain

GLOBAL IMPACT



FACULTY &
STUDENT



RESEARCH &
ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP

UNLOCKING CELLULAR MYSTERIES:

A Journey into Stress Responses & Therapeutic Frontiers



Klementina Fon Tacer, DVM, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor | School of Veterinary Medicine
Director | Texas Center for Comparative Cancer Research (TC3R)
CPRIT Scholar
Editor-in-Chief | Slovenian Veterinary Research (slovetres.si)

The overarching aim of our laboratory's projects revolves around comprehending how cells respond to stress across various types, including sperm, neurons, and cancer cells. Our focus is proteins known as melanoma antigens, abbreviated as MAGEs. We want to uncover how MAGEs, on a molecular level, facilitate stress adaptation and provide protection to cells. Ultimately, we want to leverage the knowledge gained to help advance cancer therapy and fertility preservation in childhood cancer patients and identify therapeutic possibilities for patients with neurodevelopmental disorders like Prader-Willi syndrome, an eating disorder.

We also approach these questions through a comparative lens. Comparative research is at the core of the Texas Tech Texas Center for Comparative Cancer Research (TC3R), where I hold the position of the inaugural director. By investigating the similarities and distinctions in physiologic and pathologic processes between humans and various animals, TC3R members aim to enhance the well-being and health of both human and animal patients.



Texas Tech School of Veterinary Medicine
Amarillo Campus

I've also learned that despite the excitement of being in a new lab/country, one can also be lonely and lose valuable time. My experiences abroad have made me more welcoming to visiting scholars and students in my home lab. **International exchange and collaboration enrich not only scientific and professional development but also multicultural understanding and personal growth.**

International collaboration, including exchanging students and professors as well as joint projects, enables the advancement of the skills and expertise among collaborators and the generation of new and out-of-the-box ideas and approaches. Beyond the impact on the quality of research and teaching, international collaboration also opens the academic space and permanently impacts the students and faculties involved. We become more open to diverse ways of addressing complex problems and gaps in knowledge.

International exchange programs impact the quality of work at Texas Tech and our partnering institutions. And the impact goes beyond the walls of academia. For example, students from different countries who come to my lab return home with more open views on different cultural values and habits.



TC3R Kick Off
Fon Tacer lab (fontacerlab.org)
Texas Tech School of Veterinary Medicine, Amarillo Campus

My international work is impacted by my being an immigrant. I think, the majority of us who left our homes to work abroad, share the appreciation of what we got from home, particularly the opportunity to get a good education. In Slovenia, we have free public education, up to my PhD level, I was supported by the government. With this in mind, we want to pay back and contribute to the advancement of education and science back home. Slovenian scientists working abroad with collaboration Universities and the government have developed several mechanisms for better integration of emigrated Slovenian scientists.

For example, the American Slovenian Foundation (asef.si) where I serve as a mentor allows students from Slovenia to visit professors of Slovenian origin working at the institution in the US and elsewhere in the world. Furthermore, the University of Ljubljana (my alma mater) established an International Network of the University (SMUL, I serve as a president) that connects Slovenian scientists working all over the world among themselves and with the University of Ljubljana and their homeland. In all, I think these are great initiatives that not only help connect us with Slovenia but are much broader as each of us has their own network that is being interconnected into bigger nets and collaborations.

Being part of international societies and working on research projects abroad is a natural extension of my professional life. It's not just about ticking off commitments; it's about a continuous journey of growth. This involvement helps me connect with a global community, making me a better researcher and instructor. It's like building bridges that go beyond personal development, contributing to the sharing of knowledge and ideas on a worldwide scale.

Photos courtesy of:
Dr. Klementina Fon Tacer

TURKANA, KENYA REVISITED

A Journey of Nutritional Discovery

Embarking on my second expedition to Turkana, Kenya, I found myself immersed in this captivating region for a duration of two enlightening months. The purpose of my voyage was to conduct an in-depth investigation for my dissertation project. I aimed to unravel the profound impact of feeding children the Harvest Lentil Vegetable Blend, generously provided by Breedlove Foods, Inc., combined with a meticulously designed nutritional education intervention rooted in established theories. The goal was to shed light on the transformation it could bring to child nutrition and growth.

The transformation wrought by this intervention was nothing short of remarkable and, from the outset, I was captivated by its potential. What made this journey even more exhilarating was the integration of a comprehensive nutritional education framework based on the Theory of Planned Behavior. The theory posits that an individual's attitude, self-efficacy, and the influence of social norms collectively shape their behavioral intent, which in turn governs their actions.

In Turkana, my aspiration was not only to influence the local population to embrace vital social norms but also to impart knowledge about essential sanitary protocols. My journey was not just a scientific endeavor; it was a mission to foster positive change within the community, ultimately helping them lead healthier, more informed lives.



Elyvine Ingabire Gasana
Ph.D. Student & Research Assistant
Nutritional Sciences



Photos courtesy of:
Elyvine Ingabire Gasana

For the 5th year, Texas Tech University has received a grant from the U.S. Department of State to train young African leaders in public management leadership. After a competitive proposal process, Texas Tech is one of just 27 colleges and universities in America chosen for the program. The Mandela Washington Fellowship Program was established in 2014 through the U.S. Department of State in conjunction with the Young African Leaders Initiative to cultivate leaders between the ages of 25 and 35 from every Sub-Saharan region of Africa.

As a host institution, faculty and staff from several areas, including Texas Tech International Affairs, the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, and the Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership, engage in leadership training and cultural exchange. Texas Tech is also partnering with various non-government organizations, along with local leaders in our community, to provide Fellows with unique and extensive volunteer activities and service projects, development and academic activities, such as classroom sessions, panel discussions, and site visits.

MANDELA WASHINGTON

The Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders is the flagship program of the Young African Leaders Initiative.

The Fellowship brings young leaders to the United States for academic coursework and leadership training. Fellows and Americans collaborate in unique opportunities towards spurring growth, prosperity, strengthening democratic governance and enhancing peace and security across Africa and the United States.

The Mandela Washington Fellowship is a program of the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the United States Government and administered by International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX).



**MANDELA
WASHINGTON
FELLOWSHIP**
FOR YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

“One of the greatest exports of the U.S. is higher education. What better way to share this experience with others. And secondly, the more exposure we have to other cultures, from both the Fellows and our perspective as hosts, the better chance we have to be better citizens of not just our country, but our world.”

— Michael Johnson
Associate Director of
International Grants & Partnerships
Office of the Provost International Affairs





The training of Mandela Washington Fellows in the U.S. represents a strategic and enduring investment in these outstanding young leaders.

Beyond the initial 6-week Institute, the program provides ongoing opportunities for networking, professional development, and community service initiatives in each Fellow's home countries. Participants benefit from improvement seminars, local and regional networking events, as well as an online platform facilitating future collaborations with U.S. researchers and other professionals.



After the Institute, Fellows convene for a multi-day summit in Washington, D.C., where they forge connections with one another as well as with U.S. leaders from the private, public, and non-profit sectors, setting the stage for long-term interaction between the U.S. and Africa.

Following the summit, a group of competitively selected Fellows remain in the U.S. for four additional weeks to work with private, public, and non-profit organizations. Both Fellows and hosts benefit from discussing shared issues and challenges in their respective sectors, broadening perspectives and positioning U.S. organizations for international engagement.

During their time at Texas Tech, the Mandela fellows collaborated with local community partners, including Lubbock Meals on Wheels, The South Plains Food Bank, Breedlove Foods Inc., United Way, and the City of Lubbock Council.



The Fellows at th South Plains Food Bank
Photos courtesy of: Paul Tubbs



On Singing Whitney Houston songs while packing boxes at the South Plains Food Bank:

"We had cookies and chocolates arranged in boxes, and we had been doing it for a while. We heard music in the other room but didn't recognize it. So, one of the other Fellows starts singing Whitney Houston's 'The Greatest Love of All,' and then someone else picks it up. I remember my heart being full. It just brought a fresh boost of strength and a fresh boost of life. Everybody was singing and just enjoying one song, and it was such an intense moment of unity. It was such a moment of love, and it was beautiful."

– Geraldine Ofulue
Law | Nigeria

2023 Mandela Fellowship Graduation
at the International Cultural Center



On Coming to Texas Tech University:

"I love being in the countryside. Most of my work in veterinary medicine is in rural communities. It's just the same. I will tell you Lubbock has been wonderful. It's very calm. Lubbock is like Africa. The people are hospitable. Everyone cares. The community of Lubbock is not really a big city, but everybody knows who we are. They ask 'Hey are you a Mandela Fellow?' I love being here. I would love the opportunity to come back here. We've created a lot of friends and the city is not that big and we know our way around it."



– Awambeng Ngwa
Environment | Cameroon

*"Take a good look at what you do.
What **impact** does it make?
Just be who you are.
Do what you do and let it have an **impact**."*

– Awambeng Ngwa
Environment | Cameroon

InternationalWeek2023



With a rich 20-year history, International Week originated as a collaborative effort between the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of State. Now embraced by over 100 countries worldwide, the annual program provides a platform for our community to celebrate the diversity of cultures on our campus. It is an invaluable opportunity for **individuals to deepen their understanding of global perspectives and enhance global literacies.**



Study Abroad Fair



Faculty and Staff Open House



Texas Tech was ranked as a leading institution for study abroad participation by the Institute of International Education's (IIE) Open Doors™ report for the 2020-2021 reporting year.



International Affairs Study Abroad Team



Embark on a journey of discovery at the yearly Study Abroad Fair, where you can delve into the myriad facets of studying abroad. Immerse yourself in a wealth of information about approved programs featuring highlights such as the Texas Tech Center in Sevilla, Spain, and Texas Tech Costa Rica. Explore the diverse array of scholarships and financial aid options available. Representatives from various Texas Tech colleges and departments will be present to guide you expertly toward programs tailored to your major.



Study Abroad Alumni Ceremony



This year's Study Abroad Alumni ceremony led by the captivating “My Hometown” photography exhibition in a unique fusion of cultural celebration. The ceremony, dedicated to acknowledging our study abroad students’ remarkable achievements and global adventures, was an enriching experience. International Affairs invites Texas Tech study abroad students to actively participate in this annual photography exhibition.



“My Hometown” Photo Exhibit Reception



Photo by Lada Khalvati | Iran

This platform serves as a dynamic showcase, allowing students to present compelling images capturing the essence of their journeys and share their unique international encounters with the Texas Tech and Lubbock communities. It’s an opportunity to visually narrate their global adventures, fostering cultural exchange and a deeper understanding within our diverse university and local surroundings.

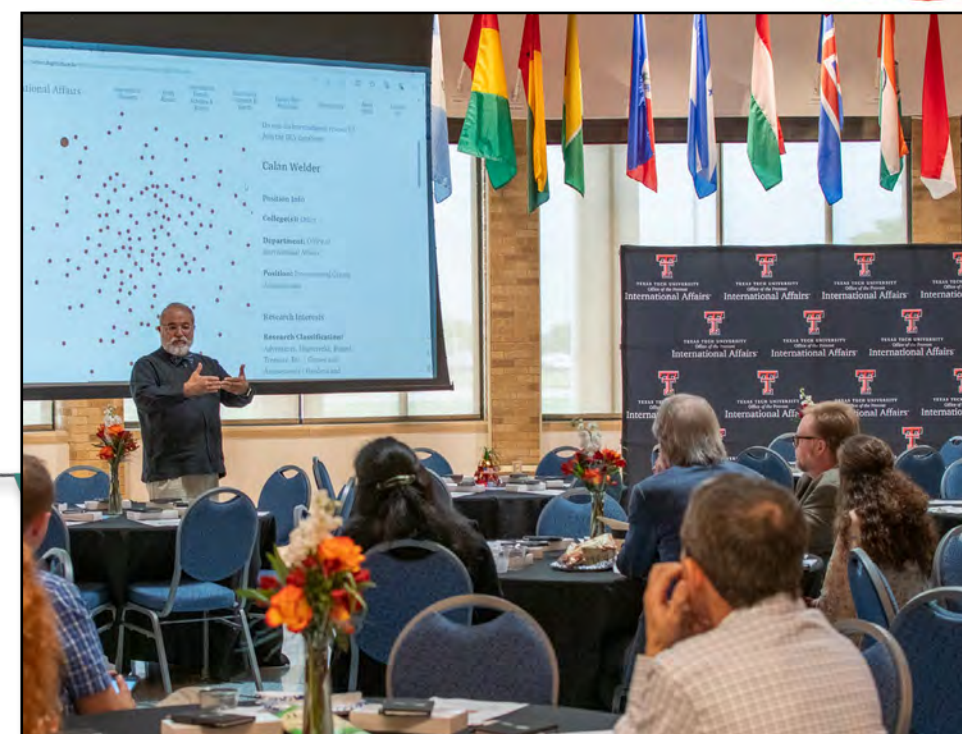
For more information about art exhibits click [HERE!](#)



Photo by Mahedi Hasan | Bangladesh



2023 “My Hometown” Photo Exhibition Winners



The International Research Network (IRN) is part of International Affairs at Texas Tech University. The IRN seeks to promote, assist, encourage participation in developing the international research presence and efforts at Texas Tech. The IRN is a platform built to engage a community of scholars interested in international research in all areas of scholarly research within the university.

2023

Culture FEST

Every October, the Texas Tech community comes together to celebrate the rich tapestry of cultures that make up our international family. Culture Fest is an annual outdoor extravaganza. It is a vibrant celebration of the myriad cultural heritages that enrich our campus.

The eagerly-anticipated event is a harmonious blend of international music and dance, where rhythms from around the world come alive on the stage. Attendees can immerse themselves in the arts through captivating art projects or tantalize their taste buds with a delectable array of global cuisines. But it's not just about entertainment; Culture Fest is a family-friendly affair, offering engaging activities that connect generations and foster a deeper understanding of the world's diverse cultures.

Held in conjunction with International Week, Culture Fest serves as a highlight of our commitment to global unity and understanding, ensuring that our community remains a welcoming and inclusive place for everyone. It's a time when we all come together to explore, learn, and celebrate the beautiful mosaic of cultures that enrich the Tech experience.

Don't miss this opportunity every year to embrace the world, right here in Lubbock !





Have you ever wanted to taste the spices of South Asia? Smell the sweet smells of Mediterranean street foods? Watch the flowing of a calligraphy brush as it strokes a piece of rice paper? Hear calypso or capoeira? Then we have the opportunity for you to travel the world while staying in Lubbock . . .



Culture Fest is our largest event every fall. It is an event where many cultures across campus and Lubbock come together to share what makes them unique.

We invite our international student organizations, language departments, and other multicultural groups to share different aspects of their cultures through music, food, live performances, and arts and crafts.





Dr. Elizabeth Trejos-Castillo | elizabeth.trejos@ttu.edu
Vice Provost for International Affairs



Dr. Mario Beruvides | mario.beruvides@ttu.edu
Associate Vice Provost for International Affairs and Interim Director of ICASALS

International Center for Arid & Semi-Arid Land Studies (ICASALS)

ICASALS promotes the university's special mission of the interdisciplinary study of arid and semiarid environments and the human relationship to these environments from an international perspective. The purpose of ICASALS is to stimulate, coordinate, and implement teaching, research, and public service activities concerning all aspects of the world's arid and semiarid regions, their people, and their problems.



Reagan Riborody | reaga.ribordy@ttu.edu
Assistant Vice Provost for International Affairs and Director of IGAP

International Grants Administration & Partnerships (IGAP)

IGAP works with faculty to identify and disseminate international research and development grant opportunities and to help develop and submit multidisciplinary proposals to funding agencies. Additionally, they work with faculty to develop partnerships with international institutions to further enhance the international reputation of Texas Tech University.



Rachel Jarnagin | rachel.jarnagin@ttu.edu
Director, Administration and Finance

Administration & Finance (A&F)

The Administration and Finance unit provides support to all units and divisions of International Affairs, and interacts with other campus entities for administrative and financial issues as they relate to IA. The Passport Application Acceptance Office is part of this unit, and offers full passport services to the campus and surrounding community.



Whitney Longnecker | whitney.longnecker@ttu.edu
Director, Study Abroad

Study Abroad (SA)

SA coordinates all study abroad programs for Texas Tech University. Many academic departments offer faculty-led programs, usually in the summer, with a wide variety of course offerings and locations to include the Texas Tech Center in Sevilla, Spain and Texas Tech Costa Rica. Students can earn Texas Tech credit while taking a catalog course in an international location with Texas Tech faculty. Study abroad programs range in length from three weeks to a full academic year.



Carolina Arellanos | carolina.arellanos@ttu.edu
Assistant Director, International Relations

International Relations (IR)

Comprised of International Alumni Relations, International Arts and Culture (art exhibits, speakers, etc.), International Scholars Engagement, and International Fundraising, IR engages and connects Texas Tech alumni, scholars, and donors and brings cultural programming to the multiple and diverse South Plains and Texas Tech communities.



Charles Olivier | charles.olivier@ttu.edu
Assistant Director, K-12 Global Education Outreach

K-12 Global Education Outreach (K-12 GEO)

The award winning K-12 GEO unit serves as a liaison for the university to provide cultural enrichment opportunities by offering cultural programming to K-12 students from public, private, and home schools throughout the South Plains.



Dr. Rich Rice | rich.rice@ttu.edu
Director, Center for Global Communications

Center for Global Communication (CGC)

CGC develops global citizens through internationalizing thinking and communication. Specifically, it partners resources in IA with students, faculty, staff, and community members in local, national, and international contexts to enhance intercultural communication skills. With help from the CGC, students can find resources to learn more about negotiating global challenges; faculty can internationalize courses and become integrated global scholars; administrators can connect study abroad and curricula; staff can expand global thinking and communication skills; and communities members can develop cultural programming.



Dr. Sara Pink | sara.pink@ttu.edu
Director, Texas Tech Center, Sevilla, Spain

Texas Tech Center in Sevilla, Spain

The Texas Tech University Center in Sevilla offers learning opportunities for the Texas Tech community in Spain and is committed to ensuring a welcoming, inclusive, safe and collaborative community. We are dedicated to providing cross-cultural learning experiences and unique opportunities for participants to excel in their academic and personal goals as part of their preparation to become leaders in a diverse and globally competitive world.



Dr. Richard Porter | richard.porter@ttu.edu (Retired Dec 2023)
Director, International Student and Scholar Services

International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS)

ISSS operates the university's international student and exchange visitor immigration programs and provides employment-based immigration services to the university. It also oversees International Student Life (ISL). Counselors advise and assist international students and scholars concerning immigration rules, financial concerns, and cross-cultural issues.

FOR MORE INFORMATION!

Support International Affairs



International Affairs supports and facilitates the international mission of Texas Tech University. It provides services for faculty and students and offers international educational and cultural experiences for the University and community, and is a major contributor to the globalization process of the University and its growing reputation as a major international educational and research center.

Submit your stories, your triumphs, and your proudest moments to be featured in the upcoming issues of this magazine. Together, let's illuminate the global impact of Texas Tech University and inspire the world with the incredible journeys that define our Red Raider community.

Your stories not only inspire and uplift but also showcase the breadth and depth of Texas Tech's influence on the world stage.

LET'S STAY CONNECTED!!

Please contact:
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 Pages: 34, 35, 44, 45

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 Mexico – Jorge Ramirez | Walter and Anne Huffman Professor of Law
 Spain – Dr. Martha Smithy | Associate Professor of Sociology, College of Arts & Sciences
 England – Dr. Michael Zahn | Associate Professor of Practice College of Media & Communication
 New Zealand – Dr. Changzhi Li | Professor, Electrical & Computer Engineering
 Honduras – Dr. Stephanie Lockwood | Associate Professor of Practice, Department of Biological Sciences, Waco Extension



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