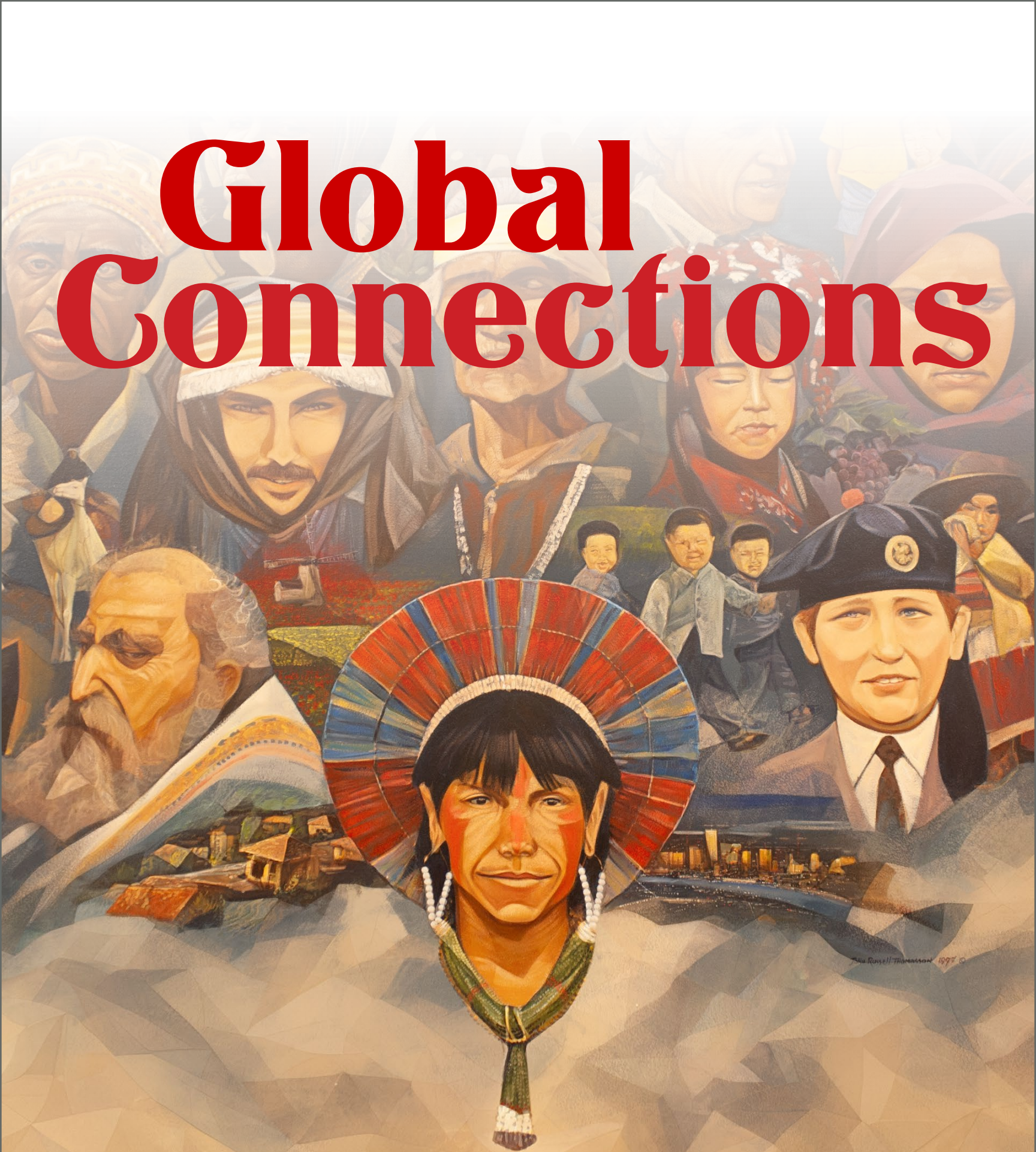


# Global Connections





3  
CULTIVATING GLOBAL CITIZENS

9  
FULBRIGHT

Building Bridges of Opportunity:  
Texas Tech Honored as HSI Fulbright Leader in 2024

15  
STUDY ABROAD DIARIES

Opening a World of Possibilities  
  
Sevilla’s Role in Shaping Careers & Changing Lives  
  
A Gateway to Global Agribusiness

27  
GLOBAL IMPACT  
FACULTY & STUDENT  
RESEARCH & ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP

Nourishing Communities  
  
A Symphony of Cultures:  
Texas Tech’s Musical Tour Strengthens U.S.-Mexico Ties  
  
International Grants Administration & Partnerships

31  
SIGNATURE PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Mandela Washington Fellowship for  
Young African Leaders

International Week & Culture Fest

VICE PROVOST FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Dr. Elizabeth Trejos-Castillo

ART DIRECTOR | EDITOR

Carolina Arellanos | Assistant Director of International Relations

COPYEDITOR

Dr. Rich Rice | Director of Center for Global Communication

CONTRIBUTORS

Office of the Provost International Affairs

Mattie Moriearty | Exhibit Coordinator

Nicole Martinez | Work-study Student

SPECIAL THANKS

Office of the Provost International Affairs

Kathleen Cade-Gerzon | Student Life Coordinator

Stephanie Lara | K-12 Coordinator, Outreach and Engagement



Dr. Elizabeth Trejos-Castillo  
Vice Provost for International Affairs

Dear Red Raiders, Colleagues, and Friends:

Welcome to the new Summer/Fall issue of Global Connections! In this edition, we’re thrilled to provide an in-depth look at internationalization efforts across campus, our Lubbock community and beyond while we showcase our diverse body of students, faculty, and staff and continue to celebrate our complex, interconnected humanities.

As part of the Red Raider family and TTU extended network, you bring invaluable perspectives to our magazine, and thus, we invite you to stay connected with us and share your stories, experiences, and accomplishments.

With the holidays approaching, we would like to thank you for your continued support to International Affairs during this year and to wish you a joyful season, a restful winter break and a prosperous 2025!



Photo courtesy of Kathleen Cade-Gerzon | Student Life Coordinator



# Cultivating Global Citizens



*“Let our thoughts be big thoughts  
and broad thoughts. Let our  
thinking be in worldwide terms.”*

Paul Whitfield Horn  
Texas Technological College's first president  
Serving from 1925 to 1932

An outstanding example of leadership in higher education is Texas Tech University President Dr. Lawrence Schovanec. With a visionary approach to global engagement, Dr. Schovanec serves on the NAFSA Board of Directors while also holding the esteemed position of U.S. Regional Vice President for the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Organization for Higher Education (IOHE). His dual roles underscore his commitment to bridging regional and global educational initiatives, reinforcing collaborations that link U.S. institutions with academic leaders.

President Schovanec's participation in NAFSA and IOHE enhances strategic alignment between regional and global education policies and practices. His leadership amplifies efforts to create valuable systems that support student mobility, professional development, and collaborative research. His work reflects a vision where higher education serves as a bridge between cultures, fostering mutual understanding and preparing students for an increasingly interconnected world.

Through efforts of leaders like President Schovanec, Texas Tech University demonstrates the critical role institutions play in shaping the cross-border educational landscape. His work underscores the importance of collective efforts to champion educational excellence, inclusivity, and cultural exchange. Such leadership is essential in crafting a globally-minded higher education community equipped to face current challenges and carve out future opportunities.

## **What is IOHE?**

The **Inter-American Organization for Higher Education (IOHE)** was founded in 1980 and fosters collaboration and innovation in higher education throughout the Americas. With a network spanning North, Central, and South America as well as the Caribbean, IOHE connects institutions, leaders, and stakeholders to promote academic cooperation, knowledge exchange, and capacity building.

Its mission focuses on enhancing the quality and accessibility of higher education through partnerships, research, and programs that address shared challenges. By facilitating dialogue on educational policy, internationalization, and sustainable development, IOHE aims to strengthen higher education's role in driving social and economic progress and building community.

## **What is NASFA?**

**NAFSA: Association of International Educators**, established in 1948, is the world's largest nonprofit dedicated to international education and exchange. NAFSA is a valuable resource for institutions and professionals engaged in global learning, student and scholar mobility, and cross-cultural educational initiatives. Its mission encompasses advocacy, professional development, and promoting policies that support international education and exchange worldwide.



Message from  
President Dr. Lawrence Schovanec

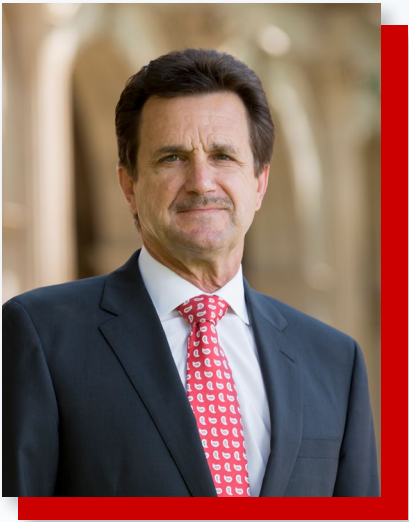
Texas Tech’s global vision dates to 1925 when its first president, Paul Horn, declared, “Let our thoughts be big thoughts and broad thoughts. Let our thinking be in worldwide terms.” Such forward-thinking perspectives have grown over the years, elevating TTU to a leader in international engagement. Today, Texas Tech is a top producer of Fulbright Scholars, which is a testament to its commitment to preparing students for global leadership.

At TTU, global engagement is an integral part of student life, embedded both inside and outside the classroom. From specialized courses and guest lectures to culturally diverse programs offered by International Affairs initiatives, students are being equipped with skills needed to thrive in a globally-interconnected world. Study abroad opportunities in over 50 countries, for instance, and dedicated centers in Sevilla, Spain, and Costa Rica immerse many of our students in cultural experiences new to them, helping them gain invaluable insight.

Cross-Cultural Growth in West Texas:  
Texas Tech’s Global Vision

In the heart of West Texas, Texas Tech University is working to transform students into globally competitive graduates. The International Cultural Center and Texas Tech’s expansive study abroad programs are central to this mission, ensuring that TTU graduates are not only academically accomplished but also culturally intelligent and adaptable – qualities essential for success in a global workforce.

In fact, Texas Tech’s commitment to international engagement has distinguished it as a leader in fostering global perspectives. TTU’s international student community is instrumental in enriching the campus environment, bringing diverse perspectives and experiences that foster a broader worldview among peers. The enthusiasm and dedication of these students, many of whom have overcome great challenges to pursue their education, serve as a powerful reminder of the value of educational affordances that can inspire a deeper appreciation for the privilege of applied learning.



Dr. Lawrence Schovanec  
President of Texas Tech University

International Affairs supports this vibrant community by creating meaningful connections between international and domestic students. Through such interactions, intercultural communication and global learning are powerful cocurricular components to the quality of a Texas Tech education on campus and abroad, providing students with tools to think empathetically.

Collaboration and cultural understanding is more critical than ever. Texas Tech stands as a leader in global education, embodying its mission to produce graduates who are knowledgeable and prepared to make a difference globally. Whether through partnerships across the Americas or elsewhere, or celebrating the international community here in West Texas, **TTU’s commitment to global engagement is a cornerstone of its identity and a legacy for future generations.**

“Engaging in international collaboration means embracing an open mind and cultivating mutual respect. Successful partnerships are grounded in the understanding that no partner holds a preferred position; every institution brings unique strengths and insights to the table.”

Dr. Lawrence Schovanec  
President of Texas Tech University

“Everything that is done on these West Texas Plains ought to be on a big scale. It is a country that lends itself to bigness. It is a country that does not harmonize with things little or narrow or mean. Let us make the work of our college fit with the scope of our country. Let our thoughts be big thoughts and broad thoughts. Let our thinking be in worldwide terms.”

Paul Whitfield Horn  
Texas Technological College’s first president, 1925



Photo courtesy of Kathleen Cade-Gerzon | Student Life Coordinator



Photo courtesy of TTU Sevilla Center







**Dr. Jorge Iber**  
Vice President of Campus Access and Engagement

As a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI), Texas Tech University (TTU) embraces the transformative role of higher education for students from Hispanic backgrounds, both in the U.S. and abroad. Many of our students are the first in their families to attend university. Through a world-class education at TTU, they aim to shape their futures while creating positive impacts for their families and communities.

**In today's interconnected world, equipping students with an understanding of global social, political, and economic issues is essential.** The diverse backgrounds of TTU's international students and globally active faculty enrich the learning environment, allowing all students to engage with a broader range of perspectives. Such cross-cultural exchange fosters greater understanding, enhancing communication and cooperation across varied backgrounds, which prepares students to thrive in an increasingly global society.

The Sirviendo Estudiantes grant is one of TTU's key initiatives to support first-generation, low-income, rural, and underserved students. Through workshops, symposia, counseling, and mentorships, the program bolsters Raider Success efforts to promote academic, financial, and career readiness. The Faculty and Staff Fellows Program further enhances this support by mentoring graduate students and advancing HSI-focused projects that enhance teaching and learning.

TTU's commitment to cultural awareness extends beyond the classroom, highlighting Hispanic communities' contributions and historical roles in both the U.S. and Latin America. By facilitating such inclusive educational experiences and encouraging students to explore the world through scholarships and travel, TTU nurtures informed, engaged citizens ready to address global challenges and opportunities.

**Ultimately, TTU's mission as an HSI is to empower students to complete their degrees and become active, knowledgeable participants in their communities and the broader world.**



Photos courtesy of Campus Access & Engagement



**Dr. Rich Rice**  
Director, Center for Global Communication  
Professor, Technical Communication & Rhetoric

**Fostering Global Citizenship and International Competency at Texas Tech's Center for Global Communication**

The Center for Global Communication (CGC) at Texas Tech University empowers students and faculty to become engaged global citizens through a range of internationalized learning experiences, strategic collaborations, and tailored support. **By encouraging global perspectives, the CGC helps the Texas Tech community embrace a more interconnected worldview.**

**Empowering Through Customized Support**

The CGC listens to the unique internationalization goals of each faculty member and student, tailoring support through resources such as global citizenship workshops, grant-writing guidance, and innovative projects. Initiatives like the Integrated Global Teaching & Scholarship Institute provide annual support for faculty to enhance teaching, research, and service with global elements, such as the Humanities Texas-funded Global Views Film Series, which explores global citizenship and sparks meaningful discussions within the university and Lubbock community.

**To prepare students for an increasingly global workforce, the CGC collaborates with academic departments to enrich courses and study abroad programs with cultural awareness, empathy, and intercultural communication skills.** By integrating online global learning opportunities, the Center enables Texas Tech students to connect with peers worldwide, promoting functional global literacy and fostering inclusive professionalism.

**Supporting Faculty in Achieving Global Recognition**

**Understanding that international reputation is essential for faculty careers, the CGC assists faculty in defining what global impact means within their fields and advancing their work accordingly.** Monthly workshops on intercultural communication skills, visual literacy, and empathy provide faculty with tools to approach global issues thoughtfully and grow professionally.

Through its work, the CGC creates a foundation for Texas Tech to lead in global education, preparing a generation equipped to contribute to a sustainable, equitable, and interconnected world.



Sponsored by Humanities Texas





# FULBRIGHT

## *Building Bridges of Opportunity: Texas Tech Honored as HSI Fulbright Leader in 2024*

For the fourth straight year, Texas Tech University proudly celebrates its recognition as a 2024 Fulbright Hispanic-Serving Institution Leader by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). This prestigious honor places Texas Tech as one of 29 doctoral universities and one of 51 colleges and universities to earn this recognition, underscoring its commitment to fostering international exchange and cultural understanding.

The Fulbright Program, established in 1946 by the U.S. Department of State, is one of the world's leading educational exchange programs, promoting collaboration between the United States and over 160 countries. The Fulbright HSI Top Producer award highlights Texas Tech's outstanding support for students and educators embarking on global learning experiences and acknowledges its dedication to advancing opportunities for Hispanic students and scholars both locally and globally.

### **Fulbright HSI Leaders**

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) established the Fulbright HSI Leaders Initiative in 2021 to recognize and commend the strong partnership between the Fulbright Program and Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs). This initiative is part of the U.S. State Department's long-standing commitment to diversity and inclusion within the Fulbright Program and within the Bureau's exchange programs overall.

<https://www.fulbrightprogram.org/hsi/>



*“This recognition reflects the ongoing efforts of our faculty, staff and students to engage in meaningful, cross-cultural collaborations that embody the Fulbright program’s mission of mutual understanding and shared knowledge.”*

**Dr. Ron Hendrick**  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs



Texas Tech University has earned the prestigious designation as a Fulbright-HSI Leader, a title awarded by the U.S. Department of State to Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) that demonstrate exceptional support for Fulbright exchange participants. This recognition highlights Texas Tech’s dedication to fostering international collaboration, as well as its commitment to diversity, empathy, and cross-cultural understanding across its campus.

The Fulbright HSI Leader initiative, launched by the U.S. Department of State, emphasizes the unique role HSIs play in supporting international education. The program recognizes 50 HSIs nationwide, including Texas Tech, which stands out for actively promoting opportunities that engage administrators, faculty, and students in the Fulbright program. By creating an inclusive environment for global exchange, these institutions are instrumental in enriching the educational experience and advancing cultural exchange.

Through collaborative efforts with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), the Fulbright Program works closely with HSIs to ensure that students and faculty have access to international opportunities. HSIs educate nearly two-thirds of all Hispanic students in the U.S., making their partnership with Fulbright a powerful platform for advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access (DEIA) in education. The Fulbright Program’s commitment to DEIA ensures that all participants have the support they need to thrive in their exchanges, fostering experiences that are both rewarding and transformative.

This acknowledgment of Texas Tech’s leadership role reflects its broader commitment to global engagement, empowering students, faculty, and administrators to build meaningful connections around the world. As Texas Tech continues to encourage international collaborations, its status as a Fulbright-HSI Leader will further enhance its standing as a destination for scholars and students seeking a richer understanding of diverse cultures and conflict resolution in an increasingly interconnected world.

*“As a Fulbright Hispanic-Serving Institution, we remain dedicated to supporting our Hispanic community and advancing international education as part of our mission to build a stronger, more inclusive global community.”*

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



Yvonne Racz Key | Hungary



Dr. Costică Brădăţan | Romania



Left to right:  
President Lawrence Schovanec,  
Marvin Rice,  
Ambassador Francis J. Ricciardone,  
Dr. Rich Rice



**Texas Tech has been a part of the Fulbright program since 1957. Since that time, the university has had 179 faculty (six currently overseas) and 62 students participate. A record seven students were selected for this academic year. Since 1974, Texas Tech has hosted 52 Fulbright scholars from 36 countries across different disciplines.**

Texas Tech’s commitment to international exchange took center stage this year at the Annual Fulbright Alumni Reception, hosted by International Affairs, with Ambassador (ret.) Francis J. Ricciardone as our esteemed guest speaker. Ambassador Ricciardone, a distinguished former U.S. Foreign Service Officer, has dedicated his career to advancing cross-cultural understanding—a journey sparked by his own transformative experiences as an undergraduate studying abroad and participating in a Fulbright-Hays Teaching Assistantship.

These pivotal opportunities led Ambassador Ricciardone to early teaching roles in Italy and Iran, setting him on a path to a celebrated career in the U.S. Foreign Service. His service spanned influential diplomatic posts across Turkey, Egypt, Iraq, the Philippines, Palau, and Afghanistan, as well as critical roles in Washington. Ambassador Ricciardone later served as the President of The American University in Cairo, where he furthered his commitment to global education. Today, he continues to champion international education and cultural exchange by serving on the boards of several private organizations devoted to these causes.

At the Fulbright Alumni Reception, Ambassador Ricciardone inspired the audience with reflections on his journey, exploring how Texas Tech and similar institutions can foster global citizenship. His insights resonated strongly, culminating in a lively discussion on what it truly means to be a global citizen and how TTU can support students in pursuing international educational experiences.



Texas Tech Annual Fulbright Alumni Reception (2024)



# Texas Tech 2024-2025

## Fulbright Scholar Award Recipients



Kanika Batra, Ph.D.  
Professor, Department of English

**Award:** Fulbright Research Chair in Society and Culture at the University of Alberta, Canada  
**Project title:** SABLA/Empowered: South Asian and Black Diasporic Women's Writing  
**Host institution:** University of Alberta | Edmonton, Canada

The project focuses on South Asian and Black diasporic women's writing (SABLA). SABLA, a Hindi and Punjabi word for 'empowered', directs attention to how writing is a means of empowerment for women. This research will be in collaboration with the Orlando Project in Women's Writing, a digital project developed at the University of Alberta, Canada.



Costică Brădăţan, Ph.D.  
Paul Whitfield Horn Distinguished  
Professor of Humanities, Honors College

**Award:** Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program  
**Project title:** *Swimming against the Stream. An Anatomy of Dissent*  
**Host institution:** University of Bucharest | Bucharest, Romania

The project, consists of the completion of a book manuscript (*Against Conformity*, under contract with Princeton University Press), which explores the philosophical significance and cultural function of dissent. The book makes the argument that dissent is fundamental for the health of a community's civic, intellectual, and cultural life. Someone must always go against the stream to point to the possibility of other perspectives and ways of doing things. The dissenter's job may be unpleasant, yet her political and cultural functions are vital. Just like Diogenes the Cynic trying to get into the theater while everybody else was getting out, in any society some will have to go against the stream of pious lies, conventions, and received ideas if that society is not to lose its bearings at a more fundamental level.



Bryan Giemza, Ph.D., J.D.  
Provost's Fellow for Outreach & Engagement  
Associate Professor of Humanities & Literature

**Award:** Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program  
**Project title:** *Understanding Digital Citizenship and Climate Change Resilience*  
**Host institution:** Private Independent Study | Belgium

The project will conduct collaborative and individual research at the University of Antwerp's Institute of Development Policy (IOB) where I will join the scholar team of Informational Citizenship. We will develop an interactive database that both reflects and offers alternative ways for citizens to engage with truth-making, science, and disinformation. These new insights will enrich my current book project, *Blowing Smoke: Climate Change and the Global Disinfosphere*. I will also coauthor an article with the project director, work with graduate students from many countries, and participate in lectures and workshops to share my research on transdisciplinary approaches to divisive communications.



Tunmin (Catherine) Jai, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor, Hospitality &  
Retail Management

**Award:** Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program  
**Project title:** *Collaborate to Innovate: Thriving Amidst the Transformations of the Global Economy*  
**Host institution:** Fu Jen Catholic University | Taipei, Taiwan

The project focuses on a combined research and teaching program that spans six months. Dr. Jai's research will explore the impact of advanced technologies, such as AI and 3D simulation, on global supply chain practices, particularly in the shifting global fashion economy. This work aims to provide valuable insights into the sustainable future of the fashion and apparel industries. Additionally, Dr. Jai will collaborate with faculty and administrators at the host institution, Fu Jen Catholic University, to develop their first English-taught undergraduate program, a milestone for their college. This project also supports creativity, innovation, and English language education.



Anita McChesney, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of German Department  
of Classical & Modern Languages & Literatures

**Award:** Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program  
**Project title:** *Imaging Austria: Auto- and Hetero Images of a Nation*  
**Host institution:** University of Salzburg | Salzburg, Austria

The project examines dominant representations of Austria in contemporary literature with a particular focus on how historical and cultural intersections with the United States inform these. Points of contact include over 300 years of immigration history, centuries of cultural exchange such as in music and film, the U.S. occupation of Austria after WWII, and current analogous political movements. Studying images of Austria involves more than interpreting specific, individualized, local narratives. Dr. McChesney's work demonstrates how examining the sources and effects of these national images reveals deeper universal truths about individuals and cultures and shows what connects our experiences across national divides.



Akbar Namin, Ph.D.  
Professor, Department of Computer Science

**Award:** Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program  
**Project title:** Reinforcement Learning for Modeling Digital Forensics and Penetration Testing Problems  
**Host institution:** St. Polten University of Applied Sciences | Pölsen, Austria

The project intends to effectively develop AI-based algorithms to analyze digital forensics data to detect malicious and suspicious traces of events at different levels including operating systems, networks, memory, and file systems. The project then builds learning algorithms to enable system administrators to narrow down the search spaces to detect suspicious events in a given computer and network system. The project's ultimate goal is to build an automated AI-powered platform to enhance digital forensics analysis and effective penetrating testing to detect vulnerabilities before being exploited by attackers.



Jessica J. Yuan, Ph.D.  
Professor, Hospitality & Retail Management

**Award:** Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program  
**Project Title:** *Gastronomy as Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH): Cultivating Food History and Culinary Tradition in the Country of Morocco*  
**Host institution:** Mohammad VI Polytechnic University | Ben Guerir, Morocco

The project intends to explore (1) the abundance of food history and culinary tradition of Morocco in its gastronomic Intangible Cultural Heritages (ICHs), and (2) the effects of ICH inscriptions on the formation of a distinctive national identity and sustainable tourism development in Morocco. This project combines research and teaching in partnership with the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P) in Ben Guerir, Morocco. The inquiry expects to nourish the growth of multidisciplinary research and pedagogical programs at UM6P and TTU.



# DIARIES

## Opening a World of Possibilities:

In spring 2024, Study Abroad learned their application to the Institute of International Education (IIE) American Passport Project was funded, and **TTU was named one of 51 U.S. Passport Project institutions.**

The grant allowed TTU to award 25 free passports to Red Raiders. Upon receipt of the IIE grant, Director of Study Abroad Whitney Longnecker thought *“Oh, TTU can do better than 25 free passports.”* In turn, Study Abroad solicited sponsorships and the campus community did not disappoint. **By the start of the new school year, TTU had 125 passports to award.**

The student response was resounding, as over 500 students applied for the chance to receive a free passport.

*“International education is imperative to ensure Red Raiders are ready to enter a globally-competitive world. However, the cost of the passport is a financial barrier for some students. If you don’t have a passport, you’re limited to the borders of the U.S. Study Abroad is proud to offer the first Passport Project and is literally opening doors for students through this initiative.”*

**“***International education is imperative to ensure Red Raiders are ready to enter a globally-competitive world.*



2024 Passport Project Reception

A committee made up of faculty and staff from around campus had the difficult task of reviewing all applications and making the award decisions. During International Week, Study Abroad hosted a celebratory dinner and instructional session for the selected students. Students then submitted their passport applications through the TTU Passport Acceptance Facility in the International Cultural Center.

*“The first TTU Passport Project was a huge success, and we will continue the initiative for years to come.”*

To contribute to future Passport Projects, please contact Whitney Longnecker, [whitney.longnecker@ttu.edu](mailto:whitney.longnecker@ttu.edu).

To learn more about TTU Study Abroad, [click here](#).

**Whitney Longnecker**  
Director, Study Abroad

## Discovering “Pura Vida” in Costa Rica

**Studying abroad is more than academics; it’s about diving into new cultures, challenging yourself, and uncovering hidden strengths.** As a future financial advisor, I wanted to grow professionally while embracing Costa Rica’s famed “Pura Vida” lifestyle—a philosophy of joy, relaxation, and living in the moment.

Weekends became adventures as we explored Costa Rica’s stunning landscapes, cities, and beaches. Yet, my favorite memory wasn’t of a destination but of a spontaneous soccer game. After returning from Puerto Viejo, our group gathered to play, laugh, and forge friendships that would outlast the program.



Photos courtesy of Louis Alcalá



**Louis Alcalá**  
Graduate Student  
San José, Costa Rica

Living abroad pushed me in ways I hadn’t expected. It was my longest time away from home, and while initially daunting, Costa Rica felt like a second home from the start. The Costa Rican campus, smaller and close-knit, offered an academic setting where everyone felt like family. My internship was challenging, especially learning industry terms in Spanish, but with support, I found my footing and learned that career possibilities span far beyond borders.

The warm Costa Rican community welcomed us wholeheartedly. Whether we were scrimmaging with local students, joining a bachata class, or just sharing meals, I discovered how connection can transcend language.

**To anyone considering studying abroad: do it. Yes, it’s an investment, but the friendships, memories, and self-discovery are invaluable.** Costa Rica taught me that there’s a vast world beyond the West Texas Plains, full of beauty and adventure. “Pura Vida” is more than a motto—it’s a way of living, and this journey was only the beginning.

## Grateful to our Passport Project Sponsors



**TEXAS TECH™**

OFFICE OF THE **PRESIDENT**

OFFICE OF THE **PROVOST**

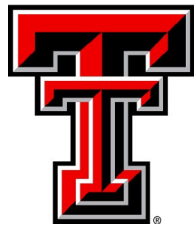
DEPARTMENT OF  
**MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS**

DEPARTMENT OF  
**HUMAN DEVELOPMENT  
& FAMILY SCIENCES**

DEPARTMENT OF  
**CLASSICAL & MODERN  
LANGUAGES & LITERATURES**







# SEVILLA CENTER

## TEXAS TECH

## SEVILLA'S ROLE IN SHAPING CAREERS & CHANGING LIVES

Leading study abroad programs in Sevilla, Andalucía, has become one of the most fulfilling parts of my career. My own journey in Sevilla began in 2006 as a junior, studying at Universidad Pablo de Olavide—a semester that ignited a lifelong passion for language and culture, ultimately shaping my path as a sociolinguist. Today, Sevilla feels like a second home, where I share my experiences and knowledge with students on their own transformative journeys.

In both our short-term summer program and semester-long offerings, students dive into the language and culture through immersive classes, excursions, and local interactions. Our summer sessions pack an intensive five-to-six-week schedule with classes, tutoring, and excursions.

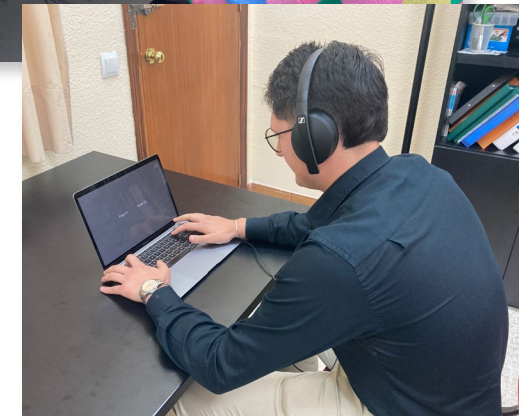
For the long-semester program, students progress through grammar courses as well as advanced content courses such as “The Sounds of Spanish” and “The Culture, History, and Language of Andalucía,” while also gaining practical experience through internships tailored to their career goals.

As a sociolinguist, during each trip I conduct experiments on language acquisition, examining students' changes in speaking and listening during the program in terms of Spanish-English differences as well as dialectal differences that enrich our program and the field. My students' projects—from analyzing Spanish dialects to documenting cultural norms—demonstrate skills in data analysis, phonetics, technical writing, intercultural communication, and ethnography.

Beyond academics, students embrace local life in Sevilla, building connections, discovering shared values, and learning the importance of respectful dialogue. It's inspiring to watch students gain confidence, present research in Spanish, and engage openly with the community. Sevilla changes lives, pushing students beyond their comfort zones and even shifting career paths. For anyone considering studying abroad, Sevilla offers not just education, but a profound, lasting growth that stays long after studying abroad.



**Dr. Brendan Regan**  
*Associate Professor of Spanish & Linguistics  
Director of the Sociolinguistics & Bilingualism Research Lab  
Department of Classical & Modern Languages & Literatures*



Students taking part in a listening and speaking experiment.

Program excursion to the town of Aracena in the province of Huelva (Andalucía).

Photos courtesy of Dr. Brendan Regan





# A Gateway to Global Agribusiness

## Program Leaders:

**Dr. Conrad Lyford** | Professor, Agricultural & Applied Economics

**Dr. Mahfuz Rahman** | Associate Professor, Agricultural & Applied Economics

Imagine gaining hands-on experience in agribusiness marketing and sales in the heart of one of Europe's most agriculturally rich and innovative regions. That's precisely the unique opportunity awaiting students in Sevilla. Our immersive program offers more than just international exposure; it delivers the chance to work alongside industry leaders, learn from real-world scenarios, and embrace a vibrant new culture—an unbeatable combination that sets one apart in the global job market.

## Why Sevilla?

**Sevilla is the perfect place to study agribusiness. With its deep agricultural roots and thriving modern agritech industry, it serves as a “living laboratory” for exploring pressing issues and inventive solutions in agribusiness.** The region's blend of traditional farming and advanced agritech, represented by firms like Agro Sevilla and Wikifarmer, gives students a unique look at how the industry is evolving. From new technologies to innovative business models, the local agribusiness landscape offers a firsthand view of where global agriculture is headed.

The diversity of Sevilla's agricultural environment is equally compelling. From the lush plains yielding olives and citrus to the mountain regions famous for Iberian ham, students experience an array of agricultural products and supply chains. The region is also home to one of Europe's largest inland ports, seamlessly linking local producers with global markets. Studying agribusiness here isn't confined to classrooms—it's an immersive, practical experience that few other places can match.

## Bringing Agribusiness to Life

In the summer of 2024, students took full advantage of Sevilla's rich offerings, participating in field trips that brought agribusiness to life. They explored sites such as the Alcazar and Cathedral in Sevilla for historical context, visited a company specializing in fresh vegetables and goat cheese, toured the bustling inland port, and even visited an olive farm and Iberian ham production facility. Each trip was carefully designed to give students a holistic view of the agribusiness supply chain, from production to retail, while also delving into strategies for product differentiation and adding value to commodities.

These field experiences provide invaluable insight into the real-world operations of specialized agricultural commodities, making the complex world of agribusiness more accessible and understandable. For 2025, the program promises to expand on these experiences, making it even more engaging and impactful for students.



Photo courtesy of Dr. Conrad Lyford

## Why this Program?

**Students who have completed this program often call it transformative.**

Academically and personally, they return to Texas with newfound skills and insights in addition to lifelong friendships and unforgettable memories. Under the guidance of a dedicated study abroad team, participants feel safe and supported every step of the way, allowing them to fully immerse themselves in the culture and learn with confidence.

Employers today place high value on candidates with international experience. Our program doesn't just add a line to the resumé—it enriches experience sets with global perspectives and real-world skills. In Sevilla, students aren't just learning about agribusiness; they're seeing it in action, developing essential skills in communication, problem-solving, and cultural adaptation.

**Learning Spanish and adjusting to life abroad enhances personal resilience, while interactions with local agribusiness professionals deepen student understanding of how culture and tradition shape business decisions.**

Gaining an International Perspective in an international setting, Sevilla's agribusiness landscape offers fresh insights into how local values and traditions influence the agricultural industry. Students engage with subject matter in a wholly new way, exploring how decisions in agribusiness marketing and sales are affected by cultural differences and consumer behaviors. Working in such an environment helps students refine their communication and adaptability, equipping them with skills essential for global careers in agribusiness.

Through direct interactions with local professionals, students witness firsthand how agribusinesses operate in different cultural contexts. From these experiences, they build a robust understanding of global supply chains, marketing strategies, and consumer demands, leaving the program better prepared to work across borders.

## For more information, email:

Dr. Conrad Lyford | [conrad.lyford@ttu.edu](mailto:conrad.lyford@ttu.edu)

Dr. Mahfuz Rahman | [shaikh.m.rahman@ttu.edu](mailto:shaikh.m.rahman@ttu.edu)



Photo courtesy of Dr. Conrad Lyford

## Preparing for Future Success

**The program isn't just an educational experience; it's a career building journey.** It gives students an up close view of high value agriculture in a global market, revealing the strategies and innovations needed to sustain profitable ventures across diverse environments. In Sevilla, students learn evolving approaches to agribusiness marketing and sales that apply directly to real-world scenarios. By gaining exposure to international markets, they're better prepared to tackle the complexities of a career with a global component.

Finally, Sevilla offers more than academic and career growth; it invites students to form lasting connections with locals and fellow participants. From tasting tapas and exploring historic sites to experiencing live flamenco and even bullfighting, the cultural immersion is rich and unforgettable. **The program isn't just about agribusiness—it's about shaping global citizens ready to make an impact on the world.**

To learn more about this program, [click here](#).





# GLOBAL IMPACT

FACULTY &  
STUDENT

RESEARCH & ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP



# Nourishing Communities



**Dr. Mary Murimi**  
Professor Nutritional Sciences

**A**t the Community and International Nutrition Research lab, we tackle the impact of community environments on nutrition through a holistic, community-driven approach. We believe nutrition goes beyond individual choices; food insecurity, health literacy, cultural practices, and socioeconomic conditions shape it.

Our work emphasizes active engagement with communities to understand their unique challenges, such as limited access to healthy foods and low health literacy. We also tailor education programs to empower residents to make informed health decisions.

**Key to our mission is addressing food insecurity through comprehensive assessments and tailored interventions.** Our work spans globally—from Kenya to Vietnam, adapting solutions to meet local needs while generating locally informed and globally relevant insights. For example, in Turkana County, Kenya, our collaborative projects with Breedlove Foods Inc., demonstrated how targeted food assistance, such as the Harvest Lentil Vegetable Blend and caregiver nutrition education, significantly supported children's health and nutrition.

International partnerships, including working with governments and organizations, allow us to scale effective programs and influence policies to enhance food security and nutrition. Our diverse team, including international graduate students, enriches our research with cultural insights, deepening our understanding and impact. **These students contribute to every research stage, leading projects and mentoring undergraduates to infuse global perspectives into our work.**

Our findings and practices are shared widely, serving as adaptable frameworks for addressing nutrition and food security worldwide. **Researchers and organizations aiming to make a meaningful impact should prioritize interdisciplinary collaboration and break down silos, ensuring solutions are comprehensive and sustainable.** Only through unified efforts can we tackle the complexities of global nutrition and create lasting change.



Photos courtesy of Dr. Mary Murimi



**Elyvine Ingabire-Gasana**  
Ph.D. Candidate & Research Assistant  
Nutritional Sciences

**As a graduate student under Dr. Murimi's mentorship at Texas Tech, my experience in the Community and International Nutrition Research lab has been transformative.** I have participated in various projects, including authoring successful proposals funded by Breedlove Foods Inc., developing nutrition education programs, implementing supplemental feeding studies in Kenya, and managing data analysis. I coordinated the sustaining of the lab's website, mentored undergraduates, and organized lab meetings.

My hands-on work in Kenya during the summers of 2022 and 2023 formed the cornerstone of my research. In Phase I, we provided Harvest Lentil Vegetable Blend to children in Turkana and Nairobi, paired with nutrition education for caregivers over three weeks. Phase II, my dissertation study, involved a two month, on site feeding program for children aged 6-59 months and an in depth, theory based education intervention for caregivers in Turkana.

These projects significantly impacted the Turkana community, which faces chronic food insecurity. This second phase created a more longitudinal and in-depth study of the proven efficacy and nutritional effectiveness, as well as the utility of the Breedlove Harvest Lentil Vegetable blend. **It was immensely rewarding to witness children regain energy and see mothers express gratitude for their support.** Equally inspiring was watching caregivers use newfound knowledge to introduce diverse foods and improve hygiene practices, even with limited resources. **Doing so reinforced my belief that research must integrate community service for lasting change.**

Dr. Murimi's mentorship taught me that impactful research is rooted in community engagement. My passion lies in empowering hard-to-reach populations to make informed health decisions. Moving forward, I aim to foster collaborations between academic researchers who bring data driven, evidence-based approaches, and community organizations with a profound understanding of local challenges and opportunities. **Such synergies are vital for creating meaningful and sustainable change.**



Participants after receiving bags of Harvest Lentil Vegetable Blend



Photos courtesy of Elyvine Ingabire-Gasana



# A Symphony of Cultures: Texas Tech's Musical Tour Strengthens U.S.-Mexico Ties



# MEXICO



**Dr. Martin Camacho**  
Dean of the Talkington College of  
Visual & Performing Arts

**From Dean Martin Camacho:**

**T**exas Tech University's position as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) has made seeking opportunities in Mexico a natural choice. **HSI status highlights the importance of providing faculty with opportunities to learn more about our students' cultural roots.** Additionally, Texas's proximity to Mexico makes strengthening ties with our neighboring country essential. Historically, Texas and Mexico have acted as "distant neighbors," which is not beneficial for either side.

Growing up in Mexico City until 17, I developed strong professional connections with the National Center for the Arts (CENART), which is the leading arts research and higher education center in Mexico. Building on our mutually beneficial relationship with CENART, our faculty offered masterclasses to hundreds of students, and our orchestra performed to the sold-out 1,000+ seat concert hall, Sala Blas Galindo.

The experience elevated our students' artistic potential; preparing for an international tour sets high expectations. As an HSI, we aimed to connect students with experiences from a country where Hispanic roots are integral to daily life. Immersing themselves in Mexico's culture helped deepen our students' connection to their Hispanic identities.

**We aimed to provide students with international performance experience for future careers.** Being in a demanding environment allowed them to develop key artistic and personal skills that will serve them throughout their careers.

**Breaking the "international barrier"** was pivotal for our students, preparing them to pursue new opportunities confidently. The impact on TTU's School of Music and Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts (TCVPA) has been significant, with coverage across Mexican news and social media. This has directly resulted in an increase in enrollment from students from Mexico.







**Dr. Andrew Stetson**  
Director of the School of Music

**From Dr. Andrew Stetson:**

**D**uring the tour, students collaborated with peers at CENART and the University of Veracruz. Our cultural exchange has remained impactful, with students maintaining lasting friendships. Beyond the music, they explored cultural landmarks like the pyramids at Teotihuacan, enriching their understanding of the region.

The tour presented challenges, from logistics to sustaining energy over time. **Obstacles were valuable training for students pursuing careers involving international travel and performances.** Students thrived, particularly during the sold-out CENART performance, showcasing their resilience and adaptability.

A memorable moment occurred during the Xalapa concert when Professor Marcelletti asked students of Mexican heritage to stand. Nearly a third of the orchestra stood, underscoring Texas Tech's significance as an HSI and the power of cross-cultural connections. Students formed lasting connections with musicians in Mexico through their performances and collaborations, laying the groundwork for future partnerships and enhancing their musical careers. **These relationships extend beyond music, contributing to global community building that benefits everyone.**

The standing-room-only concert in Mexico City reflects Texas Tech's growing influence on the international stage. This success is expected to attract more international students and foster future collaborations.

*"Partnerships for experiences like this are invaluable," said Stetson. His advice to other institutions: "Reach out and make a connection. The rewards far outweigh the costs."*



Photos courtesy of Karina Dozal



*"Having the opportunity to give concerts in another country is wonderful on its own—collaborating with musicians from that country is even better... I'll cherish the friendships made within both groups for the rest of my life."*

**Dr. Mariah Taller**  
Doctor of Musical Arts Graduate  
Percussion Performance



*"The mission of TTU's Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts is to prepare performers for success. International experiences are critical, providing a safe space for students to hone their skills for the global stage."*

**Dr. Martin Camacho**  
Dean of the Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts



# International Grants Administration & Partnerships



**Reagan Ribordy**  
Assistant Vice Provost for International Affairs  
Senior Director IGAP



**Michael Johnson**  
Associate Director IGAP & Partnerships and Export Control Administrator



**Elizabeth Roberts**  
Senior International Grants Administrator



**Calan Welder**  
International Grants Administrator  
Global Safety & Security

**International Grants Administration and Partnerships (IGAP)** works with Texas Tech University faculty, staff, and students to develop and identify international research, grant development opportunities, and partnerships. **IGAP facilitates international partnerships based on the university’s needs.** These include student and faculty mobility programs, as well as collaborative academic and research agreements, further enhancing Texas Tech’s international reputation.

Since its inception in 2014, IGAP has helped facilitate approximately \$9.5 million in awarded sponsored research funding. **IGAP provides grant administration services to all colleges, departments, and centers across campus. Additionally, IGAP has established several new International Affairs seed grant programs to facilitate faculty research goals.**

In addition, IGAP has been instrumental in building Texas Tech’s international research capacity through international fellowships and research conferences, furthering the Texas Tech international footprint.

**IGAP Team, we are here to serve You!** The International Grants and Partnerships (IGAP) team is dedicated to expanding Texas Tech University’s global impact through international education and research. With the continued support of our Red Raider faculty, staff, and students, we aim to strengthen TTU’s global presence.

Meet with the IGAP team to discuss ways in which we can support your goals and objectives. We are always excited to learn about faculty goals and objectives. We’re ready to support your journey to expand current projects and to develop new international partnerships.

One key resource is the IGAP Funding Alert Database. It features a variety of funding opportunities for international research. Faculty can easily search by sponsor, deadline, award amount, and location.

# Global Exchange Research Seed Grants

To learn more about Global Exchange Research Seed Grants, [click here](#).

## Award Recipients

### One-Way Awardees



**Jenifer Gomez**  
Department: Chemical Engineering  
Project title: Magnetic field-assisted electrochemical CO2 reduction to valuable chemicals  
Country: Spain



**Jerrad Legako**  
Department: Animal and Food Sciences  
Project title: Improvement in meat production sustainability through reduction in food waste  
Country: Portugal



**Diana Hechavarria**  
Department: College of Business  
Project title: Supporting High Technology Women’s Entrepreneurship  
Country: New Zealand



**Gunvant Patil**  
Department: Plant and Soil Sciences  
Project title: Developing sustainable solutions to reduce chemical fertilizer applications through advanced genomics and genome-engineering technologies.  
Country: United Kingdom

In November 2023, Texas Tech’s International Affairs launched the **Global Exchange Research Seed Grants** for faculty interested in developing international research collaborations. The program funds up to four One-Way Seed grants and two Faculty Exchange grants. Both grants aim to carve out pathways toward establishing more ambitious, long-term projects.

One-way seed grants support TTU faculty visiting an international partner or location to identify areas for collaboration. Up to \$3,500 and up to 4 awards will be available.

Faculty exchange grants support TTU faculty visiting an international partner with a reciprocal exchange component for the international partner to visit TTU. Up to \$8,000 will be available, and up to two awards will be made. Travel for the 2024 grants must occur between January 2024 and December 2024.

Projects that include one or more UN Sustainable Development Goals (<https://sdgs.un.org>) are encouraged, as are engaged scholarship projects.



### Faculty Exchange Awardees

**Ioannis Chatzakis**  
Department: Physics and Astronomy  
Project title: Ultrafast Dynamical Processes in Metal Halide Perovskites  
Country: Greece  
Institute: National Hellenic Research Institute  
Collaborator: Maria Kadyla



**Asma Mehan**  
Department: Architecture  
Project title: Comparative Studies in Urban Political History: Bridging Mexico and the Middle East  
Country: Mexico  
Institute: Urban Anthropologist  
Collaborator: Alexander Reza Shams



CATIE

In 2023, IGAP launched a pilot reciprocal exchange program with Costa Rica CATIE (Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center) to develop a larger research project and proposal with CATIE-TTU partners. CATIE is a regional academic center for innovation and sustainable development in agriculture, management, conservation, and sustainable use of natural resources. It has strong international ties and seeks to increase sustainable and inclusive human well-being in Latin America and the Caribbean through graduate education, impact-oriented research, technical cooperation, and the dissemination of knowledge.

**Faculty members interested in fostering research partnerships between Texas Tech and CATIE now have an exciting opportunity to submit proposals under a new exchange initiative.** The program offers funding to cover travel-related mobility costs, and provides seed funding to help faculty kickstart research collaborations. **The goal is to encourage faculty development and uncover key areas of mutual interest, ultimately paving the way for larger, more ambitious long-term projects between our two institutions.** The initiative strengthens academic ties and creates a foundation for impactful international research partnerships.



Dr. Ann M. Mastergeorge  
Professor and Senior Director for Engaged Scholarship Initiatives,  
Human Development & Family Sciences  
**Partner Institution:**  
University of Costa Rica (UCR), Costa Rica



Dr. Sandip Pal  
Associate Professor, Atmospheric Science  
Department of Geosciences  
**Partner Institution:**  
Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), Costa Rica



Dr. Nadia Flores  
Associate Professor of Sociology  
**Partner Institution:**  
Universidad de Oriente (UNIVO),  
El Salvador



Dr. Shane Walker  
Professor, Director of the Water and the Environment Research Center  
**Partner Institution:**  
Universidad de Oriente (UNIVO),  
El Salvador

CARS

Central American Research Symposium  
2024 CARS Seed Grant Award Recipients

CARS

TTU International Affairs recently hosted the inaugural Central American Research Symposium (CARS), which hosted dozens of research faculty, including visitors from several Central American higher education institutes.

IGAP was proud to develop and submit the USDA Higher Education Challenge Grant, which sponsored this event. **CARS was a great success and led to multiple new research collaborations between TTU faculty and faculty researchers in Central American institutes.**

UNNOBA

Texas Tech University (TTU) International Affairs and the National University of Northwestern Buenos Aires (UNNOBA) in Argentina have announced a call for proposals aimed at fostering faculty exchange and collaborative research. **This exciting initiative invites faculty members from both institutions to submit proposals for research exchanges that could serve as the foundation for longer-term partnerships.** Funded as seed support, this call will cover travel-related expenses, encouraging researchers to connect, collaborate, and explore potential synergies between TTU and UNNOBA.

UNNOBA, located in Junín, Argentina, is renowned for its commitment to training students, educators, and researchers across diverse fields. With specialized schools in Agricultural, Natural, and Environmental Sciences; Economic and Legal Sciences; Human Development; and Technology, UNNOBA offers a robust background in technical innovation, perfectly complementing TTU's own areas of research expertise. Through this partnership, **TTU and UNNOBA aim to develop meaningful research collaborations that contribute to academic and global innovation, ultimately paving the way for larger, more ambitious projects in the future.**

*“At IGAP, we’re dedicated to advancing TTU’s internationalization through expanded global research initiatives. We love connecting with faculty to learn about their research passions and then helping secure the funding to bring those projects to life. From managing international fellowships to hosting scholars from around the world who come to train at TTU, we’re privileged to support this exciting work. It truly feels like we have the best job at Tech!”*

Michael Johnson  
Associate Director,  
International Grants Administration and Partnerships



# MANDELA WASHINGTON FELLOWSHIP



Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders 2024 Cohort



Mandela Washington Fellowship Annual Dinner at President Schovanec's home



Mandela Washington Fellows at the International Cultural Center



Mandela Washington Fellows at South Plains Food Bank

The Mandela Washington Fellowship is a program of the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and administered by IREX. Texas Tech University is a sub-grantee of IREX and has implemented Leadership Institutes as a part of the Fellowship since 2024. For more information about the Mandela Washington Fellowship, please visit the Fellowship's website at [www.mandelawashingtonfellowship.org](http://www.mandelawashingtonfellowship.org).

This summer marks a significant milestone for the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, the flagship program of the U.S. Government's Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI). Launched in 2014, the Fellowship celebrates its tenth anniversary, having brought nearly 6,500 of Sub-Saharan Africa's most promising young leaders to the United States over the past decade for specialized leadership training and immersive learning experiences.

The Mandela Washington Fellowship is a program of the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and administered by IREX. Texas Tech University (TTU) is honored to once again serve as a distinguished host for the Mandela Washington Fellowship, marking its sixth consecutive year of participation in this prestigious initiative. As one of only two institutions in Texas selected for this role, TTU has been entrusted with the responsibility of delivering an impactful six-week Leadership Institute meticulously crafted and sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

The 2024 Fellowship cohort comprised 25 extraordinary individuals aged 25 to 35, representing 19 diverse Sub-Saharan African countries/nations. These Fellows emerge from a rigorously competitive selection process characterized by an acceptance rate that is notably more demanding than that of Ivy League institutions—a testament to the exceptional caliber of these young leaders. Their professional backgrounds are as varied as they are impressive, spanning the fields of medicine, law, non-profit leadership, and community activism.





This year's Fellowship, held in collaboration with the Davis College of Agricultural Sciences and the College of Education, began in mid-June. Texas Tech served as a Leadership Institute in Public Management. The program at TTU was specifically designed as a dynamic blend of academic rigor and practical experience to empower emerging leaders in public management. Alongside academic lessons and panel discussions, the Fellows engaged in visits to local community organizations, providing them with a holistic understanding of leadership in action.

Furthermore, the City of Lubbock hosted a Public Management Day for the Fellows, during which the cohort met City Lubbock Officials and the newly appointed Mayor, Mark McBrayer.

However, the Fellowship extended beyond academic learning. The Mandela Fellows were deeply immersed in the Lubbock community, where they interacted with NGOs such as Breedlove Foods Inc., and participated in community service with organizations such as the South Plains Food Bank and Lubbock Meals on Wheels. Their work with these organizations allowed them to make a tangible impact during their stay, embodying the spirit of service at the heart of the Fellowship.

In recognition of their contributions and the significance of their presence, the Lubbock City Council honored the Fellows by naming them honorary citizens of Lubbock. Their engagement with the city's infrastructure and leadership was further enriched through visits to the Lubbock Courthouse and a ride-along with the Lubbock Police Department, which provided them with a comprehensive view of the city's governance and community dynamics.

As TTU continues to play a pivotal role in this transformative program, the Mandela Washington Fellowship remains a beacon of hope and empowerment, fostering a new generation of leaders poised to make a lasting impact across Africa and the world.



Mandela Washington Fellow with Mayor Mark McBrayer



Mandela Washington Fellows visit to Lubbock Citizens Tower



Mandela Washington Fellows visit to Meals on Wheels



Mandela Washington Fellow LPD ride-along

FROM HERE,  
IT'S POSSIBLE.™

# From Fellowship to Doctoral Pursuit: A Global Leader's Path at Texas Tech

Halkano Hargura  
Ph.D. Candidate | General Curriculum & Instruction  
Northern Kenya (Marsabit)  
Mandela Washington Fellow 2022

The Mandela Washington Fellowship at Texas Tech was a life-changing experience that broadened my educational perspective and deepened my commitment to global impact. Coming from Northern Kenya, where educational resources are scarce, I was awestruck by TTU's expansive campus, advanced facilities, and welcoming community. The Leadership and Management track of the fellowship equipped me with vital skills to lead, inspire, and embrace challenges, solidifying my pursuit of lifelong learning and service.

Under the mentorship of Dr. Hugo Garcia, Associate Professor in the College of Education, I refined my goals and learned to tackle challenges with determination. The guidance and TTU's supportive academic environment confirmed my decision to pursue a Ph.D. in General Curriculum and Instruction at Texas Tech. My path was also shaped by a critical connection with graduate student Michael Okumu, who introduced me to Dr. Faith Maina, a pivotal mentor who has supported my transition into doctoral studies.

My time at TTU is deeply personal. It was inspired by my late mother, whose sacrifices enabled my education and fueled my ambition to be the first in my family to attend university. As a Ph.D. candidate, I am now highly dedicated to advancing educational equity, focusing on inclusive policies in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to empower youth in marginalized communities and equip them with skills for the modern workforce.

Volunteering as an alumnus for this year's Mandela-Washington Fellows program was a fulfilling way to give back and support emerging leaders. I am committed to collaborating with TTU's International Affairs office and staying connected with this network of change-makers. My dream is to inspire future generations, showing that with determination, dreams are achievable—not just for personal growth but for building a better world for all.



Halkano Hargura and spouse, Anna Qabale Duba

*"My dream is to inspire future generations, showing that with determination, dreams are achievable—not just for personal growth but for building a better world for all."*

Halkano Hargura  
Ph.D. Candidate  
General Curriculum & Instruction



# 2024 *Culture* **FEST**

International Week and Culture Fest 2024 held during October 7-12, was a dazzling celebration of cultural diversity, drawing in over 1,200 attendees from across the Texas Tech campus and Lubbock community. This year's festivities showcased an incredible tapestry of global traditions, featuring cuisine, artistic performances, dance, and hands-on crafts. The event kicked off with a vibrant country flag parade, a spectacular display symbolizing the diversity of nations represented at Texas Tech.

International Week and the 2024 Culture Fest continue to highlight the rich, multicultural spirit of our TTU community, fostering understanding and unity while celebrating the global roots that make our community unique.







During International Week, Texas Tech Study Abroad held a special reception celebrating 125 students awarded passports through the Passport Project, an initiative aimed at breaking down barriers to international experiences.



Kicking off International Week was the Faculty and Staff Open House, where attendees enjoyed an impressive array of flavors from 13 local international restaurants. Staff, faculty, and community members were invited to sample dishes from around the globe, fostering cultural exchange and encouraging meaningful dialogue over shared meals.

With over 800 students and 70 academic advisors in attendance, the Study Abroad Fair was an essential stop for students planning their international adventures. Designed to offer guidance, resources, and inspiration, the fair was a testament to Texas Tech's dedication to broadening students' horizons and promoting cross-cultural learning.



Stepping into the Shire  
Jacen Miserak | Waikato, New Zealand

The *Study Abroad and My Hometown* photo exhibit featured an impressive array of talent, with over 120 entries showcasing the unique global and local perspectives of 52 Texas Tech students. Curated by Aaron Hegert, Assistant Professor of Photography at the School of Art, the exhibit provided a captivating glimpse into the students' experiences abroad and their hometown pride. Each photograph offered viewers a window into diverse landscapes, cultures, and personal stories, highlighting the power of photography in bridging worlds and inspiring global curiosity.



Ganesh Idol Artistry  
Aakash Bora | Pune, India





# CENTER FOR GLOBAL COMMUNICATION



Guillermo Barquero Chacón

Texas Tech’s Center for Global Communication and International Research Network hosted a series of workshops that focused on internationalization strategies for faculty and staff. These sessions provided valuable insights and tools to empower faculty and staff to engage with a global audience and enhance international perspectives within their classrooms and research.

During International week the Center for Global Communication presented *A Bold Peace: Costa Rica’s Path of Demilitarization*, a documentary supported by a grant from Humanities Texas. Texas Tech was honored to host Guillermo Barquero Chacón as moderator, a distinguished international consultant and former presidential advisor, who joined the event virtually from Costa Rica. Barquero, who has advised Nobel Laureate Oscar Arias and served on the AFS International Board of Trustees, shared his reflections on Costa Rica’s decision to demilitarize—a bold move that paved the way for peace and prosperity. His engaging Q&A offered attendees a unique perspective on peace, democracy, and the global impact of Costa Rica’s policies.

OCT 11 | 6pm | TTU International Cultural Center

## A BOLD PEACE:

Costa Rica's Path of Demilitarization

ONE NATION'S QUEST TO ABANDON THE FEVER OF WAR.

### A BOLD PEACE

Humanities Texas

**FREE!**

The film documents Costa Rica's approach to improving quality of life by developing educational and social welfare programs since demilitarizing in 1948. The film will be introduced by **Guillermo Barquero** of Costa Rica, a Fulbrighter.

The program is supported by **Humanities Texas**, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in the TTU Global Views Film Series do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**CENTER FOR GLOBAL COMMUNICATION**

TEXAS TECH  
Office of the Provost  
International Affairs

**Global Views Film Series**

601 Indiana Avenue Lubbock, TX 79409 | [CGC@ttu.edu](mailto:CGC@ttu.edu) | 806.834.0573

Sponsored by Humanities Texas

To learn more about the Center for Global Communication,[click here](#).

## International Research Network

TEXAS TECH™



TTU faculty broaden their global perspectives through workshops coordinated by the Center for Global Communication and the International Research Network, equipping them with strategies to internationalize their academic portfolios and enrich student learning.



To learn more about the International Research Network,[click here](#).





# RED RAIDERS IN PARIS MEET OUR 2024 OLYMPIANS



LUDVIG ABERG



TEMITOPE ADESHINA



ANTOINE ANDREWS



JANINE BECKIE



ROSEMARY CHUKWUMA



OSKAR EDLUND



VICTORIA ESSON



ANDREW HUDSON



ALAYSHA JOHNSON



TERRENCE JONES



RUTA LASMANE



COURTNEY LINDSEY



MONAE' NICHOLS



MITO PEREIRA



SHANNON TAN



RUTH USORO

Photos courtesy of TTU Athletics | Graphic by Nicole Martinez



Graphic courtesy of TTU Athletics





# INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

TEXAS TECH  
Office of the Provost

## Thank you for Supporting 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.

### **LET'S STAY CONNECTED!!**

***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.***

Please contact:

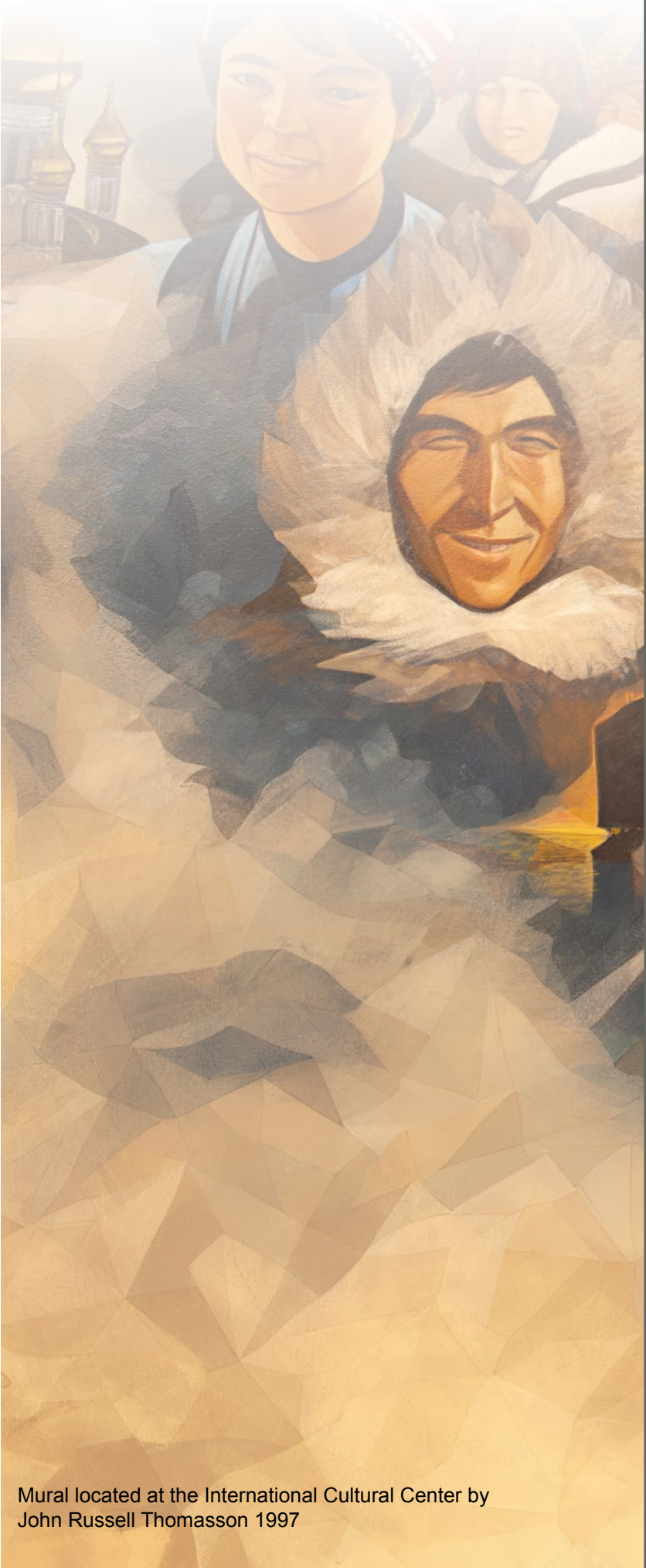
Carolina Arellanos  
Assistant Director International Relations  
[carolina.arellanos@ttu.edu](mailto:carolina.arellanos@ttu.edu)





# INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

TEXAS TECH



Mural located at the International Cultural Center by  
John Russell Thomasson 1997