Operation Broken Silence: Student and Alumnus Feature

From the Director . . .

With this inaugural newsletter, I wish to share some exciting new developments that have occurred within the past year for International Studies.

Under the guidance of the International Studies Advisory Board, which provides advice on strategic direction for our program, Dr. Kelz, Mr. Marczynski and I have undertaken an extensive curriculum review to enhance our structure and offerings. Improvements to the program appear in the new course catalog and additional enhancements are planned for the upcoming year.

During the Spring 2016 semester, we established an International Studies Faculty Affiliate group consisting of 28 faculty members across 9 departments. This new group offers scholars a chance to network with others on campus who are engaged in research and teaching on international topics and world regions. We look forward to hosting events specifically for affiliates in the upcoming year.

Current and prospective majors and minors gathered for pizza luncheons once a semester to learn more about our program, network, and share their ideas for enhancing the major. We have a core group interested in revitalizing Model UN next year; if you are interested in becoming involved, please contact Kate Jenkins – kjnkins@memphis.edu.

With the generous partnership of the Study Abroad Program, the Helen Hardin Honors Program, and Marcus Orr Center for the Humanities, we are able to offer two awards for international research. Check out our award winners in a special feature in this newsletter.

We partnered on three special events this year. On November 7, 2015 we joined several departments across campus to help support the Sierra Club’s annual environmental justice conference. The 2015 theme was entitled “Envisioning a Cleaner, Healthier Environment.” Advisory Board member and Faculty Affiliate, Dr. Nikki Detraz, was a featured speaker on Gender and the Environment. On April 11th, Dr. Kelz coordinated a guest lecture by Dr. Andrea Orzoff of New Mexico State University entitled “Music in Flight: Exiles, Refugees, Fugitives, and the Politics of Music in Latin America.” A few days later we hosted a film screening of “The Lost children of Sudan,” the third documentary of Operation Broken Silence.

Next year we are delighted to be partnering to offer two introductory level international studies courses. A Fresh Connections offering of “Tigers Without Borders” focused on global diversity will connect students through ANTH 1200, HIST 1120, and a 1-credit course on
international studies, which I will teach. We are also partnering with the Honors Program to revitalize UNHP 1102: Global Challenge, an interdisciplinary exploration of economic, human, cultural, and political dimensions of globalization.

Much of what we have accomplished would not have been possible without the support and feedback of our students, faculty affiliates, board members, and most especially Sam Cruze, who spent the last year as a work study student employed by our program. Sam is a dual major in International Studies and Anthropology and an Advisory Board Member, with plans to study abroad in Thailand next year.

In closing, please join me in congratulating Dr. Kelz, our Associate Director, on receiving a full-year Professional Development Award. This award will enable him to conduct archival research in Berlin and Buenos Aires and draft a book manuscript about German-language media in Argentina during the Cold War. Dr. Kelz's advising will be temporarily taken over by Mr. Marczynski.

The New and Improved INTL Studies Web Site

Thanks to Sam Cruze, International Studies major for transforming the International Studies web site. Visit the site at: www.memphis.edu/intl.

Faculty Spotlight: Catherine Phipps

Catherine Phipps is an associate professor in the History Department specializing in modern Japanese history, maritime empires, and historical geography. She earned her Ph.D. at Duke University and teaches courses on Japan and modern East Asia, as well as in comparative and global history. Her first book, *Empires on the Waterfront: Japan's Ports and Power, 1858-1899* was published last spring by the Harvard University Asia Center. In this work she introduces Japan’s special trading ports and analyzes them in conjunction with the better-known treaty ports. Her current research projects examine Japan’s coastal security, policing, smuggling in maritime East Asia, and the historical, material, and cultural impact of Japan’s empire on the port and metropolis of Osaka.

Professor Phipps believes experiencing life in another country is an integral part of education. After spending a term in Osaka as an undergraduate, she knew she would pursue a career with an international bent. After college she lived in Osaka for 3 years before moving to Fukuoka on a Fulbright Fellowship to research her dissertation. She loves to visit Japan as well as traveling to other parts of Asia, Africa, and Europe.