



**Mattie Malone** - graduate, 2018. During her time at SIUE, she was involved in research on the peace process in Northern Ireland. In 2018, she was selected to represent the Council on Foreign Relations, St. Louis Committee, for the Young Leaders Initiative in Washington, D.C.

**Rachel Thurston** - graduate, 2017. During her time at SIUE, she studied abroad in the Czech Republic and was involved in refugee resettlement efforts in our region. She currently serves with AmeriCorps at the International Institute in St. Louis.



**Brooke Allen** - student. She studied abroad in Costa Rica, traveled throughout the Latin American region, and is a member of the Global Ambassadors Program on campus.

**YinZhu Jin** - student. She is of Korean ethnicity and was born in China. In 2012 she moved to the U.S. and in 2014 she joined the U.S. Army. Upon graduation from SIUE, she will commission on active duty with the U.S. Army.



The coordinator for International Studies Day is Dr. Sorin Nastasia, Director of the International Studies Program in the College of Arts and Sciences at SIUE.

Special thanks for making this event possible to:

- Dr. Gregory Budzban, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, SIUE
- Ms. Nancy Wilson and Mr. Graham Flinn, Advisors, College of Arts and Sciences, SIUE
- Event services, catering services, and technical services staff in the Morris University Center at SIUE
- SIUE faculty, staff, and students, and regional community residents, who have helped promote and are attending International Studies Day

International Studies Day is supported with funding from the College of Arts and Sciences Targeted Funding Initiative (TFI).

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# INTERNATIONAL STUDIES DAY



**Friday**  
**April 26, 2019**  
**9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

**PROGRAM**

**Morris University Center**  
**Meridian Ballroom**

## **9:30–10:30 a.m.: Event Participant Networking and International Studies Fair**

A showcase of travel study opportunities provided by SIUE and various international organizations.

### **Opening Remarks**

Dr. Gregory Budzban, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, SIUE

## **10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.: Keynote Address From Soviet Propaganda to the Firehose of Russian Falsehood**

**Scott M. Rauland**, Senior State Advisor, U.S. Department of State; formerly Senior Advisor, U.S. Helsinki Commission and Consul General, U.S. Consulate General in Yekaterinburg, Russia

### **12:15-1:45 p.m.: Panel**

#### **Businesses with an International Focus in Our Region**

- Phillip DeFord, partner, Jobplex/DHR International; board member, World Affairs Council, St. Louis
- Han Ko, Founder and CEO, USAKO Group
- Misiker Manfredo, Seed Health Regulatory Lead, Bayer
- Silvia Torres Bowman, Director, International Trade Center, SIUE

### **2:00-3:45 p.m.: Panel**

#### **Nonprofits with an International Focus in Our Region**

- Ariel Burgess, Vice President of Client Services, International Institute of St. Louis
- Yvonne Foo, OCA Asian Pacific American Advocates
- Dhiraj Kumar, Asha for Education
- Guillermo A. Rodriguez, Secretary, Council on Foreign Relations, St. Louis Committee

### **4:00-5:30 p.m.: Panel**

#### **What I Wish I Knew in College: Lessons from Recent Graduates and Graduating Students**

- Mattie Malone and Rachel Thurston, alumni, International Studies Program, SIUE
- Brooke Allen and YinZhu Jin, students, SIUE INTS



**Dhiraj “Dave” Kumar** is a Technology Executive and Founder of EAIVision LLC, a company that provides software solutions to small and large scale business organizations in finance, banking, airlines, and government across the globe. He has been associated with the St. Louis Chapter of Asha for Education, a nonprofit organization, for over two decades. Asha for Education engages volunteers in our region and internationally in projects dedicated to change in India by focusing on basic education for underprivileged children, in the belief that education is a critical requisite for socio-economic change. An avid runner himself, Dave also leads the Asha Marathon Program.



**Guillermo A. Rodríguez** is the secretary of the Council on Foreign Relations, St. Louis Committee, and volunteers and participates as board member in various professional, service, and civic organizations. Guillermo retired from Webster University in 2017 as Director of International Projects and Study Abroad. In that capacity, he oversaw the Office of Study Abroad of the institution, which assists students in the pursuit of education abroad opportunities. He established exchange agreements with foreign universities, worked with faculty on short term faculty led courses, and coordinated other international projects. A native of Mayagüez, Puerto Rico, Guillermo moved to the St. Louis region in 1994, and holds an MBA and a Bachelor’s in Business Administration degree in Management from Catholic University of Puerto Rico at Ponce. He has three grown daughters and nine grandchildren. He likes baseball, enjoys playing basketball and tennis, relishes music, and is an avid wine aficionado and consultant.

## Speaker Biographies



**Philip DeFord** is a partner in the St. Louis office at Jobplex/DHR International. He has expertise in the sectors of financial services, food/beverage, life sciences, and manufacturing. Within these industries he successfully completes functional assignments for persons in CEO, CFO, President, and top Senior Leadership and Emerging Leadership roles in sales, operations, human resources, and finance. He has significant experience with private equity as well as family-owned and publicly traded companies, and understands the unique nuances of recruiting into each of them. He is involved in a number of civic and professional organizations. He is on the board of the World Affairs Council and the Advisory Board of the Boeing Institute of International Business at the Cook School at St. Louis University. He has an MBA from Stern School at New York University.



**Han Ko** is the President, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of USAKO Group. He earned his graduate degrees in the field of electrical engineering from Washington University in St. Louis. He continued his technical career working with Fortune 500 companies. Based on the experience and passion, he became an independent entrepreneur, and has successfully launched and operated multiple ventures in U.S. and in South Korea in venture investment. His experience includes venture capital in technology and commercial real estate investment, and he also has played various community leadership roles in multiple organizations over the decades, including: the Asian American Chamber of Commerce in St. Louis, OCA Asian Pacific American Advocates, and Gateway Korea Foundation.



**Misiker Mandefro** is currently the Seed Health Regulatory Lead at Bayer based in St. Louis. Misiker has spent over 12 years with the company and has held various roles in the Trait Integration, Breeding, and Supply Chain organizations at various locations. Specifically, his previous functions included Global Breeding Seed Movement Manager, Laboratory Operations Supervisor, as well as research associate

and assistant. Misiker is also an active member of ARISE leadership team for the Bayer Business Resource Group for African Descent Employees which focuses on attracting, developing, and retaining diverse talent, while engaging in the St. Louis area community through service and outreach.



**Susan Spitz** is the International Business Development Specialist with the World Trade Center St Louis, assisting businesses with their international expansion, and managing affiliate membership. Prior to this role, she spent 10 years as a business coach. She has worked in a variety of industries, with roles in sales, marketing, training, entrepreneurship, career transition assistance, and intercultural relations. Susan holds a B.A. in French and Business from University of Massachusetts at Amherst and an M.A. in Intercultural Training & Consulting from Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In her spare time, she volunteers with two organizations - one that supports international graduate students and their families, and another that works with refugees and immigrants. In 2014, Susan founded a small ice cream business which featured international flavors, called One World Ice Cream.



**Silvia Torres** is the Director of the International Trade Center at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, managing a program of export consulting and training in international business planning, marketing, logistics, and trade finance. She provides assistance to small and medium-sized businesses in central and southwest Illinois that are interested in establishing or expanding their international trade opportunities. During the last few years, she has assisted clients in the generation of approximately \$500 million in export sales and has collaborated with several winners of the Governor's Export Award Programs as well as the President's "E" Award. She has over twenty years of international business experience, both in the public and private sectors. Previously, she worked in international sales for a major manufacturer of food industrial equipment. She was born and raised in Lima, Perú. She holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Webster University and is a Certified Global Business Professional.



## Speaker Biographies



**Ariel Burgess** is the Vice President of Client Services at the International Institute in St. Louis. She oversees the refugee resettlement and immigration services. The International Institute is St. Louis' welcoming center for new Americans, with the mission to help immigrants and their families become productive Americans

and champion ethnic diversity as a cultural and economic strength. Ariel started working at the International Institute in 2000 when the Bosnian resettlement program became active. In her 19 years with the agency, she and her staff have increased the diversity among refugees to St. Louis, resettling Ukrainians, Afghans, Vietnamese, Congolese, Somali, Eritreans, Bhutanese, Burmese and many others. In addition to refugee resettlement, she oversees the International Institute's immigration services and health insurance department. Ariel is a licensed social worker with previous experience in both the medical and mental health fields.



**Yvonne Foo** is an IT professional residing in the St. Louis area and specializing in cloud computing, cyber security, project management, and social media strategy. She received her MBA from Lindenwood University in St. Louis. Because of her strong support for OCA Asian Pacific American Advocates and the regional community, in

such areas as fundraising and event organizing, she has been recently awarded the prestigious Community Service Award of OCA Asian Pacific American Advocates. She enjoys running and has completed several marathons. She is also an ardent pet photographer and her photographs have been published in several lead magazines nationwide.

## Keynote Speaker



**Scott Rauland**, a Senior Advisor at the U.S. Department of State, is a member of the Senior Foreign Service who has spent much of his 27-year career as a diplomat working in the former USSR. His first taste of the Foreign Service came in 1988, when he served as a U.S. Information Agency exhibit guide in the USSR on an exhibit entitled "Information Technology in the U.S." He joined

the U.S. Information Agency (USIA) in 1993 and was assigned to Baku, Azerbaijan, and followed that assignment with tours in Berlin, Germany, and Islamabad, Pakistan. After USIA merged with the U.S. Department of State in 1999, Scott served as Public Affairs Officer in Quito, Ecuador; Frankfurt, Germany; Kabul, Afghanistan; and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Leadership positions have included Consul General at the U.S. Consulate General in Yekaterinburg, Russia, as well as chargé d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Minsk, Belarus. Most recently, he worked on Capitol Hill for the U.S. Helsinki Commission, where amongst other things he helped arrange a Congressional hearing on Russian Disinformation.

Scott hails from Wisconsin, studied for his BA in European History at the University of Chicago, and obtained an MA in Russian Language and Literature at Ohio State University. He is married and the father of two children who live in Denver, Colorado and Hong Kong.