

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES DAY

6th edition



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. Kevin Leonard, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, SIUE
- Dr. Tisha Brooks and Dr. Vance McCracken, Associate Deans in the College of Arts and Sciences at SIUE
- Mr. Brian Hinterscher, Director of Advising, College of Arts and Sciences, SIUE
- Ms. Nancy Wilson, Advisor, 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, as well as 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.

Connect with us at:

<http://www.siu.edu/artsandsciences/internationalstudies>



Friday
April 21, 2023
9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

PROGRAM

Morris University Center
Mississippi-Illinois Rooms

Opening Remarks

Dr. Vance McCracken, Associate Dean,
College of Arts and Sciences, SIUE

9:30 - 10:45 a.m.

Zaw Tu Hkawng

*Beyond the Coup - Myanmar's Political
Context and Diaspora Activities*

11:00 a.m. -12:15 p.m.

**Panel: *Organizations with an International
Focus in Our Region***

- Chris Green, CEO, Meds and Food for Kids
- Karyn Williams, Director of Communication and Partnerships, Ten By Three
- Seth George, Strategic Administrator, World Affairs Council of Saint Louis
- Peter Tao, Board Member, OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates, Saint Louis Chapter

12:30 - 1:45 p.m.

Ksenia Turkova

*War and Propaganda - Russia's Narrative
about the Invasion of Ukraine*

2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Paul Diehl

The World in 2050: An Optimistic Assessment

3:45 - 5:00 p.m.

**International Studies Program Senior
Assignment Presentation**

International Studies Program Senior Assignment Presentation

International Studies majors finalizing their capstone experience will discuss the process of completing their projects and the outcomes of their projects.

Arkia Cannon, "Human Trafficking on a Global Scale"

Tamara Ewing, "Bangladesh Garment Industry"

Dalton Hodge, "Effects of Brexit on U.K. Economy and Policy"

International Studies at SIUE is an interdisciplinary degree program designed to help students reflect on and engage in the complex social, political, economic, and cultural interrelations that exist among nations and regions of our increasingly globalized world. The program offers a broad range of curricular options in the College of Arts and Sciences, allowing students to explore, in regards to various peoples and across populations, aspects related to geography, history, religion, government, trade, communication, languages and literatures, music and arts, social justice and environmental challenges. Students in the program have opportunities to learn critical and analytical problem-solving skills that they can apply to contemporary global issues.

The program benefits from:

- An outstanding set of cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary core and elective courses
- A focus on combining the theoretical learning about social, political, economic and cultural developments in different world regions with hands-on applications of such knowledge by means of a foreign language requirement, a study abroad component, a senior assignment experience, as well as possibilities of internships and independent projects
- Various opportunities to tap into existing and emerging groups and networks on the SIUE campus, regionally, nationally and internationally.
- Graduates with a bachelor's degree in international studies are qualified for many positions in diplomacy or with nonprofits, governmental and international organizations, and businesses.

Panel Participants



Chris Greene is the CEO of the international nonprofit organization / NGO Meds & Food For Kids. Founded in 2003, this organization based in Saint Louis operates a factory in Cap Haitien, Haiti, that produces lifesaving Ready-To-Use-Therapeutic-Foods [RUTF] and supplements that can treat malnourished children and pregnant and nursing women and is sent to 18 countries. Operated and managed by 88 Haitians and using locally grown peanuts from small plot Haitian farmers, the factory produces about 400 metric tons of RUTF annually that is distributed in Haiti and 17 additional countries in partnership with UNICEF and the World Food Program. Mr. Greene previously served as Chief Operating Officer of Meds & Food For Kids before being selected as CEO in June 2022.



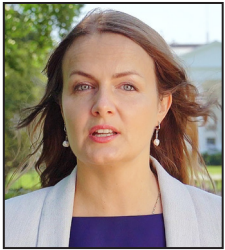
Karyn Williams is the Director of Communications & Partnerships of Ten By Three. Her past experience is an integral part of why she works for this amazing organization today. She spent more than a decade covering enterprises similar to Ten By Three at local publications Ladue News and Town & Style. After ending her tenure as Editor in Chief of Town & Style, she became Senior Copywriter at a large digital marketing agency, where she focused on the creative challenge of building effective brand strategies. Ten By Three puts power in the hands of the poor. The nonprofit has worked for nearly two decades to significantly reduce extreme poverty in developing countries by paying artisans fairly for their handmade products, following the financial model of Prosperity Wages. When Ten By Three purchases 10 products from an artisan every month, they are eventually able to start three businesses of their own, resulting in generational wealth and a sustainable exit from poverty.



Seth George serves as the Strategic Administrator at the World Affairs Council of Saint Louis with an interest in cultural exchanges, youth activism, and sustainability. Originally from the Philippines, Seth has lived in the Saint Louis region for over 20 years. He has been involved with AFS Intercultural Programs serving as a student ambassador in Denmark for a year, host brother to three, volunteer, and mentor to exchange students for nearly ten years. Seth currently serves on Earthday365's Young Friends Board. The World Affairs Council of Saint Louis is a non-profit, non-partisan membership organization that connects the citizens of the Saint Louis Metro region to the world. Founded in 1948, our mission is to offer programs which promote understanding, engagement, relationships, and leadership in World Affairs.



Peter Tao is the Founder and Principal of TAO + LEE Associates. An architect by profession, Peter Tao has been recognized as a community leader, organizer, connector, supporter, and storyteller, being deeply engaged with the Saint Louis community at large and the AAPI community, with particular focus in the interest areas of immigration, refugees, multiculturalism, diversity and inclusion, the arts, and community engagement. He currently serves on the Board of the OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates Saint Louis, the Steering Committee of the Saint Louis Mosaic Project, and as the Volunteer Chair of the Chinese American Community Advisory Group of the Missouri Historical Society. He formerly served on the Boards of the International Institute of Saint Louis and the Asian American Chamber of Commerce and was an executive producer of the documentary film, DAY ONE, about the Nahed Chapman New American Academy, a Saint Louis Public school serving newcomer refugee and immigrant students.



Ksenia Turkova is a journalist for Voice of America and has had over 20 years of experience at Russian and Ukrainian news outlets. She is also a linguist with a doctorate in Philology, has been a guest lecturer at multiple U.S. universities and was a professor at Moscow University. Her 2017 book, *No-Stress Russian*, focused on making the language accessible to novice language learners. She is the author of a number of articles about how current events affect speech. Ksenia Turkova is a member of the Expert Committee of the “Word of the Year” contest.

War and Propaganda: Russia’s Narratives about the Invasion of Ukraine

Ksenia Turkova compares the main narratives of Russian propaganda in regards to Ukraine from the early 2000s to the present day. Her presentation showcases how Russian propaganda has used misinformation and hate speech in claiming that Ukrainian leaders are backed up by Western forces and Ukrainian activists are corrupt. The presentation also discusses how Russian public figures and journalists opposing the regime in Russia have been declared “foreign agents,” so publications had to close and many journalists have been forced to move abroad.

Zaw Tu Hkawng is the founder of “Through the Eyes of Agony,” an art program for displaced children from Myanmar. He also provided special assistance to Myanmar refugees in Malaysia and helped rehabilitate drug users in Myanmar. He was a project coordinator for BBC Media Action Myanmar and is currently a member of the alumni board for the John McCain Global Leaders Program in Washington, D.C.



Beyond the Coup: Myanmar’s Political Context and Diaspora Activities

The recent military coup in Myanmar has drawn international attention to the nation’s regime once again. Its gross human rights violations should not be allowed to happen with impunity. Myanmar’s military generals are cheering leaders of genocide. Hundreds of air attacks have hit villages where civilians live since 2021. The military junta has jailed tens of thousands of dissidents. Zaw Tu Hkawng will also discuss his personal experiences, such as the military shooting young peaceful protestors and collaborating to improve the lives of displaced children from Myanmar.



Paul Diehl, a scholar in international relations, is the Henning Larsen Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the Ashbel Smith Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Texas-Dallas. He previously was an Associate Provost and Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of Texas-Dallas. He served as Director of the Correlates of War Project, the largest data collection effort on international conflict in the world. He received his Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of Michigan in 1983.

Some of his books include *When Peacekeeping Missions Collide* (Oxford University Press, 2023), *International Conflict Management* (Polity Press, 2019), *The Puzzle of Peace* (Oxford University Press, 2016), *International Mediation* (Polity Press, 2012), *The Dynamics of International Law* (Cambridge University Press, 2010), *Evaluating Peace Operations* (Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2010), *Peace Operations* (Polity Press, 2008), *The Scourge of War* (University of Michigan Press, 2004), *War and Peace in International Rivalry* (University of Michigan Press, 2000), and *A Road Map to War: Territorial Dimensions of International Conflict* (Vanderbilt University Press, 1999).

He is the recipient of numerous grants and awards including from the National Science Foundation, United States Institute of Peace, and the Lilly Foundation. He is past President of the Peace Science Society (International) and past president of the International Studies Association. His areas of expertise include causes of war, UN peacekeeping, and international law.

The World in 2050: An Optimistic Assessment

The news and social media commentaries are filled with doom and gloom about the future: climate change, war, the rise of China, and democratic backsliding to name but a few topics. Is the future for the current generation of university students really that bleak? Dr. Paul Diehl’s presentation examines some of these claims, and looks at what the world might look like at mid-century (2050). Although not downplaying the challenges that the world faces, there is reason to think that prospective problems might not come to fruition in ways that are as bad as predicted, and there is reason for optimism on other fronts.