

# 2016 Director's Report

Dr. Robert Cox, Director of Walker Institute



**T**he Walker Institute experienced many dramatic changes during 2016. Most notable of these was the introduction of a new undergraduate degree called Global Studies, which subsumes the majors in European and Latin American Studies. Global Studies was formally approved in June, and by November more than forty students had declared it as their major. We are now developing many activities to support the program and its new students. More details about this are described later in this letter.

Unfortunately, the launch of the Global Studies degree coincided with the announcement of dramatic budget retrenchment in the College of Arts and Sciences. The budget constraints dampened some of our activities. For example, we were forced to combine some of our area studies programs under a single faculty director. As a result, we have three area studies directors this year who are: Krista Van Fleit Hang, Department of Literatures, Languages, and Cultures, who is in charge of Asian Studies and Islamic World Studies; Matt Childs, Department of History, who is in charge of Latin American Studies and African Studies, and Doyle Stevick, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, who is directing European Studies and Russian and Eurasian Studies.

For the coming year, our focus will be to continue expanding our research activities, consolidating and recruiting for the Global Studies degree, and contemplating how the budget challenges can be molded into an opportunity to rededicate our resources to new areas of innovation. We anticipate big changes to the Walker Institute during the coming year. The following is a listing of

some of our specific accomplishments.

## **Programming that Enriches the International Experience on Campus**

The core objective of the Walker Institute is to provide international enrichment. In 2016, the Walker Institute sponsored or co-sponsored 46 guest visitors and events to campus. These visits ranged across the curriculum, and included social scientists, poets, film makers and musicians. A full listing is available on the calendar section of the Walker Institute web page.

Events, Workshops, Conferences and Symposia:

- *Film Screening of Refugee University: Displaced People from the Baltic States & Their Creation of the Baltic University in Hamburg, 1946-1949*
- *Spring 2016 Colloquium Series-No Limits!*
- *Love Entered that One, in the Beginning*
- *The Syrian Refugee Crisis: A Nordic Perspective*
- *My Name is Rachel Corrie Performance*
- *Gender and Material Culture*
- *Capoeira Charleston Workshop*
- *In the Wild East: Putin's Russia and the Fate of Ukraine*
- *Anti-Racism in Cuba: The Unfinished Revolution*
- *City of Marvel and Transformation*
- *The Past and Future of U.S.-Cuban Relations*
- *Support the Internet Freedom in Asia*
- *Nonviolent Politics and Songs: A Baltic Case Study*
- *Lecture Series: Suvankar Mishra-CEO of Ektur*
- *Monastic Life in Market-Economy Vietnam*
- *A Black Girl's Education: The Origins of Republican Motherhood in Cordoba, Argentina*
- *Varieties of Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe: Pre-1940 and Post-1990*
- *Shariah: Is It Really Such a Threat?*

- *Russian and Jewish Songs Concert*
- *Chenchen Extremism and How it Can Affect the United States*
- *Tuning up Asia Pacific Regional Economic Integration*
- *Islamophobia Panel Discussion*
- *The Goldberg Condition: A Forgotten Media Innovator*
- *Cuba and its Exile: Political Generations*
- *The Eye that Cries: Memory Struggles in Post Conflict Peru*
- *Gussmosis: Contemporary Street Art in Costa Rica*
- *Of Graphs, Maps, and 30,000 Muslims*
- *Images of Arabs and Muslims in American Popular Culture*
- *Faculty Lead Student Group from Baroda University in Gujarat India*
- *A Black Girl's World: Composing the Self in Haiti*
- *Racing Genre*

The Walker Institute provided support to other international programming:

- Guest: Janet Fuller, Professor-Southern Illinois University, Linguistics Program, Spanish Graduate Program Research Lectures Series, International House at Maxcy College and Department of Anthropology
- Guest: William K. Mahony, Professor of Religion-Davidson College, Department of Religious Studies
- Guest: Edda Jonsdottir, Leadership Coach at Edda Coaching-Norway, Preston Residential College
- Guest: Ashley Malloy, Performer, Students for Justice in Palestine
- Guest: Asle Toje, Research Director-Norwegian Nobel Institute, International House at Maxcy College
- Guest: Devyn Spence Benson, Africana Studies-Williams College, The Office of the Provost, Department of History, African American Studies, Institute for African American Research, The History Center
- Guest: Raul Rodriguez, Professor-University of Havana, Global Carolina
- Guest: Buntis Smidchens, Associate Professor of Baltic Studies, Head of the Baltic Studies Program, Kazickas Family Endowed Professor in Baltic Studies at the University of Washington, School of Music
- Guest: Suvankar Mishra-CEO of Ekutir, Health Promotion Education & Behavior Department
- Guest: Erika Edwards, Assistant Professor of Colonial Latin American, Department of History-University of North Carolina Charlotte, The Office of the Provost, Department of History, African American Studies, Institute of African Research, The History Center
- Guest: Shaykh Dr. Muhammad bin Yahya al-Husayni al-Ninowy, Senior scholar in residence, Madina Institute and Masjid in Atlanta; Dr. Waleed El-Ansary, Chair in Islamic Studies, Department of Theology-Xavier University, The Peace and Integration Council of North America, Department of Religious Studies
- Guest: Psoy Korolenko-Russian Song-writer and Performer, Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, Jewish Studies Program
- Guest: Craig Douglas-Assistant Professor-Augusta University, Languages Literatures and Cultures, The International House at Maxcy College
- Guest: Linjun Wu, Research Fellow-National Chengchi University of Taipei, Taiwan, TECO
- Guest: Byron McCane, Jedidiah Anderson of Wofford College, Dr. James Thomas, Lutheran Southern Seminary-Columbia, Carolina Peace Resource Center
- Guest: Kerstin Stutterheim, Filmmaker and Scholar-Bournemouth University, Film and Media Studies, The School of Visual Art and Design, Carolina International House at Maxcy College, Jewish Studies and German Studies
- Guest: Silvia Pedraza, Professor of Sociology-University of Michigan, Arnold School of Public Health
- Guest: Miguel La Serna, UNC-Chapel Hill, Provost Visiting Scholar Program, History Department
- Guest: Gustavo Calderon-Street Artist of Costa Rica, The International House at Maxcy College
- Guest: Maxim Romanov, Research Fellow-Universitat Leipzig, Center for Digital Humanities
- International Education Week 2016: Guest: Jack Shaheen, Visiting Scholar at New York University, Global Carolina, Department of Religious Studies and Film and Media Studies Program
- Guest: Lauren Eldridge-Spelman College, School of Music and African American Studies Program
- Guest: Astrid Sy, Anne Frank Workshop, University 101 and School of Education
- China Beyond East & West Workshop, Chian Ching-huo Foundation
- 2016 Comparative Literature Annual Conference, Department of *Languages, Literatures and Cultures*

- 24th Annual Taiwan Conference on Taiwan Studies, TECO
- The 6th Conference on Immigration to the US South, Office of the Provost for Research, Arnold School of Public Health, College of Social Work

## Supporting the Research Activities of Faculty and Students

A second major objective of the Walker Institute is to support international research on campus. Though the budget forced a reduction in the scope of the faculty grant program, we were able to provide some support to faculty and students.

Faculty and Student Grants were awarded totaling \$68,236.

- 20 students received awards for a total of \$49,073.
- 11 faculty received awards for a total of \$19,163.
- \$70,818 was award to support other events, workshops and symposia.

Grants and Contracts this year totaled \$52,958.

- The Asian Studies program was awarded \$42,000 by the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) to organize a conference in September 2016. Director Robert Cox has applied for funding to support another conference in 2017.
- Walker Institute received \$2,000 for the 2017 AACSB Conference.
- The Asian Studies Program was Awarded \$8,000 by the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange (USA) for the Chinese and Middle Eastern Crossings Workshop.
- Walker Institute was awarded \$958.28 from Wake Forest University for Visiting Fellow Linjun Wu.

Publications

- American Journal of Chinese Studies: A Multidisciplinary Journal Published by the American Association for Chinese Studies, Volume 23, July 2016 Special Issue I
- Governance Journal: Robert Cox continued as co-editor of Governance. In June 2016, Governance was ranked #2 by impact factor in Public Administration, and #5 in Political Science. It is the only journal in the world that is ranked in the top five in both fields. This ranking is published annually by Journal Citation Reports.


## Support and Promote Global and Area Studies

- Launch of the new Global Studies major was the most important new initiative this year. The major represents an attempt to revitalize and invigorate area studies education. The degree is designed to help students realize three goals: proficiency in a foreign language, expertise in a global issue, and deep knowledge of a world region. As we expected, the degree is proving popular among students, attracting more than forty declared majors to date.
- Global Café is a new, monthly series that provides students with information about international careers, important global trends and other topics relevant to help students prepare to become global professionals. This program is managed by the Walker Institute's Associate Director, Professor Saskia Coenen Snyder.
- New Concentration on Leadership in the Global Economy. During the Fall of 2016, we submitted a proposal to add a concentration to the Global Studies degree that focuses primarily on global leadership and the global economy. Working with Associate Provost Allen Miller, the degree will help with the recruiting of international students to the USC campus. We expect the new concentration to be approved for Fall 2017. The concentration is directed by Professor Agnes Mueller.
- Each of the Area Studies program maintains an active schedule of programming that integrates students and faculty from across campus. The Walker Institute provides administrative and staff support to each of these

## Maintain Strong Relations with Community Partners

The Walker Institute has always been highly visible in Columbia and the Midlands Region, and programming done in conjunction with our community partners allows us to fulfill the University's mission to serve as a community resource. Details about these activities are enumerated in the memo on outreach activities.

- The Palmetto Forum remains the signature program of outreach for the Walker Institute. We organized another strong year of programming that featured eight USC faculty, showcasing their research for an audience of community leaders. This event takes



place the first Wednesday of each month at the Palmetto Club

- We organized several programs with the Columbia World Affairs Council, and Professor Cox serves on their Board of Advisors.
- We organized three programs together with the Atlantic Institute and Professor Cox serves on their Board.

### **Goals for 2017**

- Expand the advertising and recruitment campaign for the Global Studies degree. We will work with the office of admissions and the international accelerator program to bring the new degree to the attention of prospective students.
- Organize the 2017 conference of the American Association of China Studies. We will support Professor John Hsieh, who is the incoming president of AACCS, and the program chair for this professional association's annual conference. We anticipate 120 attendees to the conference.
- Host the 25th Annual Taiwan Conference. 2017 will mark a significant milestone in the history of this conference that brings together established and younger scholars of Taiwan and East Asia.
- Maintain our on-campus and outreach programming.
- Launch an alumni newsletter.