HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BUSH SCHOOL’S GLOBAL REACH

Since its founding, Bush School students, faculty, and staff have had an international impact through internships, study abroad and language immersion programs, capstone projects, conferences, and other research endeavors. During the summer of 2015, Bush School students could be found in twenty-one countries outside the US, including Argentina, Belgium, China, Costa Rica, Jordan, Morocco, and Russia. Internationally, students served in internships with the US Department of State (including embassies in Peru, Singapore, and China), US European Command, and the US Commercial Service, among many others. Domestically, Bush School students could be found within a variety of organizations, including the US Senate, US Department of Energy, US Drug Enforcement Agency, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and nonprofits such as the Bush School Literacy Foundation and the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute.

“Having this kind of real-world experience while in school significantly enhances our students’ education, said Dr. Arnold Vedelitz. “They see how government and nonprofit organizations operate and how it relates to their career choices. We’re grateful to the many organizations that provide this opportunity to our students.”

Bush School students seeking to learn new languages found opportunities to study through language immersions around the globe, including programs in China, France, Germany, Korea, Russia, and Spain. Popular languages for study included Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, Russian, and Spanish. The School provided a combined total of $214,500 in additional internship and language immersion funding to assist students completing unpaid internships and immersions.

This past year, Bush School faculty and students could also be found conducting research in international locations. A team of students took part in two months of intensive field research for a study conducted by Dr. Jessica Gottlieb in Senegal focusing on how local elites influence voter behavior. Other recent research has included work for Robert Bosch Stiftung, which culminated in a trip to Germany, where students, led by Dr. Gabriela Thornton, presented their findings on trilateral relations among the US, Germany, and China.

During the summer of 2015, in order to highlight the many ways the School is having a global impact, the Bush School’s Student and Career Services and the Office of Communications and External Relations launched the #BushGoesGlobal social media initiative. The purpose of the initiative, which will continue through the 2015-2016 academic year, is to showcase, share, and collect data on the activities of students, faculty, and staff both at home and abroad. Members of the Bush School community participate in the social media initiative by posting pictures of themselves in their various locations on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram using the hashtag #BushGoesGlobal. The initiative will culminate with an interactive map on the Bush School’s website that will feature photographs and information on the locations visited by Bush School students and faculty throughout the campaign.

Hudson selected as Carnegie fellow

Dr. Valerie Hudson, professor at the Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University, has received a 2015 Andrew Carnegie Fellowship. Hudson, who holds the George H. W. Bush Chair, is one of 32 fellowship winners chosen from 301 nominations and the only one from a Texas university. Hudson is part of the inaugural class of a major annual fellowship program from Carnegie Corporation that will provide support for scholars in the social sciences and humanities. Designed to enable scholars to devote between one and two years to research and writing, the program will provide up to $200,000 to each recipient. The overarching theme for the 2015 fellowship program is Current and Future Challenges to US Democracy and International Order. Winning proposals addressed issues that included policing and race, big data and privacy, the impact of an aging population, the safety of generic drugs, and how attitudes are formed among voters.

The Carnegie award is the result of Hudson’s study of how the status of women within a state’s social system affects its governance, security, and stability. Her research has shown that marriage customs and the way households are created are the organizing principles of a society, and as such they affect all other elements of a society and the degree to which its politics and economies are stable and resilient. An expert on international security and foreign policy analysis, Hudson was named one of the top 100 Most Influential Global Thinkers by Foreign Policy magazine in 2009. She developed a nation-by-nation database on women, The WomanStats Project.

“I greatly appreciate the support that will enable me to further what I hope will be seen as path-breaking research linking the security and status of women to national-level outcomes in stability, security, and governance,” Hudson said. Bush School Dean Ryan Crocker, who nominated Hudson for the fellowship, noted that she has a well-deserved international reputation for innovative and relevant research.

“The Carnegie Fellowship is yet another recognition of the impact Dr. Hudson’s work has on important policy deliberations,” Crocker said. “We are delighted to have the university’s first Carnegie Fellow on our faculty.”

Dr. Valerie Hudson, 2015 Andrew Carnegie Fellow

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DEAN’S MESSAGE

This fall marks the beginning of what promises to be another exciting year at the Bush School. During the summer, many of our students have been engaged in internships here in the US and abroad. Others have chosen to increase their facility in a foreign language through a language immersion program or to engage in research programs across the globe. Bush School students were in twenty-one countries this summer. These activities further enrich their academic experience and provide insights into the world they will enter upon graduation.

I am happy to report that the Bush School continues to grow, not only in numbers but also in reputation and influence. In the past year, our students have received prestigious fellowships and academic awards, and the scholarly research conducted by our distinguished faculty and research institutes has been incorporated into public policy on significant issues facing the state and nation. Increasingly, our alumni can be found in key positions at various levels of government and nonprofit management. It is clear that members of the Bush School community are making a significant impact at all levels, from local government to the international stage.

Again this fall, we have a record number of students enrolled, a diverse group from various backgrounds and countries around the world. This growth is due in no small part to our distinguished faculty, who continue to be sought after for their expertise and academic scholarship. We are especially pleased to welcome Michael K. Young, the new president of Texas A&M University, as a member of our faculty. President Young’s years of teaching and researching international law and human rights, as well as his broad experience in higher education, will bring a new perspective to the School.

The nation and the world are in desperate need of the kind of leaders the Bush School produces. The problems we face are complex and require men and women with not only the skills and abilities to tackle these problems but also the character and principles to lead in times of uncertainty. Students leave the Bush School well prepared for careers in public service after taking part in competitive internships in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors; rigorous capstones with real-world clients; and a rich classroom experience focused on critical thinking. The success former students achieve in their careers is further proof of both the quality of students our school attracts and the quality of education they receive while here.

I am confident that by building on our past successes and planning carefully and creatively for the future, the School’s best years are ahead of us. In everything we do we are guided by the legacy of our namesake, President George H. W. Bush, and his belief that public service is a noble calling. I eagerly look forward to what the future holds for a school that continues to produce remarkable leaders and scholars in public service.5

LAYNE ELECTED TO INTERNATIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP POSITION

Dr. Layne’s election to the ISSS Governing Council is another tribute to his important contributions to the scholarly debate on international relations and American foreign policy, and we congratulate him on this latest recognition of his leadership in the field.”

Dr. Christopher Layne, University Distinguished Professor of International Affairs and Robert M. Gates Chair in National Security, at the Bush School of Government and Public Service, has been elected to the Governing Council of the International Studies Association’s (ISA) International Security Studies Section. Professor Layne began his three-year term in February during the Association’s Annual Convention in New Orleans.

The International Security Studies Section (ISSS) of ISA is dedicated to the study of security and conflict and has been the premier organization for connecting scholars and practitioners in international studies. With well over six thousand members in North America and around the world, ISA is the most respected and widely known scholarly association in this field. ISA cooperates with fifty-seven international studies organizations in over thirty countries, is a member of the International Social Science Council, and enjoys nongovernmental consultative status with the United Nations.

A prolific author, Layne’s most current book project, After the Fall: International Politics, U.S. Grand Strategy, and the End of the Pax Americana, will be published by Yale University Press. He is a frequent contributor to a number of scholarly and policy journals as well as to publications such as The Atlantic and The New Republic, and major newspapers such as the New York Times and the Washington Post. Layne is a consultant to the National Intelligence Council and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. In May and June 2014, he was a Visiting Fellow at the Norwegian Nobel Institute in Oslo.

“Dr. Layne’s election to the ISSS Governing Council is another tribute to his important contributions to the scholarly debate on international relations and American foreign policy, and we congratulate him on this latest recognition of his leadership in the field.” said Bush School Dean Ryan Crocker.6
CORTES NAMED FACULTY RESEARCH FELLOW AT THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH

Dr. Kalena Cortes, assistant professor at the Bush School of Government and Public Service, has been appointed as a Faculty Research Fellow in the National Bureau of Economic Research's (NBER) Program on Education. Cortes joins more than 1,300 professors of economics and business now teaching at colleges and universities in North America who are NBER researchers, and who are considered the leading scholars in their fields.

The NBER is the nation’s leading nonprofit economic research organization, and works to promote a greater understanding of how the economy works by conducting and disseminating unbiased economic research among public policy makers, business professionals, and the academic community. Twenty-four Nobel Prize winners in Economics and thirteen past chairs of the President’s Council of Economic Advisers have been researchers at the NBER.

NBER researchers focus on four types of empirical research: developing new statistical measurements, estimating quantitative models of economic behavior, assessing the economic effects of public policies, and projecting the effects of alternative policy proposals. Cortes has published extensively in the areas of the economics of education and economic demography. Her research focuses on policies relating to curriculum reform, diversity in higher education, post-secondary returns to education, and educational achievement of immigrant children in the United States. "Dr. Cortes' work has particular policy significance in terms of increasing student success, especially in math and science," said Dr. Arnold Vedlitz, Executive Associate Dean of the Bush School. "These are important findings for educators and others who look for innovative approaches in secondary education."

In addition to her NBER appointment, Dr. Cortes was also the recipient of the prestigious Musgrave Prize for her paper “Ranking Up by Moving Out: The Effect of the Texas Top 10% Plan on Property Values.” The Musgrave Prize is awarded each year for the best article published in the National Tax Journal (NTJ).

Bowman joins a prominent scholars, business executives, governors, mayors and state legislators, as well as former cabinet officers, members of Congress, and thirteen past chairs of the President’s Council of Economic Advisers have been researchers at the NBER.

The winners are selected by NTJ Editorial Advisory Board members, who choose the article that best exemplifies the attributes of Richard Musgrave’s research—strong analytical underpinnings, rigorous argument buttressed by solid empirical evidence, respect for the importance of historical and institutional factors, and relevance for public policy.

Prior to joining the Bush School, Dr. Cortes taught at the School of Education at Syracuse University. She holds a PhD in economics from the University of California at Berkeley, is a Research Fellow at the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), and has been a visiting scholar at both Stanford and Harvard University’s Graduate School of Education, the National Bureau of Economic Research, and Princeton University.*

BOWMAN INDUCTED AS NATIONAL ACADEMY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION FELLOW

Dr. Ann Bowman, a professor at the Bush School of Government and Public Service, was inducted as a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) at the organization’s meeting in Washington, DC.

Bowman is a professor in the Department of Public Service and Administration and holds the Hazel Davis and Robert Kennedy Endowed Chair in Government and Public Service at the Bush School.

NAPA is an independent, nonprofit, and nonpartisan organization charted by Congress in 1967 to assist government leaders in building more effective, efficient, accountable and transparent organizations. Bowman joins an elite group of some 800 other fellows, including former cabinet officers, members of Congress, governors, mayors and state legislators, as well as prominent scholars, business executives, and public administrators. The academy helps the federal government address its critical management challenges through in-depth studies and analyses, advisory services and technical assistance, congressional testimony, forums and conferences.

Bowman joined the Bush School faculty in 2008, coming from the University of South Carolina, where she was the James F. and Maude B. Byrnes Professor of Government. She has published articles in various scholarly journals. Her most recent book, co-authored with Richard C. Kearney, is the ninth edition of State and Local Government, published by Wadsworth.

Bowman was president of three organized sections of the American Society for Public Administration and has been president of the Southern Political Science Association. She became president of the Southern Political Science Association in 2015. "Being chosen a NAPA Fellow is a career milestone," Bowman said. "NAPA casts a long shadow in the public sector; the academy’s studies of the federal system have led to important changes in agency structure and program design. I look forward to participating in subsequent NAPA studies, especially those with a state and local government focus."*

Her latest research explores interactions among governments, particularly interstate cooperation and competition, and state actions toward local governments. A Fulbright scholar, Bowman has won the Donald C. Stone Award for Research, given by the Section on Intergovernmental Administration and Management of the American Society for Public Administration and has been president of three organized sections of the American Political Science Association.

"Dr. Bowman’s selection as a NAPA Fellow recognizes and honors her significant contributions to the field of public policy and administration," Vedlitz said. "Her research and extensive publication record have had a major effect on state-level public policy development in the areas of environment, economic development, land use, and intergovernmental relations."

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* Dr. Kalena Cortes

** Dr. Ann Bowman
SHIRFINSON APPOINTED AS FOREIGN POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY FELLOW

Dr. Joshua Shifrinson, assistant professor at the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University, has been named a US Foreign Policy and International Security Fellow by the John Sloan Dickey Center for International Understanding at Dartmouth College. As a Fellow, Shifrinson will spend up to one year in residence at Dartmouth focusing on international issues related to the Dickey Center's research emphases, which include the environment, health, human development, gender, and security. He is one of eight scholars in the US and Europe selected for the prestigious fellowship.

Shifrinson earned his doctorate in political science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he focused on international relations and security studies. A summa cum laude undergraduate from Brandeis University, his research interests include grand strategy, power transitions, military operations, energy security, and diplomatic history. His research has been published in journals such as International Security and the Journal of Political and Military Sociology as well as by think tanks and research organizations. At the Bush School, Dr. Shifrinson teaches courses on American foreign policy, energy security, and security and strategic studies.

The Fellows program is aimed at recent PhD recipients. While in residence, Fellows meet regularly with a faculty mentor who provides the primary institution. In the United States, these institutions include a variety of top-quality universities and research organizations. Fellows are selected based on their research, teaching, and public service contributions. The program provides Fellows with opportunities to enhance their teaching and research here at the Bush School.

DAGUE HONORED WITH PRESTIGIOUS NIHCM AWARD

Dr. Laura Dague, assistant professor at the Bush School of Government and Public Service, has been recognized with an award from the National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM) for her study on the effect of premiums on Medicaid enrollment. The NIHCM awards program recognizes researchers and journalists who serve as catalysts for positive change by advancing and informing public and private policy making.

Dague was honored in the research category, and is one of six honorees in the 2015 competition which had over 500 entries. Other awards honored contributions in print and digital media and radio and television. The winners were honored at NIHCM’s 21st Annual Awards Dinner on June 1st in Washington, DC.

The research that won the award demonstrated that charging even modest premiums for Medicaid can cause people to drop their coverage. Citing a strong investigation of a “key policy question,” the judges said it could help inform state decisions on alternative approaches to Medicaid expansion. The paper, “The Effect of Medicaid Premiums on Enrollment: A Regression Discontinuity Approach,” was published in the Journal of Health Economics in 2014.

Dr. Dague, an assistant professor in the Master of Public Service and Administration program, earned a PhD in economics from the University of Wisconsin, where she was affiliated with the Population Health Institute and the Institute for Research on Poverty. Her doctoral fields of study were public economics and labor economics.

”I'm very grateful to the NIHCM Foundation and to the judges for choosing to recognize my work with this award,” Dague said. “I hope to continue to contribute by focusing on research questions that, once understood, can help policymakers improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Medicaid, a program that affects millions of Americans.”

THE RESEARCH THAT WON THE AWARD DEMONSTRATED THAT CHARGING EVEN MODEST PREMIUMS FOR MEDICAID CAN CAUSE PEOPLE TO DROP THEIR COVERAGE.

CITING A STRONG INVESTIGATION OF A “KEY POLICY QUESTION,” THE JUDGES SAID IT COULD HELP INFORM STATE DECISIONS ON ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO MEDICAID EXPANSION.
BUSH SCHOOL RESEARCHERS EXAMINE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY

Politicians promise, and citizens expect, greater transparency in the administration of government activities. Still, despite the growing consensus that there should be more transparency, citizens frequently lack the information needed to determine if their expectations have been met. Assert two Texas A&M University professors who specialize in governance research.

Dr. Dornic Bearfield and Ann Bowman, both faculty members of Texas A&M’s Bush School of Government and Public Service, have studied transparency issues extensively, and their most recent findings are published in the latest Takeaway policy paper from the Mosbacher Institute for Trade, Economics, and Public Policy. The research focused on what information Texas cities are providing via their websites and how useful that information is to citizens.

Bearfield, an associate professor whose research focuses on governance and public sector personnel, led a team of researchers who developed the Texas Transparency Project. Professor Ann Bowman holds the Hazel Davis and Robert Kennedy Endowed Chair in Politics and Management, public policy, and intergovernmental relations.

“Clearly, the Internet has changed the relationship between citizens and their government,” said Bowman. “Governments at all levels use their websites to provide citizens with detailed information that a few years ago would have been kept in agency filing cabinets,” she added.

The evaluation of Texas cities’ websites was based on the framework established by Pew’s Government Performance Project of four significant dimensions of management: money, people, infrastructure, and information. Looking for evidence of managerial best practices in local jurisdictions, the scholars operated on the working assumption that a transparent local government is one that makes information about these managerial practices easily accessible on its website.

“Just posting data and documents online isn’t real transparency,” said Bearfield. “Citizens want organized, clear, and useful information to help them evaluate their government’s efficiency of operations.”

So what’s the bottom line? Bearfield and Bowman say that Texas cities have not fully embraced e-government transparency. With a maximum possible score of 42, Houston and San Antonio each earned a 34, with Austin close behind at 33. The lower scoring cities are generally smaller communities with populations of 20,000 or less. With an average score of 16.7, the typical Texas city only posts about 40 percent of the indicators on line.

“As some cities have been successful, it’s obvious there’s room for improvement,” said Bearfield.**
MOSBACHER INSTITUTE WELCOMES CEO OF MERCY CORPS

The Bush School’s Mosbacher Institute for Trade, Economics, and Public Policy hosted Mr. Neal Keny-Guyer, CEO of Mercy Corps, at the Institute’s 2015 Bank of America Program on Volunteerism. Under Mr. Keny-Guyer’s leadership, Mercy Corps has emerged as a leading international humanitarian and development organization. With ongoing operations in more than forty countries, a staff of 4,000, and global revenue of $375 million, Mercy Corps has developed a reputation for groundbreaking and innovative programming in the world’s toughest environments.

Mr. Keny-Guyer addressed a diverse audience of faculty, students, and nonprofit representatives at an evening lecture in the George Bush Library and Museum. He provided his insights on a multitude of challenges Mercy Corps and other international aid organizations experience in delivering humanitarian aid and relief to troubled regions around the world. The highlights of his remarks included an emphasis on selfless public service as a critical element in the success of international aid organizations as well as the importance of innovation in providing sustainable solutions to communities. Mr. Keny-Guyer cautioned aspiring students about the diversity of challenges facing communities around the world, stressing that each country is faced with unique problems and there are “no fast fixes or shiny solutions to complex challenges.” He went on to emphasize that community-driven, market-based solutions should be part of relief efforts.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Keny-Guyer met with faculty, students, and nonprofit representatives, and other international aid organizations experience in delivering humanitarian aid and relief to troubled regions around the world. The highlights of his remarks included an emphasis on selfless public service as a critical element in the success of international aid organizations as well as the importance of innovation in providing sustainable solutions to communities. Mr. Keny-Guyer cautioned aspiring students about the diversity of challenges facing communities around the world, stressing that each country is faced with unique problems and there are “no fast fixes or shiny solutions to complex challenges.”

MR. KENY-GUYER CAUTIONED ASPIRING STUDENTS ABOUT THE DIVERSITY OF CHALLENGES FACING COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD, STRESSING THAT EACH COUNTRY IS FACED WITH UNIQUE PROBLEMS AND THERE ARE “NO FAST FIXES OR SHINY SOLUTIONS TO COMPLEX CHALLENGES.”

ISTPP RESEARCHERS ANALYZE CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONIES ON GLOBAL WARMING AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Congress has heard the “supermajority” consensus on the reality and causes of climate change, noted researchers working for the Institute for Science, Technology, and Public Policy (ISTPP). In their paper, “Scientists’ Views of the Process of Changing: A Content Analysis of Congressional Testimonies Regarding the Reality and Human Cause of Global Warming and Climate Change—A Content Analysis of Congressional Testimonies,” published in Climatic Change, the researchers suggest looking at business interests, partisan predispositions, and political ideology for the hurdles to policy action.

“Different perceptions and claims among lawmakers are a major hurdle to agreeing on action to address global warming and these were thought to simply reflect scientific uncertainty,” says lead author Dr. Xinsheng Liu, an associate research scientist. “However, our findings show that congressional testimonies are in fact consistent with agreement in the climate science community and that the sources of controversies must lie elsewhere.”

The ISTPP researchers examined whether scientists’ views and positions were substantially divided in their congressional testimonies regarding the reality and human cause of global warming and climate change (GWCC). The researchers performed content analysis of 1,350 testimonies from relevant congressional hearings held from 1969 to 2007. They find that the supermajority of experts called as witnesses indicate that GWCC is real, at least caused partially by human activity, and policies to combat it should be adopted. This finding is consistent across various types of scientist groups and under different party controls of Congress. The researchers conclude that the largely unified GWCC consensus in the scientific community has been presented to the US Congress and therefore refute the possibility of a divided science as a source of the GWCC contentions among lawmakers. They further challenge the traditional view suggested by the knowledge deficit theory that simply providing additional scientific information is key to evidence-based policy making. Rather, future research needs to shift in new directions to gain a better understanding of how business interests, partisan predispositions, and political ideology shape the views of policymakers.

Liu’s co-authors are Dr. Arnold Vedlitz, professor and director of ISTPP, Dr. James Stoutenborough at Oklahoma. Stoutenborough and Robinson recently worked at the Bush School and continue to conduct research with ISTPP as senior fellows for the Institute.
BUSH SCHOOL TO OFFER EXECUTIVE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEGREE ONLINE

Beginning in the 2015 fall semester, the Bush School will offer an Executive Master of Public Service and Administration (EMPSA) degree, a 39-hour graduate, non-thesis degree program that will be offered online, but which requires two weeks in residence at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas.

Designed for individuals working in full-time professional careers, the new executive program will deliver high-quality and high-impact coursework and help students develop in-depth, advanced skills in public service leadership; critical investigative and evaluative proficiencies; and decision-making expertise essential for public sector careers.

Applicants must have at least five years of professional experience, preferably in one of the two curricular track areas of Homeland Security or Nonprofit Management. In addition to a common set of 18 credit hours that provide foundational knowledge in management, leadership, policy analysis, and research methods, student will complete 21 credit hours in either the Homeland Security or Nonprofit Management track. Their coursework will also include a required capstone project in which students work collaboratively on a public service and administration project in conjunction with a government agency, a private firm, or a nonprofit organization.

Dr. Leonard Bright, assistant dean of graduate education in the School’s Department of Public Service and Administration, said this degree program was created in response to a need within the public sector.

“There are many professionals, public servants often are unable to attend traditional residence master’s programs due to job and time constraints,” Bright said. “By providing this online option, we are able to offer those individuals the same high-quality educational experience our students enjoy on campus,” he added.

BUSH SCHOOL RECOGNIZES 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

The Bush School’s Scowcroft Institute hosted “The 25th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall and the Liberation of Eastern Europe Conference.” The all-day conference included lectures and perspectives from American and European officials who were involved in the decision-making process and scholars who have devoted their studies to the end of the Cold War.

The “Fall of the Wall” conference invited students and guests to revisit the historic events of the Wall’s collapse and explore the resultant geopolitical shockwaves that reverberated throughout the world. The conference featured a European Practitioner Panel, a Scholar Panel, and a keynote presentation by Jeffrey A. Engel, Founding Director of the Center for Presidential History at Southern Methodist University.

Prior to the keynote address, George H.W. Bush, 41st President of the United States, was awarded the Robert Schuman Medal by Elmar Brok on behalf of the European Parliament’s European People’s Party for his role in the reunification of Germany and liberation of Eastern Germany. The Robert Schuman Medal was introduced in July 1986 to pay tribute to public figures that have advanced the cause of peace, the construction of Europe, and human values through their public activities and personal commitment. President Bush is the first American to be awarded the medal.

THE ROBERT SCHUMAN MEDAL WAS INTRODUCED IN JULY 1986 TO PAY TRIBUTE TO PUBLIC FIGURES THAT HAVE ADVANCED THE CAUSE OF PEACE, THE CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE, AND HUMAN VALUES THROUGH THEIR PUBLIC ACTIVITIES AND PERSONAL COMMITMENT. PRESIDENT BUSH IS THE FIRST AMERICAN TO BE AWARDED THE MEDAL.

National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft, a US Practitioner Panel, a Scholar Panel, and a keynote presentation by Jeffrey A. Engel, Founding Director of the Center for Presidential History at Southern Methodist University.

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ROBERTSON JOINS INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS FACULTY

Dr. Raymond Robertson joined the Department of International Affairs in the fall as professor and holder of the Helen and Roy Rya Chair in Economics and Government. Previously a professor of economics at Macalester College, Robertson is also a research fellow at the Institute for the Study of Labor in Bonn, Germany, and a research associate at the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Robertson earned a BA in political science and economics from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, and an MS and PhD in economics from the University of Texas at Austin. While at Macalester, Robertson served as director of the Latin American Studies Program from 2006 to 2010. He has also taught at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University and was a visiting professor in the Department of Economics at the Graduate School of Administration at Monterrey Institute of Technology’s Mexico City campus.

Widely published in the field of labor economics and international economics, Robertson currently chairs the US Department of Labor’s National Advisory Committee for Labor Provisions of the US Free Trade Agreements; chairs the advisory board of New Earth, an organization that aims to stimulate sustainable development of companies and communities; and is a member of the Center for Global Development’s advisory board.

This fall, Robertson is teaching Fundamentals of the Global Economy (INTA 608), a required course for all students in the Department of International Affairs.
2014-2015 CAPSTONE PROJECTS

INTERNSHIPS IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

"After Lausanne: Russian Influence, Regional Context, and Domestic Politics in Iran’s Foreign Policy"
CLIENT: US DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SUPERVISING PROFESSOR: MOHAMMAD TABAAR

"Building Resilience through Crisis: An Assessment of UNDP Syria"
CLIENT: UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP)
SUPERVISING PROFESSOR: SILVA HAMIE

"Cassandra: A Population-Based Approach to Prioritizing SOF Persistent Engagement"
CLIENT: SOCOM (SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND)
SUPERVISING PROFESSOR: RICHARD MACNAMEE

"The Frontlines of Justice: Exploring the Impact of Access to Justice Initiatives in Fragile and Conflict-Affected States"
CLIENT: THE WORLD BANK’S GOVERNANCE GLOBAL PRACTICE
SUPERVISING PROFESSOR: REYKO HUANG

"Information and Voter Evaluation of Legislators in a Clientelistic Democracy: A Field Experiment in Benin"
CLIENT: THE WORLD BANK, GHANA OFFICE
SUPERVISING PROFESSOR: JESSICA GOTTLIEB

"Looking Eastward: Establishing Programs to Enhance Trilateral Relations"
CLIENT: US RESEARCHERS AND NGO CENTER FOR THE STUDY AND PROMOTION OF DEMOCRACY
SUPERVISING PROFESSOR: JESSICA GOTTLIEB

"Strengthening the Federal Government’s Processes for Stockpiling Biodefense Countermeasures"
CLIENT: US CYBER COMMAND
SUPERVISING PROFESSOR: ANDREW L. ROSS

"Shaping the Seas: Isolating Chinese Narratives of Territorial Conflict"
CLIENT: PACOM (PACIFIC COMMAND)
SUPERVISING PROFESSOR: DAVID MILLAR

"The National Security Advisor: Serving a Constituency of One"
CLIENT: MILLER CENTER FOR ORAL HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
SUPERVISOR: ROBERT HOLZWEISS

"The Role of Professionalism and Effectiveness in State Legislatures"
CLIENT: TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
SUPERVISING PROFESSOR: WILLIAM A. BROWN

"After Lausanne: Russian Influence, Regional Context, and Domestic Politics in Iran’s Foreign Policy"
CLIENT: THE WORLD BANK, GHANA OFFICE
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SUPERVISING PROFESSOR: DAVID MILLAR

"The National Security Advisor: Serving a Constituency of One"
CLIENT: MILLER CENTER FOR ORAL HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
SUPERVISOR: ROBERT HOLZWEISS

"The Role of Professionalism and Effectiveness in State Legislatures"
CLIENT: TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
SUPERVISING PROFESSOR: WILLIAM A. BROWN

"After Lausanne: Russian Influence, Regional Context, and Domestic Politics in Iran’s Foreign Policy"
CLIENT: THE WORLD BANK, GHANA OFFICE
SUPERVISING PROFESSOR: JESSICA GOTTLIEB

"Building Resilience through Crisis: An Assessment of UNDP Syria"
CLIENT: UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP)
SUPERVISING PROFESSOR: SILVA HAMIE

"Cassandra: A Population-Based Approach to Prioritizing SOF Persistent Engagement"
CLIENT: SOCOM (SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND)
SUPERVISING PROFESSOR: RICHARD MACNAMEE

"The Frontlines of Justice: Exploring the Impact of Access to Justice Initiatives in Fragile and Conflict-Affected States"
CLIENT: THE WORLD BANK’S GOVERNANCE GLOBAL PRACTICE
SUPERVISING PROFESSOR: REYKO HUANG

"Information and Voter Evaluation of Legislators in a Clientelistic Democracy: A Field Experiment in Benin"
CLIENT: THE WORLD BANK, GHANA OFFICE
SUPERVISING PROFESSOR: JESSICA GOTTLIEB

"Looking Eastward: Establishing Programs to Enhance Trilateral Relations"
CLIENT: US RESEARCHERS AND NGO CENTER FOR THE STUDY AND PROMOTION OF DEMOCRACY
SUPERVISING PROFESSOR: JESSICA GOTTLIEB

"Strengthening the Federal Government’s Processes for Stockpiling Biodefense Countermeasures"
CLIENT: US CYBER COMMAND
SUPERVISING PROFESSOR: ANDREW L. ROSS

"Shaping the Seas: Isolating Chinese Narratives of Territorial Conflict"
CLIENT: PACOM (PACIFIC COMMAND)
SUPERVISING PROFESSOR: DAVID MILLAR

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CLIENT: TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
SUPERVISING PROFESSOR: WILLIAM A. BROWN

Public Service and Administration

"Anti-Hunger Coalition Effectiveness: A Toolkit for the Texas Hunger Initiative"
CLIENT: COOPERATIVE FOR AFTER-SCHOOL, ENRICHMENT (CASE)
SUPERVISING PROFESSOR: MELISSA TACKETT-GIBSON

"Best Practices for MPSA Student Recruiting and Admissions"
CLIENT: BILL WEST, MATTHEW UPTON, KATHRYN MEYER
SUPERVISOR: JOANNA LAHEY

"The Education Transparency Index: Grading Public Education ‘Governments’ in Texas"
CLIENT: TEXAS TRANSPARENCY PROJECT
SUPERVISING PROFESSOR: DOMONIC BEARFIELD

"Envisioning a Bright Future for New Braunfels Children: A Community-Based Approach to School Readiness"
CLIENT: MCKENNA FOUNDATION
SUPERVISOR: JENNIFER MORRISON

"Field of Study Curriculum Utilization in Texas"
CLIENT: TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
SUPERVISING PROFESSOR: WILLIAM A. BROWN

"Houston’s Youth: Examining the Effects of After-School Programs on Juvenile Delinquency"
CLIENT: ENRICH AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM
SUPERVISING PROFESSOR: MELISSA TACKETT-GIBSON

"Measuring Emergent Literacy in Houston"
CLIENT: BARBARA BUSH HOUSTON LITERACY FOUNDATION
SUPERVISOR: WILLIAM A. BROWN

"Opportunity Youth Recovery in Austin/Travis County"
CLIENT: AUSTIN OPPORTUNITY YOUTH COLLABORATIVE
SUPERVISING PROFESSOR: WYNN ROSSER

"Recovering Galveston: Evaluating FEMA’s National Preparedness Framework after Hurricane Ike"
CLIENT: FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)
SUPERVISING PROFESSOR: DAVE MCGINTYRE

"The Education Transparency Index: Grading Public Education ‘Governments’ in Texas"
CLIENT: TEXAS TRANSPARENCY PROJECT
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CLIENT: TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
SUPERVISING PROFESSOR: ANN BOWMAN

Pickering Fellowships Are Highly Sought After by Students Interested in the Foreign Service, and I Congratulate Jerica on Being Selected for This Prestigious Award."

– Dean Ryan Crocker

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Jerica Ward, Master of International Affairs, 2016, is one of twenty students from around the nation chosen as a Thomas R. Pickering Fellow for 2014-15. Ward is the first Bush School student to be selected for the program, which is designed to attract outstanding individuals interested in a Foreign Service career with the US Department of State. The program is a collaboration between the US Department of State and the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. Fellows can receive up to $37,000 annually to help cover the costs of their graduate education and also receive mentoring and professional development as they prepare to enter the Foreign Service.

Ward graduated from Cedarville University in Ohio, with a major in international studies and a minor in Spanish and Bible. As an undergraduate, she won a number of awards in the Model United Nations and forensic speech competitions. After graduation, Jerica worked in the Dominican Republic and then as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Philippines. For two years, she worked as a high school and university English/Spanish teacher, started a successful library project, set up environmental service projects, and worked as a trainer for USAID and a United Nations HIV/AIDS initiative.

Dean Ryan Crocker said that having a Pickering Fellow at the Bush School is yet another indication of the School’s academic prestige and the quality of the student body.

“Pickering Fellowships are highly sought after by students interested in the Foreign Service, and I congratulate Jerica on being selected for this prestigious award,” Crocker said. “The Foreign Service is a rewarding and challenging career, and we need young people like Jerica to serve our nation.”
BUSH STUDENTS NAMED ROBERTSON FELLOWS

Nine students from the Bush School of Government and Public Service traveled to Germany to present research findings to their capstone client, Robert Bosch Stiftung. The capstone, entitled “Looking Eastward: Enhancing Trilateral Relations: Germany, the US, and China,” was coordinated by faculty member Dr. Gabriela Marín Thornton. Thornton received a grant of $13,100 euros from Robert Bosch Stiftung to fund the capstone work. This capstone project was the first Bush School capstone with an international client. The students conducting the research were Brooke Whitenburg, Ryan Gillespie, William Schwemseen, Susan Stalings, Daphne Huart, Stephen Thelen, Josh Kutz, Rev. Rhyne, and Arwin Rahi.

Capstones at the Bush School are designed to apply the knowledge and abilities students have developed through their previous classes and experiences. Each project requires strong teamwork, careful research, writing ability, and often great ingenuity in identifying ways to approach an issue or find a solution. Robert Bosch Stiftung, a German foundation known for its work with the natural and social sciences, represents the first international client for a Bush School capstone. Brooke Whitenburg, Class of 2015 and a member of the Robert Bosch Stiftung capstone, said the international aspects of the project brought its own set of unique challenges.

“One of the nation’s leading foundations that encourages graduate students to pursue careers with the federal government in foreign policy and international affairs announced that 14 students attending five of the nation’s top international studies graduate schools will comprise its 2016 class of fellows. Four of the Foundation’s fourteen Class of 2016 Fellows are second-year students at the Texas A&M University’s Bush School of Government and Public Service.

The Robertson Foundation identifies and nurtures future US government leaders in the areas of national security, foreign policy, and international affairs. The Foundation provides scholarships, internship stipends, and additional career support to graduate students at select universities. The Fellows, as a program requirement, agree to work for the federal government for a minimum of three of their first seven years after graduation.

The four-second-year Bush School students that earned Robertson Foundation for Government Fellowships are Nathaniel Haight, Charlotte Karlsson-Willis, Gabrielle Keleher, and Jerica Ward.

“I congratulate the new class of Robertson Fellows and welcome each to a growing cohort of young leaders who are committed to serving our nation both here and abroad,” said Foundation Board of Directors president Katherine Ernst. “These young men and women are the fulfillment of the Robertson Foundation for Government mission, which is to meet the federal government’s increasing need for young leaders as more than half of its employees become retirement-eligible in the next two years. We are looking forward to working with the new fellows and they have our full support going forward.”

BUSH SCHOOL STUDENTS UNDERTAKE RESEARCH FOR INTERNATIONAL CLIENT

The Robert Bosch Stiftung capstone was specifically focused on enhancing trilateral relations between Germany, the US, and China by answering research questions related to the Asian pivot and power transitions toward Asia. “Coined by the Obama administration, the Asian pivot is a shift in US foreign policy from the Atlantic area toward Asia,” said Professor Thornton. Europeans want to know what the consequences of the pivot mean for Europe, and more broadly for transatlantic relations. Our project contained five parts: the impact of the Asian pivot on transatlantic relations, a conference on trade policy, a symposium on entrepreneurial education, a conference on global pandemics, a professional fellowship on sustainable urbanization, and use of Ganttter (a web-based project planning tool) to help implement projects. The projects were developed in order to foster better cooperation among the US, Germany, and China.

The capstone group left for Germany on December 6 and spent two days after arrival finalizing their research and rehearsing their presentation. They presented their findings to Robert Bosch Stiftung on December 9. Prior to their presentation, the group was treated to lunch at the Foundation and was given a tour of the Bosch Mansion.

“Presenting to an international client in a foreign country provided the capstone team with the opportunity to have the project evaluated from an American perspective,” Whitenburg said. “This fostered dialogue that enabled both the capstone team and the Stiftung personnel to gain valuable insight into each other’s programs and goals as well as strengthen a transnational, professional network that can be expanded in the future.”

BUSH SCHOOL AGGIES AID THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE

When the 84th session of the Texas Legislature convened on January 13, 2015, seven second-year Master of Public Service and Administration students from the Bush School of Government and Public Service were getting an up-close view of the action.

The students were enrolled in the Texas Legislative Capstone course—a two-semester class taught by Dr. Ann Bowman, professor and Hazel Davis and Robert Kennedy Endowed Chair in Government and Public Service at the Bush School. The students spent the fall semester learning about legislatures in general and the Texas Legislature in particular. They arrived at the capitol in January ready to apply the knowledge and skills learned in their courses to myriad public policy issues confronting the state of Texas and its elected representatives.

This is the third legislative session in which Bush School Capstone students have worked in the Texas Legislature. “The members who hire these students as legislative aides and analysts get motivated, well-informed, and highly skilled individuals on their team,” Bowman said. “The experience is invaluable for the students since legislatures are fascinating policymaking institutions, replete with rules and norms that are seldom seen by the public but are key knowledge for those who plan a public service career.”

Bowman noted that the Bush School students quickly find themselves in the thick of the action but their orientation to the legislative environment is more smoother thanks to the efforts of Bush School graduates who are working or have worked in the legislature.

The students and the offices in which they worked are Matthew Bangcaya—Representative Rodney Ellis; Rebecca Parma—Representative Stephanie Klick, and Johannah Roberson—Senator Rodney Ellis.

In addition to their legislative work, the students took classes during the semester, primarily directed studies or online courses. Even though they received their master’s degrees in mid-May, the students worked in the legislature until the session ends in early June. Like other Capstone projects, the students were required to produce an in-depth research report at the end of the semester. The focus of this session’s deliverable was the professionalization of the Texas Legislature. Previous legislative Capstones have studied the legislative redistricting process and the Texas rainy day fund.

“This is an amazing chance to work in Texas’ policymaking process while still completing our degrees,” said Rebecca Parma, MPSA Class of 2015. “This opportunity to network, develop the-on-the-job skills, and finish school is possible because of the Bush School and the resources it has provided us.”

Bowman says that the benefits to students from working in the legislature are clear: they do important work that influences public policy in the state of Texas, and also learn a tremendous amount about the functioning of state government—that knowledge that serves them well when they begin their careers.”

I CONGRATULATE THE NEW CLASS OF ROBERTSON FELLOWS AND WELCOME EACH TO A GROWING COHORT OF YOUNG LEADERS WHO ARE COMMITTED TO SERVING OUR NATION BOTH HERE AND ABROAD.”

— KATHERINE ERNST, PRESIDENT, FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

M.L. Lozano, Thomas DiGiauseppe—Representative Scott Turner, Blake Dodd—Representative Candy Burket, Christopher Farney—Representative Ron Simmons, Morgan Nelson—Senator Donna Campbell, Rebecca Parma—Representative Stephanie Klick, and Johannah Roberson—Senator Rodney Ellis.

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- KATHERINE ERNST, PRESIDENT, FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BUSH STUDENTS CONDUCT FIELD RESEARCH IN SENEGAL

Dr. Jessica Gottlieb and three student interns from the Bush School of Government and Public Service traveled to the West African country of Senegal to conduct two months of intensive field work and research. Based out of a local research institute in Dakar, the nation’s capital, the team sought to understand how local elites—religious, traditional, or political leaders—can wield their influence to guide voters’ decisions, even when it goes against the voters’ best interests.

“Many citizens in new democracies are subject to the influence of powerful local elites when they go to cast their votes,” Gottlieb said. “This is not necessarily a bad thing, but these local elites can also abuse their status and influence in ways that are more beneficial to themselves than the voters,” she added.

The field work involved a household survey, leader survey, and a series of behavioral games conducted in sixty-four rural Senegalese villages. With the assistance of three Bush School students and several members of the local Senegal community, the research project was divided into three stages: training and preparation, field work, and data entry.

“Getting the first phase of the project underway was a Herculean task,” said Bush School student Susana Svojsik. “Given the size of our sample and complexity of the experiments, the number of individual pieces of material we had to prepare exceeded 10,000.”

During the first stage, Gottlieb and the interns trained sixteen enumerators to conduct the surveys and simulations and prepare survey and simulation materials for all 1,024 participants in the survey. Since municipal elections were slated for the end of June, all of the training and fieldwork had to be completed in less than five weeks after the team arrived in the country. Following a pilot test of the surveys and simulations, the sixteen enumerators were dispatched into the field. To cover all sixty-four villages, each intern and the local supervisor managed a team of four enumerators.

While in the field, I met with village chiefs and elders to stress the objective of our presence and seek their permission to conduct our experiment,” said Bush School student Koozma Tumua-Akrnah. “It was a good way to practice my French while building relationships with my teammates.”

In addition to navigating the vagaries of life in a foreign country, the team was struck by the stark differences between the political campaigning process in Senegal and the United States.

While campaign visits in America are fairly serious events, with speech giving and hand-shaking, the campaigns I witnessed in Senegal were more like community parties,” said Bush School student Kelsey Barrera. “Further study of the democratic process in Senegal should help give us insight into possible solutions for strengthening democracy in these fragile or conflict-affected countries.

After the surveys and simulation games were completed, the third and final stage of the project began—data entry. Because transporting physical copies of thousands of pages of research data back to the United States was out of the question, the research team had to digitize all of the materials.

“Our office turned into organization chaos,” Svojsik said. “We had thousands of documents to process and scan and a very tight schedule to get it all done. I am still not exactly how, but we did it.”

In spite of multiple setbacks during this stage of the project—from broken scanners to power fluctuations—Gottlieb spoke highly of her team of Bush School students and the work they accomplished.

“I am grateful for the dedication and hard work of these students as well as their humor in confronting difficult situations and their creativity in the face of challenges,” Gottlieb said. “I am also grateful for the funding we received for the project from the Conflict and Development Centers, the Scowcroft Institute, a PESCA grant, and the Bush School.”
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

1st in Texas in student retention and graduation rates—both overall and for minorities, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

1st in Texas and 8th among US public universities in a New York Times survey of business leaders worldwide based on the top institutions from which they recruit, 2011

1st in Texas and 3rd nationally among public and private universities based on research, service, social mobility, and contributions to society. Washington Monthly, 2015

1st in Money magazine’s best value listings of “Great Schools You Can Actually Get Into,” 2015

1st in the US for veterans, USA Today, 2015

2nd among all universities in the nation in a survey of top U.S. corporations, nonprofit and government agencies, based on graduates recruiters prefer to hire, The Wall Street Journal, 2010

2nd in the nation for graduates “best prepared and most able to succeed,” Wall Street Journal, 2010

3rd in the nation among public universities with an endowment of more than $5 billion, 2014


Among the nation’s 5 largest universities with an enrollment of more than 60,000 students, including 10,000 graduate students

Land grant, sea grant, and space grant university—one of the few in the country

Member of the Association of American Universities

THE BUSH SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICE

$63.1 million – Total Endowments

$27.6 million – Endowed Student Scholarships

100% – Percentage of degree students who receive financial aid scholarships from the Bush School

88% – Percentage of graduates employed in field related to their studies within 6 months of graduation, 2014

5th – Rank among US public universities and 19th in the nation for its International Affairs program, Foreign Policy, 2015

12th – Rank among public universities and 19th in the nation for its Public Management Administration program, U.S. News & World Report


25 – Number of foreign countries represented in the current Bush School student body

40 – Number of US states represented in the current Bush School student body, in addition to Washington, DC and Puerto Rico

18 – Endowed chairs and professorships

3 – Faculty fellowships

http://bush.tamu.edu