On January 20, 1991, President George H. W. Bush announced the beginning of military operations to liberate Kuwait from the occupation of Iraq, under the rule of Saddam Hussein. Twenty years later, President Bush, along with top US officials from his administration and Kuwaiti representatives, gathered for a solemn commemoration of the events that followed.

Arriving in College Station on January 20, 2011, were the key members of President Bush’s national security and defense team, who started the day with a special oral history session, open only to Bush School students and faculty, at the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center. Participating in the discussion were former vice president Richard B. Cheney, former vice president J. Danforth Quayle, former secretary of state Colin L. Powell, former national security advisor Brent Scowcroft, and General (Ret.) Walter E. Bashore of the United States Marine Corps. Each discussed the events of and leading up to January 20, 1991, from their perspectives. Vice President Quayle recalled the numerous discussions between President Bush and his advisors in preparation for making the critical decision. Secretary Powell, who served as the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the time, spoke of the military aspect of the liberation.

That afternoon, the Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs hosted a symposium to discuss the impact of the liberation of Kuwait on global politics and international security. Dr. Jeffrey Engel chaired the symposium, which consisted of individuals who have contributed chapters to Dr. Engel’s upcoming publication, Into the Desert: Reflections on the Gulf War.

The highlight of the event was held that evening at Reed Arena, with over 5,000 guests attending. The commemoration began with the entrance of President Bush’s foreign policy team, followed by distinguished guest H. E. Mohammed Abdullah Al Mutairi, a representative of the emir of Kuwait. Texas A&M University president, R. Bowen Loftin, gave the welcoming remarks; and then Bush School dean, Ryan Crocker, who served as the event’s moderator, introduced a never-before-seen video chronicling the Gulf War and narrated by President Bush. At the conclusion of the video, the lights at Reed Arena were turned back on and President Bush was standing at the podium, drawing enormous applause.

In his usual style, President Bush spoke not of his own accomplishments but praised the members of his administration for their leadership and thanked them for their advice and guidance.

“No president was ever better served by his foreign policy team than the 41st president of the United States,” said President Bush. “There are not enough superlatives for me to describe my gratitude and pride in each member of what we called the ‘gang of 8.’”

Missing from the “gang of 8” was General Norman Schwarzkopf, who was unable to attend but sent a letter read by Secretary Powell.

“In the case of Desert Storm, I honestly believe history will say we got this one right.”

This historic commemorative event, as well as the book symposium, can be viewed in its entirety at: http://www.youtube.com/user/TAMUBushSchool
DEAN’S MESSAGE

It is a distinct honor for me to serve as acting dean of this prestigious school. I accepted this opportunity out of my great respect for President George H. W. Bush, for Ambassador Ryan Crocker, and for the mission and accomplishments of the Bush School at Texas A&M University. In just over ten years, the Bush School has established a reputation for academic excellence and advanced scholarship which is addressed in the many public policy issues facing our nation.

Many Bush School graduates are serving our nation in key positions, bringing President Bush’s principled leadership to government, the nonprofit sector, and private industry. I share our founder’s commitment to the noble calling of public service, and will do my best to further that goal.

It has been a great pleasure for me to meet some of the School’s distinguished faculty members, and I look forward to meeting all of them in the coming months. We are welcoming five new faculty members this fall, and will be adding five more next year. Each will bring his or her unique background, academic expertise, and experience to the School, enriching not only the research programs but also the classroom experiences of our outstanding students.

I thank the faculty, students, and staff for their warm welcome and look forward to an exciting and productive academic year.

Andrew Card

NEW SOCIETY DUAL-DEGREE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED

The Bush School now offers undergraduate students at Texas A&M another option to earn both a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in five years through a new partnership with the Department of Sociology. The dual-degree program was approved last fall and will further diversify the School’s Master of Public Service and Administration (MPSA) program. Upon successful completion of all courses, students will receive their undergraduate degree in sociology and an MPSA degree.

Interested sociology undergraduates must have a GPA of at least 3.25, have completed all of their prerequisite courses, and be on track to have 96 hours completed by the fall of their fourth year. Students must then submit GRE scores, letters of recommendation, and transcripts with their application to the MPSA program before attending the Bush School’s Interview Conference Weekend. Admissions criteria for current sociology undergraduates will be the same as for other applicants to the MPSA program.

Once admitted, students will complete the same core courses as all other Bush School students but will also be required to complete two graduate-level courses with the sociology department. The courses will be counted as part of the undergraduate degree.

奉 Bush School electives. Students will have an opportunity to take additional elective coursework to develop their academic experience around their career interests.

Executive Associate Dean Sam Kirkpatrick noted that the sociology dual-degrees program joins four similar programs – two with the Department of Economics, one with International Studies, and one with the Department of Political Science. “We’re pleased to be able to offer these options to A&M students,” Kirkpatrick said. “In an era of rising educational costs, this enables them to get their master’s degree more quickly, and at an overall lower cost.”

“IN AN ERA OF RISING EDUCATIONAL COSTS, THIS ENABLES THEM TO GET THEIR MASTER’S DEGREE MORE QUICKLY, AND AT AN OVERALL LOWER COST.”

—SAM KIRKPATRICK

BUSH SCHOOL’S INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND PUBLIC POLICY CELEBRATES TENTH ANNIVERSARY

On Friday, October 15, 2010, the Institute for Science, Technology and Public Policy (ISTPP) in the Bush School of Government and Public Service celebrated its ten-year anniversary with a rededication ceremony and reception.

ISTPP was established in 2000 as an interdisciplinary research and service unit to bring together the expertise required to solve complex contemporary policy problems. Since its founding, the Institute continues to advance its mission of connecting scientific research with relevant public policy making to help decision makers and the public make effective choices when dealing with current issues.

Speaking at the ceremony, Dean Ryan Crocker noted the significant impact the Institute’s research program has had on public policy. “ISTPP has a deserved reputation as a go-to place for organizations seeking guidance on issues requiring input from more than one academic discipline,” Crocker said. “As the Institute enters its second decade, ISTPP’s proven ability to bring together experts in a range of fields, from technology to economics to history, bodies well for its future,” he added.

The Institute’s founding and current director, Dr. Arnold Vedlitz, noted that when the Institute was being developed, he and former Bush School dean Robert Gates had clear goals for the Institute. “We shared the belief that ISTPP would enhance the Bush School’s and University’s ability to conduct and disseminate research and faculty knowledge on important interdisciplinary topics and positively affect policy development, economic development, and public solutions of the importance of the State of Texas, the nation, and the international community,” he said. ISTPP research is focused in four major policy areas: environmental and natural resources, emerging technologies, infrastructure and built environment, and health policy.

Vedlitz noted that since its inception, the Institute has attracted over $15 million in funding for more than 20 projects. ISTPP has partnered with over 200 researchers from The Texas A&M University System and other universities and has had research collaborations in China, Germany, and the United Kingdom. Recent projects include major studies on how science information about global climate change was used by decision makers in Texas, Louisiana, and Florida; public understanding of air quality issues within the state; and the future of hybrid electric vehicles.

One area in which ISTPP research has had significant impact on public policy is transportation and air quality, with researchers focusing on the current state of integrating climate change science into transportation planning and policy making processes. Agencies across the country are asking planners and program managers to take climate change considerations into account, but there are few guidelines as to how to accomplish this objective. ISTPP’s research report “Transportation Planning, Policy and Climate Change: Making the Long-Term Connection,” published by Texas A&M University’s Transportation Center for Mobility (UTCM), is a major resource for government agencies seeking to integrate environmental concerns with transportation planning.

In the area of national defense, ISTPP has also been successful in meeting one of a research institute’s functions: publishing its research in scholarly, peer-reviewed journals. ISTPP faculty have had articles based on their research published in such leading academic journals as the Political Research Quarterly, the Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the Policy Studies Journal, Climate Policy, Risk Analysis, and the Public Administration Review.

ISTPP’s scholarship was also recognized this past year when two recent articles by ISTPP researchers were cited in an annual review article on agenda setting research published in the 2011 Public Policy Yearbook.

ISTPP’s research program provides opportunities for Bush School students to participate in ground-breaking studies, work on scholarly publications, and interact with researchers from around the nation. Since its inception, more than fifty-four Bush School students have been employed by the Institute to assist with a range of research projects.

“We view this tenth anniversary as an opportunity to reflect on our success so far, and to re dedicate ourselves to conducting the important research that will affect public policy in the years ahead,” said Vedlitz. “The Institute’s faculty members are outstanding researchers, and our links with colleagues at Texas A&M and universities around the world will help us address the challenging technical and policy issues faced by our state, nation, and the world,” he concluded.

—SAM KIRKPATRICK

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INTERVIEW CONFERENCE WEEKEND.

ISTPP faculty members are outstanding researchers, and our links with colleagues at Texas A&M and universities around the world will help us address the challenging technical and policy issues faced by our state, nation, and the world,” he concluded.

—SAM KIRKPATRICK

FALL 2011
10 NEW FACULTY POSITIONS CREATED AT THE BUSH SCHOOL

The Bush School celebrates its second decade with a strategic focus on significantly expanding its faculty programs, and student enrollment. Its two professional master’s degree programs in public service and administration, and in international affairs are very competitive, attracting highly talented students from throughout the United States and abroad to study with a multidisciplinary faculty committed to teaching, research and engagement. Listed below are the biographies of five new faculty members joining the Bush School during 2011-2012 academic year.

SEARCH BEGINS FOR 5 NEW FACULTY POSITIONS FOR 2012—2013

In addition to the five faculty members joining the Bush School in the 2011-2012 academic year, five additional tenured and tenure-track faculty positions have been funded for the 2012-2013 school year. Two of those positions will be in the Master of Public Service and Administration (MPSA) program, and three positions will be in the Master’s Program in International Affairs (MPIA). The positions include the following:

- tenure-track assistant or tenured associate professor of nonprofit management,
- tenure-track assistant or tenured associate professor of public policy analysis,
- tenure-track assistant or tenured associate professor of international affairs of the Middle East,
- tenure-track assistant or tenured associate professor of nongovernmental organizations in international development, and
- tenure-track assistant professor of transnational security.

Dr. Leonard Bright holds a PhD in public administration and policy from the Harffield School of Government at Portland State University and comes to the Bush School as an associate professor from the School of Public Affairs at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He has taught at the University level since 2003, offering a wide range of courses central to the Master of Public Service and Administration degree at the Bush School.

Bright’s research contributions have been recognized by his peers through publications in the leading academic journals in his specialty of public sector human resource management. His publications have had a measurable impact on his field of study as indicated by frequent citations of his research. He is considered to be a top national expert on motivation for public service, an important contribution to the mission of the Bush School.

Dr. Bright also has an extensive set of service activities, both on campus and in the profession, that demonstrate his commitment to the development of public administration and to community outreach, including his position as president of the Metropolitan Louisi Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration.

Dr. Kahina Cortes comes to the Bush School from her position as an assistant professor in the School of Education at Syracuse University. Prior to obtaining her appointments at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs and the Department of Economics, she holds a PhD in economics from the University of California at Berkeley and has held post-doctoral appointments at the University of California, Irvine, and Harvard University.

Dr. Cortes is an accomplished teacher and will contribute in significant ways to key Bush School courses offered in policy analysis, economic analysis, and the economics of education, among others. She has an extensive publication record in the areas of the economics of education and economic demography. Her research focuses on policies relating to diversity in higher education, the effects of student financial aid on retention and graduation rates of minority and low-income college students, and educational outcomes of immigrant children in the United States.

Dr. Cortes’s research interests in the economics and demography of immigration policy will contribute significantly to the School’s policy research program. In addition, Dr. Cortes has been involved in a variety of major service activities, both on campus and in the profession. She is the recipient of many fellowships and awards as well as funded research grants from the US Department of Education and a variety of foundations.

Dr. Valerie Hudson is joining the faculty of the Bush School in January 2012, and will hold the George Bush Chair. An expert on international security and foreign policy analysis, she received her PhD in political science from the Ohio State University and comes to Texas A&M University from a senior faculty position at Brigham Young University.

In 2009, Foreign Policy named her one of the top 100 Most Influential Global Thinkers. Her co-authored book, Bane Branches: Security Implications of Asia’s Surplus Male Population, and the research it presents, has received major attention from the media with coverage in the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Financial Times, Washington Post, BBC, CNN, and numerous other outlets. The book has received two national book awards.

Dr. Hudson has also developed nation-by-nation data on women and children around the world that has triggered both academic and policy interest, and was the afterword author for the book by both the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee and an agency of the United Nations. Using these data and other creative methods, Dr. Hudson has created a new area of inquiry that has generated major attention about how the world treats women and children and how these data may contribute to policy in international disputes.

Dr. Hudson will oversee courses on international security and research methods, and add important new seminars on women in security and transitions in the study of war and peace. Through her research, Dr. Hudson has demonstrated a strong commitment to collaboration with scholars in both her own field and other disciplines, and has been the recipient of significant research grants to support her work in international affairs.

Her research and teaching experiences have allowed her to co-mentor three major teaching awards.

Dr. Xiabao Liu joins the Master’s Program in International Affairs as an assistant professor. Dr. Liu received his PhD in political science from Yale University in May 2011, where he served as a teaching fellow and research assistant. He also holds a Master’s degree in political science from Yale, and from the University of Michigan, a master’s degree in public policy from the Ford School of Public Policy and a major’s degree in information systems. His research interests include comparative and international political economy, development economics, computational politics, and behavioral economics.

While at Yale, Dr. Liu was engaged in several major research projects relating to income inequality and social justice in China and employment and economic development in Michigan. He also interned in Geneva, Switzerland where he conducted research on the World Trade Organization’s institutional reform. He has presented regularly at professional meetings, and in 2010 received an honorable mention for the best paper in political economy from the American Political Science Association, Plenary in Mandarin and Cantonese languages. Dr. Liu was a visiting scholar at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and at the Research Center for Contemporary China at Beijing University in 2008-2009.

Dr. William Norns is an accomplished scholar of China, Chinese foreign relations, and economic stalwart. He received his PhD in political science from MIT and his undergraduate degree from Princeton, all complemented by considerable supplemental studies and language training at various institutions here and abroad. In addition, he has been the recipient of various fellowships and awards, including the Ford-Romanosky China and the World Postdoctoral Fellowship, the Smith-Richardson World Politics and Statecraft Fellowship and the David L. Boren National Security Education Fellowship.

With teaching experience as both an assistant and as an instructor at the Naval Postgraduate School, counseled with various lecturers, he brings taught skills to the classroom. He also has considerable research experience both in this country and abroad and is the author of various manuscripts and conference papers, especially important in the political context of the school context is Dr. Norns’s valuable practical experiences with a major consulting firm (McKinsey), a nonprofit organization of Business leaders, and a foreign government. At the Bush School he will play a key role in the interdisciplinary Certificate in China Studies program.
but Suffering Is Optional.”

Homeland Security Affairs

War, and the New World Order.” In Resource Dependence, and Institutional Perspectives.”


BOOK CHAPTERS


JOURNAL ARTICLES


Journal articles continued


RESEARCH GRANTS & CONTRACTS


Lahey, Joanna. “Small Victories: Examining Market-Driven Solutions in Savings and Debt Reduction Experiment,” The International Foundation for Research in Experimental Economics, in partnership with the Department of Economics, $8,000.

Lindquist, Eric and Doug Orley. “PEV Infrastructure Development Policy Assessment and Modeling.” National Science Foundation I/UCRC for PHEV sub-award project, in partnership with the Department of Civil Engineering, $40,000.


Taylor, Lori, Angela Bies, Edwin Dorch, Eric Lindquist. “ADVANCE: Promoting Success of Women Faculty through a Psychologically Healthy Workplace.” National Science Foundation, $3,499,980, in partnership with the College of Science.


Vedlitz, Arnold. “I/UCRC for PHEV: Transportation and Electricity Convergence in the Built Environment.” National Science Foundation (NSF), $380,000 per year, in partnership with the Departments of Electrical Engineering, Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning, the University of Texas School of Engineering and UT’s Transportation EQuilibrium, Simulation, and Optimized Networks (TeQson) Lab.

2010-2011 CAPSTONE PROJECTS

“A Review of 82nd Session Milestones and the Identification and Discussion of Issues on the Horizon for the 83rd Session”
CLIENT: THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE
SUPERVISING INSTRUCTOR: ANN BOWMAN

CLIENT: THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
SUPERVISING INSTRUCTOR: SHARON CAUDLE

“An Evaluation of American Immigration Policy and Recommended Changes”
CLIENT: ACENTURE
SUPERVISING INSTRUCTOR: ARNOLD VEDLITZ

“Reducing Hispanic School Dropouts in Texas”
CLIENT: ABIENSO PUERTAS
SUPERVISING INSTRUCTOR: LORI TAYLOR

“Mapping the Nonprofit Capacity Building Infrastructure in Texas”
CLIENT: ONESTAR FOUNDATION
SUPERVISING INSTRUCTOR: ANGELA BIES

“Post-Secondary Education Policy”
CLIENT: GREATER TEXAS FOUNDATION
SUPERVISING INSTRUCTOR: JERYL MUMPOWER

“Black Sea Security Architecture”
CLIENT: U.S.-UKRAINE COUNCIL
SUPERVISING INSTRUCTOR: GABRIELA MARIN THORNTON

“The Impact of the Creation of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence on the Central Intelligence Agency”
CLIENT: CIA
SUPERVISING INSTRUCTOR: RON SIEVERT

“Cyber Risk and Critical Infrastructure”
CLIENT: CENTRA TECHNOLOGY, INC. (SUPPORTING DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY)
SUPERVISING INSTRUCTOR: JEFFREY ENGEL

“Labor Market Evolution and Labor Regulations in Zambia”
CLIENT: THE WORLD BANK
SUPERVISING INSTRUCTOR: REN MU

“Supporting the DNI’s leadership of the U.S. Intelligence Community in Defeating Terrorist Attacks”
CLIENT: DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE
SUPERVISING INSTRUCTOR: MIKE ABISHER

“Creating a Database of Post-Conflict Development Operations”
CLIENT: BORLAUG INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SUPERVISING INSTRUCTOR: KISHORE GAWANDE

“Identifying Iranian Opposition Groups”
CLIENT: THE RAND CORPORATION’S INTELLIGENCE POLICY CENTER
SUPERVISING INSTRUCTOR: JASEN CASTILLO
The recent years of economic difficulty have been especially hard for nonprofit agencies. In the current environment, the pressure to be as efficient and effective as possible with scarce and sometimes declining resources weighs heavily on those leading nonprofits.

For the past few years, the Bush School has held forums designed to help those working and/or volunteering for charitable agencies. The annual Nonprofit Management Forum for staff, board members, volunteers, and students working with organizations in the Bryan-College Station community has proved to be extremely popular. The day-long event brings together academic researchers, consultants, industry professionals, and aspiring leaders in a program geared toward improving the effectiveness of nonprofits.

"Over the past years, we’ve seen that creating an event that blends leading edge research as well as practical management issues for nonprofits is what participants want," said Dr. Will Brown, director of the Certificate in Nonprofit Management program at the Bush School. "We strive each year to bring outstanding speakers from across the nation, as well as highlight the work being done at the Bush School and in Bryan-College Station," he added.

Brown said that past participants have also praised the event for providing local volunteers and staff the opportunity to network with and learn from their nonprofit colleagues. "We’ve had capacity crowds each year, which demonstrates the value of this meeting to local nonprofit volunteers and staff," he said.

Brown also directs the Emerging Leaders Program—a professional development program for young leaders in public service careers. This effort is aimed at professionals working in the nonprofit sector who want to improve their leadership skills. In addition to the three-day in-residence activities, the program includes three months of follow-up activities. It is one way the Bush School is addressing the significant need for effective leadership in the nonprofit sector—a rapidly expanding field, facing a shortage of talented leaders.

Bush School students have successfully completed another round of Capstone projects. These projects are integrative, team-based applied research projects conducted for a range of public, nonprofit, and private sector clients. Led by a faculty member, Capstone groups generally consist of eight to ten students, who select their project from a list of predetermined clients and real world cases. Working on Capstone projects allows students to work with clients to tackle pressing issues by applying their academic knowledge and skills.

Of particular note this year was the work done by seven Master of Public Service and Administration (MPSA) students who spent the spring 2011 semester working with the Texas legislature in a policy-related capacity. Led by faculty member Dr. Ann Bowman, two reports and a video (the video is accessible at http://www.youtube.com/tamubushschool) were produced by the Capstone team. In the video, Capstone students explain what they did during the session and how their Bush School education enhanced their legislative work.

One report, "Inside Scoop," tells the story of the 82nd session of the Texas legislature from the students’ perspective. It offers insights on important substantive issues, the legislative process itself, and, of course, the always-intriguing politics of a legislative session. "Introducing ‘Objectivity’ focuses on one of the most compelling issues of the 82nd session, redistricting, and offers three alternatives based on four criteria that would increase the objectivity of the process.

The Bush School was also pleased to establish a relationship with The World Bank. A team of Master’s Program in International Affairs (MPIA) students, led by faculty member Dr. Ren Mu, analyzed current policies affecting employment and work in Zambia by categorizing labor regulations in the following five areas: employment protections, child labor and age restrictions on employment, compensation and benefits, occupational health and safety, and dispute resolution.

Bush School holds Teach-In on Egyptian Crisis

As the protests in Egypt escalated earlier this year, Bush School professor and director of programming for the Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs, Jeffrey Engell, saw an opportunity for students to engage in what he termed “a good old fashioned teach-in,” which was held on Tuesday, February 1, in the Bush Library auditorium. A teach-in is similar to a general educational forum on any complicated issue but is usually focused on a topic involving current political affairs. It is meant to be practical and participatory, with experts speaking in their area of expertise and then answering questions from the audience.

This first-ever Bush School teach-in brought an overflow crowd. The audience was composed primarily of Bush School students asking questions of experts from the Bush School and other A&M departments about the rapidly unfolding events in Egypt. Then, Dr. Randy Kluver from the Department of Communications addressed how new media has been used by protestors.

Dean Crocker affirmed the speculation that the Mubarak era in Egypt was over. Crocker and Dr. el-Husseini then went on to discuss topics such as the role of the Egyptian Army, the Muslim Brotherhood, and the possible ascension of Mohamed El-Baradei. Dr. Klaver discussed the role of social media in the organizing of protests, the effects of Twitter and Facebook usage, and the rates of Internet connectivity in Egypt, as well as the Egyptian government’s denial of service.

Bush School students’ questions dealt with the reaction of Iran, the most causes of the protests, what a future relationship with Israel could look like, and the relationship between the Egyptian and American military.

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BUSH SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICE • TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Like many cities in the nation, Bryan has seen a growing amount of poverty among its citizens. In 2010, the city held a day-long workshop developed by Ronnie Jackson, Bryan's coordinator of neighborhood and youth services, and Jeanne McGuire, head of Project Unity—a local nonprofit dedicated to helping vulnerable citizens—to look at the reasons poverty was on the increase and the impact it was having on city agencies and local nonprofits. Later in the year, Bryan mayor, Jason Bienski, spoke at the National League of Cities Conference about local initiatives to help build financial security.

In February 2011, Bryan’s poverty reduction initiative was expanded to include a number of scholars from the Bush School and Texas A&M University, who brought their academic expertise and experience to a program focused on reducing poverty. The initiative was co-sponsored by the Bryan City Manager’s Office, Ryan Crocker, former Bush School dean; Dr. Christine Stanley, vice president and associate provost for diversity; the Texas A&M Department of Sociology; the Race and Ethnic Studies Institute; and the School of Rural Public Health.

Dr. Edwina Dorch, a professor at the Bush School who specializes in how government at various levels affects child and family poverty, worked with the City of Bryan to organize the meeting.

"Bringing local leaders and academic experts together is a demonstration of the 'scholarship of community engagement' philosophy, a relatively new perspective in academia," Dr. Dorch said. "It not only acknowledges—but actually rewards—tenure-track faculty for engaging in public service to the same degree as research or teaching," she added.

In addition to Dr. Dorch, scholars from the Bush School and other departments at Texas A&M took part in the meeting, including the Department of Sociology, the Race and Ethnic Studies Institute, the School of Rural Public Health, and the Department of Educational Administration and Human Resource Development.

Dr. John Powell, director of the Kirwin Institute at Ohio State University, was the keynote speaker. His presentation focused on the Community Opportunity Model, which seeks to bring opportunities into distressed neighborhoods by improving education, stimulating investment, expanding employment opportunities, improving housing mobility options, and providing public transportation.

Dr. Dorch noted that the Bush School’s ongoing engagement with community leaders in this important initiative is another demonstration of how faculty and students demonstrate their commitment to putting academic research into action to affect public policy.

"We believe we can offer insights based on our research that will help Bryan in its efforts to improve the lives of its citizens," she said. "The Bush School is part of the Bryan-College Station community, and we want to help where and when we can," she added.

In October 2010, the Bush School, through the leadership of the Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs, hosted leading American and Chinese scholars for a conference entitled “Grand Strategy in Historical and Comparative Perspective: Implications for US-China Relations.” Scholars and officials from both the United States and China traveled to College Station to discuss historical precedents and lessons for the future. Among the topics discussed at the conference were historical lessons, grand power strategies, the sources and development of Chinese grand strategy, and policy prescriptions for avoiding spurious conflict between the US and China.

Dean Ryan Crocker of the Bush School opened the conference with remarks underscoring the vital importance of US-China dialogue to both scholars and government officials. His presentation was followed by a panel discussion of the historical lessons of great power grand strategies led by Scowcroft Institute director, Ambassador Larry Napper. The conference also included a wide range of papers and panel discussions by scholars from both US and Chinese universities and government agencies.

The event was the first of its kind held by the Bush School and offered a variety of unique perspectives on the decision-making process of both nations. It followed a previous meeting of American and Chinese scholars hosted by Peking University in May 2010. This series of conferences will lead to publication of a new book on US-China grand strategy. “There is no more important global relationship in the 21st century than that between the United States and China. This conference, and the book that will emerge from it, will be a major new contribution to the growing debate on the grand strategies of the United States and China,” said Ambassador Napper.

The first Robertson Fellows have been awarded this fall to four Bush School students. Thomas Buchanan, Kerri Eisenbach, Danielle Menard, and Michael Vogel will begin their studies in September. The program was instituted at the Bush School in 2010 with a grant of $386,400 over four years from the Robertson Foundation for Government. Established by the family of the late philanthropists Charles and Marie Robertson and named in their honor, the Foundation’s mission is to strengthen the United States by supporting educational and training programs for men and women who will enter federal government service in foreign policy, national security and international affairs.

The first Robertson Fellows are the following.

- Thomas C. Buchanan graduated magna cum laude in 2003 from Texas A&M University-Kingsville (TX) where he earned his BS in criminology with a minor in theater arts. He spent two years in the Peace Corps, where he served in Bougara, Bulgaria, helping to develop and implement an employment program for the region's Turkish and Roma minorities. Upon returning to the US, he worked as an editor specializing in translations from Slavic languages to English before moving to Argentina to work as chief editor for a small company he co-founded. Kerri Eisenbach earned her BA in philosophy from Texas A&M University, graduating magna cum laude in December 2010. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, Kerri won the Manual Davenport Prize for her service to the department and also served as an officer for the Undergraduate Philosophy Club. Kerri was a member of the Wiley Lecture Series and W, a women's service organization; served as a conversation partner to international students; and completed both a study abroad in Costa Rica and service work in Mexico.

Danielle M. Menard is a 2011 Bryn Mawr College graduate with an AB in political science, an AB in French, and a minor in Russian. A Kline Fellowship supported her advanced Russian studies in St. Petersburg during the summer of 2011, which followed spring studies at the Sorbonne in Paris. She has held internships with several organizations, including the Department of Defense, Office of General Counsel; the US Trade and Development Agency; Sub-Saharan Africa Region; the US Embassy Paris, Political Section; and The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program of the University of Pennsylvania.

Michael Vogel graduated summa cum laude from the University of Rhode Island in December 2010 with a BA in political science. Vogel is a former marine who assisted in the 2007 troop surge in Iraq, serving as a route clearance gunner in the Al-Anbar Province. While an undergraduate, he was a recipient of the Horatio Alger Military Scholarship; and in 2011, he was named the David Warren International Relations Scholar of the Year. Michael circumnavigated the globe in 2010 and was exposed to a variety of cultures in the countries of Japan, China, Viet Nam, India, South Africa, and Brazil.

The Foundation places special emphasis on studies related to international relations and foreign affairs and seeks to help government meet personnel needs by working with colleges and universities throughout the country as well as with federal departments and agencies that require international expertise.

In establishing the Robertson Fellows Program, the Bush School agreed to recruit high-caliber students to study in the School’s master’s degree programs in international affairs and public service and administration. Eligible students must be US citizens, be academically qualified, demonstrate and state a compelling interest in working in the US federal government, and exhibit strong leadership qualities.

"Each of this year’s Robertson Fellows more than meets the Foundation’s criteria," said Sam Kirkpatrick, executive associate dean. "Their academic achievements are impressive and are enhanced by the broad range of experiences they have had during and after their undergraduate education," he added.

Robertson Fellowship funds are in addition to funds normally provided to Bush School students. The goal is to provide a mix of resources that will cover approximately all expenses associated with completing a master’s degree over two years. Fellowship recipients also receive additional enhancements such as subsidized health insurance and internship expenses, assistance in securing federal employment, working with Robertson alumni on internship and career opportunities, and meetings with the Foundation staff.

Dr. Edwina Dorch

US-CHINA RELATIONS CONFERENCE HELD

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Dean Ryan Crocker of the Bush School opened the conference with remarks underscoring the vital importance of US-China dialogue to both scholars and government officials. His presentation was followed by a panel discussion of the historical lessons of great power grand
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Ranked 2nd in the nation among public universities in the “great schools, great prices” category, US News and World Report

Ranked 2nd in the nation for “best graduates” by recruiters, The Wall Street Journal

Has an endowment valued at over $5 billion, which ranks fourth among U.S. public universities

Member of the Association of American Universities since 2001

7th largest university in the US with an enrollment of over 49,000 students in Fall 2010

Top 10 public “best value” colleges, Princeton Review

Top university in the nation for “payback ratio”, Smart Money

Top 10 public institution based on earnings of alumni with 10-20 years of work experience, Forbes

http://bush.tamu.edu

THE BUSH SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICE

$17.4 Million – Current Research Grants

$47.6 Million – Total Endowments

$21.5 Million – Endowed Scholarships and Fellowships

Ranked 23rd in Public Affairs programs among public universities, US News and World Report

15 Endowed Chairs

4 Endowed Professorships