

# 2014 Director's Report

Dr. Robert Cox, Director of Walker Institute



**T**his was an exciting year for the Walker Institute. During the Spring semester we finished the year-long program called 'CarollIndia', which was a huge success. More details about that project appear later in this report. In addition, we welcomed a new Associate Director (Ed Carr, Geography) and two new area studies directors for European and Latin American Studies (Doyle Stevick, College of Education, and Gabi Kuenzli, History, respectively). We have continued to build relationships across campus, and made the important first steps to build a new Global Studies degree. For the coming year, our focus will be to continue expanding our research activities, and working to launch the Global Studies degree.

## **Deliver Programming to Enrich the International Experience on Campus**

The core objective of the Walker Institute is to provide international enrichment. In 2014, the Walker Institute sponsored or co-sponsored sixty-four guest visitors and events to campus. This was a substantial increase from the 38 visitors we brought to campus the previous year. These visits ranged across the curriculum, involving physical scientists, social scientists, poets, film makers and musicians. A full listing is available on the calendar section of the Walker Institute web page.

Most prominent of all these programs has been the "CarollIndia" initiative. CarollIndia was an effort to focus the year's programming to highlight one country. In this instance we selected India, and worked with students and faculty from across campus, as well as the Indian heritage community in the Midlands. The resulting program was well attended and engaging. The purpose of this initiative was to highlight the growing significance of India, promote

it as a destination for study abroad, and encourage faculty to develop research activities focused on India. Programming ranged from lectures by Indian specialists on climate change, a film series at the Nickelodeon theatre, commemoration of Indian holidays of Jashn and Holi to musical performances. The activity raised awareness of the Indian community on campus, and generated good relations with the heritage community.

## **Support Research Activities of Faculty and Students**

A second major objective of the Walker Institute is to support international research on campus. Towards this end, we undertook a major expansion of the grants program for faculty.

Faculty and Student Grants were awarded totaling \$69,774.

- 17 students received awards for a total of \$32,774.
- 9 faculty received awards for a total of \$30,000.
- The Small Workshop Grant was awarded for
- \$10,000. Huong Ngyuen in Social work won the grant to support the conference "Developing Social Work and Mental Health Care in Vietnam," held in Hanoi, in July of 2014.
- \$7000 was award to support other workshops and symposia.

### •Conferences and Symposia

*Taiwan and the Trans-Pacific Partnership: Prospects and Challenges for Trade Diplomacy.* The Twenty-second Taiwan conference, sponsored by the Center for Asian Studies, brought together thirty of the country's specialists on Asian security for a two-day conference. The conference was funded by the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta. A selection of papers will be published as a special issue of the American Journal of China Studies, edited by



Michael Hill and Robert Cox.

The Walker Institute provided support to:

- Visiting speaker, Dr. Amy Catlin-Jairazbhoy, Visiting Associate Professor and Research Associate-Department of Ethnomusicology at UCLA International Institute, School of Music.
- Visiting speaker, Dr. Nina Berman, Department of Comparative Studies-Ohio State University, "From Las Casas to Schweitzer and Angelina Jolie", Department of History.
- Visiting speaker, Robin Hessman, Director of "My Perestroika", International Programs for Students.
- Co-sponsorship in support of the International Education Week/CarolIndia 2014.
- Visiting speaker Jeff Deal, Water Missions International "Ebola Treatment Units in Liberia", Department of Anthropology.
- "Women and the Holocaust" Conference, Comparative Literature Department.
- Co-sponsorship in support of the filming of Dipesh Chakrabarty's public lecture.
- Visiting instructor for Capoeira classes, Latin American Studies Program.
- Co-sponsorship for visiting speaker, Dr. Sanna Pederson, University of Oklahoma, "Wagner and the Neurotic Impulse", School of Music.
- Co-sponsorship for the Second Language Research Forum at USC 2014, Linguistics.

Grants and Contracts this year totaled \$5,072,000.

- The Rule of Law Collaborative received a 5 million dollar grant from the US Department of Defense for "Development of Interagency Training".
- The Asian Studies program was awarded \$42,000 by the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) to organize a conference in September 2014. Director Michael Hill has applied for funding to support another conference in 2015.
- Walker Institute received \$30,000 for Dr. Ioanna Tourkochoriti as a Postdoctoral Fellowship grant, from the Office of the Provost.

Publications.

- A selection of papers preserved at the 21st Annual Taiwan Conference Titled: The U.S. Pivot towards Asia and Implications for Taiwan, June 2014. Volume 21.
- Robert Cox published the aforementioned Special issue, and has four other articles under review or in press.
- The journal Governance continues to be co-edited by Robert Cox. It was ranked 8th among 46 journals in

public administration, and 22nd among 156 journals in political science.

## Support and Promote Area Studies Programs

Each of the Area Studies program maintains an active schedule of program that integrates students and faculty from across campus. The Walker Institute provides administrative and staff support to each of these.

## Maintain Strong Relations with Community Partners

The Walker Institute has always been highly visible in Columbia and the Midlands Region, and programming done in conjunction with our community partners allows us to fulfill the University's mission to serve as a community resource.

- The Palmetto Forum remains the signature program of outreach for the Walker Institute. We organized another strong year of programming that featured eight USC faculty, showcasing their research for an audience of community leaders. This event takes place the first Wednesday of each month at the Palmetto Club.
- Robert Cox continues to serve on the Steering Committee of the Atlantic Institute (formerly South Carolina Dialogue Foundation), and the Board of the Columbia World Affairs Council.

## Goals for 2015

- Establish Global Studies Program. This major initiative is the culmination of an effort to revitalize area studies degrees. The objective is to amalgamate the area studies into a global studies program that will be organized around salient global issues, rather than world regions. The major areas of focus will be global development, global health, sustainability, rule of law and human security.
- Expand global partnerships. In conjunction with the Vice Provost of International Affairs, Walker Institute will establish global partners in key countries around the globe. The first of these partnerships are built on long-standing relationships with universities in Taiwan and South Korea. Future partnerships will be established in conjunction with major university initiatives in Brazil, Oman, Italy and South Africa.
- Expand the new Research Collaborative in Developmental Studies. Professor Ed Carr has taken on the role as leader of this research collaborative and will use his role as Associate Director to build the group.