

# 2015 Directors' Report

Dr. Robert H. Cox, Director of Walker Institute



This year initiated a process of change in the Walker Institute. In October 2015, we submitted a proposal for a new undergraduate degree program in Global Studies. More details about this appear later in this report. In addition, we welcomed a new Associate Director

(Saskia Coenen-Snyder, History and Jewish Studies). We have continued to deliver a dizzying array of programming on campus. We have also been engaged in the Global Carolina project led by Associate Provost for International Affairs, Allen Miller. For the coming year, we will focus on the launch of the Global Studies degree, and pursue fundraising activities to support it.

## Deliver Programming to Enrich the International Experience on Campus

The core objective of the Walker Institute is to provide international enrichment. In 2015, the Walker Institute sponsored or co-sponsored fifty guest visitors and events to campus. This was fewer than the sixty-four we hosted the previous year, but a substantial increase from the 38 visitors we brought to campus in 2013. 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.

## 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 \$105,547. This is a substantial increase from the previous year.

- 17 students received awards for a total of \$28,801.
- 15 faculty received awards for a total of \$37,890.
- The Small Workshop Grant was awarded for \$18,856. Ed Madden in English and Women and Gender Studies will organize a conference focusing on the rapid transition in Ireland from a country where homosexuality was outlawed to one of the leading pro-gay rights countries in Europe.
- We sponsored another small workshop on “The Informatics Revolution in Africa, organized by Director of African Studies, Kendra Albright. This symposium was held in the Spring of the year, and involved faculty from our partner, University of Johannesburg, South Africa.
- \$11,820 was award to support other workshops and symposia.

### Conferences and Symposia

- *Taiwan and the China Seas*. The Twenty-third 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.
- Climate History Workshop
- Women and the Holocaust: Cultural Productions and Interpretations

- Africa and the Information Society Symposium
- Anupama Bhagwat: Soulful Strings
- Capoeira Workshop
- 23rd Annual Conference on Taiwan Studies: Taiwan and the China Seas
- Syrian Refugee Panel
- 17th Annual Comparative Literature Conference
- Dear Veteran: Operation Gratitude Letter Drive
- Palmetto Forum Seminar Spring 2015 and Fall 2015 Series
- Opening Reception for Guantanamo Public Memory Project
- Public Memories of Guantanamo: Mayberry or Mayhem?

The Walker Institute provided support to:

- Guest: Anne-Marie Slaughter, Professor-Princeton University, CEO of new America Foundation, Carolina Leadership Initiative at UofSC
- Guest: Dr. Jonathan Jackson, Professor of Research Methodology-London School of Economics, Department of Criminology
- Guest: Dr. Dispeh Chakrabarty, Professor of History University of Chicago, History Center 17th Annual Comparative Literature Conference, Comparative Literature
- Guest: Dr. Hugh Urban-Ohio State University, Department of Religious Studies
- Guest: Ms. Amy Benson, Producer/Director-Non-fiction Media, The Carolina International House at Maxcy College
- Dr. Reza Shah-Kazemi, Research Associate-Institute for Ismaili Studies in London, Department of Religious Studies
- Guest: Dr. Russell H. Kaschula, NRF SARCHI Chair-Intellectualisation of African Languages, Multilingualism and Education, School of Languages-African Language Studies, Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa, Linguistics Program
- Guest: Fran Vavrus, Professor-University of Minnesota, Director of Graduate Studies, Co-Director, Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change, Educational Studies
- Guest: Vin Arthey, Author of *Abel: The True Story of the Spy They Traded for Gary Powers*, College of Information and Communications

- Refugee University: Displaced people from the Baltic States & their creation of the Baltic University in Hamburg, 1946-1949, Office of International Comparative Education
- Dr. Karen Culcasi, Associate Professor in Geography-West Virginia University, Department of Geography

Grants and Contracts this year totaled \$49,000.

- The Asian Studies program was awarded \$42,000 by the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) to organize a conference in September 2015. Director Michael Hill has applied for funding to support another conference in 2016.
- Walker Institute received \$7,000 for Dr. Robert Cox from Wiley Publishing for his role as editor of *Governance*.

Publications.

- A selection of papers preserved at the 21st Annual Taiwan Conference Titled: *Taiwan and the TransPacific Partnership*, *American Journal of Chinese Studies*, July 2015. Volume 22.
- Robert Cox published the aforementioned Special issue, as well as:
  - *Discursive Governance in Politics, Policy, and the Public Sphere*, edited by Umut Korkut, Kesi Mahendran, Gregg Bucken-Knapp, and Robert Henry Cox. Cox wrote the preface and co-wrote the introduction.
  - "International Trends in Social Assistance," in Daniel Béland and Pierre-Marc Daigneault, editors, *Welfare Reform in Canada: Provincial Social Assistance in Comparative Perspective*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2015, pp. 19-34.
  - Robert Henry Cox and Mariam Dekanozishvili, "German Efforts to Shape European Renewable Energy Policy," in Jale Tosun, Sophie Biesenbender and Kai Schulze, editors, *Energy Policy Making in the EU: Building the Agenda*, London: Springer UK, 2015, pp. 167-184.
- The journal *Governance* continues to be co-edited by Robert Cox. It was ranked 3rd in public administration, and 10th in political science, the only journal in the top ten in both disciplines.

## 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.

- Hosted a visiting Fulbright-Nehru Scholar. During the Fall Semester, Walker Institute hosted Dr. Anindya Jyoti Majumdar, Professor of International Relations at Jadavpur University in Kolkata (formerly Calcutta). Dr. Majumdar will taught a course on *The Politics of South Asia* with the goal of making students aware of the security politics in the region. He also gave several presentations to classes and through our community outreach programs.
- 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. He is also an advisor for the Law and Global Policy Development Program at River Bluff High School.

## Goals for 2016

- Ensure the smooth and successful launch of the new Global Studies Program. This major initiative is the culmination of an effort to revitalize area studies degrees. The new major will amalgamate the area studies into a single global studies program. The new major is benchmarked against the finest curricula at our peer aspirant institutions.

- Expand global partnerships. In conjunction with the Vice Provost of International Affairs, the 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 Vietnam, Brazil, Oman, Italy and South Africa.
- Embark on a two-pronged fundraising activity for Global Studies. One direction of fund raising will be to make application to federal and foundation programs to support programming and curricular development. The second prong will be to work with alumni of the Walker Institute to provide funds for Global Studies majors to study abroad and participate in international internships.