



Fall 2009

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Welcome

Welcome Message from the Editor

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Dear Friends of the Center for International Studies:

It is my pleasure to present you with the inaugural issue of our new online magazine, *Connections in International Studies*. Its purpose is to strengthen the ties that hold our community together by featuring individuals that are part of it.



In the magazine you will find articles written by or about these persons, as well as interviews that we conducted with them. Most features have an international theme; a smaller number focuses on the study of the international realm. All essays capture personal reflections rather than more objective academic insights. As the editor I took great care to ensure that the contributions were well written and made for enjoyable reading. I therefore hope you will find something in here that sparks your interest.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our alumni for their support. When I solicited their class notes – short entries describing events in their lives that they wished to share – many wrote back with enthusiasm, expressing their view that something like *Connections* was needed. I hope this issue lives up to your expectations.

Let me end by encouraging you to dive in. Happy reading!

Nivien Saleh, Ph.D.
Center for International Studies
University of St. Thomas
Houston, Texas
www.stthom.edu

Teachers

Linda Pett-Conklin: Being a Department Chair in Times of Transition

Linda Pett-Conklin is the most senior faculty member of the Center for International Studies. She is a geographer by training and came to the University of St. Thomas in 1980. Since then she has taught classes on urban geography, physical geography, and numerous world regions. She currently serves as department chair in International Studies.



-- *Interview by Nivien Saleh.*

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Connections: You are a geographer. What motivated you to study that field and get a Ph.D. in it?

Linda P-C: My father instilled in me an early curiosity about other parts of the world. He was a flight engineer in the Air Force, where he worked on a C-130, a big cargo plane. The United States government had given him top-secret clearance, which allowed him to fly all over the world.

He mostly travelled without the family. To be close to him, I followed his travels on a map. When he came home, he brought marvelous things with him. They stoked my imagination, and I wanted to learn about the people that lived in far-away places, their foods and habits.

Once in college, I selected math as my major, taking geography classes on the side. A while into my college experience, I realized that this was the field in which I wanted to obtain a degree.

From there getting a master's degree and subsequently a Ph.D. seemed natural because I truly loved the discipline. So I be-

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gan my graduate studies in 1974. In 1976, I enrolled in Louisiana State University's doctoral program, and ten years later, I graduated with a doctoral degree.

Perspectives on geography

Connections: Would you describe yourself as a generalist, that is, someone who has a basic understanding of many aspects of geography? Or is it more appropriate to call you a specialist, that is, a person who focuses on one single aspect and knows it in depth?

Linda P-C: My training is in cultural, not physical, geography. Within cultural geography, however, I am a generalist. Cultural geography contains systematic specialties, such as urban geography, political geography or economic geography. It also contains regional specialties. Some cultural geographers might thus specialize in a specific world region and study that region from a political, an economic and an urban angle. But there are also systematic specialists – let's say political geographers – whose regional focus is Africa. And all they do is political geography in Africa.

I am a generalist due to the fact that for the past 30 years I have been the sole full-time geographer at the University of St. Thomas. It was necessary for me to maintain a broad perspective and teach courses on most parts of the world: South Asia, Europe, North America and Latin America.

Connections: What unique perspective do you bring to bear on international studies that the other professors at the Center for International Studies do not have?

Linda P-C: I always tell people that geography is a foundational discipline in the social sciences. It creates the cohesion for all the other disciplines, such as political science or economics. Geography also forms a bridge between the natural sciences and the social sciences, because geography can be studied both from a physical and a cultural angle. That is something that no other social science can offer. It makes my discipline unique, and it makes my role here at the University of St. Thomas unique.

Connections: If you had one summer to do field research in a world region of your choice, where would you choose to go?

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Linda P-C: I would go to Brazil and study tropical agriculture. This is something that I had wanted to do since I was in college.

When I enrolled in the graduate program, geography was very male-dominated. Women were just beginning to enter the discipline in larger numbers, but they were very much discouraged from doing field research outside North America and perhaps Europe. Moving to a developing country such as Brazil was considered too dangerous and inappropriate for women, and I had to put this lifelong interest of mine on the back burner.

Education as a calling

Connections: There are Ph.D.s who flock to academia for the research. Others choose academia because they know they want to teach. You define yourself first and foremost as a teacher. What does being a teacher mean to you?

Linda P-C: I have always wanted to be an educator. In fact, I discovered that I wanted to become a teacher when I was eight years old, and I have never wanted to be anything other than that.

In January of 1980, while working on my dissertation, I began to lecture at the University of St. Thomas. The university expected me to throw myself exclusively into teaching. It did not provide funds for doing research, nor did it provide its faculty members with the time they would have needed to immerse themselves in specialty subjects. Our course loads were four-and-four, which by today's standards, even for liberal arts colleges, is very high. I frequently taught six different preparations per year. So my environment simply did not allow me to do research.

Connections: What have been your most satisfying moments as an educator?

Linda P-C: Watching students go from freshman year to graduation is a fantastic experience. Students change so much in those four years - especially the students who enter the university immediately after high school. But even the older, non-traditional students undergo a metamorphosis in the way they think, in their knowledge about the world, their self-confidence.

Our international studies students enter the program somewhat closed down, thinking it is not cool to be excited about learn-

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ing. But when they leave, they are open; they just want to take it all in. To me that is a thrilling thing, and it makes me love what I do.

Some of my favorite moments are therefore the commencement ceremonies, when students get to reap the rewards of all their hard work. I am always very proud when I see our students walk down the stage and pick up their diploma.

Gustavo Wensjoe

Connections: Recently, Dr. Gustavo Wensjoe passed away in a car accident. He had been a faculty member in international studies since 1992, and he taught courses on Latin America and political economy. You knew him for a long time. What was your relationship like?

Linda P-C: By the time he died, Gustavo and I had known each other for 17 years. For the first two years, we were getting to know each other, and we soon became friends. It helped that our children were the same age.

When Ronald Hatchett headed the Center for International Studies from 1993 to 2003, my relationship with the department was difficult, and this affected our friendship negatively. However, when Dr. Hatchett resigned from his position, I very much supported Gustavo's application to succeed him. In 2004, he became the director of the Center, and since then we were very close, much like brother and sister. This spring semester he was on sabbatical in Lima, Peru. In March he died in a car accident, together with his infant son, Julian. His wife, Joanne, was badly hurt. When I learned of Gustavo's death, I grieved tremendously.

Connections: A week after his passing, the University of St. Thomas held a prayer service in his honor. The turnout was enormous. About 700 people came to say farewell. It showed that Gustavo Wensjoe had impacted many lives. What was his secret?

Linda P-C: From 1982 to 1993, Bill Cunningham headed the Center for International Studies, and he began connecting it to the local international community. When Gustavo took over after Ron Hatchett, he gathered the connections that Bill Cunningham had established and thoroughly solidified them. He also reached out to the rest of the world, as impossible as that sounds. He did it, for example, by helping to launch ICUSTA, the International Council of Universities of St. Thomas Aquinas. That is a network which

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connects universities that are grounded in the teachings of St. Thomas Aquinas all over the world.

Gustavo had an amazing reach. Thanks to him, the Center became linked to his own Peruvian community but also to the German, the British and all the Latin American communities in Houston.

He had a real sincerity about him and a genuine interest in those people with whom he interacted, whether they were cleaning staff or consul generals. Unlike me, Gustavo was a people person. Interestingly, he never thought of himself in that way. When I shared with him that I considered myself an introvert, he replied: "Well, I'm an introvert, too." It cracked me up, because what he said so contradicted my impression of him.

Another thing set Gustavo apart: he made everyone feel special and gave each individual person the feeling that he or she was his very best friend. That is a marvelous quality to possess.

Being department chair

Connections: When Gustavo passed away, you became the new department chair. How do you view your new role?

Linda P-C: It is daunting, to be honest. I can lead the department, if necessary, but much prefer to follow a good leader. I consider this a transitional arrangement until we have found the leadership we need to continue Gustavo's work. During my time as department chair, I will do my very best to honor Gustavo's legacy and complete some important initiatives that he started.

Connections: People who have known Gustavo and his efforts to build strong programs in international studies and international development may worry that without his leadership the Center will decline in stature. Do these worries have a foundation?

Linda P-C: Yes, of course, worries such as these are justified. Gustavo was a tremendously successful leader, a consensus builder, a motivator. Filling those shoes will be difficult.

Connections: Why should people not be worried?

Linda P-C: Even though the loss of Gustavo has hurt each of us individually, and even though it is a setback to the Center, we will

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strive for excellence and build on the foundation that Gustavo has laid. That foundation is very strong. We have a good teaching staff, a wonderful, energetic, office manager, and students who consider us their family away from home.

We also enjoy the support of Bill Cunningham, who assists us whenever he can. What we lack right now is leadership, particularly someone who serves as our bridge into the external community. We will be looking for a person who can fill that position. Until then, all of us will participate in the Center's community outreach to the best of our abilities. □

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Learners

Miguel Salcedo: Why Travel?

A native of Venezuela, Miguel Salcedo is a senior majoring in international studies. In addition to his coursework, he actively participates in the MicroCredit Program at the Center for International Studies and has frequently written for the University's student-run newspaper The Summa. This spring Miguel traveled to Santiago, Chile, where he studied for a semester at the Universidad Santo Tomás.

-- Essay by Miguel Salcedo.

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What inspires us to travel? Some do it to pursue business opportunities or social activities; while others, intrigued by distant and unfamiliar places, lead itinerant lives purely for pleasure. Custodians of the climate seek out and defend the earth's hotspots for biodiversity, while polyglots traipse the continents to enlarge their linguistic arsenal. There were certainly many reasons why I decided to pursue a study abroad experience in Chile - namely my love of history and my familiarity with Latin American culture. I relished the prospect of helping the University of St. Thomas MicroCredit program with a project in a popular district of Santiago. I was uplifted by the anticipation of the southern hemisphere, by the geographic diversity of the longest country in the world and by the opportunity to learn first-hand about a Latin country other than my native Venezuela. But there was another very important motivation for my travel. While sitting with me in his office one day after class, the late Dr. Gustavo Wensjoe, former director of the Center for International Studies, assured me that going to Chile was a great idea and would help me in the future. Hearing this from such a respected professor, mentor and friend became my final inspiration. With a host of personal and academic goals to accomplish while abroad, I prepared tirelessly for my departure.

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During the flight to Santiago time crept by at a glacial pace, as it always does during times of anticipation. My brother, who had lived in Chile for several years, picked me up from the airport and fed me facts and stories about the country while driving me to my apartment near downtown. Exhausted from the endless flight, I organized my schedule for the next few months, wondering if I would accomplish the numerous tasks I had set for myself. Aside from the uncertainty of whether I would complete everything I had planned, I was convinced that my semester abroad would have a tremendous impact on my life. My sense about the trip's importance was borne out, but I found that it changed my life in very different ways than I could ever have imagined.

I normally fall asleep effortlessly, but a few days into my trip, a powerful foreboding kept me awake. For hours I was in a hypnagogic state, which told me that something was terribly wrong. Finally I reached for the computer and signed into my e-mail, as if doing so would quell the anxiety that kept me awake. What I read that night produced a sorrow I had never experienced. A friend had sent me the link to an article from Peru describing the death of an infant, Julian, and his father, the Peruvian-American professor Dr. Gustavo Wensjoe. The article's indifferent, impersonal tone was colder than the freezing nights of the unfamiliar country I was in; it crept into my body and has stayed to this day. "Suddenly nothing makes sense," I thought as I sat on my balcony that night staring at the sprawl of Santiago; that view reminded me of how far I was from others who had known and respected Dr. Wensjoe as much as I had.

Dr. Wensjoe's support had been such a significant reason why I went to Chile. Without my mentor the trip lost the meaning it had held for me. I spent several weeks trying to recover the enthusiasm with which I had left Houston, trying to feel that my goals were important again. It was one of the most difficult periods of my life, because I was largely on my own yet still had not adapted to life in Chile. I perused my memory to revisit every word Dr. Wensjoe had ever said to me, convinced that these fragments of wisdom could help me make sense of something that was impossible to understand. Finally I remembered that even though he was strict and insatiable in his life, he always believed in me, and would have wanted me to get the most out of my time abroad. So I could no longer let myself languish. I have since strived to do well in my classes, worked tirelessly on every project and enjoyed the rest of my trip, just as Dr. Wensjoe would have wanted me to.

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Those who habitually travel know the downsides of the itinerant life. Getting accustomed to being somewhere new is not easy, especially if you experience a tragedy while there. During my time abroad I nearly lost sight of the reasons for which I decided to leave in the first place, and I abandoned the discipline and determination Dr. Wensjoe demanded from me in class and in life. In hindsight, being forced to cope with his death on my own, far away from home, taught me how to persevere in the face of adversity. The experience made me a better person. I remember him saying that if I do something, I should do it right - this philosophy has since become central to my being and can make anyone's life far more fulfilling. I have learned that venturing abroad is risky because you leave your safety net behind. But the gains from travel outweigh this risk. Dr. Wensjoe knew that when he encouraged me to go on my journey. □

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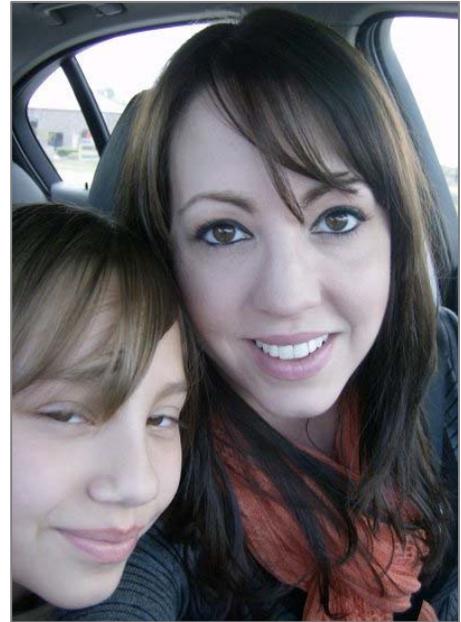
Graduates

Amanda Duhon: Trajectory of a Non-Traditional Student

Originally from Louisiana, Amanda Duhon spent much of her life in Houston. After receiving her associate's degree from San Jacinto Community College, she became a student at the University of St. Thomas. In December 2008, she graduated with a bachelor's degree in international studies.

-- Essay by Amanda Duhon.

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In American higher education, the profile of the student body is changing. In the past, most students who entered college were 17 or 18 years old and fresh out of high school. Today, many more students enroll in college at a later age. Their lives revolve around children and jobs, and they confront challenges that differ markedly from those that affected past student cohorts. A member of this new socioeconomic group, I recently completed my Bachelor of Arts in international studies at the University of St. Thomas. Let me share my experience with you.

From Lafayette to Houston

As my last name gives away, my heritage is Cajun. I spent my early childhood years in Lafayette, a small, French-speaking town in Louisiana where everybody knew everybody else. My father was Catholic; my mother was Methodist.

Inez Broussard Duhon, my grandmother on my father's side, was my earliest mentor. Coming from a family of 22 children, she never had the opportunity to obtain an education. Until she was married, she only spoke Cajun-French. Then she taught herself English by listening to the radio and by watching television. Her life was dedicated to her family and the Catholic Church. Her heart was in

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the right place, and even though she had never gone to school, she knew who she was and stood up for her principles.

My grandmother left a deep impression on me. Growing up, I strove to emulate her sincerity and searched for a spiritual home in the Catholic Church. The second role model in my life was my mother. Like my father, she had never gone to college. That, however, did not keep her from developing a successful career.

Early in my childhood, my parents, my older brother and I moved to Houston, and we have lived here ever since. Nevertheless, Louisiana continues to be my home. If I had to describe my sense of belonging in only a few words, I would call myself a Cajun Houstonian from Lafayette, Louisiana.

College choices

For a young person who lives in Houston and has a strong Catholic identity, enrolling at the University of St. Thomas may seem the natural thing to do. In my case, however, things were not as straightforward. To be sure, being a student at St. Thomas was one of my early teenage wishes. But my parents, who had little education beyond high school, could not guide me in the ways of approaching academia. They expected me to make good grades in school but offered me scant direction on how to do so. And even though I dreamt of studying English literature, obtaining a Ph. D., marrying, starting a family and some day retiring in Italy, I was certain that this was an unattainable chimera. Academia was a world away.

In 1996, I graduated from high school with a decent, but not excellent grade point average. Convinced that my middle-of-the-road grades would bar me from admission to St. Thomas, I did not even apply. Instead, my path led to Sam Houston State University and then to a community college.

To be honest, by that time academia had dropped from my list of priorities. Still in high school, I had fallen in love and within a year from my graduation gotten married. My high school sweetheart became the center of my world, and my aspirations for a professional career lost significance.

Prior to our marriage in 1997, he joined the military. We moved to Oklahoma and Kentucky before settling down in Fort Hood, Texas. The constant moves and financial difficulties caused

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me to quit school. Then, in 1999, our daughter Inez was born. She has been the light and drive of my life ever since.

My marriage did not last long, and when Inez was two years old, my husband and I agreed to divorce. Several years later, I obtained an annulment. Being a fresh divorcée was hard on me. I suffered over my own loss and felt guilty about depriving my young daughter of the perfect family life that is part of the American dream.

The divorce made me examine my life. Forced to chart out a new future, I remembered my early desire to become educated. Very quickly I enrolled at San Jacinto Community College, majoring in literature and taking one or two classes per semester. At the same time I worked to support my nuclear family of two. Eventually, I promised myself, I would transfer to St. Thomas.

Six weeks in Pau, France

Taking my second stab at college, I now took my studies very seriously and made good grades. In recognition of my efforts, the French Consulate Houston awarded me a scholarship for six weeks of study in Pau, France. Accepting the award meant separating from Inez, and that was incredibly difficult for me. What helped me take this step was the knowledge that I owed it to both of us to seize this opportunity, get my act together and better myself. This would allow me to impart a better life on Inez and help her develop a vision for her future.

France was eye-opening. For the first time in my life did I meet students from around the world and learn of cultures that had hitherto been unknown to me. It dawned on me how little I knew about the world and about life. My childhood had been so sheltered. I had never thought outside of familial norms because I lacked awareness of this option. The scholarship gave me the chance to get to know myself and examine my life. In many ways it changed me. What intensified was my thirst for education.

In the past, classes in English literature had been my academic focus, and social science courses such as U.S. government and economics hardly made it onto my radar. Now it became clear that these classes fed my mind and challenged me to view myself as a social being that could influence her environment.

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My hard work paid off. With elation I noticed my increasing ability to keep up with office conversations. Was I developing from a bystander into a player? Around that time a close friend began her graduate work in international studies at St. Thomas. She showed me the kind of coursework that she did. It looked fascinating, like something that might truly engage my intellect. Without much ado, I decided to change my major from literature to international studies and started the process of transferring to St. Thomas.

Alas, once again life interfered with my plans. In 2004, my father was diagnosed with cancer, which forced me to take several semesters off. In May 2005, he passed away. My father's death was a devastating experience, but his ability to let his faith carry him through the inevitability of his situation left a deep impression on me. It strengthened my desire to enroll at my school of choice. In a way I hoped that pursuing my education in a Catholic environment would bring me closer to my father. Forever struggling with my faith, I yearned for the spiritual peace that he had felt in his final moments. After his passing I took a year's leave from my job as a legal assistant, continued with my coursework and applied for admission to St. Thomas. In May 2006, I graduated with my associate's degree. Shortly thereafter, my application was accepted.

St. Thomas offered me a good scholarship package. In addition, I had access to financial aid. Nevertheless, enrolling at this university felt daunting. Would it be possible to balance classes, work and time with my daughter? Deep inside I lacked faith in my capacity to succeed.

Tough love

Things would get worse. The first person at the Center for International Studies who spent a significant amount of time with me was Dr. Gustavo Wensjoe, the Center's director. He announced that he would be my academic advisor. The minute I stepped into his office he sized me up and determined that I was one of those students that would thrive when challenged. Then he proceeded to introduce me to his pedagogy of "tough love," describing in meticulous detail the obstacles that barred non-traditional students like me from collegiate success. He was such an excellent judge of character. Sitting across him, I felt a sudden wave of anger welling up inside me. "Who does he think he is? What gives him the right to suggest that I can't succeed?" I told myself very indignantly, "I will show him!"

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Dr. Wensjoe had demanded that in my first semester I take only 12 credit hours. Determined to prove my worth to him and exceed his expectations, I flouted his mandate, took a 15-hour course load and excelled. When Dr. Wensjoe found out about this, he was livid. “Sure, you’ll be able to get As.” He said. “But that is not what college is about. I want you to retain the things that you learn and fully understand them, not just memorize facts for the exam and forget them the next day.”

To be honest, he scared me. But I also began to see that he was truly concerned for both me and my daughter. The lack of attention that Inez would suffer if her mother overburdened herself with school and office work sincerely troubled him. This time, I left our conversation feeling like a contrite child that acknowledged her disobedience. In my second semester, I took only 12 hours. Instead of proving my ability to get straight As, I would show Dr. Wensjoe that I was learning. My goal was to make him proud.

My time at St. Thomas lasted two and a half years. The university offered me a wealth of opportunities for personal growth, and I seized every single one of them. Truth be told, life was not easy. In addition to being a full-time student, I worked between 25 and 30 hours each week. My mother - God bless her - helped me care for Inez. Sleep became a luxury. Old friends left me because I did not spend time with them. More importantly, I lost out on time with my child. I did my best to be there for her, but more often than not, I had to earn money, study, take a nap or handle daily chores. The time away from Inez is lost forever, and I am acutely aware of it.

Lessons learned

Overall, however, my efforts have borne fruit. Academically, I have become a better writer and my research skills have improved. And even though I continue to tremble when having to speak in public, I face my fears, push through them and learn - little by little - to withstand the gaze of the audience. I appreciate that culture shapes people’s views of the world, understand the history of the Middle East, and know that the United States is a world hegemon.

I have also grown as a person. As a new student at the University of St. Thomas, I lacked faith in myself. With his rough approach Dr. Wensjoe gave me the necessary push. He held out high expectations and instilled in me the desire to meet them. Before I believed in myself, I knew he believed in me. And while trying to sa-

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tisfy him, I learned of my ability to accomplish the things to which I had set my mind. This is a gift for which I will forever be grateful.

Furthermore, I have learned to discern and respect my limits. I can now tell when I am overwhelmed, give myself a break and - if necessary - say no to requests for commitments.

All in all, my experience at St. Thomas has enabled me to mature intellectually and emotionally. Liberal arts colleges, especially those that are self-consciously Catholic, aim to guide their students toward self-knowledge. While I continue to struggle with my faith, St. Thomas has helped me learn about myself and become a more complete person.



And even though we have had too little time with one another, Inez has benefited from my education as well. For one thing, I am better able to make informed choices that affect her life - choices that are based on research and examination rather than solely on tradition. And together with me, she has learned that if she sets her mind to a goal and applies persistence and discipline, she can reach it.

Inez is aware and proud of her multi-cultural background. She considers herself a hybrid, a Cajun-Mexican American. She speaks some Spanish, wants to learn French, and asks me about her origins. She is a wonderful ballet dancer and a good student. She loves to read and she shares in my self-confidence. My daughter looks up to me and always says she wants to be just like her mother.

In December 2008 I graduated with a bachelor's degree in international studies. What comes next is still up in the air. One or two years ago, I toyed with the idea of going to law school, but with increased self-awareness came the realization that a legal career is not the right fit for me. I need to do something that nourishes me intellectually because my thirst for knowledge is far from quenched.

Should I dust off my old high school dream and work towards a Ph.D.? It would certainly challenge me. While I have not made up my mind, one thing is for sure. If I ever end up in Italy, I'll send you a postcard. That's a promise. □

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Graduates

Class Notes

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We were curious to know what our graduates were doing and asked them to give us an update on their lives. Below are the entries that they have submitted. First, we list the reports of our most recent alumni, then we turn to earlier graduates.

Students who graduated in 2008 -2009

Itziar Aguirre

After completing a joint major in business administration and international studies, Itziar wants to pursue a master's degree in finance in the fall. Her goal is to become a financial planner and work on economic development projects.

Shadi M. Dadkhah

Shadi graduated with a major in international studies and a minor in French. In fall 2009 she will enter the University of San Diego Law School where she plans to earn a J.D. in criminal law. Afterwards she would like to earn an LLM in international law.

Rubi Gonzalez

Rubi graduated magna cum laude with a major in international studies and minors in Spanish and Theology. Currently employed by a small law firm, she will attend law school in the fall. At present, she is most interested in practicing immigration law.



Patricia Manjarrez

Patricia is the membership coordinator at the Children's Museum of Houston, which is one of the best children's museums in the country. The position will allow Patricia to learn more about the workings of non-profit organizations and prepare her for establishing her own organization later in her career.

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Thomas Mendez

Thomas was the 2009 student commencement speaker. Until January 2010, he will work with NLV International Energy Business Consultants and learn more about the energy industry. Immediately afterwards he intends to pursue one year of graduate studies in economics in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship.



Gabriela Moreno

Gabriela plans to earn a Master in Liberal Arts in political science at the University of St. Thomas. While studying, she will continue her employment as a passport specialist for the U.S. Department of State at the Houston Passport Agency.

Ashley Mosing:

Ashley has decided to travel Latin America for half a year and earn her living as a private English tutor. Upon her return to the United States she will explore graduate school options.

Lisa M. Ray

Lisa is employed at Cavalier Fine Art Gallery. She is also developing a website for a Spanish tutorial company in Argentina. Her goal is to fuse her artistic talents with a concern for environmental issues and bring social awareness to her local community.

Deanna F. Soileau

Deanna graduated with a joint major in international studies and communications. She hopes to combine her love for international affairs with her experience in the communications sector. While Deanna foresees graduate studies in international relations in the future, she plans to stay in Houston and work for the next couple of years.



Tanya Nicole Thirwall

Tanya graduated with a major in international development. In the next year she wants to enter a graduate program in international relations or conflict resolution and then earn a Master of Business Administration.

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Earlier alumni



Kate Dillon Levin (BA, 2007)

The past year has brought many happy changes to Kate's life. In December 2008 she married Gabe Levin in San Diego, CA, and in June 2009 she earned a Master in Public Administration in International Development from the Harvard Kennedy School. She now joins the ranks of those looking for a job. Her wish is to be useful, and she hopes to have a positive impact on humanity and the earth.

Katherine Goodman, formerly Raley (BA, 2007)

Katherine married Nicholas Mark Goodman in January 2009 at the Chapel of St. Basil at the University of St. Thomas. Katherine is a media liaison for the press division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston. Her husband, a graduate of Mississippi State University, is a software developer for Rational Systems, LLC in Houston.

Ronald Mendez (BA, 1997)

After his graduation from St. Thomas Ronald joined the Department of State, where he served as a liaison officer to the Joint Staff at the Pentagon; the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, and the National Security Council. Since September 11, 2001, Ronald has deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq in support of U.S. special operations forces. In August 2007 he received his Master of Science of Strategic Intelligence from the National Defense Intelligence College, Washington, DC.

Teresa Nelson (BA, 1998)

In August 2009 Teresa "Terri" received a Ph.D. in public policy and political economy from the University of Texas at Dallas. Her dissertation focused on the topic of "Hispanic Dropouts and Pregnancies in Texas Public High Schools." Plans for the near term include a trip to Iceland and Austria.

Graduates

Mark Patricola (MIB, 2007)

Mark left his job as quality assurance coordinator for Skaugen Petrotrans (Houston) and took a position as a field service engineer for Shaw GBB, a division of Shaw Group. In his new role he traveled to Jiangyin and Nantong in China and to Salalah in Oman. At present he resides in New York, where he oversees Shaw's business development in the tri-state area of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

Linh Tu (BA, BBA, 2006)

Linh works for Total Gas & Power North America, Inc., where she was recently promoted to the rank of senior risk analyst. In June 2009 she married Andrew Hieu Cao. The couple will continue to reside in Houston. □

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Friends

Diana Untermeyer: A Woman with a Passion for Dip- lomacy and the Alaskan Rapids

A native of Wyoming, Diana Untermeyer was the executive assistant to Boyden Gray, counsel to President George H. W. Bush. Upon her move to Houston, she was a full-time mother and community volunteer. Then she became the director of communications for Christ Church Cathedral. When her husband Chase was appointed U.S. Ambassador to Qatar, Diana moved to Doha. There she worked with local women's groups and volunteered for environmental and sports organizations. Since 2007 she is back in Houston. Her top priority is her family, which includes her 15-year-old daughter, Elly. Both Diana and Chase have lectured at the University of St. Thomas.



-- Interview by Nivien Saleh.

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Connections: In the 1980s, shortly after graduating from the University of Virginia, you had an impressive government career in Washington, D.C. How did that come about?

Diana U.: I am originally from Wyoming, which is far from the U.S. capitol, but my family has a long history of public service. My great-grandfather, for example, was governor of Wyoming and later a U.S. Senator.

The person who brought me to Washington was Hugh Cumming, my great-uncle. As a career diplomat, he served as U.S. ambassador to Indonesia in the 1950s. Later he reorganized the Department of Intelligence and Research at the State Department. His wife died when I was 15, and because he did not have children,

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my sister and I decided to visit him for the first Christmas that he would spend alone. He thanked us by taking us on our first trip to Europe. We crossed the Atlantic the old-fashioned way, on the Queen Elizabeth 2, and returned home aboard the Concorde, a supersonic passenger airliner. On this trip we really bonded. My Uncle Hugh, his father, and his grandfather had all studied at the University of Virginia, and I decided to follow in their footsteps. While attending college in Charlottesville, I travelled back and forth to Washington, to be with my great-uncle.

In those days I had no plans to involve myself in politics. Having grown up in Wyoming and on a farm in New England, I loved the outdoors. So when I graduated in 1984, I did some wilderness guiding in Alaska and white-water kayaking all over the country.

However, when my great-uncle - who was almost 80 years old - was diagnosed with cancer, I wanted to be with him in Washington. He suggested that I volunteer for then Vice President George H.W. Bush, whom he knew personally. I sent a resume to his counsel, Boyden Gray, and within a week I was out doing advance work. That is, I helped arrange the Vice President's events by working with local hosts and the Secret Service to coordinate minute-by-minute schedules.

After that Boyden Gray asked me to work for him. Then, in November 1988, Bush won the presidential election. The following day, he announced that Gray would be his general counsel and Chase Untermeyer his personnel director.

Meeting Chase

Connections: Did you and Chase know each other at the time?

Diana U.: No, we did not. The last six or eight months before the elections I had worked for Wendy Gramm, whom President Ronald Reagan had appointed to head the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. During the presidential campaign many, many people sent resumes to Gramm, because they wanted to work for the government. As her executive assistant, I forwarded these application letters to Chase Untermeyer, whom I only knew by name.

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Connections: When and under what circumstances did you and Chase meet?

Diana U.: After President-Elect Bush had appointed him general counsel, Gray asked me to join his staff once more. This time I would serve as his executive assistant in the West Wing of the White House. As general counsel, Gray was in charge of the clearances on those individuals who were en route to becoming presidential appointees. I coordinated that process, making sure that their background material was sent to the FBI and that ethics officers reviewed their financial disclosures. Because I was drowning in papers, Gray called me the paper maven.

Whenever a new administration comes into office, it is under tremendous pressure to nominate its candidates very quickly. In the first week of the Bush administration, Chase requested a meeting with Boyden Gray. During that meeting, Chase pushed the Counsel's office to release names on the basis of a very limited background check. Any fallout would mean an end to Boyden Gray's career inside the White House, but because of the political need to fill senior positions in the new administration, Gray did start signing off on people the President intended to nominate.

So Chase and I met in January 1989 and started dating in May. In October, he asked me to marry him while sailing on the *Elissa* in Galveston Bay. I asked: "Why would you want to marry me? I am all emotion; and you're not!" He replied with his usual steadiness: "Well I think you have quite enough emotion for both of us!" Now we are almost 19 years down the road.

Move to Houston

Connections: Washington insiders usually don't leave the national political scene, and yet you discontinued your Washington career in the early 1990s. Why is that?

Diana U.: In 1992, George Bush lost his bid for re-election. Whenever an administration is defeated, its political appointees leave office on the day of the inauguration. For me, losing my job had an upside. Five days before the inauguration I found out that I was pregnant. I wanted to be a stay-at-home mother. Turning in my resignation was therefore not painful. So while Chase was looking for a new job all over the country, I had a blissful, wonderful pregnancy.

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Then we moved to Houston, where Chase took the position of director of governmental affairs with Compaq. Shortly thereafter, our daughter, Elly, was born, and I did not work for a few years.

I must say, in a way we were fortunate when we moved to Houston, because this is the home of President and Mrs. Barbara Bush, and we got to do interesting things with them.

Connections: Would you describe one of those things?

Diana U.: One of the most amazing events in which we participated was the renaming of the airport to the George H. W. Bush Intercontinental Airport of Houston. We had dinner in a big Continental hangar. After dinner, the hangar doors opened and revealed a DC-10.

We all got on board. Then we flew to Galveston and back at about 3000 feet, having dessert and champagne while President and Mrs. Bush walked up and down the aisles to greet everyone. I remember flying right over the Galleria. When the plane touched down, water cannons and fire works filled the night sky. The event had nothing to do with Washington politics, and yet it was a unique, never to be forgotten experience.

Off to Qatar

Connections: Let us fast forward a few years. In 2004, Chase was appointed U.S. Ambassador to Qatar, and he served in this position from August of that year to 2007. When he received the job offer, how did the two of you decide to accept it?

Diana U.: Well, we did not really have to decide. Even though he did not put his name in for an ambassadorship, it had been one of Chase's life-long dreams. He always had wanted to serve in a foreign country. Initially, I reacted by thinking that I was very happy where I was and wanted to stay. But there was never any doubt that my ultimate answer would be yes.

I should note that Chase chose to tell me in a very public place. We were at a fundraising dinner, and he said, "By the way, I received a call from the White House asking me to serve as an ambassador." And I gasped thinking, "Oh my God! This is not what I really want to do."

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I do not seek out or like change, but I always know I will be fine when change comes; I try to approach life with the Barbara Bush philosophy. One day, when she was a young mother in Connecticut, her husband came home and announced that they were moving to Odessa, Texas because he had accepted a job with an oil company. Literally, he told her that they would be moving to an oil field in Odessa. Can you imagine her response? It was, “I’ve always wanted to live in Odessa, Texas.” So that’s how I try to approach changes.

Being the spouse of a diplomat

Connections: Before embarking on your journey to Qatar, how did you envision your role?

Diana U.: I anticipated that I would entertain a lot and go out to numerous functions. I had no idea how kind the people of Qatar were and how fully they would integrate me into their society. I also did not expect to meet so many women and young people.

Connections: As a committed horseback rider, you rode for three hours early in the morning while you were in Qatar. Once you were done with that, you began your regular schedule. What did that schedule look like?

Diana U.: It varied from day to day. I was on a three-member committee at the American School of Doha. Through that committee, we raised funds to provide scholarships for Qataris because many of them cannot afford the tuition. We also lobbied the government to make the same state funds available for the American School that it provided for the local charter schools. So, I might have a committee meeting in the morning, or a meeting at the embassy to plan big events like the National Day.

In the first two years that I spent in Doha, I had Arabic lessons two or three times a week. I often had a luncheon or some volunteer activity. During the West Asian and Asian Games, I volunteered for daily eight-hour shifts. At 2:30 p.m., I picked up Elly from school and did what I call “mom stuff.” Later in the day, I usually attended functions such as the opening session of a conference, or a reception for an art exhibit. Sometimes Chase and I went to three or four events a night.

Connections: Did you have the opportunity to shape your schedule as you pleased?

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Diana U.: Absolutely. I could do as much or as little as I chose. Up until the 1960s, spouses of U.S. diplomats had less freedom in that regard. In those days, career diplomats were evaluated not only on their own merit but also on the performance of their spouses. In the late 1960s or early 1970s, the State Department changed this regulation. Now it evaluates diplomats solely on their own performance.

That separation between the functions of a diplomat and his or her spouse has given the spouse greater freedom. However, it has created its own set of problems. It leaves ambassadorial spouses in a sort of regulatory limbo. Sometimes a spouse does official work even though she is not obliged to do it. In those cases, the U.S. government views you neither as official nor as nonofficial. So, an ambassadorial spouse is a public figure with no official position or portfolio. This can lead to pretty frustrating situations.

A prime example is the struggle that ambassadorial spouses have to wage to get a car for official functions. It sounds petty, but it's not. Imagine this scenario: a high-level Qatari wedding is taking place, to which the wife of the American ambassador is invited. At 115°F the sun is blazing, and a sand storm is tearing through the area. Because the embassy has not furnished her with a car and driver, she drives herself, parks in the parking lot, and walks through the storm back to the reception area. Her hosts are embarrassed, wondering why she has been left to struggle in this manner. She is embarrassed as well because she is sweaty and dirty and certainly not in shape to represent her country. So depending on the official function that you, as a spouse, attend, you need a car; you need to be treated like an official member of the embassy.

Connections: From your observation of the diplomatic service, do you think that the treatment of spouses puts a strain on relationships?

Diana U.: Yes, I think it does although that is even more of a problem for families with two careers. When two diplomats are married to one another, they often have to make decisions about moving to separate countries; they must figure out where the children will go, or whose career will suffer for the sake of the other.

But couples can find ways to work that out. In my personal experience, it is very important that your partner be supportive.

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Chase was always incredibly supportive, and I think I would have felt very differently about my role if he had not been there for me.

Let me give you an example. Even though I was not obliged to do it, I carried out projects for the embassy, such as reworking its contact database. So, one day when Chase and I were leaving the embassy. I had my arms full of Arabic books and notebooks. Chase carried his briefcase. When the ambassadorial driver saw us, he rushed up the steps towards us. I thought, “Oh how nice! He’s going to help me.” But instead he took Chase’s briefcase and ignored me. So I turned to Chase and handed him my load. He happily took it, and the driver realized that we were a unit, a couple.

It is important that the working spouses be supportive and always make sure that they include their mates. The problems arise when they don’t treat their spouses as a significant part of the relationship. In those cases, other people will notice it and take license to be disrespectful.

Spirituality

Connections: You are Episcopalian, and you have been actively involved in the community outreach of Houston’s Christ Church Cathedral. In what ways has your faith shaped the way you live your life?

Diana U.: Being spiritual has shaped my life profoundly. I have this great belief that there is a higher power, a God, out there. I believe that God affects every person and that people have different ways of accessing divinity.

My personal faith story happens to be Christian, and the symbols and rituals of my own religious tradition mean a lot to me. But I have also been with Buddhist monks and prayed with Muslims, and I found these experiences very enlightening. In general, I have a broad-minded approach to spirituality that allows for common ground with people of other faiths. When it comes down to it, what matters is a person’s insight that we are not all out there on our own, that we are connected to one another. This understanding gives us a reason for serving humanity and for striving to be the best persons we can be.

I have great respect for other people’s faith stories and am very interested in them because they tell me a great deal about who these persons are. Faith is deeply intertwined with culture and tradi-

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tion. Learning about an individual's faith story will draw you into his or her culture in a most profound way. By inquiring into persons' faith stories, I have been able to create a deep connection with people in many different settings.

The future

Connections: How would you like to see your life develop in the future?

Diana U.: My main wish is that my family will be happy and healthy. I want to help our daughter, Elly, find a purpose that fulfills her and gives her life meaning. For myself, I would like to succeed on the book project on which I am working.

Connections: What kind of book are you putting together?

Diana U.: It is a book on Qatar - a coffee table book to be specific. The working title is *Qatar: Sand, Sea and Sky - Journey into Tradition and Modernity*. I will be responsible for the narrative and the overall organization of the project. The main component of the book will be photography by Henry Dallal, an award-winning international action photographer. This project has been germinating since Chase and I returned from Qatar two years ago, and it will allow me to indulge my passion for the written word. I am thrilled that we have a publisher and underwriters, including the Qatari Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage.

Connections: When can we expect to find your volume in the bookstores?

Diana U.: Sometime in early 2011, *inshallah*. □

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Joseph McFadden:
*The Making of a Global
University Network*

Dr. Joseph McFadden is a native of Illinois. He came to the University of St. Thomas in 1988, as the institution's first lay president and served as such until he stepped down in 1997. He returned to his first love - teaching - where he served as a professor of American and Irish history until his retirement in 2007. Dr. Robert Ivany asked him to continue to serve as the executive director of ICUSTA (meaning explained below). He continues his association with St. Thomas and can frequently be seen around campus in the library or in the Mt. Vernon History House, where his office is located.



-- Essay by Joseph McFadden.

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Those who have studied the European Union know of its penchant for acronyms that bear little connection with the term from which they have been derived. Who remembers, for example, that Europe's popular student exchange program ERASMUS really means "European Region Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students?"

While the Europeans are well known for their fancy acronyms, they are not the only ones who possess the necessary imagination. An institution near to my heart is best known by the six capital letters that abbreviate its full name. I am talking about ICUSTA, an organization that was founded 15 years ago by an international group of academics who met at the University of St. Thomas right here in Houston.

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Many members of the St. Thomas campus community are aware of this institution and are in one way or another affected by it. But very few know that its acronym hides the rather lengthy designation “The International Council of Universities of St. Thomas Aquinas.”

ICUSTA is an umbrella organization whose affiliates are universities. Its purpose is to promote international cooperation among its members, and in an age where universities must maintain an international image to meet the demands of their customers, ICUSTA has served the University of St. Thomas exceedingly well. In hindsight, it is hard to believe that in the early 1990s, it was little more than an unlikely proposition.

Luckily, we had academic visionaries who made it happen.

A preliminary visit

In 1993, during my tenure as the president of the University of St. Thomas, I received a visit from Fr. Abelardo Lobato. He was a priest at the Angelicum in Rome, a university that had developed out of the medieval House of Studies of the Dominican Order and that traces its roots back to the 16th century.

Fr. Lobato spoke Italian. I spoke English. We had no translator. You can surely imagine how difficult it was for us to communicate. Needless to say, I could not follow all his explanations. What I understood was that he had left Rome for a trip to Chile to heed a call by Dr. Gerardo Rocha, who presided over the Universidad Santo Tomás in Santiago. For a reason that I did not quite comprehend, Rocha had convened a meeting among universities whose intellectual foundations were the teachings of St. Thomas Aquinas. And Fr. Lobato was stopping by in Houston to personally invite the University of St. Thomas to join the gathering.

The notice that my visitor gave me was simply too short, so I declined his kind invitation. Fr. Lobato, therefore, offered to represent the University of St. Thomas Houston at the meeting. I agreed, and a short while later, I forgot about the matter.

Others did not, however. In the summer of 1994, I received a second visitor at my office. This time it was Gerardo Rocha himself. Unbeknownst to me, he had asked his family to wait for him in his rented car in the parking lot while he was speaking to me. I hope

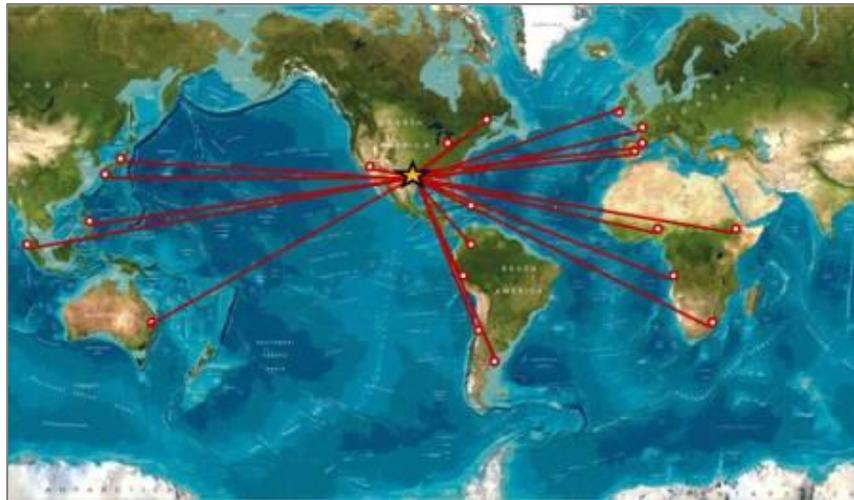
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the car was idling, because the Houston summers with their sweltering heat and high humidity can be quite unbearable.

When Rocha and I conversed in my office, I was grateful for his fair command of the English language, because my Spanish was poor. He informed me of his university and of the 1993 meeting that I had missed. The purpose of his visit, he said, was to convince me to host the second international conference of St. Thomas universities.

At that time I was knee-deep in my university's very first Capital Campaign, which aimed at enhancing its financial endowment. Even though I truly appreciated Rocha's proposal, I did not want to agree to it. But it turned out that my guest knew what he wanted and that he was charming, enthusiastic and persuasive.

He won me over by telling me that as far as all the universities of St. Thomas were concerned, Houston was the center of the world. I chuckled with disbelief. Noticing my reaction, he pulled out a list of all the institutions of higher education that had selected St Thomas Aquinas as their patron, and together we studied where they were located. It was true. The University of St. Thomas in Houston was at the center of their world!



I began to give his idea serious consideration. To make sure I understood Rocha correctly, I wanted Dr. Gustavo Wensjoe - at that time a new faculty member at the Center for International Studies - to join us. I was in luck. Gustavo was on campus and he hurried to my office. He and Rocha embarked on a long conversation in Spanish, with Gustavo translating for me every once in a while. At the end of our meeting, I told Gerardo that I would get back to him

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shortly, just so that he would have plenty of time to find another host for the 1995 meeting if our university declined.

When the meeting was over, I had little chance to give a negative answer. As friends of Gustavo know, he was a very persuasive person, especially when a project sparked his passion. This one clearly did, and he categorically explained to me that our university ought to - no, had to! - host this meeting for two reasons. First, the meeting would provide international opportunities for our students and faculty. Secondly, it would improve this new organization and perhaps become the most important event in its history.

My enthusiastic colleague then proceeded to explain how we would organize the meeting and how important it was to provide an outstanding experience for the delegates. We should not only introduce them to our campus, he said, but also to Texas and the United States. We ought to rent the George Ranch, a historical park 30 miles from downtown Houston, which offered all the Texana we needed: longhorn cattle, cowboys and chuckwagons. There we would host a good Texas barbecue and give our foreign guests a proper taste of the Lone Star State.

Finally he demanded that the University - the President's Office - should be good hosts and cover the costs of everything except the delegates' transportation and housing in Houston. That really caught my attention because the university's budget was, shall we say, tight. Gustavo took the event so far down the road, and so quickly, that I could do little but stand in awe.

The first ICUSTA conference

After extracting a firm promise from Gustavo that he would help organize and host the event, I agreed to the endeavor. And so it came that from the very beginning of our university's involvement in ICUSTA, the Center for International Studies has played a leading role.

In 1994, ICUSTA was only a dream in the minds of a few committed individuals in various corners of the globe. Even though I understood that the University of St. Thomas in Houston would convene a meeting of universities, I had no inkling that we stood at the threshold of launching a full-fledged international network for exchanging students, professors, and information. I suspect Gustavo knew because he continually spoke of the significance of this meeting.

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Because we hosted the conference, many member organizations are firmly convinced that St. Thomas founded ICUSTA. That is not so, but even though I have always told the story of the network as it truly unfolded and pointed out that Gerardo Rocha had launched the initiative, the University of St. Thomas in Houston and I continue to be credited with establishing ICUSTA.

The 1995 conference that was held in Houston was well attended, and the participants agreed on the necessity of institutionalizing our cooperative efforts by creating an organization. The university's vice president for academic affairs, Dr. Lee Williams, volunteered to draw up the ICUSTA by-laws, which the assembly moved to adopt. They define ICUSTA's mission as follows:

ICUSTA is an association of Catholic institutions of higher learning that faithfully adhere to the ideals and teachings of St. Thomas Aquinas and are committed to:

- Promoting a passion for truth and trust in reason and knowledge in the service of humanity;
- Transmitting to faculty and students the "forma mentis" or Thomistic way of doing research, inquiry, and learning;
- Providing our faculty and students with a Christian vision of the human person, especially the ethical and religious dimensions; and,
- Furthering their institutional Catholic identity that cultivates the dialogue between faith and culture and fosters service to the human community.

ICUSTA fosters international cooperation among its members through faculty and student exchange and encourages other appropriate collaborative initiatives.

Further meetings

"Ustê", the Pontifical and Royal University of Santo Tomás in Manila, volunteered to host the next meeting in 1997. That meant that ICUSTA had truly gotten off the ground. Subsequent meetings were held in Fredericton, New Brunswick (1999); Rome (2001); Mar del Plata, Argentina (2003); Barcelona (2005); Melbourne (2007) and at Mary Immaculate College in Limerick, Ireland in April 2009.

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What ICUSTA has made possible

Thanks to ICUSTA, member organizations have been able to provide new international experiences for their students and faculty. Many of our own students here in Houston have benefited from study abroad opportunities at ICUSTA institutions. The University of St. Thomas in Houston sponsors three faculty lecture exchanges each year with other ICUSTA institutions. In practice, this means that 20 of our own professors, and about 20 professors from partner universities, had a chance to lecture abroad and meet colleagues in Canada, Chile, Japan and Texas. Moreover, ICUSTA facilitated:

- joint faculty research projects;
- summer study abroad programs;
- investment opportunities for the MicroCredit Program of the University of St. Thomas in Houston;
- advanced study and sabbatical projects for university administrators and faculty; and
- special conferences.

Under the leadership of Dr. Pierre Canac, the University of St. Thomas in Houston offers an online course on globalization every two years. Over the past six years more than 250 students have enrolled in this course. Faculty and students from the following countries have participated: Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, France, the Philippines, Spain and the United States. Hardly a day passes without communication between members of our Houston campus community and individuals from other ICUSTA institutions.

We've come along way

ICUSTA has come a long way. Today, its membership consists of 26 universities from every inhabitable continent in the world. Fourteen of these do not bear the name of St. Thomas Aquinas, but they are fully committed to the mission statement. All in all, 200,000 students benefit from the network in one way or other.

At the University of St. Thomas in Houston, we have been fortunate that presidents who followed me in office - Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, and Dr. Robert Ivany - have continued to support ICUSTA in all its endeavors. In fact, at the 2009 conference in Limerick, Ireland, Archbishop Miller presented an out-

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standing plenary address, and he called on ICUSTA to help the Church meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Moments of remembrance

The conference lasted four days, and its program offered stimulating discussion. But it also had its somber moments. With sadness in our hearts, we honored three persons who had given significant support and service to the advancement of ICUSTA's mission. All of them had died in tragic accidents shortly before the meeting: our founder Dr. Gerardo Rocha, president of Universidad Santo Tomás, Chile; Dr. Gustavo Wensjoe, chair of International Studies at the University of St. Thomas in Houston; and Dr. Thomas Dillon, president of Aquinas College in Santa Paula, California. Every day during our meetings, we celebrated Mass in their honor.

May the Lord bless these founders and keep them close to his breast. We cherish what they have given us. □

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ICUSTA Member Universities (Click to visit a university website)

Angola

- [Universidade Catolica de Angola](#)

Argentina

- [Pontifica Universidad Católica, Argentina](#)
- [Universidad Fasta de la Fraternidad de Agrupaciones Santo Tomás de Aquino](#)

Australia

- [Australian Catholic University](#)

Canada

- [St. Thomas University, Fredericton, New Brunswick](#)

Chile

- [Universidad Santo Tomás](#)

Colombia

- [Universidad Santo Tomás Bogotá, Colombia](#)

Dominican Republic

- [Pontifica Universidad Católica Madre Y Maestra](#)

Ethiopia

- [Ethiopian Catholic University of St. Thomas Aquinas \(ECUSTA\)](#)

ICUSTA Member Universities
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France

- [Institut Catholique d'Etudes Supérieures](#)

Indonesia

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- [St. Catherine University \(Sei Katarina Daigaku\)](#)
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Mozambique

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- [Pontifica Universidad Católica del Peru, Lima](#)

Philippines

- [Aquinas University](#)
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Spain

- [Barcelona- Universidad Abat Oliba CEU](#)
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United States

- [Aquinas College](#)
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