

Important Dates

- February 25:
Midterm Grades
Available
- March 14-19:
Spring Break
- March 26: Last
Day to Drop
Classes Without
Penalty
- March 28:
Summer and
Fall Registration
opens
- April 27: Last
Day of Spring
Classes
- April 28 & 29:
Reading Days
- April 30-May 6:
Spring Final
Exams

GIA's Excellent Alumni Spotlight: Philanthropy Trayce Williams and The Spark Foundation

Trayce Williams graduated from USF in 1985. In 2009, Trayce, her husband, and youngest son traveled to Rwanda, Africa for what was supposed to be a 10-week business trip. She ended up staying for three years. Working with her husband's foundation, she helped establish a female empowerment program, the Beacon Program, to help create small businesses for mothers of school-aged children, enabling them to send their children to school. Trayce found that educators in the developing world use the same curriculum and have the same standards, in some cases higher, as those in the West. "The challenges faced are enormous. The people live with no access to the grid, no lights, and little security. Teachers and students walk great distances every day in the dark just to attend school. Teachers grade papers by kerosene and candlelight and are paid about \$60 a month." This realization led to the creation of The Spark Foundation. Today, The Spark Foundation has been able to get solar lanterns into the hands of teachers all over the world. Using the Heli® portable power and light lantern, a product she helped develop, The Spark Foundation works to ensure that teachers and students have access to light, *and* the ability to charge cell phones and other USB devices without having to walk for miles to connect with a distant, expensive, and

often unreliable grid. The ultimate goal is to give power and light to every educator in the developing world. Beyond that, Trayce has plans to increase the reach and influence of The Spark Foundation through a peer-to-peer education website that will allow educators in the West to work directly with educators in the developing world; exchanging lesson plans, advice, ideas, and, of course, their stories. Spark also performs outreach into local schools, granting American schoolchildren an opportunity to experience the challenges of reading and writing without power and electric light, and other obstacles faced by children their own age who live on the other side of the globe.

For more information on The Spark Foundation or to get involved, visit <http://www.TheSparkFoundation.org> or email Trayce directly at <mailto:Trayce@TheSparkFoundation.org>.



GIA's Excellent Student Spotlight: Study Abroad Shelby Thomas

Shelby Thomas is a Senior double-majoring in International Business and International Studies. Shelby has focused her language training on Japanese and has pursued two study abroad experiences in Japan. She visited Kansai Gaidai University for a semester, studying Asian and Japanese studies, and the University of Shiga Prefecture under the U.S. Department of State's Critical Language Scholarship (CLS), where she studied in an immersive Japanese language program. She also received USF's Center for Strategic and Diplomatic Studies' first Charitable Scholarship to offset the costs of her trips abroad. Shelby was invited to participate in the national Fulbright U.K. Summer Institute Program in Wales, where she studied business industries in the country for 6 weeks. She credits her ability to understand the world better to her international experiences, and hopes to build upon them in the future. Her ultimate goal is to serve as Foreign Service Officer for the Department of State, hoping to give back to the American people through establishing and maintaining international partnerships.



GIA's Excellent Student Spotlight: Internships Leslie Gibson

Leslie Gibson is a senior at USF, studying International Studies and Russian. This summer, Leslie interned for the Department of State at U.S. Embassy Tallinn in Estonia, working in the Management/General Services Office. Leslie's supervisor was actually a graduate from the USF College of Business! She worked on a variety of projects, such as security enhancement plans and coordinating visits

for the Secretary of Defense. Leslie was able to work with several departments during her time with the embassy, giving her a more holistic understanding of American diplomacy in action. She attended events with Ambassador Levine, such as a trip to Tapa Military Base and a GLOBE camp event for Estonian, Latvian, and Russian youths. She also worked with the Political-Military section and the Office of Defense Cooperation to support the

Embassy's role in NATO joint efforts. This summer, after graduation from USF, Leslie will intern in the Public Affairs Section at

the U.S. Mission to NATO in Brussels, Belgium.
Good luck Leslie!



Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter, General Services Officer Eric Jacobs (USF COB Alumni), and Leslie Gibson

GIA's Excellent Orgs Spotlight: Student Involvement ISS and the Pre-Law Society of USF

The purpose of the **International Studies Society** at USF is to promote educated discussion and interest in global affairs, allowing students at USF with the same academic interests to meet and share ideas.

The purpose of the **Pre-Law Society** is to provide academic, personal, and professional guidance to any and all USF students looking into going to law school or pursuing a career in law.

ISS and the Pre-Law Society are open to and designed for ALL MAJORS!

Opportunities to get involved in Spring 2016:

- ♦ Feb. 11-12 FSU College of Law admissions reps hold one-one meetings - make your appointment at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d4aafa92ea6ff2-personal9> (Sponsored by Pre-Law Society)
- ♦ Feb. 24 Ben Luongo, Ph.D. Candidate—Can human rights be universal in a world of cultural diversity? 6:30-7:45pm in MSC 2707 (Sponsored by ISS)
- ♦ Mar. 10 Dr. Woo on North Korea and Weapons of Mass Destruction 4:30-6:00pm in MSC 2709 (Sponsored by ISS)

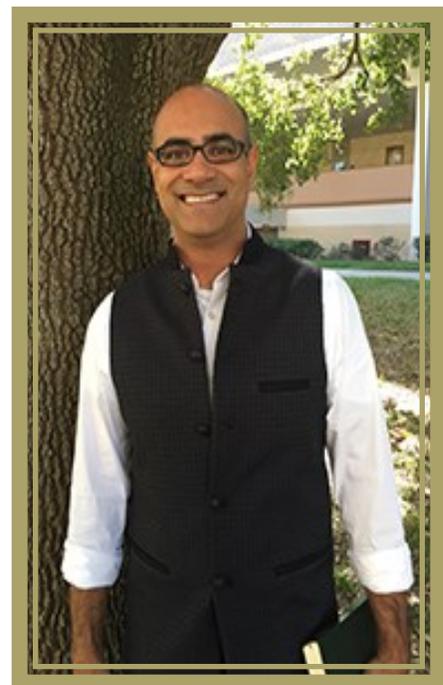
For more information about ISS, email us issatusf@gmail.com

For more information about Pre-Law Society, email Rahi Dayerizadeh rdayeriz@usf.edu

GIA Welcomes New Faculty: **Dr. Manu Samnotra**

Manu Samnotra received his Doctoral degree from the University of Florida. He also holds a M.A. degree from the New School for Social Research. He pursued a double major in Economics and Politics from Ithaca College. Manu's intellectual focus is directed towards the political theory of

Hannah Arendt, the role of emotions and honor in political life, and additionally, the evolution of Indian political and philosophical thought. He is now teaching Classical Political Theory and Intro to Political Theory at USE.



GIA's Excellent Advising Spotlight: Pre-Law Raheleh Dayerizadeh

The Outstanding Undergraduate Academic Advising award recognizes academic advisors that have positively molded the success of USF undergraduate students. "It was an honor to have received one of the 2015 Outstanding Academic Advising Award's. Over the past 8 years, as an Academic Advisor, I have been privileged to listen, guide, inspire, and empower our Pre-law, Political Science, and International Studies students to achieve their dreams at USF and beyond! Every year, I have worked towards providing accurate information and enhancing local and global opportunities and resources for our students. Each student's success has inspired me to work harder. I am thankful for this wonderful and truly impactful job that I get to do every single day!"



GIA's Excellent Faculty Spotlight: USF World Awards Dr. Janna Merrick and Dr. Bernd Reiter

Dr. Merrick and Dr. Reiter received the inaugural Global Achievement Award to recognize their remarkable work with students to better their understandings of the world around them. When asked what inspired her to pursue this work, Dr. Merrick responded "Since I was 16, I have been committed to making the world my classroom and encouraging my students to do likewise. I have been leading study abroad programs since 1978 to Scotland, Denmark, the former Soviet Union, Spain, London, Paris, and my beloved Italy." When asked what it felt like to receive this honor, Dr. Reiter responded "Receiving the Global Achievement Award, to me, meant receiving recognition for my efforts to connect USF to universities and organizations abroad. I established partnerships with people and institutions in Brazil, Colombia, Germany, Cuba, France, and Portugal and it is great to know that these efforts are recognized and valued. I feel humbled by the efforts my nominators undertake to give me this award. They certainly shone more light on me than was due." On behalf of the GIA department, we'd like to wish Dr. Merrick and Dr. Reiter our sincerest congratulations and gratitude.

