From the Director

Dear Friends of the Mortara Center,

This summer we began a leadership transition at the Mortara Center as Kathleen McNamara returned to the faculty after heading up the Center for the past six years. In her tenure as Director, she transformed the Mortara Center into the intellectual hub for interdisciplinary cooperation and collaboration at the School of Foreign Service. Through a diverse range of research activities, the Mortara Center knits together the Georgetown community interested in international studies, creating a space where ideas are shared and developed. We are grateful for her contribution to the Center and the School.

The past year highlighted that spirit of interdisciplinary collaboration as the Mortara Center continued to organize book workshops, launch publications and host seminars supporting the whole research cycle. Along with the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, we were also recipients of a Carnegie Foundation grant to “Bridge the Gap” between academic researchers and policy practitioners.

I hope that you will read on to learn more about our work during the past year and come to the next Mortara event to be inspired by the breadth of international studies at Georgetown.

Sincerely,
Abraham Newman
Director, Mortara Center for International Studies
Associate Professor, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service
Officially opened in January 2003, the Mortara Center for International Studies was founded through the generosity of the late Michael P. Mortara and his wife, Virginia Mortara. At the time of his death in November 2000, Michael Mortara was president and chief executive officer of Goldman Sachs Ventures and a recent member of the University’s Board of Directors.

Mortara envisioned a center of scholarly inquiry at the School of Foreign Service that would embody the mission of the School and its focus on the intersection of theory and practice in international affairs. With the help of his wife, Virginia, the School of Foreign Service is continuing his noble vision by developing the center he imagined.

Mission: The Mortara Center for International Studies seeks to advance scholarship and inform policy by combining the expertise of scholars and the experience of international affairs practitioners to illuminate the fundamental forces — political, economic, and cultural — that shape international relations. To realize this mission, the Center organizes and cosponsors lectures, workshops, and conferences; provides support for research and publications; and generates communities of research.
The Mortara Center’s programming supports the entire research life cycle, from preliminary brainstorming, through the presentation of rough drafts in workshops to the unveiling of published books. These activities contribute to the development of “thought communities” between faculty and students on campus and promote interaction with scholars, practitioners and experts outside of Georgetown.

The Center also supports undergraduate student research endeavors by managing the Mortara Undergraduate Research Fellows program and advising on the Walsh Exchange undergraduate IR research conference.

**Mortara Undergraduate Research Fellows**

2015–2016 marked the fifth year since the founding of the Mortara Undergraduate Research Fellows Program (MURFs) sponsored by the Mortara Center and the SFS Dean’s Office. As part of the University’s commitment to undergraduate research, a select group of students in the School of Foreign Service
have the opportunity to partner with professors as research assistants and potential coauthors on research projects throughout their undergraduate career.

By empowering students as generators, not just consumers, of knowledge, MURFs emerge from the program with the in-depth skills and training to tackle a range of issues in foreign affairs.

In March, Sophomore and Senior research fellows presented their research and shared their experiences at the third annual MURF Symposium, giving those who attended an opportunity to hear firsthand about the impact of the program. They emphasized the unique critical tenets of their experience: community, faculty mentorship and the opportunity to do in-depth research – in ways unmatched by any other program on campus.

*In 15 years at the World Bank, we would always only hire graduate student research assistants....but from what I’ve seen today, you guys would blow away easily most of them. In terms of the succinctness in which you crystallized the literature, absorbed and understood them, to the data presentation – you’ve beat World Bankers in the quality of your PowerPoints. This is going to help you for many years to come.*

- Joel Hellman, Dean, School of Foreign Service
Workshops

This year saw a continuation of the Mortara Center’s commitment to research support in the form of workshops to develop faculty book and publication projects. Mortara hosted three workshops this year on topics spanning comparative study of legal institutions, the challenges faced by poor democracies and the history of drone flight.

“Thanks to a gathering hosted by the Mortara Center (and supported by an International Collaborative Grant from the Office of the Vice President for Global Engagement and a Book Incubator Grant from the Department of Government), a burgeoning research project focused on “Data and Methods in the Comparative Analysis of Legal Institutions” will grow into an edited volume; Cambridge University Press (Comparative Constitutional Law and Policy series) has expressed interest in reviewing a prospectus for the volume. In addition, workshop participants plan to hold a follow-on workshop in January 2017, and hope to continue meeting annually to develop plans to bolster the data infrastructure underlying the comparative study of legal institutions.”
-- Diana Kapiszewski, Provost’s Distinguished Associate Professor, Department of Government

I received invaluable feedback about my book project during the day-long workshop hosted by the Mortara Center for International Affairs. The participants’ comments helped to establish a framework to revise the manuscript as I prepare to send the book to publishers for review. Additionally, the discussion of the project brought together a unique group of interdisciplinary scholars, laying the groundwork for possible future collaborations.
-- Katherine Chandler, Assistant Professor, School of Foreign Service
Book Launches

The Mortara Center sponsored seven book launch events this year. By inviting authors to discuss their work and methods of research, the Mortara Center is able to celebrate the end of the research cycle, publication, with a broader community audience.

In September, Center Director Kathleen McNamara kicked off the year’s book talks with her new publication *The Politics of Everyday Europe: Constructing Authority in the European Union*. The book argues that the symbols and practices of EU governance have created a sense of European identity, but one watered down and far from the passion of nationalist sentiments.

In November, Princeton Professor Thomas J. Christensen spoke on his book *The China Challenge: Shaping the Choices of a Rising Power* which aims to complicate the notion that China is a rival superpower to the US and points to the necessity of fully incorporating China into the global order.
The Center was pleased to host the book launches of five additional Georgetown Faculty:

Nancy Sherman, *Afterwar: Healing the Moral Wounds of Our Soldiers*

Daniel Byman, *Al Qaeda, the Islamic State, and the Global Jihadist Movement: What Everyone Needs to Know*

Paul Pillar, *Why America Misunderstands the World: National Experience and Roots of Misperception*

William B. Bonvillian and Charles Weiss, *Technological Innovation in Legacy Sectors* (cosponsored by the STIA program)

George Akerlof, *Phishing for Phools: The Economics of Manipulation and Deception*
The Mortara Center supported seven ongoing research seminars in the field of International Studies over the 2015–16 year. Directly addressing the Center’s core mission, these working groups fostered intellectual exchange and scholarly research in some of the key academic disciplines of the School of Foreign Service.

The research seminars unite faculty and students in ongoing and sustained dialogue on cutting-edge research in the fields of International Relations, Political Economy, Comparative Government, International History, Culture and Politics, International Development, and Energy & Climate Change Policy.

The Mortara Center thanks the Department of History, the Department of Government, the McCourt School of Public Policy and the Culture and Politics Major for their partnerships on these seminars.
GUITARS

Chaired by Professor David Edelstein, The Georgetown University International Theory and Research Seminar series (GUITARS) gathered approximately four times a semester to discuss in-progress international politics research of Georgetown faculty and visiting scholars. Of the eight seminars held this past year, highlights included talks by Rachel Stein (GWU) on “The Greater Good: Public Opinion on the Morality of Using Nuclear Weapons” and Joshua Kertzer (Harvard) on “How Do Observers Assess Resolve.”

CRITICS

The Current Research on Issues and Topics in Comparative Scholarship series (CRITICS) met about five times per semester to discuss working papers in the study of comparative government. Co-Chairs, Kristen Looney and Yuhki Tajima hosted nine guests for the series including Kanisha Bond (UMD) discussing “Women’s Participation and the Institutional Design of Violent Political Organizations” and Kim Yi Dionne (Smith) on “Remittances and Political Participation in Africa.”

Political Economy Seminar

The Political Economy Workshop brings together Georgetown faculty from various disciplines to discuss
political economy research in informal sessions over lunch. Hosted by Professor Irfan Nooruddin, the group met ten times over the course of the academic year to workshop papers in progress.

**International History Seminar Series**

The International History Seminar Series, co-sponsored by the Georgetown Institute for Global History, brought scholars from across the country to present working papers and discuss their research with Georgetown faculty and students.

Convened by Professors Aviel Roshwald and John McNeill, the series featured four presentations, including, Max Paul Friedman (American University), “Containing the New Empire: Latin American Strategies against U.S. Hegemony in the Early Twentieth Century” and Sophie de Schaepdrijver (Pennsylvania State University), “The German Occupation of Belgium during the First World War.”

**Energy and Climate Policy Research Seminar**

Cosponsored by the Mortara Center and McCourt School of Public Policy, the Energy and Climate Policy Research Seminar held seven
Center Director
Kathleen McNamara
discusses the TPP trade deal with Professor Marc Busch in October

 seminar meetings in its third year. This seminar series, led collaboratively by SFS Professors Joanna Lewis and Sarah Stewart Johnson and McCourt Professors Paasha Mahdavi and Raphael Calel, aims to enhance intellectual exchange among faculty and students whose research focuses on the international and domestic dimensions of energy and climate change policy.

Highlights from this year include Glynis Lough (Chief of Staff, National Climate Assessment, US Global Change Research Program) giving “An Insider’s Perspective on the National Climate Assessment” and Simon Nicholson (Co-Director, Forum for Climate Engineering Assessment & Assistant Professor, American University) tackling the question “Climate Engineering: Coming Soon to a Planet Near You?”

International Development Seminar

The Mortara Center, in partnership with faculty members of McCourt School of Public Policy, hosts a research seminar
on International Development. The International Development Seminar series is co-chaired by Jennifer Tobin and Andrew Zeitlin.

**Culture and Politics**

During the Fall semester Mortara cosponsored and hosted the Culture and Politics Seminar Series *Worldly Compositions: Humans and Non-humans in the Making of Global Publics* funded by a Georgetown University Global Engagement Faculty Grant.

The series was an innovative platform for research exchanges that explore qualitative research methodologies in a transnational context, beyond humanistic inquiry focused solely on human agents or state actors. The seminar series focused on three key areas — MEDIA, MUSEUMS, and MATTER — where scholars are contributing to new practices and understandings of global public cultures and political structures that involve humans and nonhumans, from paintings to drones, satellites to nuclear waste.
The Lepgold Committee awarded the 2015 Lepgold Prize to Professor Paul Staniland (University of Chicago) for his book *Networks of Rebellion: Explaining Insurgent Cohesion and Collapse* (Cornell University Press, 2014). In this book Staniland explains why insurgent leaders differ so radically in their ability to build strong organizations and why the cohesion of armed groups changes over time during conflicts. He outlines a new way of thinking about the sources and structure of insurgent groups, distinguishing among integrated, vanguard, parochial, and fragmented groups.

In 2015-2016, Mortara Distinguished Professor and former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright taught America’s National Security Toolbox to both graduate and undergraduates. Students participated in dynamic role-play exercises that culminated in day long simulations at the Mortara Center.

During this annual tradition, students portray US foreign policy actors, representatives from nation-states around the world, and leaders of international organizations and NGOs grappling with a fictional international crisis. This year’s scenario focused on Russian aggression towards Estonia, with students responsible for constructing regional and international responses to manage the situation. With direct interaction with Secretary Albright, students gained an understanding of the process of real world decision making, global governance, and the metrics used at the highest levels of government.

Students rave about the experience of role playing in front of such a distinguished diplomat:

“The role-play was a wonderful opportunity to learn from a functional and practical perspective, emphasizing analytical skills and enhancing our abilities to work in teams and solve complex problems...It is by far one of the greatest experiences I had at Georgetown.”

“The Role Play was probably my best learning experience during my time at Georgetown. The class applied theories I’ve learned to the real world.”
Director Kathleen McNamara moderates a roundtable discussion on the European Migrant Crisis with Professor Susan Martin in October.

Carnegie Foundation Bridging the Gap Grant

This year, along with the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, the Mortara Center received funding from the Carnegie Foundation to “Bridge the Gap” between the academy and the policy world. The grant will enhance Georgetown’s School of Foreign Service’s emphasis on innovative learning, support for cutting-edge research, and outreach of academic findings to real world audiences.

Taylor Fravel speaks to the Contemporary China Lecture Series in December.
Contemporary China Lecture Series

Along with the Asian Studies Program, the Mortara Center cosponsored a year-long series focusing on the role China will play in the 21st century including its impact on the U.S.–China relationship and the global order. Over the fall and spring semesters Mortara hosted Taylor Fravel (MIT), Julia Strauss (School of Oriental and African Studies), Avery Goldstein (University of Pennsylvania), Christopher Twomey (U.S. Naval Postgraduate School), Andrew Mertha (Cornell University) and Mary Gallagher (University of Michigan).

In the News

This timely series highlighted current events and issues in international affairs. On October 5th Mortara convened a panel discussion on the Migrant Crisis in Europe. Susan Martin (Georgetown), Rochelle Davis (Georgetown), and Dan Kelemen
(Rutgers) each presented a different perspective based on their research on migration in Europe.

On October 14th, Georgetown Professor Marc Busch participated with Center Director Kathleen McNamara in a conversation on the TPP Deal. As an advisor on the TPP, Professor Busch was uniquely situated to give insight into the features of the deal as well as its impact on US workers and companies. And on January 20th, 2016 Professor Daniel Nexon discussed “Star Wars as Political Science Fiction” to a packed audience.

Cosponsorships

The Mortara Center also co-sponsored a number of high-caliber events across campus. Through co-sponsorship, we are able to collaborate with other departments on campus to combine resources and audiences to deepen discussions and broaden event scope. Highlights from the year included: On October 20th, Former Secretary General of NATO, Javier Solana gave a talk entitled “The EU and the Transatlantic Community: The
Challenges Ahead” in an event co-sponsored with the Security Studies Program. In December, an event widely co-sponsored by a number of SFS centers, Georgetown faculty member Lise Morjé Howard and Director Pierre-Olivier François screened their film *UN: Last Station Before Hell* about international peacekeeping. Following the film, Dean Joel Hellman moderated a discussion between Professor Howard, an advisor on the project, and Mr. François. And on January 27th, along with the India Initiative, Mortara was happy to host Ambassador Husain Haqqani, former Ambassador from Pakistan to the US on a discussion about “Reimagining Pakistan.”
2015-2016 was a great year for Mortara. Below are just some of the highlights of the year’s programming.

**57 Research Seminars:**
- 8 GUITARS; 10 CRITICS;
- 10 International Political Economy Seminars; 7 Energy and Climate Policy Seminars; 4 International History Seminars; 3 Culture and Politics Seminars; 15 International Development Work Seminars

**1 Lepgold Book Prize Lecture:**
*October 27th* Paul Staniland for *Networks of Rebellion* (Cornell University Press, 2014)

**2 Undergraduate Research Symposia:**
- *March 2nd* Mortara Undergraduate Research Fellowship Symposium
- *April 15th-17th* The Walsh Exchange

**2 Discussions on important emerging international affairs issues with GU faculty experts**

**Won Carnegie Bridging the Gap Grant along with ISD**
7 Book Launches

6 Cosponsored Events with Other SFS Programs

3 Research Workshops:

February 2nd-3rd
Data and Methods in the Comparative Study of Legal Institutions

May 17th
Unmanning: The Dissociative Politics of Drone Flight and Failure

June 6th
Poor Democracies in a Conundrum? Mobilizing Government Revenues in a Rapidly Liberalizing World

3 Days of National Security Toolbox Role Play with former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright

6 Contemporary China Speaker Series Lectures
As the Mortara Center transitions to a new Directorship under Professor Abraham Newman, the next few years promise a renewed focus on two parts of Mortara’s mission. The first is supporting the research efforts of faculty and students in the School. Georgetown has unparalleled brainpower devoted to understanding the global challenges that face our planet. From climate change to financial crisis to terrorism, SFS faculty and students are working daily to help our country and the world grapple with these complex problems. Mortara will continue to serve as a vital convener for the SFS community and at the same time work to catalyze cutting-edge research that brings together teams of scholars and students working on these global challenges.

The second is helping researchers disseminate these important findings beyond the Hilltop. Mortara is strategically positioned to assist in the translation of these insights so that they can reach the larger community, policy-makers in Washington DC, and globally. Mortara will work with researchers to synthesize their findings, promote them in blogs and social media, and make connections to the media. In elevating this twin goal of promoting faculty research and facilitating its dissemination, the Mortara Center hopes to play its part in addressing the challenges of the 21st century.
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2015-2016

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