Dear Friends of the Mortara Center,

The Mortara Center plays a critical role in fostering student and faculty research across the School of Foreign Service. In this past year, we undertook a series of new initiatives dedicated to this effort. Together with the Government Department, we invited five high profile speakers to inaugurate a conversation on Remapping International Relations. This multi-year effort seeks to inject diverse voices and alternative perspectives to our understanding of international studies. Mortara hosted the Global Governance Lab, bringing together faculty, undergraduate and graduate students in research teams devoted to studying the complex interactions resulting from economic and political interdependence. Finally, the Center selected its first cohort of Mortara Faculty Fellows. The program supports faculty research and spurs interdisciplinary engagement. The first cohort will focus on two clusters: Globalization and disorder and social stratification. Faculty fellows will engage in a multiyear effort to address these issues.

The past year highlighted the spirit of interdisciplinary collaboration so critical to the mission at the School of Foreign Service as the Mortara Center continued to host events supporting
the whole research cycle. We held three book workshops to advance faculty research projects spanning topics from interstate wars to syndemics. We helped five Georgetown faculty members across SFS and the University launch their book publications. As part of our mission to bring SFS research to broader audiences, we organized two “In the News” events on Russia and US Foreign Policy and on Brexit, bridging cutting edge academic insight to real world problems. 2016-17 also continued our extensive series of seminars, fostering research to help address the most urgent questions facing the globe.

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

Mission Statement: 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.
2016–2017 was a great year for Mortara. Below are just some of the highlights of the year’s programming:

**42 Research Seminars:**
- 9 GUITARS; 7 CRITICS;
- 14 Political Economy Seminars;
- 6 Energy and Climate Policy Seminars;
- 6 International History Seminars

**1 Mortara Open House and Book Giveaway**

**3 Student Research Symposia:**
- Mortara Undergraduate Research Fellows Symposium,
- Walsh Exchange & Graduate Student Conference in Environmental History

**9 Faculty Fellows Selected**

**4 Cosponsored Events with Other Programs and Universities**

**1 Lepgold Book Prize Awarded:**
5 Book Launches

1 Workshop on “Promoting Your Research Beyond the Hilltop” for SFS faculty

5 Remapping IR Lectures cosponsored by the Department of Government

3 SFS Faculty Book Workshops

2 In the News panel discussions, “Trump, Russia, and National Security” and “Brexit,” with GU faculty experts

2 Op Eds published by a Carnegie Postdoctoral Fellow

9 Global Governance Lab Meetings

2 Days of National Security Toolbox Role Play with former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright
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 student research endeavors by managing the Mortara Undergraduate Research Fellows program, the Global Governance Lab, and the Walsh Exchange Undergraduate IR Research Conference.

The DC IR Workshop brought together participants from universities around the DC area on May 25, 2017.
Global Governance Lab

In partnership with the SFS Dean's Office, the Mortara Center implemented its new Global Governance Lab. This lab included two research groups. Professor Erik Voeten worked with 15 students from the Krogh Seminar (INAF339) on the Multilateral Moneyball project initiated by the State Department’s International Organization Bureau. Professor Abraham Newman constructed a research team to investigate the United States Securities Exchange Commission as a global governor. The team included a Post Doctoral Researcher funded by the Carnegie Corporation, a PhD student from the Government Department and five SFS freshman.

Professor Paul Pillar (former CIA Officer) and Professor Colin Kahl (former Deputy Assistant to President Obama & National Security Advisor to Vice President Biden) discuss “Trump, Russia, and National Security” with Mortara Center Director Abraham Newman on February 21, 2017
Mortara Undergraduate Research Fellows

2016–2017 marked the sixth year since the founding of the Mortara Undergraduate Research Fellows Program (MURFs) sponsored by the Mortara Center and the Walsh School of Foreign Service 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

Mortara Undergraduate Research Fellows gather for the annual MURFs Symposium
in-depth skills and training to tackle a range of issues in foreign affairs. The group includes representatives each from the Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior classes.

In March, Sophomore and Senior research fellows presented their research and shared their experiences at the fourth 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.

Senior Bethan Saunders (’17) presents her research at the fourth annual MURF’s Symposium on March 15, 2017
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 ranging from the relationship between diabetes, trauma, poverty and AIDS to the peace process in interstate wars.

“The book workshop created the opportunity for me to receive the most extensive feedback I had to date on the book manuscript. The group identified some key weakness in the manuscript, but through debate and discussion they also helped me identify ways forward. Over the past six months I’ve reworked each and every chapter according to their feedback, and I am confident the book will make a significant theoretical contribution as a result.” – Oriana Mastro

“The Book Workshop funded by Mortara was the essential push and critical feedback I needed to finish my book. The support of the staff was a huge benefit to the easily planned and orchestrated workshop. What a huge benefit for young scholars on the SFS faculty to have this type of support!!” – Emily Mendenhall

“The Mortara book workshop brought in several of the leading scholars on international organizations who provided me with invaluable feedback. The manuscript is substantially different, and improved, because of the workshop.” – Erik Voeten
Book Launches

The Mortara Center sponsored five book launch events in the 2016-2017 academic 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.

September 6, 2016
Robert J. Lieber, *Retreat and Its Consequences: American Foreign Policy and the Problem of World Order*

October 24, 2016

February 7, 2017
John Tutino, ed., *New Countries: Capitalism, Revolutions, and Nations in the Americas, 1750-1870*

March 22, 2017
Emily Mendenhall, ed., *The Lancet: Special Issue on Syndemics*

March 31, 2017 (cosponsored with the Asian Studies Program)
Michael J. Green, *By More than Providence: Grand Strategy and American Power in the Asia Pacific since 1783*

Professor John Tutino discusses his newly launched book *New Countries: Capitalism, Revolutions, and Nations in the Americas, 1750-1870* with co-authors Erick Langer, Adam Rothman and David Sartorius on February 7, 2017
Bringing Research to a Broader Audience

The Mortara Center hosted faculty from around SFS to discuss “Promoting Your Research Beyond the Hilltop” with presentations and discussion about methods for expanding the reach of policy-oriented research beyond academia. Mortara also welcomed Jason Kuo, ’16–’17 Carnegie Post-Doctoral Fellow, to continue his innovative research on the global governance of food safety. Thanks to funding provided by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Jason was able to finalize his dissertation, publish two policy relevant articles (The Monkey Cage, The Taipei Times), and actively participate in a global governance research lab with Georgetown graduate and undergraduate students.

Walsh School of Foreign Service Professor Irfan Nooruddin and George Mason Professor Thomas Flores launch their new book *Elections in Hard Times: Building Stronger Democracies in the 21st Century* on October 24, 2016
Remapping IR

This year, in conjunction with the Government Department, the Mortara Center hosted a new series highlighting diverse approaches to the study of International Relations. This multi-year series of events and programs intends to broaden the intellectual discussion on who, how and what matters in international affairs. Speakers for the Remapping IR series included Laura Sjoberg, Robert Vitalis, L.H.M. Ling, Cynthia Weber, and J.P. Singh and focused on alternative perspectives to power, states, and the international system.

In the News

This timely series brings together SFS experts to discuss and clarify complex issues in international affairs in response to developing current events. In the 2016-17 academic year the Mortara Center hosted two events covering the Trump administration’s national intelligence challenges and the ongoing negotiations of Brexit.

SFS Faculty gather to discuss “Promoting Your Research Beyond the Hilltop” with GU Professors Matthew Kroenig and Erik Voeten and Professor Jordan Tama from American University’s Carnegie-sponsored Bridging the Gap Project on October 3, 2016
In 2016-2017, Mortara Distinguished Professor and former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright taught America’s National Security Toolbox to undergraduates. Students participated in a dynamic role-play exercise that culminated in a day long simulation 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 an emergent international crisis. The scenario focused on North Korea, 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:

“I don’t think I’ve ever learned so much and so many valuable tools in a class. It was absolutely amazing from the Role Play to the papers – I definitely know I will be applying all of this to my future career. The feedback was always helpful and I know I’ve improved my writing skills.”

“The role play exercise was the best part of the course. I really enjoyed getting to think critically about tough security issues as if they were happening in real time. The preparation we did for the role play also helped me understand the issues on a deeper level.”
The Mortara Center supported six ongoing research seminars in the field of International Studies over the 2016-17 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 Walsh 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, International Development, and Energy & Climate Policy.
GUITARS

Chaired by Mortara Center Director, Abraham Newman, 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.

CRITICS

The Current Research on Issues and Topics in Comparative Scholarship series (CRITICS) met seven times this year under the guidance of co-chairs Marko Klasnja and Yuhki Tajima.

University of Florida Professor Laura Sjoberg discusses her work on *Gender, War and Conflict* in a Remapping IR lecture on February 27, 2017
Political Economy Seminar

The Political Economy Seminar 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 fourteen times over the course of the academic year to workshop papers in progress.

International History Seminar

The International History Seminar series, convened by Professors Aviel Roshwald, Toshihiro Higuchi and John McNeill, and cosponsored 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.

Professor Robert Vitalis from the University of Pennsylvania speaks about his book White World Order, Black Power Politics in a Remapping IR lecture on October 13, 2016
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 meetings in its third year. This seminar series, led collaboratively by SFS Professors Joanna Lewis and McCourt Professors Paasha Mahdavi and Raphael Calel, aims to enhance intellectual exchange among faculty and students whose interdisciplinary research focuses on the international and domestic dimensions of energy and climate change policy.

Professor Tobias Schmidt from ETH, Zurich discusses “How to Make Renewable Energy Investments in Developing Countries Attractive for the Private Sector” with the Energy and Climate Policy Seminar on November 1, 2016
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 chaired by Jennifer Tobin.

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

Mortara Center Director, Abraham Newman, Professor Kathleen McNamara and BMW Center Director, Jeffrey Anderson discuss the ongoing Brexit negotiations on April 10, 2017

The Georgetown University Lepgold Book Prize honors Joseph S. Lepgold, a Georgetown University Government and School of Foreign Service professor who died in Paris in December 2001. The prize awards exceptional contributions to the study of international relations, with particular emphasis on the resolution of critical policy challenges. Recent winners include: Paul Staniland (*Networks of Rebellion*, 2014), Julia Gray (*The Company States Keep*, 2013), and Jacob Shapiro (*The Terrorist’s Dilemma*, 2012).

Participants discuss a book manuscript in process at a book workshop for SFS faculty member Professor Oriana Mastro on January 25, 2017.

Students of Secretary Albright’s National Security Toolbox class troubleshoot North Korean aggression as part of the role play exercise on March 25 & 26, 2017.
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.

Home to the Mortara Center for International Studies, as well as the Center for Security Studies, the Mortara building features a beautiful and high tech conference room, small group meeting space and offices. It serves as one of the main event spaces on campus for the School of Foreign Service convening academics and policy makers from all the disciplines for faculty meetings, interactive workshops, and distinguished events.
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