

The View from Lewis College

# BIG PICTURE

Fall 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

Our Global Reach

Roundtable: Power and Access

New Faces

Lewis College  
of Human Sciences



ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY





## GREETINGS FROM THE DEAN

Illinois Tech has long been a leader in international education, bringing students from around the world to the global city of Chicago to study. The photo above shows the flag display in Hermann Hall. Each flag represents the home country of a current student, and this year there are more than 100 flags. Within Lewis College we embrace this global vision of Illinois Tech in our research, teaching, and student body.

Our faculty research projects span the globe. In this issue you will learn about Mohamed El Marzouki's work in Northern Africa, research in China by Hao Huang, and Yuri Mansury's work in Indonesia. In addition to research, faculty travel around the world to provide training and service to others. For many years Roya Ayman has traveled to Thailand to work with the National Institute of Development Administration to train Ph.D. students and faculty in how to conduct organizational research. This past summer Gregory Chasson led a four-day workshop on obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) for the Chinese Psychological Society in Beijing. From the Department of Social Sciences, Jonathan Rosenberg serves on the advisory board of a think tank for a new M.A. in Global and International Studies at the University of Salamanca, Spain, and Patrick Ireland was recently selected as a research ambassador for the German Academic Exchange Service.



This global focus is reflected in our coursework, too. The industrial-organizational psychology program has entered into a new agreement with Erasmus Mundus, a consortium of European universities, that will encourage doctoral students to come to Illinois Tech for a semester and similarly, allow our students to study at one of the partner universities. Last year we introduced a new undergraduate major, Global Studies, emphasizing international perspectives. Students in the program, offered through the Department of Social Sciences, will take courses in international political systems, economic development, and economics. In addition every student will have some type of international experience before they complete the program. We hope that most will take advantage of the study abroad options available at Illinois Tech, but even those who stay in Chicago will have the opportunity to work with an international organization.

Our student body reflects the global reach of Illinois Tech. At the undergraduate level, this year we have new students from Serbia, China, and India. Students have taken advantage of study abroad experiences in Ireland, Scotland, Australia, and Japan. International graduate students benefit from their experience gained at U.S. companies. For instance, Xi Rao, graduate student in humanities and technology, is spending the fall semester as a Facebook intern, developing her technical skills.

The increased globalization of our economy and culture requires that we think of ourselves as global citizens. In Lewis College we encourage a wide view of the world and the role we play in it. Our graduates are prepared to work in the diverse environments and with the diverse teams of people that globalization brings.

**Christine L. Himes**  
Dean, Lewis College of Human Sciences

# CONTENTS

FALL 2017

## 04 Our Global Reach

In this issue's feature article, we explore some of the international research projects in Lewis College.

## 06 606-1-6

Lewis College faculty, students, and alumni talk about their global experiences in our 606-1-6 feature.

## 10 Power and Access

Lewis College hosted its third annual Roundtable this fall focused on the advantages and pitfalls of technology access.

## 11 Global Studies

Learn about our newest undergraduate major in the Department of Social Sciences.

## 11 Growing Expertise

Meet our newest faculty members, Steve Du Bois and Mohamed El Marzouki.

## Online Exclusives

Find bonus features for *Big Picture* at [humansciences.iit.edu/bigpicture](http://humansciences.iit.edu/bigpicture).

## BIG PICTURE

DEAN, LEWIS COLLEGE OF HUMAN SCIENCES  
Christine L. Himes

EDITOR/DESIGNER  
Stephanie Healey

BOARD OF ADVISORS  
William C. Bartholomay  
Deborah Crown (M.S. REHB '88)  
Judy Erwin  
Bridget M. Gibbons  
Terrence J. Koller (Ph.D. PSYC '75)  
Robert L. Kruse  
Daniel V. Lezotte (M.S. PSYC '83, Ph.D. '89)  
Stephen A. Smith  
Guy F. Summers (M.B.A. '78)  
Stephen C. Urrutia  
David J. Vitale

SEND ALUMNI NEWS  
and other correspondence to [humsci@iit.edu](mailto:humsci@iit.edu).

*Informing the future: New worlds of possibility at the intersection of humanity and technology*

Lewis College of Human Sciences was formed on June 1, 2013, and houses the Departments of Humanities, Psychology, and Social Sciences.

Illinois Institute of Technology, also known as Illinois Tech, is a private, technology-focused research university offering undergraduate and graduate degrees in engineering, science, architecture, business, design, human sciences, applied technology, and law.



Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/IITLewisCollege](http://facebook.com/IITLewisCollege)

Follow us on Twitter: [@IITHumanScience](https://twitter.com/IITHumanScience)

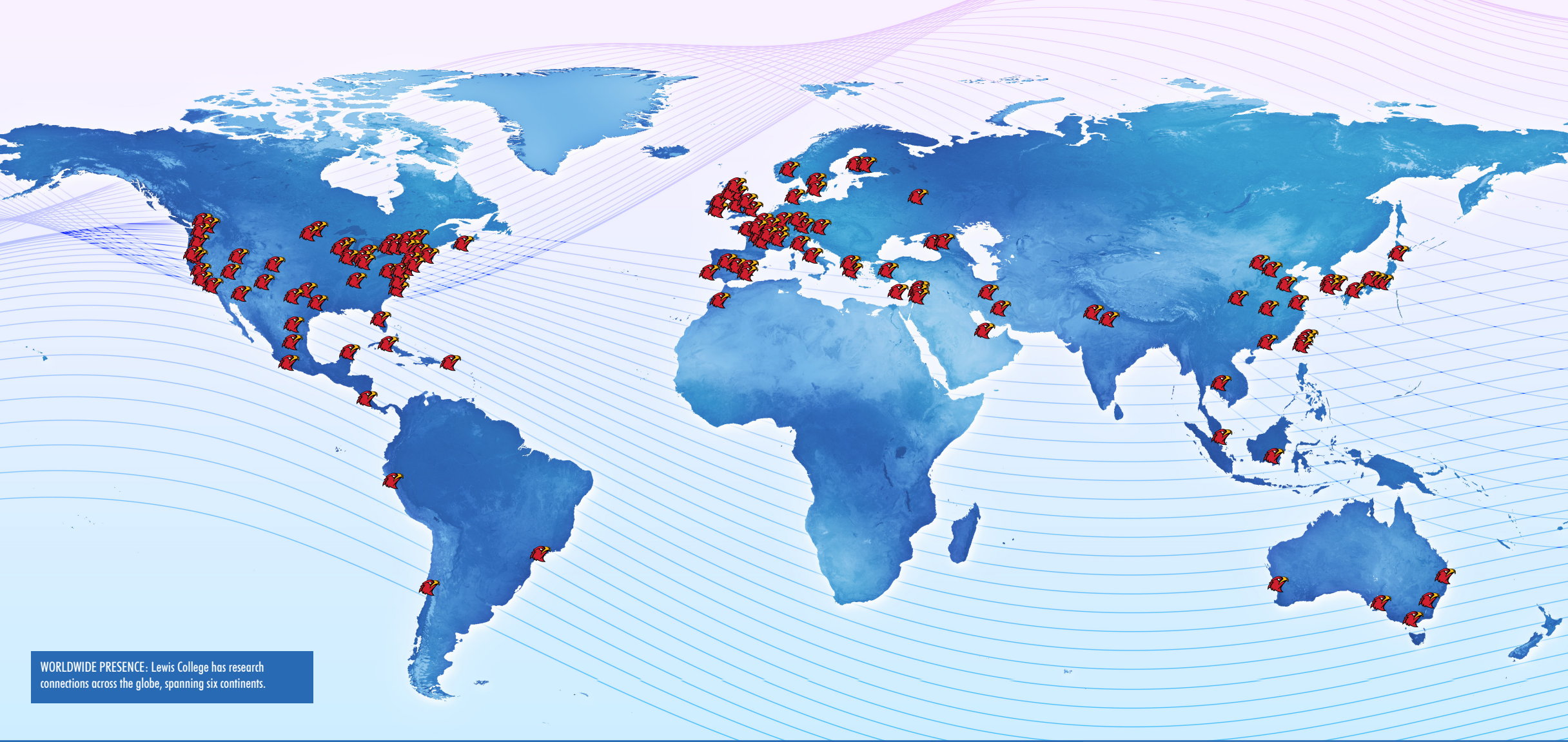
Join Lewis College's LinkedIn group by searching:

"Lewis College of Human Sciences, Illinois Institute of Technology"



To provide more Illinois Tech students opportunities to study abroad, Lewis College established a faculty-led summer study abroad program in 2015. This past summer the four-week program was hosted in Glasgow, Scotland. Learn about the program online at [humansciences.iit.edu/bigpicture](http://humansciences.iit.edu/bigpicture).





**WORLDWIDE PRESENCE:** Lewis College has research connections across the globe, spanning six continents.

# OUR GLOBAL REACH

*At Lewis College our researchers are interested in solving real-world problems at the intersection of people and technology. Faculty in our three departments—humanities, psychology, and social sciences—are working on research related to health, economic development, social media communication, history, work psychology, sustainability, gaming, and much more. Our work reaches far beyond our campus in Chicago with research projects and collaborations spanning the globe. Here we highlight three projects from Lewis College’s newest faculty members.*

**YOUTH MEDIA CULTURES AND POLITICS IN NORTH AFRICA**  
As the second-most popular website in the world, YouTube is home to videos on any topic imaginable. Although we will never be able to watch the majority of videos on YouTube,

some content can go viral and influence social or political movements. Mohamed El Marzouki, assistant professor of communication, studies the affordance of social media technologies for social and political change with a focus on intersections of youth media cultures and politics in post-Arab Spring North Africa.

“Before the internet and social media, cultural content was the monopoly of state television, radio, and subsidized newspapers,” explains El Marzouki. “Social media and YouTube in particular have become spaces for young people to express themselves culturally and politically. I am interested in learning about the political content that youth are producing and circulating—what ideas, particularly related to youth participation, citizenship, and political dissent, are they circulating? How does digital media practice of creating content shape the political identities of the producers themselves?”

In his most recent project, El Marzouki interviewed 20 of the top youth YouTube creators in Morocco, looking at their motivations for creating political content and their perceived role in social change.



“Although I interviewed a small group of content creators, their influence is massive—the channel of one creator has more than 60 million views. A generational identity is being created by youth who are more politically engaged than the generation of their parents. This politico-cultural dynamic is not specific to Morocco and the Middle East; similar identities are emerging transnationally as content creators and their followers grow increasingly interconnected through YouTube and other social media platforms.”

El Marzouki plans to expand his work to study content from creators that may not strike people as political, such as lifestyle, makeup, and fashion YouTube channels. “These spaces can be political in a subtle way. These spaces are places for young women to learn about fashion, beauty, and makeup—things that help them become more confident and empower them to appear and participate in offline public spaces. These spaces are more focused on gender politics rather than direct political confrontation, and I am interested in learning more about the political motivations and aspirations of these content creators.”

**FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS IN CHINA**  
Have you ever wondered about the factors that companies consider when choosing locations for a new manufacturing plant or headquarters? Hao Huang, assistant professor of social science, examines this very topic in China. As an economic geographer, Huang uses Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to look at spatial distribution, spatial statistics, and space-time models to better understand why foreign companies choose to

be located in certain areas of China and studies the factors that influence these foreign direct investments have at the regional, provincial, and city/metropolitan levels.

“In the last two to three decades, foreign investments have significantly increased in China,” Huang explains. “When the Chinese government opened the country to foreign investment in the 1980s, companies chose locations based on labor cost and policies that permitted investments in designated economic zones, primarily close to coastal areas. Over the years the government has expanded the economic development regions in the central and western parts of the country.”



As foreign investments have expanded in China, companies have been clustering together in regions, known as agglomeration of economies resulting from rapid urbanization and industrialization. “Companies can benefit from clusters of workers with a desired skill set and can informally share information about institutional environments, such as government policies and rules,” Huang says. “In exchange, foreign investments promote local economic growth and local economies can benefit by learning new technologies and management techniques. Understanding the factors that influence foreign investment can help the Chinese government better understand which companies fit in certain regions and help develop strategies and design programs to attract more investments.”

**EFFECTS OF ECONOMIC POLICY ON HEALTH OUTCOMES**  
Yuri Mansury, associate professor of social sciences, is a regional scientist who broadly studies spatial inequalities—for example, poverty or unbalanced regional development—in communities, cities, and regions. His current work has focused on regions in Asia and analyzes



the impact of policies on the distribution of income and wealth. In collaboration with a research colleague at the University of Indonesia, Mansury’s newest research endeavor is examining the reduction of tariffs and free-trade agreements and impacts of these economic policies on health outcomes in Indonesia. “This project is unique and exciting because no one has thought about the trade-off between economic liberation and health outcomes.”

The direct effect of this type of policy change is that goods will be cheaper—food should be more affordable so people can afford to buy and eat more. At the same time, some people may lose jobs in some industries because they will be unable to compete with less expensive imported goods.

“The distribution of outcomes is potentially uneven in any endeavor,” Mansury says. “We are typically focused on growth, improvement, and making things better, but we may not always look at the full impact of those changes and how things are distributed.”

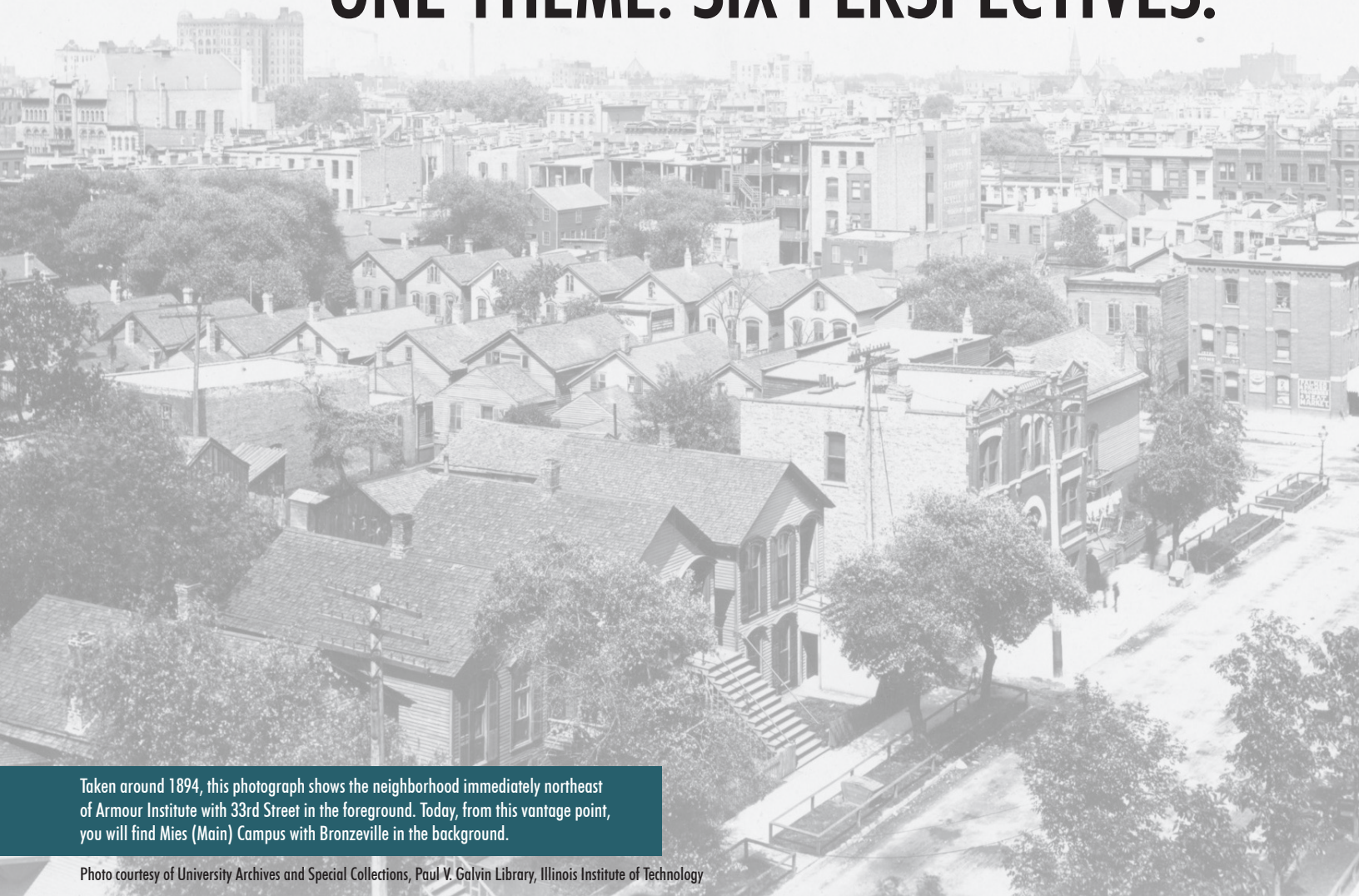
Mansury says his goal is to make a positive impact in the world with his research. “The theme with this project and all of my projects is to make a difference in the real world, especially for people who typically don’t have a voice.”

Learn more about Lewis College faculty research at [humansciences.iit.edu/faculty](http://humansciences.iit.edu/faculty).



# 60616

## ONE THEME. SIX PERSPECTIVES.



Taken around 1894, this photograph shows the neighborhood immediately northeast of Armour Institute with 33rd Street in the foreground. Today, from this vantage point, you will find Mies (Main) Campus with Bronzeville in the background.

Photo courtesy of University Archives and Special Collections, Paul V. Galvin Library, Illinois Institute of Technology

The 60616 zip code is home to the Illinois Tech community and the historic neighborhood of Bronzeville. In each issue of *Big Picture*, we will select one unifying theme and present six distinct perspectives from our community. The 1-6 theme highlights the common spaces we inhabit and the different perspectives with which we view the world.

This issue focuses on the international experiences of the Lewis College community.

### EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIPS

Over the years I have held several roles at Illinois Tech focused on international student recruitment and program development. In my current role at IIT, I serve as the director of overseas programs and am based in Illinois Tech's office in Paris. I established the Paris office in 1998 because IIT was virtually unknown in Europe at the time and I wanted to increase the university's visibility in the region.



We hardly had any European students at IIT at the time, so I developed a double-degree program that would be of interest to European schools and graduate-level students. My goal was to identify reputable schools in Europe that had programs compatible with ours in terms of quality and content, and then work closely with the schools' professors to identify the feasibility of the double-degree master's program. The end result would be that students from these partner schools would receive two master's degrees, one from IIT and one from their home institution.

We started with one partner school in France—École Nationale Supérieure de l'Électronique et de ses Applications (ENSEA)—and admitted our first student into the program in 1997. We grew to three students the following year, and subsequently, more schools were added as IIT partners over the years.

To date we have 33 partner schools (13 in France, 20 in Spain) and nearly 2,000 master's students that have attended IIT through this program. The program has grown considerably in the last 20 years as European students see the value of a double degree, especially a graduate degree from an accredited, high quality university in the United States. In addition the F-1 visa regulations allow for F-1 students to work in the U.S. in their field after graduation for 12 months, giving them the opportunity to gain valuable experience.

The program has been a success for both IIT and our European partners schools. IIT professors constantly comment on the high caliber of the European students in our program and tell me that they would love to have more of these students in their programs. Being based in Paris, I have easy access to our partner schools, which helps considerably with maintaining our relationships and gives me the opportunity of creating new partnerships for IIT across Europe.

**Vanita Misquita (Psychology Ph.D. '98)**  
Director of Overseas Programs  
Illinois Institute of Technology

*"My goal was to identify reputable schools in Europe that had programs compatible with ours in terms of quality and content, and then work closely with the schools' professors to identify the feasibility of the double-degree master's program."*

### CHINATOWN FESTIVAL OF TREES

The unfortunate reality of many students in the Interprofessional Projects (IPRO) Program is that their projects never leave the conceptual stage; their multidisciplinary team combines their collective knowledge and backgrounds for a whole semester, but the result is never more than just an idea or a pitch. With a completely new team coming in the next semester, many of these paragons of innovation and collaboration simply get left behind without anything tangible to their legacy. This, however, was not the case with Professor Rebecca Steffenson and our team of students during the fall 2017 semester.



IPRO 497-313: Social and Economic Development was, from the very beginning, grounded in direct community action. The first official meeting of the class at the beginning of the semester was on Mies Campus for all of 30 minutes; the remainder of the class time consisted of the team venturing to Chicago's Chinatown to meet our clients and learn about our task—a placemaking event in Allen Lee Plaza, designed to activate public space in the area for the community to take greater ownership of it.

From this task the 2017 Chinatown Festival of Trees was created. Simple in appearance but large in scope, the project was designed to unite the Chinatown community in a clear visual display just in time for the holiday season. An arrangement of wooden pallet trees, constructed and distributed by our team, were sponsored and decorated by more than a dozen different Chinatown community groups and put on display in the plaza. The arrangement was then unveiled with a wishing festival, in which community members and other passersby were invited to write their wishes on tags and hang them on the trees.

Although our project was entirely based in a specific Chicago ethnic community, its microcosmic nature can still be thought of as having a global impact when one considers the interplay of local community and the increasingly global world. Efforts taken at home to better the sense of unity can have rippling effects in the world at large as these values are taken beyond the borders of the community.



My experience with this IPRO allowed me to witness firsthand that the work we do in our own communities to spread the values of hope and mutual living go far beyond the microcosms in which we live. Like the wish tags fluttering in the wind, the values we spread may be rooted in own trees, but they can be seen by many others.

**Ethan Castro**  
4th-Year Business Administration



## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

If you have an Intel processor that's a few years old, there's a good chance you'll see "Costa Rica" stamped on it. Central America may seem like a strange place to make chips, but Intel opened its Costa Rica facility in 1997 and has assembled or tested chips there ever since.

What's more, Intel's interest in Costa Rica spurred on other companies like HP, IBM, and VMware. In relatively short order, Costa Rica's primarily agrarian economy began specializing in high-skill manufacturing and service jobs. But Costa Rica's success seems to be the exception rather than the rule for developing economies.

To see that, look north to Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala. In these countries, low-skill jobs in textiles and agriculture still dominate. Check the tag on your T-shirt and there's a good chance it came from one of these countries, where wage rates on a purchasing power basis are lower than China's. T-shirts and microchips, made only miles away, but in economies that are worlds apart.



It's an economist's job to try and explain why. Countless factors such as population, location, colonial history, education levels, and, of course, policy, all contribute something toward that explanation. My research focuses on a small piece of this puzzle—the impact of intellectual property rights (IPRs) on trade and investment.

IPRs are easy to overlook. IPR provisions in trade agreements are usually long and boring to read. But these provisions can have a major impact not just on trade and investment, but on everyday life. Take, for example, the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) between the United States and six Central American countries. CAFTA-DR was ratified between 2006 and 2009 and according to the U.S. Trade Representative, was intended to promote stronger trade, investment, and stability throughout the region. CAFTA-DR lowered tariffs and increased access to the U.S., but also imposed U.S. rules on many issues, IPRs among them. These IPRs include protection for pharmaceutical test data that prolong the patent life of drugs and keep cheaper generics from consumers. They also include protection for plant patents, meaning Central American farmers must be wary of cross-breeding with patented strains from companies like Monsanto, lest they be forced to pay compulsory license fees. These are harsh outcomes, and yet, IPRs have mostly been shown to have a positive relationship with foreign investment in economic literature.

Maybe that's not actually the case, and the benefits of IPRs don't outweigh the social costs. Or maybe there's some optimal level of IPR protection that induces investment and trade while minimizing social cost. These are the questions I'm investigating. Hopefully their answers lead to smarter trade policy, more stories like Costa Rica's, and a tangible, global impact.

**Ryan Hynes (Applied Economics '16)**  
1st Year Economics Ph.D. Student, University College Dublin

## STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE

This past summer I studied abroad in Glasgow, Scotland, with Lewis College's study abroad program. I wanted to study abroad because as an information technology (IT) individual studying cybersecurity, my goal is to work on international affairs. Being able to travel to Scotland was an eye-opener—my experience helped me understand Scottish culture, ethics, and moralities.

Visiting a country with a history of political tension, not to mention today's Brexit issue, gave me a better understanding of Scotland's political views. In our history class, I learned about how there have been many political controversies throughout Scottish history and many of those political ideas still exist today. When comparing the histories of the United Kingdom and United States, I don't see many similarities except that when conflict has arisen, everyone has fought for their morals and beliefs. Our politics class focused a lot on Brexit and I learned about the many political parties in the U.K. As a cybersecurity student, it was interesting to learn how these issues can affect us, too.

In these two classes, I learned to better understand how people treat each other and why they do certain things in their culture. Being able to visit historic sites and learn about their histories

was an amazing experience that helped me personally and socially. Going on the excursions helped me become more immersed in the culture; I was lucky enough to talk to the locals. One of my favorite excursions was visiting Fort William because it was so beautiful and I felt really comfortable in that town—it made me feel like I was at my home with my parents. On this trip my classmate and I decided to stay in an Airbnb and it was awesome. We met a local woman and she showed us places to visit, which included many historic sites. Overall, Scotland helped me appreciate the beauty of life, and that's what I needed—the beauty of reality.

**Jessica Soto**  
2nd-Year Information and Technology Management with a specialization in Cybersecurity



## GLOBAL CHICAGO

Illinois Tech offers a course called Global Chicago, which is designed to help students understand what it means to be a global city and why it is important for Chicago to continue to attract businesses, immigrants, and visitors from all over the world. It explores the challenges global cities face, too, especially social and economic stratification. Global Chicago is an experiential course allowing students to get out of the classroom and experience various city neighborhoods. Through exploration, students learn lessons about economic and community development. They get to observe how diverse groups utilize private and public spaces and how the built environment serves or severs different communities. For example, students visit Pilsen to learn first-hand the effects of gentrification. In Chinatown, they learn how culture can drive commerce.

Global Chicago was designed to help Illinois Tech students engage with different communities and help them start to identify as global citizens. The course has also given students the opportunity to engage in service learning by volunteering with immigrant and refugee advocacy and service groups. As such, the course aligns well with university's goal to have students *be committed to positive change in their communities, nations, and the world.*

I created this course because I believe in the power of active learning. Research shows that students who engage in their own learning are likely to foster higher-level critical-thinking skills, and service learning has been shown to have a positive impact not only on academic learning, but also on personal and professional development. Exposing students to people from different cultural and economic backgrounds helps build empathy. It also helps build intercultural awareness and interpersonal skills, which can help students become better equipped to work in multicultural teams. Students who enjoy this type of learning environment and want to expand their global mindset should also consider studying abroad.

**Rebecca Steffenson**  
Industry Associate Professor of Political Science  
Department of Social Sciences

*"Global Chicago was designed to help Illinois Tech students engage with different communities and help them start to identify as global citizens."*



## CASA DE ANGELES

The last 20 years of our lives my wife and I have called the "Guatemalan phase of life." We have been involved with a number of projects, including participating in medical missions, producing potable water, and creating a genetics institute. But the project closest to our hearts is Casa de Angeles.

Casa de Angeles is an orphanage established in 1998 by two sisters who are sisters (nuns) who came to Guatemala from Barcelona. In 1999 I was part of a 10-person medical mission team from the United States that was driven into a remote Guatemalan area to bring some aid to the children of a small orphanage. We found 18 young orphaned or abandoned children (the oldest child being three years old) living in cramped quarters with only the barest of necessities, other than love. In 2000 our medical team formed a 501c3 foundation dedicated to building a home where these beautiful children and many more like them could thrive, grow, and learn. That was the genesis of the Casa de Angeles Foundation.

Casa de Angeles is a home that has taken in approximately 100 orphaned and abandoned children to provide the security, education, nourishment of body and soul, and love that is required to transform children into adults ready to take their place in society. But it is more than just a home for these children—it has taken children from the town into its school and integrated itself into that community, while standing as an example of the kindness and charity incumbent upon us all.

The reputation of the orphanage has grown such that social workers and police from all areas of Guatemala call the sisters to ask if they can take in a child with no home or family, knowing the quality of care and love that the child will receive at Casa de Angeles. Learn more about this special place at [casaangeles.org](http://casaangeles.org).

**Mitchell Golbus, M.D. (Psychology '60)**





# POWER AND ACCESS

In a society that is dependent on technology more than ever before, this third annual Lewis College Roundtable invited experts in the areas of communications, industrial-organizational psychology, and rehabilitation engineering to discuss questions related to the access of technology. Moderated by Dean Christine Himes, the 90-minute dialogue looked at the advantages and pitfalls of technology access, touching on themes of inclusion, availability, and empowerment.

Sean Zdenek, associate professor of technical and professional writing at the University of Delaware, looks at access in terms of inclusion and explained that, “technology is accessible when universal design is fully integrated from beginning to end—it has to be inclusive of all people, especially those with disabilities. For example, closed captioning was designed to help those with hearing impairments but can also help kids with reading and allow people to view things in noisy areas. Interactive transcripts for online videos and well-thought out tags on websites also help with search engine results, making content easily searchable and available to anyone. Good accessible design makes good universal design. Accessibility benefits everyone.”

“People with impairments need technology to do tasks we take for granted. The American Disabilities Act was established because people can be excluded from daily lives when they are unable to access something,” explained Stephen Sundarrao, associate director of the Center for Assistive, Rehabilitation, and Robotics Technologies at the University of South Florida, who specializes in rehabilitation engineering. “Access from my point of view means independence—making

technology reliable for people who depend on it to live their daily lives.”

Ellen Kossek, Basil S. Turner Professor of Management at Purdue University, also looks at refining technology for improved use, but from the perspective of work. “Another aspect of access is availability,” she said. “With cell phones and other means of technology, there is an expectation that



L-R: Sean Zdenek, Stephen Sundarrao, Christine Himes, Ellen Kossek, and Amy Gonzales

we are always available—employers tend to limit technology access when it’s not work related but also want to increasingly access you after hours at home. For many of us professionals, our identities align with our jobs and technology can make us become workaholics. I am interested in understanding how employees and companies control work-life boundaries and how we can redesign work to best help employees with that balance.”

The availability of technology can also be empowering for those with access to it. Amy Gonzales, assistant professor at The Media School at Indiana University, is interested in the digital divide—the economic and social inequality related to access of communication technologies. “As we further integrate technology into our lives, we are furthering disparities among ourselves. For example, there are government-sponsored programs that provide cell phones with limited minutes for people who would otherwise not have access to a cell phone. What happens when that access is disrupted or the service isn’t reliable? Let’s think about the people who aren’t normally thought about and move toward universal access.”

The next Roundtable will be hosted in October 2018. Stay tuned for the official event announcement in the spring issue of *Big Picture*.

## GROWING EXPERTISE

Please join us in welcoming our newest faculty members to Lewis College of Human Sciences!



**STEVE DU BOIS**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY

Steve Du Bois is the newest faculty member in the clinical psychology program at Lewis College. His research interest is broadly focused on health behaviors and health in the context of romantic relationships, including gay male couples, HIV prevention, and most recently, on health in long-distance relationships. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Chicago and completed his clinical internship at Edward Hines Jr. Veterans Administration Hospital.



**MOHAMED EL MARZOUKI**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF COMMUNICATION

Mohamed El Marzouki came to Lewis College this fall as an assistant professor of communication in the digital humanities program. His research interests include youth citizenship, participatory media and politics, and digital youth cultures in North Africa and the Middle East. Most recently his work explored the role that social media platforms play in political dissent by youth in North Africa, focusing on how YouTube videos shaped the political identities of young Moroccans. Prior to joining Illinois Tech, Mohamed earned his Ph.D. in mass communication from Indiana University.

Learn more about Steve and Mohamed in the *Big Picture* online exclusives: [humansciences.iit.edu/bigpicture](http://humansciences.iit.edu/bigpicture).

### Program Spotlight:

## GLOBAL STUDIES

In our increasingly interconnected global society, companies across all industries are looking for employees who have the critical and analytical problem-solving skills to address issues with a global perspective, a cross-cultural understanding, and an appreciation for diverse viewpoints.

In response to this need, Lewis College created the Bachelor of Science in Global Studies. As the college’s newest major, the program examines the way that politics, economics, culture, and social forces have come to transect, and sometimes, blur, borders among nations and communities. The interdisciplinary degree draws from coursework in the social sciences, humanities, and related fields and teaches students technical skills utilized in a variety of international-focused careers, such as qualitative and quantitative research methods, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), program evaluation and policy analysis, and intercultural communications.

Graduates of the global studies program will be well-equipped for entry-level careers in fields such as consulting, international aid and development, research, human rights and social services, tourism and hospitality, and international education.

“I came to Illinois Tech because I see myself developing skills that employers will not only find useful in this society where technology is present and essential, but skills I can use for a lifetime,” says first-year student Bizimungu Obedi. “Because I am a product of the Rwandan Genocide, my main goal has always been to assist and work with refugee agencies. I believe my global studies major will open doors and expose me to a wide variety of topics. I know graduating from this institution won’t just make me a better job candidate but will help me on my track to a successful career.”

Additional information about the B.S. in Global Studies program as well as our other undergraduate majors is available at [humansciences.iit.edu/programs](http://humansciences.iit.edu/programs).





## 2017 INTERNATIONAL AWARD OF MERIT

Congratulations to psychology and political science alumna **Robin Chaurasiya ('06)** for receiving Illinois Tech's International Award of Merit! Chaurasiya was recognized at the annual Illinois Tech Alumni Awards in the spring.

From an IPRO project that Chaurasiya worked on at Illinois Tech grew Kranti, a nonprofit in Mumbai, India that empowers young women to become agents of social change. Ranging in age from 12–20, the young women at Kranti are survivors of human trafficking and daughters of sex workers. Kranti has transformed the lives of these vulnerable women by providing them with housing, mental health counseling, education, and the opportunity to volunteer in their communities.

Kranti students have shared their stories across the globe by leading workshops for more than 10,000 people, delivering 11 TEDx Talks with more than 15,000 online views, and performing at places such as Chicago's Field Museum and the headquarters of Google and Facebook.

Chaurasiya's work with Kranti has been recognized worldwide, most notably with her recognition as a top 10 finalist for the 2016 Global Teacher Prize, a \$1 million prize known as the Nobel Prize for teaching.

Learn more about Kranti at [kranti-india.org](http://kranti-india.org).

