Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am thrilled to join Brown University as the new director of the Watson Institute for International Studies. Over the past few months, I have been coming to campus on a regular basis, meeting with affiliated faculty, students, and staff. As a result of these meetings, we have developed a strategic plan that will guide the Institute as it enhances its presence and impact at Brown, in the academy, and also in the world.

As we embark on a new phase of growth—hiring faculty, appointing significant numbers of Faculty Fellows and post-docs, and launching research programs—we will focus on addressing some of the world’s great challenges (development, security, and governance) in ways that are rigorous academically and relevant to the world. The Institute cannot succeed alone but must partner with and rely on existing strengths across the University.

I am convinced that together we can build a Watson Institute that is distinctive, distinguished, and influential in academic and policy circles alike.

I look forward to working with you in the months and years to come.

—RICHARD M. LOCKE, Incoming Director

The relaunched Global Security Seminar Series continued this spring as part of an effort to expand the Institute’s engagement with pressing contemporary security issues and policy debates. Bridging the gap between the academic and policy worlds, the series features prominent security scholars, journalists, and practitioners.

David Rohde ’90, the former New York Times journalist who survived seven months of Taliban captivity in Afghanistan and Pakistan, shared his vision for American influence in a peaceful Middle East. His talk drew on his new book, Beyond War: Reimagining American Influence in a New Middle East. During his visit to the Institute, he also met with students on the editorial board of the Brown Journal of World Affairs (above). Rohde, the recipient of two Pulitzer Prizes, is now an investigative reporter for Reuters and the Atlantic.

Institute Senior Fellow Sue Eckert and Thomas J. Biersteker, former director of the Institute and currently a professor at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, kicked off the semester with a seminar on the efficacy of UN Sanctions. This spring’s series also featured Johns Hopkins political scientist Daniel Deudney, who spoke on the dangers of space expansion.

watsoninstitute.org/globalsecurity
The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies hosted a diverse group of academics, activists, and artists this semester.

In April, Orlando Luis Pardo Lazo (left), a Cuban activist, blogger and photographer, spoke about contemporary digital culture in Cuba.

Miami-based Cuban musician and composer Descemer Bueno performed in April at The Underground, a campus bar, and with the Brown University Jazz Band in the 15th Annual Daniel Milano ’93 Concert at Salomon Hall. He was accompanied by vocalist Leslie Cartaya, percussionist Raymer Olalde, and guitarist Nam San Fong on both occasions.

During his spring residency at the Institute, Ricardo Lagos, former president of Chile and professor at large at Brown, convened a panel of local Latino leaders to discuss the latino community’s growing role in Rhode Island. Panelists included Providence Mayor Angel Taveras and Central Falls Mayor James Diossa.

watsoninstitute.org/americas

The Cybersecurity Colloquium continued this semester, bringing Susan Landau, author of Surveillance or Security? The Risks Posed by New Wiretapping Technology; Alexander Klimburg, fellow and senior adviser at the Austrian Institute for International Affairs; and Michael Schmitt, chair of the International Law Department of the United States Naval War College, to the Institute to discuss the security challenges posed by the Internet’s integration into global commerce, domestic and international politics, and national security.

watsoninstitute.org/cybersecurity

This semester, the Brown-India Initiative continued its seminar series, beginning in February with Nirupama Rao, India’s Ambassador to the US.
Ashley Tellis (above, far right, with Incoming Director Richard M. Locke), senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, gave the second O.P. Jindal Lecture series, speaking on India’s security concerns in a changing region.

Yogendra Yadav was in residence at the Institute this spring as the second Meera and Vikram Gandhi Fellow. Yadav, a political scientist at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies in Delhi, is a scholar of modern Indian political thought. From 1996 to 2009 Yadav was involved in designing and coordinating the National Election Studies, the most comprehensive series of academic surveys of the Indian electorate. brown.edu/india

MIDDLE EAST

In January, in conjunction with the Cogut Center for the Humanities-sponsored return to Brown of Daniel Barenboim’s West-Eastern Divan Orchestra (left), Middle East Studies (MES) held an on-campus panel discussion, “Dissonance & Harmony: The Arab-Israeli Conflict through Music and Academic Discourse.”

MES also launched its Luncheon Seminar, a series of informal gatherings of scholars and students who work on the Middle East and North Africa and Islam-related topics. Seminars were given by Linda Quiquivix, postdoctoral fellow in Critical Global Humanities, Nukhet Sandal, postdoctoral fellow at the Institute, Katharina Galor, visiting assistant professor of Judaic Studies, Parmenion Papamichos Chronakis, visiting assistant professor of History, Palmira Brummett, visiting professor of History, and Assem Abu Hattab, visiting research fellow at the Institute and BIARI alumnus.

Amr Shalakany, Aga Khan Distinguished Visiting Professor of Islamic Humanities, led a May workshop on “Law, Art and Revolution in the Middle East.” During his semester at the Institute, Shalakany also gave a lecture titled “The First Thing We Do, Let’s Kill All the Lawyers: Liberalism and Revolution in Modern Egypt.” mes.watsoninstitute.org

INTERNATIONAL FINANCE

In March, Deputy Managing Director for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Min Zhu gave a lecture at the Institute titled “A Changing China in a Changing World.”
Zhu (left), a former deputy governor of the Bank of China, set forth ways for China to adapt to the evolving global economy, such as reforming its financial system, growing the service sector, and improving the social sector.

Min Zhu’s hiring by the IMF represents a significant effort by the organization to integrate China’s financial system further into international markets. Inside China, Zhu’s former positions in the elite of China’s financial authority position him to give salient reform advice to the Chinese leadership.

explore.watsoninstitute.org

TEACHING AND TRAINING

In March, Middle East Studies launched its student-run Undergraduate Paper Series. Intended as a place for students to present their independent research to fellow students and faculty, the biweekly event serves as an interdisciplinary forum on the Middle East and draws participants from across the University.

“Hearing other students present their original research has inspired me to draw connections I otherwise would not have in my own studies, exposed me to an array of research methods, and shown me that undergraduates can and should produce compelling original research,” said Katherine Long ’14. “Presenting my own paper... affirmed to me that the research I was completing was interesting and relevant... I tell my friends at other schools about this paper series and they are jealous.”

Three seniors wrote honors theses in the International Relations program:


Vaness Ibric The Selectivity and Inconsistency of Security Council-Authorized Humanitarian Intervention: Explaining Syria in Light of Libya. Awarded the Samuel C. Lamport Prize

Jorge Tamames A Crisis of Consensus: The Legacies of the Spanish Transition, 1975-2013. Awarded the Mark and Betty Garrison Prize

Andrew White received the Anthony Riccio Prize in International Relations.

Robert “Bo” Schlagel is one of seven Development Studies concentrators graduating with honors this May. Bo’s thesis, Farmhand and Farmer: Exploring the Legal Environment That Conditions This Precarious Relationship, investigates the relationship between a long-term immigrant farmworker and a farmer. His project was driven by a summer of interviews and participant observation in Colorado, his
home state. With the support of the Institute-based AT&T New Media Fellowship, Bo complemented his written work with a 24-minute ethnographic documentary titled *This is not a unique story* (still from film, above).

Two Middle East Studies concentrators wrote honors theses: 
**Sarah Lynn Forman** A *New Phase in Jewish and Muslim Maghrebi Cultural Separation: Moroccan and Tunisian Diasporas in France React to the “Arab Spring”* Forman also received the Middle East Research Undergraduate Studies Prize.

**Meghana R. Koushik** Reimagining “Good Muslim, Bad Muslim”: Public Theologies of Citizenship and Belonging in the Republic of India

**Cristina Alvarez**, a Latin American and Caribbean Studies concentrator, received honors for her thesis, titled *Cuban Medical Internationalism and Cuban Foreign Policy*. watsoninstitute.org/teaching

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**SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH**

On March 19, a decade to the day after the US-led invasion of Iraq, car bombs and suicide blasts rocked Baghdad and areas to the south, killing some 50 people and wounding many others. To coincide with the anniversary, the Institute-based Costs of War project released the first comprehensive analysis of direct and indirect human and economic costs of the Iraq War. According to the report, the war has killed at least 190,000 people, including men and women in uniform, contractors, and civilians, and will cost the U.S. $2.2 trillion—a figure that far exceeds the initial 2002 estimates by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget of $50 to $60 billion. **Catherine Lutz**, the Thomas J. Watson, Jr. Family Professor of Anthropology and International Studies at the Institute, co-directs the project with Neta C. Crawford, professor of political science at Boston University. Lutz will continue her research in the social cost of the post-9/11 wars with the support of a fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

The research was cited by 40 media outlets around the world, including MSNBC, the *Guardian*, and *Le Monde*. The project’s complete findings are available at costsofwar.org.

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**BOOKS**

Three Institute faculty and the incoming director published books this semester:

**Peter Andreas** Smuggler Nation: How Illicit Trade Made America
Keith Brown Loyal Unto Death: Trust and Terror in Revolutionary Macedonia

Mark Blyth Austerity: The History of a Dangerous Idea

Richard M. Locke The Promise and Limits of Private Power

Richard Snyder, director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, celebrated the Korean translation (left) of Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics, an acclaimed 2007 collection of interviews with prominent scholars of comparative politics, which he co-authored with Gerardo L. Munck.

EXPLORE WATSON

What is going on in Syria? What are the myths and realities of the Syrian situation? Is it a war or a revolution? In March, two years after the popular uprising began in Syria, Middle East Studies Director Beshara Doumani interviewed Yasser Munif, a professor at Emerson University. Listen to their conversation about the conflict’s causes, current situation, and possible future.

explore.watsoninstitute.org/syria

Think GDP is the best way to measure a nation’s success? Think again. Productivity is more problematic than it might seem. What about happiness? Life expectancy? Environmental health? Brazilian Senator Cristovam Buarque, who spoke at the invitation of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, challenges the notion that GDP equates with well being. According to Buarque, progress, as it is currently defined around the world, is “morally unjustifiable.” Read about this troublesome measurement.

explore.watsoninstitute.org/gdp

Vodka: vapid or versatile? Watch Professor of History Emerita Patricia Herlihy sample vodka drinks in some of Providence’s finest watering holes. You’ll learn about vodka’s history and various uses, as well as the authentic way to enjoy this flavorless liquid. Herlihy is the author, most recently, of Vodka: A Global History.

explore.watsoninstitute.org/vodka

Photo credits: Locke and Rohde, Peter Goldberg; Lazo and Zhu, Annika Klein ’15; Snyder, Karen Philippi; Barenboim, Scott Kingsley; Tellis, Rythum Vinoben. The Institute’s undergraduate communications assistants contributed reporting.

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