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A Vision for US-Mexico Border Security

On the eighth anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks, TBI hosted “A Vision for US-Mexico Security,” where Alan Bersin, the Assistant Secretary for International Affairs and Special Representative for Border Affairs (aka the “Border Czar”) at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, provided a highly relevant keynote address on the increasingly important topic of public security on the border. The event was co-sponsored by LEAD San Diego, a non-profit organization dedicated to develop engaged civic and community leaders through intense issue-oriented programming, leadership skill building, and community volunteerism.

Assistant Secretary Bersin began his keynote address by recognizing that a new paradigm of the border had emerged in the wake of the September 11th terrorist attacks. In the 21st Century, the notion of a “homeland” requires that we rethink the notion of borders. Now



Alan Bersin comments on his plans to improve security along the United States-Mexico border.

borders are characterized by a mixture of both international and domestic events, a situation with which we were not previously familiar. Assistant Secretary Bersin described this new border paradigm as “intermestic”, a term coined by Abe Lowenthal, who is a professor of International Relations at the University of Southern

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TBI Presents Justiciabarómetro Report

On December 4, 2009, TBI presented the results of the Justiciabarómetro (Justice Barometer) survey to the municipalities of the greater metropolitan area of Guadalajara (ZMG in its Spanish acronym). In addition to Guadalajara, Mexico’s 2nd largest city, the ZMG includes the municipalities of El Salto, Tlaquepaque, Tlajamulco de Zúñiga, Tonalá, and Zapopan. The Justiciabarómetro is part of TBI’s Justice in Mexico Project, which is generously supported by The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and The Tinker Foundation, and which provides policy analysis and recommendations concerning the rule of law in Mexico.

With the assistance of USD undergraduate students Judith Davila (‘09), Joel Furman (‘09), and Nicole Ramos (‘11), the survey was developed and analyzed by an interdisciplinary team of U.S. and Mexican experts from the Trans-Border Institute, the Instituto de Investiga-

ciones en Innovación y Gobernanza of the Universidad de Guadalajara, and the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Occidente. 5,422 respondents, or nearly 80% of all municipal police in the ZMG, participated in the survey.

The objective of the Justiciabarómetro study is to



(Left to right) Marcos Pablo Molochnik, Guillermo Zepeda, Maria Eugenia Suarez, David Shirk, and Carlos Mercado at the report presentation in Guadalajara.

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JOAN B. KROC SCHOOL
OF PEACE STUDIES

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A Message from TBI Interim Director Charles Pope

This year marks a special time in the history of the Trans-Border Institute. 2009 is the 15th year anniversary of TBI and much has transpired since its inception in 1994. We at the Institute are extremely grateful for all of the personal contributions that have been made to the success of TBI in those 15 years. And we recognize that we would not be where we are at now without the sacrifices of a great number of people.

At this moment, TBI is also entering an extraordinary phase of its history as it undertakes new and groundbreaking initiatives. Among those are the Justice in Mexico Project's Justiciabarómetro and its Legal Education Program, both of whose objectives are to help advance the Mexican criminal justice reforms passed in Mexico last year. These initiatives are made possible through the support of the The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The Tinker Foundation, and the Higher Education for Development agency. Without their support, this important work would not be possible.

TBI will also collaborate with the Mexico Business Center at the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce and San Diego Dialogue at UCSD to create a Coalition for Border Prosperity in an effort to further the global competitiveness and prosperity of this dynamic



TBI Staff

cross-border region.

Through these initiatives, TBI is looking toward the future to help create a more just and equitable region. It is an honor for me to contribute to these meaningful initiatives as the interim director of TBI during Dr. David Shirk's sabbatical this year. I owe a special debt of gratitude to David for his support. And I am also very thankful to the TBI staff members who are helping to keep this engine running, and who are making me look good in the process.

Upcoming TBI Events

March 29 – April 1, 2010

“Border Film Week”

Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice Theatre

6:00- 8:00 PM

April 14, 2010

“North American Competitiveness, Innovation & Clean Energy Conference 2010”

Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice Theatre

April 16 – June 18, 2010

Map Exhibit: “Changing Boundaries: Historic Maps of the U.S.-Mexico Frontier”

Student Life Pavilion

April 21, 2010

“Changing Boundaries: Historic Maps of the U.S.-Mexico Frontier”

UC Forum B

6:00-8:00 PM

April 23, 2010

“Beyond NAFTA: US & Mexico Moving Forward”

Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice Theatre

4:00-6:00 PM



The image above is an example of a historic map that was printed in 1839, which was created by Daniel Burgess. At that time, Texas was recognized as a country by the USA and the USA claimed what is now British Columbia as far north as latitude 54.40. Maps, like the one above will be showcased at “Changing Boundaries: Historic maps of the U.S.-Mexico Frontier” map exhibit which will show the evolution of the border.

Border Security (cont'd)

California. “Intermestic” is a merger of both international and domestic qualities that is unique to the border region and which requires a novel approach to border policy.

Assistant Secretary Bersin acknowledged that the problems of drug trafficking and narco-violence are the shared responsibility of both the United States and Mexico. The United States bears responsibility because of the enormous demand for and consumption of illicit drugs in this country and also because most of the arms used by drug trafficking organizations come from U.S. sources. Furthermore, Mr. Bersin cited the “lack of a legitimate labor market between the United States and Mexico” as another manifestation of this shared responsibility. The large migration of Mexicans to the United States in search of economic opportunity – due to both push and pull factors - creates a significant demand for human smuggling operations, which is increasingly exploited by organized crime syndicates.

The recognition and acknowledgement of this shared responsibility represents a meaningful step forward in addressing the problems of drug trafficking and narco-violence, which are largely concentrated in the northern border region of Mexico. Now that the United States and Mexico are not “pointing fingers” at one another, we can start to respond in a more coherent manner. One manifestation of this acknowledgement of shared responsibility is demonstrated by the interdiction efforts of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in the southbound lanes of the ports of entry, where \$42 million in cash and 470 arms have been confiscated. Such interdiction efforts not only serve as a strategy of deterrence, but they also signal to Mexico that the United States is standing in support of its efforts to confront drug trafficking organizations.

Interestingly enough, Mr. Bersin stated that law enforcement professionalization in the United States did not occur until the 1960s and 1970s. Up to that point, law enforcement agencies in the United States were also characterized by a high degree of corruption. Moreover, a generation ago the Mafia in the United States was also a very powerful institution. According to Assistant Secretary Bersin, the relatively recent professionalization of our own police forces and the removal of the Mafia in the second half of the 20th Century in the United States provide good reasons to be “cautiously optimistic” about the current situation in Mexico. This is especially true given that such changes in the United States began by recognizing that organized crime and corruption are unacceptable, which is precisely what Mexican president Calderón has done.

TBI Staff Spotlight: Morayma Jimenez

Morayma Jimenez joined the Trans-Border Institute in the Fall of 2008 as a student intern. She was joined by fellow intern and good friend Ruth Soberanes and they both worked on a variety of projects. These included maintaining and updating the Justice in Mexico blog, which is administered by TBI and serves as a repository of information concerning the rule of law in Mexico. Each day Morayma would search for news articles - in both US and Mexican periodicals - that pertained to the different components of the rule of law, including access to justice, accountability, and transparency.



Morayma Jimenez

As a student intern at TBI, Morayma was also required to read and generate a report on a book that reflected the unique character of the US-Mexico border region. Morayma chose to read and report on the book *Tijuana Straits*. This book, written by Kem Nunn, was a tale of passion and loyalty, filled with suspense, through which we learned about the impact of maquiladoras on both individuals and the border community as a whole. The book also appealed to Morayma because of other social issues that it addressed, including migration and environmental degradation resulting from large commercial interests.

The following semester in the Spring of 2009 Morayma Jimenez was hired as the assistant event coordinator for the “Migration, Religion and National Identity Conference,” which was held on April 15-16, 2009. Morayma worked in close collaboration with Emily Lawrence on the logistical and programmatic details of the two-day event and was very grateful for the opportunity to meet and work with such outstanding and well-respected participants as Dr. Aristide Zolberg, Dr. Pierrette Hondagne-Sotelo, and Dr. Olga Odgers Ortiz.

In the Fall of 2009, Morayma returned as the TBI events coordinator. Currently she ensures that all of the Trans-Border Institute events are logistically sound. Events for this semester included a book presentation by Pablo Jaime Sainz on his latest novel, *Mica Chueca*; a Global Crossroads Roundtable with Dr. Larry Herzog; and A Vision for U.S.-Mexico Security with Assistant Secretary for International Affairs at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Alan Bersin.

Morayma is an undergraduate student at the University of San Diego and plans on graduating in May 2011. Her declared majors are International Relations and Spanish, while she also has a minor in both Economics and Peace & Justice Studies. After graduation she is hoping to work in Mexico undertaking a job either in U.S. Government relations or in the non-profit sector. We wish her the best during her remaining time at TBI!



2010 Summer Seminar in Border Studies in Tijuana

May 23 - June 26, 2010

Program Description:

This summer, the USD Trans-Border Institute will collaborate with the Universidad Iberoamericana in Tijuana to host the 2010 Summer Seminar in Border Studies. The program will engage students in direct hands-on learning about the U.S.-Mexico border relationship, North American regional integration, and the dynamics of the new global economy. As its long-term goal, this program will also work to develop a network of informed leaders and stakeholders to champion the goals of greater North American cooperation and cross-border integration.

Specific topics of study will include:

1. U.S.-Mexico relations and the border;
2. North American trade and economic development;
3. immigration patterns and policy;
4. border security and law enforcement;
5. environmental sustainability; and
6. the history, arts, culture, and people of the border region.

In addition to daily classroom experiences, students will tour maquiladoras and port of entry installations, meet U.S. and Mexican authorities and representatives of key business and community organizations, engage community service projects to help border communities, and visit marginalized and wealthy communities on both sides of the border.

Application Process:

Apply Online

Applications due : March 29, 2010

Applicant interviews: Week of April 5, 2010

Final Notification of program acceptance: Week of April 12, 2010

Program Requirements:

Language Proficiency in Spanish.

Passport and Visa.

Program Costs:

Full cost to be paid before the start of the program is \$2,000.00. This includes tuition, on-campus lodging in Casa Manresa (double rooms), excursion and service learning transportation (including trip to the peninsula). A limited number of scholarships (\$500) may be available for USD students who apply by March 29, 2010.

Additional Program Information:

For additional program information, please visit the website of Universidad Iberoamericana at <http://www.tij.uia.mx>, or contact the Trans-Border Institute:

Charles Pope at (619) 260-4090 or at c pope@sandiego.edu

Justiciabarometro (cont'd)

examine the operation and performance of the criminal justice system in Mexico through the perspective of key actors within the system. As the largest independent study of municipal Mexican police to date, the ZMG survey provides an unprecedented look into



the “face of the state.” Furthermore, the study comes at a crucial time, as Mexican lawmakers have begun to consider major reforms to centralize local police forces. The survey therefore offers a major contribution to the advancement of the professionalization of police in Mexico and consequently the rule of law in Mexico.

The research team collected data on socio-demographic indicators; professional profiles; technical and legal knowledge; and perceptions of work, crime, and society. The results showed, among other things, that municipal police officers within the ZMG have achieved a relatively high level of education compared to the general population, though officers also indicated an interest in expanding both procedural and technical training (such as marksmanship).

The survey also found that a high percentage of police officers experienced little confidence in the processes governing career advancement and frequently stagnated in the same positions, which suggests that civil service provisions need to be seriously reexamined to bolster morale and professionalism. Disturbingly, respondents also identified drug trafficking as the public security problem that is most concerning to the public, most difficult for municipal police to resolve, and the one most likely in which local law enforcement is involved.

Also among the most important findings of the study was the emphasis that officers placed on promoting community engagement in crime prevention and public security matters, compared with other measures such as buying more equipment or hiring more officers. Despite concerns over some findings, local public officials generally praised the study and noted that the results will provide policy makers and civil society with invaluable information to make informed decisions about municipal police and the future direction of this critical institution in Mexico.

Recent TBI Publications

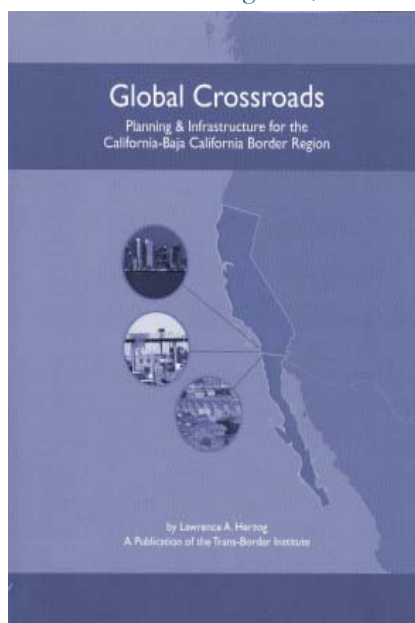
Global Crossroads

Report on Binational Planning and Transportation Infrastructure

During the 2009 Fall semester, the Trans-Border Institute published a report on binational transportation infrastructure known as “Global Crossroads: Planning and Infrastructure for the California-Baja California Border Region.” The report was authored by Dr. Lawrence A. Herzog, a professor in the School of Public Administration and Urban Studies at San Diego State University.

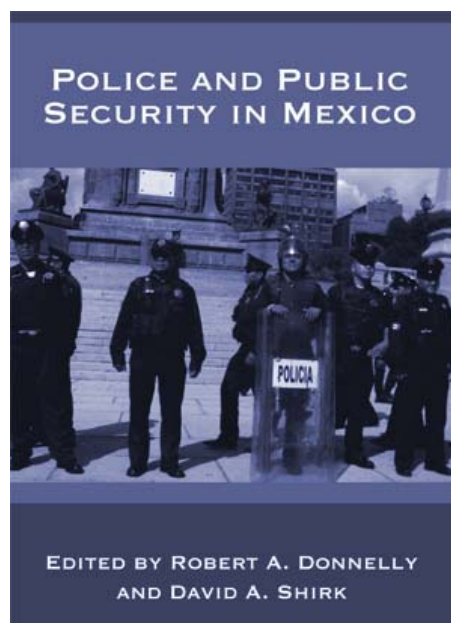
In the report, Herzog describes the California-Baja California infrastructure crisis, underscores the need for developing a cross-border infrastructure strategy, and defines potential future policy strategies for border infrastructure. Among the challenges that Dr. Herzog highlights in the report are the strains on existing infrastructure placed by rapid economic growth and demographic change, the economic and environmental costs of border delays, inadequate highway trade infrastructure, poorly developed rail linkages, lost opportunities to other regions with better infrastructure, insufficient port of entry capacity, and the shift to a national security framework at the border.

Herzog also describes several plans that could help the border, such as restructuring highway infrastructure, changing rail infrastructure policy, modifying and building new ports of entry, integrating seaports into the border region and acknowledging the importance of major growth poles in Baja California and their potential impact on the border region’s infrastructure. Herzog concludes that due to globalization, it is imperative for California to improve border infrastructure with the state’s most important international trade partner, Baja California. The report is available through the TBI website at www.sandiego.edu/tbi.



Police and Public Security in Mexico

In recent years, Mexico has faced a grave public security crisis. From 2006 to 2009, rampant cartel related violence has killed more than 13,000 people, including hundreds of police and military personnel. Given the inability of domestic law enforcement agencies to adequately address these challenges, Mexico has deployed tens of thousands of troops to restore order and combat violent organized crime groups. In addition, Mexican and U.S. officials initiated unprecedented measures to promote cross-border collaboration in law enforcement and security, including the multi-billion dollar Mérida Initiative to share responsibilities in fighting the War on Drugs. These developments raise a host of questions about the course of Mexican public security and the prospects for strengthening the rule of law. This monograph brings together the works of nine exceptional scholars who present timely analysis of these issues, provide a thorough assessment of Mexico’s principal domestic security challenges, and offer insights on how to tackle them. This monograph is part of the Trans-Border Institute’s Justice in Mexico Project, which is generously supported by The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and The Tinker Foundation. The Justice in Mexico Project examines key aspects of the rule of law and the challenges related to reforming the administration of justice in Mexico, and provides access to relevant data and analysis. The monograph is available through the Justice in Mexico Project website at www.justicein-mexico.org.



2009-2010 TBI Grant Awards

TBI actively encourages involvement from the USD community to address the many important issues affecting the cross border region through our small grants program. TBI provides grants to University of San Diego faculty, staff, and students for research and activities related to the U.S.-Mexican border. The following are the 2009-2010 grant awards.

Ilze Dzenovska
University of San Diego, Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies

“Conference ‘Greening Borders: Cooperation, Security and Diplomacy;’ Workshop at Tijuana Estuarine”

Border Activity

\$7,000

Description of Project:

The workshop at Tijuana Estuarine is one of the central activities of the working conference “Greening Borders: Cooperation, Security and Diplomacy,” which took place in November 2009. This conference addressed shared environmental risks in the San Diego - Tijuana border region with a particular focus on trans-border water management. The facilitated workshop created a neutral, inclusive platform for information sharing and open dialogue among key stakeholders on both sides of the border.

Nathalie Reys
University of San Diego, Marine and Environmental Sciences

“Blue Crab in Bahia Magdalena, BCS, Mexico: An Initial Assessment of the Fishery”

Faculty Research

\$6,500

Description of Project:

The overall objective of this study is to obtain data that will contribute to a preliminary assessment of the blue crab (*C. bellicosus*) stock in Bahía Magdalena. Our primary approach will involve quantifying the number of blue crab megalopae settling in estuarine habitats near Puerto San Carlos, Bahía Magdalena, BCS, Mexico. We plan to make the results of this study available to federal and state scientists, and we hope that this information will help fisheries scientists to develop a management strategy to ensure a sustainable blue crab fishery (thereby providing economic stability to the region). We anticipate that this project will improve communications between Mexican and American scientists, and the local scientific and fishing communities.

Elaine Elliott
University of San Diego, Community Service Learning

“Global Dialogue with Via Scholars Project”

Border Activity

\$5,500

Description of Project:

In tandem with the 20th Anniversary of the annual Social Issues Conference, the University of San Diego Center for Community Service Learning partnered

with Los Niños International to host a Global Dialogue for Response-ability on October 5 - 9, 2009. The international, inter-generational, and inter-departmental collaboration also included the new Via Scholars program.

Karla Alvarez
University of San Diego, Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice

“WorldLink Program”

Border Activity

\$2,500

Description of Project:

The WorldLink Program at the University of San Diego’s Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice provides year-round educational activities that connect youth to global affairs. The goal of this innovative, binational program is to promote international awareness by facilitating dialogues between experts and students. Funding from TBI supported the participation of Mexican students in WorldLink’s events and publication of bilingual classroom tools such as the WorldLink Reader and newspaper.

Lesley McAllister
University of San Diego, School of Law
“Mexican Environmental Enforcement in the Post-NAFTA Era”

Faculty Research

\$5,500

Description of Project:

This project contributed to the empirical study of the trade-environment relationship by characterizing how national environmental laws and policies enacted since NAFTA have reshaped Mexican regulatory institutions and environmental enforcement. In the context of other changes to Mexican environmental enforcement in the 1990s and 2000s, the research particularly examined Mexico’s National Environmental Audit program that was established in 1994 and has grown to include a significant proportion of Mexico’s large regulated entities. The research will understand whether these changes made environmental enforcement in Mexico more or less effective.

The deadline for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 TBI grant proposals is **March 12, 2010.**

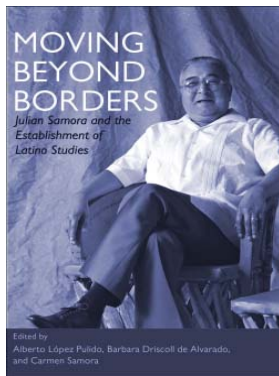
Grant forms, guidelines, and additional information are available on the TBI website at www.sandiego.edu/tbi.

Book Presentation: Moving Beyond Borders

On December 3, 2009, the Trans-Border Institute, the USD College of Arts and Sciences, and the Ethnic Studies Department hosted the book presentation of *Moving Beyond Borders: Julian Samora and the Establishment of Latino Studies*. Special guests and co-editors of the book, Alberto López Pulido and Carmen Samora, discussed the life and accomplishments of the Mexican American activist and scholar regarded as the founding father of Latino Studies, Julian Samora. Alberto López Pulido, director and professor of ethnic studies at the University of San Diego, reflected on his experience as one of the 57 “Samoristas” who were enlightened and inspired by Julian Samora at the University of Notre Dame in the early 1980s. Carmen Samora, professor of American and Chicano studies at the University of New Mexico, director of the Julian Samora Legacy Project, and daughter of the late Julian Samora, showed some family pictures of Samora as she talked about his early life in Pagosa Springs, Colorado.

The book is divided into two parts: the first part is a personal and intellectual biography of Julian Samora and the second part consists of 23 chapters of the personal reflections of “Samoristas.” Julian Samora came from humble beginnings in the informally segregated town of Pagosa Springs, CO. and he graduated from Adams State Teacher College in Colorado in 1942 with a degree in history.

In 1964, he joined the University of Notre Dame, where he worked until his retirement in 1989. Published in 1966, Samora’s *La Raza: Forgotten Americans* is the first publication of its kind to provide an assessment of educational, religious, political, migratory, and demographic characteristics of Mexican Americans (*Moving Beyond Borders*, pp. 49-50). This was the beginning of a civil rights agenda for the Mexican American community. With support from the Ford Foundation, Julian Samora started community initiatives to improve the social and economic position of Chicanos throughout the Southwest. In 1971, after much difficulty, Samora succeeded in creating the Mexican American Graduate Studies Program and in 1990 he was awarded the prestigious Orden de Aguila Azteca Award by the government of Mexico in Mexico City. Samora died on February 2, 1996. He impacted the lives of innumerable individuals as well as an entire community, and changed the way Mexican Americans were viewed in the United States.



Reflection by Claudia Ornelas: TBI Administrative Assistant



Claudia Ornelas

I began my journey with the Trans-Border Institute in May 2008 as the Administrative Assistant while finishing my Masters degree in International Relations from USD. My job consisted of organizing events and meetings, providing financial administration assistance, conducting office and extramural communication, calendaring and internal scheduling, and website management, among other duties.

Working at TBI provided me the opportunity to foment my knowledge on border issues, work closely with prominent academics and community leaders, and foster great working relationships with the TBI staff. My role at TBI shifted constantly making it an exciting place to work at and also providing me with the opportunity to exercise and strengthen my organizational, multi-tasking, communication and time-management skills. TBI was a great resource for me, both as an engine of information related to border issues and a place where I had the opportunity to gain vast amounts of practical work experience. Mostly, I learned the value of work that occurs behind the scenes and the importance of working as a team. One of the great benefits of working at a small institute like TBI was that the entire staff was able to take an active role and thereby truly engage in all the events and activities sponsored by the Institute.

Reflecting on the past year and a half, I am also taking away the great work ethic of both Dr. David Shirk and Charles Pope, who were always committed to truly bringing the border not only to USD but to the region. Both were the motor behind TBI’s success by always ensuring that TBI was a useful and active resource for the community and a place that continuously fostered US-Mexico collaboration.

As I prepare myself to leave TBI to teach in Thailand and reflect on my experience here, I become more aware of the great work that TBI conducts. Despite being a small institute, TBI branched out to different areas of research and always maximized its resources to increase the accessibility of information and research related to the border. I am very honored to be a small part of the immense work that takes place in this Institute. I take not only the work experience, the work ethic of my colleagues, but also the great relationships that I was able to form while here.

Mission Statement

The Trans-Border Institute (TBI) was founded at the University of San Diego in Fall 1994 thanks to the vision and leadership of former Provost Sister Sally Furay. The USD Trans-Border Institute has two overarching objectives:

- 1) to promote border-related scholarship, activities, and community at USD, and
- 2) to promote a positive and active leadership role for USD in the cross-border community in a manner consistent with the nature, mission, and values of the University.

In order to carry out its mission, the TBI provides (and encourages others to provide) faculty, students, and staff of the University of San Diego, as well as people who live on both sides of the border, with information, contacts, seminars, opportunities for study, research grants, internships, academic exchange partnerships and service-learning opportunities.

TBI Staff, Fall 2009

David A. Shirk: Director

Charles Pope: Interim Director

Claudia Ornelas: Administrative Assistant

Cory Molzahn: Research Associate

Anna Cearley, Research Associate

Theresa Firestone: Research Associate

Octavio Rodriguez: Justice Project Coordinator

Nicole Ramos: Justice Project Research Assistant

Ruth Soberanes: Promotions Coordinator

Morayma Jiménez: Events Coordinator

Stephanie Borrowdale: Administrative Assistant

Ryan Forster: Intern

Lorena Quezada: Work Study

Gladys Avalos: Work Study



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