

# NEXUS

TRANS-BORDER INSTITUTE • CONNECTING USD TO MEXICO AND THE BORDER

## Bank of America Sponsors TBI Trans-Border Migration and Development Conference

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Bank of America Sponsors TBI Conference	1
Director's Message	2
Hewlett Grant Renewed	2
Tinker Foundation Funds TBI Seminar Series	3
Staff Spotlight: Charles Pope	3
TBI Intramural Grants Awarded	4
TBI Interns Participate in MIT Research Project	4
New TBI Publications	4
Justice in Mexico Project Conference Update	4
Reflections from a TBI Intern	5
TBI Staff 2006-07	6
TBI Hosts Seminar on Rule of Law Reform	7
TBI Intramural Grants: 2007 Call for Proposals	7
TBI Faculty Oversight Committee	7
Mission Statement	8

### NEXUS NEWSLETTER

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**T**hanks to the generous sponsorship of Bank of America, the Trans-Border Institute will host a major conference at the University of San Diego on October 5-6, 2006 to address the challenges of trans-border migration and development in Mexico and the border region. The public discussion about migration from Mexico typically focuses on addressing the flow of undocumented migrants into the United States, either by bolstering U.S. border security or modifying migration policies to better reflect the U.S. domestic demand for labor. This conference seeks to shift the conversation to look at the "push" factors that drive migration from Mexico,



The Trans-Border Migration and Development Conference will be held on the USD campus on October 5-6, 2006

and the strategies needed to help create economic opportunities for migrant sending communities.

With roughly 40 percent of Mexico's population living in poverty (earning less than about five U.S. dollars per day) and half as many living in extreme poverty (living on less than one U.S. dollar per day), there is little surprise that many Mexicans seek better opportunities in the United States. Structural adjustments, currency devaluations, recurring

unemployment and other painful side effects of Mexico's economic development over the last 20 years have led millions of Mexicans to seek work and a better life in the United States.

Over the last decade, Mexico's economic development has followed the overall trends of the new global economy, as exemplified by Mexico's entry into the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs in 1986, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1994 and its numerous trade agreements with countries around the world since then. This developmental model has produced important overall benefits for Mexico, but has also brought significant challenges including: major currency fluctuations, relatively low GDP growth, rising informal sector employment and negative environmental impacts.

Mexico's development challenges have been paralleled by other related problems, such as ineffective governance, rule of law challenges, educational deficits, population displacement and migration, and generally poor quality of life for millions of people in Mexico and the border region.

Promoting sustainable economic development in Mexico remains the essential task in order to resolve a host of challenges and to ensure an effective and prosperous partnership with the United States. Finding shared solutions to Mexico's economic development challenge is therefore a bi-national objective that must involve both U.S. and Mexican policy-makers for years to come.

Thus, in this conference, the key question will be: What strategies for development can best promote growth, alleviate economic inequality, and improve the quality of life in Mexico and the border region? Distinguished experts, policy-makers, academics and stakeholders will consider the latest information from the United Nations Development Program human development data for Mexico, and complementary analysis by prominent experts on the unique development challenges faced in the border region.

## Director's Message

The scope of TBI activities has grown significantly in the last year and for the foreseeable future. Beginning in August 2005, TBI took on a new three-year, \$450,000 extramural grant project on justice reform in Mexico (from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation) and has begun to attract significant corporate sponsorship for its programs (including \$50,000 from Bank of America). Over the coming years, TBI will seek opportunities to sustain its current level of activity through the submission of proposals for extramural grants, corporate sponsorship and a dedicated endowment for TBI. Meanwhile, TBI begins its twelfth year of operation at the University of San Diego with a host of new programs and resources to advance its mission of promoting Mexico and border related programming, scholarship and educational activities. TBI's ongoing Justice in Mexico Project will publish an edited volume, a new in-house monograph, a series of working papers and regular news updates on rule of law challenges in Mexico and the border region. TBI will also continue to serve the greater San Diego-Tijuana border region as a resource for information, analysis and leadership to address such shared cross-border challenges as migration, economic development, environmental sustainability, education, health and quality of life. Most important, TBI will continue to work with and educate USD students about the border region in which they live. I am extremely grateful for the hard work of TBI's new staff members, student workers and interns who have helped put together an exciting agenda for this academic year.



David Shirk, Director, Trans-Border Institute

## Hewlett Grant Renewed for TBI Justice in Mexico Project

In 2005, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation granted \$150,000 to TBI to conduct research on justice reform challenges in Mexico. This generous award constituted TBI's first outside grant to conduct research at USD. In July 2006, TBI received a two-year renewal from the Hewlett Foundation for a total of \$300,000 to continue the activities of this project. The objective of the TBI Justice in Mexico Project is to produce research outputs to help: focus on state-level justice sector reforms (such as oral trials, transparency laws, alternative dispute resolution mechanisms), identify best practices (particularly with regard to promoting transparency and accountability), and

promote greater U.S. collaboration in Mexican justice reform initiatives. To achieve these goals, TBI is working with the Mexico City based Centro de Investigación para el Desarrollo, A.C. (CIDAC), the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California (UABC), independent researchers based in the border state of Chihuahua and five USD undergraduate students. This fall, Robert Donnelly will take over as project coordinator when current coordinator Alejandra Rios begins her doctoral fellowship at the Center for U.S. Mexican Studies at UCSD. For more information about the project, please visit the Web site at [www.justiceinmexico.org](http://www.justiceinmexico.org).

## Tinker Foundation Funds TBI Seminar Series on Ethics and Professionalism in the Law

In July 2006, the Trans-Border Institute (TBI) received a grant of \$45,000 from the Tinker Foundation to coordinate an international, inter-institutional seminar series entitled "Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility in Mexico." The lack of professionalism and ethical conduct among lawyers and judges constitutes a major problem in Mexico, due in large part to inadequacies in legal education and oversight in Mexico. The consequences for Mexico's legal profession are the proliferation of poorly trained lawyers, a persistence of unethical practices among legal practitioners and an overall lack of accountability in the justice system. The challenges that these problems present for the rule of law in Mexico are enormous, since lawyers are the primary link between the population and the judicial system and an essential civilian check on police, prosecutorial and judicial performance. With Tinker support, TBI will invite prominent experts and practitioners from Chile, Mexico, Spain and the United States to address these challenges and promote dialogue in Mexico and elsewhere in Latin America. Thanks to collaboration with TBI's partner institutions – including the USD School of Law, the USD Values Institute and the Centro de Investigación para el Desarrollo, A.C. (CIDAC) – outputs from this seminar series will be integrated into law school curricula in Mexico and elsewhere through electronic dissemination and streaming video. The grant proposal for this initiative was authored by TBI Operations Coordinator Charles Pope and TBI Program Assistant Emily Mellott, a graduate student in the USD master's program in international relations.

## Staff Spotlight: New Operations Coordinator Charles Pope

Since taking over as TBI Operations Coordinator last September, Charles Pope has established a reputation for his leadership abilities, hard work and good nature. Mr. Pope, a native of San Diego who speaks both Spanish and Portuguese, brings to the Trans-Border Institute a wealth of knowledge of the border region. Previously, Mr. Pope worked for six years doing event management, research and analysis, and marketing and outreach at San Diego Dialogue, a public policy research organization housed in the Division of Extended Studies and Public Programs at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD). In 2004, Mr. Pope graduated with a master's from the Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (IRPS) at UCSD with a regional specialization in Latin America, and a focus on international environmental policy and sustainable economic development.



Charles Pope, TBI Operations Coordinator

Mr. Pope has made many contributions to increase the Institute's scope of activities including creating a new TBI Access database, establishing an internal server for TBI staff to share and store documents, and greatly expanding the resourcefulness of the TBI Web site. Mr. Pope has also taken full responsibility for TBI's intramural grant management, successfully executing the 2006 TBI grant review, and working with faculty and staff to implement and report the results of their projects. In addition to these grant-making activities, Mr. Pope has demonstrated a keen interest in developing his professional abilities as a grant-writer. Last academic year, TBI supported Mr. Pope's enrollment in a grant-writing course in which he and TBI Program Assistant Emily Mellott directed part of their activities for that course to writing a \$45,000 grant proposal that has been funded by the Tinker Foundation.

## TBI Intramural Grants Awarded

In March 2006, TBI convened scholars from SDSU, UCSD, COLEF and USD to serve as peer reviewers for the 2006-07 grant cycle. The grant review process involves two separate steps, with the entire committee meeting as a whole to identify the strongest proposals, and USD reviewers meeting later to finalize the selections and determine the funding amount. This year, in the first phase of the process, the committee recommended that TBI fund four of the proposals, which were later granted full funding for a total of \$24,114. This year's successful grants included a \$12,000 award to Dr. Angela Yeung to fund a joint tour by the USD Symphony and the Sinfónica Juvenil de Tijuana to central Mexico; a \$5,500 award to Dr. Alberto Pulido to fund training and leadership opportunities through the Ethnic Studies Department and the Center for Community Service Learning to develop future immigrant leaders; a \$3,600 award to graduate student Shinpei Takeda to fund a video documentary project on the Japanese community in Tijuana; a \$3,014 award to Dr. Alana Cordy-Collins to work with USD students to prepare a guide to Tijuana; and a \$2,000 award to Sister Barbara Quinn to fund a summer border immersion program.

## TBI Interns Participate in MIT Research Project

During the Spring 2006 semester, TBI participated in the Mexico 2006 Panel Survey based at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Building on the success of the pioneering survey work that MIT spearheaded for the 2000 Mexican presidential election, this project focused on how certain issues become the subjects of political contestation in democratic politics. Specifically, this project analyzed the dynamics of "issue emergence" in Mexico's 2006 presidential election and will use its findings to address the nature of representation and accountability in democracies, particularly emerging democracies. TBI interns Doris Franyutti, Jhanelle Johnson and Emily Ruyle contributed to the analysis by coding the content of candidate campaign speeches, the results of which were utilized by researchers on the MIT project. TBI Intern Doris Franyutti also worked to provide up-to-date content for the TBI 2006 Mexican Presidential Election Web page and summer conference in conjunction with the USD Guadalajara Summer Program.

## New TBI Publications

The Trans-Border Institute will produce its first monograph this fall as part of the Justice in Mexico Project. The monograph, edited by TBI Justice in Mexico Project Coordinator Alejandra Rios and TBI Director Dr. David Shirk, is titled *Evaluating Transparency and Accountability in Mexico: National, Local and Comparative Analyses*, and presents exceptional analyses generated by TBI's 2005 call for papers on the administration of justice and the rule of law in Mexico. Later this fall, the Justice in Mexico Project's first edited volume, *Reforming the Administration of Justice in Mexico*, will be published by Notre Dame Press and the UCSD Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies.

## Justice in Mexico Project September Conference in Mexico City

Through the Justice in Mexico Project, the Trans-Border Institute and the UCSD Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies a conference titled "Reforming the Administration of Justice in Mexico: Local Advances, National Challenges" on September 21-22, 2006 in Mexico City at the La Casa de la Universidad de California. The main objective of this conference was to present analysis on seven themes related to the administration of justice and the rule of law in Mexico: access to information, data analysis, public order access to justice and human rights protections, corruption, transparency and accountability, the role of courts and judicial independence. In addressing these themes, the distinguished scholars and experts provided analysis from the national, state and local perspective and considered policy options to address ongoing challenges in the justice system. The conference was conducted in Spanish.



Edna Jaime, David Shirk and Chris Woodruff at the "Reforming the Administration of Justice in Mexico: Local Advances, National Challenges" conference on September 21-22, 2006.

## Reflections from 2006 TBI Intern Emily Ruyle

My internship with the Trans-Border Institute during the Spring 2006 semester was a unique learning experience that taught me many valuable skills and opened my eyes to important issues regarding Mexico and the border region. I first became interested in Mexican politics while taking a class on the subject, taught by TBI Director Dr. David Shirk, during the Guadalajara Summer Program. After returning from a semester abroad, I expressed my interest in TBI and was assigned an internship for the spring semester.

My internship with TBI involved working on the Trans-Border Migration and Development Conference, one of three main projects that TBI was coordinating during the past year. The Migration and Development Conference is mainly concerned with promoting economic development in Mexico in an attempt to lessen the gap between the borders of the United States and Mexico. During my internship, I worked closely with TBI Research Associate Richard Plank to plan a major conference on migration and development to be hosted at USD in October 2006. The conference will be comprised of over 30 experts on the subject of migration and development in the U.S.-Mexican context. The conference discussion will focus on ways to narrow the economic gap between Mexico and the United States by promoting economic development in Mexico and the border region. My main activities for this project have been to collect data for fact sheets and other materials to be distributed at the conference, and to help secure funding for the event.

Another project that I worked on with the Trans-Border Institute this semester was a speech content analysis project in collaboration with the 2006 Panel Survey project coordinated by MIT professor Chappell Lawson. This project involves collaboration by researchers from prestigious universities in the United States and Mexico, including Harvard, UCSD, UCSB, UNAM, ITAM and CIDE. For this project, I attended sessions with Dr. Shirk, TBI Program Assistant Emily Mellot and two other interns in which we analyzed speeches given by the three candidates for the 2006 Mexican presidential election. As part of the analysis, we were given a packet in which to code key words, phrases, issues, allusions, personal or party references and references to other candidates, among other things. For each speech, we wrote a paragraph summary highlighting key points on which the candidates' remarks were focused to help researchers know more about the

candidates, the issues and their campaign efforts to affect voters. The speech analysis was my favorite part of the internship because I was challenged to utilize my Spanish skills, my knowledge of Mexican politics and current events, as well as critical analysis skills to study real candidates in a highly important election for Mexico.



Emily Ruyle, Spring 2006 Trans-Border Institute Intern

Overall, my internship with the Trans-Border Institute provided me with many important skills and opportunities. Through my research and data gathering projects, I was able to practice and improve my Spanish-speaking skills and keep up with current events and politics in Mexico. In the future, I hope to work for the U.S. government, specializing in public policy. My internship with TBI has also sparked my interest in potentially pursuing a job related to immigration or border politics. I'm looking forward to continuing to work with the Trans-Border Institute as it continues to grow and impact the university and the community.

## TBI Staff 2006-07

### 2006-07 STAFF

**Dr. David Shirk**  
Director

**Charles Pope**  
Operations  
Coordinator

**Robert Donnelly**  
Justice in Mexico  
Project Coordinator

**Alejandra Rios-Cazares**  
Justice in Mexico  
Project Research  
Associate

**N. Sam Liao**  
Web site  
and Technical  
Assistant, Justice  
in Mexico Project

**Theresa Firestine**  
Research Associate

**Veronica López Arellano**  
Student Worker

**Lorie López**  
Student Worker

**Emily Ruyle**  
Student Worker

**W**ith the start of the 2006-07 academic year, TBI has the benefit of a hard working and energetic staff comprising three full-time employees and five part-time student employees. TBI's full-time staff includes Director David Shirk, Operations Coordinator Charles Pope and Justice in Mexico Project Coordinator Robert Donnelly. TBI's full-time staff is bilingual and has frequent interaction in Mexico and across the border. Working to support the Justice in Mexico Project as part-time student employees are graduate student Sam Liao and undergraduate students Lorie López, Veronica López and Emily Ruyle.

In general, TBI's dedicated staff helps the Institute to conduct research, coordinate forums and events on and off campus, promote TBI and border-related events, provide information on border issues and administer intramural grant resources for USD

faculty, staff and students. Over the past year, TBI staff helped to host 16 conferences and speakers, and to generate ground-breaking research on Mexico and the border (including projects on justice reform in Mexico, the 2006 Mexican elections and data mapping on the U.S.-Mexico border).

Over the summer, TBI gave a fond farewell to four staff members: ethnic studies major Irma Vanegas, who graduated this past spring; earth sciences major Theresa Firestone, who will start her doctoral studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara this fall; master's in international relations student Emily Mellott, who completed her coursework at USD this summer and will take her comprehensive exam at USD this fall; and Justice in Mexico Project Coordinator Alejandra Rios, who will go on to complete her doctoral thesis at UCSD this year as a fellow for the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies.



2006-07 Trans-Border Institute Staff

## TBI Hosts Seminar on Rule of Law Reform in March 2006

**O**n March 6, 2006, the USD Trans-Border Institute hosted a seminar on the comparative analysis of penal justice in three Mexican border states. Experts on penal justice provided a diagnostic of crime along the border; a general appraisal of penal law in Mexico; and discussion of key legal reforms in northern Mexican states. Analysis of legal reform focused on Coahuila's implementation of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in 2000, Chihuahua's recent introduction of reforms to introduce oral trials and other major procedural changes and the challenges of passing penal reforms in Baja California's divided political context.



Panel discussion at the Seminar on Rule of Law Reform in March 2006

## TBI Intramural Grants: 2007 Call for Proposals

**E**ach year, TBI provides up to \$35,000 in grants to University of San Diego faculty, staff and students for research and activities related to the U.S.-Mexican border. Since its grant program was started in 1998, TBI has awarded research grants to approximately 15 USD faculty and 32 border activity grants from 23 different departments on campus. TBI also provides numerous mini-grants throughout the academic year for projects and activities requiring funding up to \$500. Mini-grant applications will be approved on a rolling basis, and larger research and activity grant proposals are due on March 15, 2007.

All grant materials are available for download on the TBI Web site at <http://www.sandiego.edu/tbi/grants/grants.php>. In addition, faculty, staff and students are invited to attend any of the three grant information sessions to be hosted in December and February.

### TBI Grant Dates

Information session: 12/5/06

Information session: 2/8/06

Information session: 2/14/06

All other grants due: 3/15/06

Awards announced: 5/2006

## TBI Faculty Oversight Committee

**T**BI greatly appreciates the support of the Faculty Oversight Committee (FOCO) for the 2006-07 academic year. The FOCO provides guidance for TBI's strategic development and helps connect TBI to USD's College of Arts and Sciences and schools of business administration, leadership and education sciences, law and nursing and health science. In the coming year, TBI will also create a new Community Advisory Board, which will meet separately from the FOCO to provide recommendations and feedback on TBI's activities.

## 2006-07 TBI FOCO Members

Chair: Julie Sullivan

Ex Officio Members:

Dee Aker

Elaine Elliott

Annette Kettner

Rotating Members:

Joan Anderson

Michel Boudrias

María Luiza Dantas

Denise Dimon

Emily Edmonds

Anita Hunter

Carl Jubran

Teresa O'Rourke

Gail Perez

Alberto Pulido

## Mission Statement

**T**he 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: to promote border-related scholarship, activities and community at USD; and 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.

### **TBI strives to achieve its mission by:**

Helping the United States–Mexico border community in ways consistent with the nature and mission of the University of San Diego;

Positioning the University of San Diego in the United States–Mexico border community, and positioning that community within the curricular, research and service components of the University of San Diego;

Addressing within the University of San Diego the

issues raised by the United States–Mexico border reality;

Stimulating explorations of the concept and context of “border” within the curricular, research and service components of the University of San Diego;

Promoting further explorations of the experiences, forces, histories, belief systems and institutions that shape the United States–Mexico border community; and

Serving as a vehicle of communication, dialogue, exchange and collaboration, in order to break down barriers between the people who live on both sides of the United States–Mexico border.

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.



### **TRANS-BORDER INSTITUTE**

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