

# NEXUS

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

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NEXUS  
NEWSLETTER

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## TBI Grant Supports USD Symphony Tour with *Sinfónica Juvenil de Tijuana*

**T**BI grant recipient Angela Yeung, Music Professor and Symphony Director, led the USD Symphony on its first international tour in collaboration with the Sinfónica Juvenil de Tijuana, a youth orchestra from Tijuana, Baja California. The trip occurred during the university's spring break (March 30 - April 5, 2007), and took a bi-national ensemble of thirty musicians to the states of Michoacán and Guanajuato. This tour also marked an exciting part of the tenth anniversary activities for the Sinfónica Juvenil.

The U.S. and Mexican musicians gave multiple joint performances, made guided trips to prominent cultural sights, and interacted with members of the various communities they visited. Students flew from the Tijuana airport to Morelia, Michoacán, where they boarded a bus to the town of Acámbaro, in the southern part of Guanajuato state. There, the performers gave two concerts, one at the Sunday mass and one in the town square. The people of Acámbaro were very enthusiastic about the performances, each of which was attended by several hundred spectators.

The performers then traveled to Irapuato, Guanajuato to give another concert in a local church for hundreds of spectators on Monday, April 2. The next day, the group toured the colonial city of Guanajuato, the state's capitol, before returning to Acámbaro for a recording at the hotel and a post-performance celebration complete with dancing and mariachis.

On Wednesday, April 4, Acámbaro's mayor, César Larrondo Díaz, honored the students with a tour of his ranch, horseback riding, and a hearty lunch. They then attended the blessing of the bread for the Easter holy week before performing in one last concert at a local church. The performers returned to Tijuana on Thursday, April 5.

*USD Symphony and Sinfónica Juvenil de Tijuana*

Overall, this trip provided USD orchestra students with a wonderful opportunity for a musical collaboration with their Tijuana counterparts, and also a chance to delve more deeply into Mexican culture. For many it was the first trip into the Mexican interior, but hopefully not the last. TBI Website and Technical Assistant Sam Liao captured numerous excellent photos of the tour, which are available on the TBI website (see: [www.sandiego.edu/tbi/resources](http://www.sandiego.edu/tbi/resources)).

*Dr. Angela Yeung*

## Director's Message

**T**he 2006-07 academic year has been quite remarkable for TBI. Last Fall, TBI organized major events on both sides of the border, with our Mexico City-based conference on justice reform and the international conference on migration and development hosted here at the University of San Diego. These events, respectively made possible by generous support from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and Bank of America Foundation, were complemented by other exciting activities and events, including a fantastic border photography exhibit, a director's screening of a new immigration documentary, and a debut play reading by a current TBI grantee.

Spring activities also ranged widely, with a border media roundtable, a TBI-supported cross-border symphonic tour, and a series of events co-sponsored with other organizations on campus. Among these, Diane Takvorian, Executive Director of the Environmental Health Coalition, gave a wonderful presentation on environmental justice at the annual Sister Sally Furay lecture. TBI's Justice in Mexico Project also organized major public forums on judicial reform in Coahuila and Baja California, bringing together judges, lawyers, and law students to discuss reforms to improve the administration of justice in Mexico.

TBI also developed useful informational resources, GIS maps, and analysis on key issues for Mexico and the border region, now available on the TBI website.

*TBI Director David Shirk*

Of special note are the podcasts and streaming video of TBI's speaker series on legal ethics, made possible by the generous sponsorship of The Tinker Foundation.

These and other TBI successes in the past year reflect the hard work of our dedicated staff, which I greatly appreciate. I especially want to thank the terrific graduating students who helped TBI this year: Sam Liao, Veronica López Arrellano, Mayra Pérez, and Emily Ruyle. I look forward to new opportunities in the coming year to involve our students and the campus in U.S.-Mexico and border issues.

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## TBI Hosts Cross-Border Media Roundtable

**T**he Trans-Border Institute co-sponsored a Cross-Border Media Roundtable meeting with the Public Relations Department on January 24, 2007 at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice. With the border certain to be in news headlines in the coming year, the purpose of this roundtable

was to discuss the challenges and nuances associated with reporting along the U.S.-Mexico border, and to discuss new prospects in the year ahead. Speakers included Elliot Spagat, a staff writer for the Associated Press, and Daniel C. Hallin, a Professor of Communications at the University of California, San Diego. Spagat spoke about increased coverage of undocumented migration outside border areas, while Hallin discussed media perceptions of Mexico, the border, and immigration.

The roundtable meeting allowed for fruitful dialogue between members of the press – US and Mexican – as well as the binational community. Some topics that were discussed included the difference in coverage between print and broadcast media, the journalistic rationale behind the use of different terms to describe undocumented immigrants—such as “illegal alien”—as well as current events including the upcoming Baja California State elections.

*Cross-Border Media Roundtable participants*

## Environmental Justice: 11th Annual Sister Sally Furay Lecture

**T**he Trans-Border Institute, in co-sponsorship with the Social Issues Committee, held the 11th Annual Sister Sally Furay Lecture on May 7, 2007 at the University of San Diego. This year the keynote speaker was Diane Takvorian, the Executive Director of the Environmental Health Coalition.

The lecture, entitled, “Environmental and Social Justice on the U.S.-Mexican Border,” focused on the injustices that occur along the U.S.-Mexican Border, especially in low-income and minority neighborhoods. Air pollution, lead poisoning, and free trade were among the specific topics that Takvorian addressed in her presentation.

Takvorian has been involved in the struggle for social and environmental justice for nearly 30 years. She is the Executive Director and Founder of the Environmental Health Coalition (EHC), an environmental justice organization in the San Diego/Tijuana region that works to protect public health and the environment. Takvorian served as the Co-Chair of the California Environmental Protection Agency’s Environmental Justice Advisory Committee from 2001-2005 and continues to represent environmental justice communities as a member. She was also recently appointed to the California Global Warming Environmental Justice Advisory Committee.

*11th Annual Sister Sally Furay Lecture*

## Staff Spotlight: Justice in Mexico Project Coordinator Robert Donnelly

**R**obert Donnelly began as Coordinator of the Justice in Mexico Project in September 2006. Mr. Donnelly came to the Trans-Border Institute with a wealth of journalistic experience, knowledge of Latin America, and fluent Spanish. Previously, Mr. Donnelly was an adjunct professor of Latin American History at City College in San Diego. In 2005, Mr. Donnelly graduated with a master’s degree in Latin American Studies from the University of California, San Diego, where his thesis dealt with Latino immigration in North Carolina. Earlier, Mr. Donnelly worked as a wire service, print and freelance journalist in Mexico City (1997-2002). He received his bachelor’s degrees in journalism and history from the University of Georgia at Athens, 60 miles east from his home town in suburban Atlanta.

*Rob Donnelly, Justice in Mexico Project Coordinator*

As Coordinator, Mr. Donnelly has made many contributions to the Justice in Mexico Project, including developing monthly news report on justice-related issues in Mexico available through the project website ([www.justiceinmexico.org](http://www.justiceinmexico.org)) and its list of subscribers. Mr. Donnelly is responsible for coordinating a series of forums to promote dialogue on legal reform in key Mexican states, as well as the seminar series entitled “Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility in Comparative Perspective”. In addition, Mr. Donnelly produces the project’s conference reports and assists in publishing briefs and fact sheets related to Mexico and the border.

## TBI Justice Project Hosts State-Level Forums

**T**hanks to generous support from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the TBI Justice in Mexico Project and the Mexico City think tank CIDAC are collaborating to organize a series of state level forums as part of the Red de Justicia / Justice Network. The Red de Justicia is a network of academics and experts who study state-level criminal justice reform to promote a nationwide dialogue on improving the administration of justice in Mexico.

The network comprises the following states: Zacatecas, Coahuila, Chihuahua, Aguascalientes, Oaxaca, Baja California, Nuevo León, Chihuahua, and Jalisco. The Red held its first forum on March 7 at the Facultad de Jurisprudencia of the Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila (UADEC), with joint sponsorship from the state judiciary of Coahuila. The central theme focusing on oral argument and adversarial criminal justice procedure proved very popular, as approximately 300 attendees packed the auditorium for the panel discussion and keynote address.

Prominently represented were members of the state judiciary and prosecutors' offices of Coahuila and neighboring Nuevo León, in addition to numerous law students. The Red de Justicia held a second state-level public forum on May 9 in Mexicali, Baja California. That event, organized in conjunction with the Facultad de Derecho of the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California (UABC), focused on alternative dispute resolution and alternative sentencing mechanisms. Attended by over 200 people, the audience included prominent members of the state and federal judiciary, numerous UABC law students, and a few USD students who made the trip to Mexicali.

The Baja California event featured a special keynote talk that coincided with the TBI Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility Seminar Series. The overarching goal of these activities is to seed conversations at the state level that will contribute to stronger and better efforts to reform the Mexican justice system.

## Legal Ethics in Comparative Perspective: the Case of Chile

**T**he Justice in Mexico Project was happy to host Dr. Claudio Pavlic, director of the public defender's office of metropolitan Santiago, Chile, as the second speaker in its Tinker Foundation-sponsored "Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility in Comparative Perspective" seminar series. Dr. Pavlic's talk on legal ethics in Chile took place in Mexicali, B.C., on May 9, 2007, in conjunction with the "Binational Forum on Alternative Criminal Justice," part of the Project's Red de Justicia series of working group meetings, which is sponsored by The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Dr. Pavlic was joined at the dais at the Aula Magna of the Facultad de Derecho of the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California (UABC) by Dr. David A. Shirk, Director, Trans-Border Institute, University of San Diego, and Lic. Roberto Villa González, Assistant Director, Facultad de Derecho, UABC.

Dr. Pavlic's address centered on the history and development of ethical standards and practices for Chilean legal practitioners in the 19th and 20th centuries. He discussed legal ethics with relation to the professional practice of private attorneys, the judiciary, and public defenders. Much of his talk was devoted to an in-depth discussion of the evolution of the country's principal bar association, the "Colegio de Abogados en Chile."

Among salient points expounded on by Dr. Pavlic were the following: 1) the importance of effective self-regulating mechanisms among legal practitioners and bar associations, to preempt the imposition of external controls; 2) trends in Chile that favor obligatory bar membership for legal practitioners; and, 3) evolving notions of the duties of defense attorneys and of their place within the justice system.

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## Open Source Center Features Justice Project

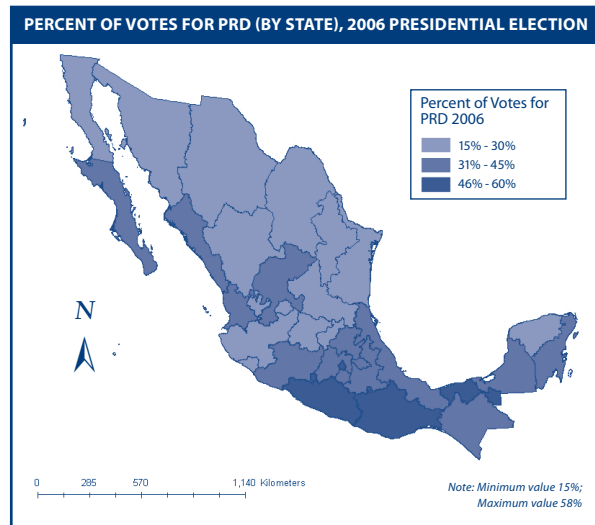
**T**he Open Source Center (OSC), an online U.S. government repository, recently selected the TBI Justice in Mexico Project's monthly news reports for inclusion in its catalog of online publications accessible to select government officials and partners. The OSC provides foreign media reporting and analysis to policymakers, government institutions and intelligence agencies that subscribe to its service. The inclusion of the monthly news reports is expected to guarantee wider distribution of TBI outputs to U.S. policymakers. To view the latest news report, please go to: [www.justiceinmexico.org](http://www.justiceinmexico.org) and click "News."

# Mexico and Border GIS Mapping Project

In Spring 2006, the Trans-Border Institute continued its collaboration with Dr. John Yin of the Marine and Environmental Studies Department and Research Associate Theresa Firestine to create Geographic Information Systems (GIS) maps to plot Mexico- and border-related data. Theresa graduated from USD in May 2006 with a B.A. in Urban Studies and a minor in Economics, and is currently an M.A. student in Economics at the University of California, Santa Barbara. The objective of this project was to increase the resourcefulness of TBI by providing valuable geographic information through collaboration with students and other departments on campus.

Theresa used GIS mapping technology to develop a series of demographic, socio-economic, and political maps to characterize the U.S.-Mexico border region and Mexico. This work required gathering relevant data from the US Census Bureau, Mexico's Instituto Nacional de Estadística Geografía e Informática (INEGI), and the Instituto Federal Electoral (IFE) and aligning the data to geographic boundary files using software known as ArcGIS. One example is the map entitled "Percent of Unemployed Persons within US Census Tracts Located within 200 Km of the US/Mexico Border, 2000."

The finished products, available on the Trans-Border Institute website ([www.sandiego.edu/tbi](http://www.sandiego.edu/tbi)) provide useful resources to the University of San Diego community, as well as to professionals, academics, and students conducting research on Mexico or the US-Mexican border.



TBI GIS map

## TBI Sponsors Torounet Border Photo Exhibit

**P**aul Turounet, a former-USD adjunct professor and TBI grant recipient, presented his completed grant project in a photo exhibit in the Joan B. Kroc Peace & Justice gallery that was on display October 31 - December 15, 2006. A reception and artist lecture, co-sponsored by the Office of University Design, took place on November 1, 2006. The project, funded through TBI's Grant Program and entitled "Estamos Buscando A—We're Looking For," is a photographic installation of the migrant experience along the U.S.-Mexico Border. It features 27 large-scale installation pieces with 45 photographs in which Turounet "explores cultural, psychological and emotional concerns of undocumented migrants seeking to come to the U.S. by crossing the Mexican-American Border."

*Paul Turounet, TBI Grant Recipient*

The pieces are printed on steel plates and mounted to salvaged pieces of border wall from the wall re-construction project in Border State Park in San Ysidro. The exhibit is the result of Turounet's own four-year journey, beginning in 2003. Turounet traveled and photographed images in Mexico along the border from the Pacific Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico.

*Exhibit at Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice Gallery*

A majority of the photographs were taken in the Sonora Desert, which stretches south of Arizona, where the highest concentration of illegal crossings and migrant deaths takes place. In order to share and pay homage to the experience of the migrants that Turounet photographed, metal-plate emulsion copies of the photographs were also installed on the border wall itself at the exact points where they were taken.

Turounet is now an instructor of photography at Grossmont College in El Cajon, and continues to teach in the University of San Diego Guadalajara Summer Program in Guadalajara, Mexico. Copies of these photographs can be found on the TBI website.

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## TBI Names New Community Advisory Board

**L**ast Fall, the Trans-Border Institute Faculty Oversight Committee (FOCO) named the members for the newly instituted Community Advisory Board (CAB). The purpose of the CAB is to counsel and make recommendations concerning the strategic direction and community partnerships of TBI. The CAB will meet with TBI staff members separately from the FOCO on a biannual basis. Members of the Community Advisory Board will ideally help to promote TBI's involvement in the greater San Diego-Tijuana region, as well as at the national and international levels. Members are nominated by the TBI Director, selected by the FOCO and serve a two-year term with the possibility of a nomination for a second term.

### The inaugural members of the CAB are:

- **Alejandra Mier y Terán**  
Executive Director  
Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce
- **Jose H. Moreno**  
VP, Market Development Manager  
Bank of America
- **Rev. Peter Ruggere, M.M.**  
Director, Office for the Missions  
Diocese of San Diego

## Reflections from Former-Student Assistant Veronica Lopez

My interest in Mexican politics began in TBI Director David Shirk's Mexican politics class, which inspired me to apply for the student worker position. My experience with the Trans-Border Institute began in January of 2006. I began with database entry, but soon found myself working in the Justice in Mexico Project. I worked alongside Project Coordinators Alejandra Rios-Cázares and Robert Donnelly on issues related to justice reform and rule of law in Mexico, helping with event coordination, data collection, and contacting academics and politicians in Mexico; co-authoring a research paper on the recent social unrest in the state of Oaxaca; and gathering data for the appendix of *Reforming the Administration of Justice in Mexico* (Notre Dame Press, 2007). My experience taught me the value of hard work and encouraged me to seek a graduate degree.

My experience at TBI was enhanced by all of the people I worked with: Robert Donnelly, Lorie Lopez, Sam Liao, Emily Ruyle, Charles Pope, David Shirk, and Alejandra Rios-Cazares. After graduation I will be receiving a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. I will be going to Quantico, VA for training. For the duration of the summer I will be in China for a language immersion program at Peking University.

*Veronica Lopez, Former Student Assistant, TBI*

## TBI Intramural Grant Program

Each year, TBI awards 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 began in 1998, TBI has awarded approximately 45 grants to different departments from all 5 colleges on campus for special projects to engage key border issues. TBI also provides mini-grants throughout the academic year for projects and activities requiring funding for up to \$500. Mini-grant applications are accepted on a rolling basis, and larger research and activity grant proposals were due on March 15, 2007. This year, TBI's mixed committee of USD and external reviewers included border experts from California State University-San Marcos, San Diego State University, and Universidad Iberoamericana in Tijuana. The committee awarded five outstanding grant projects:

### 2007-08 TBI Grant Recipients

*"San Diego Youth Border Partnership"*

Andrew Bishop, Student, College of Arts & Sciences

*"MUERTOS: Day of the Dead Theatre Arts Project"*

Evelyn Diaz Cruz, Department of Theatre Arts

*"Debt Financing and Municipal Autonomy in Tijuana"*

Emily Edmonds-Poli, Department of Political Science

*"Border Immersion Program 2007"*

Sr. Barbara Quinn, RSCJ, Center for Christian Spirituality

*"International Civil Litigation between the U.S. and Mexico"*

Jorge A. Vargas, School of Law

# 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: 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.



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