

September 2017

**ADELPHI**  
UNIVERSITY

# International Studies Newsletter

## Message from the Outgoing Interim Director, Professor Maggie Gray

"If Americans Can Find North Korea on a Map, They're More Likely to Prefer Diplomacy," screamed a New York Times headline.<sup>1</sup> Those who could identify North Korea on a map more strongly supported alternatives to military action such as economic sanctions, pressure on China, and cyberattacks against North Korean military targets. The number one factor influencing whether you can identify North Korea on a map? Your level of education.

Adelphi's International Studies Program prepares students to consider significant global questions such as North Korea's nuclear capacities; the ostracizing of Qatar by Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, and Egypt; the failure of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP); the \$2.76 billion anti-trust suit against Google by the European Union; and the Paris Climate Accord.

Our interdisciplinary program offers students cross-cultural, international, and global perspectives on a diverse set of issues from politics to business to culture. We do this inside and outside the classroom. In the fall 2016 we were thrilled to co-sponsor a lecture through the Adelphi Ambassador Series titled "The Role of the UN in the Search for Global Solutions to Global Problems." The guest Ambassador was Charles Thembani Ntwaagae of Botswana. We also sponsored an event "Can We Talk About Palestine?" (see page 5) and some of our students visited the Council on Foreign Relations.

As I put together the alumni updates (see page 11) and scan former students' Facebook pages, I see plenty of evidence of how strong our majors are. So many of them have been putting their International Studies Degree to good use whether pursuing a law degree, doing research on art, working abroad, teaching English, working for Duolingo and the Peace Corps, and more!

In addition, congratulations to Hilda Perez '11 (see page 8) who was honored as a member of AU's 10 Under 10, which each year recognizes the success of ten young alumni. Along with Joan Drabczyk '05 and Ewa Sobczynska '04, Perez is the third International Studies Major to be recognized since 2012. What a remarkable achievement that three of our alumnae have been honored.

It has been my pleasure to serve as the 2016-2017 Interim Director of International Studies and to get to know our remarkable students. Katie Laatikainen, returning from a one-year sabbatical (see page 4), will bring her expertise and vitality as the new Director of International Studies.

1. Quely, K. (2017, July 5). If Americans can find North Korea on a map, they're more likely to prefer diplomacy." The New York Times. Retrieved from <http://newyorktimes.com>

TABLE OF CONTENTS	Page #
Adelphi's 10 Under 10	8
Alumni: Where are They Now?	11
Capstone Projects	6 & 7
Faculty Research & Activities	8 & 9
Honors & Awards	5 & 12
NECO Grant	2, 3 & 4

## NECO Grant

Once again, International Studies was honored with a \$5,000 study abroad grant from the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO). To win the award, IS majors with at least a 3.0 GPA were invited to submit an application explaining how in-depth summer study abroad would further their intellectual and professional goals.



## Congratulations, Professor "O"

Dr. Ogdubesan-Omede earned her Doctor of Philosophy in Global Affairs From Rutgers University in the spring 2017.

Her dissertation is titled *Rebuilding the Social Fabric: Challenging and Transforming Unwarranted Influences in the Educational Institutions in Nigeria*.

"Professor O" is an adjunct professor who teaches Global Issues I and Global Issues II.

## Business Trip to Panama

Applications are due September 25

In Spring 2018, during Spring Break, Dr. Rakesh Gupta's class Business & Society will have the opportunity to go to Panama! The course meets the General Education Social Science requirement and is open to First Year Students, Sophomores, and Juniors of ALL majors.

There is no longer any business that is purely local; even the smallest of firms is likely to have owners, employees, suppliers and/or customers from different parts of the globe. This course provides an interdisciplinary perspective on the role of business in a globalized society. It introduces the major functional areas of business, including accounting, finance, and production, operations, marketing, human resources, and information technology. In this particular course section, we will explore the dimensions of business using Panama as an exemplar.

Panama has a unique geographical role as the crossroads for Atlantic and Pacific Ocean trade and traffic. The country has experienced tremendous progress over the last decade as one of the fastest growing economies worldwide. Average annual growth was 7.1% from 2001-2015, more than double the regional average, thanks to foreign direct investments and light regulation. The role of the country of Panama in the international context cannot be separated from the Panama Canal, and more recently from the Panama Papers. Therefore, the faculty-led trip will be organized around the Panama Canal with an emphasis on the history of the canal, the role of the United States in building the canal, the canal's impact on the business and political landscape of Central America, and its impact on international trade. We will visit the Panama Canal, explore the Biodiversity Museum, see an indigenous village, and hear from U.S. and Panamanian government officials and local university professors, as well as corporate leaders.

For the syllabus and to apply, visit [tinyurl.com/ycqm8xwr](http://tinyurl.com/ycqm8xwr)

By Rakesh Gupta, Management, Marketing and Decision Sciences

## Angelica Mendez in Buenos Aires, Argentina NECO Award Recipient 2016

The morning I found out I was the recipient of the NECO award was one of the most exciting days of my college career. Finally I felt that my effort and dedication had paid off and I had been granted the opportunity to accomplish something I had thought I would be unable to do, study abroad.

In Argentina, I enrolled in business courses at the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales de Argentina. I also lived with an Argentine host family and had the opportunity to visit Uruguay as part of the program. I learned a great deal regarding the histories of both nations and their sociopolitical and economic development. Aside from the theoretical aspect of business policies and finance in Argentina, I was able to study how Argentina's history influenced its economic development, and I observed with my own eyes the political economy of the capitol city of Argentina, Buenos Aires.

Meeting other students from the United States was thrilling. They were all from different states and backgrounds, but had similar interests in the business field. During our experience we bonded very quickly because of our lack of knowledge regarding the city and the country, and together we learned to navigate the public transportation system of the city and had the opportunity to freely travel around the city after our classes. This was one of the most valuable experiences because as students from another country we were first-hand witnesses to the daily rhythms of life in Buenos Aires. In addition, with my International Studies language concentration being Spanish, I was happy to be able to easily communicate with anyone I crossed paths with, including on our weekend trip to Uruguay.



Along with the other students I was submerged in a cultural, political, and economically different environment that challenged my knowledge and expectations, but more importantly has taught me that there is so much more to see and learn from beyond the classroom.

By Angelica Mendez



## Amanda Opromolla in Verona, Italy NECO award recipient 2017



Thanks to receiving the NECO \$5,000 Study Abroad grant, Amanda Opromolla spent the summer in Verona, Italy on the campus of the Salesian University Institute of Venice

In addition to practicing her Italian language skills, Amanda studied food and culture to explore the connections between the food people eat and how it supports, or helps define, cultural identity. Amanda studied local food and analyzed how Italian cuisine fits in with global food systems.

## No, Sabbaticals are not “time off”

Professors at Adelphi are afforded the opportunity to apply for a sabbatical every seven years. Sabbaticals relieve faculty from teaching responsibility in order to provide us an opportunity to engage in fully in our scholarly pursuits and/or to launch new projects. In my last sabbatical in 2009-2010 I was on a Fulbright in Macau S.A.R., China where I taught courses on international organizations and the European Union at the University of Macau and lectured around China and Hong Kong while undertaking research on the impact of the Lisbon Treaty on European Foreign Policy.

This sabbatical year was also very productive, as I had hoped. First, I was invited to be the first visiting professor at the University of Tampere in Finland. During the fall, I taught a month-long course (in English) on Multilateralism and Global Governance, and in the spring I taught a graduate workshop on Practice Theory. Tampere is the most popular university in Finland for international students, and so my class of 36 students represented students from more than a dozen countries, including Japan, Canada, Russia, France, Ireland, the UK, Italy, Germany, Slovakia, Spain, and others, as well as a few Finnish students. The Erasmus program in the E.U. ensures that students have the ability to study in another country and have their studies recognized by their home university. A great number take advantage of this.

So while the discourse on the European Union these days is on Brexit, it was a delight to see how university students and young people embrace the ideals of Europeanization. We are working with the University of Tampere to try to build a partnership that would allow Adelphi students to experience this unique educational environment and to allow Finnish students to study at Adelphi. Stay tuned!

By Professor Katie Laatikainen, Political Science and International Studies

*Continued on page 10*

## More Congratulations

Two students in the Political Science Track were inducted into **Phi Beta Kappa**., the Political Science Honor Society.

Zouz Bekdache  
Erica Mumford



We would like to congratulate Amanda Opromolla on winning *The Smalley Family Endowment for Italian Language Studies* (funded by AU Trustee Patrick Smalley '86) which she will use to continue her study abroad in Italy in January 2018.

## Can We talk About Palestine?

"Can We Talk About Palestine" was a Q & A style event organized by Professor Maggie Gray and sponsored by the International Studies Program. Our guest speaker Amin Husain, answered a broad range of questions from students Kindeya Chiaro and Brian Stanley about the occupation of Palestine, covering topics such as health, worker rights, his own experiences growing up in Palestine, and the parallels of colonialism and racism between Palestine and other nations, including the U.S.

Amin is a Palestinian-American lawyer, artist, and activist based in New York. He has a BA in Philosophy, a JD from Indiana University Law School, and an LLM in Law from Columbia University. He practiced law for five years before transitioning to art, studying at the School of the International Center of Photography and the Whitney Independent Study Program. Amin teaches at the Gallatin School and the Media Culture and Communication Department at NYU, the New School's Media Studies Department, and Pratt's Graduate Writing Program. He is one-half of the MTL Collective, with Nitasha Dhillon they have recently completed a documentary feature shot in the West Bank.

Amin's interests focus on resistance and liberation, as well as movement generated theory and practice. His research and teaching interests span debt and financialization, globalization and political economy, social movements and cultures of resistance, race, class and ethnicity in the media, and postcolonial theory.

The Q&A focused on every day life in Palestine—the curfews, the lack of healthcare, the checkpoints that can lead to a five-hour commute for Palestinians working in Israel. He described what it means to farm for Palestinians who have lost their land. Division was a word that came up again and again as Amin discussed how Palestinians are divided—not just with the walls to Israeal, but the way settlements divide with geography and race.

Violence was another topic discussed and not the sort of violence that includes rocks and guns, but the violence that coalesces in the daily fear of the Palestinian people that when they step out of their homes, they don't know if they will come back.

Again and again, Amin returned to the idea that this is not about being pro-Palestine or pro-Israel and the topic is not about anti-Semitism, rather, he argued this is a justice issue related to understanding how those who seek profit will take advantage of conflict. He challenged students to look for the truth, to do our own research, to ask questions, and then question the answers.

By Angelica Mendez and Kindeya Chiaro

## Spring 2017 International Studies Seniors Capstone Projects

I.S. seniors have a choice to do a Capstone thesis or internship with a shorter paper to demonstrate their knowledge in their respective fields along with the help of mentors. Their work reflects their immense knowledge and analytic capabilities put to the test.



### Erica Mumford

Erica's Capstone project was a thesis on the rise of populist parties across the West. These parties can be seen largely as a reactive response based on dissatisfaction with the leadership of global elites. These parties' main issues and those riling up voters include national security, immigration, economic vulnerability from globalization, and international organizations that are seen as too dominant. There has been an attack against the liberal policies of democratic nations within the same nations that promoted these policies.

They began as a way to globalize economies and exercise power in international politics. The sense of abandonment and instability felt by a changing world has led to the support of increasingly radical and extreme political parties which are beginning to normalize hate speech, nationalism, and xenophobic and anti-immigrant language, which is seen for example with the National Front in France.

Erica's thesis addresses the following questions: Why is the current populist resurgence different from those in the past? What is the cause of the populist rise which is no longer isolated to specific countries, but is a more global trend? Is it possible that the growing sense of populist discontent is the result of, or a sign pointing to, the decline of neo-liberal institutions? We can argue that these institutions are, in large part, directly responsible for the globalization of the world's economy and the integration of traditional nation states. Finally, does the rise of populism point to the larger structural flaws behind the integrating forces of globalization and modernization, while suggesting the need for a shift beyond the traditional nation state system?

### Sierra Crook

Sierra pursued a thesis on environmental peacebuilding. The theory of environmental peacebuilding is based on the idea that joint management and protection of the environment acts as a vehicle for conflict-resolution between states that have shared interest in natural resources, generating a willingness to cooperate among them. The idea has become increasingly popular in state relation practices, with mixed analysis on just how effective it is. In many discussions however, there is consistent emphasis on peacebuilding efforts, while considerably less so on actual environmental goals.



Professor Christensen and Sierra Crook

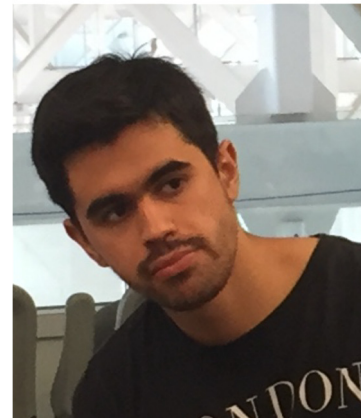
By looking at specific cases in environmental peacemaking efforts from areas around the world, including Central America, the Great Lakes Region of Africa, the Middle East, and Cyprus, this



project aimed to measure the success of these agreements in improving environmental protection in the area of interest while also increasing peace relations between the countries involved. Sierra analyzed the factors present in success or failure in both areas, environmental improvement and state cooperation, and what developments might be able to be made in ensuring the equal success of both peacemaking and environmental protection and management in the application of environmental peacebuilding.

## Pedro Izquierdo

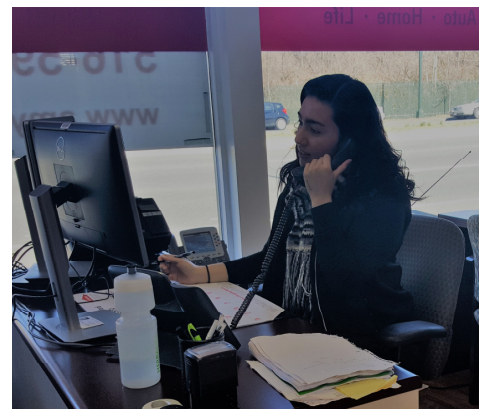
Through an Internship Capstone and paper, Pedro focused on the Ayotzinapa case from the perspective of three different NGOs. His internship was at Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) where he conducted research and wrote for the organization's website. The case involves the disappearance of 43 male students from the Ayotzinapa Rural Teachers' College in Iguala, Guerrero, Mexico on September 26, 2014. The NGOs chosen were Amnesty International, WOLA, and Human Rights Watch, each having their own methods of investigating and conducting research.



Relying on the theoretical model in Ahmed and Potter's *NGOs in International Politics*, Pedro explained how international theories such as realism or liberalism influence the behavior and roles of different NGOs. He also used the theories of constructivism and transnationalism to explain the influence of NGOs regarding the Ayotzinapa case. Pedro also offered also background information about the events of the Ayotzinapa case and also raised questions regarding the capability of the Mexican government to handle the case.

## Angelica Mendez

Angie completed an internship at State Farm Agent Amy Karol's office in Lynbrook. Angie's main task was to provide customer service to Spanish speakers. Using her International Studies language skills and business courses, Angie realized that all her work explaining policies to customers was inefficient. Yes, customer service is important for explanations and answering questions, but the office had no written translations of any of their policy-related materials. Nor did the office have any training materials or guides for staff who would be relating to customers in another language. Angie turned to the scholarship of Customer-Relationship Management, cultural competence, and cultural intelligence in the workplace.



In her paper, Angie discussed the work of various authors and integrated her internship observations to provide meaningful recommendations to the local Lynbrook office, as well as the larger corporation. Her goal was to show how providing written information in Spanish would increase efficiency in service provision and enhance employee performance, which would likely result in higher customer retention and satisfaction, as well as increased approval ratings for the company. The recommendations and adjustments provided can be implemented in various offices with different internal structures and models with the goal of providing better availability of resources for agents and customers, who speak and read a different language.

## Another IS Alumnae is an Adelphi's 10 Under 10

Hilda Perez '11 was selected for Adelphi's 10 Under 10, which showcases the success of ten alumni each year who have graduated within the past ten years. Perez is Co-Founder and Board Member of Savvy: Marketing for Good, a company aimed to grow social ventures.

In addition to International Studies, Perez was in the Levermore Global Scholars Program and remembers a trip with Professor Peter DeBartolo to Washington D.C. for the United States Summit for Citizen Diplomacy: "I was asked to deliver a speech in front of an audience of over 500 people. That was one of my fondest memories of my time at Adelphi." Perez was also President of the Latin American Student Organization, for which she won "President of the Year" Award from AU. She has continued her education with the Latino Entrepreneurs Leaders Program at Stanford University and a master's degree from Hult International Business School.



Perez credits Adelphi for helping her get in touch with her roots, "I came from a pretty suburban town and I was a minority. At Adelphi I was able to explore and connect with my heritage." Her advice to current students is, "Don't hide in the back of class. Network with people. Get involved on campus," she said. "I received real world experience on Adelphi's campus."

## International Studies Faculty Research & Activities

**Raysa Amador**, Professor, Languages, Literatures and Cultures, co-directed the Adelphi University 2016 Spanish Film Festival and revised the Spanish textbook *Así es la vida*.

**Regina Axelrod**, Professor, Political Science, has a new book chapter co-authored with Stacy D. VanDeveer titled "Global Environmental Governance," in the edited volume *Environmental Governance Reconsidered*, published by MIT Press. Professor Axelrod also presented two papers at the International Studies Association Conference.

**Maggie Gray**, Associate Professor, Political Science, presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting and the Latin American Studies Association Annual Congress (Lima, Peru) and co-authored "Milking Workers, Breaking Bodies: Health Inequality in the Dairy Industry," which appeared in *New Labor Forum*. Her co-authored dialogue among scholars who have written on food labor appeared in *Gastronomica*. Professor Gray gave talks at Lafayette College, NYU, Yale, Sarah Lawrence, Holy Cross, the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, Hamilton College, and Stony Brook.

**Rakesh Gupta**, Associate Professor, Management, Marketing, and Decision Sciences, spent the Spring semester developing the Panama study abroad course, *BUS 162 Business & Society–Panama* for Spring 2018 (SEE PAGE 2). He was also quoted in the press on personal finance, debt and credit topics including *WalletHub.com*, *Newsday*, and *TheStreet.com*.

**Jonathan Hiller**, Assistant Professor, Languages, Literatures and Cultures, submitted for publication of his translation of I. U. Tarchetti's 1866 Gothic novel *Paolina: Mysteries of the Figini Lodge* (Dante University Press). He presented research on *Paolina* and two other works of Italian literature at a confer-



## Faculty Research & Activities

ence at the University of Toronto, and a peer-reviewed article based on that presentation will appear in the conference's published proceedings this year. He also published two book reviews and presented research at the American Association for Teachers of Italian. In addition, he has joined the ranks of the New York Unified Court System's Interpreter Service and both the New York Circle of Translators and the American Literary Translators Association.

**Katie Laatikainen**, Professor, Political Science SEE PAGE 4.

**Traci Levy**, Associate Professor, Political Science, participated in two conferences. At the Global Care Summit, she served as chair and discussant of the panel "Care Ethics, Solidarity, and Activism." At the Sixteenth Annual Faculty Institute at Barnard College, Professor Levy learned more about the Reacting to the Past pedagogy by participating in academic role-playing games and faculty workshops. She also supports Adelphi's Diversity Certificate Program. Professor Levy and Rhonnie Jaus co-teach the workshop for faculty, staff, and administrators on "Gender Bias and Title IX."

**Fan Liu**, Assistant Professor, Management, Marketing, and Decision Sciences, published several co-authored articles in the past year. "Smile Big Or Not? Effects of Smile Intensity on Perceptions of Warmth and Competence" appeared in the *Journal of Consumer Research*; "Country of Origin Non-Fit: When Country of Origin Non-Fit Enhances Consumer Evaluations" was published in the *Academy of Marketing Studies Journal*; and "From Similitude to Success: The Effects of Facial Resemblance on Perceptions of Team Effectiveness" is in the *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied*. Professor Liu also presented at three papers at two conferences: the *Winter AMA Conference*, and the *North American Conference for the Association for Consumer Research* in Berlin, Germany.

### The International Studies Program has a faculty committee of scholars from:

The Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures

The Department of Political Science

The Willumstad School of Business

**Nicole Rudolph**, Associate Professor, Languages, Literatures and Cultures, served on the 2016 Adelphi AAUP's Negotiating Team to secure a new contract for faculty and enjoyed a productive sabbatical in the fall 2016. She gave a talk at the Maison Française of NYU based on her book, *At Home in Postwar France: Modern Mass Housing and the Right to Comfort* (Berghahn Books) and delivered a paper on mid-century model homes at the Courtauld Institute of Art (London). Her review essay of new scholarship in French urban environmental history will appear in the *Journal of Urban History*. Professor Rudolph joined the Editorial Board of *French Politics, Culture and Society*. As faculty co-chair of the International Leadership Coordinating Committee, Professor Rudolph spearheaded an internationalization audit of the University and evaluated the quality of Adelphi's global and international engagement.

**Priya Wadhera**, Associate Professor, Languages, Literatures and Cultures, saw the publication of her first book, "Original Copies in Georges Perec and Andy Warhol" (Brill | Rodopi is the first to draw parallels between Perec, the celebrated French author, and Warhol, the American Pop artist. She spoke at the Modern Language Association's International Symposium in Germany. In addition, Professor Wadhera presented papers at two domestic conferences for nineteenth- and twentieth-century French literary scholars. In coming months, she will speak abroad at the American Comparative Literature Association's Annual Convention in the Netherlands, and at two conferences in France. Forthcoming are a peer-reviewed article and a translation. Dr. Wadhera is the Representative for the Division on 20th-and 21st-Century French Literature at the Modern Language Association Annual Convention.

## No, Sabbaticals are not “time off”

Continued from page 4.

I also completed a research project with my colleague Karen Smith at the London School of Economics. We edited and contributed to a special issue of *The Hague Journal of Diplomacy*: ‘The Multilateral Diplomacy of U.N. Diplomacy’ which focuses on the role of regional and political groups in U.N. diplomatic negotiations (Volume 12, No. 2-3, 2017: see online at [tinyurl.com/ydaers5u](http://tinyurl.com/ydaers5u)). The special issue brings together scholars from Europe, the U.S., South America and New Zealand to investigate how group interactions influenced a number of multilateral negotiations and debates in U.N. system, from debates over gender and sexual orientation to nuclear non-proliferation and the responsibility to protect. Three key conclusions arise from this project.

First, groups—both informal and formal, long-standing and issue-specific—are significant features of multilateral diplomacy across the U.N. landscape. Second, while political ‘games’ are not entirely absent in the interactions between these groups, ‘debates’ are nonetheless a predominant feature of multilateral group politics. States use groups to put forward principled positions in an attempt to influence a wider audience and thus legitimize desired outcomes. Third, groups are not static; it seems that existing political groups are ‘made to be broken’ as new groups emerge in multilateral processes. At any given moment, U.N. multilateralism is shaped by long-standing group dynamics as well as shifting, ad-hoc groupings. Understanding the interplay of group dynamics is key for both practitioners as well as scholars of U.N. multilateralism.



The explicitly political perspective in our project is surprisingly novel. It provides a new way to look at U.N. multilateralism—that is, what diplomats do in the U.N. is engage in politics, and that politics is embedded in the social dynamic of groups. States are privileged actors in U.N. multilateralism, but very few states ‘act individually’ in U.N. diplomacy. U.N. multilateralism ensures that national interests are embedded in group dynamics, but such political and regional groups are not simply about playing a numbers game. Groups in U.N. multilateralism are a rational way to build consensus, but they are also repositories of identity and ideas. Focusing on group politics reveals the social-political nature of U.N. multilateralism. The articles were reviewed very positively, and we are seeking to complete a book manuscript with additional case studies and material.

Finally, I am part of European network of scholars that was awarded a Jean Monnet Grant (EUN-NET) to promote teaching and research on the European Union-United Nations relationship. We are producing on-line course modules and I will work with the E.U. delegation to the U.N. to produce training for their internship program. It also means that I will be visiting partner institutions to lecture over the coming years as well as participate in PhD training workshops.

After a year ‘off,’ I am returning to Adelphi energized and excited about the new possibilities for international collaboration for both the university and myself. It is a pity that more industries and occupations do not recognize the value of innovation and productivity that emerge from a small break in the usual work pattern. Perhaps that is a research project for my next sabbatical!

By Professor Katie Laatikainen, Political Science and International Studies

## Alumni: Where are They Now?

**Anaïs Ballinger '16** will study international security at King's College London starting fall 2017.

**Tim Beaucage '07** earned his M.Ed. in Higher Education Administration in the spring 2017 from UMASS Amherst's Education Policy and Research Administration Department. In the fall 2017, he will start a position at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles as an Academic Advisor.

**Christina Butigian '13** graduated from Teachers College, Columbia University in the spring 2017 with a masters in Nutrition and completed her Dietetic Internship to become a registered dietitian (R.D.). In the fall 2017, Christina will begin another M.S. degree program at LIU Brooklyn to become a physician assistant.

**Ida Iselin Eriksson '14** is studying for her Master's in International Education at the University of Sussex in the U.K.

**Meagan Gandolfo '13** received a Master's degree in the History of Art and the Art Market in 2014 from Christie's Education and a certificate in Appraisal Studies from NYU in 2016. Recently, she worked for an appraiser on a provenance research project for a major modern artist and uncovered historical resources previously undiscovered by recognized experts. Meagan started her own art and personal property appraisal business in November 2016 and continues to take on research projects.



**International Studies  
at Adelphi University**

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**Send us an update!**

**Tony Halsteindal '16** was accepted to the University of Haifa, Israel for international security.

**Reaz Khan '13** graduated from Columbia University Teachers College in the spring 2017 with his Master of Education (Ed.M.) degree in Comparative and International Education. After graduation, Reaz taught in the United Arab Emirates and Turkey, and earned his first Master's degree in International Relations and Conflict Resolution from American Military University. He is now Assistant Director of International Recruitment at Mercy College where he is pursuing his M.B.A.

**Ben Nichols '16** spent a few months roaming around France and Morocco after graduation before returning to Long Island. He worked for a few production companies including for MLB.com as a video editor. Ben is now full-time with the New York Cosmos as their videographer and team photographer. He is looking forward to a future in photojournalism.

**Kristie Ranchurejee '14** graduated Brooklyn Law School in May 2017 and is currently studying for the New York bar exam.

**Natnael Petros '15** worked as an AmeriCorps VISTA at UCSD for for a year starting August 2016 and is now an Assistant Language Teacher (ALT) in Osaka, Japan.

**Kristiane Valenza Dunfee '10** is working on a Masters in Applied Economics through an online program from Johns Hopkins and for Duolingo. She tied the knot in November 2014 and has a 9-month-old son named Finn. Due to her husband's work, they are living in Mississippi.





## End of Year Celebration and Honor Society Induction

IS faculty and majors gathered together in April for a lunch to celebrate the graduating seniors. At the lunch, among other topics, seniors Erica Mumford, Sierra Crook, Pedro Izquierdo, and Angelica Mendez reported on their capstone projects. We also recognized our excellent students:

### AWARDS

**IS Distinguished Student Award**  
Angelica Mendez

**Outstanding Student in the  
Environmental Studies Track Award**  
Sierra Crook

**Outstanding Student in the  
Political Science Track Award**  
Anaïs Ballanger



Angelica Mendez, Professor Amador, Pedro Izquierdo, Sierra Crook, and Professor Gray,



Erica Mumford and Professor Gray

### International Studies Honors

Anaïs Ballanger  
Sierra Crook  
Tony Halsteindal  
Angelica Mendez  
Erica Mumford



### Sigma Iota Rho Inductees

Sierra Crook  
Pedro Izquierdo  
Angelica Mendez  
Erica Mumford

**Current Members**  
Anaïs Ballanger  
Tony Halsteindal

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