

# International Studies Newsletter

## Message from the Director

In his departure message to faculty and staff, outgoing AU President Robert Scott noted that he liked to think of Adelphi as “large enough to count” and “small enough to care.” This description sums up our International Studies Program beautifully. We are a program composed of ambitious students who choose this intensive and interdisciplinary major because they care about the world beyond the United States, and they aspire to make their mark, “to count”, in a global arena.



It was in that spirit that our graduating seniors took on capstone projects that zoomed in on their key areas of interest, ranging from internships in the global marketing department of Michael Kors to theses engaging with conflict diamonds and the Kimberly Process, refugees and global migration, the EU’s policy on the use of torture, and maternal health care and education in Senegal.

Outside of the classroom, our students participated in a number of co- and extracurricular opportunities, including but not limited to: live streams of Council of Foreign Relations meetings with the French Foreign Minister, the President of Colombia, Italy’s Prime Minister and others during the UN General Assembly in September; a lecture at the UN by Dr. Hayat Sindi on “Women, Science and our Globalized World,” and the UNA-USA Mid-Atlantic Conference, also held at UN Headquarters. At Adelphi, they attended a talk by Jan Eliasson, the UN Deputy Secretary-General, a conference marking the centennial of World War I, and a day-long series of presentations about the changing nature of war and peace, focusing on targeted killings by drones, as well as systemic and localized peacemaking. These presentations featured a journalist from *The Guardian*, as well as researchers from American University and Oxford University, among others.

Last February, the International Studies Program was pleased to host a well-attended lecture by Colonel Dave Menser, the China Deputy Division Chief at the US Joint Staff Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate. This lecture not only offered students insight into Chinese foreign and economic policy, it also gave students an opportunity to see an interdisciplinary degree at work, since Colonel Menser holds an MA in Chinese Studies.

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At the program level, caring and counting extended to the work of our Executive Committee, which labored mightily to revise our program assessment plan. As part of that process, we refined our expectations for the program capstone projects, articulating them more closely with previous student work in order to more accurately measure student learning. We also were pleased to welcome two new members to the Executive Committee, Professors Hannah Hu and Yun Lee, from the Willumstad School of Business.

The coming academic year promises to bring more occasions for intellectual engagement, including a visit from Shelly Culbertson, who earned an MPA in international relations and development studies from the Woodrow Wilson School for Public and International Affairs at Princeton. Ms. Culbertson is a policy analyst at the RAND Corporation and is currently conducting research about urban services and education for Syrian refugees in Jordan, Turkey, and Lebanon. She co-led a multi-year effort to advise the Ministry of Education of the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq on improving its K-12 and vocational education systems, and formerly worked on the Turkey Desk at the US Department of State.

Such guest lecturers offer an opportunity both to learn more about our world, as well as to answer a question commonly posed by current and interested students (and their parents!): “What can I do with an International Studies degree?” For other answers to that question, please turn to our alumni notes section, but I also encourage current and prospective students to get in touch with me, or any member of the IS program faculty. We’d love to discuss how to make your caring count!

*Nicole C. Rudolph.*

## Sigma Iota Rho: The Honor Society for International Studies

The purpose of Sigma Iota Rho is to promote and reward scholarship and service among students and practitioners of international studies, international affairs, and global studies and to foster integrity and creative performance in the conduct of world affairs.

This year, Adelphi University’s Gamma Zeta chapter was honored to induct Erica White.

## International Studies Program Honors



Erica White and Professor Nicole Rudolph

Program Honors in International Studies are conferred on graduating seniors who have maintained a GPA of 3.5 or better in all courses for the major (language and disciplinary tracks as well as the interdisciplinary core courses) and completion of the Mid-Level Research Seminar with a grade of B or higher. These criteria were established by the International Studies Program faculty in May 2011. This year, Erica White was awarded Departmental Honors and the Distinguished Student Award.

## Former Foreign Affairs Officer Culbertson to Give Lecture on Syrian Refugees in November



On November 16, the International Studies Program will be honored to host Shelly Culbertson, a policy analyst at the RAND Corporation, for a lecture on the education of Syrian refugees in Jordan, Turkey, and Lebanon. Holding an MA from the Woodrow Wilson School for Public and International Affairs at Princeton University, Culbertson co-lead a multi-year effort to advise the Ministry of Education of the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq on improving its K-12 and vocational education systems. Prior to joining RAND, Culbertson worked as a Foreign Affairs Officer on the Turkey Desk for the U.S. Department of State. She has a book in press on trends shaping the Middle East, to be published in

2016 by St Martin's Press, and has agreed to take questions on this subject as well. This lecture, which is free and open to the public, will be held in conjunction with International Education Week.

## Ambassadorial Lecture Series

Adelphi University is designated as a Non-Governmental Organization of the Department of Public Information of the United Nations. Each year, as part of Adelphi's commitment to disseminate information and raise public awareness about the purposes and activities of the U.N. and issues of global concern, the International Leadership Coordinating Committee and the Department of Political Science host a university-wide Ambassador Lecture Series.

**Thursday, November 19th at 11am –H.E. Ambassador Ib Petersen  
Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations**

Ib Petersen has served as Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations since 1 August 2013. Before taking up his new position, Ambassador Petersen had served as State Secretary for Development Policy of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2009. Prior to this, he was State Secretary for Development Cooperation, Middle East, Africa, Asia, Latin America and the United Nations (2007-2009).

Ib Petersen has held a number of senior management positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs including Under Secretary for Bilateral Development Cooperation (2004-2007), Head of Department, Policy and Planning (2001-2004) and Deputy Head of Department, Development Policy and Planning (1998-2001). From 1995 to 1998 he served as Deputy Head of the Danish Embassy in Zimbabwe and from 1988 to 1991 as Advisor to the Nordic Executive Director on the Board of the World Bank in Washington D.C. He joined the Danish Foreign Service in 1985. He has also served on the boards of Danish International Investment Funds: The Industrialization Funds for Developing Countries and The Investment Fund for Central and Eastern Europe, and The Investment Fund for Emerging Markets.

## Strategic Opportunity and Risk in China: A Student's Perspective on a Guest Lecture

Written by Ben Nichols, '16



In February 2015, when Lieutenant Colonel (now Colonel) David Menser came to speak, China had been only a shadow in the news cycle, with multiple other major world events taking precedence. However, it is important we not forget the emerging world power across the other pond. Col. Menser brought an interesting perspective to the subject, as he is a U.S. Army Foreign Area Officer specializing in China and Taiwan. Since July 2013, he has been the China Deputy Division Chief at the Joint Staff Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate. Because Menser is also a graduate of West Point, one might have a certain idea as to his position on politics and the intricate situation between the two nations, but his experience in Beijing as military attaché at the US Embassy in Beijing and his work in Chinese Studies have given him a profound understanding of the bi-lateral situations happening across the Pacific. It is not a battle between nations.

There is no espionage war, no declared cyber war, no war going on between China and the US. Just two countries looking out for their own interests, trying to be as prosperous as they can, just as any individual works to serve his/her own self-interest and improve the quality of life.

What Col. Menser offered was a perspective that isn't frequently presented in the classroom: countries are people too. They are not inherently evil--at least China and the US are not. They are simply expansions of their inner beings, a collective of the population; they are two actualities, trying to survive in the anarchic world that is international politics, each possessing, of course, some trust issues. Every living being on this earth has a very simple purpose: survival. That is what states are trying to do as well: survive and prosper. If we started applying a little more humanitarianism to our international relations, the world would be a better place.

And yet, while that is lovely and principled, we must not forget that states still wage war on one another. We remember that Col. Menser's roots are military, and we remember that the world is unpredictable, especially in the East China Sea. There is a light and a dark side to everything (no, not The Force, Luke), but what I took away from Lt. Col. Menser was that amongst all of these ambiguities, we can still all benefit from being a little more optimistic.

## And Now, Some Words of Wisdom from a Recent Grad!

Written by Taylor Langston, '15



If I had to give any advice to freshman for getting the most out of the IS program, I'd first start by telling them something that probably applies to freshman regardless of their major. That is, don't be afraid to take classes that might seem intimidating whether in their content or topic. Your time at Adelphi is a time to push yourself academically and without reservation, and, despite popular thought, the professors are on your side. They are there to challenge you, foster your growth as a student and active citizen and most of all they will be there when you are "stuck," for lack of a better word. As an IS student at Adelphi, it is best to take initiative (in the classroom and elsewhere), share your opinions and ideas in a productive and kind way, and explore the International Studies program for all it has to offer you.

*Thanks, Taylor! We couldn't agree more! –Ed.*

## International Studies and Levermore Global Scholars Students visit the United Nations



International Studies students at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, NY in October 2014.



Students with Dr. Hayat Sindi at the lecture on "Women, Science and our Globalized World" given by Dr. Sindi, at the United Nations Headquarters .

## Faculty Research and Activities

**Professor Raysa Amador** attended the Association of Department of Foreign Languages Summer Seminar, George Mason University, Arlington, VA from June 3-7, 2015. During the Spring 2015 semester, she was a consultant for the Center for Integrated Language Communities, Language at the Community College Nexus research project. Professor Amador's paper on "The Female Body as a Marker: Cristina Garcia and Judith Ortiz Cofer" was accepted for the 65th Meeting of the Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference, College of Charleston, October 15-17, 2015.

**Professor Regina Axelrod** attended the International Studies Association Conference on February 18, 2015 in New Orleans, LA, where she was a discussant on the panel, "North/South Relations in Climate Change Negotiations: Old Refrains or New Strains?"

**Professor Rakesh Gupta** was a participant in the CIEE International Faculty Development Seminar, "Globalization and European Integration", (Brussels & Amsterdam) in June 2015. He advised and accompanied Adelphi international student teams to present "East Meets West – Vietnam" (November 2014) and "East Meets West – China" (March 2015) at Wantagh High School in Wantagh, NY. In April 2015, Professor Gupta presented "Transition from High School to College" to high school students. He was an AACSB Accreditation mentor to Mississippi College, and he was a referee for the *Journal of Business Ethics*, *Value Creation Journal*, and *Journal of International & Interdisciplinary Business Research*.

**Professor Huajing Hu**, with Wencang Zhou and Michael Zey, recently published an article titled "Team Composition of New Venture Founding Teams: Does Personality Matter?" for the *International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behavior & Research* in 2015.

**Professor Katie Laatikainen** was the only American academic to participate in the international workshop "The EU at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA): Evaluation and Performance," hosted by the Athens University of Economics and Business from 12-15 February, 2015. She presented her chapter "The EU Delegation at the UN: A Debut of High Political Drama" at the workshop. Professor Laatikainen also attended the International Studies Association conference in New Orleans 19-20 February 2015 and served as a discussant on the European International Studies panel, "The EU, the Rising Rest and the Multilateral System: A Decade Dealing With the Power Transition."

**Professor Yun Lee** attended the Antecedents and Satisfaction Consequences of Flow in E-Commerce. AMA/ACRA Triennial Conference, Coral Gables, FL March 4-7<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

**Professor Traci Levy** has been working on two article manuscripts—one about the family policies and growing language of care used to discuss U.S. service members and their families, another (co-authored with Prof. Deborah Little) about "caresharing" in the parenting practices of families with a disabled parent. Prof. Levy presented another paper co-authored with Prof. Little, "Disability and the Right to Care of the Self," at the Society for the Study of Social Problems' annual meeting in August 2015. Prof. Levy is Chair of the Political Science Department, Director of the Gender Studies Program, and serves on the steering committee of the Collaboration Project.

**Professor Nicole Rudolph's** book, *At Home in Postwar France: Modern Mass Housing and the Right to Comfort*, was published in March 2015 by Berghahn Books (Oxford / New York). A Q-and-A about her book can be found here: <http://berghahnbooks.com/blog/becoming-modern-the-mass-home-and-the->

right-to-comfort. In April 2015, she presented a paper, "What Can History Professors Learn from the Foreign Language Classroom?" at the Society for French Historical Studies annual meeting in Colorado Springs, CO. In addition to teaching for the IS program, Professor Rudolph also team-taught a graduate course in the MFA program on "Major Motifs in Literature: Dwelling and Displacement" during the Spring 2015 semester. She currently serves as Director of the International Studies program, Director of the European Studies minor and directed two Honors College theses last year. She was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor in June 2015.

**Professor Rakhel Villamil-Acera** attended the Symposium in Honor of Professor Dru Dougherty at the University of California at Berkeley on February 13, 2015. At the end of April, she delivered a paper, "Cuernos y matrimonios de conveniencia o cuando la tragedia es risible", at the Northeast Modern Language Association in Toronto, Canada. Her article "Discurso cómico y discursos grotescos en las tragedias grotescas de Carlos Arniches" appeared in *Revista Iberoamericana de Lingüística*, #9, 2014.

## International Studies Alumni: Where Are They Now?

**Christina Butigian** ('13) entered into Columbia University's Masters program in Nutrition where she will complete a dietetic internship and become a registered dietician.

**Janae Cummings** ('13) is now an elementary school English teacher at the International School of Choueifat in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. She plans on attending Law School in the near future.

**Meagan Gandolfo** ('13) graduated in December 2014 with a Masters in "Art and the Art Market: Modern and Contemporary Art" from Christie's Education. She also works part time at Christie's as a gallery assistant.

**Sharla-Renee Hart** ('09) currently working at Adelphi's Financial Aid office as a Financial Aid Administrator. She graduated in May 2014 with Adelphi University's graduate degree in Community Health Promotion. Sharla is also doing volunteer work at an organization that provides her the opportunity to use the knowledge that she gained during her undergraduate and graduate years.

**Reaz Khan** ('13) is currently an English Instructor at New York Studio of Languages in Istanbul, Turkey, and previously was a Classroom Teacher in English & Social Studies at the International School of Choueifat in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates.

**Hilda Perez** ('11) earned a Masters of Social Entrepreneurship from Hult International Business School in August 2014. She's also the COO and Co-Founder at "Savvy - Marketing for Good".

**Kristie Ranchurejee** ('14) is currently working as a Teen Advisor at the YMCA, and was accepted to Brooklyn Law School's Accelerated JD program.

# Congratulations Class of 2015!



International Studies Program Class of 2015:



**International Studies Senior Luncheon**  
Professor Levy, Professor Rudolph, Erica White, Natnael  
Petros, Euli Abreu, and Professor Amador  
(Not pictured: seniors Monique Knight, Taylor Langston)

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