

September 2016

Adelphi University

International Studies Newsletter

Message from the Director

Terrorist attacks in Bamako, Baghdad, Brussels, Istanbul and elsewhere. Brexit. Zika. Refugee and migrant crises. Political turmoil in Brazil. Climate change challenges all over the globe. The past year has seen foreign affairs dominate the news cycle, even during what many observers agree is the strangest US presidential campaign ever. Yet as these dramatic events unfold, educated Americans increasingly hold “foreign affairs” at arm’s length. “The world is flat,” they infamously claim, arguing that globalization has reduced the need to understand the particularities of place. Do the twin hegemonies of English and global capitalism mean that young Americans no longer need to learn about the world and that scholars no longer need to research anything other than “systems” and “networks”?



Charles King argues forcefully against this notion. King, Professor of International Affairs and chair of the Department of Government at Georgetown University, has written a scathing indictment of American myopia when it comes to governmental and popular support for international research at the university level. In his article for *Foreign Affairs*, “The Decline of International Studies: Why Flying Blind is Dangerous”¹, he warns that the United States is in jeopardy of losing one of its greatest assets as a world power: a depth and breadth of knowledge about foreign societies. He notes with alarm that 30% of American researchers in International Relations have no working knowledge of a language other than English.

King goes on to lament the decline in federal funding for research that “peers deeply into foreign societies” and worries that such knowledge is endangered in the current vocational climate, where claims of “immediate usefulness” determine the production of new knowledge. He argues: “Given that no one can know where the next crisis will erupt, having a broadly competent reserve of experts is the price of global engagement. Yesterday’s apparent irrelevancies—the demographics of eastern Ukraine, for example, or popular attitudes toward public health in West Africa—can suddenly become matters of consequence. Acquiring competence in these sorts of topics forms the mental disposition that J. William Fulbright called ‘seeing the world as others see it’—an understanding that people could reasonably view their identities, interests, politics, and leaders in ways that might at first seem bizarre or wrong-headed. It also provides the essential context for distinguishing smart policy-specific questions from misguided ones. Great powers should revel in small data: the granular and culture-specific knowledge that can make the critical difference between really getting a place and getting it profoundly wrong.”

How does this translate to a program like ours at Adelphi? Believing deeply that the nation profits when we know as much as we can about other nations, we will continue to insist that our students examine peoples, events, movements, products, and issues from cross-cultural, international, and global perspectives.

(Continued on next page)

¹ Charles King, “The Decline of International Studies: Why Flying Blind is Dangerous,” *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2015, 88-98.

Further, we will continue to train our students, per our mission, to *connect* the global with the local by understanding the genesis and the impact of particular choices (by individuals, communities, nations) on global developments. This is one of the reasons I sought to secure a study abroad grant for IS majors – to ensure they have a chance to deepen their granular knowledge of a non-American place. (You can read more about that grant on page 7.)

This message marks my last as Director. I will be on sabbatical in Fall 2016 and will hand over the reins of the International Studies Program to my accomplished colleague Maggie Gray. All of us in the International Studies Program look forward to promoting international knowledge on the part of our students during the 2016-2017 academic year and welcome inquiries about the program. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy this Fall issue of our newsletter, which gives an aperçu of what we have been up to lately!

Nicole C. Rudolph.

Urban Sustainability in South Africa

-- by Rakesh Gupta, Management, Marketing and Decision Sciences

[In June 2016 Professor Gupta participated in a CIEE Faculty Development Seminar in Cape Town and Stellenbosch, South Africa. We asked him to share a brief account of his time there.—Ed.]

Thirteen faculty members from across the US came together to see what NGOs in South Africa are doing in the field of Urban Sustainability. We visited a number of "informal settlements" that have sprung up on the periphery of cities; these spaces are dealing with a myriad of problems, including access to water, food, energy as well as pollution--food waste, human detritus, gray water, etc.... The NGOs are experimenting with novel strategies--solar energy, waterless toilets, composting, community vegetable gardens, conservation, waste separation, etc. Of course, the problem of finding financial resources underlies everything!

The idea is that lessons learned and best practices in South Africa (and in other parts of the world) can be shared for the betterment of such communities everywhere.

Cultural immersion, in addition to learning, was also on the agenda. We got to meet ethnically diverse people, shared meals with them, and listened to their music.



The Value of an Interdisciplinary Approach to the Environment



Picture taken by Sierra Crook on a hike of the Volcán Mombacho in Nicaragua

by Sierra Crook, class of 2017

The International Studies major with a track in Environmental Sciences has been a perfect melding of multiple course disciplines and my interests. Coming into Adelphi, I had a variety of subject areas that attracted me, with no real options or ideas on how to incorporate them with each other. No major that I was aware of involved both my passion for social and political issues, as well as my intrigue in the sciences. My experience with the IS major with an ES track has been the answer to my diverse palette of academic interests that no other major seems to provide. Particularly in the area of the environment, education on the scientific problems only is not enough to equip a person with the necessary knowledge to discuss issues and their potential solutions, since the subject is so politically and socially charged and dynamic as well.

This was very evident in my volunteer experience in San Juan de La Concepción, Masaya, Nicaragua last January, where all the disciplines I had been trained in through my major came into play. Working on an organic farm and nature preserve, I was able to engage my knowledge of the environmental effects of and on agriculture in the area and the importance of the ecosystems I was spending time in. The role of the Nicaraguan government in this arena, as well as the greater global food system, aided my understanding of the public sphere factors influencing the farm and nature preserve I was on. Arguably most useful was my training in the Spanish language, however, made available to me by the language requirements associated with my IS major. From my Spanish courses I also gained an understanding and appreciation of the culture and its importance, which enhanced my experience as I spent time in this foreign place. The significance of all the different elements of my IS major and specific track were made very clear to me on this wonderful trip, and revealed to me the importance of the balanced education I am receiving through my particular area of study. Without all of these elements, my contribution to my volunteer opportunity would have been much more limited, and my overall experience stunted.

Working for the Haitian Consulate

by Celine Etienne, class of 2016

I was born and raised in Haiti, and my interest in international studies as a field of study goes back to high school, when the subjects that most interested me were history, geography, and social sciences.

The search for the right institution for my capstone internship experience¹ involved a long process of writing a cover letter, updating my CV and sending out multiple applications. I was looking for a place dedicated to my area of interest. Therefore, getting an internship at the Haitian consulate in New York was a great fit. The internship at the Haitian consulate matched both my career interests as well as the content covered in Adelphi's International Studies program.

In fact, the internship was a beneficial experience; carrying out different tasks and observing the way daily work is done at the consulate helped me to gain professional knowledge about the way the Haitian Consulate operates. During the internship, I assisted the consulate on their daily work, data entry, and translating documents, which helped me a lot for my French Translation Techniques class! These translations were a rewarding experience because not only did they help me improve my English vocabulary but also my French and Creole ones, especially in the domain of cultural international relations.

The internship was also an opportunity to get experience in drafting formal translations by paying attention to the greetings and diplomatic forms of address used with different political figures depending on their rank and office, a point which has to do with cultural difference between French and English that must be carefully considered to avoid any diplomatic misinterpretations and serious etiquette errors.

I also performed general office duties such as filling, photocopying, and answering the phone. Besides day-to-day activities, I had the chance to attend cultural events, panel discussions, and presentations. These opportunities led me to identify areas of common interest between the state and individual citizens. The internship in general was a very positive learning experience for me and helped to reinforce my choice of career; I had a great opportunity to develop my skills and learn new ones, making it a valuable experience for further work in cultural international affairs missions abroad.



Professor Laatikainen and Celine Etienne

¹As part of the International Studies major, student complete a capstone experience, either a thesis or an Internship. – Ed.

AU Students Go to the United Nations

by Katie Verlin Laatikainen, Political Science

In March 2016, Adelphi students in the National Model United Nations course offered through the Political Science department--and open to IS majors--participated in the 2016 National Model United Nations, which is held annually in New York and at the United Nations. Over 4,000 students from more than 120 countries, with more than half of the participating universities located outside of the US, come together to simulate multilateral negotiations at the UN. This year Adelphi represented Malta on seven different UN Committees, and one of our delegates--Liz Rilling--won an award for best position paper in her committee!



“Teach-In” on the Paris Terror Attacks

On November 30, the International Studies Program co-sponsored a “Teach-In” on the Paris terror attacks of November 13. Faculty presenters, including Professor Rudolph, the director of International Studies, as well as Professors Shawn Kaplan and Stephanie Lake spoke at the University Center at an event moderated by Professor Michael Christofferson. The faculty gave presentations about the origins and goals of ISIL, the sociology of terrorism, effective and just counter-terrorism measures, and France’s resolute secularism; they then took questions from the standing-room-only crowd of students, staff and faculty. More teach-ins on global issues are planned for the Fall 2016, so keep an eye on our Facebook page for event announcements.

RAND Scholar Shelly Culbertson Discusses the Education of Syrian Refugees



Last November, as part of International Education Week, the International Studies Program was pleased to host a lecture by Shelly Culbertson, who spoke to the AU community on “The Education of Syrian Refugees in Jordan, Turkey, and Lebanon.”

Culbertson is a policy analyst at the RAND Corporation who holds an MA from the Woodrow Wilson School for Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. 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. Prior to joining RAND, Culbertson worked as a Foreign Affairs Officer on the Turkey Desk for the U.S. Department of State.

Newsday reported on her visit, observing that Culbertson cautioned the audience of the dangers of having 700,000 Syrian children in and out of school for several years; she warned that this was clearly not only bad for the children themselves, but also would have lasting repercussions for Syrian society at large. Culbertson also spoke about the gendering of refugee education: young boys are sent out to work odd jobs for cash, since their parents are prohibited from working in the host countries. This means that most of the Syrian children who attend part-time schooling are girls.

In April 2016, Culbertson published *The Fires of Spring: A Post-Arab Spring Journey Through the Turbulent New Middle East—Turkey, Iraq, Qatar, Jordan, Egypt, and Tunisia* (St Martin’s Press), and she took questions on larger questions of the New Middle East as well.

Culbertson’s visit was part of a series in which we invited practitioners in International Studies to speak about their careers; over the past few years we have hosted, in addition to Culbertson, the former Chief Privacy Officer for the Department of Homeland Security, speaking about EU-US privacy relations, and a former military attaché at the US Embassy in Beijing. Speakers such as these allow our majors and the AU community to see how an interdisciplinary approach to international affairs can enhance and shape professional trajectories.

International Studies Program Welcomes Visiting Scholar

In Fall 2016 we are thrilled to welcome a visiting scholar, Fakhmiddin Fazilov, originally from Uzbekistan. Professor Fazilov will be teaching ISP 101 Global Issues 1 for the International Studies program and will be housed in the Department of Political Science, where he will also be teaching. Professor Fazilov was previously a Visiting Assistant Professor in the International Studies Program at Trinity College in Connecticut, a visiting scholar at the Harriman Institute at Columbia University, and has also been an Assistant Professor at Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies in Uzbekistan. His research interests include food security and energy policy, and he is currently working on a book project on the geopolitics of oil and gas in central Asia. Welcome to Adelphi, Professor Fazilov!

International Studies Launches Grant for Summer Study Abroad

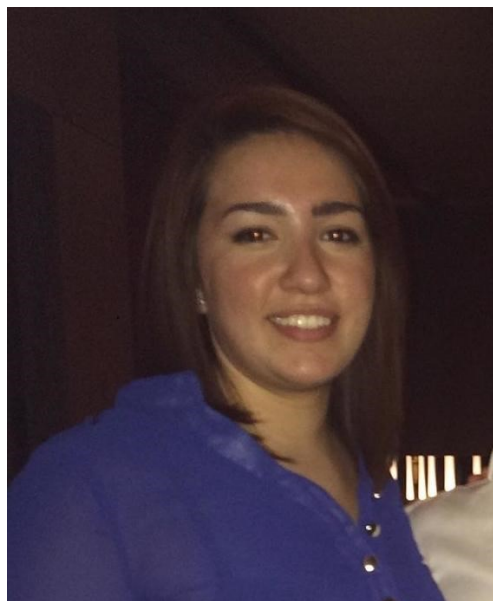


At last fall's Majors' Meeting, Director of International Studies Nicole Rudolph had an exciting announcement for IS majors: she had secured a \$5,000 gift from the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO) for summer study abroad for an IS major. NECO's Executive Director Kate Haas Monte praised the partnership with Adelphi's IS program, noting: "It was a perfect fit for NECO as part of our mission of not only supporting education, but also to encourage ethnic and religious tolerance and diversity."

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. A faculty committee, comprised of Katie Laatikainen, Yun Lee, and Traci Levy, reviewed the applications and selected junior Angélica Méndez as the deserving recipient of the award.

Angélica, who is pursuing the Business track with a concentration in Spanish, chose to participate in a CIEE program in Buenos Aires, Argentina, this summer. The CIEE program will give Angélica the opportunity to study the links between Business, International Finance and Public Policy in Latin America; Green Business in a Global Context; and Strategic Planning in Social Policy: Argentina and the USA in Comparative Perspective. While she studies at the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales de Argentina, she will also have the opportunity to live with an Argentine host family and visit Uruguay, deepening her familiarity with Latin American culture.

The International Studies Program offers its hearty congratulations to Angélica and its heartfelt gratitude to NECO.



NECO award recipient, Angélica Méndez

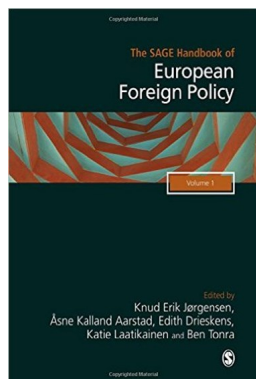
Faculty Research and Activities

Professor Raysa Amador served as a Consultant for the Center for Integrated Language Communities' at the Community Nexus research project, City University of New York, 2014-2016. She served also as peer reviewer at the International and Foreign Language Education (IFLE) office of Postsecondary Education at the US Department of Education for the National Resource Centers Competition and the Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships Program, August 4-8, 2014 in Washington, DC. She attended the ADFL Seminar East at George Mason University in Washington, DC in June 2015 and attended the ADFL East Seminar at NYU in June 2016. Coordinating revisions to the Spanish and French curricula, she has been invited to serve as a consultant in May 2016 for ADFL-MLA. Dr. Amador has assumed the French, Italian and Spanish Placement Exam coordinating responsibilities as of Spring 2016. She coordinates the online tutorial services, supervising students hired through the prestigious Hire a Panther program. In June 2016 the Languages alumni reunion will take place under her direction in conjunction with the Alumni Office. Prof. Amador is also revising a proposal for a co-authored textbook, *Lengua y vida*.

Professor Regina Axelrod was the chairperson of a panel—"Roundtable on Innovative Teaching of Global Environmental Governance and Policy"—and a discussant on "Water Security: 3rd Annual Fred Friendly Seminar in International Affairs & Foreign Policy," at the International Studies Association Annual Conference in Atlanta, GA on March 16, 2016.

Professor Rakesh Gupta presented "South India: Land of Temples, Technology, & Medical Tourism" to the Community Club of Garden City, NY, November 2015. He also refereed papers for the *Journal of Business Ethics* and the *Journal of International & Interdisciplinary Business Research*. Professor Gupta was the recipient of a faculty development grant to study urban sustainability in South Africa, June 2016. He advised and accompanied teams of Adelphi international students to make presentations at Wantagh High School "East meets West" programs in November 2015 (on China) and April 2016 (on Japan). Professor Gupta is also frequently quoted on money and credit matters in *Newsday*, NBC/Telemundo, TheStreet.com, Yahoo! Finance, and MSN.com.

Professor Katie Laatikainen co-edited the two-volume, 7- chapter *Sage Handbook of European Foreign Policy*, which was published by Sage in late 2015. She was responsible for two sections of the handbook (14 chapters) for which she wrote the introductions. She also wrote the chapter on the EU's relationship to the United Nations.



Aside from that project, she had a chapter, "The EU Delegation in New York: A Debut of High Political Drama," published in *The European External Action Service: European Diplomacy Post-Westphalia*, edited by David Spence and Josef Batora. In September 2015, she was promoted to full Professor. In March 2016, she attended the International Studies Association annual meeting in Atlanta, GA, where she presented a paper, "Norms and Negotiations: The Nature of Group Politics at the UN" and served as a chair for the panel "The EU, The Rising Rest and The Multilateral System: A Decade Dealing With the Power Transition." In June 2016, she presented a paper "Conceptualizing Groups in UN Multilateralism: The Diplomatic Practice of Group Politics" at the annual meeting of the Academic Council on the UN System (ACUNS). She is also co-editing a special issue of the journal *Hague Journal of Diplomacy* entitled "The Multilateral Politics of UN Diplomacy," which should appear in late 2016 or early 2017. Her paper "Conceptualizing Groups in UN Multilateralism: The Diplomatic Practice of Group Politics" has been accepted after review for inclusion in that volume. In 2016-2017, Professor Laatikainen is on sabbatical. While on sabbatical, she has been invited to

teach a month-long workshop for the graduate program in international relations at the University of Tampere in Finland.

Professor Yun Lee published two co-authored journal articles. With S. Ha, she published "Consumer Use of the Internet for Health Management," in the *Journal of Consumer Health on the Internet*, 20 (1-2): 1-18. With Z.S. Johnson and J.T. Paniculagara, she published "Helping Through Morality Versus Identification: Implications for Consumer Helping Behaviors," in the *International Journal of Business & Applied Sciences*, 4(2): 43-57. Over the past year, she presented three papers at two conferences. In April, she presented "The Moderating Role of Two-Way Communications with Sellers on the Relationships Between Need for Touch and the Technology Acceptance

Model in E-Commerce," with S. Yang and Z.S. Johnson, at the ACRA Annual Conference in Secaucus, NJ. With S. Yang, she attended the Academy of Marketing Science Annual Conference in Lake Buena Vista, FL in May, where they presented two papers, "Are the Factors Affecting Satisfaction and Actual Purchase the Same? Comparisons Between Unplanned and Planned Purchase" and "Evolution of Interactivity from B2C to C2C: Exploring Flow Theory and WOM."

Professor Traci Levy attended two professional conferences in June 2016. One conference, held at Barnard, immersed her in a pedagogy called "Reacting to the Past." In this method of teaching, students are assigned roles in historical debates and approach the primary and secondary source readings from the perspective of their roles. They also work on teams and debate political, historical, and philosophical issues in character. The other conference focused on professional development for department chairs and was held in Portland, OR. Prof. Levy serves as Chair of the Political Science Department and Director of the Gender Studies Program.

Professor Nicole Rudolph spoke in February 2016 at the Maison Française at Columbia University on her book, *At Home in Postwar France*, dialoguing with architectural historian Mary McLeod and historian of France Herrick Chapman. She also gave a podcast interview about the book to Roxanne Panchasi as part of the *New Books in French Studies* series. She delivered a conference paper on the unlikely celebrity of the Frenchwoman Mère Denis at the annual meeting of the Society for French Historical Studies at Vanderbilt University in March 2016. In April 2016, Prof. Rudolph was an invited participant at New York University's Institute of French Studies conference on the future of French Studies, and in August she will travel to Helsinki to deliver a paper on understandings of nature in postwar French housing at the European Association of Urban Historians' biennial conference. Over the past year, Prof. Rudolph secured a \$5,000 study abroad scholarship grant for IS majors, and in the Spring she served on the AU AAUP chapter's negotiating team as the faculty sought to settle a new contract. Prof. Rudolph serves as Special Features Editor for the journal *French Politics, Culture & Society*. She also heads the European Studies minor and was chosen in Fall 2015 to co-chair the AU International Leadership Coordinating Committee with Shannon Harrison, director of the Center for International Education. In January 2016 she was granted a joint appointment as an Associate Professor in the Department of History.

Professor Rakhel Villamil-Acera organized and chaired the panel entitled, "Representaciones de lo trágico en el siglo XX español", at the 47th Northeast Modern Language Association convention, held in Hartford, CT March 17-20, 2016. As part of this panel, she also presented the paper entitled, "Teatro y copla: La zapatera prodigiosa (Federico García Lorca, 1930) y Te he de querer mientras viva (Rafael de León y el maestro Quiroga, 1959-60)." In addition, Professor Villamil-Acera's translation of the article "Souvenirs of Hatred: Identity and Tourism and the Postcolonial Destination,"—"Un recuerdo de odio: turismo e identidad en un entorno poscolonial"—will be included in a volume in honor of Mexican writer María Luisa Puga to be published by Universidad Autónoma de México Press in Fall 2016.

International Studies Alumni: Where Are They Now?

Svetla Marinova ('10) has just started an Executive MBA program at Wharton University of Pennsylvania. She is also working in the regulatory reporting sphere at Deutsche Bank.

Valeria Mendoza ('14) is continuing to work on growing her business Echo Comunicaciones, Social Media Marketing Firm. Aside from her business, she will be traveling to Europe for the first time throughout July.

Erica White ('15) has just completed her course work for her Masters' in Public Health at the University of Washington. In February 2017, she will be leaving for Madagascar, where she will be able to use her French serving as a Peace Corps health volunteer. She is currently living in Seattle and working at the Space Needle, where she works as a tour guide for a French-speaking tour company.



End of Year Celebration and Honor Society

IS faculty and majors gathered together in April for a dinner to celebrate the graduating seniors. At the dinner, among other topics, senior Ben Nichols reported on his capstone thesis on the resource curse and junior Erica Mumford discussed her study abroad experience in Paris. The dinner also provided the occasion to celebrate Tony Halsteindal, who was inducted into the International Studies Honor Society, Sigma Iota Rho.



Tony Halsteindal and Professor Rudolph



Tony Halsteindal, Erica Mumford, Professor Rudolph, Amanda Opromolla, and Ben Nichols

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