

November 2019

ADELPHI
UNIVERSITY

International Studies Newsletter

Message from the Academic Director, Professor Katie Laatikainen

The International Studies major at Adelphi is quickly approaching its twentieth year. Anniversaries provide an opportunity to think about how far the program has come and the new directions it can go.

We look back and remember that the first two students to obtain a degree in International Studies at Adelphi were Gustavo Escobar and Natalina Barbieri who graduated in 2002. From 2002-2019, 95 students have graduated with an International Studies degree at Adelphi. The demanding major has not been among the largest on campus, but our graduates certainly have been among the most impressive. Two International Studies alumnae were named 10 under 10 (**Alysha Rashid** and **Janae Cummings**) this year! They were honored at this year's Legends Dinner. They join several past IS alumni who have received 10 under 10 recognition over the past several years, including **Reaz Khan** ('13) and **Svetla Marinova** ('10) who were recognized in 2018, **Hilda Perez** ('11) who was recognized in 2016, **Joan Drabczyk** ('05) recognized in 2013, and **Ewa Sobczynska** ('04), one of the inaugural recipients of the award in 2012. All these IS alumni are profiled at the 10 under 10 website, and I encourage you to have a look at how they are all making a difference (<https://alumni.adelphi.edu/alumni-pride/10-under-10/profiles/>). Out of the 80 remarkable young alumni recognized by the university since 2012, nearly 10 percent are International Studies alumni. Indeed, it is rather impressive that 7% of IS majors out of all 95 IS that have graduated since 2002 have been recognized among the 10 under 10! It is a testament to the dedication and commitment of these internationally-minded young people that their personal and professional accomplishments are so readily acknowledged. We look forward to seeing more IS graduates on this list. IS graduates have pursued graduate studies in the US and Europe, undertaken a law degree, joined the Peace Corps, become translators, obtained Ph.Ds, and started their own NGOs. We cannot wait to hear what you will do with your degree!



This year has also been about looking forward. In May 2019, 16 students traveled to Finland on the first IS-designed faculty-led study abroad program that you can read about in this newsletter. The course, Finnish Innovation in Business and Politics, was designed to appeal to students in both the Politics and Business tracks of IS, but it was open to students of all majors. It was also designed to expose students to Tampere University in Finland, with which Adelphi has just signed a partnership to allow direct student and faculty exchange. Tampere University has extensive coursework in English because it is the most attractive Erasmus partner in Finland for exchange students. Professor Gupta and I took 16 students to Finland and Estonia for a 10 day course where we explored why Finland has been ranked the happiest country in the world in 2018 and 2019. We mixed lectures at the University of Tampere with site visits to firms and government agencies, as well as cultural visits in Tampere and Helsinki. Students learned how the Finnish approach to business and politics involves the cultivation of social trust which is deeply valued in Finnish society. It allows the Finns to think creatively and innovate in ways that puts Finland at the top of many international rankings. We hope you might consider taking advantage of this partnership and spend a semester or year in Finland. Tervetuloa!



Being an NGO Youth Representative at the UN

By: Saira Amar, IS Major, Class of 2021

Not many people know, but Adelphi is an NGO that is formally associated with the UN via the Department of Global Communication! One of the many programs the DGC offers is the civil society youth representative program which consists of young people (ages ranging from 18-25) that are given advocacy positions & going to civil society briefings at the UN and various other NGO events affiliated with civil society

As this year's youth representative, I am using this advocacy position to heighten my educational experience via studying civil society's interactions (aka you & me) in an observatory capacity. At the end of my youth representative term, I will be writing a reflective report highlighting my thoughts on civil society and the overall highs and lows of NGO's. So far from the briefings I have been to, I think that members of civil society work in their own way: some provide aid to those in need, while others lobby while having the same idealistic goals in mind. Those with the same mission to collaborate/partner with each other in order to have a bigger voice to achieve their goals. These approaches are in many ways such as evoking pathos, and logos.

One event I will treasure during my term is attending the United Nations General Assembly twice- I saw 24 world leaders speak from 2 PM (the morning session ran late) to 10:30 at the 2nd day's afternoon session and attended a briefing. To list a few of the 24... Australia, Ireland, Germany, Fiji, Kenya, Kuwait & Zimbabwe. Unlike other UN bodies, the UNGA gives everyone equality, unlike the typical hegemony of the international system in other UN bodies. Each leader talked for around 15 minutes to an hour (going above the scheduled time) stressing their commitment to the United Nations, as well as local, regional, and climate change concerns. Representatives from island states like Fiji stressed the sinking due to climate change, while the Kenyan representative talked about regionalism (Sudan & South Sudan). But, by 10:30 however, it was agreed everyone wanted to go home to prepare for the next day's session.

This position overall feels both very intimidating and extremely exhilarating to be at the center of the international diplomacy, sitting at the same seats as well-known NGOs, and delegates alike. Personally, I've always dreamed of working in the UN when I grow up, so it definitely feels like a preview of the future, especially having that lanyard on your neck on the walk to Grand Central to 1st Avenue to come if I work hard enough.



Finnish Innovation

By Keyshaun Scott and Marian Wong

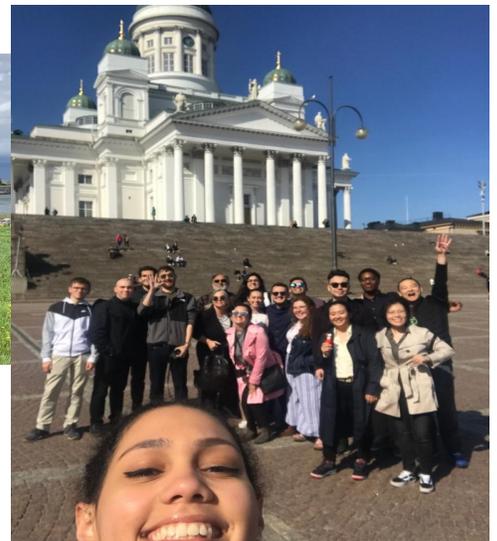
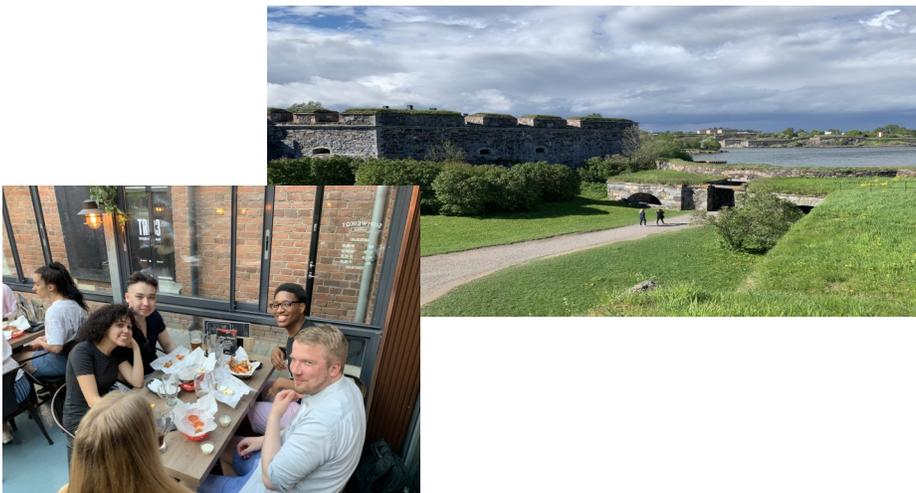
In May of 2019, we—juniors Marian Wong and Keyshaun Scott—had the opportunity to study abroad in Finland on the Finnish Innovation in Politics and Business program. Both of us are International Studies majors. Marian, is following the Political Science track and wanted to tap into her interest in European Politics by exploring the political culture in Finland through the program. Meanwhile, Keyshaun is following the Business track and decided to go to Finland to immerse himself in a distinct and distant culture from his own and expound his perspective in International Business. With the guidance of Professors Laatikainen and Gupta, the faculty leaders of this course, the trip was an experience of a lifetime.

The initial culture shock of Finland came from the peaceful and kind hearted people of Finland and the country itself. It was something that we had never experienced before to that extreme. If we were lost or needed immediate help with something, the Finns were more than willing to aid in any way they could, without hesitation. Their kindness to one another sets the tone for a countrywide “social trust” that is woven in their everyday actions. One example could be seen in their public transportation, where passengers ride without a worry of missing their train. In the event that someone is running towards the train with many things, the passengers on the train can press a green button that holds the train doors open and then help the individual board. It’s understood why Finland is named the happiest country in the world.

We learned a tremendous amount about the works of the Finnish political system while attending lectures at the University of Tampere and going to parliamentary presentations. We also visited the Finnish Institute of International Affairs to understand Finland’s relations with the EU. However, this wasn’t the only exposure we had while in Finland. Their parliamentary elections were taking place during our time there, so we were able to see live political campaigns and propaganda! Equally alongside the politics, we also studied the business and economics of Finland, which gave us a thorough insight of what Finland produces and exports into our globalized world. We had the opportunity to meet with COO, Sam Hero, of Happy or Not and spoke with officials from one of the world’s most known companies, Nokia!

After our interactive educational lectures and presentations, we did have extremely fun activities in the cities to partake in. We visited the Lenin-Stalin Museum, went to various Finnish markets, and visited Helsinki’s national art museum and Oodi, the new National Library that has won design awards. Some of our excursions even took us out of the country. We had the opportunity to visit the island fortress of Suomenlinna and even took a day trip to Tallinn, Estonia!

All in all, we took a lot from our experience in Finland and came back with an enriched understanding of the political and economic practices of this innovative country.



My Life at the EU Delegation to the UN

by Amanda Bruchhauser

My name is Amanda Lynn Bruchhauser, and I am a Trainee at the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations (EUDEL), in the Human Rights and Social Affairs Section of the General Assembly Third Committee. I have been a trainee since February 2019 and will be staying on until the end of August, as per the stipulations of my 6-month contract with the delegation. As one of four colleagues in this section, my primary responsibility is to serve the best interests of the European Union and to support my supervisors in whatever capacity they may need. For example, I attend meetings on preparations covered by my section. I have written a few EUNY reports based on attended meetings, which are formatted specifically to be sent to this delegation as well as other EU Delegations, such as those in Brussels and Geneva. I also write shorter reports that are sent around the NY delegation and the other European delegations. These reports are important for continuous communication between all delegation locations, as well as for informing those who cannot attend events themselves. During my specified weeks, I send out the relevant points and events from the UN Journal to the colleagues in my section every day, so that everyone is updated on what meetings must be attended. I have provided questions and points based on resolutions or other relevant literature for diplomats in Europe to use during conversations. I also have the privilege of attending receptions and other events hosted by various delegations and the United Nations, which shows the spirit of not only cooperation, but also friendliness between Member States. Two of my favorite meetings were when many delegations came together in the General Assembly Hall to listen to Angelina Jolie speak on children and humanitarian affairs in peacekeeping operations, and the meeting on International Women's Day, which included performances from Broadway/TV stars as well as opera singers, and a celebration of women. Three of my favorite events were the opening reception for the Commission of the Status of Women 63 (CSW) hosted at the EU, a UN reception hosted by Portugal and Africa Day 2019 at the UN, where I was able to socialize with fellow trainees and personnel while learning about cultures different from my own through food tasting, conversation, and music.



One question I have been asked concerns being the only United States citizen working as a trainee for this delegation of European citizens and how that affects me in the workplace. I have to say that one of the best aspects of being at the EUDEL is that I have been treated as an equal colleague, regardless of my citizenship or my position. We are all important, and we all contribute to the delegation in our own ways. Of course, people that I have met are surprised that I would choose to work for an outside delegation but I did previously live abroad, in Florence, Italy, for four months and I loved it so much that it became my second home. I have always been interested in internal as well as external foreign affairs, and I have been able to view my first home country from a different perspective during this period, which broadened my knowledge in many areas. I am also able to bring a different perspective to the delegation, and I am able to help with English grammar, spelling, and transcriptions from UN meetings, while one of my colleagues is able to help me with Italian!



This has been one of the most amazing experiences of my life, and I could not ask for a better team or delegation to be working for. I even extended my traineeship so that I could use up the allotted 6 months! I have learned so much and am truly grateful for every day that I have spent here. I hope to return in the future and cannot wait to start making even more of a difference for human rights!

Meeting Professor Dong Wook Lee

by Isabella Andrade

Dr. Dong Wook Lee joined the Political Science Department in August 2019. His expertise is in comparative politics and he brings a unique perspective to the Political Science track of IS. Isabella Andrade sat down to talk to the newest member of Political Science.

1. Did you always see yourself being involved in international affairs?

I myself started as an international student and came to the United States for my undergrad education. Being an international student, I always had international studies at my heart. Both international studies and comparative politics became the enclaves of my studies as well as my research. I am intellectually curious about world affairs and different languages, cultures, and politics, and how they are integrated in our ever complex global world. Thus, I thought it was fundamentally important to further my understanding of this subject, but also to understand any differences among us. And sometimes those differences become barriers to our intellectual growth, but at the same time, they become our strength as learning those differences creates room for us to compromise any differences amongst any conflicts that arise.

2. What was your path to becoming a professor in this field?

I started as a political science major (focusing on political philosophy) in my undergraduate years, and then continued on to Yale University for my masters degree in social ethics. It was here where I developed my ethical perspective concerning international relations. Then, I continued with another masters at an international studies program at the University of Chicago. It was a very short masters program, so I was able to engage with international studies here, and acquire a social science perspective in my field as well. It was a special program because it gave me many chances to learn about philosophical and sociological perspectives concerning justice, equal distribution, and political economy. That was my starting point, seeing as I had not focused on political economy until the University of Chicago. Studying at this university gave me a good foundation for logical thinking and ethical discourse concerning distribution and other international affairs. In addition, my intellectual curiosity blossomed when I joined Claremont University, as it had a program that integrated both economics and political science together.

3. What topics are you currently researching? How are they similar or different to the topics that you are currently teaching?

My main area of research can be captured in five overarching questions.

- 1) Does the partisan ideology of local executives affect the flow of public spending in developing nations?
- 2) How/to what extent does the geographically uneven distribution of income shape public vote choices in industrialized democracies?
- 3) Is a geographic border endogenously determined?
- 4) How do we deal with a bias selection in our data analytics for the unknown unit of analysis?
- 5) How does wage inequality interact with social media to affect public sentiments toward Latinos?



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4. Do you have any advice for current students in the international studies field concerning graduate school and/or the search for internships?

Getting into the desired graduate program takes up a significant effort. My advice is that anyone interested in going to a graduate school will need to have a solid plan for it. For example, you should write a strong statement of purpose that can appeal to the graduate program you target. To make that happen, you do need to do some research about the school you are going to apply. As known, each graduate program differs in its substantive focus. You need to know the strength of each program you are applying. In the statement of purpose, you need to call on the program's strength and highlight the reason why you are the most suitable person to that program and how that program can help you advance your specific needs (with a clear academic goal you will pursue). Writing a high-quality and polished statement of purpose will take some time. To achieve this goal, you need to revise your draft multiple times before you send it out.

I also suggest you become familiar with the faculty interests of the graduate program you apply and to know who you want to work with. You may want to attempt to make initial contact with the professors so that you let them know you are interested in learning their research and taking courses with them. This initial contact is important since you are going to be one of many applicants to the competitive graduate program. This contact will increase the chance that the admission committee looks into your file with extra care.

Other practical advice for your graduate school application includes that you should have a website. There is a free website builder (e.g., wordpress.com). Have your professional website ready with your graduate school application. The graduate admission committee will look at your website. Use this website to update your recent academic activities (e.g., academic conference attendances, your capstone research projects, and many other academic-related activities).

For those who search for an internship, I recommend you look at nonprofit organizations in the D.C. area. That can be a semester-long or a summer internship. Have that experience become a highlight of your resume. Since a paid internship may be competitive, so I recommend you also try with a non-paid internship (usually summer). Working for a local legislator could be a good one. I can think of some other options for international studies major, such as the RAND research institute, which focuses on security, and the Council of Foreign Affairs in DC, where you can learn American foreign policy implementation.

Welcome, Dr. Lee!

AU Students at the Council on Foreign Relations



Ten AU students attended the Council on Foreign Relations annual Back to School event in October 2019, where they heard CFR experts discuss current world affairs and learned about internship opportunities at CFR. Impressive place, and impressive students!



Spanish Faculty Take Students to Spain

Adelphi's Spanish Faculty Lead Spring Break Trip to Spain We are thrilled to share that during spring break, Professors Simón-Alegre and Aponte-Olivieri led a full cohort of students on a trip to Spain as part of their Social Movements in Spain course, which had supplementary meetings throughout the semester. Traveling in Madrid and Barcelona with several side excursions, the course focused on the important role of social movements in the development of Spanish identity, focusing on the 2nd Republic, the Franco Era, and the transition to democracy, LGBTQ rights, and literature and cinema of the late 20th century. Many thanks to our wonderful Spanish faculty for creating this fantastic opportunity for our advanced Spanish students to immerse themselves in an intellectually engaging and rewarding travel experience that gave our students a true sense of what global learning means! Enjoy a few photos from this amazing journey and join us on our next faculty-led adventure!



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Alumni: Where are They Now?

Kate Oswald (2007): I am currently teaching 8th Grade Social Studies at Rochester Middle School in Rochester, New Hampshire. It is my 6th year teaching in New Hampshire and my 4th year in Rochester, which is one of the leading schools for Competency Based Learning in the state. I enjoy my career and am loving life in the foothills of the White Mountains. In my personal life, I ski, hike and compete in OCR (Obstacle Course Racing). I took up OCR a year ago, after completing a Bonefrog Navy Seal Obstacle Race and becoming hooked. I train very hard and race in Spartans, Bonefrogs, and other smaller races in New England and the Tri-State Area. Over the summer I placed third in my Age Group at the Tuxedo Ridge NY Spartan Sprint, and 1st of all female non-pro competitors at the Spartan Super at Owl's Head Ski Resort in Quebec. My upcoming races include The Spartan Super at Mountain Creek in New Jersey, and the Spartan Stadion at Fenway Park, at the end of 2019.



**International Studies at
Adelphi University**

@AUIInternationalStudies



Faculty Profile: Dr. Sara Aponte-Olivieri

Dr. Sara Aponte-Olivieri is serving as a Lecturer in Spanish for the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. She has been with the department for three years as of this fall and she has been a source of constant support and encouragement for students learning the Spanish language and its various literatures. I took a moment to talk with her about her experience at Adelphi, her research, and her passion for teaching.

When did you first come to Adelphi and what drew you to this university?

I first came to Adelphi in the fall of 2016 as an adjunct faculty member after being contacted by Dr. Amador in the summer of 2016. I was hired as a full-time member of the faculty in 2017.

What were your expectations at Adelphi?

I was very excited to have found students who were deeply engaged in their learning experience, who were curious about the world and keen in understanding different cultures. During my first semester, I taught an upper-level class called Strategies in Spanish Oral Communication with highly dedicated students. It was a great experience.



What has your research involved?

My research revolves around early modern literature, primarily French literature and, secondarily, Spanish literature. I'm now completing a book for the French publisher Garnier on the concept of prudence, specifically how it is represented in two key authors of early modern Europe (Michel de Montaigne and Baltasar Gracián) and how it intersects with theological notions such as providence and sainthood. I have also published on Colonial Latin American literature as well as 20th century Puerto Rican literature.

What made you want to start this career as a professor?

I always wanted to study literature in a meaningful way, which led me to pursue graduate studies in the subject. A main source of inspiration was my years as a student at the University of Puerto Rico, which has a solid Languages department. I specialized in French and Italian. My experience learning languages spurred my interest in language acquisition and pedagogy.

What is the favorite part of your job?

The self-awareness and dedication of many of my students: how you have very high standards for yourselves and how determined you are in improving your mastery of the language. A few have even told me that they would like more grammatical practice!

What do you expect in the future for your career at Adelphi?

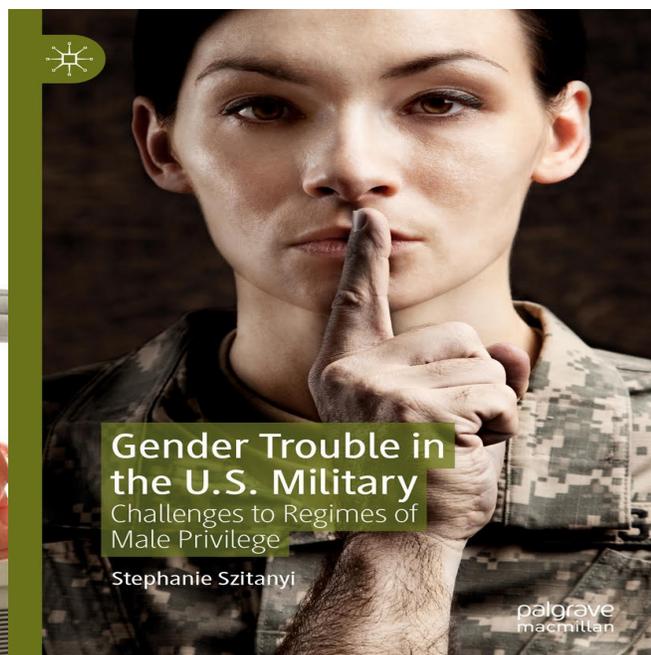
I hope to stay and grow and improve and collaborate. I look forward to greater collaboration with my colleagues within Adelphi University. It is really a gem of a college.

Alumni in Focus: Stephanie Szitanyi (2005)

The International Studies Program was delighted to welcome back alumna Dr. Stephanie Szitanyi in October 2019. Dr. Szitanyi earned her BA in International Studies (political science track) from Adelphi University (2005), her MA in International relations from Central European University (2006), and her PhD in Political Science from Rutgers University (2016).

Dr. Szitanyi came to campus to discuss her new book, *Gender Trouble in the U.S. Military*, and 100 years of (supposed) increased gender inclusion in the armed forces. As the military has made a series of policy shifts on the integration of open homosexuality, the end of the combat ban on women, the endemic nature of military sexual assault, and transgender personnel in the last 100 years, she asks: what is the current relationship between gender and contemporary military service in the United States? Her book is being published by Palgrave Macmillan, and which is now available for pre-order on Amazon (<https://www.amazon.com/Gender-Trouble-U-S-Military-Challenges/dp/3030212246>). Stephanie spoke at Adelphi University on Monday, October 21st to discuss her book and met current IS students at the event! This event was co-sponsored by International Studies, Political Science, the Collaboration Project, and Gender Studies.

Stephanie Szitanyi is starting her fourth year as Assistant Dean of Part-Time Faculty Affairs at The New School. She spent her summer teaching online courses (Gender and War and Women and Terrorism) and writing two new op-eds about Democratic Presidential candidates Tulsi Gabbard and Pete Buttigieg's use of military experience as talking points in the first two primary debates. Her scholarship has been published in the *International Feminist Journal of Politics and Signs*. She is also an op-ed contributor for the online news source *The Hill*, and the *NY Daily News*. We are very proud of all her accomplishments—Way to go, Dr. Szitanyi!



International Studies Faculty Research & Activities

Professor Raysa Amador presented a paper "The Female Body as a Marker: Cristina Garcia and Judith Ortiz Cofer" March 20-25 in Washington, DC at NeMLA. She submitted proposals to LASA (Latin American Studies Association) Conference for her papers "Rethinking Law and Legality: Critical Approaches to Law and Lawlessness in Latin America," and "The Law and discourse of the conquest in the Chronicle of Indias" and to the MLA for the paper "Transculturation and the Body: Edwidge Dandicat and Judith Ortiz Cofer." to the Modern Language Association, and for the Congreso Internacionales in Chile, my article "Exploring the Self: Angelina Beloff and Frida Kahlo. She has published an article, "Exploring the Self: Angelina Beloff and Frida Kahlo" in the Journal #5, 2018, *Se Acabó la tinta. Artes Visuales*. She attended NEH Summer Seminars and Institutes for Higher Education Faculty "José Martí and the Cuban Immigrant Communities of Florida in Cuban Independence and the Dawn of the American Century as well as Harvard Leadership Conference. Synopsis: Recollection and discussion of key challenges during my chairmanship at Adelphi University. Topic: "A Hispanic Female Chair Perspectives: Advocating the Importance of Languages, Cultures and Literatures for All Future Leaders at Adelphi University" to take place on November 2019. She completed the revision of her Spanish intermediate textbook, *Lengua y vida*, and has submitted to the publisher for review.

Professor Regina Axelrod is on sabbatical in 2019-2020.

Professor Maggie Gray (Political Science) co-authored the report "Farm Workers Overtime Pay is Affordable and Long Overdue," published by the Fiscal Policy Institute, and she co-wrote an op-ed on the topic, "Care about Food? Care about Farmworkers," which appeared in the *New York Daily News*. In addition, she was invited to give testimony at State Senate hearings in Suffolk County in April and at State Assembly roundtable in May. Professor Gray gave academic talks at the University of Toronto and Montclair State University and presented a paper at the Annual Association of American Geographers. She also took part in panels at Marist College, Bard College, LIU Post, SUNY New Paltz, the Yonkers Public Library, and the Museum of Food + Drink. In addition, she gave a keynote speech for the event "Pastures of Plenty? Food, Justice and Labor in the Hudson Valley," sponsored by Mokonk Consultations.

Professor Rakesh Gupta (Business) with Prof Laitikainen, ran a successful Finland Study Abroad program in May 2019 ; Wantagh "East meets West" program presentations on Vietnam [December 2018], and India [April 2019] ; moderator, Faculty Panel: International Relations, or Lack Thereof! - Nov 2018 ; quoted in *Newsday LI Business* story "Chains, Chains, Chains" 16 September 2018.

Professor Jonathan Hiller taught a new course in the First-Year Seminar Program last fall on Science Fiction in Italian Literature and Cinema, taking his students to Manhattan to meet the author of this year's Adelphi Freshman Reads book, *Weapons of Math Destruction*. The course inspired him to translate an early Italian sci-fi novel, Emilio Salgari's *The Wonders of the Twenty-First Century* (1907). Additionally, he taught Seminar in Italian Opera, which included an excursion with students to see *La Bohème* at the Metropolitan Opera House and meet a cast member in December. In the spring semester he attended the AAC&U General Education Conference as part of his contributions to enhancing and reforming this aspect of the student experience. He continues to put his skills as an interpreter into practice with the New York State Unified Court System. This summer, he returned to Cincinnati as a reader for the AP Italian Language and Culture Examination.

Professor Katie Laatikainen had a busy year. Several activities were undertaken under the auspices of the Jean Monnet + network EUN-NET which completes its 3 year program in September 2019. She completed an online teaching module on the EU Delegation to the UN on the e-learning platform which is available at <http://eunnet.eu/deliverables/>. She lectured at the University of Leuven in cooperation with UNU-CRIS in May 2019 in Bruges, Belgium. Finally, she organized a seminar together with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation on "An Alliance for Multilateralism" which was held in May 2019 in NYC and featured the German Ambassador to the United Nations as well as speakers from the International Peace Institute, the German Marshall Fund, and three partner universities in Europe. She and Professor Gupta led the first IS-designed study abroad course that took 16 students from IS, Political Science and Business to Finland for 10 days. She and Professor Gupta have worked to realize a partnership with the University of Tampere which will enable the direct exchange of students between the two universities for a semester or a year. In her research, Prof. Laatikainen attended the ISA Conference in Toronto where she chaired panels, was on the Chadwick Alger book award committee, and presented a paper, "Regional Practices in UN Multilateralism." In the summer of 2019, she and her co-editor completed the manuscript for a forthcoming book, *Group Politics in UN Multilateralism*, which will be published by Brill. In September 2019, she attended the UACES conference in Lisbon, Portugal where she presented her paper on regional practices in UN multilateralism.

International Studies Faculty Research & Activities cont'd

Professor Dong Wook Lee arrived as the newest member of the Political Science department in August 2019. Dr. Lee has expertise in Comparative Politics and worked as the Research Coordinator for the Inequality and Policy Research Center at Claremont Graduate University in California, prior to his recent arrival at AU. He has recently published two co-authored, peer-reviewed journal articles with a focus on the spatial politics of economic inequality: "Interregional Inequality and the Dynamics of Government Spending" in *The Journal of Politics*, 81(2):487-504; and "Measuring Geographic Distribution for Political Research" in *Political Analysis*, 27:263-280. Dr. Lee has further developed this research agenda on inequality that investigates whether vote choices are affected by their geographic locations and how this relationship may shape partisan politics. In an attempt to answer these questions, he continues to work on the individual-level survey data from the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES) handling the partisan vote preferences expressed in post-election studies across many countries around the world. We are delighted to welcome Dr Lee to AU!

Professor Traci Levy (Political Science) serves as Chair of the Political Science Department and Director of Gender Studies. She was one of two featured speakers at a "Maternal Interventions for Ethical, Political, and Spiritual Transformation" symposium on February 28, 2019 at Mt. Holyoke College. The evening focused on Dr. Mara Benjamin's book *The Obligated Self*. Prof. Levy also presented a paper co-authored with Prof. Deborah Little, "Caresharing and Care-Pooling: Lessons from Disabled Parents and Young Carers," at the Five College Women's Studies Research Center "Works-in-Progress Seminar" in South Hadley, Massachusetts on March 1, 2019. She helped create and co-facilitates Gender Bias and Title IX workshops at Adelphi as part of the Diversity Certificate Program. She also co-facilitates a customized version for faculty, staff, and administrators at various public school districts on Long Island.

Professor Ana I. Simón Alegre (Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures) received two awards for her 2019 summer research: a "Travel Stipend for Research Abroad" from the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP), and an Adelphi University Internal Grant for Faculty Development. These awards supported professor Simón Alegre's work in Mexico this summer, as she researched the Spanish writer, Concepción Gimeno de Flaquer (1850-1919). In 2019 Prof. Simón Alegre presented papers at three conferences. At the Modern Language Association annual meeting (Chicago, January 3-6, 2019) Prof. Simón presented "Queer Women in Peninsular Spanish Literature," at the roundtable: *Queer Women: Readers and Writers in 19th & 20th Peninsular Spanish Literature*, which explored perspectives on ways to introduce queer theory into the study of comparative literature by female writers. She also presented her paper titled "Unique Literary Friendships from Concepción Gimeno de Flaquer to Carmen Laforet" at the seminar: *Queer Women: Readers and Writers in 19th & 20th Peninsular Spanish Literature*, in the 50th Northeast Modern Language Association Annual Convention, (Washington, March 21-24, 2019). She presented a third paper titled, "Tracking the female 'self' and the author 'self' in Correspondence in the Late 19th century," at a conference titled: *The Nineteenth-Century in 2019. Mapping Women's Writing in the Long Nineteenth Century* (California State University, Long Beach, April 25th-28th). This fall 2019 Prof. Simón's peer-reviewed book chapter was approved for publishing in *Crises on Death in the Hispanic World*, coordinated by Esther Alarcón-Arana (Peter Lang International Academic Publisher); Prof. Simón's chapter is titled "Suicide and Death in Spanish Barracks at the beginning of 20th century." Finally, during spring break 2019 (March 8th-17th), Professors Ana I. Simón-Alegre and Sara Aponte-Olivieri led a full cohort of students on a trip to Spain as part of the course "Social Movements in Spain," which had supplementary meetings throughout the semester. They visited museums and monuments, and engaged in educational activities in Madrid, Toledo, Segovia, and Barcelona.

In the fall of 2019, **Professor Wadhwa** returned from a fruitful year-long sabbatical during which she participated in five conferences in the US and in Europe, placed four articles in peer-reviewed journals, and had five conferences on the horizon. While Dr. Amador was on sabbatical that semester, she was delighted to serve as Acting Chair of the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures. On the research front, in the fall, she had a paper accepted to a conference called "Common Scents: Smells and Social Life in European Literature (1880-1939)" at the Institute of Modern Languages Research at the University of London. Early in the spring semester, Dr. Wadhwa spoke on a panel on Marcel Proust at the annual convention of the Modern Language Association (MLA) in Chicago. Over spring break, she travelled to the most important annual conference in her field, the 20th- and 21st-Century French & Francophone Studies International Colloquium in Oklahoma City of which she was one of four co-organizers this year. Although the conference routinely draws hundreds of scholars from Montréal to Marrakesh, they were especially thrilled to have participants hail from four continents for the first time in the 36-year history of the colloquium. She was invited to serve as Guest Co-Editor of the upcoming volume of *Contemporary French & Francophone Studies*, the peer-reviewed journal that publishes selected proceedings of the conference from year-to-year.

End of Year Celebration and Honor Society Induction



IS faculty and majors gathered together in May for a convivial lunch to celebrate the graduating seniors. At the lunch, senior **Amanda Bruchhauser** reported on her capstone internship at the EU Delegation to the UN. **Joseline Guaman** was inducted into the IS Honor Society Sigma Iota Rho. We also heard from several IS alumni who joined us and spoke about their careers after leaving AU. We were delighted to welcome back Ranya Abbas (2005) **Randi (Rabideau) Christodoulou** (2005), and **Josselyn Portillo** (2009).

AWARDS

Distinguished Student Award

Amanda Bruchhauser

Departmental Honors

Amanda Bruchhauser

Induction into Sigma Iota Rho

Joseline Guaman



Current IS Majors. Front row from left: Maria Rivadeneira, Saira Amar, Isabella Andrade, and Catherine Salcedo; Back Row: Lisette Franco Fernancez, Joseline Guaman, Amanda Bruschauser, Marian Wong, and Michael Davide.



Alumna Josselyn Portillo, Director of IS Professor Katie Laatikainen, Alumnae Randi Christodoulou, and Ranya Abbas

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