

September 2018

**ADELPHI**  
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# International Studies Newsletter

## Message from the Director, Professor Katie Laatikainen

From the war of words between Kim Jung-Un of North Korea and Donald Trump in August 2017 to the summit they held in 2018, the growing rift between the US and traditional, long-standing allies in Europe and Canada, and the mounting tariffs and threats of trade wars on several fronts, 2017-2018 has been an eventful year in international relations. Indeed, there has never been a more interesting time to study international studies. While it is easy to be drawn to the news cycle 24-7 these days, the faculty of the IS program have also spent a great deal of time over the past year making some exciting changes to the IS program.

With regard to curriculum, we have reduced the number of required core courses for the major by one. Starting Fall 2018, students will take the following required core courses (some of which have minor name changes, so pay attention to the course numbers): ISP 101 Introduction to Global Issues (formally Global Issues I), ISP 201: Analysis of Global Issues (formally Mid Level Research Seminar) and the senior capstone sequence (for internships, ISP 493 and 494, for research projects, ISP 495 and 497). Thus, we have eliminated ISP 102 as a requirement and shifted some of the elements of that course into the ISP 201 course. We believe that these changes will help students complete the program in a more timely manner and ease efforts to study abroad since the ISP 201 course was offered only every other year.

Speaking of study abroad, we are pleased to announce that the IS program is sponsoring the first faculty-led study abroad course to Finland in May 2019. After returning from sabbatical as a visiting professor at the University of Tampere in Finland, I have been working on creating a variety of exchange programs between Tampere and Adelphi. In 2018 we signed a partnership agreement and we will begin student and faculty exchanges in a short time. To prepare students to consider spending a semester in Finland, Professor Gupta and I created a one-credit, spring 2019 study abroad course, ISP 396: Finnish Innovations in Politics and Business that will run May 18-27, 2019. We will travel to Finland, ranked the happiest country in the world in 2018, to explore how this small country seems to rank at or near the top of so many desirable international rankings, for instance on governance, safety, financial and corporate innovation, education, social welfare and others. Finland just celebrated its centenary in 2017, and the list of chart-topping accomplishments in 2017 runs to more than 4 single-spaced pages! The course involves site visits to firms such as Happy or Not that has revolutionized marketing research with the simple happy face/unhappy face buttons. We will explore the Finnish experiment in Universal Basic Income and Finnish foreign policy at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs. This course is open to all majors but should prove especially attractive to students in the business or political science track of the IS major. We are convinced that once students spend a little time in this amazing country, they will want to participate in the coming exchange program. Stay tuned for more information on that program, which we hope to have in place by 2019. Please see Prof. Gupta or myself for more information about this course.

While information technology has made tremendous strides in bringing the world to our finger-tips, it can also easily lead us to seek out narrow viewpoints that reinforce our own perspective on the world. There is no better antidote to provincialism—physical or virtual—than getting out and discovering the world for yourself and meeting others who think differently. If you are not able to join us on the Finland Study Abroad course, we hope that you will in any case 'get out there' and explore the world. Happy travels!

--Professor Katie Laatikainen



## Trip to the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)

International Studies, Political Science and Levermore Global Scholars students attended the 8th annual Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) Back-to-School Event on Friday, October 13, 2017 at CFR's New York headquarters. The 2017 Back-to-School Event focused on globalization, featuring an introduction to CFR's educational content and a panel discussion with CFR Senior Fellows Edward Alden, Miles Kahler, and Shannon K. O'Neil. A networking reception followed the discussion, giving students the chance to speak with department representatives and hear about career and internship opportunities at CFR. We will return to the Council in October 2018—be sure to sign up!



*IS students attending the CFR Back to School Event include (L to R) Courtney Thrun, Keyshaun Scott, and Marion Wong (with Prof. Laatikainen)*

## Introducing: New Adjunct Faculty Jonathan Cristol

We are thrilled to announce that Levermore Global Scholar Fellow Jonathan Cristol will be teaching for the International Studies program in Fall 2018. He is teaching the INS 101: Introduction to Global Issues course. We took a moment to get to know him a bit better. Feel free to drop by his office to say hello, or catch him on CNN!



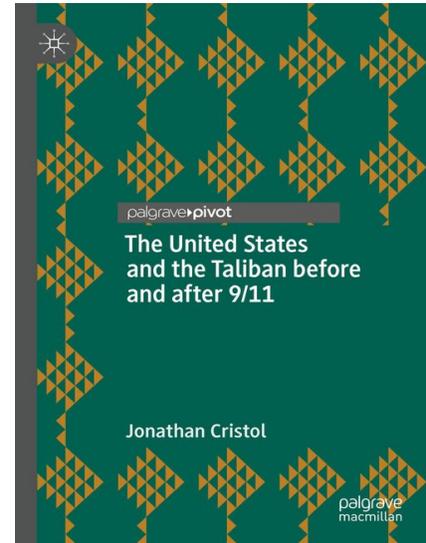
### 1. What got you interested in international relations and world affairs?

I was always a news junkie, but I really became interested in studying international relations as a discipline when I was an undergraduate at Bard College. My late advisor, James Chace, was a well-known diplomatic historian and former managing editor of *Foreign Affairs*. I found his courses thrilling, and in them I learned that the academic study of IR is not the study of current events, but of course they are almost inextricably linked. This was in 1996 so there was no big catalyzing event that got me interested in the field—I was too late for Vietnam, slightly too late for the collapse of the USSR, and too early for 9/11. However, I first heard about the Taliban during my Freshman year at Bard. I would listen to the BBC each night and was following their advance on Kabul. That was sort of a formative memory—so much so that I wrote a book about it.

*(continues next page)*

## 2. We understand that you are nearing completion on a new book project—can you tell us a bit about that?

My book *The United States and the Taliban before and after 9/11* will be released by Palgrave on 7 October. It is an I was very lucky to have the resources of the Levermore Global Scholars Program to help complete the book— especially my outstanding research assistant Nada Osman who did such an outstanding job collating and making sense of thousands of declassified documents. The book details the relationship between the United States and the Taliban, from when the Taliban first emerged in the mid-1990s until just after the United States invaded Afghanistan in 2001. Many people don't realize that the Taliban wanted a close relationship with the United States and that there were countless meetings between Taliban and American government officials. I actually met the Taliban envoy to the United States when he spoke at Yale University, where I was in graduate school, in the fall of 2000. In the book I provide as much detail as possible about what the Taliban wanted from the United States — diplomatic recognition— why they wanted it, and why we did not provide it. Perhaps my most provocative conclusion is that President George W. Bush made a major mistake in his post-9/11 speech to Congress, when he said that we will make no distinction between the terrorists and those who harbor them. It turns out that that was exactly wrong. The Taliban and al Qaeda were very different groups and the State Department and intelligence community was well aware of that. In my view we should have gone after al Qaeda and allowed the Taliban to remain in power. Of course, the argument is a bit more complex than that, but I don't want to spoil the ending!



## 3. You are also a prolific commentator on international affairs for many media outlets. What advice do you have for a young person who is interested in that sort of writing—how is it different from or similar to writing that students do in their classes?

This is a great question. It is an entirely different skill-set than writing for a course, or writing a dissertation. You need to be able to make a compelling point as quickly as possible, in as few words as possible (usually around 600-700), and with as little background information as possible. I have found it significantly more difficult writing short pieces than writing long ones. You have to be ruthless in your editing of yourself, and you have to not take it personally when your editors come back with even more cuts and many follow-up questions. You also need to be able to write very quickly— sometimes writing a piece in as little as 90 minutes— and then be available to edit extremely quickly when the comments come back. If you don't act quickly, news may overtake your piece and it may not run at all. And the deadlines are rock hard— meaning if you miss it by minutes your piece may not get published, and you may also never be asked to write for that venue again. I'd say you also really need a thick-skin to write for the mass audience and to share your own opinions. You will get tough criticism from people you like and respect— and that can be hard, though not too much different from a peer review. You also need to be prepared for an onslaught of hate mail in all formats, much of which can be bigoted, and some of which can be threatening.



## Join us for the 2018 Ambassadorial Lecture!



**SANDEEP CHAKRAVORTY**  
**Consul General of India in New York**

### **“INDIA’S ROLE IN THE NEW GEOPOLITICS”**

**Thursday, October 25, 2018 • 12:15 p.m.**  
 Lecture, Q and A and light refreshments  
 Ruth S. Harley University Center

Sandeep Chakravorty, a member of the Indian Foreign Service since 1996, has served in India’s missions in several countries.

Prior to becoming consul general of India in New York in August 2017, he was India’s ambassador to Peru and Bolivia. Earlier, he had been India’s deputy chief of mission in Bangladesh. He has also served in Indian embassies in Madrid, Spain, and Bogota, Colombia. He has held several positions in India’s Ministry of External Affairs, including press relations officer, and worked on desks dealing with Central Asia, East Asia and China.

Before joining the government, Chakravorty worked with civil society organizations dealing with natural resources and environmental issues.

Chakravorty, who speaks Hindi, Bangla and Spanish fluently, has a master’s degree in Advanced Studies in International Security from Geneva University, as well as a master’s in sociology and a postgraduate diploma in forestry management. He is also graduate of Delhi University with a physics degree.

**This event is free and open to the public, but registration is required.** For more information and to register, visit [events.adelphi.edu/lectures](http://events.adelphi.edu/lectures).

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## Alumni Focus:

# Svetla Marinova: Vice President of Innovation, APG

Svetla Marinova was recently profiled for The Glass Hammer. This is a small excerpt from the interview. See the full interview at: <http://theglasshammer.com/2018/07/12/mover-shaker-svetla-marinova-vice-president-of-innovation-apg/>

I always assumed that one needed to have studied a particular major in college in order to work in that industry, especially finance, but I have come to find that some of my most successful colleagues and classmates found their way into their respective industries by ‘falling into it’ in different ways,” says APG’s Svetla Marinova.

“I believe they are so good at what they do because their minds approach problems differently from the minds of their peers who have all been trained in the same traditional way, and they are valued for that very reason.” After earning her IS degree in 2010 along with a degree in Economics, Marinova began to prepare for a PhD in Economics, with a focus on Environmental Economics. She earned a Master’s degree in Climate & Society at Columbia University, but when she began her PhD studies, she realized a research career did not fit her energetic and outgoing personality. She left to join a start up, then fell into fintech, becoming the first employee of S&P Global’s Innovation Lab, where she developed an affinity for the field and the Lean Startup methodology.

She has been particularly interested in deriving insights from data through data visualization

While at S&P Global, she created a summer internship competition called Mission Possible, where interns form teams and act like startups, developing a product over two months. The competition culminates with a pitch before senior management who act like VCs; for four summers she oversaw the program with 50+ interns each summer.

In an effort to learn more about data architecture, she spent two years working on strategic data sourcing initiatives at Deutsche Bank, where she co-led an employee resource group called Career360, a knowledge-exchange program between junior and senior employees. The program has grown significantly and exists in many countries around the world now.

During that time she began the Executive MBA program at the Wharton School of Business, a two-year program with the same curriculum as a full-time MBA, but with the caveat that all students also work full-time during the program. She graduated in May 2018, proud of her success at completing the intense program. We are proud of all that Svetla has accomplished, and we cannot wait to hear about her next innovation!

Svetla will speak about fintech on campus on Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at the Williamstad School of Business.



**International Studies at Adelphi University**

**@AUIInternationalStudies**

**Send us an update!**

**Please stay in touch!**

## Analysis: Democracy in Peril? By Prof. Danielle Zach

In April of this year, an issue of *Foreign Affairs* arrived in my mailbox titled *Is Democracy is Dying?* The bleak theme spoke to a growing academic literature on the retreat of democracy that includes such titles as *Why Liberalism Failed*; *Anti-Pluralism*; and *The Populist Temptation*. Concern for the health of democracy was also expressed in Freedom House's latest report, which noted that 2017 marked the twelfth year of a continuous decline in freedom worldwide and the most serious crisis for democracy in decades. The trend extends beyond the countries that we might suspect vulnerable to human rights retrenchment: relatively new democracies, hybrid regimes, or less economically developed states. Indeed, even countries widely considered as the most stable, robust democracies have not escaped unscathed from what some call a global "reverse wave" away from democracy toward authoritarianism. A number of Western European states have witnessed the rise of far-right political parties, and the United States, according to Freedom House, has experienced a seven-year "slow decline" in fundamental civil and political liberties. What is the cause of this global retreat, unmatched since the 1930s? Owing to limited space, I briefly highlight three interconnected factors: technological development, economic globalization, and China's rise on the world stage.

Technological innovation has improved economic efficiency and standards of living in countless countries around the world. It is the key engine of all forms of contemporary globalization. Advances in communications and transportation, for example, have increased the ease of outsourcing, which has benefited hundreds of millions in the developing world but has also led to job loss and dislocation among the working class in advanced economies. The vast majority of job loss in those countries, however, has resulted from automation, which has adversely impacted employment opportunities among industrial workers and, along with advances in artificial intelligence, increasingly those of the middle class. The other major facet of globalization is neoliberalism, which entails a retreat of the state from interfering with the economy through privatization, deregulation, and liberalization along with curtailing social safety net policies that function to protect the most vulnerable in society. The overall outcome of technological transformation in conjunction with neoliberalism has been a profound rise of inequality, a trend that is most obviously manifest in the United States, where the top 1 percent of American households own more wealth than the entire bottom 90 percent. Extreme inequality does not bode well for economic growth, social mobility, or democracy.



At the same time, the distribution of power within the international system is changing, partly owing to global economic trends. Some have even proclaimed the emergence of a new bipolar system, with China as the second pole alongside the United States. While debatable, what is clear is that the West is in relative decline. The West's share of global GDP has fallen to less than half, its lowest in a century, and is predicted to decline to a third. Meanwhile, authoritarian regimes will surpass Western democracies in terms of global economic output in just a few years. This means that they will increasingly be able to exert more influence in the international arena. China is particularly poised to reshape the global order. China's spectacular economic growth since the 1970s, moreover, means that Beijing offers an alternative developmental model to capitalist democracy. While Russia meddles in the elections of Western democracies, through foreign investment, trade, cultural institutions, and media, the Xi regime is exercising soft power in countries around the world. As one scholar aptly described, China is "an illiberal state seeking to reshape the international system in its own image." This includes promoting its brand of authoritarian governance, which undermines human rights norms and institutions.

In sum, we are living in an "Age of Insecurity," as Ronald Inglehart calls it. Such a context is ripe for the rise of nationalism, xenophobia, and racism along with other social phobias and "-isms." At the same time, authoritarian regimes are on the ascendant, influencing politics in their regional neighborhoods and far beyond. While I fear the overall trend will worsen, the active efforts of ordinary individuals to defend and advance democracy and the rights of vulnerable and marginalized peoples leave me cautiously optimistic.

# Announcing a new IS Study Abroad Course for May 2019: INS 396: Finnish Innovation in Politics and Business

## FINLAND

**Study abroad with your professor...  
And make the world your classroom.**

### **Finnish Innovation in Politics and Business**

Program dates: May 18-May 27, 2019



Did you know Finland was voted in 2018 to be the happiest country in the world? Finland is recognized for the world's soundest banking system? And did you know Finland's political system is recognized as the most stable, safest and best governed in the world? Wonder why? Travel to Finland on this 1-credit study abroad course to explore this nation's politics and business via lectures at the University of Tampere and visits to local business firms, political offices and cultural centers. Students will experience the exquisite natural beauty of Finland's great outdoors as well, including the world-famous Finnish sauna next to one of the country's more than 10,000 lakes.

**Estimated Program Cost: \$2,250 + airfare**

**Faculty Leaders**

**Rakesh Gupta**, Associate Professor, Robert B. Willumstad School of Business

**Katie Laatikainen, Ph.D.**, Professor and Director of International Studies

For more information  
and to apply, visit  
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## Alumni Highlight

### CONGRATULATIONS! IS Alum Janae Camilla Cummings

Ms. JD has awarded Fellowships to 10 law students. Ms.JD is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to the success of women in law school and the legal profession. Fellows were selected based on their academic performance, leadership, and dedication to advancing the status of women in the profession. The winners reflect a full range of diverse interests and backgrounds, with women pursuing opportunities in public interest, academia, and private sector in every region of the country.

Janae Cummings graduated from Adelphi University with a Bachelor's Degree in International Studies and a minor in Sociology. Prior to law school, she taught English in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. As a student at Brooklyn Law School, Janae served as the Attorney General for the Black Law Students Association, is the current Executive Articles Editor of the Brooklyn Journal of International Law, volunteers for the Immigration Visa Assistance Program and is a Barbri Representative.



During the summer of her first year of law school, Janae was awarded a fellowship by the New York State Bar Association to clerk for Judge O. Peter Sherwood in the New York State Supreme Court Commercial and Federal Litigation Division. She has also worked in the General Counsel's Office of the Brooklyn Borough President, American Express and is currently an intern at Thomson Reuters. Janae also participated in study abroad programs in both Bologna, Italy and Beijing, China, where she took classes ranging from international commercial arbitration to refugee law. She will be returning to her previous position as Labor and

## Alumni: Where are They Now?

**Tim Beaucage** (2007) is an academic advisor at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. In fall 2018, he joined the faculty as a part-time instructor and is looking very forward to teaching!

**Cristina Butigian** (2013) finished her M.S. in nutrition in spring 2017 and became a registered dietitian. She immediately started a Physicians Assistant program at LIU Brooklyn in the fall. She completed her didactic year of physician assistant school and will start a year of rotations in fall 2018. She will finish her second masters after the year is complete and will enter the working world as a PA and registered dietitian.

**Daniel Calder** (2008) is the Founding Director of Health Action League. While earning his Masters in Public Health, he taught health and wellness classes for young people throughout Harlem. He realized that his students had limited opportunities to healthy eating and exercise. As a result, Daniel launched Health Action League to provide fun and healthy activities for youth in low-income New York City neighborhoods.

**Ida Iselin Eriksson** (2014) is enjoying her time at the University of Sussex in the UK where she is completing her studies for her MA in International Education and Development. She is working with great researchers from the Center for International Education, as well as the Center for Higher Education and Equity Research, which is very exciting. Her dissertation focused on international student mobility. From September 2018, she is moving on to a new adventure in Brussels. She accepted a paid internship at EFTA in their Financial Mechanism Organization which is the secretariat for the EEA-Norway Grants, where she hopes to assigned to their Education, Innovation and Research work.

**Reaz Khan** (2013) graduated with his MBA In Analytics from Mercy College IN 2018. He continues to work as Director of Global Programs for the Concordia University system.

**Svetla Marinova** (2010) completed her Executive MBA from Wharton Business School at the University of Pennsylvania in 2018. She is further profiled in this newsletter.

**Crissy Martinez Muñoz** (2006) moved to London after graduating Adelphi and earned an MSc in Globalization and Latin American Development at the University of London's School of Advanced Study (SOAS). After grad school she returned to New York and started working (temporarily) at various jobs, including the ASPCA because she loves animals. She met her soon-to-be husband and was married in August 2012. Her love of languages drew her back to school, and in 2016 she completed a Certificate in Translation and Interpretation studies at Hunter College. She considered an interpreting job in the New York City District Attorney's office but ultimately decided on a translation position at the Salvation Army. She loves her work, traveling to Guatemala to visit family, and continuing to work with ASPCA.

**Scott Pursner** (2005) works with Chinese Wild Bird Federation in Taipai, Taiwan. 2017-2018 was a busy year, including two months doing fieldwork in Mauritius. He represented CWBF at Flyways Summit hosted by BirdLife International & International Fund for Houbara Conservation in Abu Dhabi in April. But most importantly, he made a return visit to Adelphi this year—a milestone we hope all alums manage more than once in their post-Adelphi lives!

**Alysha Rashid** (2011) is working with America Achieves' College Access and Success team on the College Point initiative. College Point provides free, personalized, virtual college advising to high-achieving, low- and moderate-income students across the county. She recently accepted the role of Director of Program and Operations on the team, and is eager for the new challenges and responsibilities that come with it! She has been accepted to the University of Chicago next fall for their Public Policy and Data Science program. She has decided to defer for the year to take on her new professional responsibilities, and the University of Chicago said it defer her scholarship funding as well. She has an exciting couple of years ahead!

**Stephanie Sztanyi** (2005) is currently the Assistant Dean of Part-Time Faculty Affairs at The New School in New York City. She recently co-wrote an op ed on women veterans running in the mid-term elections that was published by *The Hill*. She's also still working on publishing her book *Degendering and Regendering: Contemporary Gender Trouble in the United States Military*. Stephanie's looking forward to teaching her course on Women and Terrorism again at Marymount Manhattan College in fall 2018. Stephanie's daughter, Olivia, is now three and a half-years old and is obsessed with putting together puzzles that are maps of the world, though that's really no surprise given Stephanie's continued love for International Studies!

**Kristi Valenza Dunfee** (2010) and family are currently living in Mississippi because of her husband's work. She is working with Duolingo, as well as working on her master's degree. She is the proud mother of Finn, who this year became the big brother to Kai, the newest member of the Dunfee family.

**Erica White** (2015) is midway through her Peace Corps posting in Madagascar, which is part of her masters program at the University of Washington. She has been up close and personal with the reality of development projects and aid programs, and it has made her both more jaded and more eager to work in this sphere after Peace Corps. Madagascar as a whole has been a huge wake-up call: she arrived thinking that I would do these big WASH projects, teach sexual and reproductive health to all the village women, integrate seamlessly, learn the language fairly quickly, and easily find something to do her thesis work on. Instead, security issues are significant, NGO presence is nearly non-existent, Malagasy is the hardest language she has encountered despite its frustrating simplicity, and getting projects off the ground is extremely challenging. She is a three day drive to the capital of Madagascar. Despite the challenges, she has been captivated and hopes to continue this line of work after the Peace Corps and plans to take the Foreign Service exam as well as explore NGO options.

**Veronica Yordanova** (2010) recently moved to Las Vegas with her husband. They wanted to escape the cold in Chicago and her husband decided to do Teach for America after traveling through the southwest last summer. She is an Illinois licensed attorney and is currently looking for legal jobs in Las Vegas, particularly in immigration and contracts law.



## International Studies Capstone Internships

*In 2017-18, seniors Amanda Opromolla and Zouheir Bekdache chose to pursue internationally oriented internships for their IS capstones. Zouheir, following the Political Science track in the major, obtained an internship at the EU delegation to the United Nations where he assisted EU diplomats working on UN peacekeeping reform and in the Public Affairs department.*

*Amanda Opromolla, in the Business track, had an internship with a public relations firm that specializes in wine and spirits. She became interested in this after her semester study abroad experience in Aix-en-Provence where she studied the business of viticulture in France and a summer study in Italy.*

### Here is Amanda's take on her internship experience:

I had an internship with BPCM, a PR company in New York City. While there I was a part of their travel wine and spirits department, the reason I took the internship. After my study abroad experience in France I discovered that I wanted to go into the wine industry and therefore I made it a goal of mine to complete my internship in the industry that I wanted to enter. I found the internship through Glassdoor, a great site that I fully recommend.

The internship fit in perfectly with my future career goals and with my major. PR is an interesting aspect of business that I hadn't experienced and it was a great way to understand the industry which uses marketing techniques and had its own unique aspects. I was able to work with international companies and my personal favorite, a Bordeaux Chateau. It was interesting to see how the fact that my team was dealing with many international players changed the way they conducted their business.

My internship was a great way to get a foothold in the industry and it was extremely educational in a way that cannot be taught in the classroom. Analyzing theories of company cultures firsthand puts them into a different perspective. It was a great experience and it was interesting to be able to relate it to my courses at Adelphi.



# International Studies Faculty Research & Activities

Professor **Regina Axelrod** (Political Science) chaired two panels at the International Studies Association conference in 2018: "The Future of Nuclear Energy" and "Innovative Teaching of Global and Innovative Teaching and Policy." She is also working on the revision of her book co-edited with Stacy VanDeveer, *Global Environmental Policy: Institutions, Law and Policy*. It will be the fifth edition of this award winning volume to be published by Sage.

Professor **Maggie Gray** (Political Science) continues her research on New York State farmworkers and her latest publication is "Food and Labor," a chapter in *Twenty Lessons in Food and Agriculture*, edited by Maki Hatanaka and Jason Konefal for Oxford University Press (2018). Professor Gray was honored to be named an Adelphi Teaching Fellow for the 2017-2018 academic year and immerse herself in pedagogical theory and instructional techniques. She has also been volunteering with the New Sanctuary Coalition to help asylum seekers complete and submit their applications.

Professor **Rakesh Gupta** (Business) has been busy creating faculty led study abroad courses to India and Finland for 2018-2019. He had two presentations at Wantagh High School in their East Meets West series on Uzbekistan (April 2018) and Saudia Arabia (December 2017). He was quoted by *Innovate LI* on the [impact of tariffs on imports](http://www.innovateli.com/japan-garden-city-critics-blast-trump-tariffs/) in March 2018 <http://www.innovateli.com/japan-garden-city-critics-blast-trump-tariffs/> as well as in *Newsday* on June 17, 2018: <https://www.newsday.com/business/china-tariffs-long-island-impact-1.19241260>. He published "Public Goods" in *Encyclopedia of Business and Professional Ethics*, edited by Deborah C. Poff and Alex C. Michalos, Publisher: Springer, 2018.

Professor **Jonathan Hiller** (Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures) was approved for promotion and tenure this year—Congratulations Associate Professor Hiller!

Professor **Katie Laatikainen** (Political Science) returned from sabbatical to take the reins of the International Studies Program. In addition to curriculum reform for the program, she and Professor Gupta designed the first IS Study Abroad course to Finland for 2019! She has helped complete a partnership with the University of Tampere in Finland which will enable student exchange between AU and Tampere by 2019. She presented two papers at the EISA conference in Barcelona, Spain in September 2017 and presented a paper and participated in a roundtable at the International Studies Association conference in San Francisco in April 2018. She was elected to serve on the International Organization Executive Committee of the ISA for 2018-2020. She was appointed to the Advisory Board of the United Nations University Institute for Comparative Regional Studies (UNU-CRIS) in Bruges Belgium for a three-year term. She has co-authored (with Martin Palous) a research paper, *Contested Ground: The Campaign to Enhance the Status of the European Union in the UN General Assembly*, published by the Globus Research program <https://www.globus.uio.no/publications/globus-research-papers/2018/2018-09-globus-research-paper-laatikainen%20%26%20palous.html>. She co-authored a book chapter with Knud Erik Jørgensen, "The Political Impact of the EU's Interaction with International Institutions" which will be published in the Research Handbook on the European Union's Engagement with International Organizations, edited by Ramses A. Wessel & Jed Odermatt and published by Edward Elgar Publishers.

Professor **Traci Levy** (Political Science) co-facilitated four workshops on "Gender Bias and Title IX" with Adelphi's Title IX Coordinator and Director of Equity and Compliance, Renaire Frierson, J.D., as part of the Diversity Certificate program for Adelphi faculty, staff, and administrators and for a local school district. She also co-presented a teaching workshop on campus, "Reacting to the Past," with Prof. Lahney Preston-Matto from the English Department. The Reacting pedagogy focuses on using rigorous and engaging role-playing games based on historically significant moments. Prof. Levy used one of these games in a fall 2107 class ("Politics, Empire, and Intrigue in Ancient Athens") and will be using two different games in a fall 2018 class. She also participated in and attended the Annual Institute of the Reacting to the Past Consortium at Barnard College in June 2018. Prof. Levy also has been conducting research and working on a conference paper tentatively titled "The Right to Self-Care in an Age of Precarity" with co-author Prof. Deborah Little from Adelphi's Sociology Department.

Professor **Nicole Rudolph** (Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures) served on the Faculty Committee for Retention, Tenure, and Promotion in 207-2018. As chair of the Curriculum Committee for the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, she and her colleagues Professors Hiller and Simón-Alegre worked on the creation of a new major. In the fall, she gave a guest lecture on French architecture at the Parsons School of Design, and in the spring she was an invited participant at the symposium "Unruly Design: Making, Changing and Breaking the Rules" at The New School. In September, she will be presenting a conference paper on French eco-neighborhoods at an international workshop on "France as a Laboratory of Culture," sponsored by the British journal *French Cultural Studies*. Next fall, she will be moving to the Honors College, where she will serve as an academic director, teaching and advising honors students.

Professor **Ana I. Simón Alegre** (Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures) presented papers at three conferences. At the Hispanic Association for the Humanities Congress at the University of Cáceres in Spain, her paper, "Violence in Madrid's popular musical entertainment scene at the beginning of the 20th century," explores perspectives on masculinity and their relationship with the construction of certain stereotypes of femininity. She also presented her paper titled "Maura: a serialized novel by Concepción Gimeno de Flaquer," at the 2018 AATSP Conference (The American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese), at the University of Salamanca, from the 25th - 28th of June, 2018. She presented a third paper titled, "Peninsular Travelers Exploring the Americas: Discovering New Landscapes and Making Political Connections with Women during the second part of the 19th century," to the 56th International Congress of Americanists (ICA), in Salamanca, Spain (July 15th - 18th, 2018). Her proposal for a roundtable at the Modern Language Association 2019 Annual Convention was accepted. It is titled "Queer Women: Readers and Writers in 19th & 20th Peninsular Spanish Literature" which will take place in Chicago in January 2019.

Professor **Priya Wadhwa** was on sabbatical in 2017-2018. She returns to campus as chair of the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures while Professor **Raysa Amador** goes on sabbatical during Fall 2018.

Professor **Danielle Zach** (Political Science) together with Thomas G. Weiss recently published "Introduction: 70 Years of the United Nations in International Affairs," *International Affairs*, Virtual Issue April 2018.



# End of Year Celebration and Honor Society Induction

IS students, faculty, deans and alumni gathered together in April for a lunch to celebrate graduating seniors. We were also pleased that six IS alumni joined us for a panel discussion on how to put the IS degree to work. At the lunch, among other topics, seniors Zouheir Bekdache and Amanda Opromollo reported on their capstone projects. We also recognized our excellent students:

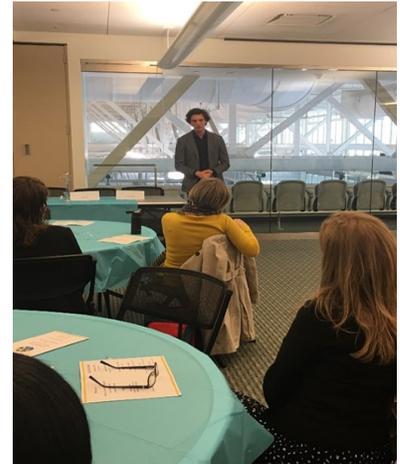
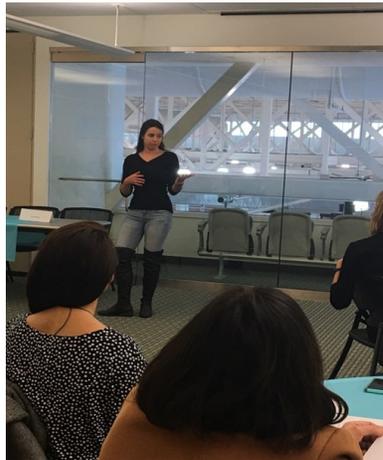
## SENIOR AWARDS

### Distinguished Student Award

Zouheir Bekdache  
Amanda Opromollo

### Departmental Honors

Zouheir Bekdache  
Amanda Opromollo



## International Studies Alumni Return to Campus!



S Alumni L to R: Crissy Martinez Munoz, Stephanie Sztanyi, Ewa Sobczynska, Prof. Laatikainen, Erica Mumford, Yana Kusayeva, and Reaz Khan



## Sigma Iota Rho Inductees

Zouheir Bekdache  
Amanda Bruchhauser  
Amanda Opromollo



Junior Amada Bruchhauser accepting her induction into Sigma Iota Rho.

**For more information about the IS Program, contact us.**

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