INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER

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A YEAR OF TRANSITION

Since I assumed the duties of the new director of the International Affairs program at Gettysburg College last July, it has been very exciting to meet many of you in person on campus and to stay in touch electronically with others as you crisscrossed the globe. As I take another opportunity to thank Prof. Don Borock for building and leading this exceptional academic program at Gettysburg College for so many years, I am thrilled to introduce to you nine new faculty affiliations with the IA program. These passionate scholars and educators from our cornerstone disciplines – Economics, History and Political Science – are ready to share their wealth of experience and wisdom with our steadily multiplying majors.

Our meet & greet event in the beginning of the fall semester, a group field trip to Washington, D.C., and casual lunches with the IA director at the Dining Center are purposefully directed to strengthen our sense of community at Gettysburg College and to make the most of what IA has to offer. And if you are not following us on Facebook yet, take a moment to check us out @GettysburgCollegeInternationalAffairsProgram: https://www.facebook.com/GettysburgCollegeInternationalAffairsProgram/

I hope you will enjoy this update about the activities and accomplishments of our students and faculty. We will continue to look for even more opportunities for student engagement on campus and beyond. And as the academic year nears the end I wish all of you to remain focused on our common passion of learning about this complex, interconnected and ever-changing world.

RIM Baltaduonis, Chair of IA

Gettysburg College
**Rimvydas Baltaduonis** - Rim - is an Associate Professor in the Economics Department at Gettysburg College and a Co-Director of Gettysburg Lab for Experimental Economics (GLEE). He is also the Chair of the International Affairs Program at Gettysburg College. During 2015-2017 he was a Visiting Senior Scholar at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Dr. Baltaduonis’ broad areas of research interest are industrial organization, energy and environmental economics, experimental and behavioral economics, mechanism design. His current research is heavily focused on the design and behavior of electric power as well as gas markets. While at FERC, Dr. Baltaduonis investigated the performance of markets for financial transmission rights (FTRs) as well as physical gas contracts. He also conducts workshops on laboratory economics experiments designed to inform energy policy. At Gettysburg College, he teaches Industrial Organization, Energy & Security, Energy Economics and Experimental Economics. The National Science Foundation, the International Foundation for Research in Experimental Economics and the Australian Research Council have supported his research. Prior to assuming his position at Gettysburg College, Dr. Baltaduonis was an IFREE Visiting Post-doctoral Fellow in the Interdisciplinary Center for Economic Science at George Mason University and later at the Economics Science Institute at Chapman University. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut.

**Eileen Stillwaggon** is Professor of Economics and Benjamin Franklin Professor of Arts and Sciences. She was educated at the School of Foreign Service of Georgetown University, the Faculty of Economics at the University of Cambridge, and the Department of Economics at American University. As a development economist, she approaches complex emergencies and chronic needs in the context in which people live and work. Author of AIDS and the Ecology of Poverty (Oxford University Press), Stillwaggon has written extensively on HIV/AIDS in developing nations for scholarly journals, including the Journal of the International AIDS Society, Development and Change, Feminist Economics, South African Journal of Economics, and popular media. Stillwaggon also wrote Stunted Lives, Stagnant Economies: Poverty, Disease, and Underdevelopment (Rutgers University Press) about the interaction of poor health and poverty, based on years of research and her work in informal settlements and public clinics and hospitals in Argentina. She has taught at universities in Tanzania, Ecuador, and Argentina and conducted research in many countries in Africa, Central America and the Caribbean, South America, and Eastern Europe.

Stillwaggon is an elected Councilor of the Committee on Global Health, American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. She is also Secretary of the International AIDS Economics Network and a member of the Editorial Board of AIDS Care and PLoS One. Her current work involves modeling the costs and benefits of interventions to prevent infections and injuries from congenital toxoplasmosis (in PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases) and congenital Chagas disease and to alleviate disability from lymphatic filariasis and other diseases (in American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Trends in Parasitology, and other venues).
Yasemin Akbaba (PhD Political Science, University of Missouri-Columbia, 2006) is an Associate Professor at Gettysburg College. Her research focuses on mobilization of ethnic and religious groups and the effects of religious discrimination on ethnic and religious conflict. Her (single authored and co-authored) publications have appeared in Journal of Peace Research, Nationalism and Ethnic Politics, Ethnopolitics, Civil Wars, International Interactions, Politics and Religion and Politics, Religion & Ideology. She taught the following courses: Introduction to International Relations, War and Politics, Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict, Contemporary Issues in Middle East Politics, International Relations and Religion (Capstone) and Contemporary Issues in Turkish Politics.

Bill Bowman grew up and attended local schools in rural Oregon. In high school, I was selected to be an American Field Service (AFS) exchange student to the Philippines, an experience that broadened my horizons considerably. As an undergraduate at the University of San Francisco, I majored in History, Philosophy, and Theology. A third-year abroad in Innsbruck, Austria sparked my interest in Europe in general and German/Austrian history and culture in particular. After graduating, I returned to Central Europe, where I studies further and worked for a year. I did my MA and PhD in modern European history at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. My dissertation, on religion and religious culture in nineteenth-century Vienna, became the basis for my first book, Parish in Vienna, 1780-1880.

Before coming to Gettysburg College, I taught at the University of Connecticut, Texas Christian University, and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. As I was always drawn to the liberal arts model of undergraduate education, I was happy to be appointed to the History Department at Gettysburg College, where I have worked since the fall of 1994.

Over the years, I have been promoted first to Associate and then to Full Professor. Moreover, I chaired the department for five years from 2003 to 2008. I have also served on several college-level committees, including the Faculty Personnel Committee.

My second book-length project was a translation, introduction, and critical edition of Pietas Austriaca, an important text on religion and politics in the Habsburg monarchy from the late medieval period until the First World War. Imperialism in the Modern World, which I co-wrote and edited with Frank Chiteji, now retired from the history department of Gettysburg College, and J. Megan Greene, currently of the University of Kansas, but also a one-time member of the department’s faculty, is my most recent book. This book grew out of our longstanding interest in the teaching of world history and our experience in the classroom at Gettysburg. I have also published in a number of leading journals, such as the Journal of Modern History, Central European History, and the Austrian History Yearbook.
In recent years, I have remained interested in cultural and social history. I have written articles and essays on the history of medicine in Vienna. Specifically, I have published on suicide, a topic which brought together medical, psychological, and psychoanalytical perspectives and expert opinion in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. Most recently, I have turned my attention to the history of sports and sporting culture in German-speaking Central Europe and have been researching a Jewish sports organization, Hakoah, that thrived in 1920s and 30s Vienna. I am also at work on a history of the world cup of soccer from 1930 to 2018. I have been working on the Hakoah and world cup projects during my sabbatical leave (2016-17). I have also had the opportunity to teach abroad at the University of Lancaster in the fall 2001 semester and at the Danish Institute for Study Abroad (DIS) in Copenhagen in the spring 2017 semester.

In the History Department, I teach courses that range from introductory world history classes to a senior seminar on Nazism. Most of my classes at Gettysburg, however, focus on modern (post-1789) Europe and include courses on modern Germany, Russia, and Britain. I also teach classes on nineteenth and twentieth-century European history.

I remain a firm believer in liberal arts education and have found a home at Gettysburg College.

Caroline Hartzell is a Professor in the Political Science Department and was the founding director of the College's Globalization Studies program. Professor Hartzell teaches courses in International Relations. Her specialization is in international political economy with an emphasis on issues of conflict and conflict management, development, and globalization. She also teaches a course in Latin American Politics.

Professor Hartzell's research focuses on cross-national civil war settlements and the effects institutions, both domestic and international, have on social conflict. She has published numerous journal articles on the effects that power-sharing settlements of civil wars have on the duration and quality of the peace, as well as co-authored and co-edited books on those topics.

Professor Hartzell's research has been supported by the U.S. Institute of Peace, where she was a Jennings Randolph Senior Fellow, and a grant for $447,802 from the National Science Foundation to carry out survey research on factors affecting the stability of the peace following power-sharing settlements.

Professor Hartzell is editor of the journal Conflict Management and Peace Science, the journal of the Peace Science Society (International). She also serves on the editorial boards of the journals Ethnopolitics and Foreign Policy Analysis.
Dina Lowy is an Associate Professor and the East Asian specialist in the History Department. Her research interests have focused on gender history in early 20th-century Japan, but more recently have turned to a more global approach to a history of tea. At Gettysburg College, she teaches a variety of courses on Japan, China, East Asia, and World History – most emphasize modern times, but a few extend into the more distant past. She enjoys helping students develop a more global understanding of the world and her courses contribute to majors/minors in History, International Affairs, Globalization Studies, East Asian Studies, and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

Marta Maras holds a PhD in Economics and Management degree from Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain, with specialization in behavioral decision making. Prior to joining the Management Department as an Assistant Professor, she taught in the Economics Department at Gettysburg as a Visiting Assistant Professor, in the Department of Management and Technology at Bocconi University in Milan, Italy, and was a Visiting Professor in the Economics Department at the University of California, San Diego. Her research interests include behavioral and experimental economics and finance, prosocial behavior, altruism, social norms and strategic decision making. She focuses on the decision-making processes behind pro-social and financial behavior of individuals. By using experimental methodology in the laboratory, online, field and natural settings, in Europe and the US, she explores factors in the environment of individuals that make them more prone to certain biases, to act irrationally or in contrast, more pro-socially and generously. She is affiliated with the Gettysburg Lab for Experimental Economics (GLEE) and the Behavioral Ethics Lab at the University of Pennsylvania. Courses she has taught at Gettysburg include Statistical Methods, Policy and Strategy, Decision Making, Research Methods, Finance, Principles of Microeconomics and Advanced Topics in Theoretical and Applied Microeconomics. Education: BA, University of Zagreb, MSc, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, PhD, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona. Academic focus: behavioral and experimental economics and finance, prosocial behavior, altruism, social norms and strategic decision-making.
Linus Nyiwul joined Gettysburg College in the fall of 2009 as a Visiting Assistant Professor. He was appointed Assistant Professor of Economics and Africana Studies in 2010. Before joining Gettysburg College, Linus served as instructor in the Talent Advance Program at the School of Management, University of Massachusetts Amherst, from spring 2007 through spring 2008. His teaching and research interests include environmental and natural resource management, as well as economic development. His current research work focuses on environmental policy design & implementation and poverty alleviation in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Douglas Page is a visiting assistant professor at Gettysburg College, and he studies European Union politics and public opinion. He earned his Ph.D. in political science from the University of South Carolina in 2016. His research explores gender, sexuality, and political efficacy (believing one personally matters and makes a difference in one's political community) in the European Union. He earned his B.A. from Vanderbilt University in 2010. He was a visiting assistant professor at High Point University before joining the political science department at Gettysburg College. His research was published in Political Psychology, the Journal of Common Market Studies, Political Behavior, and the Journal of European Integration. His Political Behavior article, “When do voters support the European Union’s involvement in gay rights?”, won the 2017 Cynthia Weber Best Paper Award from the Sexuality and Politics Section of the American Political Science Association. He has taught the following courses: Controversies in the Politics of Europe, Introduction to the European Union, Political Science Research Methods, Introduction to Comparative Politics, American Politics, and the Politics of National and International Courts.

Ivanova Reyes holds a PhD in Economics from American University, a MA in Economics from Georgetown University, a MA in Applied Macroeconomics from the Pontificia Universidad Catolica of Chile and an undergraduate degree in Economics from the Instituto Tecnologico of Santo Domingo (INTEC).

Dr. Reyes currently researches the impact of Chinese growth on the economic cycle of Latin America and on the productivity of Chilean manufacturing firms. My previous research includes topics related to the effects of the global financial crisis in the Caribbean, the role of institutions and trade in fostering economic growth, fiscal sustainability and monetary policy in a small open economy under a fixed exchange rate.
Kevin Reynolds is an adjunct professor in the Department of Political Science, at Gettysburg College. Prior to teaching at Gettysburg College in 2013, Dr. Reynolds was a career officer in the United States Army. Having commanded infantry units from platoon to battalion he culminated his career as a tenured faculty instructor at the U.S. Army War College, in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, where he taught graduate level courses in Strategic Leadership, The Nature and Theory of War, International Relations, US National Security Strategy, Department of Defense Organization, Planning, and Strategy, and most recently The U.S. Experience with Counterinsurgency. Upon his retirement from the Army in 2007, he continued to teach at the Army War College as a contracted professor from 2007 until 2016. Simultaneously, he was an adjunct professor/lecturer at the Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University where he taught U.S. National Security Policy.

Dr. Reynolds is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Temple University-Philadelphia, a MA in International Relations from St. Mary’s University-San Antonio, and a BA in Philosophy from the University of Illinois-Chicago. His publications have appeared in ‘The Journal of Contemporary Security Policy,’ ‘The Strategic Studies Institute,’ ‘The Army War College Press,’ and with the ‘Performance Institute.’

Valerie Andrews began her employment with Gettysburg College in 2014 as an Academic Administrative Assistant in the Chemistry Department. In the summer of 2017, she moved into her current position as Academic Administrative Assistant in the Political Science Department and International Affairs Program.

Valerie received her bachelor’s degree in Behavioral Science with a minor in Psychology from York College of Pennsylvania.
IA STUDENT PROFILES

During the Fall 2018 Meet and Greet Event for IA Majors, students were asked to provide a story about their experiences while traveling abroad and/or the reason they chose to major in International Affairs. Take a look at what our IA majors have done!

MADI CARR, 2021 – International Affairs/Sociology
I chose to major in IA because I am increasingly interested in the current events of the world and would like to base my career off of them. I have traveled to many countries including: Spain, Italy, France, England, Greece, Germany, Czech Republic, Abaco Islands in the Bahamas, Norway, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Canada. I thoroughly enjoyed immersing myself in the culture of each and every one of those places. I plan to continue my studies in IA trying for a Masters degree in grad school TBD.

VUOCHNEAR LY, 2020 – International Affairs/Political Science
It has been my passion to study about and get involved in politics, either at the domestic or international level. I chose the major to fulfill my dream of becoming a diplomat. The world politics is an ever-changing aspect of everyday life, and hence, it is very important to study international affairs and keep myself up-to-date about what is going on around the world. I haven't studied abroad yet, but I am an international student coming from Cambodia. I would like to share my internship experience as it was my first time staying in the US for the whole summer as well as working abroad. I stayed in DC and did an internship at Vital Voices Global Partnership. It was an incredible experience, where I have learnt a lot about the work culture in the office, which I think it's a new perspective. People are very goal-oriented and hard working. I have learnt a lot about teamwork and collaboration. Besides the internship, I spent my time in D.C. very well. I went to museums and attended a fair amount of workshops and conferences in the city, which are really important for my major. With that knowledge, I believe I am able to solve world issues and contribute to peace and stability in the world. I haven't studied abroad yet, but I am an international student coming from Cambodia. I would like to share my internship experience as it was my first time staying in the US for the whole summer as well as working abroad. I stayed in DC and did an internship at Vital Voices Global Partnership. It was an incredible experience, where I have learnt a lot about teamwork and collaboration. Besides the internship, I spent my time in D.C. very well. I went to museums and attended a fair amount of workshops and conferences in the city, which are really important for my major. I have plans to be a citizen of the world and would like to base my career on the world and would like to base my career on the world and would like to base my career on the world and would like to base my career on the world.

JAMES EVANGELOS, 2020 – International Affairs/History
I enjoy learning about the complex social, economic, and political atmosphere of the countries on the international stage. I have spent a week in England with my soccer team, learning about the history and soccer culture of the country. In addition, for the past two years, I have volunteered with my soccer team and an organization called Soccer Without Borders to organize a day of playing soccer with young international refugees in Baltimore. Through learning about some of the war-torn, poverty-stricken countries these children come from, I realized how privileged I am to be a citizen of this country and that people in many other places in the world are a lot less fortunate. This has helped spur my interest in humanitarian aid. I am interested in employment for think tanks, IGOs, humanitarian NGOs, and the State Department. I am also considering going into international business after I graduate.

LIAM MCCARNEY, 2019– International Affairs/Spanish
I am interested in Foreign Policy. I studied abroad in Spain and Argentina last year and studied both the Spanish language and the political systems of those countries. I plan to look for a job then potentially apply to Law School.

TODD SAMMIS, 2019– International Affairs/Political Science
I chose to major in IA because I have a fascination with the intersection of culture and politics at the international level. I studied abroad in the Fall of 2017 in Vietnam, splitting my time between the cities of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. While here, I interned with an Education Technology start up called College Scout Vietnam, which used technology to help Vietnamese high school students apply to and prepare for American and Canadian universities. After I graduate, I plan to hopefully begin a career working in national security or international human rights.

ABBY GREER, 2020– International Affairs/Political Science
I chose to major in IA because I wanted an interdisciplinary approach to learning about the world and how different states interact. I will be going abroad to Israel next semester, so I'm sure I will have experiences to share once I get back. I would like to start out by working on a campaign, stay with the political side of D.C. for a while, and then eventually move into the foreign policy establishment.
ZACH POLLEY, 2020–International Affairs/History
I chose international affairs after participating in the Eisenhower Institute’s Inside the Middle East program and taking intro to International Affairs, both my freshman year. I was fascinated by the interplay of different viewpoints from around the world and I was struck by the importance of the work to not only the international community, but even to local communities such as Gettysburg or my hometown in Connecticut. I saw it as challenging and meaningful and that is a combination that I cannot resist. For the spring semester of my junior year, spring 2018, I studied abroad in Nantes, France. While there, I learned that it is important not only to focus purely on school work, but quality of life and interaction with the world around you as well, which can be an invaluable education tool. For example, for one class we were required to go out and talk to French people on the street about social issues. This was completely free form and outside of the classroom setting, but incredibly educational as to the approach of different societies to universal issues. I also learned while there the power that comes from becoming proficient in a second language. Having that second language, for me, allowed for an evolution from solely an American abroad to a global citizen. I will hopefully be finding a job either in state government or in analytical research relating to counter-terrorism.

WILLIAM FORREY, 2020–International Affairs/Environmental Studies
I chose to major in IA because the environmental problem that our world is facing is complex. It stretches across borders and cannot be solved by environmentalists alone. With IA, I am able to study multiple disciplines such as politics and economics on the global level that will help me better understand this problem. I studied abroad in Byron Bay, Australia where I got hands on experience in sustainable action. During my time in Australia I was not on a typical college campus. The program I was with travelled regularly for class, and we often camped at National Parks or stayed in hostels. I am grateful for this because I was able to learn how to culture by immersing myself in it immediately. My plan at the moment is to go into city planning. With the population growing and more people moving to urban areas, I feel that it is vital to plan our cities in the most sustainable ways so the least amount of resources have to be used.

KYRA PFEIFFER, 2021–International Affairs/Environmental Studies
The curriculum for International Affairs encompasses all of the aspects of Gettysburg academics that I wanted to delve into, including Economics, History, and Political Science. The International Affairs program goes unparalleled for such a diversified class schedule and undoubtedly will extend my educational reach far beyond what a singular English major could have! Being a sophomore, I have yet to travel abroad. However, with my International Affairs major I intend to use the plethora of skills I acquire in my interdisciplinary studies on a different part of the planet– and am extremely excited to do so! For now, I spend time diligently learning the in's and out's of foreign affairs and their importance on daily life. Each day, I use the International Affairs degree to learn from my peers who HAVE travelled and what to expect. This program is rich with experience and while I have yet to have mine, I’ve certainly learned from others. After graduation, I plan to either pursue a graduate degree in English or enter the intersecting world of business and literature. My dream is to write or edit for a large publication, using my degree to produce literature in a broad range of fields that I studied at Gettysburg.

LLANA SOBEL, 2020–International Affairs/English
I have a great interest in the entire world. I want to have a global perspective. I am currently abroad in Shanghai China. Many Chinese people are fascinated with foreigners. Some Chinese people from the countryside have never seen a foreigner before. I have been photographed,

filmed, and been requested selfies with many people. The most difficult part of my adjustment to China was the fact that Western manners do not translate here. On my second week here my Chinese roommate sneezed and I said "Bless you" offhandedly and she looked at me as if I were crazy. People do not constantly move out of the way for other people here or say excuse me. Lines are also extremely new in China. When I was waiting at a ticket window behind a man paying two men came up from the side and pushed their money through the window before me. At first this made me extremely annoyed but then I remembered that although this may be extremely rude in the US, it isn't in China. I'm not sure yet but I definitely want to travel as much as possible.

SPENCER KING, 2019–International Affairs/Economics
I want to serve in the US Foreign Service as a Public Diplomacy. I studied abroad in Amman, Jordan with SIT and also conducted research on Syrian Refugees in Amman, Mafraq, and Karak. I learned that Jordan's political structure is a delicate balance to maintain the monarchy and uphold political rights. I was a recipient of the SALAM Scholarship offered by the Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center in Washington DC to study abroad over the Summer in Manah, Oman. There I learned that Oman is a fascinating country with competing narratives on its history. I plan to pursue a graduate degree in Arab Studies at Georgetown University or a similar program in another institution.

ELIZABETH MILLER, 2019–International Affairs/Economics
I’ve always been interested in other regions’ cultures, politics and international trade. Having IA as a dual major has been a great way to explore other departments and get a wider perspective on current events. While at Gettysburg, I have had some great opportunities to experience other cultures and travel internationally. Through Inside the Middle East at the Eisenhower Institute, I studied the Middle East through the lens of intelligence gathering for a
year and then traveled to Israel and the Palestinian Territories as a participant and a year later again as a program coordinator. My junior fall, I studied in Paris, France to complete my French minor, live with a homestay and study EU policy and French history and art. My semester in Paris was incredible and I am so grateful I could take classes abroad that would benefit my IA major while strengthening my language ability. This year, I am studying common security as an Undergraduate Fellow which will culminate in a trip to Brussels, Belgium to analyze common prosperity in the EU, NATO and other international organizations. Also, I am planning an expedition to Ireland as my position as a GRAB facilitator to discuss the importance of national identity in conflict. Gettysburg has so much to offer to students interested in international events, culture and policy abroad. I plan to work either in DC or attend law school after graduation.

**IA VISIT TO THE LITHUANIAN EMBASSY**

On Wednesday, November 28, nineteen students along with the International Affairs’ director, Rimvydas Baltadounis, traveled to Washington, D.C. During the IA fieldtrip the group visited the Lithuanian Embassy where they met with the representatives from both the Lithuanian Embassy and the EU delegation to the USA. The students learned about Lithuania from the Counselor of the Lithuanian Embassy Danas Vaitkevičius, saw a presentation about the current EU affairs by Irina Markina, and had a Q&A session with the Lithuanian Ambassador Rolandas Kriščiūnas. The trip culminated with a performance by the St. Christopher Chamber Orchestra from Lithuania at the Kennedy Center.

The First Secretary of the Lithuanian Embassy Jūratė Užvišytė gives a tour of the historic building

IA group picture with the Lithuanian Ambassador Rolandas Kriščiūnas and an EU delegation representative Irina Markina

Attending a performance by the St. Christopher Chamber Orchestra from Lithuania at the Kennedy Center
The International Affairs Association and Model United Nations Club (IAA/MUN) at Gettysburg College took a five-person delegation to the National Model United Nations Conference (NMUN) in Washington, D.C., the weekend of November 9th-11th 2018. The delegation consisted of Head Delegates Keira Cooney (2019), Braden Megathlin (2021), and three First-Year Students Giacomo Coppola (2022), Ethan Kincaid (2022), and Emily Dalgleish (2022).

Being one of the largest attended conferences nationally, NMUN was a first time attendance for the Gettysburg College delegation, and proved to be a challenge. The conference consisted of eight different committees, five of which Gettysburg participated in: General Assembly First Committee, Economic and Social Council Plenary, Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, International Organization of Migration, and World Health Assembly. The delegation as a whole represented the country of Romania in their respective committees. NMUN follows closely to how the United Nations is actually run, and therefore provided an accurate and informative experience for our students. The IAA/MUN team looks to the participation of these conferences as educational opportunities for students interested in a future related to International Relations or any affiliation to the United Nations. However the club is open to everyone who is interested in understanding more about the current events happening globally.

Even though our delegation did not receive any special awards upon the close of the conference. The International Affairs Association and Model United Nations Club recognize the First-Years students for the hard work they put into their first collegiate conference as well as the delegation as a whole for representing Gettysburg College in a respective and professional manner.
First Swahili, now Arabic: Spencer King '19 is passionate about language

“I remember after my first Arabic class at Gettysburg, I called my mom and dad and said, ‘this is what I want to do for the rest of my life—speak this language.’” You could say the linguistic passion was instantaneous for Spencer King ‘19. King is already fluent in English and Swahili. That makes Arabic his third language—and possibly the toughest to learn. “The thing about Arabic is that it takes three times longer for an English speaker to learn than any other language,” King explained.

King’s appreciation of international culture and language stems from his upbringing. He was raised in Kijabe, Kenya, where he lived since he was eleven months old. In his college search, he was looking for a school in the United States where he would be able to thrive in small classes and establish strong relationships with professors and peers—so he chose Gettysburg. With varied coursework focused in Economics, International Affairs, and Islamic Studies, as well as practical opportunities to apply what he’s learned through the Eisenhower Institute’s Inside the Middle East program, King has quickly become an inquisitive and inspired Gettysburgian.

International Background
“I grew up in Kenya speaking Swahili and English,” King said. “When I came to the US, I realized that I couldn’t speak Swahili anymore. I found that I’m not interested in German, French, or Spanish, but I value language because of communication—and I thought that Arabic looked fun.”

After his two subsequent semesters of Arabic at Gettysburg, King was hooked on the language and applied for the U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship (CLS). “I applied for the CLS after only taking one year of Arabic, but they accepted me into the program,” he said. King was thrilled to have the opportunity to travel to Ibri, Oman, for an 8-week, full-immersion into Arab culture for the summer of 2016.

Child in Oman
Traveling to the Arab World: Despite being a quick and eager learner, King explained that the initial communication barrier was hard to overcome. “The first two weeks were tough. I sat in class and felt so lost because I didn’t know the language as well as most of the other people in the program who had taken four or five years of Arabic. “After about two weeks, I started getting in the mode and I could understand the dialect; everything got easier.”

Once King gained confidence though practicing his Arabic, he was better able to participate in the Arab culture in Oman while making important cross-cultural comparisons. “The culture of Oman was especially interesting for me because I found it to be very similar to the culture in which I grew up, in Kenya,” King explained. “It makes sense because historically Oman actually ruled a portion of the Kenyan coast; during that time we actually adopted a lot of their culture, including a good portion of their language.” Despite the linguistic similarities, King was unfamiliar with the dry heat and religious practices of the Arab culture.

Trekking in Oman
“I was living on the edge of the largest sand desert in the world,” King said. “It would regularly hit 122 degrees! For cultural appropriateness, I had to cover my whole body most of the time,” he said. “I wore a dishdasha, an Arab garment similar to a robe, as so that I stayed covered and modest.” With the religious focus, King experienced a strong sense of cultural affiliation in Ibri. Even as a non-fluent speaker of Arabic from a western society, King was treated as a member of the community. “It was cool because as long as you somehow knew someone who was invited to a party or an event, you were invited,” King revealed. “I actually went to three weddings during my time in Ibri, and people who I didn’t even know invited me to stay in their homes.”

Considering the Future
Even though he is only a sophomore, King has some ideas about how he will take his cultural and linguistic passions into his postgrad life. “In the future, I would like to work in the Arab world or for the US Foreign Service,” he said. “I think it’d be fun to live like a nomad and travel around for the rest of my life, using my language skills and experiencing new things.”

Spencer King, ’19 is an Economics and International Affairs Major, and a Middle East & Islamic Studies Minor at Gettysburg College
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: VOUCHNEAR LY

Passion that can change the world

Originally from Cambodia, one reason Vuochnear Ly ’20 chose to attend Gettysburg was because of its proximity to Washington, D.C. “I want to be a diplomat,” the political science and international affairs double major explained. “I love Gettysburg for the opportunities and events I have become involved in.”

Ly is a member of the first cohort of Cambodian SHE-CAN Scholars, a program that provides promising female leaders from Cambodia and Rwanda with support to attend college. Partnering with SHE-CAN is one of several ways the College aims to support its commitment to achieving a diverse, inclusive—and thus insightful—campus community.

Growing up, Ly admits the support to attend college was not always there from her community—but luckily it has always been there from her family. “My mom grew up in a poor family and my grandparents couldn’t support her education,” Ly explained. “She struggled without education, so she feels that only education can change my life.” So while Ly watched her friends stop their education after graduating from high school, she pushed forward.

As a result, Ly also has a strong belief in the power of education to provide opportunities, both for herself and for others. She is most passionate about building a platform of leadership to empower other women, and paying forward the support provided by Gettysburg and others who have believed in her. “Being a diplomat will help me to connect Cambodia to the rest of the world,” she said. “I saw many injustices [like income inequality] that I want to change.”

Recently, Ly completed an internship at the Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MoWA) in Cambodia. During her time with MoWA, Vuochnear worked with the General Directorate of Gender Equality and Economics on a new initiative to promote gender equality in Cambodia. “[My project] focused on educating women in the community on how to improve their economic situations,” she explained. “Once [women] have a stable living situation and income, they are able to send their daughters to school, and when they send their daughters to school, they can continue to empower other women in Cambodia.”

Ly finished the second half of her internship working as an external communication assistant to the Minister of Gender Her Excellency Dr. Phavi. She said the experience provided her with the opportunity to expand her network and make connections with international organizations working towards gender equality—something Ly said will enhance her ability to influence leadership in the future. “It’s important for me to know what others are doing to contribute,” she said. “It will be helpful to me as a leader—connecting with these organizations to do something more.”

Ly said the connections she’s made at Gettysburg have also been integral. “Broadening my understanding and meeting new people—” Ly said, “Gettysburg is a special place that has allowed me to discover new possibilities.”

Vuochnear Ly, ’20 is a Political Science and International Affairs major at Gettysburg College.
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