



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Newsletter

Spring 2020 | www.shepherd.edu/international-shepherd

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The Director's Corner

What a year this has been! And despite the global pandemic, it was a successful year for our office and our international students. We had 70 students on our international student roster for academic year, and they represented more than 30 countries. The retention rate of international students from fall 2020 to spring 2021 was 93%. Enrollment for our Intensive English Language Program this year was 12. Many thanks to Eva Olsson who continues to tutor our students in writing beyond their IELP experience. We are hopeful, if US Consulate Offices resume visa interviews soon, that we will have at least one hundred international students on campus!

We continue to build partnerships and grow recognition locally and abroad for our international programs. We have increased partnerships to include Frederick Maryland's I Believe in Me, the Plus Consulting Career Club (a 501 c3 that works to develop career options in the United States for those from West Africa), and the Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church. Thankful this year for our amazing staff, Siriki and Eva, IELP instructor Tony Schiera, and grad assistant, Madi Welder. People matter, and I am so fortunate to work with some absolutely amazing people.

Have a wonderful summer! Let's grow and learn!

Dr. Lois A. Jarman

The Recruiting Corner

While vacationing in his home country, Ivory Coast, our amazing international recruiter has offered to meet with students and institutional leaders. Siriki will meet with officials and students of International University of Grand-Bassam located in Grand-Bassam in Cote D'Ivoire to talk about Shepherd University and international admission process. He will also spend some time with officials of the Ministry of National Education. Finally, he plans to visit some schools to talk to students who are interested in attending Shepherd University.

Last summer, the International Affairs team had arranged a visit to Shepherd by His Excellency, Ambassador of Cote D'Ivoire, Mamadou Haidara. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the visit was postponed until further notice. After a challenging year with COVID-19 restrictions, in fall, we hope the visit of the Ambassador is going to be a reality. Our team is also working to invite other Ambassadors to campus when we return for the new semester.

We have started seeing hope that things should come back to normal soon. Some U.S consulate offices

have started receiving students for F-1 visa interview. Benin, Liberia, Cote D'Ivoire, Senegal, Mali etc... even though the COVID-19 restrictions remain in place. That is good news for some of our students that have deferred their files since last year. With that, we have well over 100 international students who have applied to be part of Shepherd when we begin face-to-face instruction. Our international staff works diligently to bring a diverse population of students to campus.



Siriki Diabate
International Recruiter/Admission



Spring 2021 Graduates

Bachelor's Degree:

- Valentina Preciado-Bello
- Maria Jose (MJ) Acevedo
- Anulika (Juliet) Umunnah

Master's Degree:

- Mercedes Lopez-Velez
- Sam Odell
- Amar Granulo

Spring 2021 Dean's List Recipients

Maria Jose (MJ) Acevedo	Nuha Fadera	Cleeford Sylne
Olamide Adegbamide	Sankalp KC	Valentina Preciado-Bello
Samon Bhatta	Ashim Karki	Samuel Sloboda
Carlos Castillo	Trung Nguyen	Pustak Sunuwar
Laura Castro-Vargas	Kady Sanogo	
Abdelrahman (Bido) Elmasry	Frank Santiago-Cabrera	

RAM Ambassador Scholarship Fund

This semester, the international affairs office started a scholarship fund with the Shepherd University Foundation to provide scholarship opportunities for our international students. We had a big kick off during Shepherd University Day of Giving and were able to raise some funds for the program. With these funds, we are hoping to provide assistance to international students who are experiencing economic hardships. Many thanks to Morgan Sell of Shepherdstown Presbyterian and Marianne Alexander of SAIL for all their help.

International Affairs News and Partnerships

- On March 18, Dr. Jarman participated in a virtual recruiting fair with Study West Virginia and WVHEPC . The fair was targeted to international students in West Africa and Asia who have an interest in studying in the United States. Since 2017, we have focused our international recruiting efforts towards West Africa and created partnerships with Asian organizations to bring international students to Shepherd University. We are hoping to continue growing our population as soon as US consulates around the world start reopening their visa interview processes.
- This semester, our international students volunteered with the “I Believe in Me” food distribution program. Students also participated in an afternoon of stories exchanges. We are looking forward to a growing partnership with this outstanding organization.
- Valentina Preciado Bello interned at the Dublin Roasters Coffee House in Frederick, Maryland. She is also on the ground floor of a successful coffee importing business. She hopes to become a successful entrepreneur in the coffee business and help growers in less fortunate countries. We wish her all the best as she embarks in this new adventure.



Graduating International Student Launches New Business Project



Valentina Preciado-Bello
Colombia

Valentina Preciado-Bello, a Colombian student who is graduating this year started a coffee importing business during the COVID19 Pandemic. "Nati-vos is an agricultural products import company that came out of a school project from a business Strategic marketing class with Professor Dixon. With Nati-vos we aim to import agricultural resources from Colombia and other parts of the world under the concept of direct trade. The name of our brand comes from the word nativos, which means native in English. We chose this name because we want to refer to the native farmers, from whom all our products come from. With Nativos, we want to capture the idea of high-quality products grown on the peaks of the South American Andes, which passes through the hands of modest farmers who apply high agricultural techniques, guaranteeing the quality of the product. To start-up with our imports, we decided to import specialty green coffee from a small town in Buesaco, Nariño in order to support my business partner, Camilo Sanchez's family. We currently work with 2,000 producers of specialty coffee for whom we want to become an extension and their voice in the United States and worldwide".

The Water Project Updates



Painting made by the
Nigerian Artist

Last year, our graduate assistant, Nasser Achirou, developed the Water Project initiative in an effort to raise awareness of water scarcity in Africa. He acquired a painting by a Nigerian artist that illustrates the serene reaction of a young girl as her mother splashed her with water to refresh her from a very hot day. The artist explained that people in his village are having a hard time understanding climate change

and its effects on their environment. The villagers walk for miles every day just to get some water from a dirty river nearby. The water is dirty because there is a lack of water filtration systems in their region.

This initiative was created with the hope of raising enough money to be able to build a water pump and filtration system for that village and educate the villagers about climate

change and global warming. Nasser Achirou, presented the project plan to both Shepherdstown Rotary Clubs in February. Feedback from the Rotarians was very positive. Dr. Jarman was able to attend the meetings with Nasser and great conversation was held about Shepherd's International initiatives. We are looking forward to more collaboration.

First Year International Student Experience



Avenie Jean-Baptiste, Say
Ivory Coast

I arrived at Shepherd University in the fall of 2020. This university has given me several experiences both in the academic field, as well as in social life. Speaking of my academic experiences, Shepherd University has strengthened or developed my written and spoken language skills. The university in clear, prepares us to better cope with the demands of modern society. As the saying goes, 'Experience always makes a difference', I have had many social experiences since my arrival at Shepherd University. I am very thankful to the International Affairs department, Mr Siriki Diabate and Dr. Lois Jarman for all their hard work and dedication to the international students. They have supported me throughout my journey at Shepherd University. Although the University has a strict policy when it comes to

International Students Achievements



Sujata Sharma won the School of Nursing Patient Advocate Award.



Nuha Fadera received the Communication Student of the year Award

International Affairs Staff Awards



Siriki Diabate received the Excellent Service to Students Award



Mary Beth Myers received the Equity and Inclusivity Award