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New international director *named*

Yuanan (Emily) Liu (*pictured right*) will assume the role of director of the Office of International Affairs at Shepherd in mid-June. She has 19 years of experience in international education in various roles, currently as senior assistant director of international admissions and designated school official at Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, Florida. Prior to her appointment in Fort Myers, she was the director and primary designated school official at King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, and before that, the director of international recruitment at Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Michigan. She earned her MBA from Northwood University, Midland, Michigan, and her bachelor's degree in English from Northeast Normal University in China.

At Shepherd, Emily will provide campus-wide leadership, management, and advocacy of international services and programs. She wrote: "I am looking forward to new challenges and responsibilities as I continue in my professional career. I believe my education and working experiences fit nicely with the job requirements for this position. I am sure that I could make a significant contribution to Shepherd University and its internationalization efforts." Dr. Kelly Hart, vice president for enrollment management, oversees the Office of International Affairs. In her announcement to



the campus, she wrote: "I am excited that she is joining the Enrollment Management Division and look forward to Emily working collaboratively with our campus community!" Welcome to Shepherd, Emily! ■

Dr. Akopian brings rich experiences *to global studies*

Dr. Marat Akopian (*pictured right*), assistant professor of political science, was asked to respond to several questions regarding his background, education, and journey to Shepherd University. His journey has been rich and varied in content and location. A native of the Republic of Georgia, he has studied and worked in multiple countries, including Hungary and Canada. He holds a Ph.D. in political science from Rutgers University, with specialties in comparative politics and international relations. In 2013 he was the recipient of the prestigious Presidential Order of Honor from the Republic of Georgia for his work in internationalizing higher education in the country. In August of this year, he will become the director of the Global Studies B.A. Program at Shepherd.

Tell us something about your background and what inspired you to study political science.

I come from a family of survivors of the Armenian Genocide and that has been probably the single most influential fact in my life. Those tragic events were not very far from me, as it was my (maternal) grandfather who lost his family in 1915. Sadly, I never met him as he had died several years before I was born. But I grew up hearing the stories of the persecution, escape, and survival told by my aunt. So, I'm only two generations away from those events, really. I guess it is this early exposure to history that stimulated my interest in politics. As far as I recall, the first historical events which I "witnessed" (and would later study professionally) were the military coup in Chile in 1973 and the 1976 presidential election in the United States.

The Soviet TV and newspapers were very sympathetic to the ousted Chilean President Salvador Allende. I recall the picture of him (which I saw on TV at the time of the coup in September 1973) with a Kalashnikov rifle going to defend the presidential palace. He was killed during that coup that brought General Pinochet to power.

And the 1976 elections, I vividly recall candidate Jimmy Carter walking in a wheat field or cornfield, I'm not sure, as the Soviet TV provided favorable coverage of him. Little did they suspect at that time that the dovish candidate of the Democratic Party, whose rural working-class

background as a farmer they extolled, would bring an end to the period of detente with his global crusade for "human rights."

So, when my students ask me when I came of age as a "political man," so to say, I always point to the 1976 election and that leaves them puzzled because for them Jimmy Carter is in the same league as Julius Caesar and Napoleon, ancient history, that is.

Please share some of your academic background.

My bachelor's is in Russian language (my major) and international relations (minor) and then I received a master's degree in translation and interpreting and spent several years working in Moscow as a translator and interpreter for a large American investment bank and then the International Monetary Fund. So, I had been a translator/interpreter before graduating from the doctoral program in political science at Rutgers University.

My professional experience as a translator/interpreter (as well as my long-standing interest in history, particularly diplomatic history) did have a significant impact on my subsequent approach to the study of politics. It taught me that oftentimes "big" decisions may stem from rather "small" causes or personal idiosyncrasies or office politics. I became rather skeptical of political science theories that were based on the assumptions of rationality and cost-benefit analysis. In other words, the first areas of social science that I look to in the search of evidence to explain political outcomes are history, anthropology, and psychology rather than economics and sociology.

What is the focus of your current research?

Last June, I presented a paper at the annual convention of the Canadian Political Science Association. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the entire conference was held online. The presented paper "Lenin, Self-Determination, and the Armenian Question at the End of World War I"



is part of a bigger project on the role and place of the concept of self-determination in the war aims of Britain, Soviet Russia, and the United States and the post-World War I settlement at the Paris Conference.

This May, I will be presenting a paper based on the complete project "Lloyd George, Lenin, Wilson, and the Self-Determination of Armenia after World War I" at the annual convention of the Association for the Study of the Nationalities (ASN). The ASN is the premier global association of students of nationalism. The annual convention is regularly held at the Harriman Institution at Columbia University and is attended by thousands of scholars from all over the world. This year, the convention will be held online.

What will you emphasize to your students as Director of the Global Studies program?

I always tell political science or international relations majors (it also applies to global studies majors) that they need to invest in the acquisition of foreign language skills as well as the knowledge of history and culture. I hope as director of global studies I will be able to persuade our students to treat the language and international experience requirements as more than just formal requirements. It is this immersion (part experiential, part virtual) in another language and regional/cultural environment, the experience of interacting with people from very different backgrounds, that will help to shape their academic identity. I believe that we will be able to enhance the value of Shepherd's Global Studies degree, as well as employment and graduate study prospects of our Global Studies majors, by working synergistically with Shepherd's Modern Languages program and the Study Abroad office. ■



Phi Beta Delta



Phi Beta Delta honor society holds spring induction ceremony

On April 7, 21 students, staff, and faculty were inducted into the Theta Epsilon chapter of Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars. Chapter President Aart Holtslag read the statement of induction and presented the certificates and medallions. Guest scholars from Brazil, Drs. Denise Almeida de Andrade and Monica Sapucaia Machado, presented the keynote "Perspectives on Women's Rights in Brazil." They were inducted into the chapter as honorary members. ■

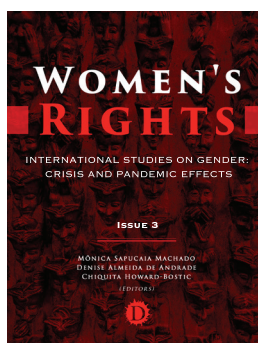
Back row: Karen Rice, Yu-Hsuan Liao, Jason Allen, Laura Henton, Badou Audrey Roseanne Assamoa, Aracelis Nieves, Monica Sapucaia Machado, Denise Almeida de Andrade, Ben Pigott.

Front row: William "Billy" Weigle II, Emmanuella Sarfo, Kayla Blake, Mary Beth Myers, Olamide Adegbamigbe. Not pictured: Kevin David, Boluwatife Dogari, Renee Ritenour at the University of the West of Scotland, Amanda Mandzik, Tim Nixon, Kelly L. Hart, and Alyssa Nazarak.

Scholars Collaborate on *International Publication*

Drs. Chiquita Howard-Bostic, Denise Almeida de Andrade, and Monica Sapucaia Machado collaborated as co-editors for "Women's Rights. International Studies on Gender: Crisis and Pandemic Effects, Issue 3." Dr. Machado is the São Paulo Law School department chair and permanent professor at Instituto Brasileiro de Ensino Desenvolvimento e Pesquisa (IDP). She is the author of the book "Women's Rights: Higher Education, Work and Autonomy" (in Portuguese), co-author of a series of books, and editor of the Women's Rights collection (in English). Dr. de Andrade is a permanent professor in the Master of Law Program and the Law School at UNICHRISTUS (Brazil) and a professor at FGV, São Paulo (Brazil). She is the author of the book "Family Planning:

Gender Equity and Co-parenting," co-author of a series of books, and editor of the women's rights collection (in English). Dr. Howard-Bostic is an associate professor of sociology and associate vice president for diversity, equity, and inclusivity at Shepherd. Her specialties and publications are focused on social stratification, gender and crime, and juvenile delinquency. ■



Phi Beta Delta holds international conference

Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars (PBD) hosted its 36th Annual International Conference on May 23-24, 2022. Fully online, the conference theme was "Collaborative Resilience: Recreating Global Pathways." Research paper and poster presentations were shared online with videoconferencing and screen sharing technology. Presenters discussed best practices in global teaching and learning from a diverse array of academic disciplines and perspectives. Music from around the world was interspersed throughout the program. The conference included a poster session as well as the member business meeting. Shepherd University had numerous attendees.

Dr. HK Oh (pictured above) has been named Interim Executive Director of PBD in the headquarters office at California State University-San Bernardino where she is Professor of Kinesiology and Faculty Director of the Center for International Studies and Programs. She was introduced to the membership during the business meeting. A special "in memoriam" slide show was presented in honor of Dr. Amy Leh, highlighting her many contributions to the society as Executive Director. Dr. Leh was an accomplished educator in Cal State's Department of Educational Leadership and Technology, serving more than 20 years. She passed away in November 2021 of pancreatic cancer. ■



Dr. Amy Leh, former Executive Director of Phi Beta Delta, visited Harpers Ferry while at Shepherd for the 2019 PBD conference.



Brazilian scholars share expertise *with the Shepherd campus*

Brazilian scholars Dr. Monica Sapucaia Machado (*pictured top left*) and Dr. Denise Almeida de Andrade (*pictured bottom left*) spent a week at Shepherd University, sharing their research expertise in the Gender Empowerment Leadership Series. They presented lectures on topics specific to courses in the areas of political science, social work, sociology, and history. They were guest speakers for PSCI 408: Global Problems; SOWK 301: Social Welfare and Social Institutions; PSCI 404: International Organizations and World Government; SOCI 321: Social Stratification; and HIST 446: Latin American History Since 1820. They also provided a Focus on Student Learning (FOSL) presentation about collaborative online international learning, which included acknowledgments for publications with faculty

Lindsey Levitan and Chiquita Howard-Bostic, and social work major Alyssa Garagiola, who published her first text chapter as a Shepherd student.

The Brazilian guests delivered the keynote address at the Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars induction ceremony and were inducted into the Society as honorary members. Their presentation was titled “Perspectives on Women’s Rights in Brazil.” They also presented for the Gender Rights and Equity Leadership Training hosted by Shepherd’s Office for Diversity and Equity. They were invited to several lunches and meet-and-greet sessions with international students, inclusivity teams, and the Women and Gender Studies Board. ■

Mary Beth Myers—*dedicated to student success*

Mary Beth Myers (*pictured right*) has worked in higher education for 30+ years, always as a strong advocate for and friend to students. Through the years she has worked with international students at Shepherd University in the capacity of maintaining their student records in the Student Exchange and Visitors Information System (SEVIS) for their F-1 student visas. Currently, she serves as an advocate for international students in many more respects. In her new role as international student success coach, she works with international students to address their reading, writing, and study strategies that include academic strategies tailored to their ways of learning, thus helping them to earn strong grades, manage stress, and maintain motivation. She is keenly aware that students need guidance and support to help conquer academic and life pressures. Weekly meetings can be arranged to aid students with organization, goal setting, connecting with campus resources, handling the workload, note-taking and test-taking, communicating with professors, time management, giving presentations, study techniques based on their unique learning styles, and much more.

Mary Beth serves on the Internationalization Advisory Council (IAC) and has been a long-time participant in IAC discussions and strategic planning, helping with the original internationalization strategic plan. She is also a member of the International Student Advocacy Network, an honorary member of Delta Sigma Pi business fraternity, and a member of Chi Sigma Alpha, an international honor society for graduate students, alumni, faculty, and student affairs professionals. This spring she was inducted into Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars. Both honor societies recognize excellence in service to students. In 2021, she was the

recipient of Shepherd’s Equity and Inclusivity Award. Mary Beth earned her Master of Arts in College Student Development and Administration at Shepherd, her Master of Arts in Communication from West Virginia University, and her R.B.A. from Shepherd. ■



Dr. Desmond Lawless—*soccer, teaching, travel...lost in the right direction*

My name is Desmond Lawless, associate professor and coordinator of the Health Promotion and Exercise Science Program in the School of Recreation, Sport, and Exercise Sciences. My life journey to this point has been challenging but also lots of fun. With an innate desire to travel and a love of sport, these vehicles brought me to where I am today. I was born and grew up in London, England, with loads of freedom to roam; in the 60s, London was a huge adventure playground. It triggered a desire to travel and explore and with England winning the World Cup in 1966, I was propelled into a life where sport and especially soccer provided a road map of sorts. It must be said that soccer throughout my life has given me a passion and means to travel and see the world, work and play, meet and make great friends, and ultimately it provided the framework and motivation for my life. Who would have thought it? From playing footie in the streets of London, it ended up providing me the means of education, no wonder they call it the beautiful game!

On qualifying as a PE teacher and within the emerging field of sport science, I always wanted to travel, and, with the United Kingdom in a depression, luck would have it I landed a teaching position in the Bahamas! Five great years in the sun and surf and for a young sport-minded person, paradise! This was followed by a totally new environment, three years of teaching in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. I consider this one of the

most challenging, rewarding, and eye-opening periods of my life. These were formative years providing positive as well as difficult situations. Whenever one steps out of their comfort zone, experience has taught me how one's perception has a huge role in how one responds and the consequence of that response on an individual's life direction.

Living abroad forces you to see the world through a new lens, a different culture and language, and to disconnect from family and friends. The phone and letter writing were the only means of communication, but at the same time, one gained insight and self-awareness, independence, and resilience. As I always said, "it's not a job, but an adventure."

Every summer during this time I was flying to the States and coaching. It allowed me to complete my Master's degree at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. And again, working abroad offered those moments. Just 24 hours from flying home to England, I was offered a position as head women's soccer coach at Heidelberg University and a 20-year career in college coaching began. A new phase in my life began. Soccer provided the vehicle; coaching and an adjunct position in the university system allowed me to complete a doctorate (with my dissertation investigating the psychology of college soccer players, what a surprise). Eventually, I came to Shepherd for an academic career where I still get my soccer fix as a volunteer coach.



All through these years travel has continued to be part of my life journey, with trips to New Zealand, Hong Kong, China, and Kenya. I have explored numerous parts of the U.S., and many other places, many with a sporting theme. Each journey teaches me something new about myself and the world around me. I have always felt that travel takes one out of one's comfort zone, but the lessons learned from my education, and playing and coaching soccer, have provided me with many life tools where travel feels good...to be lost in the right direction. So just remember "Wherever you go becomes a part of you somehow." —Anita Desai ■



Debate and Forensics Team—*year of excellence, year of growth*

Under the leadership of Kate Stotler, adjunct faculty member and team coach, the Shepherd Debate and Forensics Team had an excellent year, bringing home numerous awards across several competitive events. The team competed in intercollegiate tournaments through the year, including one hosted by Shepherd in February. Coach Stotler did an extraordinary job in building team cohesion and excellence. Congratulations, Coach Stotler and team members! ■



Pictured left to right, Dr. Ann Marie Legreid, global studies director; Dean David Fearn, dean for North America, UWS; Dr. Sylvia Shurbutt, director of the Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities; and Dr. Sam Greene, study abroad director.

Fostering academic exchange with *University of the West of Scotland*

Dr. David Fearn, dean for North America, University of the West of Scotland (UWS), visited Shepherd in February to discuss academic exchange opportunities between the two universities. He met with faculty, staff, and students and toured the Shepherd campus. Students can study at UWS earning undergraduate college credit in about 20 different majors. In addition to undergraduate options, the UWS partnership supports a graduate degree opportunity, Shepherd's Master of Arts in Appalachian studies and UWS's degree in new media practice. Students who choose to study in Scotland can earn both master's degrees simultaneously. ■



Joanna Hernandez



Peter Proctor



Madalaine Fleming

Students pursue *international experiences*

Joanna Hernandez, political science major from Kearneysville, West Virginia, and Peter Proctor, global studies major from Huntington, West Virginia, were selected this year to receive U.S. Department of State Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships to study abroad.

Hernandez will study in Spain this summer at CESUGA University in Cuenca and A Coruña. "I've always wanted to go to Spain ever since I was a little kid, so this is a really good chance for me to do that," Hernandez said. "I am going to be doing a month of intensive Spanish classes. I

am a native speaker, but I feel a little bit of disconnect from my Spanish to my parents' or even my family members' Spanish because I don't know the grammar rules well. My plan is to go to law school and use that Spanish to become an immigration lawyer to help people like my parents get through the immigration process," she said. While in Spain, she also plans to perform humanitarian service with the Red Cross.

Proctor is in Salzburg, Austria, this semester where he is studying German and European history and politics at Salzburg College. Al-

though unable to use the Gilman Scholarship for this study trip due to State Department COVID policies, he says that he is having "a lovely time." He graduated from Shepherd in May and plans to return to Austria for advanced studies.

Global Studies major Madalaine Fleming will study in Cork, Ireland over the summer. She was also named a Gilman Scholarship awardee but was unable to use the award due to travel issues tied to the pandemic.. ■



Dr. Greene active in *international themes and initiatives*

Dr. Samuel Greene, assistant professor of political science and global studies, director of study abroad, and coordinator of the Welch Distinguished Awards Program, has been active in international scholarship. His article critiquing the application of U.S. models of homeland security education to small states has been published in the British journal "Defence Studies." He has also presented papers at the Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Society meeting and the International Studies Association North East conference. The latter paper was co-authored with two Shepherd graduates, Miranda Jones, now a doctoral student in political science at George Washington University, and Jordan Jalil, now a law student at Liberty University.

Dr. Greene participated in FPA Development Initiative funded by the Institute of International Education and the State Department from March 2-4, 2022. He joined a 16-member cohort selected from more than 90 applicants. The Institute provided training to support increased participation of Shepherd students in Fulbright programs as well as other Fulbright opportunities.

In a meeting coordinated by Dr. Greene, faculty and students met in February via Zoom with a representative from CESUGA University's True Spanish Experience study program to learn more about opportunities for Spanish-language study and internship opportunities. ■

Kevin David receives *2022 Excellence in Geography Award*

Kevin David is a Marine Corps veteran who returned to school to prepare to become a social studies teacher. He is working on a global studies minor which fits nicely with his interests in travel and global affairs. Originally from Montgomery County, Maryland, he moved to Shepherdstown to study secondary education. He immediately fell in love with the town and plans on staying long after he graduates. He is a single dad who enjoys spending time with his 12-year-old daughter.

Kevin's dream vacation is to go on a two-week-long motorcycle trip around Western Europe including stops in France, Germany, the

Netherlands, and Denmark. Some sites he would really like to see are historic World War I and II sites such as Belleau Wood and Omaha Beach. Prior to going back to school, he was a Harley Davidson mechanic for six years, skills that can now support his biking adventures around Europe. He has always loved going on nice long scenic rides. As he wrote in his class introduction: "Es Geht nicht um das Ziel. Es Geht um die Fahrt." (It is not about the destination. It's about the ride.) Kevin is an excellent student with keen geographical instincts and an ongoing interest in history and global affairs. We look forward to him taking his excellence and enthusiasm into the public schools as a social studies teacher. ■



Celtic Roots students ready to travel to the *Scottish Highlands*

Twenty Celtic Roots students at Shepherd will travel at last to the Scottish Highlands for the oft-postponed study tour. Highlights of the tour will be an exploration of the Orkney Islands, and Celtic and pre-Celtic sights of Skara Brae and the Ring of Brodgar. Additionally, students will follow in the footsteps of Robert Burns, Dorothy and William Wordsworth, and Emily Brontë, as well as study Scottish resistance to English rule at the 1745 Battle of Culloden, all part of the Spring 2021 Celtic Roots class. The Roselyn Chapel at Solstice and Whitby Abbey will also be on the agenda. The tour is part of the global Appalachia program at the Shepherd Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities. ■

Internationalization *strategic planning underway*

This past academic year, the Internationalization Advisory Council (IAC) has been engaged in strategic review and planning of international initiatives on the Shepherd campus. The original Internationalization Strategic Plan expires this year. The SWOT analysis/environmental scan was drafted during the fall semester with input from IAC members. Small groups have been working this semester to draft strategies and metrics to update the five goals of the plan. Group members include Drs. Sylvia Shurbutt, Sam Greene, Keith Alexander, Marat Akopian, Richie Stevens, Kelly Hart, Kathleen Reid, Dawne Burke, and Ann Marie Legreid (chair). The draft document will be shared with the full IAC and the plan finalized during the fall semester. ■



Alyssa Nazarok



Christopher Silka

Nazarok and Silka *receive prestigious Ikenberry Awards*

Alyssa Nazarok, senior political science and global studies major, has been named a 2022 recipient of the Ikenberry Award for Human Service for her exemplary service to Shepherd University. Christopher Silka, an economics and business administration major, also received the Ikenberry Award for Human Service.

Each year the Ikenberry Award is given to one female and one male student who have demonstrated outstanding service to the University and community, campus leadership, and overall achievement while at Shepherd. Dr. Oliver S. Ikenberry served as president of Shepherd College for 21 years (1947-1968) and is remem-

bered for his selfless dedication to advancing the mission of the college.

Earlier this semester Nazarok presented her political science capstone research on inequality in global education outcomes at the 2022 West Virginia Student Research Day held at the Capitol Building in Charleston. Alyssa was also presented with the 2022 Courage to Inspire, Strength to Empower Award by the Women Investing in Shepherd (WISH). The award recognizes outstanding female leaders whose service and excellence inspire the Shepherd community. ■