

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Newsletter

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Meet our new *Director of International Affairs*



Emily Liu (pictured left) became the new Director of International Affairs on June 13, bringing 19 years of working experience in international education to the Shepherd campus community. Emily is looking forward to building relationships across campus and helping to streamline services for international students, making Shepherd more accessible and welcoming. If you haven't met Emily yet, please feel free to stop by her office, Gardiner Hall 127. ■

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The Office of International Affairs is committed to collaborating with other departments and offices to provide the best services and programs possible to our international students and scholars. We encourage our international students to get involved by attending events, participating in workshops and programs, and joining student organizations. We support international students with high-quality cultural and social services, including cultural adjustment, immigration process assistance, academic integration, and professional and personal growth. ■

First formalized *International Student Orientation*

On August 19, **Shepherd welcomed 13 new international students from 12 countries** for Fall 2022 and hosted an extensive orientation for them. Members of the campus community covered various topics, including, but not limited to, student success, advising, campus safety and security, student activities, counseling, information and technology services, and immigration regulations. Members of the local community donated a welcome basket for each student. ■



Front row (l. to r.): Sharifa Alayya (Tanzania), Siriballi Nalla (India), Carlos Castillo (Student Assistant), Andrea Arboleda Lopez (Colombia), Bukola Fatimat Okeleye (Nigeria). Back row (l. to r.): Nop Satjavitvisarn (Thailand), Fatima Drammeh (Gambia), Kota Yoshita (Japan), Fabian Telschow (Germany), Ximena Bolanos Tellez (Mexico), Nicholas Espinoza (Ecuador), Marketa Beladova (Czech Republic), Taiwo Omotolani Afolayan (Nigeria).



Front row (l. to r.): Sharifa Alayya (Tanzania), Siriballi Nalla (India), Bukola Fatimat Okeleye (Nigeria), Andrea Arboleda Lopez (Colombia). Back row (l. to r.): Kota Yoshita (Japan), Nop Satjavitvisarn (Thailand), Nicholas Espinoza (Ecuador), Fabian Telschow (Germany), Fatima Drammeh (Gambia), Ms. Mary Beth Oyerly (community member), Marketa Beladova (Czech Republic), Ximena Bolanos Tellez (Mexico), Taiwo Omotolani Afolayan (Nigeria).

Bimonthly International Coffee Hour *and monthly birthday celebration*

Starting on September 23, the **International Coffee Hour is offered every other Friday** in the international lounge. It is an excellent opportunity to meet students and explore the world at Shepherd through coffee, culture, and conversation. The event is open to all members of the Shepherd community, including all students, faculty, and staff.

The first International Coffee Hour celebrated international students' September birthdays. Guests shared their life experiences in the U.S, and everyone got a share of the birthday cake and enjoyed the party! ■



Above (l. to r.): Carlos Castillo, Olamide Adegbamigbe, Kota Yoshita, Kady Sanogo, Fatumatta Conteh.



Birthday girls Fatumatta Conteh and Kady Sanogo



Students gather to celebrate!

Bonfire Night *for International Students*

We had a **Bonfire Night on September 17**, sponsored by local community members. Some international students had a first-time bonfire party, roasting hot dogs over the fire and marshmallows for s'mores! Food, singing, dancing, meeting friends—so much fun! ■



First Welcome Reception *for new and returning students*

On September 14, we hosted our **first Welcome Reception for International Students**. The campus-wide event provided an early opportunity for newly arrived international students to integrate with the University community. Twenty-eight international students, faculty, and staff attended the event. Dr. Kelly Hart, vice president for enrollment management, provided welcome remarks, and members of Global Shepherd Students also welcomed our new students and presented during the event. ■

Andrea Arboleda Lopez (pictured right) received a raffle prize during the Welcome Reception.



Optional Practical Training *workshop*

On September 28, Emily Liu, director of international affairs, and Mary Beth Myers, success coach, presented the first Optional Practical Training (OPT) workshop to international students. OPT is for F-1 students planning to work off campus after graduation to learn the details of the OPT application process. OPT allows F-1 students to get work authorization for off-campus employment related to their field of study. We had 12 international students at the workshop, which was a great turnout. We received many good questions.

We will have OPT workshops every semester and expect May 2023 graduates to attend the next OPT workshop in early February if you missed this one. All interested students must attend an OPT workshop before applying for OPT. ■

Please note: *If you are an international student graduating in December 2022, you may start applying for OPT right now. If you have any reservations regarding your graduation status for Fall 2022, please do not apply for OPT until after semester-end grades have been posted.*

Visit, take pictures, and tell us about your fun times at Shepherd *or anywhere in the U.S.*

Hey, international students! We'd love to have you featured in our newsletter! Send us pictures of your fun times at Shepherd or fun places you have visited, like restaurants, sites, museums, different cities, states, etc., and we will include them in our future newsletters.



Opportunities to get connected
and be involved.
A home away from home!