

## School of International Service – American University

International Economics Relations

Summer 2015

It seems like just last week we were celebrating Commencement ...



... and now we are already welcoming our new students!

## Summer 2015 : New Student Faces in IER/IE

Welcome New Students!

We are pleased to welcome the following new students who are entering, and ongoing students who have formally transferred into, the International Economic Relations and International Economics Programs:

[Samineh Abianeh](#)

Born and raised in Iran, Samineh is a graduate of Allame Tabatabai University in Tehran, where she obtained a B.A. degree in Economics. She worked in the university's library as an assistant and also as a volunteer planning fundraising events for the Ra'ad Rehabilitation Goodwill Complex, which offers rehabilitation as well as technical and vocational educational services for the disabled. Samineh came to

the United States in 2012 and she works as a sales manager at the Hollister store at Montgomery Mall, Bethesda, in addition to volunteering at NIAC (the National Iranian American Council). She is entering the M.A. program in International Economics.

#### Ahmad Alkhuzam

A graduate of Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, where he was awarded a B.B.A. degree in Finance, Ahmad has already taken two semesters of IER-related courses at American University but has now been admitted into the M.A. program. He has been doing an internship at AlAraby TV in Washington DC and working as a research assistant for an AU faculty member; previously, he was a staff writer for a publication of LMU's Asia-Pacific Center. Ahmad was born and raised in Kuwait.

#### Haley Beckett

An alumnus of Wittenberg University (Ohio) with a B.A. in Financial Economics and a B.A. in Chinese Language and Culture, Haley has been in China (mainly in Guangzhou) on a Fulbright award to conduct economic research there. Specifically, she has been studying how restricted access to financial capital impacts on Chinese entrepreneurs. Previously, she spent one summer as a Congressional intern and another one working for the U.S. State Department in the Consulate located in Guangzhou.

#### Szu-ying (Cosette) Chen

A graduate of Taiwan's National Chengchi University Taipei, she received a B.A. in Economics, was very active on campus, and had a summer internship with the Taiwan Cooperative Bank. After graduating, Cosette was hired by the Shin Kong Mitsukoshi Department Store to work in the marketing area, and subsequently she held a digital marketing position with the Eden Social Welfare Foundation, the largest NGO serving persons with disabilities in Taiwan.

#### Colleen Cook

A transfer student previously with the Comparative and Regional Studies (CRS) program, Colleen began at American University in January of this year after earning a B.A. degree in Foreign Affairs, with a minor in Middle Eastern Studies, at the University of Virginia. While attending UVA, Colleen had the opportunity to spend a summer at the Arabic Language Institute located in Fès, Morocco. She has interned with the U.S. State Department, the Library of Congress, and recently at Crisis Consulting, which monitors and manages the operational risks companies and government agencies are exposed to when conducting business internationally.

#### Prajakta Diwan

She obtained a B.S in Biotechnology from V.G. Vaze College, Mumbai University and later a Post-Graduate Diploma in Business Management (PGDBM), with specialization in Finance, from Mumbai's N. L. Dalmia Institute of Management Studies. Prajakta has six years of work experience at the Bank of India, a government-owned commercial bank, in the areas of corporate credit and foreign exchange, and she is presently Senior Manager, Mid-Corporate Department, at the Bank's headquarters. She is entering the M.A. program in International Economics.

#### Jeffrey (Jeff) Eversman

A transfer student previously with the Comparative and Regional Studies (CRS) program, he started at American University in Fall 2014 after earning a B.A. degree from the University of Wisconsin at Madison,

having double-majored in History and German. While in college, Jeff spent a year abroad studying at the Albert-Ludwigs Universität in Germany and also a semester in Washington DC as a research intern with the National Defense University. After graduating, he served two years with AmeriCorps VISTA in Milwaukee, WI, and then spent a year in Germany as part of the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship program. He has been a research assistant for two AU faculty members and has interned at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

#### [Nabila Ferdous](#)

Born and raised in Bangladesh, she was recently awarded a B.S. in Economics by George Mason University. Nabila has held internships with the Grameen Trust in Dhaka and with Six Capital, a foreign-exchange trading company, in Singapore. As an undergraduate student, she studied International Business in Paris, France. She is entering the M.A. program in International Economics.

#### [Albë Gjonbalaj](#)

Born and raised in Kosovo, she studied at HAMK University of Applied Sciences in Finland, including one year at Ferris State University (Michigan), and obtained a B.B.A. in International Business. Albë has had internships with GIZ, a German government-owned organization which is the world's leading provider of international cooperation services for sustainable development, and also with ProCredit Bank. After graduating, Albë joined Deloitte Kosovo, one of the leading professional services organizations in the country, as an associate in the Financial Advisory Services unit.

#### [Michael Lucci](#)

An alumnus of the University of Texas at San Antonio with a B.B.A. in Management, he has been working as a program control analyst at CACI International, an Arlington-based company which develops and implements complex systems-integration solutions for government and commercial customers. Michael has a keen interest in China and in Southeast Asia, generally.

#### [Jonathan \(Jon\) Mallek](#)

A graduate of St. Norbert College (Wisconsin), who had the opportunity to spend a semester at American University and another at the Université Catholique De Lille (France), he triple-majored in Political Science, International Studies, and French. Jon spent several months in French-speaking Senegal as a Peace Corps volunteer working on sustainable-agriculture projects, but unfortunately had to cut short his stay due to a serious illness from which he has since recovered.

#### [Annalisa \(Mcfarland\) Vick](#)

She attended Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi and was awarded a B.B.A. degree in Economics. Annalisa worked throughout most of her time in college as an insurance specialist with Farmers Insurance, one of the country's largest insurers of vehicles, homes and small businesses. Having relocated to the Washington DC area, she serves as a financial operations analyst for FrontStream, a provider of integrated back-end merchant solutions and front-end payment and donation-management products.

#### [Jeffrey \(Jeff\) Meyer](#)

An alumnus of Catholic University, he earned a B.A. degree in World Politics and minored in Spanish and Latin American Studies. Jeff has had internships at the US-Asia Institute, the U.S. Congress, and at CAF (The Development Bank of Latin America) in La Paz, Bolivia. Since graduating, he has been working as an intelligence analyst for Alexion Pharmaceuticals, an American pharma company based in Connecticut.

### Yolanda Ngo

A graduate of Clemson University in South Carolina, she was awarded a B.A. degree after double-majoring in Economics and Modern Languages (Chinese). She spent a semester abroad at the National Taiwan University in Taipei and also took a semester off to serve as an Intern for the White House Council of Economic Advisers. After finishing college, she worked for a year as a Data Reporting Analyst for CVR Associates in Georgia, a consulting firm for the housing industry, and then took an internship with The Carter Center, with a focus on China, where she is currently supporting the Programs Development team.

### Kelsey Ross

She recently completed her B.A. degree with a major in Government and Southeast Asian Studies at Cornell University. Kelsey is keenly interested in Myanmar and has studied Burmese and French. She was very involved in various campus activities like Model United Nations; was an intern at the United Nations Association of Rochester; and was an administrative assistant for two Cornell faculty members.

### Daina Spencer

Born and raised in Jamaica, she is an alumna of Hobart and William Smith Colleges (New York), where she earned a B.A. degree in Economics. Since graduating from college, Daina has worked as a legal secretary at Goldfarb Abrandt Salzman and Kutzin LLP, a law firm in New York City specializing in elder law, trusts and estates, and the rights of people with disabilities. Previously, she had interned at a law firm located near HWSC; the Andean Center for Latin American Studies in Ecuador; and the Consulate General of Jamaica in New York.

### Dimitrije Tasic

Born and raised in Serbia, he attended Indiana University at Bloomington and was awarded a B.A. degree after having double-majored in Economics and Political Science. Dimitrije was also a star college athlete: he played in and rose to become Captain of Indiana University's Varsity Men's Tennis Team. In his spare time, he interned at a law firm and two NGOs in Serbia, and since graduating last year, he interned with Indiana University's Institute for European Studies as well as with the City of Bloomington's Department for Economic and Sustainable Development.

### David Thirkill

An American University alumnus, with a B.A. degree in International Studies, he took part in an Immersive Arabic Study Program which enabled him to spend a summer in Jordan. He has interned with the Institute of Palestine Studies, the Embassy of Jordan, and the U.S. International Trade Commission – all in Washington, DC.

### Eric Ward

A recent graduate of Truman State University (Missouri), he received a B.S. degree after majoring in Economics and minoring in Statistical Methods and Justice Systems. He has been working as a Public Policy Associate Intern with the Missouri Energy Initiative. Last summer, he attended the Summer Institute for Training in Biostatistics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is entering the M.A. program in International Economics.

## Summer 2015: New Faculty Faces in IER/IE



Claire Brunel

Prof. Brunel recently completed the requirements for the PhD in Economics at [Georgetown University](#). Her research focuses on policy-relevant issues at the intersection of international trade and environmental economics.

She is particularly interested in providing empirical evidence of the links between environmental policies and international competitiveness. For example, she asks whether policies that encouraged the use and the development of renewable energies in the OECD led to an increase in domestic innovation and manufacturing, or rather to a rise in the licensing and importing of foreign technologies. Other works examine the role of the offshoring of polluting industries in emissions reductions of EU and US manufacturing and how to measure the stringency of environmental policies. Current works in progress study subsidies of solar panels, the co-benefits of environmental regulation in the US, and the trade diversification patterns of developing countries.

Prior to starting her PhD and during her studies, Prof. Brunel worked at the [Peterson Institute for International Economics](#), the Research Department of the [World Bank](#), and as Trade Policy Attaché at the [Embassy of France](#) in Washington DC. She obtained an MPhil in Economics from [Oxford University](#) and a B.Sc. in Mathematics and Economics from [Georgetown University](#).

Prof. Brunel will be teaching SIS-616 “International Economics” and SIS-620 “Introduction to Environmental Economics.”



Jennifer Poole

Prof. Poole served until recently as Senior International Economist at the White House’s [Council of Economic Advisers](#). She was on leave from her position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics, and as an affiliated faculty member in the Department of Latin American and Latino Studies, at the [University of California at Santa Cruz](#). She has also been a Research Fellow at the [IZA Institute for the Study of Labor](#), an independent economic research institute based in Germany focused on the analysis of global labor markets.

She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the [University of California at San Diego](#) and a B.A. in Economics from [Smith College](#). She has previously been employed as an economist by the [Federal Reserve Bank of New York](#) and as a consultant by the [International Labor Organization](#), a United Nations agency focused on labor issues. Prof. Poole has also been a visiting scholar at the World Bank, the [Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia](#), the [Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco](#), the [Université Nice Sophia Antipolis](#) (France), and the [University of Munich](#) (Germany). Her research and teaching interests fall at the intersection of international trade, labor economics, and development economics. With an emphasis on Brazil, Professor Poole’s broad research agenda considers the effects of global integration on local labor markets. In particular, recent work investigates information transfer in international trade and investment and the impact of globalization on employment and wages.

Her research has been published in the *Journal of International Economics*, the *American Economic Review*, the *Review of Economics and Statistics*, and *World Development*, and

has been funded by the National Science Foundation. Prof. Poole will be teaching SIS-616 “International Economics” and SIS-635 “Introduction to Economic Development.”

### *A Note from the Council for International Economic Relations (CIER)*

The Council for International Economic Relations is a student organization established by graduate students in the IER/IE programs to promote dialogue among students, staff, and faculty at AU on topics of interest in the fields of economics, finance, and international affairs. CIER is open to all students interested in IER/IE, and undergraduates are welcome to attend our meetings and events. Last year, CIER hosted three alumni panel events at which IER alumni were invited to share their networking and professional experiences, and to interact with students and faculty. We also organized several networking “happy hours” throughout the year. I invite all incoming IER/IE students to contact me and to get involved with CIER from the start, and in fact we have some leadership positions that need to be filled as soon as possible. Please write to me at [americancier@gmail.com](mailto:americancier@gmail.com)

Sudhanshu Neema, President

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