

# IR Matters!



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Greetings from post-graduation Lewisburg!

Once again, we have reached the end of an academic year. We had not one, but two graduation ceremonies honoring the classes of 2020 and 2022. This year, *for the second year in a row*, the commencement address for the 2022 graduation was delivered by an IR graduate. Last year, **Audra Wilson '94**, IR and Spanish double major and a champion for racial and economic justice, was our commencement speaker. This year, we were honored to have **Daisy Auger-Dominguez '95**, IR and Women's and Gender Studies double major, who is currently serving as the Chief People Office at Vice Media Group. She began her career at Moody's as a credit risk analyst and was its first head of diversity and inclusion. I would encourage you to watch her [commencement address](#): she told us her circuitous but powerfully coherent journey through and beyond Bucknell which led her to first confront and challenge stereotypes and then to becoming a person and leader who insists on seeing, valuing, and uplifting all who have been marginalized and undervalued. She spoke of courage, compassion, and agility as hallmarks of inclusive leadership. We are very proud to have them in our IR community and thank them for inspiring us, as individuals and as an institution, and calling us to action.

Our graduating class has 20 students. We congratulate them as they begin this next phase in their lives. This was an accomplished group of students. Sherab Dorji '22 and Giuliana Ferrara '22 were this year's recipients of the Bucknell Prize in International Relations. Two IR majors completed yearlong projects and successfully defended their Honors Theses in April. Congratulations to IR majors Giuliana Ferrara '22 who wrote her honors thesis for IR and Julia Tokish '22, who wrote hers for Arabic and Arab World Studies. Three IR majors were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa this year: Sherab Dorji '22, Julia Tokish '22, and Giuliana Ferrara '22 (who was inducted last year as a junior). This year, two members of the IR community were awarded prestigious Fulbrights. Giuliana Ferrara '22 will be going to Belgium and Professor Zhu is already on his way to Australia. Special congratulations go to

these individuals for their outstanding achievements. We were also excited to welcome 39 new majors, a significant increase from recent years.

This semester, we were thrilled that, after a two year pandemic-induced hiatus, we were able to return to IR week, which was held from March 28-April 1. This was a semester of significant global upheaval. In addition to the continuing challenges of a pandemic, Russian invasion of Ukraine and the ensuing war occupied us. In my classes this semester, we found, once again, history unfold before our eyes in ways that intersected with our studies. I'm sure my colleagues had similar experiences in their classes as well. We were reminded of the importance of placing and understanding world affairs, empowered by an exposure to history, geography, economics, and politics. With the multidisciplinary focus prevalent in IR, our students were able to put these various pieces together in our conversations, even as we were collectively trying to make sense of new developments. IR professors reflected on the meaning of these developments in public fora as well.

In this issue of *IR Matters!*, we bring you news of some of our Spring 2022 events. You can read about IR week, reflections from students who wrote honors theses, Phi Beta Kappa inductions, Fulbright awards and more. Professors Mitchell and Zhu have also penned some reflections on whether we are headed for a new era of global power politics in light of recent developments. We hope you will also enjoy reading about the career paths of some of our recent alumni who were kind enough to join us for IR week.

Now, after a long academic year, it is time to rest, rejuvenate, and, for faculty, have some focused time to do research. In just a few months, we will all return energized and eager for a new academic year. Until then, be well and please keep in touch!

Professor and Chair of IR

## A Return to Great Power Politics?

Thinking about global politics in terms of great powers is back in vogue! No, we have not abandoned the need to recognize a world increasingly of transnational problems and the deepening and widening of a globally integrated world. Rather, we are confronted by an international order where the great powers see each other as their primary security threats defined by very specific and acute issues. Unsurprisingly, United States' foreign policy has embraced this perception of the international order and, under the Biden administration, returned to a largely traditional grand strategy as a means to protect to US interests at a time of geo-political struggle. While the Trump administration, abandoned traditional elements of US foreign policy with a transactionalist approach to relations with friends and foes alike, Biden has sought to restore a traditional liberal internationalist strategy.

At the time of this writing, Biden has not issued the official National Security Strategy, as obligated by law, but he has issued an interim document that lays out the key principles of US strategy and what it contains should not be surprising to observers of US foreign policy. In the document, an emphasis is laid on the necessity of US global leadership that is tied to a commitment to multilateralism with a desire to support and defend democracy. This comes with a traditional commitment to a global economic order resting on free trade principles, however what is noticeable is anxiety about how neo-liberal policies can come at the expense of the middle and working class. In terms of challenges, the guidance identifies Russia and China as major peer competitors, but the interest is to re-direct US policy toward the Indo-Pacific. Regional threats from North Korea, Iran, and violent extremist groups are highlighted, but are noticeably treated as secondary to Russia, China, and the geo-strategic competition in the Indo-pacific.

There is not, in my estimation, much that is dramatically new in terms of US policy. I do think that the administration will, in light of Ukraine, reconfigure how much effort and energy it will pour into Europe. However, the conflict in Ukraine acts to reinforce for the administration's impulses set forth in its guidance, specifically the value of acting with allies (NATO), the importance of US leadership, the threat posed by Russia. Undoubtedly, for some in the foreign policy establishment Russia's actions serve to enhance the perceived danger China could pose to Taiwan and in the South China Sea.

There are some concerns that I hold in regard to the current strategy and the trajectory of US foreign policy. First, there exists the danger of overestimating perceived threats and competition across a range of issues. Despite the fact that China is understood to be

a competitor, the US still needs to engage China in order to make progress on issues where there are in fact common interests. The challenge for current and future administrations when dealing with China is finding the right mix of cooperation and confrontation. The ability to do this effectively will not be advanced by rhetoric or beliefs that the United States is in a new Cold War with China, which lends it self to a framing of the relations where cooperative relations or co-existence becomes impossible. An overly determined preoccupation has the potential to cause the US to fail to recognize that the rest of the world, at the present moment, does not look at China, or even Russia, through the same lens. Combine this with a perception in many parts of the world of American weakness, American distraction, or American decline and the United States will be confronted with countries that do not see the same threats or will limit their level of cooperation with US objectives.

Many countries are engaged in hedging strategies where they seek to balance relations with US and China or even US and Russia, because of the benefits they derive from maintaining relations with the US and these other countries. Think of the example of India's abstention votes in the United Nations on Russia. In these circumstances there is a need for the United States to avoid interpreting reluctance or resistance as fundamental opposition, thereby preserving relations and international support. This also means the United States needs to account for the interests of others and might need to recognize the real limits of US power.

Despite the return of great power politics, a range of other issues persist that defy the logic of power politics, pose real dangers to the United States and the international community, and require a movement away from a zero-sum competitive approach. Failing to recognize this means that power politics can come at the expense of addressing a range of issues, such as global economic inequality, environmental degradation, global health, vulnerabilities of global information networks, and transnational extremist groups that can pose real threats to domestic and international stability.



Professor Mitchell

*“Despite the return of great power politics, a range of other issues persist that defy the logic of power politics, pose real dangers to the United States and the international community, and require a movement away from a zero-sum competitive approach.”*

Professor Mitchell

## Great Power Competition and US Strategy in the Indo-Pacific

In the Indo-Pacific, great power politics revolves around growing US-China rivalry. The numbers 1 through 5 may help us understand what is going on in the Indo-Pacific and US Indo-Pacific strategy.

Number 1 refers to the fact the United States is only superpower in the world today, and it wants to maintain its global dominance, including in the Indo-Pacific. From the US perspective, **only one superpower** can exist. The United States will not tolerate the rise of a peer rival. And today China has been identified as the “near peer competitor.” Here lies the inherent conflict: China is trying to realize the so-called Chinese Dream – to restore its glorious past as the dominant power in Asia, and the United States is determined to push back China’s challenge to its global dominance. This intensive rivalry will shape the political economy and security of the Indo-Pacific region for a long time to come.

Number 2 refers to the **bilateral alliances** the United States has maintained in the region since WWII. This is the so-called “hub-and-spokes” model, where the United States is the “hub” with bilateral alliances as the “spokes,” forming a strong military network. The United States has five formal allies in the Indo-Pacific: Australia, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea, and Thailand. In addition, it maintains strong partnerships with several other countries such as Singapore, Indonesia, and India. Obviously, through bilateral alliances and partnerships, the United States has deepened its involvement in the Indo-Pacific in response to China’s rise.

Number 3 is the **trilateral security group called AUKUS** – a new group comprising Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States that was formed in September 2021. Australia and France had a submarine deal. When the AUKUS was announced without notice, France immediately recalled its ambassadors to Australia and the US in protest, and the French foreign minister called the AUKUS pact a “stab in the back” after Australia cancelled the deal with France worth €56 billion (A\$90 billion). The United States and the United Kingdom will provide nuclear submarines to Australia. The Chinese government responded by stating that this will seriously disrupt regional peace and stability, intensify the arms race and undermine international non-proliferation efforts. Policy-makers in Washington, Canberra and London will probably not consider this as a case of nuclear proliferation, but it will certainly complicate efforts to de-nuclearize Iran and North Korea.

Number 4 refers to the **QUAD or the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue** among the United States, Japan, Australia, and India, which is viewed as the Asian version of NATO by some observers. The idea of QUAD was

initiated by then Japanese prime minister Shinzo Abe in 2007, and formalized in 2017 during the ASEAN Summit in Manila. All four members, led by Abe, Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and US President Donald Trump, agreed to formalize this four-party dialogue in order to counter China militarily and diplomatically, particularly in the South China Sea. Soon after the Russia-Ukraine war broke out, QUAD leaders met on March 3 to discuss the impact of the crisis on the Indo-Pacific, especially on Taiwan. The United States, Australia and Japan also called on India to join them in condemning and sanctioning Russia. India has rejected so far due to its critical military and economic ties with Russia. India has been a leader in the non-aligned movement since the 1950s. It does not form a security or military alliance with any country. It arguably violated its long-standing principle by becoming a member of the anti-China security alliance QUAD. However, India and China have many common interests as fellow developing nations and it is not in India’s interest to pursue a policy of confrontation with China. Like China, India abstained from UN resolutions condemning Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

Number 5 refers to the **FIVE Eyes** intelligence alliance comprising Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Five Eyes is an Anglosphere group of English-speaking nations cooperating on intelligence collection and sharing. It can be traced back to WWII, when the United States and the United Kingdom shared intelligence. As the Cold War deepened, the intelligence sharing arrangement became formalized under the ECHELON surveillance system in the 1960s. Among the five members, New Zealand is the least active in terms of confronting China. It is trying to balance relations with fellow democracies and its commercial interests in China.

These five things – one superpower, bilateral alliances, AUKUS, QUAD, and Five Eyes -- capture main developments of great power politics in the Indo-Pacific. With the Ukraine crisis unfolding, will the basic power structure in the Indo-Pacific change? Will the United States change or dilute its Indo-Pacific strategy? Will the center of great power politics move back from Asia to Europe? The short answer to all these questions is no. The US Department of Defense issued the 2022 National Defense Strategy on March 28, in which the United States continues to identify Russia as the major challenge, despite the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

*“With the Ukraine crisis unfolding, will the basic power structure in the Indo-Pacific change? Will the United States change or dilute its Indo-Pacific strategy? Will the center of great power politics move back from Asia to Europe? The short answer to all these questions is no.”*

*Professor Zhu*

## IR Week 2022, March 28-April 1

IR week returned after a two year COVID-induced hiatus this year. IR Week 2020 was the last public event the department organized before the shutdown. Between March 28 and April 1, 2022. It was a week of activities beginning with a weeklong campuswide **Globe contest**. If you are fond of Wordle, you would like Globe: it is an online game that has participants test their skills in geography to guess the daily mystery country in as few guesses as possible. If you are now aware of it, [give it a try](#)—it's quite addictive. At the end of the week, we had three winners who were quite impressive Globe players: Sarah Downey (5.43 average guesses), Lissandro Alvarado (5.86), and Maddi Roth (6.86) were each treated to a performance of [Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE](#), a group that integrates traditional African dance with contemporary choreography and spoken word.

*IR Week returned this spring after two years in pandemic hiatus.*

*We had a campuswide Globe competition, learned about the ethics of the global refugee crisis, pondered about a return to great power politics, and heard the perspectives of four alumni and their experiences transitioning into the post-Bucknell careers.*

### Ethics and the Global Refugee Crisis



We continued IR week with a talk by [Prof. Serena Parekh](#), Professor of Philosophy and Director of Politics at Northeastern University and author of *No refuge: Ethics and the Global Refugee Crisis*. In her talk, entitled “Ethics and the Global Refugee Crisis,” Prof. Parekh noted that there are roughly 26 million

refugees and 46 million internally displaced persons in the world (increasing almost daily as a result of the war in Ukraine). Fewer than 1% of these refugees are ever resettled, fewer than 2% can return home, and roughly 85% are hosted in the developing world. These refugees suffer at least two sets of harms: the harm that is caused by human rights violations resulting from genocide, war, failed states, torture, and persecution and the harm that is caused during their efforts to flee. The options that are available to those in flight are voluntary return to their place of origin (not always possible as dangerous circumstances persist), local integration where they end up, and resettlement in a new country. She spoke about the deficient conditions in refugee camps, creating adverse circumstances for people on the run. Given that most refugees will be displaced for an average of 17 years in refugee camps, longer if they come from conflict zones, the circumstances in refugee camps are problematic. Ultimately, we live in a world that the people who need refuge are unable to find refuge and, when they do, circumstances are inadequate. Her talk drew our attention the structural injustices refugees experience, some of direct (poor and sometimes abusive reception conditions) and some indirect (when outcomes are unjust even in the absence of malicious intent). She urged us to think about our moral obligations towards people displaced by conflict, war, and climate change. Her talk reminded us of the complexity of forced displacement and the dangers of the three basic options that refugees have: refugee camps, urban settlements, or dangerous asylum journeys.

### A Return to Great Power Politics? Competitions for regional Hegemony and the Indo Pacific

The third event in IR week was a faculty panel discussing the prospects of a return to great power politics. This event, sponsored by the Bucknell Institute for Public Policy featured Professors Mitchell and Zhu from IR and Professor Wood from Political Science. The three professors helped us think though whether we are, as some are arguing, entering a new Cold War. Earlier in this newsletter, you read Professor Mitchell and Professor Zhu address the new great power politics and challenges. Professor Wood added by analyzing declining US leadership in Europe as a result of the tensions created during the Trump administration, most notably through a hostility towards NATO and the European Union, and a retreat

## IR Week 2022

from multilateralism. Despite improving relations with Europe under the Biden administration, Professor Wood observed, Europe increasingly regards the US as an unreliable partner and the war in Ukraine has drawn attention to Europe's security deficiencies in the face of waning US commitment. Reminiscent of the Cold War, relations with Russia are likely to remain both a top complication and priority in the coming years.



Photo courtesy of Professor Larrabure

### IR Alumni Panel: Four Alumni Discuss Their Post-Bucknell Paths

Our last IR week event was a delightful alumni panel during which four IR alumni spoke about their post-Bucknell paths. Organized by Bucknell's Center for career Advancement, our alumni panels were also put on hold for two years. It was great to welcome Brandon Holden '16, Stephanie Houser '16, Lilian Michel '06, and Elina Rivera '12. It bears saying again and again that we have an exceptionally loyal group of alumni who generously give of their time and talent. Our students are the fortunate beneficiaries of their wisdom. Our alumni told us of their paths after Bucknell and provided some very practical advice for looking for jobs, building valuable skills, and building and transforming their careers along the way. Repeatedly, we heard of the virtues of the skills provided by a liberal arts education: critical thinking, communication skills, language skills, and interdisciplinarity. Just like our commencement speaker this year, they told of their sometimes nonlinear paths to their current jobs and projects. Thank you Brandon, Stephanie, Lilian, and Elina for all of your insights. And many thanks to Marilyn Shull for organizing this wonderful event year after year.

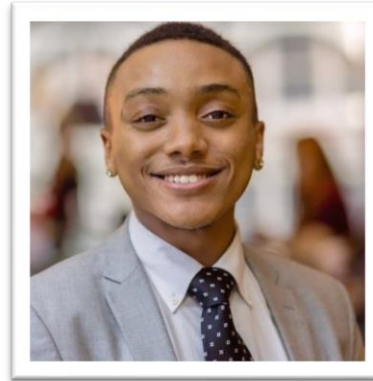


Photo courtesy of Brandon Holden '16

#### Brandon Holden '16

Tier 1 Engagement Lead, Bloomberg LP  
Major: International Relations

Brandon G. Holden works at Bloomberg LP, a global financial technology firm headquartered in New York. He's an Engagement Lead with extensive consultative sales and global partnership management experience. In his role within Tier 1 Buy-Side Solutions, he is responsible for curating technology solutions for financial institutions with assets totaling at least \$50 billion or more, across North America. The firms he works with are looking to develop and implement new operational blueprints, known as target operating models. The models look to increase scalability and address, for example, increasing demands for sustainable investments, multi-jurisdictional financial regulatory requirements, and the need to explore alternative investment solutions given the challenging economic recovery outlook "post-covid" and geopolitical events.

Previously, he managed and developed Bloomberg's developing market business in the Caribbean + Bermuda Territory, responsible for 800 enterprise partnerships across the financial services industry. In overseeing the strategic direction of a \$19 million book of business, he coordinated and executed growth strategies to strengthen business partnerships and build capacity for regional firms to differentiate themselves in the global marketplace. The work presented the unique challenge to mold Bloomberg's globalized business model to the clients in the region, which involved fierce advocacy work to ensure the regionally specific economic and financial concerns were equitably addressed during product development. In addition to his core responsibilities, Brandon is a member of Bloomberg's Black Professional Community and LGBTQ+ & Ally Community, BPROUD. His coursework at Bucknell focused on global governance, conflict resolution, human rights, and the influence of intergovernmental organizations on geopolitical events. He spent his junior year abroad

*"Protect and center your peace. To do so, you have to fiercely advocate for yourself, lead with integrity, prioritize quiet reflection, and be intentional when deciding the people to build community and relationships."*

*Brandon Holden '16*

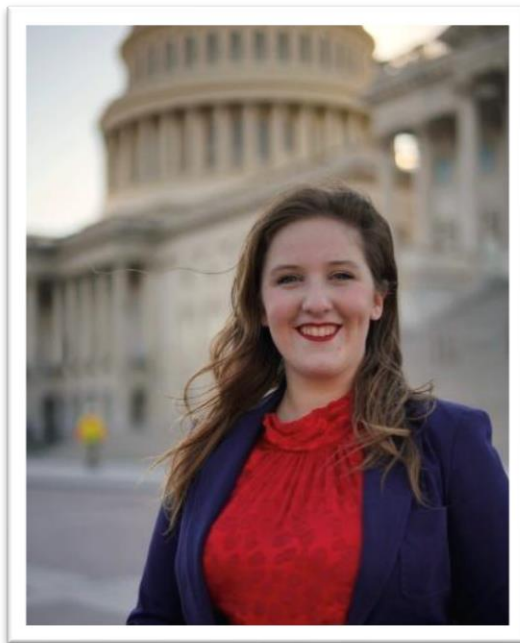
## IR Alumni Panel, Cont'd

in Copenhagen, Denmark, and Tours, France, where he completed a Justice and Human Rights Program focusing on international law with a field study in the post-war region of Kosovo and a French culture intensive, respectively. Brandon is a member of Sigma Iota Rho.

**Career Advice:** Protect and center your peace. To do so, you have to fiercely advocate for yourself, lead with integrity, prioritize quiet reflection, and be intentional when deciding the people to build community and relationships.

*“Go for every opportunity you can and don’t get discouraged. You never know what might come of one opportunity down the road.”*

*Stephanie Houser ‘16*



*Photo courtesy of Stephanie Houser '16*

### Stephanie Houser '16

Former Knauss Sea Grant Fellow at The U. S. House of Representatives

Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Iowa

*Majors: International Relations and Civil Engineering*

Stephanie just finished the year-long science policy Knauss fellowship through NOAA, where she was placed in the office of Representative Matt Cartwright in the House of Representatives. In this role Stephanie handled the environment and energy legislative portfolio for the Congressman. She is also currently a Ph.D. Candidate in Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Iowa working under an advisor in the department of Occupational and Environmental Health. She splits her work at Iowa between a child health risk study in Haitian informal settlements and a drinking water contamination study for rural Iowans using unregulated private wells.

Stephanie received her MS in Environmental Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where her research focused on computational modeling of green storm water management technologies in urban settings. During this time Stephanie also assisted on a research project looking at water and sanitation health risks in Bwaise, Uganda. Stephanie received a BS in Civil Engineering and a BA in International Relations from Bucknell in 2016. Stephanie is passionate about STEM education and mentored a middle school science and engineering program called Future City in Illinois and then again Iowa until Covid hit. She also works as a QEP Prize Ambassador with the Royal Academy of Engineering in the UK to promote and celebrate engineering globally.

**Career Advice:** Go for every opportunity you can and don't get discouraged. You never know what might come of one opportunity down the road. Reach out and talk to people because people are another gateway to opportunities. Cold emailing or messaging can be scary but a lot of people are willing to talk to you and help you because they were once in your shoes, too. And know that by putting yourself out there you will have setbacks or things that don't go your way or people that won't respond, but there is always another amazing opportunity around the corner. There is no easy linear path in finding your right career. You just have to make the most of each experience and find the ways that you can use that to get where you want to go next.



*Photo courtesy of Lillian Michel '06*

### Lillian Michel '06

Regional Policy Officer/Office of Policy and Public Outreach Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, U.S. Department

A foreign service officer with the U.S. Dept. of State,

## IR Alumni Panel, Contd.

Lillian Michel has been the Regional Policy Officer for South and Central Asia in the Office of Policy and Public Outreach, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs since September 2020. Ms. Michel previously served in the Bureau of African Bureau of African Affairs as Assistant Cultural Coordinator and as American Music Abroad Program Coordinator with the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Ms. Michel also served abroad in Kabul, Afghanistan, Shenyang, China and Bangkok, Thailand. Ms. Michel joined the U.S. Department of State as a Foreign Service Officer in 2010. Prior to joining the Department of State, Ms. Michel taught English as a Second or Foreign Language through AmeriCorps with the Northern Virginia Literacy Council in 2009 and served as a residential advisor with the International Institute of Education in Beijing from '06 to '07. Ms. Michel graduated with a B.A. from Bucknell University in International Relations and East Asian studies in 2006 and graduated with a certificate in international relations from the Hopkins-Nanjing Center for Chinese and American Studies in Nanjing, China in 2008. During her time at Bucknell Ms. Michel studied abroad with IES Beijing, CET Harbin, and SOAS London. Ms. Michel speaks Mandarin and Spanish as foreign languages, is from New York State, and is a certified yoga teacher.



### Elina Rivera '12

MSSc Candidate in Peace and Conflict Studies,  
Uppsala University

Major: International Relations, Interdepartmental -  
Economic Development and Gender Studies  
Posse Foundation Scholar

Elina is a Rotary International Peace Fellow doing a Master's in Peace and Conflict Studies at Uppsala University in Uppsala, Sweden. As part of her Master's Program, she interned at the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva, as well as at Save the Children Sweden in Stockholm.

Prior to starting her career addressing human rights issues in the framework of the triple nexus – development, humanitarian and peacebuilding – she interned at Susquehanna Valley Women and Transition in Lewisburg her summer going into her senior year at Bucknell. The experience of working at a women's shelter managing gender-based violence cases played a key role in kick-starting her career in Colombia, where she moved after graduating college. In Bogota, she first worked at *Universidad Externado de Colombia* as a Project Management Assistant in the International Studies Office. There, she was able to work on her Spanish and start her Master's in Social Reasonability and Sustainability. Elina then moved on to accepting an offer to work as a Humanitarian Focal Point for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UN Women, and later to just work for UNFPA as a Gender and Humanitarian Officer. These experiences allowed her to take a full dive into humanitarian work in Colombia, focusing on the provision of sexual reproductive health services and prevention and response to gender-based violence in emergencies. Elina then moved on to development work with the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Mission in Colombia where she worked on various topics, including: rule of law, mixed migration flows, peacebuilding, reconciliation, youth positive development, strategic partnerships, and gender-based violence. While at USAID/Colombia, she was selected as a Peace Fellow to support the congressionally mandated Reconciliation Fund in Washington D.C. After working with USAID/Colombia for four years, she was awarded the Rotary International Peace Fellowship, which is a full scholarship program to study peace and conflict at one of Rotary's Peace Centers.

**Career Advice:** Come up with your own definition of “professional success” – what does success look like for *you*? Don't let other people's career journeys dictate where you should go. Everyone has a different path and the most important thing is to figure out what fulfills *you*, and then go for it! As part of your definition of success, figure out what type of environment you want to work in and what kind of trade-offs you feel comfortable with. It's okay to change your mind along the way, but it's important to intentionally reflect on these things. Try not to get carried away by “big name” companies/organizations, they may not be the best fit for *you*, and that's okay! Practice self-care and prioritize work-life balance, it may bring you more joy than anything your work alone could provide.

*“Come up with your own definition of “professional success” – what does success look like for you? Don't let other people's career journeys dictate where you should go.”*

*Elina Rivera*  
'12

## Writing an Honors Thesis: A Rewarding Experience

Every year, a number of students in excellent academic standing across the disciplines at Bucknell embark on a challenging but rewarding experience: writing an honors thesis. This is no small undertaking and involves producing an original piece of scholarship drawn from and contributing to the scholarly conversation in one's discipline. Under the mentorship of Bucknell faculty, students identify a suitable topic and set out to research it, scouring the secondary and primary sources and conducting research. They write and refine their theses, culminating in a defense and, if they persist and are successful, complete their degrees with honors. This year, two IR majors wrote theses: **Giuliana Ferrara '22** for IR and **Julia Tokish '22** for Arabic and Arab World Studies (which is one of her two other majors). In choosing their projects carefully, they also found a way to productively incorporate their other majors into their theses in the spirit of our liberal arts tradition. Congratulations to both of them for taking on this challenge and successfully bringing it to a conclusion. We asked them to tell us a bit about their work and experiences, not just so that we can learn a bit about their research, but also so that our rising seniors can be inspired to write one as well.

### Integration for Integration

Over the course of this past academic year, I completed an honors thesis examining refugee integration policies in the European Union and three Member States. My thesis, entitled *Integration for Integration?: The Implications of Varying Refugee Integration Strategies on Future European Union Integration*, compares refugee integration strategies implemented by Sweden, Italy, Hungary, and the EU between 2014 and 2021 to determine whether the policies align with best practices as supported by scholars.



Photo courtesy of Giuliana Ferrara '21

*“My advice for anyone considering writing an honors thesis would be to absolutely take on this challenge. The process may at times be frustrating or stressful, but it is ultimately rewarding.”*

*Giuliana Ferrara '22*

My thesis also considers the likelihood of future EU integration in this policy area through both a neofunctionalist and liberal intergovernmentalist lens. Overall, my study determined that not only are there wide divergences in strategies implemented across the EU, but that there is also little chance of EU integration and Europeanization in the area of refugee integration if policies remain consistent. I decided to write an honors thesis for a number of reasons. In particular, I wanted to challenge myself academically while exploring in-depth a topic I am passionate about. Rarely is there a time in our lives when we have the ability, resources, or time to research and learn about an area in which we are interested. Taking advantage of that opportunity at Bucknell seemed like a logical step for me. I also hope to pursue a career in international or immigration law, perhaps even shaping refugee policy here in the United States. Thus, writing my thesis in this policy area provided me with the ability to start exploring my potential future career path.

The process of writing an honors thesis has given me a great deal in return. My writing skills certainly improved throughout this process. With countless drafts and a final product that was over 200 pages long, I had plenty of opportunities to sharpen my writing skills. At the same time, I was also able to improve my Italian language skills. As an Italian studies double major, I decided to utilize my Italian language skills and incorporate primary source documents, such as laws and news sources, produced in their original Italian. I translated these materials into English to make them accessible to a wider public, which was a rewarding way to marry my two majors together and to challenge myself and my language abilities.

My advice for anyone considering writing an honors thesis would be to absolutely take on this challenge. The process may at times be frustrating or stressful, but it is ultimately rewarding. At the end of the year, there is tangible evidence of all of your hard work and determination in the form of your thesis. You have the ability to contribute to the literature in a field you may hope to impact in the future. Thus, writing an honors thesis can be the beginning of that journey. Additionally, on a more practical level, I would also recommend starting early. Utilize any spare time in the summer before your senior year to start gathering material and mapping out your thesis. The April 1 deadline rolls around quicker than you may expect!

*Giuliana Ferrara '22  
IR and Italian Studies double major*



## Night of the Slaves: A Translation of Social Movements

I didn't originally plan on pursuing three majors at Bucknell, but after a change of plans (brought about by a certain global pandemic) I am now graduating with a triple major in International Relations, Arabic & Arab World Studies, and Theatre. I decided to pursue an honors thesis in Arabic & Arab World Studies by the end of my sophomore year. By my junior year, I knew I wanted to complete a project that combined all three of my majors, but I had no clue how to do it. It took weeks of brainstorming and asking professors for advice until I came across the only project that would work – translating a play.



Photo courtesy of Professor Uçarer

With my project decided, I went on a Googling spree, searching for a play that I would be able to translate from Arabic into English. My choices were limited. Well-known Arabic-speaking playwrights such as Saadallah Wanous have already had many of their plays translated into English. I was able to identify

other, less well-known playwrights, but couldn't find a way to access their scripts. It was only by a stroke of luck that I stumbled upon *Night of the Slaves* by Syrian playwright Mamdouh Adwan and leaped right into my honors thesis project.

I couldn't have asked for a more fascinating play to translate. A story of oppression told through the lens of early Islamic history, the play had faced censorship and violent opposition from the Syrian Ba'ath Party when it was first performed in 1977. The play is critical, revolutionary, and unabashedly leftist. As I read through the play, I quickly began making parallels between its depiction of oppression in 7<sup>th</sup> century Mecca and the state of oppression in the modern United States. Adwan's version of Mecca faces immense economic and social inequality, with a deeply divided class system composed of "slaves" and "masters." The United States faces very similar social and economic circumstances, with its own dominant forces attempting to maintain their wealth and power in revolutionary times. Intrigued by these connections, I delved into this comparative analysis throughout my thesis, in addition to translating the play itself.

This thesis project was difficult and time-consuming, but well worth it in the end. I can't put into words the feelings of excitement and pride that came after my thesis defense and again when I finally clicked "Submit." I have now not only gained the ability to work independently on a long-term project, but the 145-page document to prove it. For anyone interested in pursuing an honors thesis, my advice is to just go for it. Even if it's untraditional. Even if it sounds impossible. Mine did, and I couldn't be more grateful for the experience that I've had while completing it.

*Julia Tokish '21*  
IR, Arabic and Arab World Studies, and Theater triple major

*I can't put into words the feelings of excitement and pride that came after my thesis defense and again when I finally clicked "Submit."*

*Julia Tokish '22*

## Three IR Students inducted into Phi Beta Kappa

Founded in 1776, Phi Beta Kappa is the oldest academic society in the United States. It is a prestigious national honors society that celebrates excellence in the liberal arts and sciences and inducts outstanding students in arts and sciences at only select US colleges and universities.

Three students in IR Class of 2022 have been inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. **Sherab Dorji '22** and **Julia Tokish '22** were inducted in April and **Giuliana Ferrara '22** was inducted last year as a junior and served as an officer of the Bucknell Phi Beta Kappa chapter this year. Congratulations to all three for this recognition!



Photo courtesy of Professor Uçarer

*Three IR students were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa: Sherab Dorji '22, Giuliana Ferrara '22 (inducted last year as a junior) and Julia Tokish '22.*

## IR Welcomes 39 Students in the Class of 2024

A robust group of 39 students declared the major in Spring 2022.

This is a vibrant class of students: They will be focusing on Africa (1), Asia (5), Europe (25), Latin America (3), Middle East (6), Culture and Identity (2), Foreign Policy and Diplomacy (13), Global Governance and Conflict Resolution (14), and Development and Sustainability (10). They will be learning Arabic (5), Chinese (2), Japanese (1), French (67), German (2), Italian (6), Spanish (9), and Hebrew (1). Several of our new majors are pursuing double majors and minors and many of them plan to study abroad now that we are slowly coming back to a more normal study abroad experience. We are pleased to introduce IR Class of 2024:

Michaiah Augustine, Cameron Baravalle, Simone Billera, Brett Callahan, Claire Chao, Joyce Chen, Jack D'Ambrosio, Nicole Davis, Olivia Dey, Catie Eckna, Lucy Groover, Selim Guadagni, Harry Guo, AP Howell, Lydia Hybels, Colleen Kelly, Aidan Lankler, Mac MacLean, Patrick Mannion, Christine Markay, Viviane McMullen, Claire Meany, Lilly O'Connor, Avery O'Day, Jeff Odongo, Peter Patouhas, Izzy Patry, Logan Sanom, Ashley Santoro, William Scott, Ben Sinins, Connor Smith, Zoie Smith, Richie Striano, Annabelle Veith, Grant Voytovich, Connor Wackerman, Charlotte Woods, and Lening Zhou.

They are already hard at work in their IR classes and we can't wait to work with them in the coming semesters. Welcome to the major everybody!

*39 students in the Class of 2024 declared IR as their majors in Spring 2022. Welcome to the major everyone!*

## IR Successes in Earning Fulbrights

It's no secret that Bucknell students and faculty do very well in applying for and being awarded Fulbrights. A highly competitive US cultural exchange program founded in 1946, the Fulbright Program offers a variety of opportunities to improve and enhance intercultural competence and cultural diplomacy. This year, two in our IR community were awarded Fulbrights. This is quite an accomplishment and follows the Fulbright of **Marie Catanese '20**. While Marie's plans had to be adjusted because of the pandemic, she was able to delay and complete her Fulbright in Cambodia.

Just a few weeks ago, **Giuliana Ferrara '22** was awarded a Fulbright to serve as an English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Belgium in the AY 22-23. She will be spending the year in Ghent and is already well into planning her stay. Giuliana is a double major in international relations and Italian studies. She also completed a minor in economics. Under Lisa Perrone's ([Italian Studies Program](#)) supervision as a Presidential Fellow, she has published an article on creating a sense of community in an on-line language class, presented before the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, and has been at the helm of creating the Language Council on campus. She is also a member of the Humanities Council and was admitted to Phi Beta Kappa as a junior. She applied to serve in Belgium, home of important international government relations and highly regarded national refugee integration policies, to better prepare herself for a career dedicated to improving international refugee resettlement policies. Belgium, like much of western Europe, is quite competitive. Just 8% of Fulbright ETA applicants to Belgium won awards in the last cycle of applications.

**Professor Zhu** was also awarded a Fulbright. Bucknell topped the list for scholar awards as one of only four baccalaureate institutions receiving three awards last year. Like Marie, his departure was also delayed because of the pandemic, but he is now on his way to Queensland later this spring to study Australia's relationship with the United States, its primary security partner, in the context of China's rise as a global power, specifically with regard to trade. The Australia program was not my choice. He was planning to apply for a program about US-China competition which would include multiple destinations for research (the PRC, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and some US allies in the region). Then President Trump suddenly cancelled all Fulbright programs in Hong Kong and China (Taiwan is still open but with few programs), apparently to punish China.

"I had to look for other suitable programs in Asia," says Professor Zhu, "and I found this special program in Australia, celebrating the 75th anniversary of the US-Australian alliance. The topic sounded good to me and I thought I could study the challenges in the alliance in the context of China's rise. So I reworked my proposal and submitted it. Lucky me, I became one of the only two recipients of this special award. (And if I was able to apply for the China program, who knows whether I would get it or not)."

He will be based at Griffith University in Brisbane, which has some very dynamic research programs on Australia-US relations and Asia-Pacific studies. The MacArthur Museum is also located in Brisbane (yes, General MacArthur who initiated the US-Australian alliance). He will be speaking at a conference at the MacArthur Museum in July and plans to conduct interviews in Sydney, Canberra and elsewhere in addition to my work in Brisbane. Congratulations to all three for being our ambassadors overseas.

*Bucknell is a top producer of US Fulbright scholars. Over the last three years, three members of the Bucknell IR community were rewarded Fulbrights: Marie Catanese '20 (Malaysia), Giuliana Ferrara '22 (Belgium) and Professor Zhiqun Zhu (Australia).*

## Presenting International Relations Class of 2022

It was a most unusual graduation weekend this year in Lewisburg. We had two graduation ceremonies, one for the Class of 2020 on Saturday and another for the Class of 2022. Daisy Auger-Dominguez '95, an IR alumna, delivered the commencement remarks and reminded us that we each forge our own paths, however nonlinear they might be, and ought to be seen and supported in the process. "everything under the sun," she told us "it's been said and done before. But your slat into the world is singular, and magical." We thank her for sharing her path and slant with us and are confident that our recent graduates will also forge their own. Click below for some highlights from graduation.



And, now, we get to introduce you to IR Class of 2022. **Congratulations everyone!** In the words of Semisonic, "It's closing time.. It's time for you to go out to the places you will be from." It's been a privilege getting to know you and working with you as you made your way through the major. Please stay in touch!



### Class of 2022: IR Majors

Nico Athanassiadis  
Dirk Chisholm  
Nick Daetwiler  
Sherab Dorji  
Lielt Endeshaw  
Nicole Everett  
Giuliana Ferrara  
Claire Gilman

Will Graff  
Madison Hatcher  
Sun Woo Jeon  
Lucie Kubinski  
Brenden Lundy  
Dominic Lyles  
Jeffrey Perkins  
Meg Pomeroy  
Becca Rahimi  
Torie Tezik  
Julia Tokish  
Drew Wellington

### Class of 2022: IR Minors

James Connors  
Yubo Du  
Grace McEvoy  
Noah Lovett  
Matilda Melkonian  
Tallulah Samberg  
Maya Brown  
Jack Ticknor

## IR Faculty News

**Professor Uçarer** attended a conference entitled "What Is happening to the Liberal International Order" at the University of South Carolina in April 2022. She published a chapter entitled "Area of Freedom, Security, and Justice" in *European Union Politics* (Oxford University Press). She was thrilled to work with Giuliana Ferrara '22 on her honors thesis.

**Professor Zhu** will be on sabbatical leave during the Fall 2022 semester. He will be spending his sabbatical on a Fulbright in Brisbane, Australia.

## Alumni News

**Nick McIlwain '01.** I've been working as a radio producer for the past 18 years on the Preston & Steve Show at 93.3 WMMR in Philadelphia. I started attending Bucknell as an International Relations major in 1993, but unfortunately my academic career did not get off to a very strong start. Despite that, I still value my time at Bucknell to this day. It's quite interesting to look back on my time at Bucknell from the perspective of a 46-year-old man, knowing now how debilitating depression can be. I often think about how I might have been able to do things differently. Regardless, and despite my struggles with depression, I was able to return to Bucknell after a hiatus, and in January 2001, I graduated as an IR major, with a double minor in French and Geography. After graduating, I returned to the radio station where I currently work. WMMR is the longest running rock station in the country,

*Congrats grads!*



*IR Faculty teach a wide array of courses and engage in interesting research—this summary will give you a sense of what we are currently working on.*

*Please also consider contributing to the Alumni News Section of your newsletter by sending us your [updates](#).*



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Visit the [IR Department](#).

*Interested in [supporting](#) the mission of the International Relations Department?*

*We'd love to hear from [you](#). Send your updates and/or your short submissions on projects or perspectives*

*The **IR Matters!** newsletter highlights events and people in the Bucknell IR community. The publication appears once a semester and welcomes feedback and submissions from students, alumni, and faculty.*

broadcasting since April 29, 1968. The program on which I work, the Preston & Steve Show, was recently inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame - quite an honor! I've been a producer on this show since 2004. We are a pop-culture program, and so we deal with, and consequently talk about, a little bit of everything. In addition to my duties as a producer, I am also on the air and contribute when I think I have something valuable to add. Believe it or not, my Bucknell education comes in to play quite a bit, and I hope that I'm representing the university in a positive light!

We never know the path we're going to take, but I truly believe that the person I am today, in no small part, was formed because of my time and experience and education at Bucknell. As an IR major, I learned a lot about the world and my intellectual curiosity was sparked. My Bucknell education also taught me how much I *didn't* know and that the act of learning, in and of itself, is a lifelong process. And for that, I will always be grateful!

## Of Note: Campus News and Events



### [Back-to-back Commencements Honor Bucknell University's Class of 2020 and Class of 2022](#)

During a [Commencement](#) weekend like no other, Bucknell University celebrated two classes of graduates in sun-soaked ceremonies on Malesardi Quadrangle.

[Bucknell University Named Top Producer of Fulbright U.S. Scholars](#) The Bucknell experience isn't limited to Lewisburg. Professors and students regularly travel abroad to pursue their curiosity, dig deeper into research, teach others and make an impact on the world. Professor Zhu, [political science](#) and [international relations](#), is travelling to



Queensland to study Australia's relationship with the United States — its primary security partner — in the context of China's rise as a global power, specifically with regard to trade.



### [Bucknell Librarian Aids Ukrainian Digital Preservation](#)

As the Russian assault on Ukraine rages on, Bucknell University social sciences librarian Carrie Pirmann has joined an international effort of some 1,300 archivists who are racing to back up Ukraine's digital archives through the Saving Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Online ([SUCHO](#)) project.



### [Bucknell Professor Teams with Ukrainian Colleague to Study Ukraine's Civic Response to War](#)

At the start of February, Bucknell [Freeman College of Management](#) Professor [Eric Martin](#) had been collaborating with Kateryna Zarembo, a lecturer at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in Ukraine, on why Ukraine ranked so low in traditional measures of civil society. But on Feb. 23, their focus changed with the Russian invasion.