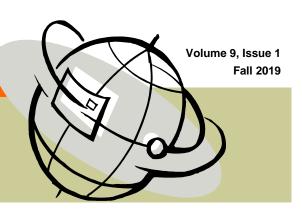
#### Newsletter of the Bucknell University International Relations Department

# IR Matters!





#### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Greetings from the International Relations Department		١
Professor Zhu	1-2	1
IR Welcomes a New Faculty Member: Professor Manue Larrabure	el 2	i I I
Jenna Kline: A Most Improved Student Professor Larrabure	d 2	
From the Field: Kerong Kelly on Her Experiences as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Rwanda		( ) 
Interning at the Department o Justice: Emma King '20	f 4-5	(
Hong Kong Protests: A Q&A Professor Zhu	with 5-7	1
IR Faculty News	7-8	1
Alumni News	8	á
Of Note: Campus News and Events	8	

Greetings, IR majors, alumni, colleagues, and friends!

It has been a while since we sent out our last issue of *IR Matters!* I hope everyone has been doing well. Thank you for your continued interest in and support for the International Relations Department.

A lot of things have happened over the past couple of years. Please allow me to highlight a few.

We are glad that Dr. Manuel Larrabure has joined the Department as our new assistant professor of international relations this year. Prof. Larrabure received his PhD in political science from York University in Canada. Before joining us, he was a postdoctoral fellow at the UC Santa Cruz's Department of Latin American and Latino Studies. He brings to our program a muchappreciated expertise in international political economy and Latin American development.

In the 2017-18 academic year, the Department underwent a once-in-a-decade external review. Colleagues from Lafayette, Middlebury and Franklin and Marshall colleges served as external reviewers and visited the campus in February 2018. They conducted a thorough review of our program by reading our self-statement, talking to students and administrators, and meeting with IR and affiliated faculty. They carefully prepared a review report, in which they praised the Department as "highly professional, sincere in its purpose, and steady on its feet." The reviewers note that IREL at Bucknell is "a well-regarded Department that offers a balanced and demanding major" and that the IR faculty's areas of expertise "complement and reinforce one another." In addition, the reviewers made a few recommendations for improving our program, such as adding a course on research methods, developing a new course on global political economy, and encouraging more IR students to study abroad. We appreciate the candid review and will seek ways to incorporate some of their suggestions into our future curriculum.

Speaking of study abroad, IR major Mikaela

Thomas '20 received a prestigious David L. Boren scholarship and spent her junior year in Morocco, polishing her Arabic and taking courses on politics and culture of the Middle East. She was the first Bucknell student to win a Boren award, sponsored by the National Security Education Program.

Every year, many of our students do summer internships which give them the opportunity for hands on learning in a variety of settings ranging from local, state, and federal government to corporations and nonprofits. In the following pages, you can read about IR senior Emma King's experiences at the Department of Justice this past summer. We encourage our students to seek out such opportunities. Alumni: if you are able to offer internship opportunities and would like to see Buknellians apply, please let us know and we will be delighted to spread the word.

In this issue, you will read a short piece by Kerong Kelly '16, who is currently working as a Peace Corps volunteer in Rwanda, focusing on preventing chronic malnutrition in pregnant women and children under 2. Alumni, please keep in touch and share with us your stories. We plan to hold an "IR Week" each year, during which IR alumni are invited to return to campus and meet with current students.

I wish to thank Professor Emek Uçarer, who just returned from her year-long sabbatical leave, for putting this newsletter together. I hope you will enjoy reading it as much as I do.

Before I sign off, I'd like to remind all of the alums that we very much would like to hear from you. If you have anything you would like to contribute for the newsletter or feedback for the department, please do not hesitate to contact us.

My colleagues at the IREL Department join me in wishing you and your loved ones happy holidays and a prosperous 2020!

Zhiqun Zhu

Chair, Department of International Relations

In August 2019, IR had the privilege of welcoming Professor Manuel Larrabure to the IR team. He is a Latin American political economist. His current research focuses on the crisis of the "pink tide."

"Caminar al paso del más lento", to walk at the pace of the slowest in line, a phrase popularized by social movements in Latin America in recent decades, speaks to the need for teachers to meet students where they are. After all, learning is not reaching some absolute end, but the difference between the end and the beginning.

Manuel Larrabure, Assistant Professor of International Relations

### **IR** Welcomes a New Faculty Member



Photo courtesy of Manuel Larrabure

In August 2019, IR had the privilege of welcoming Professor Manuel Larrabure to the IR team. He is a Latin American political economist. His current research focuses on the crisis of the "pink tide", the unprecedented wave of left and center-left governments that came to dominate regional politics during the first decade and a half of the 21st-century. His work has been published leading journals, including New Political in Economy, Latin American Perspectives, and Studies in Political Economy. His most recent work on the contradictions of center-left governance in Chile and Brazil will appear in 2020 in the European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies and the Oxford Encyclopedia Latin American Politics. Professor Larrabure is currently undertaking a new research project based on Ernest Mandel's theory of "long waves of accumulation", which attempts to understand the impact that next generation technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence and biotechnology, is having on Latin America. In his spare time you might see him on his bicycle, browsing dusty boxes of old vinyl records, or cheering for FC Barcelona.

### Jenna Kline: A Most Improved Student

structure my course Globalization (IREL 350) around Ernest Mandel's notoriously difficult theory of 'long waves of accumulation', 50-year cycles in the development of global capitalism. After a few weeks, I thought I might be in trouble! Many students were struggling. I had to take a different approach. "Caminar al paso del más lento", to walk at the pace of the slowest in line, a phrase popularized by social movements in Latin America in recent decades, speaks to the need for teachers to meet students where they are. After all, learning is not reaching some absolute end, but the difference between the end and the beginning. From this perspective, nothing is more rewarding than a student that makes a leap. Jenna Kline, a senior International Relations major, had a difficult first few weeks: "At first, my goals for the course were too vague and unclear to allow me to succeed", Jenna reflects. Surely it didn't help that the class readings I assigned included obscure concepts such as "organic composition of capital"! We both had to take a step back. More building blocks were needed, as well as a little patience. In her words: "Once I took a step back to consider how I wanted to learn and understand these concepts and how I wanted to apply myself to the class, there was a visible change. I tried to take a step back and take the information piece by piece. By working

I knew I was being ambitious when I decided to structure my course Globalization (IREL 350) around Ernest Mandel's notoriously difficult theory of 'long waves of accumulation', 50-year cycles in the development of global capitalism. After a few weeks, I thought I might be in trouble! Many students were struggling. I had to take a different approach. "Caminar al paso del más lento", to walk at the pace of the slowest in line, a phrase

Jenna Kline, a most improved student. Brava!!

Professor Larrabure



Professor Larrabure's Globalization class, Fall 2019. Photo courtesy of Professor Larrabure.

# From the Field: Kerong Kelly '16 on Her Experiences as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Rwanda



All photos courtesy of Kerong Kelly. These photos below were taken at a "village kitchen," a monthly gathering where community health workers and villagers meet to make a balanced meal.

When I first received my Peace Corps assignment in Rwanda I was aghast, unsure of what to think. To be honest, other than what I had read and studied about the Genocide Against the Tutsis in 1994 and prior, I realized I actually knew very little about Rwanda and about the culture. I live in a village in northern Rwanda and I am a maternal and child health volunteer at a rural health center. We have no running water in the clinic and the bare minimum of electricity, yet we manage to take care of around 200-300 patients a day, in a catchment area of 15,000.

I am not a health care professional. I don't treat patients, I don't administer medication. Rwanda has put forth an interest in the First 1,000 Days as a priority for reducing rates of malnutrition, childhood disease, and stunting in children under the age of 5.

You often times see advertisements on TV about starving children in "Africa." While I do see extreme cases of malnutrition and high rates of poverty, the biggest issue in nutrition we face at the health center

and nationwide across Rwanda is stunting. Stunting is the height compared to age function that signifies that a child isn't receiving proper nutrition from and/or prior to birth and therefore is short for their age. But shortness isn't the only effect of stunting. Those who are stunted often have slower brain growth and decreased amounts of active brain matter.

From a public health perspective this isn't the most pressing issue but it is an issue that isn't understood in rural communities and its link to nutrition itself. That's where I come in. I'm a maternal and child health volunteer but my primary job is behavior change. Malnutrition happens for a number of cardinal reasons, all of which are intertwined. Chronic diarrhea, bad hygiene practices, lack of access to clean water, and a lack of food security all tie into what has become a difficult yet impactful issue to solve.



My hope is that my site in Northern Rwanda one day will not have to be replaced with another volunteer, that the nurses, community health workers, and people I live with, will have the capacity to effect change entirely for Rwandans by Rwandans, but for now, this simply isn't the case. At the moment, people like myself, volunteers, provide support for the existing Rwandan infrastructures. The projects I work on, like cooking demonstrations, health and hygiene education, and antenatal care visits are all in accordance with the Rwandan Ministry of Health.

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Kerong Kelly '16

Rwanda itself is home to hundreds of NGOs and IGOs, working on issues ranging from Malaria to Education. But understanding the intent of organizations in a developing country is often overlooked. At the end of the day, these organizations are working to help increase the capacity building of host country nationals so that they can increase the efficacy and condition of the sectors in which they work.

Capacity building is a lens of international development that I hadn't taken into account as heavily as I should have, prior to coming to Rwanda. In the simplest of terms, capacity building is training host country nationals to support their populations with the given infrastructure that already exists. Capacity building isn't reinventing the wheel. It's working to improve what already exists.

I recently watched a documentary about the work that Bill and Melinda Gates are doing globally, about sanitation, renewable energy, and maternal and child health. In this documentary, journalist Nicholas Kristof says "things that happen everyday aren't news." He's right. Things that happen, that go undetected especially by international news, don't make headlines. This is the tough reality of being a Peace Corps volunteer and/or working in development. The changes that I see, if any, are on a small scale, but that absolutely doesn't mean they're not important. For example, on a small scale, one child improving their height to age ratio, may seem like a small feat, but for those in their community, it is a moment of learning, of breaking the cycle of malnutrition, as their parents now teach others the steps they took to improve their child's nutrition.

I came to Rwanda as a maternal and child health volunteer aware of what development meant in terms of GDP, of malnutrition rates, of trends in international relations. But being on the ground, working at a rural health center has provided me with a more holistic way of viewing development, taking into account that behavior change takes time. The likelihood of seeing real systematic change is unlikely in the two years that I am serving, but this is also the reality of change itself.



Kerong Kelly '16

# Interning at the Department of Justice: Emma King '20

This past summer, I worked with the US Department of Justice in the Criminal Division, Office of International Affairs. I worked alongside International Affairs Specialists and Federal Attorneys in Washington, D.C. I assisted the attorneys and IASs in assembling extradition and international mutual legal assistance requests, drafting letters to foreign authorities concerning international fugitive and prosecution matters, and conducted research on an assortment of matters, among other responsibilities. The DOJ has a fantastic and fully comprehensive summer internship program in which many "Brown Bag" lecture sessions discussing the various sections of the DOJ are offered, allowing for my fellow interns and I to learn about the Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section, the Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Section, the Money Laundering and Asset Recovery Section, the Capital Crimes Section, and the Computer Crimes and Intellectual Property Section of the Department of Justice.



Photo courtesy of Emma King. This picture was taken inside of the Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice Building (Main Justice Building) in Washington, D.C.

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### Emma King, Cont'd

The program offers internal tours for interns, and I was of the division and its successes. My fellow interns able to attend tours at such locations as the Supreme Court of the United States, the J. Edgar Hoover FBI Headquarters, and the Robert Kennedy Justice Building, to name a few. I was invited to sit in on consultations with foreign ministry teams on extradition and mutual legal assistance matters and was also privileged to benefit from one-on-one time with federal prosecutors, including those who have prosecuted criminals such as "El Chapo" and a multitude of Nazi War Criminals. I was also given opportunities to learn more about the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice itself during the 100th anniversary gala of the Criminal Division. At this event, my fellow interns and I were privileged to listen to Assistant Attorney General, Brian Benczkowski, as he addressed the hundreds of employees of the Criminal Division, detailing the history

and I also benefited from an intern-only meeting with AAG Benczkowski, where he answered our questions, told stories, and offered advice on careers in law and law enforcement in his private conference room. It was the experience of a lifetime and I have my Bucknell International Relations and foreign language education to thank for this opportunity. Between my Bucknell education and my study abroad experience with the Bucknell en France program, I was a top candidate for the internship and was privileged with working with top attorneys and international affairs specialists in the European and Eurasian division of the Office of International Affairs.

Emma King '20

Bucknell's <u>Center</u> for Career <u>Advancement</u> provides a wealth of resources for finding internships as well as guidance for building careers beyond Bucknell.

## Hong Kong Protests: A Q&A with Professor Zhu

#### Why are people in Hong Kong protesting?

The protests started when the Hong Kong government proposed an extradition bill after a Hong Kong man murdered his pregnant girlfriend in Taiwan and then fled back to Hong Kong. There is no extradition agreement between Hong Kong and Taiwan. The Hong Kong government proposed the bill to close this legal loophole. The bill unexpectedly triggered widespread opposition among Hong Kong people, who fear that it may allow the mainland authorities to arbitrarily detain Hong Kong residents. Ostensibly, the protests were aimed at Chief Executive Carrie Lam, but the real target has been the Chinese government. Many people in Hong Kong worry that Beijing is gradually departing from the "one country, two systems" policy and Hong Kong is losing its autonomy.

In response to the protests, Lam initially shelved the bill and eventually withdrew it. The protesters were not satisfied, insisting that the Hong Kong government must meet all "five demands"-full withdrawal of the extradition bill, an independent inquiry into alleged police brutality, retracting the classification of protesters as "rioters," amnesty of all arrested protestors, and universal suffrage for the Chief Executive and the Legislative Council.

President Donald Trump signed two bills into law regarding the situation in Hong Kong. Why did Trump sign them and what are China's reactions?

The Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act will, among other mandates, allow the United States to suspend Hong Kong's special trading status based on an annual certification by the State Department, and the Protect Hong Kong Act will prohibit the sale of US-made munitions such as tear gas and rubber bullets to the city's police.

The bills passed both houses of Congress nearly unanimously. Trump could have vetoed them, which would easily be overturned by Congress. He could have decided not to sign them to avoid offending the Chinese, but he would face harsh criticism from Congress, and without his signatures the two bills would become law automatically 10 days after they were presented to him. Despite his "friendship" with Chinese President Xi Jinping, it is domestic considerations that compelled Trump to work with Congress and sign these legislations.

As expected, the China immediately blasted the new laws as a "stark hegemonic practice and a severe interference in China's internal affairs." Beijing also accused the United States of sending the wrong message since neither Trump nor Congress condemned the violent acts committed by some radical protestors in Hong Kong.

On December 2, 2019, China suspended US warships' visits to Hong Kong. It also announced sanctions of five American NGOs that were allegedly supporting Hong Kong protestors: The

"The protests started when the Hong Kong government proposed an extradition bill after a Hong Kong man murdered his pregnant girlfriend in Taiwan and then fled back to Hong Kong."

Professor Zhu

National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, the International Republican Institute, Human Rights Watch, and Freedom House. Such responses do not really hurt the US government or Congress at all; they are more likely designed to pacify growing nationalism inside China.

# How will the Hong Kong situation affect trade negotiations between Washington and Beijing?

It will complicate the trade negotiations despite a preliminary agreement reached by the two sides on December 13 to reduce existing tariffs and not to impose new ones. Both sides have given confusing signals about the trade talks. Sometimes they claim they are very close to reaching a deal, and sometimes they say it may take a while. For example, at one point, US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said "we are about 90% of the way" on a deal with China, then on December 3 while attending a NATO summit in London, President Trump said the deal might not be signed until after the November 2020 presidential election.

Beijing's objective is to have the US lift all tariffs on Chinese goods and Beijing insists that any trade agreement must be fair and mutually beneficial. China apparently is not in a hurry to strike a comprehensive deal with Trump since it is not sure whether Trump will be re-elected. The general feeling in Beijing is that Trump flip-flops frequently and is not trustworthy. Trump's signing of the two Hong Kong-related bills will serve as another disincentive for Beijing to complete trade negotiations with the US anytime soon.

# What's the impact of Hong Kong protests on Taiwan?

Simply put, Hong Kong's protests are a huge boon to the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) in Taiwan, which favors Taiwan's *de jure* independence from China.

Taiwan will have a presidential election in January 2020. Tsai Ing-wen, the incumbent from the DPP, is seeking reelection. She has had lackluster performance since taking office in 2016, and in early 2019 before the Hong Kong protests started, her approval rating was so low (15%) that many wondered whether she had a chance to be nominated by her party. The Hong Kong protests evidently injected new life into her campaign and Tsai has projected herself as the only candidate who can defend Taiwan's democracy and freedom.

Just weeks before the 2020 election, most polls suggest that Tsai is leading her opponent, KMT's

Han Kuo-yu, by a big margin. Han was elected mayor of Kaohsiung, a stronghold of the DPP, at local elections in November 2018, creating a "Han wave" across Taiwan. It was clear then that voters were unhappy with the DPP. Now it seems Han will need some miracle to unseat Tsai.

Most Taiwanese look at the Hong Kong turmoil as evidence that the "one country, two systems" policy has failed. This is a big blow to Beijing's efforts to win hearts and minds of the Taiwan people. In other words, as a result of the Hong Kong protests, Taiwan has moved further away from China and China's ambition to reunify with Taiwan has become more remote.



If the United States deprives Hong Kong of the special trade status, US businesses will lose from it, analysts warn. What is your view?

Indeed, it will be Hong Kong's businesses and people as well as foreign businesses in Hong Kong, including US businesses, that will suffer if such a special trade status is revoked by the US government. From an economic perspective, the US threat to deprive Hong Kong of the special trade status does not make much sense.

Though Hong Kong remains a major financial center for China, its importance has declined over the years. In 1997 when Hong Kong was reverted to China, its GDP was about 18% of China's total. Today, it's only about 2.7%, and the neighboring Shenzhen has a larger GDP. Hong Kong is also facing stiff competition from regional financial centers such as Singapore and Shanghai. It is hard to understand how removing Hong Kong's special trade status would help Hong Kong's democracy while punishing

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Professor Zhu

China.

# What is the future of "one country, two systems"?

The "one country, two systems" policy was originally proposed by Deng Xiaoping in the 1980s as a way to attract Taiwan to be reunified with China. It has been practiced in Hong Kong since 1997. Both Hong Kong and Taiwan are former colonies and have developed distinct political cultures from the Chinese mainland. "One country, two systems" was an innovative way to incorporate Hong Kong into the Chinese sovereignty while maintaining the city's unique system and culture.

By all indications, the "one country, two systems" policy is likely to remain in place in Hong Kong. One can argue that the problem is not with the policy itself but with implementation. The fact that Hong Kong's local council elections were held smoothly in November 2019 in the midst of protests without interference from Beijing is a good omen. It is indeed in China's interest to maintain the "one country, two systems" policy so as to keep Hong Kong's unique status, to enhance China's international image, and more importantly, to create an attractive model for Taiwan. "One country, two systems" is very unpopular in Taiwan now, so from Beijing's perspective, it is crucial to ensure the policy's successful implementation in Hong Kong. However, there are also hawks in China who assert that if people in Hong Kong or Taiwan do not like "one country, two systems," then let's have "one country, one system" under the PRC leadership. Fortunately, this is not the mainstream thinking in Beijing.

## **IR** Faculty News

This fall **Professor Fourshey** presented research at the National Women's Studies Association Conference in San Francisco, CA. The panel Vexed Spaces: Feminist Engagements with the Politics of the State in Jamaica, Tanzania and the US examined both national and international policies that infringe upon individual rights. Fourshey's paper entitled "Girl versus the state: African Girlhood in Tanzania as/if Victim, Savior, Human" surveyed shifting policies in Tanzania that are reshaping access to education. The Tanzanian government has experienced a century of shifting influences from patriarchal models coming from Germany 1900-

1919, Britain 1917-1961, and then the US, China, and India 1961-Present. In 2017 Tanzanian President banned young women who became pregnant from school. Dubbed a "pregnant schoolgirl ban," the regressive policy was widely reported in newspapers to have "angered Tanzanian women". A year later, the Economist noted "getting impregnated also means getting expelled from school". The World Bank responded in November 2018 by pulling a "\$300m Tanzania loan over pregnant schoolgirl ban". As targets of international development projects resulting in global corporate partnerships with African states, girls have become controlled objects. This paper asked what it means to portray girls as the world's 'most vulnerable' population and the saviors of humanity, rather than as/if agents of their own aspirations. Examining newspapers, education data, and personal accounts this paper examined Tanzanian girls' experiences caught betwixt the state and international organizations.

**Professor Mitchell** has an article forthcoming in the journal *Geopolitics* that evaluates China's Belt and Road Initiative on regional alignment and development. The article, "Making or Breaking Regions: China's Belt Road Initiative and the Meaning for Regional Dynamics", draws on the concept of 'regionness' developed by Hettne and Söderbaum and evaluates how China's grand infrastructure project affects the institutions, transnational linkages, and the development of a shared regional identity in South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Indian Ocean.

Professor Uçarer returned from a year-long sabbatical. She spent the year in Berlin, Germany. And what a time it was to be living in Europe! She started a new project on the rise of populism and the consequences of that for domestic and regional politics. She presented research . She published a chapter entitled "Area of Freedom, Security, and Justice," in European Union Politics, edited by Michelle Cini and Nieves Perez-Solorzano Barragán, Oxford: Oxford University Press. She presented a paper entitled "Wir schaffen das...? The Reshaping of Solidarity in Times of Populism," paper presented at the research workshop entitled "The Future of the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice in Times Populism and Political and Political of Uncertainty," Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences in Bamberg, Germany. In May 2019, she presented a paper entitled "Anywhere but Here: The Politics of Containment and Externalization in the Aftermath of the Refugee

The 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.



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We're on the Web! Visit the IR Department.

> Interested in supporting the mission of the International Relations Department?

We'd love to hear from you. <u>Send us</u> 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.

## **IR** Faculty News

'Crisis'" at the biennial conference of the European Union Studies Association in Denver, Colorado. With two European colleagues, she is currently working on a book-length manuscript on the Area of Freedom, Security, and Justice of the European Union.

In Summer 2019, Professor Zhu conducted research about Chinese investment abroad at the National University of Singapore as a visiting senior fellow. While there, his latest book, A Critical Decade: China's Foreign Policy 2008-2018, was officially launched by the Singapore-based World Scientific Publishing. Professor Zhu gave a talk on China-Israel relations at the School of Advanced International Studies at the Johns Hopkins University on October 17, 2019. Bucknell University joined the National Committee on US-China Relations and served as a local host for this year's national CHINA Town Hall on November 18, 2019. Prof. Zhu moderated a lively local discussion after the national program, covering topics from the Chinese economy to democratization in China.

# Of Note: Campus News and Events

A Bright Idea: Bucknell Student, Professor Make Homework Safer for Refugee Students. When Shehryar Asif '21 and Professor Amal Kabalan learned that refugee students in Lebanon weren't able to safely complete their schoolwork after dark, they delivered a simple but innovative solution.



Bucknell Student's Journey to Great Barrier Reef Yields Climate Breakthrough. Kyle Fouke '20, a geology major from Urbana, III., joined a team of researchers from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on a 9,000-mile journey to the Great Barrier Reef in Australia.

## Alumni News

In this section, we highlight news from our alumni. Let us know what you are doing by sending us an email to <u>international-relations@bucknell.edu</u>. We would also welcome short submissions on projects or perspectives.

Azadeh Amir Aslani '18. Since graduating from Bucknell, I have been working at Americares, a global health non-profit. I became interested in the non-profit sector through my courses in the International Relations discipline as I saw that NGOs were able to fill gaps that governments and IGOs could not. It has been an incredibly rewarding experience and I love seeing the work I do every day make a positive impact!

**Emma Halper '17** works as an Associate Program Manager at Population Services International (PSI) in the Latin America and Asia department. PSI is a global nonprofit organization focused on the encouragement of healthy behavior and affordability of health products. Emma has been working at PSI since graduating from Bucknell in 2017 and is currently managing projects in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. At Bucknell, Emma was an IR and Spanish double major, just like her mother.





Happy holidays and best wishes for a peaceful 2020 from all of us at IR!