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Ako-Adounvo appointed Interim Assistant Vice Provost

William Brustein, Vice Provost for Global Strategies and International Affairs, has appointed Gifty Ako-Adounvo as the Interim Assistant Vice Provost for Global Strategies and International Affairs at Ohio State, effective June 1, 2015. Ako-Adounvo previously held the position of director of international students and scholars at the Office of International Affairs.

In her new role, Ako-Adounvo helps facilitate international opportunities for Ohio State's students, faculty and staff through her leadership at the Office of International Affairs. She is responsible for overseeing study abroad, international student and scholar services, communications, business operations, evaluation and assessment, international education outreach and the development of international agreements and partnerships.
Ako-Adounvo is actively involved in professional organizations, advocating for international education programs and policies that benefit students and faculty. She is highly involved in NAFSA: Association of International Educators, where she has presented on issues relevant to international students and the innovative ways in which institutions are meeting those needs. She is also a member of AIEA – Association of International Education Administrators.

Ako-Adounvo is originally from Ghana and received her doctorate in classical studies at McMaster University in Ontario, Canada. She has worked at Ohio State for the past 11 years, serving as an assistant professor of Classics and African American and African studies before joining the Office of International Affairs. She has international experience from living, studying and working in Africa, Europe and North America.

Gebreyes awarded top international honor from APLU

Wondwossen Gebreyes, professor and director of global health programs in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Ohio State, has been selected by the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) as the recipient of the 2015 Michael P. Malone International Leadership Award. The award is given annually to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to international education at public, land-grant institutions.

Gebreyes serves as the faculty lead on the One Health Ethiopia initiative, which connects Ohio State with Addis Ababa University, the University of Gondar and 19 Ethiopian and U.S. institutes to improve health, build capacity and provide learning opportunities for students. Initiated in 2009 by Gebreyes, One Health Ethiopia expanded in 2012 to include Ohio State’s seven health sciences colleges as well as the colleges of agriculture,
business, engineering and social work. Today, countless Ohio State students, faculty and staff are involved in the project, addressing cervical cancer, maternal and child health, food safety, rabies prevention and control and sharing the information gained through innovative e-learning technology.

“The entire College of Veterinary Medicine is enormously proud of Dr. Gebreyes’ many accomplishments and as the recipient of the Malone Award,” said Lonnie King, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. “His work on global “One Health” strategies to address existing and emerging zoonoses is innovative, effective and impactful in our global communities and he richly deserves this prestigious recognition.”

One Health Ethiopia has brought together an integrated team of researchers, clinicians and students to address major emerging health threats in the East Africa region; implemented short-term training via the One Health Summer Institute providing faculty and students alike the opportunity to build capacity of current and future professionals through innovative education; along with partners in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania, established exchange programs to conduct cross-training of faculty, students and staff; and utilized state-of-the-art technology to develop online courses through iTunes U learning with 7,200 students enrolled in more than 90 countries in one course alone.

“How the last six years, Dr. Gebreyes has spearheaded, nurtured and inspired the growth of what has now become the largest, interdisciplinary example of institutional teamwork operating on a global scale at Ohio State,” said William Brustein, vice provost for global strategies and international affairs. “He has helped Ohio State leverage its comprehensive health science campus to build capacity and he has created meaningful ways for students and faculty to gain and share knowledge on a global scale.”

Gebreyes will receive the award during a ceremony at APLU’s Commission on International Initiatives summer meeting in Estes Park, Colorado.

The Malone leadership awards were established in 2000 to honor those who further international education in public higher education and are dedicated to the memory of Michael P. Malone (1940-1999), who served as president of Montana State University. These awards are meant to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to international programs rather than those who have had a long career of international responsibilities. The award rotates between two categories: Chief executive officers, vice presidents, deans and/or key administrators and faculty/staff.

For more information about the One Health Ethiopia Initiative, please
William Brustein and Louisa Roberts examine the role that the historic European left has played in developing and espousing anti-Semitic views in their new book, *The Socialism of Fools? The Leftist Origins of Modern Anti-Semitism*. Anti-Semitism (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press), as it has existed historically in Europe, is generally thought of as having been a phenomenon of the political right. To the extent that 19th and early 20th century leftist movements have been found to manifest anti-Semitism, their involvement has often been suggested to be a mere fleeting and insignificant phenomenon.

Brustein, vice provost for global strategies and international affairs, and Roberts, a graduate student in the field of sociology at Ohio State, collaborated to research a wide range of primary and secondary sources, including the analysis of left- and right-wing newspaper stories, to trace the relationship between the political left and anti-Semitism in France, Germany and Great Britain from the French Revolution to World War II, ultimately concluding that the relationship between the left and anti-Semitism has been much more profound than previously believed.

Brustein and Roberts will give readers a glimpse into their book with a presentation and Q&A on Wednesday, September 16 from 4 – 5:30 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 1598 N. High St. Register to attend the event.
An expert in the field of international education as well as a professor of sociology, political science and history, Brustein has published widely in the areas of political extremism and ethnic/religious/racial prejudice. His 1996 book The Logic of Evil: The Social Origins of the Nazi Party, 1925-1933 was the winner of the 1997 James S. Coleman Distinguished Contribution to Rational-Choice Scholarship from the American Sociological Association, Rational-Choice Section. Brustein has authored two other books which include: Roots of Hate: Anti-Semitism in Europe Before the Holocaust (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press), 2003; and The Social Origins of Political Regionalism: France, 1849 to 1981 (Berkeley: University of California Press), 1988. In addition, he has written over 50 articles, chapters and essays.

Brandesky named Director of the Center for Slavic and East European Studies

Joseph Brandesky, the Martha W. Farmer endowed professor in the Department of Theatre at Ohio State Lima, has been named director of the Center for Slavic and East European Studies (CSEES) effective September 1. Brandesky will oversee the center’s promotion of the interdisciplinary study of the Baltics, the Balkans, the Caucasus, Central Europe, Eastern Europe, Eurasia and Russia, and the administration of a master’s degree in Slavic and East European Studies. CSEES is also home to the Polish Studies Initiative and the Slovene Research Institute. The center is one of Ohio State’s federally funded Title VI National Resource Centers which fosters education in area studies and awards Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship grants. Brandesky succeeds Yana Hashamova, chair of the
Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures, who led
the center for seven years and inspired unprecedented growth.

Brandesky has long been involved in Russian and Czech theatre, served
as associate director for CSEES in 2013–14 and assisted in the
drafting of CSEES’ most recent Title VI grant application. Since 2012,
Brandesky has held split appointments with the Department of Theatre
and the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures
at the Columbus campus.

Throughout his career, Brandesky’s work has focused on theatre
production and performance, Russian theatre and drama and Czech
theatre. His work with students in the theatre and on the stage earned
Brandesky the Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award in 2003. Brandesky
guest curated the “Strings Attached: The Living Tradition of Czech
Puppets” exhibit, which attracted over 74,000 attendees to the
Columbus Museum of Art; curated and organized a U.S. tour for Jaroslav
Malina’s “Retrospective Exhibit”; produced and directed multiple
productions at Ohio State Lima; and has extensive publications,
including as contributing editor to the catalog Jaroslav Malina: Designs and Paintings. Currently, Brandesky is serving as guest
curator and catalogue editor for “Shakespeare on Czech Stages,” an
exhibit to be held at the Columbus Museum of Art in winter 2017, and
developing a conference to be held in Columbus in conjunction with
this exhibit in spring 2017

Pre-departure Orientation Held in China

Before arriving on campus this
fall, future Ohio State students from China attended Pre-Departure
Orientation, a two-day program offered in Beijing and Shanghai from
Ohio State is one of the first universities in the United States to organize a Pre-Departure Orientation in China, and this will be the third year of the program. Pre-Departure Orientation welcomed 235 students and 288 parents to the orientation program this June. More than 600 new students from China are expected to attend Ohio State this autumn semester.

The Pre-Departure Orientation offers an opportunity for students to meet Ohio State staff and faculty, learn about the Columbus area and prepare for the cultural changes they will face inside and outside of the classroom. Parents also attended presentations to better understand their student's college experience and discover how they can best support their student's academic pursuits.

Twenty-eight student volunteers were on hand to help students and their families, assist with translations and share their own experiences about Ohio State during a student panel. Incoming students and their guests heard from current students about time management, how to study and the typical American classroom. In addition to the orientation, students and families had the chance to attend one of two alumni receptions, hosted in both Beijing and Shanghai, where they met with Ohio State graduates who live and work in China.

Pre-Departure Orientation is a collaboration among the Office of International Affairs, Office of Student Life and Office of Enrollment Services.

Three Named Fulbright-Hays Recipients
candidates have been awarded the prestigious Fulbright-Hays grant by the U.S. Department of Education. Noah Dunham, Department of Anthropology, Heather Fair, Department of Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology and Peter Tunkis, Department of Political Science, are all recipients of a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) grant.

These Fulbright-Hays DDRA awards represented more than $106,976 in research funding for 2014-2015.

Dunham had planned to conduct research for his dissertation from January - December 2015 in the Kwale district of Kenya, examining Feeding Ecology and Conservation of Black and White Colobus Monkeys in South Coastal Kenya. His study would have addressed the declining primate populations and to what extent primate food selection is influenced by seasonal availability, macronutrient concentrations and mechanical properties of food. He wanted to work with Kenyan NGO, Colobus Conservation, to examine the behavioral ecology and conservation of black and white colobus monkeys. Results from this study would have been used to inform forest management and develop primate conservation strategies in the region. He was unable to travel to Kenya as a result of a Department of State travel warning.

Fair traveled to Tibet and Hong Kong from January - August 2015 to study Glacier Stream Conceptual Model and Physiological Mechanisms of Aquatic Insects with The Chinese Academy of Sciences Cold and Arid Regions Environmental and Engineering Research Institute. She examined aquatic invertebrate biodiversity in glacier watersheds where conditions are harsh and cold to analyze cold-tolerance molecular mechanisms and better understand the reasons for more glacier biodiversity in this region than in other glacier regions around the world. Through this research, she will create a bio-assessment method aiming to protect the water quality as the quantity of water dissipates over time due to climate change.

Tunkis' research, Safety in Numbers - Group Linkages and the Persistence of Party-Switching, will examine the widespread and persistent phenomenon of elected parliamentarians changing political party affiliation in Poland and the Czech Republic. He was affiliated with the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences while in Poland from January - July 2015, and will travel to the Czech Republic from August - December 2015 to work with the Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences. His dissertation will use biographical and career data of elected parliamentarians, qualitative content analysis of media reports and interviews with Polish and Czech parliamentarians to test his argument that this phenomenon is group-based rather than an individual
The Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship Program provides opportunities for doctoral candidates to engage in full-time dissertation research abroad in modern foreign languages and area studies. The program is designed to contribute to the development and improvement of the study of modern foreign languages and area studies in the United States.

The Office of International Affairs administers the Fulbright-Hays program for Ohio State. Grant competitions are held annually. Doctoral candidates interested in applying for the award should contact Fulbright-Hays program director Joanna Kukielka-Blaser.

International Scholar Profile - Murat Sari

What is your home country and city?

I am from Konya, Turkey. Konya is very famous because Jalaladdin Rumi lived there. He was a very famous Sufi who founded the Mevlevi Sufi order (Whirling Dervishes) and wrote a very famous book of poetry – the Masnavi.

What are your undergraduate/graduate degrees?

I graduated from medical school in 2012.

What department are you in at Ohio State?
I am working in the Department of Neurology.

What are your research/specialty interests?

I am working on stroke management, the association between stroke and diabetes, and the prevention of new strokes.

How has your time at Ohio State benefited your research/specialty interests?

It is a great experience for me to work at Ohio State because we have many trials and patients here and of course a great team. After coming here I witnessed the importance of research in medicine once more. I think it will help me a lot to help patients not only today, but also in the future.

When did you arrive in the United States/Columbus?

I came here one year ago.

Why did you choose Ohio State?

First, one of my friends recommended that I come here because of its strong academics. After I came here, I saw what he meant. Ohio State is one of the best universities with its highly qualified faculty and staff. Also, there are hundreds of students and researchers from all over the world.

What did you do at Ohio State as part of your time here (research, etc.)?

I have been doing clinical research for nearly one year. In the nature of my job, I am speaking with patients to get their consent and working on their data. Also, I am searching the literature and writing papers with my Principle Investigator about stroke and neurocritical care.

What most surprised you about your experience in Columbus and the United States?

The most surprising thing for me was the beauty of Columbus. It is sometimes very cold in the winter, but it is still a very green city. It is always possible to see different kinds of birds and other animals. There are no traffic jams and it is not expensive to live here.

What was the hardest thing to adapt to during your time living in...
Columbus?

The hardest thing for me was transportation because I did not have a U.S. driver’s license or a car. Unfortunately, public transportation is not so strong. But, my friends helped me a lot to solve this problem.

What is the most fun/exciting thing you did during your time at Ohio State?

I gave a presentation March 1 about interesting places for tourists to visit in Turkey and Turkish food at the Office of International Affair’s Global Glance program. I also played my instrument, the ney, which is one of the most common instruments of Turkish classical and Sufi music. It was a lot of fun and a great opportunity.

How did the Office of International Affairs help you adapt to campus life?

The first time I met with the Office of International Affairs was for my visa process and orientation. They helped us to get familiar with, not only the campus and university, but also Columbus and other issues like transportation and the health care system. Also, they keep us up to date about changes in protocols and help us accommodate these changes.

First Global Option Graduate – Chelsea Dailey

Chelsea Dailey, who graduated with a degree in agricultural and biological engineering, is the first Ohio State student to be awarded the Global Option distinction on her
The Global Option enables students to add an international component to their field of study by completing a series of academic requirements based on global themes and activities. The College of Engineering has a record 51 students working toward completion of the Global Option.

The colleges of engineering, education and human ecology, social work and business currently offer the Global Option with many more on the way. Ohio State students may acquire a documented international expertise integrated into participating majors without adding time to graduation. The Global Option is a key component of Ohio State's strategy for institutional internationalization.

Learn more about the Global Option and how academic units can develop requirements for their students by visiting the Global Option website.

Study Abroad Profile – Ruth Sleshi

The Ecuadorian culture is what affected Ruth Sleshi the most during her semester-long study abroad program. A third year Ohio State student majoring in international development with a minor in Spanish, Sleshi traveled to South America during spring semester to improve her language skills and better understand the development and culture of Ecuador.

Sleshi is one of two students from Ohio State last year awarded the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.
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This culture of Ecuador is affecting me positively by teaching me to live with respect and in harmony with nature, the value of family and greetings and music as a form of expression,” Sleshi explained. Sleshi notes that the favorite part of her study abroad program was her host family, which adopted her as one of their own. And the best part about being in Ecuador was the language and culture she experienced. “I have been studying Spanish for several years but no class can compare to the amount of progress I made in the few months that I spent in Ecuador.”

To learn more about Ruth Sleshi's experience abroad, please visit Cultural Awakening in Ecuador.

Study Abroad Profile – Rachel Stewart

Blue skies, a warm breeze, a morning jog along the Brisbane River followed by a ferry ride to work is how Rachel Stewart began her weekday mornings in Queensland, Australia. The Ohio State senior from Loveland, Ohio, majoring in exercise science in the College of Education and Human Ecology, embarked on her first experience abroad to complete a 450 hour internship that she found with UQ Sports Academy located 9,100 miles away from the Buckeye state.

Stewart is one of two students from Ohio State awarded the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

“Overall, this experience has been amazing and I wouldn’t trade it for
anything,” she said. “Because I didn’t come here through a traditional study abroad program, it has taught me how independent I am, and how capable I am of doing whatever I set my mind to.

“With this internship, I get to work with all types of athletes at all different competition levels, in regards to their strength and conditioning training components,” Stewart said. “This study abroad experience allows me to apply what I have learned in the classroom.”

To learn more about Rachel's experience abroad, please visit Rachel Stewart On the Job Training in Australia.